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**THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 2019**

*Mr Speaker took the chair at 9:14am.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Parliamentary Proceedings commenced. I respectfully acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Chairpersons as well as Parliamentary Committees and Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations.

As you all know, I made my decision last night that today I will give the first opportunity to the Member for Palauli Falefa, followed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Then we will have the Government Response. I now call upon the Member for Palauli Falefa.

**Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai and Samatau):** Mr Speaker, I apologize and I know that you will not go back on your word. I heard there are two, three more members who have not spoken last night. I was hoping for a chance to speak on behalf of my constituency. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe it is too late to do what you have asked. I have to be considerate of the other side of the Chamber.... I am aware you could not be present because of your many commitments. I announce that we discuss two Bills. The Supplementary Appropriation and the Appropriation Bill. Once we consider each Bill, you will get two opportunities for 15 minutes each. If there are two opportunities for each Bill, you will have 30 minutes meaning members can speak on both for an entire hour.

I believe we should not delay the process of our work. I am being cautious with my decision as the Chair. Going back and forth will not help. Hence, I will keep a close watch of those Members who have not spoken.

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Before we move on to consider the Bills in detail, I give the opportunity for members to speak on the matter for an hour. I apologize and hope you abide by my decision. With respect we cannot wait to continue our work after a member attends to a personal errand, it will delay our work.

I call upon the Member for Palauli Falefa to continue with his speech. We have two Bills; one in our orders of the day, it has been second read, and has been under deliberation.

I call upon the Member.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2)  
2018/2019 & APPROPRIATION BILL 2019/2020 -  
deliberations on second reading**

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa):** Thank you to the Speaker of the House. I believe you have already voiced praises and thanks to our Heavenly Father for blessings upon the House. Also the support of Samoa who are listening from afar. I am certain that members are aware of the urgency to pass the Bill since we have only a week left before the end of the financial year.

Mr Speaker, I will not speak further on matters already raised by Members within the House. I thank you for your patience and kindness while administering orders of the House in relation to some impolite remarks by the Members. I thank all of Samoa for always supporting the work of Parliament through prayers.

I thank his Highness the Head of State and the member of Council of Deputies. I commend the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for playing your part in developing our country day and night. I have seen the good fruit of your work considering the complaints and issues raised by members. The devil as well will not rest; he will find faults in the good work that we do for this country. I would like to welcome the newest Member of the House, Tofa Namulauulu Leota a high chief of Puleono Salafai. Thank you that was quite a speech and I know this is not something new to you. I wish you all the best and blessings upon your constituency while you take on this role.

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I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for making the time to visit my constituency and the foresee Government developments.

With respect Hon Minister, I believe it would be best if you come with me to show you what development must come first, nonetheless we will focus on it after the Pacific Games. I applaud the Government for the finished developments and further ongoing ones. The current financial year has an allocation of \$237 million for developments. As for the next financial year, there is a decrease of \$167 million as most of the projects is completed. I am grateful for the development undertaken on our airport.

I believe any Samoan leaving and arriving at the airport is proud of our country. Thank you for the bravery because this portrays the desire to do what is best for Samoa. There was a saying that we used to hear said by elders Fuiono and Lavea, "*I remember back in our days*". Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet let us do what will benefit everyone especially for this Parliamentary term. So that future generations will keep asking who did this and that for Samoa.

Thank you also for initiating the idea of bringing in the Tuisamoa cable. Samoa is one of the most isolated country from developed countries in the world.

The establishment of the Marine cable will eliminate and minimize isolation from overseas business, trade and other projects that can benefit Samoa. This will also greatly assist with the shortage of teachers; if we use this technology, a teacher will be able to teach more than a hundred students per day, from this center of communication. This is a commendable project.

I thank the Hon Minister of Finance and Ministry. There is an allocation of 3% towards unforeseen expenses; I thank the Lord for such funds saved over the past years. Accordingly, more savings for future developments. I am grateful Hon Sili Epa Tuioti and the Ministry of Finance. I also want to thank the Hon Minister of Revenue; the revenue earned in the first Estimates at the start of the term was \$488 million. We then challenged the Ministry to earn at least \$550 million by the end of this Parliamentary term.

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For the information of the House, the total of \$540 million has been put forth to start our Budget next month. Hon Tialavea Hunt you only have another \$10 million to reach this goal, I am certain you will be able to collect another \$12 million the next year in addition to the next. If this is accomplished then by next year we will have \$560 million from the Ministry of Revenue. I salute you and thank you for the effort.

The merge of the Ministry of Health and the National Health Service is not an easy task. It is complicated and sensitive. It is sensitive because not only will it affect the employees but the funds used and the courage of make tough decisions. Thank you also for the cement pavement at Vaisigano, it has beautified that part of town. I thought it would go all the way down to the EFKS church in Apia and to the front of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Nonetheless, I am sure there will be another time. Thank you for this development, I am also thankful for the drainages at Vaisigano, this has helped protect assets and properties of the families residing there and the hotel.

I am grateful for the new prison, I visited the place already and have seen great improvement, I believe it will be opened sometime next week; this has been a hot topic of debate in House because of the need to have a secure place.

I am grateful to the Hon Minister for the prison in Vaiaata Savaii we hardly have any prisoners; we do not have any escapees since they are all well mannered. They have just been put to jail for committing minor offences.

Our preparations for hosting the Pacific Games, I am a proud Samoan. I already told the Hon Minister to make sure we get more than a 100 gold medals and I also believe that, upon your word, we have fund set aside for all the gold medalists, this does not include the gold from the Hon Prime Minister, that was the gold he got from years ago, and it does not count. Do not be tempted to give him a \$1000; his gold medal is not real. I remind Hon Minister, since the majority of members have private vehicles I recommend special plates be made for Parliamentarians so they can access venues especially if given an invite. It would be a problem if we turn up and the securities will disallow us in.



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I heard one of the Members mentioned that hosting the games would bring us a loss. The games will not be a defeat; the Government needs to offer the service to the people.

Government is not a business but a body that implements development for the benefit of the country. Therefore, do not worry but focus on the games. We spent \$160+ million in the 2007 South Pacific Games, what now? How many times did we receive \$160 million to host conferences and other events for huge countries of the world? This will make known the image of Samoa all over the world plus 15% or 20% in tourism. This is why there is a revenue increase for Hon Sala Fata Pinati and his team.

There was a mention of the wharf at Asau and Salelologa, I am grateful Hon Prime Minister, it makes me happy hearing good news especially with Savaii listening in as we are all from Savaii. Staying here does not stop our developments from taking place in Savaii and people coming to vote freely for Lealailepule Rimoni and Faumuina Wayne. Stay in Savaii, as this is what is happening.

Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your efforts in bringing the ACP and European Union conference here to sign our agreement. This demonstrates that we have moved from least developed to developing country. This gives us so much pride. I am pleased that the election of the next President or Chairperson for ACP will be from the Pacific region. I did not tell the old man, but I just wanted someone to know, there was a meeting for Pacific countries, during the time for a decision Africa requested they continue their presidency when the agreement is rectified. I told my companions that we should discuss the matter elsewhere. Our decision was made and I asked Papua and Tonga to represent us, they refused saying that I should go since I was older as the Africans were afraid of me. Therefore, with the decision made during the meeting, once we have the agreement signed the Pacific will take over. Samoa is now the new Chairperson and President of the ACP and the [Joint Parliamentary Assembly for the European Union](#).

Mr Speaker if they appoint a Samoan, it is best that they reside in Brussels. If I were to go somewhere else it will be too isolated even though the Secretariat of ACP can assist the President, it has limitations. There should always be someone to assist the President during its term in office.

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Now a word on our Budget...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, a point of clarification it seems the member is speaking about the African, Caribbean and the Pacific Organization. The meetings held by this organisation is led by Ministers of countries included under ACP. There is also a joint council of members from 106 countries, 27 European countries and 79 African Caribbean and Pacific countries. The system is the same as Government, there is a Secretary General, the European Parliamentary council and Parliaments of Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific.

This is the structure established in 1975, members are chosen to lead the council in Luxembourg for all countries from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific and Europe. Our appointed representative is Hon Faumuina Tiatia Liuga. As such, he has the knowledge in this area, hence is the signing of this agreement here in Samoa the past 20 years. This is the first time it will not be signed by Africa. It has been arranged that it will be signed next year or some time in the second half of the year.

I believe Hon Faumuina Liuga's time is almost over then it will be taken over by the next person, Hon Fonotoe Lauofo was also Chairperson one time. The same for Hon Gatoloaifaana Gidlow. Opportunity will be granted for Parliament. It will be a great exposure for Members of the Parliament so that they are aware of other important projects implemented in other countries. This is what I wanted to clarify as the matter stated by Hon Faumuina Liuga is very important, his knowledge is being expanded on practices of these 107 countries, it is almost equivalent to the number of countries in the United Nations.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, the matter has been clarified, I call upon the Member for Palauli Falefa

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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I also thank the Prime Minister for the brief clarification on the matter. I now come upon the matter regarding our Budget. I will not reiterate the matters already raised by other members of Parliament.

