

21 JANUARY 2021

**THURSDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2021**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:15am.*

Prayer.

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

Well, with utmost respect I greet the respects of the House this new morning, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as all members of Parliament, also the continuous work of the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations and the support of all Samoa, not only the authority of Alii and Faipule, *Aiga ma Tama, o Tama ma Aiga, le usoga a Tumua* but also the ordained servants of God. Blessings for the support conveyed today.

**PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

1. P. P.2020/2021 No.116, Report of the Social Sector Committee Report on P.P. 2019/2020 No. 199, Report of the Measles Epidemic 2019.
2. P.P.2020/2021 No.120, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on the Land Titles Registration Amendment Bill 2020.
3. P.P. 2020/2021 No.127, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on SR 2020/4, Energy Management Act 2020- Notice of Commencement.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021  
– debate on second reading – Day 3**

**MR SPEAKER:** We adjourned our work yesterday after the member of Salega West concluded his speech. And this is also the opportunity for me to call upon another member to continue with our work today.

I call upon the member of Aana Alofi No.2. My apologies to Samoa, the member who concluded our work yesterday was the member of Salega East, the respectable senior member Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai. The member of Aana Alofi No.2 you may speak.

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**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. You have already delivered praises this morning, and the Lord has heard our prayers, do so for all of us because this is the third day of our last Sitting for the XVI Parliament of Samoa.

At this hour I respectfully stand to voice a contribution of this constituency Aana Alofi No.2 which will now be Aana Alofi No.3 in the upcoming General Elections, for the two villages Nofolii and Leulumoega.

First, I want to acknowledge the respects of all Samoa listening in and showing support. Pardon me with respect to this morning, and the significance of this day.

I acknowledge all of Samoa from the highest mountain to the coastal lowlands. His Excellency, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and your Good lady, Le Ao o le Malo of the Independent State of Samoa. The Member of Council of Deputies Afioga Tapulesatele Le Mamea Ropati and your Good lady, how about the support of our Spiritual leaders, the ordained servants of God throughout the country praying for Samoa and its prosperity, the preachers of the gospel, the messengers of God carrying out His will.

*Le usoga ia Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti, Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma Tama.*

I acknowledge the House of Samoa, the House where prudence and wisdom is deliberated, the House that considers the economic decisions, for Samoa and its people.

I acknowledge the presence of Mr Speaker, the administrator of the House, the Hon Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

I turn to this side of Chambers to acknowledge the respects of Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and to all members of the Parliament of Samoa.

Least I cannot forget the support of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries as well as all of Samoa gathered here in this House.

I stand before you today, feeling different, because such days are different in contrast to others. There is a day and its decisions, and a day to be perceptive, a day and its cause, and a day with what might happen. Perhaps this is the feeling of such a morning, a morning to give thanks and praise to the Lord Almighty. Why? We have arrived at our destination, the journey of the XVI Parliamentary term from 2016 up to this morning. Let us praise its beauty and say, God is good.

I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister, the Leader of Government and Cabinet, who have worked hard throughout our journey over the past 5 years we are now concluding. Eventhough it was difficult because we encountered a lot of challenges, but the stance of Samoa was comforted by your navigation.

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Thank you for the projects and the major developments that have been done also in trying to allocate projects so that it will cover the whole country, work well done. As the saying goes, *ua se togi le seu na lagatila ua faapulou i le tualima, ua malo fai o le faiva*. I wish you all the best in the upcoming elections this year.

I want to take this golden opportunity to thank the Hon Minister of Works, it was a dream we this constituency has dreamt of to have water inland, fortunately this year and last year, pipelines have been installed and distributed. Although the work of the Samoa Water Authority has not yet been completed, I can see in the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2020/2021, that there is a small budget allocated to complete this work. Thank you very much.

Lest I cannot forget the Chief Executives of Government Ministries and Organisations and the work that we have done over the past 5 years. The truth is you are the force behind the work implemented by Government, because there is no use of planning when it is not implemented, but you are the ones implementing the long-term plans of our Government. I commend you for the work and your services. After the work is done, we should say, we are only but useless servants.

Least this House cannot forget the feeling of happiness and gratitude towards the Chairperson and the Committee responsible for the protection of Samoa from this disease. There is some good news since there is now a cure for the disease, and Samoa is still safe. Why? Because of the work you do night and day without complaint. The commitment to ensure our safety I pray the Lord bless the work done.

Mr Speaker, I have already voiced a word of thanks for the past 5 years and this Parliamentary term where we worked together to the roles we were assigned. But this hour, let me touch upon my constituency, the reason why I am standing before you today.

My constituency of Aana Alofi No.2 listening in, I cannot forget the prayers of our Spiritual Leaders, the Methodist Church in Leulumoega, the Catholic and Congregational Christian Church, also in Nofaalii, CCCS and Catholic, the Pentecost and the Assembly of God, as well as the Elders of the Latter Day Saints, thank you for your prayers especially in support of the duties of this humble servant, the work has been made easy because of your prayers. Thank you for treating me as a son.

My village of Nofaalii and your support, I cannot forget you, *le susu o lau Susuga i le alii matua o le Aiga Sa Tanuvasa, lau Susuga Tanuvasa Lefine, susu foi le Aiga Sa Tanuvasa i ona matafale e fia, o Tanuvasa na itulua ai Aana, o Tanuvasa na atoa i ai Aana, o Tanuvasa ma Aana. O le laau na fausia na poupou ai malo, ae o le tootoo o le aava e tua i ai Leulumoega*.

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*Le paia o le Aiga Sa Tuala o le Aiga Faalagilagi, le afio o Taimalieutu o le Fofoga o le Vai, o le aiga fai mai na mavae ai Fonoti, e au Salamasina i le tumutumu, ae au Tuala i aiga o uluai aiga na tofofi i Samoa. Le mamalu o le nofo a ituaiga ia te oe le Faleaana, e te polapuipui aua paia ma mamalu o Nofoalii. Le Faleaana i gagae ma o la Tapaau ia Tuu ma Malaitai, o paia na o si ou nuu o Nofoalii e amata mai i Taimaletavai seia paia...*

The respects of my village of Leulumoega i le afio o Sooaemalelagi ma alo o Tamaalelagi ma i laua na faiga, le mamalu o le nofo a ituaiga, le mamalu i le faleiva o le Fale Tuiaana, alaalatai Alipia o le Matuanatogi, o le Avaganofoa o le faalanumaaveave, e te tausivaatele aua Aiga e 4 ma laau na faufau ma Aana Saeseese. You are the chosen Tumua for Samoa.

The support of the village women, the strength of our constituency, I commend you for the support, thank you for prayers, you have done the ritual of Feepo, giving your support to our work in serving Samoa and our constituency. As the saying goes, a game that is supported is one that will result to success. This is a feeling this morning, and now the sun is setting on our Parliament this year, therefore we say, thank you for your prayers, it has given us peace as we stand before this Parliament of Samoa.

I apologise on a service that might not meet your expectations; the services performed in the past 5 years which is not a long time. Remember the beauty of Rome was not built in a day. What effort I have made in these 5 years, the intention is to gain big developments so that all our needs are carried out. Therefore your requests have been put forward, but that is the goal of this member, to follow through with the requests put forward. It is with your trust that it can be accomplished. We are now heading towards the upcoming elections, as already mentioned by previous members, let us choose with God. Do not be swayed by promises but think of what is best and beneficial for our constituency and Samoa in the future.

Mr Speaker, let me convey a word to you, I am aware that you will now be retiring regarding your health, but I am certain you will show us your support, especially the work of this Parliament in the next five years. As the saying our church is accustomed to, may God be with you, we are not far apart, because we are always next to one another, we will meet again.

Now a word to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly also to the men and women of the office, perhaps this is a good opportunity to voice my sincere gratitude for the services provided over the past 5 years. Most of the time members are dependent on the staff, therefore well done for your services. The path to authority is service.

This concludes an opinion of this member, but I will now speak upon the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

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Mr Speaker, I do not have much to say, and as everyone is aware I am part of the Committee that considered the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2020/2021. There is no major change except for some Ministries that are requesting an increase in the Budget to be continued for the next 6 months, as well as some emergency measures not included in the Main Budget.

With respect, this constituency supports the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2020/2021. Blessings upon this Sitting, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the member of Aana Alofi No.2 for the speech. I believe the floor is now open for another member, and may God bless the member who just spoke, may you have the wisdom to carry out your remaining duties.

I call upon the member of Aleipata Itupa I Luga.

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Thank you Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to convey a brief opinion of this constituency of Aleipata Itupa I Luga, not only towards the last Supplementary Appropriation for this term, but also to convey a message to the constituency.

