

THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE 2018

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am

Prayer.

SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for today now resumed.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES

The Speaker announced the Message from the Council of Deputies.

“MEMORANDUM for:

Mr Speaker:

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Independent State of Samoa, I now present the message to the Legislative Assembly to review the following Bills as follows:

1. Excise Tax Rate Amendment Bill 2018
2. Income Tax Amendment Bill 2018

GIVEN UNDER my hand on this day Wednesday, 20 June 2018.

(Signed): **Le Mamea Ropati Mualia**
DEPUTY COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES.”

EXCISE TAX RATE AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT
(Minister for Revenue): Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to move the motion, *That the Excise Tax Rate Amendment Bill 2018 now be read for the first time.*

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Income Tax Amendment Bill 2018
- first reading

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion was approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Revenue): Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to move the motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2018 now read for the first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2017/2018
& APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019
– resumption of debate over the second reading - Day 3

SPEAKER: Before business was adjourned last evening, all members had a chance to speak on the Main Budget 2018/2019 and the Supplementary Appropriation 2017/2018.

This is the opportunity for the Government Response to the addressing matters by Members on the Principles and Economic level regarding the Government Budget.

I call the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology for your speech in accordance to the raising concerns by the notable members.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister for Communication and Information Technology): Thank you Honorable Speaker, the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. I greet the Speaker in good health and strength God has bestowed upon you which has enabled us to reconvene this morning. Greetings to the Leader of the Government, distinguished Cabinet and Samoa as a whole. I also greet Samoa in all your honorific salutations, a country of divisional significance that remains forever.

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The Government will begin its response according to the raising matters by the House.

The Hon Prime Minister has initiated our responses yesterday. Yet we add on to this response and the further queries by the dignified House.

We have received a lot of matters presented by the Members directly to this Ministry, Office of the Regulator and the Post Office of Samoa. These three Ministries are under my portfolio together with the assistance of my associate, the member for Faleata West. In regards to technological connections with your telephones and televisions, I apologize for the poor service in your constituencies yet we will revisit all that for improvement.

The Ministry of Finance has already responded to matters pertaining to its Ministry, as for the raising matters on technological service and the Tui Cable since February using Bluesky, Digicel and other related companies as its service provider. I trust light burden has been laid out for speedy connection. As of yet, improvement work is currently undertaken to upgrade bottleneck local networks with the hope to have this completed by the end of July or mid August. The Tui Cable speed is now very efficient with network connections and reinstallations around the country.

The Tui Cable connection requires another wire lest difficulty arises yet we have backup to avoid any disconnection in the country. As heard yesterday, the Manatua Cable will start work tomorrow using this wire which is linked from Samoa to Tahiti, Cooks and Niue and Tonga. These makes up two connecting wires.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, a point of clarification before the Hon Minister moves on.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): The Hon Minister now speaks of cable with hope that the Manatua Cable will also be connected as backup to the Tui Cable. In query, what is the situation with the S-Cable that is linked to Tutuila? Will that cable be disconnected? The reason for asking is because we are still giving leasing funds for that cable. With respect.

SPEAKER: Go ahead Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker, thank you respectable member for your question. But we will come to that later.

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SPEAKER: I advise the Hon Minister to respond accordingly to the raising concerns of the members, I will not answer any new raising queries that could further question the dignified House, nonetheless do continue on with your speech.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUAI RICO TUPAI: Thank you. There is hope that after these two connecting wires are installed another new connection will be set up between us and the Eastern island. The wire queried by the member is the property of the Blue Sky purchased in the capacity of the Government in the previous year under a signed agreement to be completed next year. Comes next year the Government will no longer be using that wire. The current aim is to conduct consultations between the Samoa Submarine and other private companies in American Samoa regarding this connection between Upolu and American Samoa. If this can be achieved then we will.

SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I call the Honorable Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, let me elaborate this further. The S-Cable connection are dead wires set up in 1920 from New Zealand similar to the 100miles east of American Samoa to the North of Hawaii and America. As soon as its expiry date was due, three people arrived to consult with Faleomavaega if they could repair these dead wires using our local connection, however this would disconnect our communications with Tutuila as it was not variable for us to use.

Before these people arrived in black suit, I had already contacted Faleomavaega on this matter mind you our local networks were disconnected at the time due to the congestion from the satellite overload. That was the reason for the continual usage of this connection at the time despite the unsuccessful connections these people were trying to set up from Tutuila. This is why these people went back to seek assistance from the American Samoa Governor as we awaited the setting up of our local cable.

I was advised that America will be offering assistance to renew our local communication links however given the limited capacity for our local networks this was the reason for setting up our own cable and the urge for the Polynesian group to work collaboratively in this development.

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This matter has been raised in Pacific meetings and already we have the Melanesian group in the West and the Micronesian group in the North. As such, Samoa then initiated a reunion for the Pacific region. As this is highly affecting our Pacific regional appointments, such as in the case of the Deputy Secretary General's appointment for the 117 countries under the ACP in 2003 whereby Dr. Pao of the Pacific was known as the most suitable and qualified candidate, however that was not the case due to established bunch of hooligans in the Pacific.