I want to discuss the matter of equal opportunities, in the context related to the person's environment seen as vulnerable. It is stated in the report by the Ministry of Education in Year 1 up to Year 8, there has been a record of 27,000 dropouts from school and in Year 9 to Year 11 a number of over 10,000 dropouts. This is the same for University level.

The problem for University is that parents can not afford to pay for the fees whereas the lower level classes, Government funds the school fees meaning free education up to Year 11.

Mr Speaker, as I have said before, we are trying our best to help these children but I believe they do not have the interest in going to school anymore. I guess, if we were all made smart no one would be mowing the lawn, picking up rubbish, washing the windows and tar seal the roads. This is why I advise Government to re-evaluate this matter moving forward. Sports...

**Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Mr Speaker...in case ...

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture

**Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio:** Point of Order Mr Speaker on the statistics that have been put forward by the Member. I believe that you have mentioned that the number of dropouts from Year 1 to Year 8 is 25,000 and 10,000 for Years 9 to 11. This means we do not have anymore students. I humbly ask the member to please have a [look again at the statistics if its the correct one](#). [With all due respect](#). Thank you

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call upon the Member.

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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, I believe the Hon Minister is not reading his reports which states that there are approximately 40,000 students in the Primary level.

I also questioned the Chief Executive of the Ministry about this matter and the reply was, yes the number is correct, they have been trying however the children do not have interest in going to school anymore. This is the report I was referring to however if you know that the report given is wrong then I suggest you correct it.

Sports, for the majority this is one method of enjoyment although they are good mentally and physically. I see in the Budget there are funds allocated for rugby as well as other sports. Why not increase this fund? The Budget presented by the Rugby Union in the last financial term was only \$11 million, there is no profit, \$4 million from Samoa, \$5 million is from overseas and \$2 million from fundraisers bringing the total to \$11 million. Why not allocate \$3 million from the Budget, there are youngsters who have dropped out of school who need development. If you look at the situation Hon Minister of Finance, most of the income and revenue generated in the country is from those who have excelled in rugby, I trust our foreign reserves will be more than a hundred thousand plus received from these successful athletes.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the matter that has been raised by the Member is very important. I am embarrassed to talk about it given that I am the Chairperson for the rugby union and Cabinet meetings. When the request will be made I will let Cabinet know but I will try not to speak and hear anything and let them make the decision. However I still end up getting the blame.

I do not know if there is a Samoan term for conflict of interest. But if I were to define it, it is being biased towards your team. There are others who are asking for funds like the weightlifting association, who have received gold unlike rugby. Funds should be given to the Samoa Weightlifting Association.



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There were requests from boxing and other sports as well, like basketball. In this situation there is only one way to earn revenue for the country it is through tax. As you all know, when we ask people to pay tax they complain.

This is why opinions raised are very important. It is important since there is a connection of where we earn funds and where it is being used. It can be compared to a cake, once it is made the shape stays the same and then distributed it equally. If the other party gets the bigger part of the cake, then a piece for the other should be cut from it to make each piece equal. I believe what the Member has raised is important however I feel that you are being biased towards rugby.

I believe we are on the same boat with this situation, I can say that there are members of Cabinet who play basketball, volleyball, cricket, golf and bowling. We all know when playing lawn bowling, first we hold the ball, then you rub it before you bend down and roll it on the lawn. There are many sports that uses balls some throw it, hit it and touch it as well. However, the problem is we lack funds. The importance of what the matter raised by the Member is to inform businesses that are not paying their tax or businesses that do not use a bank to deposit their earnings to re-consider. We are all living in Samoa and we all know what is going on in the country. No matter where you hide, Hon Tialavea Seigafo and the team will know exactly what to do to get the money to fund sports events for younger generations. This is very important reminder by the Member, because I feel that everyone is inclined to rugby. What about other sports, we should be considerate and distribute funds equally to aid other sports development in the future.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member for Palauli Faleata

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, thank you. Since the Hon Prime Minister has interrupted I was going to mention other sports as well. The reason why I specifically mentioned rugby is to promotes tourism and also we are getting revenue from the players who have signed contracts overseas.

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This also applies to other sports such as cricket, soccer, boxing, weightlifting and taekwando. I mention this since the majority of the school dropouts are interested in sports. There should be funds allocated to assist the development of our people.

I am also thankful to the Rugby Union board for the decision to establish the Super 9. There should also be an increase in remunerations to further subdivide constituencies. So it will no longer be Super 9 but Super 12 to develop players from various constituencies so they can be qualified to play overseas. This should be the same with other sports but I speak more on rugby since most families have greatly benefitted from this sport.

Other dropouts seen are those who are going into farming, I believe we should also allocate funds for further development and encourage them to attend agriculture shows. Maybe the Hon Minister of Agriculture is not well, but I heard \$500,000 will be allocated. Why not allocate \$2 million? If we give them \$2 million then I am certain there will be a lot of cattle farming, pigs and cocoa displayed at the shows and encourage people to invest in farming. There are plentiful people young and old who have never been to school and they know very well how hard life is in serving their families and villages.

Another matter is the display of the Samoan fine mat. I witnessed this competition and saw the best Samoan fine mat woven for 12, 14 to 15 years. These people do not like studying but enjoy using their talent elsewhere. Hon Prime Minister, you are the Chairperson for this project, I humbly ask that we weave a lot of Samoan mats, the old ladies love weaving therefore if one mat is three thousand and they are able to make 4, they get twelve thousand a year together with...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I am very pleased with the matter stated by the member, but we are all here. Please, when your constituency and villages meet, the weaving committee should be valued, because this is the key to the continuation and sustainability of fine mats, it is the key and lock. These are matters encouraged by the council of Alii and Faipule.

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I remember us talking about this issue, you came to me this other day and said that the weaving committee in your village is going to be revoked, the old men were unhappy that the women would attend these committees and sleep there, while the men are waiting for their return home so they can have evening prayer. During their weaving the whole week, they sit and talk and the main subject of their talk is the helpless old men we have today.

Therefore, let us be merciful, tell the old men of our village not to stop the weaving committee, instead they should encourage it. Also, inform the women to head home at seven o'clock in the evening so they can have evening prayers with their children, because this is a reason why couples break up, they do not show support to their husbands by not making it to evening prayer with their children. Also, the main point of this program is to remove indecent use of long sticks, it seems there is a shortage of poles to pick breadfruit since it is used to display these mats high up in the sky. Holy things are ugly. Who says this, the old men? Women have woven so many of these that has piled up and have been laid idly under the beds, except for the few pastors that are blessed with it. Speaking of which, I urge the pastors to encourage weaving. Preach it from the altar and show support for weaving, because if it is not done here, you will be the ones to receive the traditional fine mats.

This is why it is important to be reminded, to inform your villages to support our program, because this program will be beneficial for us. This is also the only program that is displeasing for the Treasury as it uses up to half a million tala every year, it has been a burden for the Minister of Finance to the Minister in charge of practice, it is the only program with expenses. Women can weave their own fine mats and sell it, but the Government is using a lot of money to encourage them to weave fine mats for their family fa'alavelave. That is why this program by the Government is exceptional, a corrupt person would not do this. But what are the rumours spread by OLP, they say Government is corrupt.

The reason why we encourage these programs in support and to strengthen our traditional values, because if you do not present any fine mats to a family function, your family will be a disgrace. Which is why we are obligated and burdened with shouldering this responsibility over our country.

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I ask everyone to support these programs, because we have managed achieved the honorifics that we have been declaring in those days on Samoan fine mats, but when fine mats are folded in tens and becomes unwrapped, we find the wreath being eaten by rats, pardon the language used with respect to the country, the Chair and the House, but this is an area that needs attention and improvement.

I beesech the Hon Minister of Finance, but these programs are very important. My belief on these programs is to continue it forever, because the Samoan culture does not cease, it continues, these are expenses used for good intentions. Government lending money to old women to weave these mats for their own family matters, without Government benefit can be viewed by foreign countries as idiocy. I humbly ask you be lenient and allow these programs to continue.

Mr Speaker, that is my stance on the matter. The importance of the speech by the member is thought provoking, giving us the opportunity to rise and identify the foundations for these important developments. There is a group influenced by evil who say that the Government is corrupt, leaders are corrupt and Cabinet is corrupt. I do not know what that word means, but these are things that cannot be done by corruptible people. Mr Speaker, this is further clarification on the statement made by the member.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the member for Palauli le Falefa.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, also Hon Prime Minister. The theme stated for our estimates is equal opportunities. In other words, this is one indirect employment, where money is given to the people who are unemployed, but they are working behind the scenes and serving the Government using their time to weave these fine mats for the country. This is the idea, but thank you as we now have a better understanding of these issues, and we should all embrace and implement these developments for the benefit of Samoa, it is a practice our elders are also reliant on. The statement made by the Hon Prime Minister is correct, regarding the men waiting for their wives, they do not come home for two weeks.