I trust you have already voiced thanksgiving of the nation to our Heavenly Father for His love and mercy. Because we were separated because of our duties but now we meet happily this morning, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the Parliament Proceedings, the last one of this Parliamentary term.

Mr Speaker, the story of *paepaevalu* of the Tuimanoa, it is said when you cross paths you have to excuse yourself, even raising a leg or a hand you have to excuse yourself, this is also the same when a new language is spoken. The same was done for Aiga Saletagaloa, it is said respects are conveyed before them, and such are the surroundings of this House. The respects of Maota of Tiafau are here, where the political affairs of the Independent State of Samoa are voiced.

Mr Speaker, I beg your pardon Tiafau the arena of political debate of the country. I humbly greet the Speaker of the House; hence you are the administrator of the countrys Fonousu.

I convey greetings to the Hon Prime Minister, who is at the forefront, you are the navigator for the future of Samoa and its success, as well as Associate Ministers and this side of Chamber.

I also acknowledge that side of the House, to the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, and to all men and women members who were chosen to make decisions for our country.

I acknowledge the respects of all Samoa as well, in all honorary salutations.

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The support of our Eastern neighbors, *Sua ma le Vaifanua, Saole ma le Launiu na Saelua, ae tainane le afifio o Tama o le Motu, afifio Auva'a o Tootoo le tauaitu ma le tautagata, Tama a le Manuatele ma upu i le Motusa.*

I acknowledge the support of the Church Ministers as well who are putting their trust in God and His will, for the betterment of Samoa for the future.

Mr Speaker, I believe one of the warriors of Tiafau has been taken away from us, the member who was the representative of Lefaga and Faleaseela. Alas, our brother is gone, the Lord has called upon him as we worked together. The prayer of this constituency may the spirit of God be with his wife and children, also his families, especially his constituency whom Afioa Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken served, he was someone that was loved by all, unfortunately, he has been called upon by God. I bid farewell brother, have a safe journey.

Mr Speaker, the story of the hunting expedition of Tama, is still in his infancy, but the shout of Alataua at Falevai, they said that the pigeon of the man from Ulumu does not need be identified. For the mountains of Tafuaupolu heard it, also the forests in Salafai.

Hon Prime Minister and the dignity of Ministers of Cabinet, I commend you all for the efforts, as well as your patience. But a word of this constituency, it is not the words and stories that matter but the deeds that have taken place. Hon Leader of Government, the motto of this constituency is that your Excellency is a gift from God to Samoa and its people. May God be good, may you always be strong in body especially in spirit for the performance of duties and responsibilities.

We are also thankful that some works have been laid out in this constituency as well as in this area of Atua, the airport. It is comparable to Tutuila, even though it not yet complete, Rome was not built in a day. The programs by Government have started, and this important development of our country continues to take place, for it will benefit us residing in Atua.

This constituency wants to thank the Committee that was responsible for the protection of our country from the deadly disease. Patience has prevailed, as we see the outcome of your efforts, our country is safe.

Thank you also to the Act as prohibited in our country, therefore the authority of Alii and Faipule is now valued in our Constitution. It is us, with respect if we know something should be done then we should do it for the benefit of the country.

I thank the Minister of Works, for some of the roads being constructed in our constituency of Aleipata Itupa I Luga, thank you for the distribution. There are many needs of the country, but each district is being immersed in order to satisfy.

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Some of the requests have already been voiced by some members, but this is also a good opportunity to thank the Minister of Tourism, who was in charge of our Ministry. I commend you for the hard work. If there has been any mistake by the old man, I ask that it be forgiven. As for whatever the will is of God for us returning in the next Parliamentary term, let Him choose the roles for us. I am grateful for the acknowledgement of this constituency, for the past 5 years to work under your leadership especially other Ministries that are under your designation. Thank you also to the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries we worked together, I commend you all for the nobility. Perhaps there might be changes in future, and wherever the will of God is, I hope it will be the benefit for the future.

Thank you also Mr Speaker. I believe I will now return, but with high spirits, what good things have also been seen in these 5 years, it is a representation of us. I will return to my constituency, to carry out duties and responsibilities as well as my calling in the village. Commendations on the work, and patience, what ever other duties and roles to use my life in future, may God be merciful.

Hon Prime Minister especially this House, this constituency supports this Government. Everyone is aware that there are three candidates running for this seat, all are members of our Party. Whoever is successful, they will come back to serve the Human Rights Protection Party.

A statement of this constituency, to the respects of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Organisations, I commend you all for the work and patience. Because you are the hands and feet of Government for its development, for the benefit of our country in future.

Mr Speaker, I believe this is a good opportunity to voice a word of thanks to my beloved constituency of Aleipata Itupa i Luga, I believe this man from Atua will return, thus the same is for the man of Alataua. I am grateful for the authority conferred unto me, to make this humble person your voice to convey your will, through political affairs of the nation. I thank you for the trust bestowed upon me, I carried it with respect.

Therefore, I want to say, Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu, Tofa Matua Fuaataga, the first Tumua and sons of Manuatele, one in Saua and two in Malaefono and Matautunaaai. The respects of Falefia o Alii, afio Amituanai o le Maopu o le Tuiaana, susu i laua suafa le mamalu i le toafa o tootoo le Igoamatua ma le mamalu ia Saleaamua. Our village, these are the respects that I am proud to represent, in the political arena of our country. I thank you for your prayers and support. If time bids me well and I may return, I am grateful. If not, I will continue to serve you until God calls me.

*My village of Vailoa, i le afio o le Sao Fetalai, afifio le falelima o Alii, afifio alaalamalae e tausivaatele e Salelea ma Tualemoso.*

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Also, my village of Ulutaugia *i le afio o Sagapolutele, le tama a le malo, afio le matua ia Falanaipupu ma le taofia ia Taiai ma le usoalii, e tausivaatele e le nofo ia Saluafata*. Thank you for the support, this term has concluded, I thank you all for the prayers. We will continue to meet in our constituency. As for the message of this day, is to thank you for the support.

Mr Speaker, this is a short contribution of this constituency. May God bless the sanctity of this House, to both men and women members. To that side of Chamber, those who are in opposition of Government, I commend you all for the patience, and courage. Whatever changes of the wind, we trust in God, God who ordains us, for the duties which we are called upon. Soifua and God bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I commend the member for his remarks, the constituency have heard. You have voiced the respects and dignity of the constituency and the country as well. Your word of gratitude is heard from Tutuila. Not only to the constituency for their support, but also the work that the Government has given to develop the district. We know that Rome was not built in a day. There is a perception that our development is still ongoing because this is the ways of Government, it cannot be stopped. The process is still in place so that the programs can run because not one constituency is not making a request. Yes, that is the means of a Government, to respond to the needs of people so that they may enjoy the benefits from time to time, through the necessities of life. Schools, roads, hospitals, fisheries, agriculture and access roads. This is the same with the previous speech conveyed by the member of Aana Alofi No.1, let us trust in God to assist us with the final projects of this term.

Now is the opportunity for another member to continue after the wonderful speech by Aleipata Itupa I Luga who has just finished.

This does not mean that if one member speaks well, the other member will be afraid. All speeches are good, but it is dependent on the member and how it is voiced to the constituency.

**Susuga Seiuli Ueligitone Seiuli:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** The member takes the stand just as the sun shines directly in the House. I call upon the member for Malie and Afega, Susuga Seiuli to speak upon the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1). The member of Sagaga le Usoga, Susuga Seiuli you may take the floor.

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**Susuga SEIULI UELIGITONE SEIULI (Sagaga le Usoga):** Mr Speaker, I rise with respect to convey an opinion of this constituency of Sagaga le Usoga, now known as Sagaga 2 under the Electoral constituencies. Pursuant to the Supplementary Budget as discussed in the House.

Mr Speaker, there are only a few days left before the conclusion of the XVI Parliamentary term. I commend our Parliament for the patience, and hard work, for the courage in carrying out our duties especially with the role undertaken by Government, for the overall benefit of our people.

I cannot forget in my heart the support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo of the Independent Government of Samoa and his Goodlady also the Member of Council of Deputies and his Goodlady, the Chief Justice and Judiciary, especially the support of ordained servants of God, heirs of the Gospel. I acknowledge the respects of *Tama ma o latou Aiga, Aiga ma a latou Tama, le mamalu ia Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. Also, the support of our brethren in the East Islands.

The respects of *Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua. O le laau na amotasi, auvaa o tootoo ma upu i le Manuatele*, thank you for the support. Parliament has prospered because of your support like that of *Feepo*.

Mr Speaker, I now come to the Supplementary Appropriation No.1 tabled before the House. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance, Afioga Sili Epa Tuioti. Congratulations to the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry.