That is the rationale for Samoa's initiative in setting up a Polynesians group in the Pacific as Pacific Forum Leaders as one body which was established in Apia on the 17th of November 2011 with approval for Samoa to lead the Polynesian group at which we became first in this leadership. This proposal began in 1975 in a meeting by Malietoa, Mara and the King of Tonga.

I remember during my former employment with the Ministry of Finance at the appointment of Afamasaga Faamatala Toleafoa as secretary of this first and last ever meeting for this Polynesian group which did not go well at the time, however another meeting for the group will be held in Tuvalu next week. Samoa being the pioneers of this initiative should attend this meeting.

Eight members initiated this group including Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Tahiti. As the current Chairperson of this eight-member group, this reign will be passed on to American Samoa in the coming year. We are following the order of appointment set by the Pacific Island Forum (PIF).

My statement is prolonging given this cable connection that will build a network for all countries including Wallis and Futuna. Such proposal is new in the Polynesian islands and is considered one of the best. This proposal has already been relayed during our Pacific Forum that was held in our shores and we have also consulted the support of New Zealand in order to raise technological quality standards and more efficient communication links here and abroad. That is the overall background and purpose for the collaboration of all Polynesian countries.

And the more reason for this initiative given the issue of communication technology and the overload to the satellite we were using.

Mr Speaker the overall intention is for speedy internet connection given the use of this cable with our neighboring island countries and improved local developments using this network.

Mr Speaker we have laid out these principles for the welfare of Samoa and its future generation and we must seek other avenues to improve Samoa's wellbeing.

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Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: ,Mr Speaker and the dignified House, as reiterated by the Hon Prime Minister it is hope that since 2012, Samoa was able to network with 14 island countries from around the Pacific. Samoa is only using a very small capacity compared to a rugby field, but if Samoa was to utilize this capacity we can say that Samoa can only use the score area leaving the entire rugby field as free space.

The Government is therefore moving to attract foreign businesses to use up the remaining free capacity. As of the current we have foreign companies in the country who are here to set up Call Centers and see how they will commence with this business.

The upcoming Monday of next week, we will begin trainings on this Call Centers locally. This will initiate training partners between the UNDP and the University of Samoa through a Pilot Programme.

Secondly, we had the Digital Pacific last week whereby the Pacific is moving towards digitizing all Government services. This was discussed in the meeting chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister some weeks back with our National ICT.

For what reason? To reduce public services costs, reserve collection and pay great respect to the work and services of public servants. Part of this digital service is the starting role for our National Identifications. The purpose of having this one identification is that it will cover a multitude of services. For example, this identification can cover your vehicle license, business license, medical records, passport, business services and all the other required services you may need confirmation with using this identification.

As you now know, Samoa is leading the way in setting up these digital services in the Pacific together with the assistance of the United Nations and the Governments of New Zealand and Australia.

Recently you have also witnessed a new business partnership with our local Samoa Submarine and the Samoa Ports Authority and a warehouse set up on the port by 4,000 meters in length. This warehouse will hold maintenance for all connections within and around the Pacific. This wire connection is about 700,000 kilometers. There are 22 companies and 16 Pacific countries including New Zealand and Australia covered under this cables maintenance within the Pacific region. This company is now based in New Caledonia with hope to shift this company to Samoa with 60 employees in total mainly from the Philippines and other Asian countries. The main objective of the Government is to include these skills into our local Marine curriculum for them to start work by the next two years so that comes the next four years our locals will take over these foreign employees.

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That is similar network with other shipping companies to create employment for our locals to travel around the world on ships and such. This is the sole intention of the Government for our locals to obtain jobs so that Samoa is on top of the Pacific through its technological and communication services.

The Hon Prime Minister has clearly stated Samoa's position in the Pacific and its relations with them through technology. Samoa's leadership is highly recognizable on the perspective of these island countries and if technology is build up then Samoa will be highly recognized in the Pacific and the world.

The works of the Samoa National Broadband through technology is continuously progressing and is used by most of the Government Ministries to make work more effective and save us a lot.

We will also strengthen efficient communication networks in the country once the Tui Samoa cable is installed for easier technological access in the hospitals and education. The network with the 14 member countries I stated earlier will create a centralized call service for Samoa to assist our neighboring Pacific island countries. The Data Center will provide digital services I talked about earlier to assist with other Pacific countries to create services that will generate income to provide and continue this networking with them. As for the several submissions the Members have put forward well the Government is not relaxing as we must also take heed of our national security and cyber-security over these communication networks. This is to avoid any distress from outside. The Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Education are working collaboratively together in sorting out this curriculum in schools in order to effectively use computers. The aim is to teach students with the use of coding programmes using tablets and laptops that are distributed and set up for all schools.