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That is why the decision was made to abolish the weaving committee, but there are plenty of Samoan fine mats brought in from my constituency. The women are smart as they are starting to change their..... it would be good if the prices increased, give them \$5million and then let them do whatever..... I will join the committee chaired by the Hon Prime Minister so that wherever I go, I will promote the weaving of the Samoan fine mat. Weave the Samoa fine mat. With due respect.

Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the clarification on these issues....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** There is a little bit of advice. Keep in mind that the works of the Government is to initiate, and then the normal objective of Samoa remains, to be proud of your country, to be proud of the cleanliness, the fame of goodwill and having a few evildoers that live here. Government only initiates by offering a few funds, the rest is up to the people. Therefore, all we have to do is remind the people of our traditions and customs, which everyone is aware of.

I remember when I was young; tin cans banging loudly every Monday morning was very annoying, the cracker tin cans from Fiji in those days. The women of the village would use these as a way to wake up all the other women, an indication that it was time for the village clean up, to weed the grass before the sun rises. These things made them feel proud. A precaution to Government, lest we overspend funds and they forget the significance of such things however if we do not give funds they will not do it, then our unique culture is forgotten. There used to be a good program, where the Government would build the roads and the duty of cleaning was set on the village. I recall maybe a thousand tala was given to the council as an incentive, which felt like three thousand to them. It was like an incentive given each year to the village council to beautify their access roads. This included the weeding of grass spreading onto the road and ruining the tar seal roads that Government implemented to make it easier for their vehicles to go inland.

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One day when our money was distributed, I was there observing and saw that as soon as the young men received their money, they went straight away to play dice and poker. Some even bought beer for drinking and whilst viewing them, one of the chiefs stood up and said Tuilaepa the money is overdue, if this happens again it is best to let the grass grow. I scolded the chief; the other members told me, they were doing the same thing. The following week I came to Cabinet meeting and stopped these funds from making further distribution, I scolded this chief. The Government builds the road and now you also want money as encouragement for you to keep it clean, yet you say such unkind words? This is why the State is cautious with handling matters of this sort; it is a reason why programs fail due to people being blind of the benefits, which they have just realized. It seems if they do not receive money neither an increase, they stop the program as if the program only benefits Government, but they forget the program was implemented for the betterment of all the families in the country.

Mr Speaker, this is a clarification, because if it is not done, people will be reliant to do things because of money and the spirit of good development within our people will be non-existent. Everyone should also contribute to the beautification of their community and not attempt to ruin it if the Government does not lend you funds, because who will be a disgrace. It will be the village. The work of Government is to give incentive to village councils; I know members of the House understand the basis of Government programs.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I believe the matter is clarified... I call upon the member for Vaimauga East.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East):** Mr Speaker a point of order in relation to the statement made by the member. He mentioned that there are children aged 11 that are attending these weaving committees, it seems that... As a member of Committee, it is appreciative to be aware of these matters, in saying that, the Head of the Ministry admitted that every time school finishes the children would perform these services.

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Although it seems the member is reliant on the emphasis of traditions that could encourage children not to go to school and attend these committees instead at a young age.

Secondly, I would like to ask the member about the weaving committee, I am perplexed at how the weaving committee will resume if the constituency rejected the assistance from the Ministry of Women who attempted to implement these plans. Where is the weaving committee going to implement if the Government is being denied through the Ministry of Women, who is doing the implementing process of establishing weaving committees. This is the question for clarification of the country listening in; the member and his constituency have rejected the work the Ministry is attempting to implement. Which is why I ask you this question... where are we going to conduct the weaving committee?

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, it is useful to raise opinions concerning the issue because it affects the policies of our Government, that is why I offer assistance in terms of the issues where some women are striving to pass on the knowledge. This means, they are trying to teach the children on how to weave fine mats also the production of *siapo*.

I am grateful for the families and mothers who do these things, it does mean it is done during school hours but there is time at night when mothers teach their children, and I believe this is one benefit that emerged from these Government programs, the children are imitating what their parents are doing. Not only do these programs ensure that the children contribute by learning from their mothers, but it will stop fathers from wandering around, they must also learn to weave since they know money can be earned to buy beer and cigarettes.

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These are just a few of the benefits that can be passed on to young children, because nowadays most children do not like these things anymore, but I appreciate this program as it has made it possible for mothers to teach their children the skills that would have been lost if it were not for these Governmental programs. There have been reports stating some teenagers ridicule such practice. According to the report, submitted youths interviewed stated this is the reason why they are not doing so well in school. "Our parents, who are fifty years old, stopped us from going to school and told us to stay home to take care of them". It is useful for sittings like this, now that the young children are complaining, they wanted to attend school but their parents stopped them. That is why these sittings are important, as these are some of the duties that should be mentioned in the village meetings both men and women. The members should prioritize this, and mention this in village council meetings to have a special Committee to visit the parents who implement such behavior. Because one child will tolerate and live in mischief, but they will be a scourge to the respects of Alii and Faipule in future.

Mr Speaker this is a minor issue I wanted to clarify further.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done, Thank you.

**Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching (Faleata East):** Mr Speaker... a point of clarification if you may.

**MR SPEAKER:** Are you going to clarify the interruption by the Hon Prime Minister?

**Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching:** No, it is a clarification added to the statement by the member for Vaimauga. The clarification added to the statement by the member for Palauli le Falefa. The issue concerning students is very important.

**MR SPEAKER:** Even though these things are unrelated, I will give you an opportunity. Make it short.



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**Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching:** Fortunately, I attended the weaving competition recently, and a young girl about fourteen years old from Nofaalii received a special award for being the best traditional fine mat weaver. This young woman came in her school uniform. I realized then that this young lady is still in school, in addition she has learnt the talent of weaving from her mother. This is... If we encourage children in school to learning these skills from their parents. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Where is member from?

**Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching:** Nofaalii.

**MR SPEAKER:** Because the district of Aana is... Alofi o Aana, starting from Faleasiu, Fasitoo, Nofaalii, and Leulumoega, this is also known as Alofi o Aana. That is where this knowledge and...

**Tofa Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili (Aana Alofi No.2):** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Aana Alofi No.2.

**Tofa Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili:** Thank you for the opportunity. Lest my village is taking note of me. I have been trying to speak on this matter for so long, however I did not want to interrupt the speech of the member for Palauli. There is a concern regarding a girl not being able to attend school instead she stayed home to weave the fine mat. No, it is only when time permits that the girl would do this job lest a concern is made that the girl is weaving a mat instead of going to school. As I explained, today was that exhibition of fine mats day and this girl came in her school uniform to attend it. Such is the assistance with respect. The girl is from Nofaalii. With all due respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. The Prime Minister's statement is well taken; these are types of skills that the State is fond of, lest these cultural treasures get lost. I applaud Nofaalii and Aana Alofi for carrying on....

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The most vital thing about our Sitting today, although just an advise especially with regards to your fuaiala (*or one division of a village*), for our village of Fasitoo. Why not have a talk with your fuaiala not to bring this matter before us as it has already been given clarification, because whenever there is a village meeting, then the fuaiala would say who sits right in front.

Our fuaiala is always busy querying about how Nofoaalii is doing this and that. Do tell your fuaiala to stop being overly inquisitive about our village.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Prime Minister's statement is true, because the **lauie** mat woven in Nofoaalii is passed down to Fasitoo. I call the member of Palauli le Falefa.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you too for the interjection. This will not reject... these new members are still learning. They do not have good schools to educate them. For your information, every village has its own weaving house. My constituency did not reject anything; the only thing they were after is the development connections so as not to overlap. The district has not talked about implementing any project. I thank the member for interjecting, well done.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** Mr Speaker, point of order. Since the statement made by the member is dreadful about us being new members and beginners. No, we are also eligible, we too are big fishes elected by the constituency. If we reject the State from not attending our villages, how then will the State do its job?

That is the intention. Remove these statements, we too were chosen experts... and reason why we are here is due to the trust gained from the constituencies. However, withdraw this statement from our official records, with due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member of Palaul le Falefa to resume your speech. Move away from this matter, your time is almost over.

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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:**  
Thank you honorable Speaker for the chance to make a submission. There was a... yesterday a matter was raised on... my advice in regards to the handing over of some services to other Ministries.

The transfer of PUMA to the Ministry of Works is correct. LTA should remove regulatory from part of its function. Therefore, if transportation is also transferred, then this will be a conflict of interest.