Thank you for the fair distribution on areas that need assistance, for the happiness and well-being of all the people of Samoa. The Hon Minister of Finance is patient, and your distribution is much appreciated, to guide this country. This constituency supports the Supplementary Appropriation Bill deliberated in the House.

Mr Speaker, there is belief that I should address my constituency of Sagaga le Usoga or Sagaga 2, listening in. Afia cannot be forgotten. I greet the dignity of the constituency, my village of Tuanai, *le afifio o Saena ma le aiga Sa Saena, susu mai Luafatasaga o le alo o Fuatino, afio mai Tuitea o le na tofia papa, alaalatai lau fetalaiga Tupalesa ma lou alii o Tauanuufaiga, alaalatai Ailoa ma le Falegafua, alaalatai le fale ma le afu o le Alataua*.

Also, my village of Afega, *afifio mai le aiga Sa Gauifaleai, afifio mai oulua alataua, afifio mai oe le matua, afifio mai usoalii, afifio mai alo o tofiga a alii. Afio mai Leuluai, susu mai Fata ma Maulolo ma le lua fale na taitai e tuitui o le Gatoaitete, susu mai Tuisamau, alaalatai le vagana o tulafale, o Leu ma Vaitimu na autaele ai le Alataua*.

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Not only that, but also the support of my village Malie, the respects of Tapaau Faasisina le Susuga i le Malietoa, *e susu i lona nofoa vaevaeloloa i lona tala na atoa, a malele ua faafofoga i ai Samoa. Afio Maualaivao ma le matua ia Faamausili, susu Seiuli o le ulu na taulata i le toa-fitu ma Auimatagi, susu Taito o le Foealii ma le Aiga Sa Maualaivao. Le mamalu tele i pou e fitu o le maota o Malietoa ma lau fetalaiga Auimatagi. Lealaoleuluulu ma Salapo, le upega o fetalaiga i le lauti na laulelei.* Those are your honorifics and cultural respects which I am proud to carry with me in Samoan politics.

My Constituency, your servants has succeeded with his duties because of your support *e pei o le pati taoto a le Feepo*. Praises for your prayers, and there is not much time before this Parliamentary term comes to an end. May I regrettably say to my constituents that I have come here to represent you yet, my endeavours have fell short and inadequate. I have come here on your behalf to procure success as of a fisherman returning with a huge catch, alas I have only managed to fetch small crabs which can only be found under the moonlight of the night.

My constituency, the work that is well supported is the work that becomes successful, gratitude to God that the duties of your humble servant has been successful due to your support. Your servant has attempted to complete everything before the end of this Parliamentary term, because the words spoken at sea are perplexing.

My village of Tuanai, the boat that had sailed far has finally anchored on land, and I am very grateful to the Government, because our voice has been heeded for the implementation of our bypass in my village of Tuanai for those who live and work in these parts of the village, especially the facilitation of transportation for agricultural development and the transportation of produce.

There is no shortage of gratitude to the Government for its allocation of power, this is your respect which we have accepted with great appreciation.

My village of Afega, thank you for your support, now that the winds have died down and the ocean is calm. The sorrows that have passed with the times let us forget and push forward for success. To have no beauty and perfection, such are the ways of the devil. Do not forget, a wise sailor is not recognized during calm days, a superior sailor is known only during hardships. Our rotary road at Afega-tai has been completed because I was wondering about the results of my request to the Government, especially the Minister of Works, because there are many requests from various members for their roads, thank you for your generosity and wise distribution, out of consideration for the plight condition faced by our village of Afega-tai.

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My village of Malie, your road work has been completed; it is a long road that connects from the Government main road on the main west coast towards the residents occupying those parts of Malie, also connected to the Faleula road. It was a major project for the Government, as the road has already been tarred, so I am grateful to the Government. *Ua togi pa tau i le ave e pei o le fetalaiga I le pa ma le atu.* Finally, our constituency has been acknowledged, *ua taupe foi le tila ua taupe foi le fana* given your consideration upon the humble servant of Sagaga 2 or Sagaga le Usoga.

My constituency, whatever work that needed improvement but could not be implemented in this Parliamentary term, do not worry too much about it, as God will provide more opportunities. My constituency, if you continue to be patient, God will provide a lamb for a sacrifice. My constituency, I had thought that our election in 2021 would be a noble one, since now that I am still active. *Ua ou seu foi i Faleua ae e seu i le Falevaai.* However, it does not matter *ua faitau eseese Tutuila ma Ape* Tutuila and Ape think differently. My constituency, our opinions are not the opinions of God, and our ways are not the ways of God. Well, that is usually how Government politics progress. Nevertheless, *o lau o le fiso o lau ia o le tolo e ala e tasi le mauga i Olo.* As the men play, they are brothers, so I will continue to proclaim the brotherhood of Tuanai, Afega and Malie, like the will of the King of Fonoti, which resulted in the founding of the heavenly family. Whatever outcome we get from the election of the country, the name of our district is Sagaga le Usoga, the brotherhood of the children of Malietoa, one mattress, one pillow, one tapa cloth, and we also wore the same tapa cloth. It is pleasant to see brothers sit together, as it is like perfumed oil that flows down the neck of the garment of the High Priest. Our ship is built big, and the construction is shared, but we do not grip the shrouds.

My constituency, I feel inferior, *ua faapapagata le igafu i le tuaau ina ua taotaomia e Tavalau.* *Ma ua faatutu i tafailagi manu o le tauafiafi, a aunoa ma lau puleto, e ae fua le suagaipo nai le siu o Avarua.* Whatever flaws you may have witnessed from your representative, *pe vaivai ma valavala lo ta laulu, ae o le valavala e tumanu o le vao.* We may be from different parts of the country but connected in one cause by the love of God. As birds of the same feather, fly together and bond in association. *Pe lafulafua ni ota manatu faaalua i le Maota o le atunuu, a o le lafulafua a tama seugogo. O le lafulafua na aemalo ai le velevelega tupua a le Tuamasaga, e pei o le tala ia Malietoa Laauli, atonu lava e aoga so ta lafulafua, e sui ai le titi ma fatu ai le ula aua le mamanuina o le Maota o le Palemene i ona upufai o Malo.*

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My constituency, nevertheless, the village does not do its will, we rely on the discretion of the chair. As Jesus said, “I desire compassion, and not the sacrifice.” The love between brothers and blood for blood, and the love of skin for skin and bone for bone. Therefore, these are not insincere words, no, not at all. The essence of the member is to return during peaceful times and not during conflict like the departure from Tulatala.

Good luck to my constituency in the upcoming general election. May the spirit and peace of God be with you in the election so that His compassion is displayed and that your life may be His throne to dwell forever. What is the use of the world if we lose our lives? Only in Jesus do we find it.

Mr Speaker, congratulations on your patience in leading the Fonousu of Samoa, you have persevered through hardship, and you have endured vigilantly all the time to manage the House of the country, so that the dignity of the House remains. You have been criticized through the journey, as you have suffered, for the politics of Samoa so that it may proceed successfully. So that the dignity of the House of Samoa remains high, may God bless you and may you be successful in facing some of the duties and responsibilities that lie ahead.

I turn to this Side of the House of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, thank you to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, thank you also to the honourable members of the county in this House. It is the House that holds the wisdom in auafamau and moegalafo, to elevate the politics of Samoa before God for the common good of its people. Whatever statement made by the member of Sagaga No.2 or Sagaga le Usoga that was not pleasant to your hearing, I apologise and ask to forgive the servant, because it is human nature to make mistakes. May God bless your lives in the coming election.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents Seiuli Tuilaepa Lololua and my mother Sefulu Soti Seiuli who are watching from the websites in New Zealand, thank you for the support that has resulted in the successful endeavours of your son in Parliament because of your prayers day and night while I deal with the politics of Government. May you have the strength from God so that we may meet again in the next election.

I would also like to thank all of my families not only in Samoa but also abroad, my friends and acquaintances who are supporting me as a member. God bless you all.

Well, concluding the remarks by the member from Sagaga le Usoga, good luck Mr Speaker and Parliament, bless the devotion of Samoa, as well as my constituency of Sagaga No.2. Live and prosper.