That is the main objective of this Ministry for our locals to find efficient and effective information and communication technology to assist with our local economy, create employment and to ease services for the public as well as to save up public costs. The specific aim is to [secure communications between and amongst families](#). We have also witnessed the issue of parents spending too much time on cell phones and no quality time with their children and during evening services. They must avoid this bad habit.

On the advantageous side, technology is also good to assist with children's education and the future but that is the advice, make good use of your time with your kids at home and manage your time wisely when using technology.

Mr Speaker and the notable House, that is the response to the raising matters...

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I call the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 and the member for Salega East.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you for the opportunity. Praise God this morning and our prayer of offering. I don't intend to interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister, however as relayed in my submission, this development should have everyone's support moving forward. I only wish to remind the Hon Minister that I did not raise Broadband yesterday however I have queried one of the Ministries to see if this Broadband is in progress as it is taking too long. Time is money. That is the intention for putting this forward for internal communication to avoid the shifting of things around.

Whatever the Government decides for our local cable is fine considering affordable, capacity, and cheap price for the public. The standby cable is also going well. One of the queries by one of the members regards ash cable that is connected to Tutuila and the main land (America). That is what we need, direct connection to the main cable and a place where we want to transform and trade which is the big government of America. This is the main reason why we must attach ourselves with American Samoa to seek immediate communications internationally. Never mind I thank the Hon Minister and all the Ministers for the good works shown. That is it with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you for the chance. This is exactly the response I was after using broadband. As visibly given this is a good chance for price reduction on technology for the Ministries and Public sectors. However, there is one thing that is not laid out properly in the Office of the Regulator or the Regulator. The Regulator states that no license is permitted to run this broadband which is right whereas some of your office is trying to promote businesses through competition. I only wish to remind you that this is not the way the Government run things in terms of competition and ISPs using Digicel and BlueSky. With due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call the Minister of Education.

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Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker, thank you for your comments. As I had given in my overall reply, the broadband is being reconnected. According to the member's comment, there is no trouble within the Ministry. The member is speaking about commercialization but that is not the intention of the Government. The aim is to centralize Government services. In the meantime, internet connection is running well for some Ministries but not others. According to Government policies and procurement, the aim is to tender out Government services and if the Blue Sky succeeds then they can run them all. The same goes for Digicel and CSL if they win. The target is to save up money with the hope to save up 30% of Government reserves if the national broadband is settled. That is the assistance to the member.

Nonetheless, thank you for your raising concerns and insight to Samoa's current technology and communication services noting Samoa's position in the Pacific region and around the world. What can Samoa provide for our future generation? Will our welfare be sufficient? Will technology be advanced for us to connect with other countries of the world? At the current any connecting network is linked through America whether it is Tuisamoa or Manatua Ash. This network also applies to Asian countries. This also helps create more employment locally.

Mr Speaker and the dignified House, thank you for the opportunity upon this Ministry to respond and to lay out some of the Government principles through the National information technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, the main problem is that we are a tiny nation which means that we also have fewer businesses. That is the forgetful thing with us we have to learn to teach foreign businesses to invest with us so that we are *capable of generating higher income through network building with* countries like American Samoa, Cooks, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna as well as Tuvalu. New Caledonia is also interested. However, this does not mean that setting up communication links with America automatically produces us income no it depends on how people use technology. What sort of people uses this? The business operators. Never mind our country only has a population of 200,000 which includes the Manu Samoa team whilst Fiji has a population of almost a million.

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This means that Fiji has a greater number to select their team from which is nearing 100,000 or 200,000 or even 8,000. That is reason we do everything by heart and mentally. Even Tonga has a population like us, 200,000 however Tonga is doing way better than us. What does this indicate? We have no guts. That is my statement issued last night (to Manu Samoa) that they must do well as the whole country will come and support them otherwise we will bring in the Super 9 players to make up the team. Why? Because they do not have any guts. You must play with the ball and don't let it fall. You know very well how the game works. Therefore, this does not mean that once we are connected to America then all American companies will come and invest here. This is because our families and relatives only contact to check on us and we may ask them for \$10,000 which we will never receive.

Mr Speaker that how it is. We seek ways to add more people to grow our developments.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker I wish to add a bit to the statement of the Hon Prime Minister.

During the Digital Pacific Conference for the Youth Go Lap we hosted two weeks ago, we received good remarks from the overseas attendees about our local youth saying they were very bright. Some of these foreign business operators were looking at employing our local people from abroad using communication technology that is more efficient and cheaper. Because if you were able to view rugby on television at a cost of \$100 but now you can view that at a lower price of \$50 or below for two hours. That is how cheap the price has become.

I now wish to acknowledge the support of my constituency of Aana Alofi No.3 of Fasitootai, Vailuutai, Faleatiu, Satapuala and Satuimalufilufi. I am your voice in the country's meeting house and its developments for tomorrow.

May God bless your support. Mr Speaker and the notable House, have a blessed meeting, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Pardon the Hon Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Point of order.