Money is not the reason nor factor to take into consideration here. If transportation is removed it is not known what will become of LTA, whether to call it Construction Authority. Because travel has two segments, making regulations like the traffic and regulatory for the Police Commissioner. The regulator is the CEO of the Ministry of Works. Therefore, all other areas like vehicles registrations, licensing and inspections should all be transferred under the Police, therefore, this could also be a conflict of interest. The latest operation with LTA, which deals with regulatory, and operation, it is necessary that the operation side should be left with the LTA and transfer the regulatory function to Police. As such your honor... this will mean that transportation area will have to be transferred to the Ministry of Police if this is the case. By recommendation, it is better for the Cabinet to reconsider whether its decision is appropriate.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the interjection of the State.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the Government system we use today is foreign practice. This is the country's own Government system, which involves the affairs of the village alone and its decisions on the youth. As for the existing system, it is in accordance to foreign practice and custom. It further stems from the views of those who hold special intelligence.

*This is an ongoing normal clash, having foreign intellects mixed* with the Samoan knowledge. Many of the chiefs nowadays do not attend the village meetings on customary land issues. They must sit in these village meetings to know well the affairs of the village.

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Although, there are plentiful professors and authors of the Samoan custom that hears but have no experience. Although they sit and listen in village councils, which is something implemented 4,000 years ago. If this tradition still exists and is going strong today, then the Samoan custom is still very useful otherwise, there would not have been anymore Samoan living today as they have all passed from the wars and things like that.

There is always that strong sense in us to remove regulatory if the workers implementing it will also be removed. This is foreign mindset laidout in other plans. We did attempt to achieve the hospital separation from the merge, what now? These two services are not a go. There are things we do that turn out well in consequence. There are also changes that we find are inapplicable according to time, therefore, we urgently reverse the gear lest we fall into more problems.

Mr Speaker that is the case. Tuivalea does not exist when seeing advance changes today thus disrupting the progress of our works. Others say...it has been 10 years. The State does not sit idly whilst issues arise continuously.

Honorable Speaker, it is applicable for countries made up of thousands and thousands of intelligent people. Whereas for us, when selecting the wisest, we must swiftly endure experience and honesty. The common saying by the preachers and orators, *uta a le poto e fetala'i* or the wise thinks twice. If change is no good, change the gear backwards.

Mr Speaker that is it. There is a time for change whenever necessary. Otherwise, there are other proverbs in the country, God's days are plentiful. Mr Speaker that is the assistance. Move away from that matter and get on with another one.

**MR SPEAKER:** I trust the State has given reasons, which is that. The member of Palauli le Falefa has also spoken and that is your own opinion. The Prime Minister's statement is also well taken. I ask that you conclude as you have 2 more minutes.



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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa):** Honorable Speaker, I totally support this Budget. Thank you Hon Minister of Finance. Thank you also to the State as I made earlier, for the good works, to my constituency, thank you for your support and perseverance whilst I make a submission on your behalf to the development of the country.

Mr Speaker, well done on your job. Great job also to the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and members of Parliament, bless Samoa. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, respectfully I call the Chairperson of the Committee of Finance.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of Revenue and Expenditure Committee, Alataua West):** Thank you for the golden opportunity this morning, honorable Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and the respectable members of Parliament.

Notwithstanding, the Government Heads and the various sectors serving the country and reason why we are gathering this morning particularly Samoa supporting us. I greet my constituency of Alataua West.

Mr Speaker, with great respect I upstand to make a contribution of Alataua West to the Supplementary Budget 2019/2020 and conclude a statement on other matters raised from the report o the Finance Committee.

Seeing the Budget's Main Objective which says, collective target for the wellbeing of Samoa. That is the Main Objective of the Budget before the House. Each member has its own interpretation of this statement.

As for Alataua West, this is its interpretation, one purpose for all works we undertake for the welfare of Samoa. It is not purposefully for today, it is for future generations. How is this one purpose be implemented for the benefit of the country? Through collective effort by all the bodies of Samoa.

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It starts from the Leaders of the Church who are praying day and night for blessings upon Samoa. It starts from the Leaders of the country, or the decision-makers or those leading Samoa for its developments commencing from Government Heads to general services. It starts from Companies and various societies, it also stems from the Authority of village councils whereby hope and peace is maintained and rely on.

A parent's love scolds endlessly, they teach the children to live a disciplined life so that when they grow up they live a blessed life instead of a troubled life pardon the language. I trust this is the entire intention of the State and Parliament according to the objective of this Budget. By the time we finish from here, we will see a blessed, peaceful and safe Samoa.

I thank the Hon Minister of Finance for thinking of everyone. Seeing the overall perspective of the Main Budget 2019/2020, which says, a deficit of 61.4 million. I guess this is why an unbalance is vital due to high deficit over revenue. I guess the term deficit seems to have a negative interpretation. It seems to mean a loss, no these two terms mean two different things when applied in the Budget. It is excess to expenditure over revenue on the Budget it has advantages and disadvantages.

Firstly, to push the public service to collect revenue earnings for the country, as raised by the majority the significance of the Minister for Revenue and the Ministry. Secondly, high expenditures especially for projects, well that is money worth spending in raising the level of our economy. Thirdly, planning expenditures appropriately by focussing on our local developments.

Fourthly, the criticality of surplus made from expenditures that our revenues for the workers before money is spent whether expenditure is necessary or to sort out resources.

The norm of the country when preparing the Budget given high expenditure over revenue is to raise taxation. However there is nothing like that here. There is belief of the Head of the Ministry of Finance, Head of the Ministry for Revenue, Head of the Public Enterprise and the Head of the Office of the Regulator and other services that there will be a balance if the Budget is sufficient at the end of the next financial year. This is all to do with collective effort given our compliance with making payments for our tax and duty.

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Some also mentioned the good plans of the State in improving the system for tax and duty collection such that you do your shopping and your total balance is received by the Office of Revenue automatically. Thank you for all these services that will be implemented. All these are collectively tasked by these Ministries in reviewing the Budget to raise revenue earnings collected this year that is about to finish and will be continued as the Deputy Chairperson made a mention of other good challenges so that our revenue collection is continuously making for the country.

For expenditures, there are six financial policies of the State for the preparation of its Budget. The economy should have between 35% and 38% of total Expenditures of 2.2 million, which was well received by the member for Salega. In percentage, Expenditures is within this target range for the next Financial year.

Secondly, to retain less than 50% of the State's total borrowings or debts. This is no different with our local borrowings. The only difference is large sums of borrowings for the State versus individual loans. If you have a market value of \$200,000 for land and I want to borrow from a bank, the only loan you can get is 50% of that land value which is \$100,000. That is how this policy works, when borrowing money from the State in developing our country.

This is the vitality of the work done by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank and those administrating this job targeting less than 50% as noted in the 47% borrowings decrease we have so far. There is no other explanations to this not unless you want me to clarify it in Indian for you to understand..

Thirdly, the salary of workers should be in the range of 40% to 45% of total money spent. I believe this is why the State had implemented the payrise to be in line with the policies prepared in the Budget Report to achieve this salary increase target for public service.

Fourthly, retain an expenditure of less than 2%. That is one element of preparing this Budget. Job execution should also be improved to [lessen the burden on our Budget](#). [Looking at the Government Ministries](#), and the \$5million dividends target to collect and so far, they managed to collect \$13.5million last month, well done.

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Sixthly, raise the collection of tax, those are the financial policies of the State which is therefore running very well. Reflecting back to the financial statement for this term, the deficit for the financial statement for 2016/2017 was \$14 million and what happened when this financial statement was received, there was a profit of \$59.8, for 2017/2018, the Main Estimates was \$92.3 million and predictions had it that expenditures would be more than revenue for this financial year. For 2018/2019, a profit of 29 million has been received and a 12.1 million deficit, hence I trust, there is still a smooth running of the budget administration by the State.

I heed appreciation to all the Ministries of the State and the Chief Executive Officers for the well prepared Budget. More raise comes from your expertise available today. Not only with the Budget but also with the execution of our works that should be in line with our strategies and goals. Notwithstanding, your experience and understanding when it comes time for you to give your response to the Committee during the consideration of the Budget, well done. The most important thing for us is the countless knowledge now available for the prosperity of Samoa. These good works by the State must be undertaken continuously

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Chairperson's speech since we have arrived at our recess hour. I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended at 10:44am for normal recess and resumed at 11:31am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I trust Parliament has restored strength especially the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Government heads.

I firstly with respect call the Hon Prime Minister of the motion.



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## MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, it is vital that the House is made aware. One of the projects is now complete for our Pacific Games. We have the launching of one of the huge facilities this afternoon, and I trust you all want to witness this occasion. As such, we must attend to watch this launching and additional milestone achieved by the State. Part of this project is for the upcoming Pacific Games that will take place next month, which is a few more days away.