*Members of Parliament showed appreciation by applauding after the speech by the member for Sagaga le Usoga.*

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to the honourable member for the speech. It is not the job of the Speaker to add on. The only thing is, as your village is listening carefully, there is a saying, *e patipati taoto le Feepo pe a ta tagata Leatiogie, aua e fai o le Amotai ma le Amouta a o le toe aso nai Moamoa*. As referred to this Assembly, this is the last Assembly for this Parliamentary term, and it has been heard by the constituency, thank you very much. The words being said to the Gods, *ua se togi le seuga lagatila ua faapulou le tualima*, congratulations on your efforts and your hard work for the past 5 years, thank you. Well, for your contribution because that is how you supported the Minister, yes, that is how life is. For good contribution, you share everything even if you do not eat. That is the contribution of a wise man, which you and the Minister of Works share. The district has heard, as the wisdom has been considered, so I am amazed at the district and their listening. Therefore, Tuivalea is not at the capital either, he has heard your statement, well, that is how it is. If I was an Associate Minister of Works now, then I would anticipate that upon returning I will be the Minister of Works. Because that is the meaning of this live, we have, however, lest the Speaker be accused of a word, but it is not true, thank you very much.

Well, we now move to another member who wishes to speak, the constituencies will still have the opportunity to be heard. Well, the member for the Aiga Malosi, Safata West is upstanding.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West):** Mr Speaker, I would like to express gratitude for the opportunity for this constituency to convey thanks this new morning.

First of all, I would like to pay my respects to His Excellency the Head of State and your Good Lady, to the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady, and to Samoa in all its honorary salutations. Also, the holiness of the Church.

I pay my respects to the sanctities of Tiafau that land of Conciliation for Samoa, with the presence of the Hon Leader of the Government, the Hon Speaker, the Hon Members of Cabinet and the Hon Members of the Assembly of Samoa.

I think we have finished most of our work for today, and the sun will soon set on the twilight of this Parliamentary term. We are thankful that the journey of our country is flowing calmly, with the deadly virus, but thank you, thank God that our country is being sheltered and protected. Even though grief has fallen upon this Parliament, with the passing of one of the pillars of our Assembly of Samoa, the Hon Vaafusuaga Toleafoa, he was a brother, and so I offer condolences and comfort, it is the sovereignty of God, He is the Almighty and He will provide comfort for the wife, the children and the constituency.

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I think that the essence of gratitude is to be expressed to our Government, the things that were accomplished in this constituency as well as our Government. I would first like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance and the Chief Executive Officer, the Management and the Ministry. Thank you for your generous distribution for our country. Thank you to the Chief Executive Officers and the Management for the insight and the ability that God has given to carry out your work for the prosperity of our country.

First of all, I would like to convey gratitude to the Government and to the Minister of Education, as these are the priorities of our Government, not only in terms of education, but also the health. I sat and watched and noticed, our country has taken a step back, thank you to the Government, as now all of our children are attending primary school free of charge, and it also includes the colleges of our country, thank you for they are now going to school for free. But most of all, thank you to our university as it has been heard and seen in records, that many of our children, especially in vocational schools, their fees have all been paid by our Government. Because it is believed that university education has the most expensive school fees. But thank you very much to our Government, as we are able to pay the schools fees for our children and our students studying in our university, not only in vocational programs, but also for many of the subjects and programs in our university that have now been paid for by the our Government.

Well, I express the utmost gratitude. Thank you very much Hon Minister, thank you to our Government, as our Government has also put in place programs to pay for all the teachers, to pay for the church school teachers, private schools, as it is believed that this is the future of our country, our children and grandchildren. It is also seen that our Government has also given priority to sports as stated by the Leader of our Government. This is one of the professions for our country because not all of our children will be doctors or engineers, but much of the economy and capital is in the sports sector. And so, I convey my utmost gratitude.

Thank you for the schools for my constituency, as new schools have been built and renovated with the assistance from the Government of Japan, China and the United States. What is the reason? This is because of good Government, as it is also recognized by foreign countries for the good governance of our Government.

Thank you very much to the Ministry of Health. Thank you so much for your hard work and perseverance, as you Ministry is dealing with the disease. Many lives have been lost; the lives of the world have been lost to this deadly virus. But thank you very much, thank you for the protection, thank you also to our Government for not being fixated on the economy, but try to balance everything, to put the welfare of our country first.

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That is why to this day, no one has been infected by the virus. For this we express our deepest gratitude. Thank you to the Hon Minister and the Government.

I would like to thank the school of nursing that is being practiced at the university. Thank you for the positive attitude and determination of our Government for establishing this school of nursing. Now the fruits of our labour have bear, as the children of Samoa have emerged from the school of nursing. It is worth noting that this is one of the schools that will eventually become a central school in the Pacific since there are already Samoan teachers. Even for the other medical school, OUM, the principle is a Samoan, which is recognized abroad. Why? It is based in Samoa. It is a process used by Samoan students, with the participation of students from different countries. What is the reason? It is acknowledgement for the Government. A Government that is stable, a Government that is committed to a prosperous future for Samoa. Therefore, I convey the utmost gratitude.

Thank you to the Hon Minister for Health, it has also been noted that all the doctors have been transferred to the district hospitals. But most of all, thank you as a hospital is going to be built for the constituency of Saanapu as well as Falelatai. It is anticipated that in due time tenders will be tendered and then the construction of these hospitals will be underway. Our Government has made a significant contribution to the health in order to prevent the constant commuting of my constituency to the main hospital in Apia. And so, I express my utmost gratitude to the Hon Minister.

Thank you to the Hon Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the roads of our constituency. We have also been in touch with Your Excellency as well as the Hon Leader of the Government regarding the roads for our village of Salamumu going towards the coast since it has yet to be completed, because that is the objective of Methodist Church in Salamumu. Especially the access roads for my village of Saanapu and other roads for Sataoa, well, the Hon Minister already has plans in place. Therefore, I convey gratitude to the Hon Minister, especially for our road from Lotofaga until Lanotoo, which is another road. That is also another short route which can be used to travel from the district to Apia. That being said, I want to express our deepest gratitude. We are grateful as there are plans to haul a line so that the families inland of Sataoa can receive electricity.

We would like to thank the Hon Minister as you are continuing the work of the Ministry of Environment. This is one issue that we have raised since the beginning of this Parliamentary term, the seawalls, as it is the joint responsibility of our Government and the communities due to the erosion of our lands.

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The Hon Fiame who was the Minister at the time, my villages of Saanapu and Sataoa visited and made a request to the Hon Minister. And it was noted in your statement during the Budget, that our village should stand up and go inland. But thanks to the complaint of this district and especially our villages of Sataoa and Saanapu, the Hon Prime Minister has replied that the seawalls for our districts will be constructed. That is why we are so grateful. It is also why we mention these matters in our speeches, because I believe that the records of our speeches throughout this Parliamentary term, the seawalls are also stated, since the lands of our country are important to our people. This is why I express the utmost gratitude to the Hon Minister in charge of the Ministry or the Leader of the Government.

I am so thankful that most of the cultural lands...

**MR SPEAKER:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order towards the member for recalling the past when I was the Minister for Environment.

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa (Lotofaga):** Mr Speaker, the statement made by the member is correct on the reply that was given in this House when I was the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. Because in the policies, the Government prioritizes the protection of our assets like the roads. As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, our Government cannot construct seawalls for all the villages that have been affected and eroded by climate change. And that is the priority in the Government policies which was explained at the time. Now the member said that it was stated by the Prime Minister, who is in charge of the Ministry for this term, that the seawalls for their village will be implemented. I am grateful if the Government policies have changed and the seawalls will be constructed, not only will it provide protection for Government assets such as roads, but it will also be distributed to all the villages in the country whose lands have been eroded and disintegrated due to climate change. Just a point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I beseech the member for Safata as the Hon Prime Minister is upstanding, since the Government policies have been stated.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the explanation by the *Sao Faapito* is correct, as it refers to the funds from overseas. That is the policy based on the funding from abroad, so it does not affect our own funds. And I have also noticed that these are the only two constituencies that continue to submit their requests in Parliament, and I have also witnessed that the situation of these two villages is very serious.

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This is what I discussed with the Minister of Works in the sense that it is considered in the long-term plans of our Government and to use our Government funds. From my point of view, it is similar to Laulii as the affected area is not too big, and the good thing is that there are stones available at Laulii, which means that it does not cost much, and it will be affordable. That is why the Government is constantly looking for ways to improve its budget, because it cannot all be done at once, it true that we cannot work on all the villages, only these two that have been raised multiple times, and the Word of the Lord, “Keep knocking, and eventually the door will open, and I have seen the conditions these villages are in, so it is necessary for the Government to do its job.

In matters of policy, there is always the wisdom that these things should be implemented with our budget, and it should be done moderately. Even in the Government of the United States, every month they would build their rockets. One rocket is worth billions, they cannot do everything in one year. Thus, it is gradually built up throughout each Parliamentary term. But what are we hearing? Probably at least 3 times.