AfiogaTafuaMaluelueTafua: Yes, thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: What is it? what is the point of order.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: I wish not to interrupt the Hon Minister's speech. The only advice is that our constituency's support is very spiritual. What I mean by that is the all televisions in the Aleipata area are on which means that our Manu Samoa team will no doubt win on the 30th, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I wish to remind all Members that we wish to approve our Budget so that the raising submissions from your district developments can progress. I will only permit the point of orders in regards to Member's raising matters whereas any new concerns -nor appreciation notes to your constituencies is disallowed in accordance to our Standing Orders. I must remind that we must fast track our business.

I call the Hon Minister of Justice.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister of Justice Court Administration): Mr Speaker I wish to greet the Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the Council of Deputy and his Good Lady. I also acknowledge the support of Samoa in its significant status. I further wish to greet the Clergy all over Samoa.

Greetings to the Three Pillars of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Heads of Government Ministries and Private Sectors gathered here today as well as the Judiciary, the Hon Speaker and the Parliament of Samoa. I specifically wish to greet the member of Vaimauga No.2 in all your honorific salutations.

By observation I have received only three queries directed to this Ministry. The only matter that requires an explanation is the one raised by the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 concerning the 4 acres land in Salelologa for a new Justice building. We have also submitted our request to overseas partners for financial aid to start this project. Hon Minister of Works, we have received tons of requests for improved roads for the members' constituencies, however, the Budget for the coming year is not far off for these infrastructural services to progress for the upcoming Pacific Games next year. The Hon Minister of Education is whispering that road improvement is a dire need specifically in the capital of the country.

Pardon the listening public but this is a direct request to the Hon Minister regarding improved roads that has brought satisfaction to the villages of Tanugamanono, Papauta, Vailima, Vaoala although these roads are not main...

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the upstanding speaker, I ask the Hon Minister to heed all the raising matters by the members regardless of our endeavor, we shall abide with what the Minister's is saying.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: I have submissions from my district to make to the Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: That will not be necessary, you have your right however the public is tuning in.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker that is not necessary as the Speaker suggests, we do not have to make known to the constituency their requests, we must move on with our work.

MR SPEAKER: Point of order or point of clarification member for Gagaifomauga No.3?

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification to the member's statement.

MR SPEAKER: Go ahead. The Hon Minister's statement is up as you are late.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: That is reason for requesting because the statement is being directed generally at us. Come on Hon Minister

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member... go ahead Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I am saddened with the member's statement who was a former member of this Cabinet, I guess that is the norm, we exchange jokes. But that is not how it works in Cabinet, we go by normal procedure.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. We were all in Cabinet. The normal procedure is that you submit your requests in writing to the respective Minister but you do not have to make a mention of them here. That is the normal process in Cabinet.

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If that is all the response you have, do conclude now Hon Minister before we hand it over to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: I beg indulgence but I thought I could just relay a few submissions to the Hon Minister.

Mr Speaker, the response is complete, I support the Budget 2018/2019. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture whom I believe has tons of queries.

I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): By observation yesterday most of the comments were thank you notes towards this Ministry with recommendations to pay more commitment to our work.

I wish to begin with NUS or the National University of Samoa. Majority of the comments were on student's school fees which is one of our major priorities. Why? Not everyone has the same income level. I have information on this.

The intention is not to put our kids out of school and not waste their school days. But that should not be an excuse for all parents, you must know your priorities. When we have funerals all our money goes to the funeral and we forget to pay our children's school fees.

By the looks of this data analysis, a 5 week is given for you to pay up your school fee otherwise, your registration will be cut but this time period is reasonable enough. According to this analysis, 80% of students have already paid up their fees whilst the other 20% is the problem. Another 10% were able to pay up on the sixth week which means that if we didn't have to do it this way, the parents would not have alerted themselves to pay their children's fees.

Up to the eighth week, 91% of students were able to pay their schools and were accepted back into school. This is one way the University now practicing for students to resume school, put those out of school on the 5th week, and by 6, 7, 8th or three weeks later, parents ought to decide for what's best for their children which is main intention. Others seem careless by the 8th week whereby a seed is different from the tares. Other students will find jobs elsewhere and no longer return to finish school. That is the case with school fees.

Other matters raised by members on...

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance Hon Minister I recognize the member for Safata West and the member for Falealili.

Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini: Thank you for your statement Hon Minister. If the student returns with \$800 and will be required to make up the \$1000 for his/her school fee including the 10%, that is the concern, why not remove the \$1000 because if 10% is added on top of this, it will be a burdensome.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you for your concern. Yes, I very much agree with you and that burdensome 10%. If the University is listening in, remove that 10% because that is additional burden.

Another matter is the Japanese scholarships. According to NUS records, these scholarships are advertised on television, newspaper and social media. The conditions are listed directly from the Japanese office. Whether you will have to stay in a thatched house or a hotel, it all depends on the criteria and the given requirements. During our state visit with the Hon Prime Minister to Japan we managed to talk with the Japanese ambassador who affirmed that we have several opportunities for our children in Japan however the problem is the scholarship terms and conditions which we must look into it carefully.