Henceforth, with respect I move the motion, *That our Sitting be adjourned at 1:00pm and resume at 9:00am tomorrow to carry on with our remaining agenda.*

Mr Speaker that is the motion before the respectable House.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, the Hon Prime Minister has made his statement and has moved the motion to end our session today at 1:00 until 9:00am tomorrow.

*Seconded by the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.*

*Motion approved.*

*Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019 and the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Before recess, the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee was giving an explanation. With respect I call on the Chairperson once again, member for Alataua West.



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**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** I believe everyone has been rejuvenated from breakfast, from the Speaker and the entire House. I am glad that today is a short sitting day. I will now conclude with my speech.

The members of the House have already voiced Hon Minister of Finance, most of the issues. Therefore, I will not discuss them any further. The only request is financial services offered in the rural areas and Savaii in particular to ease the process on borrowing and is convenient too. However, when it comes time to collecting repayments conducted every week. Like for instance, our village, they come every Wednesday and the van does not leave until all repayments are collected. What happens then, the women's committee will have to find money to make up these repayments.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegai:** I want to ask the Chairperson.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegai:** What exactly is this organization, is it an organization of Government or not?

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** No Hon Prime Minister. The request is to look into these financial services again in the rural villages. Rowlen...I forgot the names of the financial services that are approaching the rural areas. This is fine as it is lessening the burden upon our people however; it is just adding anxiety and stress given the fact that the van does not leave until all repayments are in with very high interest imposed. An example if you loan \$1,000 and get only \$800, and then repay \$1,500, which includes \$200 less from the required amount.

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By request, see if possible to attain a Law to legalize these sort of financial services, especially the high interest paid in the rural villages. Perhaps an open market currently undertaken for our trading banks is more suitable, so that...

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East):** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Salega East.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** I want to thank the Chairperson for this important matter. I questioned the matter of finance companies because there are some villages in my constituency that are very interested with these services. The main reason why people are interested is the easier process. In comparison with the process carried out by the Development Bank who normally go to the villages and give assistance including high interest imposed as well, otherwise, the mindset of the people is not the interest but the easy process for them to do a loan. Hon Minister of Finance of the Development Bank, make the process easier for the members of the public to take, with due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** It seems we might have to add more minutes to the time of the Chairperson.

I call on the Chairperson.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** I will move on to another matter, the main objective of the request is now noted. I am grateful to the Government on the stages we now see for self-insurance. I believe there is currently a plan carried out to implement this process. Therefore, I want to voice my sincere gratitude seeing that nearly \$4 million is spent on our insurance, I am grateful for these good works.

I now come to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, I am grateful for the work carried out for our digital TV. I am thankful that this service will soon be able to reach villages in rural areas from the pole here at Mulinuu.

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The only concern is the cost of our internet. I trust that after the installation of the Tui Cable the capacity is now greater in the country. I heard that the reason why telecommunications are not cheap is dependent on the available services that companies in the country can buy. We now have the capacity but the services for such capacity is based on what is earned by these companies. This is just an opinion, the decision is upon you, can we not bring in more telecommunication companies to compete with the ones we have so we can have affordable services. Also maybe an investor can buy these services now available considering we now have the Tui Cable and the improvements made on telecommunication services by our Government.

The Hon Minister of Health I am grateful for the services provided especially with the bus accident that occurred in our constituency in Savaii. I am thankful to the staff for their response on this matter.

The Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture, 90% of the children affected are from my constituency and Falealupo. The majority of them attend school at Itu Asau; I am talking about the bus accident that happened. I know that we are prioritizing sports.

However, a reminder on the matter Hon Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, on a request of this constituency, we really need a new school building, this will minimize travelling for our children to Itu Asau.

The Hon Minister of Tourism I am grateful for the assistance given to our hotel business owners. The only request I want to voice is the work carried out by the Statistics Bureau, which is important. The changes made on the reports given to Government for consideration is quite outstanding because they are the ones who are gathering this data used. A request in relation to our tourists, if we look at the report of the Tourism Authority it states the high number of arrivals, but there is an issue seen in our hotels with occupancy rates. Therefore, I believe arrival cards should be looked into for arrivals at Faleolo, there is only one term used which is tourism, why not make this two, real tourist or something like that.

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Furthermore, our visiting friends and families who are here for purposes like family matters and church obligations. It is true that they are all here to support the development of our economy although majority do not come and stay in hotels except for a few. These are a few matters for consideration your honour.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I thank the Chief Executive of the Land Transport Authority, thank you for the road works carried out for our village in Neiafu. The truth is this village looks like a small town in Savaii after the road improvement, although I trust that my statement will end up becoming true if the Asau wharf is built. Thank you Hon Minister and LTA for the works implemented.

The final appreciation is the increase expenditure for our roads in Savaii. I see that you have appropriated a big increase of \$3 million in this Budget Statement for us whilst only \$1.2 million increase is allotted for Upolu, and based on my observation, majority of the members' requests is towards roads improvement. Only \$37 million is allocated nonetheless I will leave this matter with you, the requests of the members is not easy so too is the wants of the constituencies.

I come now to queries made by the members on the Finance Committee Report. There was a question from the Member for Siumu on the \$30,000 and why there was no appropriation allocated for the Samoa Aid Foundation. The Ministry has its own consent, to set aside these funds to promote Aid awareness and set aside the other amount underneath that to be used greatly for this financial year, there is another donation item known as the savings for Caution. That is the agreement of the Ministry itself to have no funds.

The last question, is whether there is funds allocation for climate change and hotels that are affected by climate change. A brief response, there is no fund stated in the Budget but I trust there is already the Climate Change Strategy for Tourism which also has a Committee, that pertains to matters like this. This Committee deals directly with implementing funding requests for hotels that are affected.



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I conclude, I pray the Lord guide us especially with blessings upon the Chair in administering our session. The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet may the Lord bless you all with the duties you are chosen to do which is not easy. I also pray the Lord guide our Associate Ministers with their role of assisting Cabinet for the betterment of House, this is the same for Chairpersons and members of Parliament Committees, I pray that faith and trust be implemented in the duties given. May the Lord bless the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises present here this morning. I also pray blessings upon all of Samoa from the Clergy to our youth generation. Whatever calamities faced, I pray that God will guide Samoa's journey safely.

My constituency of Alataua West, whatever the services provided I pray that trust be put upon me, lastly I want to thank the Clerk and the Legislative Office for services rendered to this Parliament. I conclude a clarification with respect, blessings be upon Mr Speaker and members of the House, soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I am thankful respectable Chairperson for the clarification on the work carried out by the Finance and Expenditure Committee. I am grateful for the contribution made before Parliament. The member has also voiced the requests for her constituency. As the saying goes may the Lord give you strength to fulfil the duties you were chosen to do.

I now call upon Government for their response in relation to the queries voiced by members especially on the country's Budget. With respect I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, and the dignity of Samoa listening in today. I move with respect to thank members for the opinions voiced within the Chamber today.

The truth despite what you hear, the normal procedure with Sitings involving the Budget Statement whereby this Budget will administrate the State's works for the entire year starting in July until June of next year.



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There is no difference between what is shared in the House and how a pig is shared in the village. Every time a pig is divided, there is always a matai who is tasked with this doing and is surrounded by the untitled men of the village. Pardon me, once the pig is divided, parts of the pig is thrown around whilst other catch them and sometimes, if the men are slow in catching them, they will accidentally land on their chests. There is the normal saying in Samoa that goes, 'once shared the raw cake is eaten.' Those are the words we are used to for us in the rural areas, whilst those in the urban are not used to it because when it falls on the ground we would just pick it up wash them in the sea and cook it for the family to consume. For us in the ruralside, we are used to this. We are used to these words used in those days before the presence of Orator and the Tama Aiga on that side.

Nevertheless I seldom hear it nowadays, when I first entered this place, this House was packed with senior coutrymen, these were the words spoken, whenever the Budget was deliberated, the distribution for Samoa, the mincing of words was avoided then, absolutely none of that whatsoever. Even the Speaker of the House, I still recall the order by the Speaker upon the Sergeant at Arms upon the behavior of one of the members, 'remove the member outside,' and the member responded, 'You thief, I will go outside.' You see how rude the remarks made in those days were, whilst the House had the presence of the Orator and the Tama Aiga at that time.

Mr Speaker we should not hinder such manner, because during the distribution of goods in a village it becomes very noisy, the villagers would become highly alert lest they do not get anything. One man would call out to be mindful of the other man who might be left out. There is also the unjust distribution amongst the good distribution for these things. Fortunately, a good matai will end up with nothing because he is making sure that everyone is gaining something.

Mr Speaker the reason for mentioning this matter is based on the fact that such opinions should be deliberated. Sitting here and listening intently to the proceedings of the House, discussions on the budget, deliberating the imbalances of the budget.