As the work of the Government progresses, it will be heard that the Government closed down, as there was no money left, and they are waiting for the Parliament to approve the budget. Even for the major countries Mr Speaker, their work process is determined, and here is where proper planning is applied to find out what needs to be implemented and what does not need to be done. And that is the case that I have already discussed with the Minister, to limit the construction of these two seawalls, but it has to be done using the funds available to our Government.

Mr Speaker, that is the case, and I will take this opportunity to address the issues further. I mentioned in my conversations the many requests that I received, not only the requests from Church schools but also private schools and kindergarten, schools for young children, 2, 3, 4 years old, for assistance from the Government to pay the teachers. The assistance provided by the Government for funding of public works is not limited to one area, but it is given to those authorities who try to distribute it efficiently. This is the assistance by the Government in lowering costs, easing fees, especially for private and Mission schools.

This is the Government policy that started in 1983 when I was conversing with my Prime Minister at that time, he asked me, “Tui, our Political Party should carry out an assistance for the external schools.” Then I remembered the complaint of our Fellow teacher in 1962, at that time, almost all of the members of Parliament were former students of Marist. And then this teacher complained and said that almost the entire Parliament of Samoa had studied at Marist Brothers. Is there any assistance from the Government? There is none.

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When my Prime Minister asked me at this time, I recalled the grumbling and complain made by the Fellowship, and then I spoke to the Prime Minister and said, “What are your thoughts if we carry out a program that can offer assistance to the Church schools?” Then the old man laughed and said, “Sole, that should have been done a long time ago.” I also studied at Marist, I only went to school for 6 months and then my father urged me, it would be better if you go back and attend the Government schools, and the Church detests me because you attended school at Marist.”

At that time there was a great deal of change in the Congregations, and it started at the end of 1983 when I brought this budget of \$50,000 into Parliament. At that time, during the financial crisis faced by the Government, during the first emergence of HRPP, the financial crisis, but it was implemented, this was the only thing that could be done. So, what of this assistance now? Now it has amounted to millions and millions. It is estimated that \$37 million has now been given to non-government schools. Without this Government assistance many of the church schools would have already been closed down. That is the truth.

Many of the Church schools would have been shut down. But when this matter was brought in here, the Opposition said, do not do that, there is not enough money. It also included the University for \$5, \$5, which caused a great deal of controversy. How is a university going to be built with \$5, we already have the USP, but we still constructed a University. And I congratulate the then Minister of Education, Mr Le Mamea, and I congratulate the Hon Tootoaloo for his vision. The words in the discussions of Cabinet, they can attend schools overseas, so even if things go wrong overseas, but we also have a higher education available here for our children.

What is it now? The University in Fiji is in turmoil, but I do not worry about it, because when problems arise there, we already have our own University. Also, in the case of changing the name, it has now been changed to Campus. It means that it is broad. It has been broadened and not just focused on agriculture; it has changed. So, this is the first step, the University that we have here, it is open for other degrees, which is what has long been needed. And I have mentioned this matter, because the petitions that were submitted, they have been given to me for over 20 years now.

The petitions especially for the Churches, they ask that the Government be compassionate and pay the teachers’ salaries. Because if the teachers’ salaries are not paid, the children cannot receive a higher education for the non-government schools. So now an investigation is underway because this Government does not do things blindly.

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It is very unethical if the Government moves to fund something, and then it stops all of a sudden. We need to take a closer look at the current demands, and the financial plans that need to be put in place for when the Government takes action to pay.

So the investigation is in progress that will probably be completed soon. That is the essence of this Government, as in the next Parliamentary term, a plan should be made for this. To respond to the appeals from the schools in the rural areas, for financial aid to pay the salaries for their teachers. This is not a sham, as this investigation has been going on for some time, and the Cabinet and I cannot wait any longer. And it will be published in the slogan of this Party, because this Party does not only look at 5 years, but we look at 10 to 20, 30, 100 years for developments, it does not end with just a single generation. But it ends with many generations.

That is also the direction of long-term thinking and that is why, the focus is on the implementation of this great wharf of the future, as the prosperous future of Samoa is at Vaiusu with the breaking of the reef to create a channel at Asau, because that development in the West is very important. It will open the channels for the boats to enter, especially for tourists and fishing boats on this side of the island.

Mr Speaker, the Government has a long term-vision, not for the prosperity of a Party. But for what? For the prosperity of the whole country, especially the future for our children. That is why I am upstanding to express the plans of the Government to conduct research so that the Government is clear on the situation of our finances, because this Government does not do things unknowingly. We experienced the downturn and bankruptcy of the Government, before this Party came into power. What is happening now, we are only moving forward. And it is take long because of the usual conditions of our country, with the increase in the standard of living, especially the major change that has taken place in the economy, as the economy has improved, and the recognition of the Government with the restructure of our economy over the last 6 years in 2014 in January. The level at which our country is enjoying as it seems to have forgotten the work that was done 20, 30 years ago. And our Government's long term plans are still ongoing.

Mr Speaker that is my assistance to clarify this issue in the Policies of our Government. These external aids are directly given for the roads and the coastal protection adjacent to the roads. But if we stray away from the objective, then the foreign aid will cease. This is when we will exercise prudence with our funds, in an effort to be flexible, to carry out the important tasks raised by the member.

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I stayed and lived in Europe for 3 years, and I continued to travel, and I observed Holland, where the habitants for the people are lower than the seawalls, to stop the waves. Stopping the waves, there were huge fences made of concrete to keep the waves out. It is like the peak of the height of this House but where the people live is lower. But with the usage of the engineering knowledge, it is possible to keep the waves out, so that the area where people live is not flooded.

Mr Speaker, that is my assistance, I wanted to clarify it for the whole hour but now I see, our recess time is already up for our breakfast. Live and prosper.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you and I believe that the comprehensive explanation by the Hon Prime Minister is worth it. It is also useful to raise this issue to further clarify these issues in the Government Policy. It is the long-term vision of the Government in this regard. And we feel very grateful as it is clear. It has been noted...I call on the Hon Minister of Works to stand...

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. No, just a few additional issues to the statement by the Hon Prime Minister who is also the Minister of Environment. But the question asked by the member regarding the seawalls. The member for Vaimauga East also requested about the seawall at Laulii the same with Alaiasa about the seawall at Falefa.

It is Government Policy to give priority to the construction of sea walls around areas where the road runs along the coast in order to protect our infrastructure. As the Prime Minister has given a statement to find funding to finance these projects. I have made note of the 3 seawalls projects which the Executive of LTA will seek the financial sources to fund these projects. If you would see the seawall at Faga that is the type of situation we prioritize. The erosion had come right up to the road side hence priority going to this particular seawall.

May I say to the member to leave it with me since the Prime Minister has given assurance that it will be in the Programme which begins this year before the end of the Term. With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you and that was useful. The Government will remind you that the other option that you can look at is reclaiming the coastal area yourselves and that will ease the Government financial spending on roads and the destruction of land from the effects of climate change.

That is another possibility to consider in terms of vision although it is a mere thought but since we approach our usual recess, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be suspended for recess.

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*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended for its normal recess at 10:55a.m and continued at 11:46a.m.*

*Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly continues. I do believe that members have been rejuvenated with the refreshments provided to continue with our business. Upon suspension the member for Safata West had the floor. I call on the member.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa):** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** My apologies to the member whilst I allow the member for Palauli Le Falefa. Go ahead Faumuina..

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker a point of clarification and a point of order. When I was Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment overseas grants was used to finance the construction of seawalls. Although done by the MNRE under the leadership of LTA and the Ministry of Works. That is what needs clarification as it is being said that seawalls for the coastline is not covered for areas where there are no public roads running alongside it.

Proof of what I am saying is the seawall done at Lotofaga where the Sa’o Faapito hails from and that was done under the Adaptation Fund. This seawall was done by transferring the seawall which blocked the road towards Lepa and was moved towards the coast and funded by the Adaptation programme.

Most of the seawalls done under this programme were funded from overseas under the environment programme. To protect the mangrove areas from erosion and affecting the shores which the disadvantage people depend on. Under this programme a lot of seawalls were constructed.

I am clarifying this area as the seawalls which members requested have all been done. It should continue. That is the clarification and it is the Adaptation Funds which funding comes from through the Environment for the construction of sea walls other than the government program of protecting its assets such as public roads. The seawall was done at Lano as well as Salelavalu and Lalomalava.

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A lot of the areas being done was funded under this programme. That is the clarification which I want to note down in our records. That the Adaptation Programme funded this through the Environment. With due respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the recent notice was correct back then. But things change with time and population growth. I do not know whether you realise that there was a time when this program stopped particularly America with regards to their Policies as to where money should go.