It was a lengthy elaboration nevertheless the main objective is that the student has no idea why he or she took this scholarship, never mind we now have a scholarship office in Japan to seek assistance from regarding cases like this.

Most of our Japanese scholarships have now returned with Master Degrees which is a good sign. Therefore, we must take heart when we take up these scholarships, if you are hungry or when the weather gets too cold, you must take heart. Because when you return successfully, you can become a manager. That is the challenge to all parents and their children.

On to the merging matter...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu (Falealili East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call the interjection of the member for Falealili East.

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Afioga Fumaono Teo Samuelu Teo: I wish to extend gratitude to the Hon Minister in relation to these terms and conditions for scholarships. That is why it is crucial to consult the parents of these scholarship students before they depart because some students would call back saying they need to pay extra costs for accommodations.

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Falealili I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Perhaps the Hon Minister's statement is clear that they will look into it. This is the correct response because if we say that we will look into it, this means that not only will we look and sit on it, it would be meaningless.

But the Minister has spoken, we will also talk with our caucus about these matters that comes directly from the public. That is the duty of parents who knows better about these things otherwise children must be explained well on this circumstances.

To be direct, parents must be consulted about this 10% and they can relay it to their children because if children pursue education abroad they will never forget these concerns. This is because a child from here hammered a Japanese student and we were informed about it and had to do something about it. We also have an ambassador in Japan who can assist in this sort of matters and parents know very well what to do what about these kind of issues.

This is the same case with our apple pickers overseas due to poor attitude which is why companies would turn to Fiji and Tonga due to alcoholism that is killing most of our people taking up this career.

During my trip to Dunedin we managed to talk with 60 manslaughter employees from Samoa who were replaced at which the majority were [from the village of Faleula](#). [You did not come here to drink alcohol and build relationships](#). The main thing you came here for is to seek wealth for your families in Samoa. Some have managed to earn five vehicles from this job mainly from the village of Faleula. You know very well what to do when you go abroad however once you get here, you forget all the good things we talked about. But that is our duty whilst we still have chief Taatiamai whom we all resort to for assistance.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I call the Minister to resume his speech.

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Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Now that the Hon Prime Minister has given his clarification, and to the member, you know very well that when a child has earned a scholarship abroad, the father would spread this good news out to the entire village. Parents are well aware of this sort of attitude.

Then we come to Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA) who is responsible for meeting the most suitable qualification for pursuing education. This is one area of the Education Department that the Cabinet has discussed and resolved to say that it has escalated and inflated swiftly which started off with only three people and now the number has gone up to 50. The question is why? This is duly because the works of the SQA is very important in continuing education programs. The Samoa Qualification Authority or SQA is also working closely with the National University of Samoa (NUS) in upgrading their curriculum programs for students pursuing education in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

On to teachers' salary for church and private schools, the Hon Prime Minister, well this has been Government's dream for quite some time now, however the question is, how will this be carried out? This is the similar intention we had and reason why we have tax collection for us to work together in solving this matter. That is one thing I wish to achieve during my reign as Minister of Education. Hopefully it will be fulfilled in this Budget Statement. I have already received the analysis and figures for this \$30 million in hope to achieving this. How so? Well you know the answer. We get it from the Early Child Education or ECE relayed by my Associate Minister who explained that children who are four years old must attend the Early Childhood Education or ECE and the five year olds should automatically go to Primary Schools in Premier One. Otherwise what is the result for late educators? The teacher will find it hard to teach them. That is reason why they have to start at the right age from Early Child Education whilst the Cabinet will need to review this analysis in order to consider our teachers' salary going forward. We have also established the Teachers Council to oversee the overall quality of teachers for all levels starting from Early Education to University. This inspection is currently undertaken around church schools where there are qualified faletua who are teaching. We also have a Teachers Council in Sogi. The aim is to set qualification from the National University of Samoa (NUS) in order to manage this salary for our teachers in public schools.

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The overall intention of comments raised is the lack of teachers in the country which is correct due to migration and change in employment. But for everyone's information teachers are now in the same salary scale as the doctors and lawyers. That is how special teachers are. Once you have graduated from the NUS with a Bachelor of Education you will kick start with \$30,000 which is similar with a graduating doctor from Fiji and New Zealand unfortunately we lack promotion on this by our members. That is your role because a teacher from Solosolo cannot come and teach in Siumu and neither is a teacher from Apia to Lalomanu. You must have teachers in your own constituencies who can teach and accommodate the district. Because if a child from Taufusi goes all the way to Lepa for schooling, what can you say about this? This is what we consider deeply, we should have teachers in our own districts which is the current role of the Ministry in order to carry out school awareness programs in the rural areas. If you want to become a lawyer, well, we have enough lawyers already. But we need more teachers. In order to earn your teachers' degree you must pursue your Bachelor of Education for four years then you can make your own earning in the constituency you come from instead of coming all the way to Apia. Some parents still want their children to come and work in an office at a salary rate of \$8000 when he or she should have earned \$30,000 which is a big difference. Hence be mindful that is the reminder to you members because this is our collective role, promote this to your constituencies as this is one major profession for females especially given the shortage of teachers.