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It is good to clarify these things with regards to the terms used in this thick booklet we have been debating about the past two days, the Main Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year 2019/2020. We are discussing dreams and estimates, we are talking about guesstimates which is the combination of these two words guess and estimates together. Despite all that, I still hear members stating deficit on this and deficit on that when we are referring to dreams.

We have yet to start with the Budget, we are only discussing dreams, therefore we have not yet talked about actual revenue, as we will begin collecting them on the 1st of July which we have not yet reached. Nevertheless some members have been tiring themselves out this morning to debate the matter when it has yet been in place. Any major development in this world always begins with a dream. If the Government does not have any dream then there will be no developments neither good works achieved.

Mr Speaker we are discussing matters which have not yet taken place, we plan for the future and these plans are not done lightly, they are based on revenue collected and earned from the previous year, then assumptions are set out, these funds is expected to revive if these plans are implemented. There are many policies that those who are preparing the Budget are used to. They look at the plans, especially those plans outlined by the Hon Minister for Revenue. There is an expectation if we implement these plans we will get more funds in the future. This does not mean the Budget is based on weak ideas, there are based on good and strong foundations and bear in mind, only God knows what will happen tomorrow, that we do not know. This means we do not know whether the cake we might be talking about will be small or big. We should take into account first that this is only a dream instead of real events first. What is the actual event? Well the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee has stated that after last year's performance there was a surplus. These are the real events, but do not be so concerned with deficits and debts and so forth. We have the Cabinet and that is their duty, we also have the Political Parties for recommendations, we also have the public servants who have been well educated and have returned with degrees that the Cabinet is depending on.

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Before a decision is made, the Cabinet seeks the advice from these experienced intellectuals, such is why we are courageous because we have these brilliant minds who are advising the State.

At the end of the year 1983 we saw a lot of disagreements. Why? Because this was the first time, even though at the end of 1982, the year 1983 was the initial year whereby the HRPP Human Rights Protection Party had set out its policies with regards to this country's bankruptcy. Observing the turmoil at that time, Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana was then acknowledged as the father of the Nation and has shackled the people with an iron rod together with other honorific status, an Orator who lacks good academic background like us, he was someone with in-depth prudence and wisdom and has commonsense in outlining the future plans of the Government. The plans implemented by the Government then was very outstanding. Why? Because when we came there were no funds, no balances. The State should prioritize two accounts, investments and foreign reserves which had left us with none.

You too have heard it, we are talking about 40 years ago on the crisis that was faced by our country. Why? Because despite the several attempts for the State to submit recommendations to implement, it is the recommendations for the prosperity of the Government.

Mr Speaker the work engaged by the HRPP was not easy, not only for the State to fix its economy, meaning increase the duty and tax where necessary. Not only that, but Government to cautiously consider the use of foreign reserves for trade as mentioned by one of the members. What was done during the crisis at that time was that, by the end of December to January, I would consult with then Chief Executive of Finance Alex Dahutson, a white man from New Zealand who was very devoted to work. He would come to work at 4 in the morning and goes home at 12 midnight. I still remember the work of this man, he was very honest in his endeavors to resolve the [issues occurring in the country](#). [At the end of December and the start of January](#) we would carry out consultations regarding the allocation of scarce funds, we would call upon small businesses to come in and get their amount to order the materials needed.

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Our economy was hugely affected during the HRPP administration and one of the major achievements by the HRPP was the formal setting up the Central Bank that was passed in 1984, to professionally monitor the economic growth and employees to oversee and followup these transactions from companies that are investing in the country. The Government is also aware that there are some companies who are dishonest with their investments. At that time people were able to buy their goods using American and New Zealand dollars. However we should ban the use of such currencies to ensure that reserves comes directly to the Government or the Central Bank of Samoa for them to monitor this distribution. I have noted the importance of recommendations put forth to the Minister.

I submitted a recommendation to the Cabinet in 1984, everytime Parliament holds a Sitting, the Heads of all Ministries must attend that is still continuing on to date. Come and listen to the views of leaders of Samoa, no more above that, these are the leaders of Samoa's meeting, take note and start setting out the development plans to implement and submit before the Government. In the past they did not attend until 1984, they were encouraged to attend Parliament sessions to be aware of the deliberations done by members, take note and make recommendations to the Government without us having to repeat these matters to them. If we forget anything, these officials have noted all your issues down to continually implement the works for the betterment of Samoa. The purpose is not to make us famous, we implement according to our callings for the sake of our village communities awaiting us.

This is the reason why I am still talking about this matter for those of us in this Parliament that hold businesses. Set those aside, knowing that your businesses seeks to assist your families, leave it with your children to take over especially when you have been chosen as the Ministers or Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees.

Therefore, lend us your full time to serve the country that chose you here. The words of the Almighty Father, you cannot serve two Masters as you will only end up sitting in Cabinet whilst your mind is set on your business. You must resign and take over your business if that is the case.



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You cannot sit here whilst your whole being and mind is not here wholly. Leave it to the children and spouse to handle, spend your entire time on what you were sworn in to do. Mr Speaker, that is also the case whenever this caucus meets, I always remind them of the oaths they undertook.

As for our Budget tabled before the House, we have yet to start as only figures and estimates are given here. I must say, the use of the term estimates refers to figures estimated, although, leave it God, for we only plan whilst God implements it for us. What then is laid out in these future plans? It is clearly stated within the Budget by the Hon Minister of Finance and the Chairperson. Our Main Estimates is \$913 million, it is more than \$900 million which means our Budget for the next financial year is close to a billion. Of the \$913 million stated it is attributed to funds that are passed by this Parliament, this does not include the works done by the Public Enterprises like the Shipping Corporation, NPF and other corporations. If we were to incorporate this revenue in this accumulated total, therefore, our economic cashflow will be greater by a billion unfortunately it is not included given ongoing works. The only funds submitted here is operational funds for public enterprises set up through special Legislation resulting in submitted reports before the House with the assistance of the State. The funds appropriated from here is distributed to this corporations and this corporation for their operations, like the University that is reliant on the Government for its operation and development.

Mr Speaker, in the past when we first became independent and during my employment with the Ministry of Finance, the Budget had only two divisions. These were the capital expenditure and maintainance expenditure. The problem then Mr Speaker, the State has grown, when we became independent, our Budget did not even reach a million as there were not much revenue sources at that time, including former leaders who undertook this role, they had to be cautious as they had to study and learn the methods in operating and managing revenues for our Independent State which was new for them. Even so, there were not much developments implemented at that time due to the shortage in funds, there were no loans as we were dependent on the means available in the country.

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In the year 1970 the country has grown, and this is what the Government does, it takes note of the country's growth and reason why we carry out a census is to record the total population and employment that the State must implement.

I applaud the strategic outlook by the Government, the next elections should not be cut out, set out future plans according to the next generation in the future, do not implement developments during the time of elections. Such is reason when our Party decided that three years was not enough, we can only implement small developments within this three year period instead of bigger projects that can create employment opportunities for future generations of Samoa. Whichever Government that succeeds and administrates our Government, keep in mind, the end of the five year term is important, it is the measure for the amount of developments we were able to achieve, envisioning the next twenty, thirty, fifty and hundred years time in the future. This is what the major development carried out at Salelologa is based on and so too is the major development in Vaiusu, looking at these projects developments in a short period of two to three years, it is no different with a person standing at the edge of a cliff. What do they see? Only the tree trunks. If you want to look beyond, you must go and stand on the top of the mountain and be able to see what to do for Samoa in the future. It is good that we have been faced with a lot of adversity namely climate change, comes the future, we have set out proper measures for the future development of Samoa and our future generation.

Mr Speaker, this is the total funds we are currently deliberating, there is \$133 million allocated for next years development. As we progress and all of a sudden receive any cyclones, the Government will have to review and allocate accordingly whether to increase appropriations to billions in amount as that is a sign of a vigilant Government, taking into account the good days and the bad days. Such is the outline in the current Budget and members have already voiced their thoughts on the proposed \$913 million, although the only revenue we have managed to earn is \$826 million. How will we accomodate this difference? It will be financed through loans given soft term financing, which is \$26 million, it is financed through borrowings specifically for our project developments.

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Also note that majority of these ongoing developments are not new loans but must be utilized this year towards the new year. The given statement about the \$87 million deficit utilized to fund other commodities is the total appropriation for soft term loans, it is \$26 million leaving \$61 million they are called movements in cash balances. It is stated in the Samoan version, as profits and deficit. This means there is expenditure is greater than revenue. The correct term for this \$61 million should be, this is the correct balance from revenue earnings from our own money and loans.

This is the correct Samoan version whilst it is stipulated here as movement in cash balances, when these are the funds we have received from our development partners who are assisting us through soft term financing.