But you are correct and such is the way things are with changes taking place from time to time. With a lot of countries now affected and the high number of countries asking for assistance. We too argue on those lines but that is the situation currently with the funding source. The significance of seawalls where the road runs alongside it is protection of the road from erosion by the sea water. With the road being a fair way off the coast, then this other alternative applies.

I attended an ADB forum and witness the process for assistance to countries and their forest environment. So I was in charge of the dialogue on this matter which resulted in South America winning their bid to plant trees and what happened was they just sat back and enjoyed the money they received for it. Such initiative is also benefitting Falealupo and Tafua. For growing plants throughout the forest and agreeing to not cutting them whilst getting money for it. The purpose is to create oxygen generated by leaves which go into the atmosphere for people of other countries to breathe and that is our contribution.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologise to the Prime Minister and his clarification but if I may inform you that Fiamē who raised the interruption is not present. The point made in the interruption is beneficial for the awareness of the public with regards to policies.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I am familiar with Fiamē not attending most Sittings. But it should not deter me from sharing this matter as it has been raised and is essential that the public hear it. After all there were seawalls done with this funding yet the roads were quite a way off the coastline. So I have enlightened you on the changes. Most of the countries are now focussing on this type of funding which benefitted Falealupo.

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So while the trees are growing the money continues to pour in. So these other countries are paying for this as they have no forests. They want our trees to grow to provide oxygen for us and other people throughout the world to breathe.

So that is how Tafua and Falealupo came to receive this assistance. I think 8 years ago a publication came out to indicate that the program had wound up. Faumui is talking about the days when he was Minister. I am talking about now but it is good that he is sharing that, for it does tell people that seawalls were constructed with that type of funding.

The CEO is listening and it was 1984 when Cabinet resolved under my recommendation that when Parliament sits, the highest forum of the Leaders of the country. CEO should stop whatever they are doing and attend the Parliamentary sessions. They should be here to observe and take notes. That will ensure they understand every matter discussed here and to avoid us from possibly having to clarify things again. So when the Government dictates its strategic plans they are familiar with it. The Ministers should also take note as well as the CEO since the rhetoric is flowing.

When they do travel overseas to discuss matters with international organisations they have got a good grasp of where the Leaders convictions are at.

Mr Speaker, this is vital as the Cabinet and I do welcome recommendations from our sons and daughters that have been educated abroad and have returned with qualifications. They come back and start vying for the top jobs and become CEO. There is a Special Committee that considers applications that are eligible before passing them to Cabinet for approval.

The Cabinet and I do listen to these so when the Executive does meet we call on the recommendations from this group to build the Government. So that is the significance of their presence to observe the progress of Parliament and the debate on issues such as climate change and the types of projects funded under the Adaptation Policies. It is also about understanding the discussions taken place here and the demands of constituencies as shared by their respective members.

This is the clarification in order to provide understanding.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you I call on the member for Safata West to resume your remarks.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and I extend my appreciation to the Leader of the Government for clarifying the issue which I raised since it is important to my constituency and the country at large.

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I had mention Fiame's name and my community are following our proceedings particularly the communities at Saanapu and Sataoa who approached your honourable at the beginning of this Term and your response was that the seawall for these villages of my constituency should have been done already. As I said, you did say during our previous Sitting with the Budget debate that these communities should relocate inland.

I was thoroughly asked by my constituents and that was a different time, you did spoke clearly that the seawalls should have been implemented long time ago rather you gave a different statement when you spoke on the Budget in June. I am not just saying this but it is important for my community to hear what the status is with our proposed seawalls. So whilst we are still on seawalls it seems...

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa:** Mr Speaker

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the respected member of Lotofaga...

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa:** I would have thought that after the Prime Minister's clarification the member for Safata would have been satisfied. The Government have changed policies particularly the Ministry of Works and will be responding to the demands of the people.

I did clearly make this statement here with the public listening in. So I am not sure what the member is driving at as I have given my reply according to the standing policies, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, the statement from Fiame is similar to the response from the Leader of the Government during Faumuina's time. I am of the view that the member is satisfied with the Prime Minister's clarification. You should be happy since your name is on the list unless someone removes your name from that list but do continue and move on to a different topic.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Thank you Mr Speaker but sharing the voice of my constituents is crucial to me. I am here because of them. This is the discussion I had with them, and it is vital that they hear me convey what we talked about. There are people that do take note and follow our proceedings. Fiame is listening and this is the contents of my discussion with my community. My apologies Mr Speaker on that note.

Continuing my remarks on roads and seawalls. I applaud the Government for the huge bridge that was recently opened. I not only admire its size, but it does make travel convenient and what a joy it is when driving towards Matautu and Vaiala.

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Looking over towards Taumeasina Hotel it would be wonderful once the road connecting Vaiala to Taumeasina is complete and I know that the Government has given approval for this project. When you cross the four-way intersection at Matautu, it is one of the busiest routes when travelling east. So, I am glad that the cement road from Vaiala to the Taumeasina Hotel would be done soon.

I now come to customary land being leased to people. I am appreciative of the Legislation that caused a stir with claims that our customary land would be taken from us. I have shared this before. We have 25 acres of family land at Saanapu which was leased out to another family for a term of 30 years. The lease has since been revoked after 20 years and the land is returned to us. But hearing the public outrage that we will lose our land surprises me at the people who are making this false claim. We did get our land back when the terms of agreement were not observed. We do intend to lease it again in order to make some money. I am happy with the Government for the arrangement to lease customary land.

I also show my appreciation to the Ministry of Police and having watched the implementation of their responsibilities with sympathy. I think it was yesterday or the day before when they carried out a raid for illegal drugs. In my view I tend to emphasise the fact that our police officers are our own people. Their service amazes me, and they risk their lives from those engaged in illegal activities. In saying that I congratulate the Minister and the Ministry of Police for keeping Samoa peaceful. Your role is just not simple as your lives are at risk, but you have sworn an oath to ensure the peace and security of Samoa.

I also convey my gratitude to the Government for the Seasonal Workers which I trust that opportunities have opened up and I believe it is the Government solid policies which is opening these doors for us. I can testify for the development of families within our constituency that have built homes and families with a single vehicle now own 2 to 3 cars, the wealth of families is booming. The Government must be applauded for they are responsible for setting up the general wellbeing of the country.

I also convey my appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture for his appointment and it is the view of my constituency that the growth and abundance of crops multiply for the people's subsistence. Especially at this time with the pandemic our food supply should be more than enough. I must also thank the Minister for saving us from that banana type. I do not know which Minister introduced this Israeli banana which really affected all the farmers. I am glad we are going back to the old foreign banana type.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East):** Mr Speaker, I do not want to interrupt...

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the member, but I will allow the interruption from the member for Vaimauga.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** The member speaking is a good friend but, my constituency is listening to his comment on the Israeli banana. For the information of members, a gentleman from my constituency is an expert at growing this type of banana and is making our community well off. This type of banana is actually in abundance at my constituency. If it is not growing at the rural area where you are, well I can testify that it is growing well at the lands of Vaimauga. We have a former senior Cabinet Minister and was also the CEO of the Ministry of Agriculture who was able to revive the taro production at that time. This gentleman I went up against came up with the solution to the taro blight. There are the types of taros which were named after my constituency as this is where they were cultivated from the harsh reality of the blight back then. This is the same man, and my constituents realised the Israeli banana was good for our community since the foreign banana type was fading out. So, I am disappointed with the member's claim that it does not grow at Safata. I tell you that the land of Vaimauga is blessed and any type of banana will grow there, and with the Israeli banana well its rotting. With due respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, a point of order. Would the member that had just resume his seat explain why the bananas are rotting? Does this mean that no one likes to eat it? This is not a good picture as no one wants to eat a rotting banana. So why have they become rotten?

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** Mr Speaker that is a good question. They have become rotten because people could not consume the quantity of it. We do not know where to take them to. We approached the Minister for a market to sell the wealth of my constituency. The market in town has been terrible with bunches selling for \$5. They are rotting because the volume of it could not be consumed. With respect.

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

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** Mr Speaker my cutting in at this time is because this member should not be interrupting the speech of the member for Safata. But since he had mentioned a rather critical situation that occurred with exports to New Zealand.

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There was no mention as to whom was responsible but when we returned from a trip to Rome, we were notified by the Counsellors Office that something was wrong with the bananas. A container belonging to a group of guys had half of the contents rotten. Because they failed to follow the guidelines when exporting their products. That almost closed that export opportunity. So that market is still open but there is room for more of this product since it is only Ah Liki dealing with this right now. There is a demand for more of this product.

Our intention as we are doing right now is the planting of bananas and we hope to distribute the Samoan bananas we have for local farmers to grow. We intend to encourage cooperation between the Ministry and farmers particularly at this time with the Research Office finding out which bananas are more vulnerable to diseases.