Anything else...

MR SPEAKER: I beg indulgence Hon Minister, I call the member for Vaimauga No.2.

Afioga Tapulesatele Mauteni Tamasoe Metuli II Esera (Vaisigano No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker. This may be helpful for you next time. Mr Speaker, I have two main things I wish to remind regarding Primary level education. The Minister has precisely given a statement on Early Childhood Education. That proposal is very much helpful for the four year olds but that age should not limit those below four years.

The age requirement whether you will be five within a year should not avoid those children from commencing school immediately.

MR SPEAKER: We get your contribution. It seems that you are speaking for the second time, therefore we should not put our time to waste. My duty is to fast track our work. Pardon the member you cannot have a second chance.

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The current Education Amendment Bill we are discussing was also deliberated during our seminar, such is the response by the Minister in relation to the general comments you raised nonetheless we are prioritizing our time.

Therefore, pardon the Hon Minister, let us have a clarification in accordance to the comments by the member.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I get what you are saying Mr Speaker, that is not my intention. The four years old is compulsory, once you are four years old you must attend school, but below four years to one month that is not avoidable as well.

MR SPEAKER: Well there you have it, the quick response by the Hon Minister. That is why I interjected because time is of essence. I remind all that we have come to our recess hour, let me remind the Minister, if you have further clarification, may you carry on with the member for Vaisigano No.2 during our recess hour.

We now set aside our business for morning recess.

The business of the Legislative Assembly was now set aside for normal recess hour at 10.41am and resumed at 11.25am.

Deliberations for the second reading of the Supplementary Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 will now resume.

MR SPEAKER: I now announce that business of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. Before our break the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture was speaking. I call the Hon Minister to resume your statement.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe everyone has rejuvenated from our morning tea break. And now we shall resume with my explanation in regards to members' comments. We have more issues, the Hon Minister of Communication has elaborated our collaboration in term of using technology and communications to assist us with the shortage of our teachers especially in the rural areas. As such the two Ministries have begun consultations in this undertaking so that we can resolve this problem on teachers' shortage. This is one assistance our Tuisamoa cable can assist in remedying this concern on the lack of teachers.

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Some have raised concerns on the improvement of our sports fields for our children. You are all correct on this, we have paid visit to the rural areas and so far a lot of these sports field including Manonouta, Aopo, Mulifanua and Salani have been problematic requiring dire improvement. That is the collective effort by all not just us. My door is open any time, you can come to me and we can talk about it.

Some have also raised the preparations for the upcoming Pacific Games next year. We have allocated a budget of \$11million for this event namely for accommodations and such. We have also looked at whether we can accommodate everyone in hotels to save us from rebuilding our school buildings into accommodations. Otherwise we have planned out everything accordingly and in relation to the budget allocation we are given.

MR SPEAKER: I permit the member for the Urban Seat.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West): Thank you Hon Minister. I too have queried whether your budget is sufficient for our games next year as we have one more year to go. I only wish to remind whether you have enough for a footpath erection in Vailoa if possible to do it then that is good. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call the Hon Minister, go ahead... this has nothing to do with...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Yes Mr Speaker. But we shall see if that is appropriate. The story with sufficient and insufficient, well have you read the Bible on Jesus' message on three fish and four bread? I am asking if you have read it....

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, because I have no certificate in Theology, yet he is now saying four not five. The concern is lest the games are over and you may become debtors to hotels. That is my major concern. With due respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: It is all covered under that proverb.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Yes, that is Jesus' proverb on the three fishes and five loaves.

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Five is the same as four. Do not belittle your faith, a lot of people were being fed. We have \$11million for this financial year hence we have another huge allocation for the next financial year to prepare our games in 2019. We will also be putting up a school building for Alataua which is a must as the distance in Asau is quite far for the kids. Most of the requests received runs through a process by the Ministry such as preparing a letter of support, conduct site visit, compile the application like the request by Vaisigano and submit them to JICA who takes care of primary schools whilst colleges are affordable. Other donors like China, Canada and America are also working towards this undertaking. The Ministry is also supporting all your requests for new school buildings.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: These are probably all the raising matters by the Members.

MR SPEAKER: I guess that is all. I give the chance to the member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4): Mr Speaker, since this subject matter was discussed widely yesterday specifically on safety, this request was included in the Apprenticeship training. So far we have covered everything in this school except for occupational safety. One of the highest government budget allocations goes to the Accident Compensation Corporation.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. It is true that this matter was mentioned by the member never mind you may resume.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: That is exactly what apprenticeship is all about in regardsto safety requirements which are all taught under this curriculum. Do you get it? That is all the requirements covered for a student when preparing to find a job.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. The Associate Minister is well aware of this matter. Do conclude.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Mr Speaker, we spoke of a different matter to this...

MR SPEAKER: Oh really, I call the member for Siumu.