Mr Speaker, I must address this surplus on expenditures over revenues not including grants from overseas. The importance of this factor in an economist point of view is that, there is nothing wrong with over spending more than we are receiving in revenues. Why? Well it creates employment. When the depression of 1930 occurred, it was a time when the whole world experienced unemployment and therefore Governments had to run major developments using borrowed funds. New Zealand with its thousands of people racked up loans from here and there to create employment and the masses were vigorously asked to work. It is a good thing with deficit financing; it invokes the creation of jobs where people go to work starving. The Government has that duty in which pines were largely grown throughout New Zealand. What is the result of that? They are reaping the rewards acquiring billions of dollars from timber. This was during the time when critics said it was a waste of time covering the land with so many trees. It is now yielding fruits. Let us not make a fuss about expenditures exceeding revenues.

I was in Savaii about two years ago to open the sports field for the constituency of Safune, Mauga and Paia. The old man who gave the [speech was I guess about 90 years old. He expressed his gratitude for the field and the building.](#) Hon Prime Minister we always listen in to proceedings of Parliament and there is someone telling you not to make it a habit to go overseas acquiring loans. Please disregard these weak views, particularly that one particular from Savaii who is constantly doing it.



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I ask you to borrow lots of money to develop Savaii. I thought to myself, now how about that, an elderly man who never went to University is speaking of matters often used by professors of economic developments. These are professors taught at Universities but this old man never reached any tertiary education. This is wisdom possessed by leaders of this country, let us not neglect it, let us not be ignorant and try to approach it speaking English like a sewing machine. When you sit at a meeting, the elders will take one look at you and say, "we do not understand what our son studied overseas, he is very stupid considering the words he is speaking." The wisdom found in our country is very deep it is why we must make it a habit to listen to the elders, as one old man once said, the more days lived on this earth, is the more wisdom you know.

Mr Speaker, since the establishment of this Government, the main objective that the recommendations were based on came from the public service. We must be cautious of borrowing and we must consider our capacity to repaying these loans. The meetings we attended since 1970 when I began working were international meetings in Washington, Philippines, Asian Development Bank as well as meetings at the European Investment Bank, ACB. They follow countries and persuade them to borrow money from them since they have it. The problem is the moment you become silly your economy will be in a dire situation since their interest rates are fairly high. This had affected mothers in the rural areas, there are companies who lend out money and it is a weakness for most people to borrow, although when asked to pay back they have nothing. This is a matter that should be reviewed by the Hon Minister of Finance and Governor of the Central Bank since it is their duty, to look into these people who are doing this without having any sense of compassion.

In 1991, a business group representing the Development Bank of Italy came here when I had just come on board as Minister of Tourism. I was so keen then to develop our hotels and improve the state of our aircraft. These two people came before me and said, we have come to tell you that there are lots of money in Italy, and we would like to lend it to you to develop your country.

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We know that your country has so many things that requires the financial assistance of the Development Bank of Italy. I chuckled and asked them what their interest rate was. Their response was 8% and I said if it is not below 1%, then I am sorry. They replied, what stupid bank would make such proposal? I answered the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, if you cannot beat that then do leave my office we do not need it. They left and 8 years later, I read that the Cook Islands were voting to remove the representative of this country as these two same people managed to persuade the Cook Islands Prime Minister to build a Sheraton Hotel which was never completed and when payment was demanded they could not pay up. The Sheraton is slowly rotting away in the Cook Islands because of these two men who came to Samoa.

Mr Speaker, there are many similar situations but the Government is protecting us from it by following policies. We do not rush to these banks but we must seriously consider their interest rates and the benefit we can gain from them. These big banks always provide sound advice to all stakeholders including Samoa. We also cannot ignore the experience of our people whom have served at the World Bank and some at IMF, whilst others worked at ADB. Which is the reason the Government delegated the duty to them to look into these matters. To study and spy on concepts and in return apply this knowledge to Government.

Mr Speaker, this is the direction Government is headed. It is important to look at the level of our debts together with the state of developments. When we were trying to start development on one of our huge buildings financed with a loan from China, the World Bank stopped the grant altogether. They said, it should not be done. New Zealand and Australia also cut off their assistance even the ADB. I spoke with a representative of the World Bank, who said that the problem is the grant element offered by this bank is 36% in the form of assistance. On the other hand, China are providing only 27% in the form of assistance for the grant element. I told him that I would have to talk with them. He then said all right.



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I spoke with the President at a meeting held in Fiji. I went with my advisors and I said to the President, sir please have consideration of our development that we want to carry out. Can you lower your grant element to be in line with the Asian Development Bank and the International Development Agency or IDA, this is a soft window of assistance for lower interest rates? I did my part and yet they were still making deductions therefore the Central Bank stepped in. After 8 months, the Ministry of Finance submitted a study called cost benefits analysis, which describes the benefits that Samoa will gain. When you speak of benefits you are talking about economic benefits and spin offs, these are the general things in which a country will enjoy.

When the World Bank had a look at this, they asked we forgive their mistake. Everything we stopped will resume at your disposal. Therefore, both New Zealand and Australia were allowed to give assistance. Mr Speaker our younger generation are not sitting idle. They are not fools, and it is why Cabinet appointed them. They were well educated and are good advisors to Government. It is why we continue to lay out our long term plans. No organisation aims to give an open loan to Samoa. Keep in mind that these international financial organisations employ only professors of economics, like ADB. These organisations will never allow us to borrow from them as long as they know that we have a poor history of debt repayment. This is why many people make the mistake of thinking that all of this will be paid in the New Year. You look at the timeframe for this repayment to make and the low interest rates we are paying. This is where you judge the level of our debts. It is in our records, the outcome is clear once we set aside funds to repay debts. It is only \$70 million, which has been put aside from Government operations, whilst over \$80million is allocated to support our developments. This is what Government is striving to do. Any Government makes it a point to control spending to make sure there is enough capital for developments. If there are no developments, there is no progress. Developments will ensure the implementation of major projects.

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I gave an example, we all swore an oath that by the next elections, there would be thousands of five year olds been born. Thousands of four year olds would be born, three year olds, two year olds, one year olds and new-borns. Whilst the nineteen year olds would be graduating and so as the twenty year olds, twenty ones, twenty twos, twenty threes and twenty fours. They must find employment - this is why Government cannot sit idly because there will be more babies. It is the same with you over there, making babies.

I am certain everyone understands what I am talking about. If you have babies, you know that what I am saying is correct. A Party must look ahead and set an agenda forth for its major developments, it is rare to complete all developments within a three-year period. A Government with short vision will never be able to fulfil it; we can only see it to the tip of our noses. However, we must have further insight for future generations.

Now that the Budget is tabled, I applaud the vision to accept our Estimates. There is a very important aspect I wish to address, which is the implementation of our projects. It is best that I touch on this again. A Ministry Head was a doctor that came to me back in 1995. He said to me, please, I want to go to Manila. Here are my documents. I then said, what is the purpose of your trip? There is a seminar about something new. What is this new thing? It is a legislation about good governance. It is about objectives to guide the implementation of Government operations, and I would like to find out what it is about. I responded by saying that it is all within our laws, if only you had been observing we are operating on good governance. Do you still want to go? Let me explain it to you.

There are three main factors entwined within good governance, the first is transparency, where everything is clearly out in the open with no corrupt practice. This means the work of Government is implemented upon policies. The tender process carried out on the many projects amount to millions of dollars. It is advertised and the **bidder with the lowest cost shall be awarded the project if the length of time to complete the work is favourable and the expertise is sufficient.** If it is fraudulent, one can say I will give it to a friend to do it and the cost will be high. This is why the whole world is adhering to good governance and transparency.

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The second factor is accountability, which is putting everything on record so that the person responsible is doing well and is rewarded accordingly. As for those causing trouble they end up in Tafaigata. It is why the auditors and accountants are so powerful. It is the reason why Government appointed auditors to report directly to Parliament and not under any circumstances to the Government. Report directly to Parliament, such is the authority of independent auditors. This way Committee will know about it and report recommendations.

The Chief Executive Officers of Ministries are listening, majority have compiled their reports and are up to date whilst Cabinet is still waiting for the rest of the Ministries. Submit your reports to the Committees as soon as possible for their understanding. In addition, it is pointless to submit a report that is three years behind. You are aware of the consequences and a recommendation before Parliament will be too late. I want to reiterate to Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations, make sure your reports are up to date. These are the leaders of the country and when the Chairperson demand your presence, drop everything and attend to them. Come and answer their queries. Such are the elements of accountability and transparency.