So that is why we are turning to *fai palagi* like we did before. The Ministry is of the belief as well as people dealing with the situation that the disease *sigatoka* is also called soft rot. If I were present when the Israeli banana was brought over, I would have rejected them. But when I came on board it was already introduced into the country. You have seen the huge plantations around areas like Fiaga badly affected by the disease. The cost to maintain this type of banana on an acre of land is \$3000 to \$4000 tala. So the majority of our people cannot afford it except for people that have enough. If that could be the case with the success of the member's community well as you rightfully mentioned having someone who is an expert in agricultural matters and understand strategies and measures to do it. But generally speaking, for a great number of farmers they cannot deal with maintaining the bananas. On the other hand, there is the Tanumapua farms and a few others that are still able to sustain their banana crops. As far as exporting to New Zealand is concern, well we have not been able to do that. The good thing is our market to NZ is still open since the incident with the container that was declared a contempt. That is why this other group became discouraged as I did halt the shipping of their container to NZ as I was concerned with the possibility that our market may become at risk in future.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Mr Speaker, just this bit to clarify in accordance with the member's speech. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No 3, the Hon Laauli.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Thank you for the opportunity and I have been paying close attention to the remarks from the member for Safata.

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I do not want to disparage the task undertaken by a former Minister of Agriculture. As you know when I set foot into this portfolio the SACEP programme had started rolling already when Afioga Le Mamea Ropati was Minister at the tune of US\$30million and it would be good for the country. The steps taken into researching the quality of the bananas were quite extensive which involved every banana planter around Samoa including Tuisugaletaua Sofara whom is an expert in the growing of bananas. The three expert consultants from Hayhadan Israel that came here to decide which banana type would suit us here in Samoa. Everyone agreed with this type of banana to revive this crop. With all due respect your take on things is wrong. Everything was in order until the export process of the container that caused the problem. Which consequently blocked this opportunity. So, a ban was imposed on our own people to the great frustration of local farmers as they had no option of what to do with their bananas. The crop is grown, and we put out a note to our own people stopping the export of bananas. Why should we block our own people from exporting. This banana crop was developed because it was a good viable crop.

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua:** The interjection is good for the awareness of the things happening in the rural areas. The given explanation, if I was the Minister of Agriculture during that time, I would not have brought it. I did not say that he made a mistake, or the work done by the other Minister was different. For that, you are saying something different. What you are explaining to me is because it was not you that was engaged with this matter in New Zealand, it was me. If you wish to understand what I am saying, then I will bring proof. However, you are talking about something you lack knowledge of. That is why I am saying that it is good that you wait, the Cabinet is bringing up things that are happening. Banana is not withheld; it is the group that exported banana that was stopped due to the preparation they made. With respect.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I speak with respect Mr Speaker. The attempt here is...the member's view needs clarification. Because the blame is now being put...

**Susuga Mulipola Leिताua Laki (Aiga i le Tai):** Mr Speaker, the thought given is also vital, because they are discussing based on hearsay but do allow someone who owns a banana farm to speak. Because this matter is very important for the sake of listeners. We should allow everyone a chance Mr Speaker.

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I can say that this banana is really good. Because there were 1000 planted bananas and not even 200 bananas were available at that time. Seeing this banana, commercialisation is good and so as the market. The Hon Minister has spoken, no family consuming 100 or 200 bananas can maintain this banana. It is best that you buy it from the market then planting it to support your family. This banana as soon as the banana cultivation is seen, then you will see the spreading of the black leaf streak. This banana leaf disease will spread until no leaf is left leaving no matured stalk of banana. This is a serious banana issue according to personal observation. Although I still have enough to maintain the banana plantation development. But with regards to the consumption of this banana by the people, I do not recommend it, let us go back to the William variety. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** This means to say the banana grows curved...as our wordings seems to be...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, just this minor issue, as I did...

**MR SPEAKER:** This matter should now conclude...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** It is not for something else; I was directing towards the member for clarification. I was the Minister of Agriculture for one year and I have looked into this matter. I had also followed up the person who brought this program, which is reason for bringing forth this banana. The foresight for this implementation is fine whilst other things was for more improvement, such is the duty of the Minister for finance to enforce the maintenance of banana farming. With due respect.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa:** Mr Speaker, is there a chance before I continue.

**MR SPEAKER:** The banana farming of the member you are contesting with. Let me allow the member for Vaimauga.

Pardon the member as I allow the Prime Minister, as the Cabinet Ministers are being accused of this matter.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** In April or March of the previous year I had visited Israel and had a special chance to visit the banana that was imported here.

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We had visited this banana area with my delegation and scientists to see. The banana plantation in Israel covers all solar panels to minimize the strength of solar energy. I had gained a thorough insight on this and thought I'd visit it, as this banana was brought here. This was explanation we received, there was no virus for these bananas from Israel. That is reason for protecting these bananas from catching any virus. The plight that is affecting our local bananas is also affecting the bananas of the entire world. As for here in Israel, it is widely protected due to the expertise of scientists and regulations layout to ban any imports particularly bananas that have the virus. With the virus that is affecting our local banana, if it does affect this Israeli banana, it would totally destruct our banana products. So that is how I found out about the difficult task faced by the farmers.

I then came and saw the huge farming banana of Charlie, and how they were planted. The way they were planted were very close. And knowing us senior members, we did plant this banana and became banana carriers too. Majority of the members here are no banana carriers. Perhaps when I was about 8, I would go to the plantation three times to collect these banana loads as this is the use of us kids from the ruralside given our humungous bodies. We are huge and that is why I am short, due to the heaviness of these loads particularly when you are tall, you would be seen clearly carrying these loads. I would go to the plantation three times; I would walk for two miles to get the loads. That banana is no longer obtained these days, during the banana virus, they were all destructed. Until 1960 billions of banana boxes were taken to New Zealand. In 1969 I left school and was employed at the wharf by carrying these banana loads. These were the very loads that had affected our country. It is therefore a delight for me to see these bananas again. I would come and have a look at these bananas every Saturdays and was confused with the variety of bananas that...I would go and seek the European banana as our local bananas is European banana. The Tongans call it the Hamoa banana. So that is how I knew, I have seen Charlie's plantation and the striking banana farming there.

The existing banana plantation, there is digging soil for softening, that no farmer can do in the rural area. To soften the soil, the road is rugged like dug from below and is stored on the other side. This banana is hard to plant. It does not grow high; it is not planted dispersedly. The reason for this method is so that the banana trees are easy to protect from the strong wind and storm. The long bananas from Australia are European bananas that can easily fall. The soil where the long bananas grow is different from where this banana variety from Australia is grown, the same with the Israeli banana which is short. It is easier for you to stand and cut it, but it is difficult for the wind to strike all banana trees. Therefore, they must be sprayed all the time.

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Then I ask if...it is costly the...it is said that it will be very expensive. However, this banana plantation is very blessed, for he also owns a poultry farm. Poultry wastes will be converted into fertilizer that no farmer from the rural area can do and true is what this member is saying and reason why this matter is discussed in the first place. Only those with enough money can get machines to excavate this land with the constant application of fertilizer and banana leaves fertilizer. What is happening here, there are huge containers brought forth. For one container perhaps it costs more than \$30,000 revenue earning. This is still in progress; the township is all supplied. Bunch of bananas is also found at home, so if you do go and purchase a bunch of bananas, you will find large bananas as this banana is also implemented in Israel, it is not cheap.

The old man Charlie Ulia has a very good banana plantation, which grows very well however it does not take long, and the banana black leaf streak can strike entirely. The mindset is really good together with money to fertilize and apply farming chemicals to soften the soil for workers to maintain at all times. It is therefore impossible for the majority as the reason why Charlie's farm is growing properly is because he also owns a chicken farm. Chicken wastes are used to produce fertilizers for the banana plantation. That said, this farmer has the various methods in order to obtain the highest quality banana. It is this market in New Zealand if we meet this capacity where possible if cheaper for us to win this competition, then it means that New Zealand would not have to go to the Phillipines or South America. Why? We could only do this for two weeks for us to supply the New Zealand market, as it will only take two weeks for the aircraft to travel from here to New Zealand, finished.

The method we use with planting bananas close to each other is good, however, the farmers who are helping out Charlie are unable to maintain this as the quality required from New Zealand is very high. The European do not want any spotted bananas, but we do know that dotted bananas are very sweet. Although we do not consume spotted bananas. We consume what is inside not the banana peel, which is what the European likes, they look at the good ripe banana with no spots and buy them, although our local banana variety is way better than this banana.