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Afioga Faalogo Iosefa Sopi (Siumu): Mr Speaker, I only wish to remind the Minister the request of this constituency on school building and a sports ground please.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: My fellow member from Siumu is correct about this request that are under my records. It is good that the building was caught on fire as there is insurance to cover the rebuilding of a new school building which is the plan for this undertaking. The playing field is superb but if there is anything else that needs improvement, we will need to conduct a site visit.

The Member for Faleata West mentioned our law achievement yesterday and affirmed that he wants me to be his lawyer. The trouble is we were studying civil whilst Leala's offense is criminal. Therefore, I cannot help you there only Pau has the experience in that field.

That is all from me Mr Speaker. I wish to acknowledge the support of my constituency, I am very well thus we can sing the song in the ad on TV, I've been everywhere man. That means that the district has total belief in me every day. Thank you for your prayers which have blessed my duties in this calling. Have a blessed meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Thank you for your speech Hon Minister of Education. We now come to the Hon Minister of Finance speaking in regards to the raising concerns of the notable members.

I call the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance): Thank you Mr Speaker. First up is the Budget Statement. The Ministry has consulted all Ministries regarding this Budget since November of last year on the purpose that all Ministries are insightful of the change in Government procedures in hope to restructure the budget allocation in accordance to any relevant changes for ongoing projects and [developments in a daily basis given the relevant skill and capacity to performing these duties](#). This is because in reality, most of these annual funding allocations are not fully utilized at the end of every year. This is why the Ministry and the CEO have undertaken this review to ensure that the allocated budgets are fully utilized to meet the targeted outputs. The Ministry has also conducted several meetings.

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We have also had a chance to consult a summary of Government plans and procedures with them as well as improved public services for assurance until we had the compilation of this tabling budget beforehand so that once Parliament approves these allocated funds we can then progress accordingly with our work and ongoing projects. Most of the time we call the heads of ministries to discuss these requests and give them an insight of how these funds must be used in accordance to its key priorities. Such includes the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. By affirmation we cannot reduce the funding allocated to these major sectors given our priority upon these sectors and their services given their huge contribution to the growth of our economy in the future. This is because if our people are educated well enough in terms of health and wellbeing we can then reduce our budget allocation to execute future projects and improve our welfare given the raising standard of education upon our people.

As of the current most of our funds are allocated to the ministry of health to take the sick abroad due to lack of treatment we have locally. We also lack the capacity in the country. Mr Speaker and the dignified House most of these services are unsustainable and we cannot afford to fund them. The Ministry of Finance has also conducted an investigation with the senior officials of these Ministries in collaboration with the assistance of foreign partners that was explained in our budget statement on the amendments, principles and the implementation of services to ensure that these funding allocations are utilized appropriately. This review must resume in accordance to the current changes and after the next two to three years, this can be reviewed according to our economic growth. The same also applies to our Agriculture sector. Similar objective is also supported by our foreign partners to improve our major projects and infrastructural services in preparation for the impacts of climate change. We are also continuing talks with our foreign partners like the World Bank, the Asian bank and others who are lending us significant amounts which we do not have to repay. This is similar to the \$40million from the Green Climate Fund donated under the light terms and conditions to prepare and improve our major projects to reduce any major impacts it may have on our local assets, health and natural disasters that may arise in the future.

Mr Speaker, as given in the budget address any budget statement has piles of decisions that is hard to make. We have to ask which priorities comes first because in truth we cannot satisfy every district requests and the public within a financial year. We have to prioritize the most critical developments in awaiting for the next financial year to complete them.

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The main objective of this budget statement is wise and confident decision-making as such objective carries on the past messages from previous years so that we can meet the public requests to prepare the established principles and policies and future wellbeing of Samoa. Not only do we look at the five years plan but we must envision 20 to 25 years ahead. How do we want Samoa in the future? What sort of economy do we want? What sort of standard of living and welfare do we want for Samoa? Then we can compare it to today and make appropriate changes so that comes the next 20 years we can achieve these things at that time.

Mr Speaker and the dignified Parliament I have received several comments about the drop in the budget allocation to our developments. By confirmation and as clearly stated in the budget in roman documents in front, the following indicates detailed information on this drop in budget for our projects and various developments. This is not because these projects were unattainable neither did we lack finance rather this drop is due to the fact that we have completed most of our major projects as noted by the Minister of Communications. A \$40million budget allocation has already been allotted for our Submarine Cable pipelines laid out in the ocean and therefore the remaining \$10million will complete some of the remaining works this year. This includes fixing work for the Manatua Cable as elaborated by the Hon Minister and the importance of contributing our share/equity for these developments. That is how we are connected with Tahiti and other countries as so far, Tahiti is considered one of the highest internet and technology users today. As for us, we are contributing a very small portion/equity that fortunately builds high capacity for our internet connection with other countries which luckily for us is cheaper and easier. Mr Speaker we have several ongoing projects that are almost complete and a few more to be completed this year. Hence the government is incessantly consulting with our foreign partners. Other developments are still in the pipeline as ongoing consultations are still undertaken with foreign partners to strengthen, improve and continue [these developments for our economy](#).