There is also a third factor, which is to consult with the people. This is purpose of the Laws; people are called in for their opinion. The Ministries call upon the people to come in for discussion. Sometime a Commission of Enquiry is set up just like the one that was established to sort out the matter concerning the over domineering authority of heads (sa'o) of families. I recall Rev Oka Fauolo chaired it. There was another Commission probing into the idea that there were too many denominations being introduced into our country and should be stopped, since people were becoming fearful of incidents in Iran. It was a request of the Council of Churches, to put a stop to it. Cabinet resolved that a Commission of Enquiry be called and let the Chairman of the Council of Churches Rev Oka Fauolo be its Chairman. I think this Commission went on for two years, and their report was to uphold the current policy and not change it. As long as issues are understood, now even the Council of Churches wanted to put a stop to the introduction of a new church. Now that it is spoken from the Chairman himself, stop it let us not change anything. It is the same with the Land Registration Act.



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I was present on the day that meeting opened. Hon Misa Telefoni Retzlaff was the authority that particular morning. The whole country was there. The words uttered were “do not touch fire”. I vividly recall the speech I gave, “This is a new dawn, let us look into this issue on the leasing of lands and what problems there were maybe, and what avenues that may assist the development of our country.” I have often heard the statement, “I fear that you have touched fire.” I said that morning I have seen a lot of fire burning, and I wanted to touch it, but when I get to it, it is only vapour.

Mr Speaker, what is happening is quite huge which is fear and refusing to be understood. The Government is trying to publicise and clarify these issues. It is why I am keen on my programmes with the social media where they really probe me with questions whilst I attempt to give response. I myself know when I am fatigued but I do it because it is important to me that the country understands. Especially when there are many wicked people out there. There is one going by the name SSIG. Sometimes it goes by the name OLP. Those are the labels of Lucifer, which often change forms. What I do know is that the prayers of the people give me strength, also for this Cabinet and this Party. This is to calmly, respond to the numerous false allegations made against us.

Mr Speaker it is the reason why Government strives to adhere to the principles of good governance for it is portrays a good Government. Why? This is what grants from overseas are based upon. They clearly understand Samoa as bright as day. Despite the loads of dreadful write-ups in the Observer which is to sell their newspaper. I do not complain, as it is the nature of some business. I have often seen on TV, commercials telling you that this is a very good washing machine with no faults. You take the machine and when you turn it on it is broken. You go and return it and they tell you sorry, but there is a law on trade. Your stupidity and ignorance will not cover for you. This is the most important rule. Ignorance is no excuse. It is very common with most of the business commercials.

The status, which our country is in and the aim of Government is to follow the law and uphold justice. It does not mean we are right every day there are times when incidents occur if not theft it is a car accident. However, there are means to handle it. It is the same here with us. Some people do not accept the decisions we make.

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They proceed to make publications but Cabinet cannot deviate from the decisions that have to be made. Now there is another decision and responsibility of the court tabled before the House for a resolution.

The importance of that decision highlights the power of the Legislative Assembly. There is no other higher authority than the Supremacy of Parliament. Even the court cannot decide on a judgement for the dismissal of the President unless the House makes a decision. Perhaps the matter will be addressed by Parliament in the days ahead.

Mr Speaker, the conducting of our affairs through law is something that our people is yet to grasp entirely. I had a very good Minister, the Hon Mulitalo Siafausa who did many good things. He had a big heart and was the one responsible for setting up the dialysis unit. Most of the countries in the Pacific could not make that happen, but he did it and was one of the boldest members of HRPP. However, when election time came, he was charged, to me this is something very simple and it can be interpreted in the cultural sense. Most of his supporters were not in Savaii but were all over Upolu. Therefore, he went to Savaii and did his o'o before returning to Upolu and had another one done. In consequence, he was charged for presenting two traditional gifts or o'o, which resulted in a dispute if this was the actual faa-Samoa.

As a matter of law, the Attorney General cannot be barred from being affected by such matter, being a friend of the court. Mulitalo would have been able to avoid because lawyers tend to argue unnecessarily even when they are wrong. There was a lawyer who came to me some years back, after resigning from New Zealand and he hosted a dinner. This person was a real top-notch lawyer and he said that, now that I have resigned I am going to make a plea to the Government to amend the law to prohibit a charged person from directly speaking to the police.

This can only be done with the presence of a lawyer, but what will happen is the lawyer will have the opportunity to put words into this person's mouth. Counsel will later say that many inmates could have been in jailed but I saved them through the law.



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I fervently ask that this be removed and let the police have the freedom to lock them up and carry out interrogations. Let us remove that altogether since many criminals are being saved because of the cunning words of lawyers.

Mr Speaker, this is not good news for the lawyers, but it is their profession. The reason why I say this is, during the course of the trial the Attorney General intervened without asking me, I know it is their job.

Under the law, no one can interfere with the work of the Attorney General and police. I was shocked to read in the paper that Mulitalo had gone all out against the Attorney General. He should have won, but it was the Attorney General's unnecessary silly involvement, which caused him to lose. My Minister came to me and I consoled him and said that his loss was due to him ignoring my advice and trying to be smart. The Attorney General was merely protecting the dignity of Government.

Hon Mulitalo Siafausa said some harsh statements to the Attorney General. The following day the Attorney General tendered his resignation to me. I had hoped that he would continue to serve but he has taking this course to maintain justice. He could not continue after his role was condemned.

There was a term in the past when one of the members of this party resigned. I did mention this and there was a court case, which found the member fined, as he was pleaded guilty, he eventually resigned according to the law. The problem was that when the report came, it indicated that the members spouse has admitted to committing the transgression and not her husband. I was surprised to see them turning up at my house in the middle of the night seeking my assistance. I was overwhelmed with compassion thinking to myself that he had been punished twice as he had resigned.

I spoke with the Attorney General the next day and he said to me that the issue was a legal matter under his jurisdiction and it is to [protect the Constitution of the State of Samoa](#). The matter should not have come to me, as I have no business in interfering with their role in protection of the dignity of Government. Know that every nation we are work closely with are watching us and we are keen with our stance to uphold the rule of law. Our Prime Minister in 1982 who had the portfolio of Police and the Attorney General was charged.

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When the community of Salelologa came to see me to renegotiate the price of the land, which we had discussed. I said to them, 'Salelologa what we already agreed on and signed shall be final, and let me tell you this. There have been many nations in which even their Head of State has been imprisoned due to the process of good governance they had breached. And I do not want to go to jail because of Salelologa; I do not wish to accept your mission.'

Mr Speaker that is so that this House will have a better understanding of the work of the Attorney General, the Chief Auditor, and the Ombudsman. All these offices report directly to Parliament to uphold the integrity of Government and the Samoan Parliament, Government is foremost and its integrity is the Constitution of the Sate of Samoa. What does the words inscribe? Samoa is founded on God and the same applies to its culture and traditions, which was on the cover. What have you done now? You have placed it in the heart of the Constitution.

God the omnipresent is watching us and throughout these many years, we have been fooling him, that this nation is founded on Him. God rightly knows that He is not in the Constitution. Now we have put him right inside the Constitution. What is the meaning of this? It is God's silent calling that the Constitution of Samoa shall be in your grasp as the servants of Samoa. Misfortune and blessings upon a member does not come from another. Personally, I believe blessings of the Lord are upon you for doing great things for Thee during this term.

Mr Speaker, Government response will start from the youngest Minister Hon Afamasaga Rico Tupai, whose team became champions. The members of that team are very strong, and no wonder they are because of where they trained. There is no coconut tree at the Trust Estates compound, they did not climb.

He will begin with our response in light of your requests. Whatever may be left I shall cover when it is my turn again. Those are my final words, I wish you well and to this Assembly. May the grace of God be upon our people.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, the Hon Prime Minister and Leader of Cabinet have clarified some of the issues raised by members. It is not only for the information of this Assembly but the country at large. In saying that, I applaud your statement and I know your role is not an easy one. Detailing everything out in the open so everyone is clear as there are questions of our integrity. Are we doing things according to policies? The Government is keeping to that in accordance to the process and status of our projects, so I thank you.

I also commend the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations in your roles and also supporting and advising Government on certain developments.

Since we are approaching the hour to suspend proceedings. I apologize to the Hon Minister but you will start tomorrow when we resume our deliberations as the motion dictates, if God willing we may reconvene in good health.

Before we adjourn, I will conclude our Proceedings with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 1:02pm until 9:00am Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019.*

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**FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2019**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:12am.*

Prayers.

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

**PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES  
REPORTS**

*The Clerk read out the list of Parliamentary Committee Reports tabled before the House pursuant to S.O. 52(5).*

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.79, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.130, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines Ltd / Samoa Airways 30 June 2018.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.83, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.89 & P.P.2018/2019 No.107, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.84, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.129, Annual Reports of the Samoa Shipping Services 2014/2015, 2015/2016 & 2016/2017.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2018/2019 &  
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**MR SPEAKER:** The Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday after the Prime Minister's clarification on the overall policies and various aspects of the country's economy provided in the Supplementary Budget and the Main Estimate. This is the opportunity for the Cabinet to resume their speeches.