That was the reason why the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa was set up, an organisation where Samoa can produce various methods to create new products. So never mind, this organisation is working on the numerous methods, there is the whiskey made from taro. Therefore, there is nothing to avoid the use of our banana even if it contains spots, as the peel is on the exterior whilst the banana inside will be used to blend another form of development or product for Samoa.

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In that case your honour, this situation with this banana is getting very hard, unless there is a millionaire who owns a poultry farm and machines to level the land plus sufficient finance to purchase chemicals. So that is the assistance upon this matter as it is getting in depth, although it seems this is not serious... regarding the submitting of our...if we are able to continue the quality supply to New Zealand for two weeks only, it would be an issue as it takes 3 to 4 weeks the shipping of banana from the Phillipines to South America, but that is the concern, we cannot take this banana that New Zealand wants, they must be matured and long in size and all must be ripe. As for taking ripe and unripe bananas together, New Zealand are very angry with that sort of thing. Such is reason for banning this altogether. It is reasoning the Ministry also went and said that they will no longer see this banana, rather they will only receive the kind of banana that they require.

This is therefore the attempt of this organisation; it seems that Charlie's company is unable to supply the market to the capacity it requires. If we had 10 suppliers like Charlie perhaps, we would be able to supply all markets in New Zealand given the current situation now, it will be costly, and the quality of banana required for our European banana will not be maintained.

This is the assistance.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** There is thought to...your interjections are too much. I wish to state this because the decision based on my observation, Laauli is wrong for bringing up these costly bananas. The main thing is Laauli do not bring forth anymore pricey banana like this.

Fine....

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** Mr Speaker, the constituency is just gaining insight of the Minister's clarification. If the Minister had given it like this, the Israeli banana is not for export, it is for our consumption. Our constituency is therefore not taking this lightly. The Hon Prime Minister has also clarified clearly, the banana carrier I am speaking as I myself am a farmer. That is the essence, this constituency has just now understood. We would not have exported this if we had known, it is therefore necessary to plant and grow this here for our consumption. With due respect.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The only bit here is ...

**MR SPEAKER:** This is further blurring us... I allow the Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The administration of banana farming is separated from banana carrier. You cannot carry banana if there is none, and therefore you must be good at planting banana, and carrying them. Because if banana planting is not done properly and managed well, then what will you carry. Then you will have to carry the banana trees.

**MR SPEAKER:** I allow the Minister of Agriculture.

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua:** I am still elaborating to someone who is no farmer. The intent was for something good.

Everything went well however the Hon Prime Minister is also correct according to a statement given earlier. The cost to maintain banana is quite expensive for everyone, whereas the banana was necessary for export. The problem however is the shortage of supplies. That is the clarification lest there is confusion for the sake of the country. That is the explanation.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thanks. I allow the member for Safata, leave banana aside and talk about the Samoan cocoa as I know you do not plant any banana but consume them.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Mr Speaker, I extend great appreciation on the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister on banana and its events and its entire purpose, especially the Minister. I guess the dispute is due to the interjection of the member of Vaimauga, however it seems that he is only fighting for his village of Fagalii with regards to this banana farming. The reason why I am saying this, is the plentiful food, farming products, fruits and vegetables. The reason for saying that was because we were in the central impact of the covid, we even did not know how this will go, we also received another statement saying that there is the second virus for banana which is highly serious. Such is the appreciation to the country and Government, majority of us is food. This is why I mentioned banana, as most of the crops are not impacted in the country, although banana is affected but majority is moving to planting other crops. This is exactly why I mentioned banana, it seems that majority are raising the situation with banana, however it is now clear the intention of the State today. This is why I mentioned agricultural products, and the high supply of food in the country.

Then we come to, I express immense thanks to our country our Government, this is a different view for this Christmas, I trust this is the first time for our country especially the Apia township area, about our Christmas lights.

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Like my visiting and seeing the township area towards the ruralside, it seems to capture the spirit of Christmas and the spirit of our people, as we are a Christian nation. Christmas is very important. This is a way to show our respect and our recognition of Christmas day.

I wish to convey great appreciation. The plea of our constituency to the Government, continue the wonderful developments, this is where we see the splendor of God's creation.

Then we come to the Constitutional Convention. I heed appreciation to our Government for their works for this Term to achieve the intention of our past leaders and ancestors on the dream we had, and the insertion of Samoa as a Christian nation. This is what our descendants had worked for, the leader of our country, but what? We thank God that is not fulfilled by this Parliament. I extend great appreciation to the Leader of the Nation for raising good things, and the blessings of the country, that we put God first. Even the controversial Bills that caused the differences within the country. The intention with assurance, is the recognition of the village councils when matters go to Court as there have been many cases with the Lands and Titles Court, however the Court does not recognize our village councils. There is still the layout of authority only and individual rights. What about now? There is equal balance, there is chance for the Court to consider and look closely into communal rights or the village councils. Such is the great thanks to the Government.

I take this chance to thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. You were chosen by God to lead the country. For those chosen by God, it is why the country is receiving blessings. Well done to your perseverance and your courage. A time we hear even with our family affairs, it is being destroyed, as for us, we uphold respect, and maintain Christianity, and we know who to give respect to. Such is the appreciation to the Leader of the Government. But observing this 5-year period, it is not about our talks and speeches, but it is the works we implement that is important. Such is the word of appreciation. Well done to your cooperation and your calmness. I thank the Cabinet for your assistance upon the Government and its works for this 5-year period. Also to the Associate Ministers and this House.

I specially wish to say, thank you very much honorable Speaker, I see that you are about to conclude. We are proud and delightful as new members of this Parliament. Why was that? We were able to meet the senior members inside this Parliament. We lack knowledge, like the saying the more you live, the more you know. Such is the acknowledgement for meeting your honorable in your seniority stance...But observing too, you are full respect.

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I then come to the constituency of Safata West and Safata East for this Parliamentary term. Comes the next Parliamentary term, it will be Safata No.1 and Safata No.2. Safata is also a family, it is a well built family, which God poured blessings to for our constituency.

I wish to extend congratulations to the villages of my constituency starting from Vaiee in your honorifics. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Also my village of Nuusuatia in your honorifics.

In addition, our village of Lotofaga in your honorifics.

Our village of Sataoa, in your honorifics.

Our village of Saanapu in your honorifics. Thank you for your support and prayers.

The same with our village of Saleaula and Salamumu in the new Parliamentary Term in our collective efforts. Our working together is nothing new Saleaula. The time we began staying in the lands in Upolu that was when we commenced working for the health sector and education sector which are nothing new.

Your honorifics remain intact as it is an electoral constituency. Your honorifics, because you are the Principal Orator, you are the Authority, and your honorifics remain forever, as electoral constituencies we can work collectively, we situated right next to each other. Because of your Authority *I le afiʻfi o Alii e Lua, afiʻfi o Maopu, afiʻfi Sa Peseta, ae a lau fetalaiga Saleaula, o oe o le Pule.*

Then we can say, to our constituency, you are the reason I was able to sleep, walk and reason I am on my feet due to your love which surrounded me in implementing my duties given through your authority.

Thank you to the reverends of various districts for your trustworthiness and prayers for the welfare of our constituency and your good thoughts, and our share upon the lawmaking process of Samoa. Thank you for your support and your prayers for me. Although there are times when faced with challenges and these are the very times whereby, we are relying on prudence and prayers for help.

To my constituency, *so o se faiva, e le asa ma se maumau*, I trust and rely in you for help. A service implemented, let God be praised, as for me I am just an unworthy servant.

To all the members of the constituency wherever you are, may the blessings of God be upon you. To families and relatives, fathers and mothers, thank you for your prayers that have me blessed.

Mr Speaker, bless the Sitting of Samoa, soifua.

*Parliament showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of the member for Safata West.*

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The speech of the member who is from a Strong Family, the remark is sweet in accordance with the works of the Government, such is the acknowledgement, as these works are not easy, the Chiefs of the Ministries are listening in whom the Government relies on for their foresight.

That being said, I extend great appreciation to you all. Our work, let us not complain, but allow the endurance of thanksgiving as our calling is not easy.

We have recognized with great thanks the speech of the member who is from a strong family, well done. The belief is, let us rely on God, and let us not clash, but bear harmony and delight our...like David, let us find joy in the Lord who will grant us the desires of our hearts each day. That was the belief and testament of David. That being said, job well done.

We have arrived at our adjournment time. There is view that we seek strength for our meeting tomorrow, let us find hope to...there is various other duties that we must engaged with. Not only with us Parliament members, but also the duties and responsibilities of Cabinet and Government Chiefs. May we find a new day tomorrow, may tonight be fulfilled by the love of God. Before we adjourn, we will end this Sitting with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:00pm until Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at 9:00am.*