Mr Speaker in regards to our revenue as clearly stated in our budget statement during budget proposal, some of the objectives have not been achieved nonetheless it is ongoing at this status. We must look at wise spending in the meantime. It is with belief that the allocated budget for our projects and ongoing developments this year is more than enough given the capacity of our public service and private companies and the executing work they do.

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That is reason for the Hon Prime Minister's statement upon the works of the Public Service Commission, Ministry of Finance and other ministries to seek other ways for them to fully utilize these funding allocations in due time. As well as delegate other tasks to heads of public and private enterprises to complete. Thus ongoing monitoring and evaluation oversight can still be carried out by the Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Speaker other comments were on the \$6 million incurred from the ministry of health. For your information, we have no raising costs to our services, we did not receive any revenue from the NHS nor SOE for this financial year. Therefore, this \$ 6million should have been received by the NHS every year without any increasing costs. This money collection is now under the Ministry of Finance and until the merging of the NHS and the MOH is set, then the said amount will be passed back to them. As for public lease on government lands, the story is not so much on public lease consultations but the lease collections. Moving forward it is vital to rearrange these leases to go in line with the land values. Another query on whether our economy is benefiting significantly from our fisheries and agriculture sectors other than trade and tourism...

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon Laufo Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker I interrupt the Minister's statement given this matter I raised on the \$6million collected from the National Health Services. In regards to your explanation, that is not an additional amount neither is it rising costs to services, is that correct? I refer to your speech in the budget statement which seems to mean that this collected money is a new fund.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Thank you for the question, that is correct there are no incurred service costs. The collected funds by the National Health Services will continue without any raising costs. We have no plans to reviewing this either.

Mr Speaker I have also received queries on the contribution of fisheries and forestry upon our GDP. Perhaps that was the past when the contribution from our forestry had up to 20%whereas our economy today has not yet been diversified. Today we have seen a lot of business operations and infrastructural services around which is reason for the drop in the forestry's contribution to our GDP. That does not take away what we are here to do which is improving our business ventures and exportation of our local products.

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Given the great assistance and contribution of the forestry and fisheries this is reason why other sectors in our economy are growing. This is similar to the contribution made by our tourism sector. There was a question on public salary increments leaving insufficient funds for our developments. We have had several consultations by the PSC and the MOF in reducing public servant workforce. It is said in the beginning of this budget statement that all public vacancies were not filled as they were being removed when this budget was passed on to Cabinet leaving behind the deputy vacancies. Other than the funds received from the MOF, we have other revenues received from our collaborating partners through some of the Ministries. Some have questioned the look into digital currencies. For your sake we have had a number of talks by the Central Bank that we must be cautious with these kinds of matters. Until we receive confirmation from the IMF and the Federal Reserve in America and other developed countries which is similar to our current plea that we must not to fall easily into these kind of operations. Some of us here have also been warned that we must heed the use of these kinds of activities.

I have also received queries on the current \$12million deficit and how it was funded? For your information this is common every year, we always have a deficit. This is an ongoing plan for our revenue reference to our tax collection. This not only comes from the contribution of individuals and businesses but we may also receive some assistance from our foreign partners in regards to further projects to get additional revenue so that we can obtain a surplus over deficit. As gathered from the budget of 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 we have proposed deficit of more than \$3.5million percentage of our GDP. Nonetheless, these two years has had a drop of 1.7% and 0.4% which means that it all depends on wise spending of the budget for each ministries to avoid deficit.

Mr Speaker perhaps most of the comments were on appreciation and word of thanks to the Government and the Prime Minister for the Budget Statement and its projects. I take this time to thank your good self. Mr Speaker and the dignified members of Parliament. You have [given several good recommendations on the note that we work closely together to achieving this budget for a stable economy in order to meet the needs and requests of the country.](#) I also heed the comment made by the Chairperson of the Committee of Finance yesterday. Given the requests for road improvement and the contribution of agricultural products it seems the two are not connected.

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But as the Minister of Works has clearly said we have to conduct inspections and see which constituencies are working and selling their products internationally which is just. That does not take away the intention and assistance of the government for other districts under the impact of climate change and are seeking remedies for this kind of activities.

I heed appreciation to all the heads of government Ministries who have assisted in the preparation of this Budget Statement. We took out a lot of time in this doing nevertheless we have managed to achieve this together. This is not the end for the next six months, we must look at the Supplementary if we know that there are significant undertakings that must be prioritized.

Mr Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the support of my constituency in your honorific standards and great assistance. You have made my calling easier given your prayers not only for our district's undertakings but also government projects and the developments in Savaii. This also adds value to the development of job opportunities for our people. In the common saying, *e le sili le tainai lo le tapuai*, meaning the works we do cannot be done without your great support. I pray that the church leaders are filled with God's spirit and power whilst serving God.

Mr Speaker thank you for the chance and thank you to all the members for the submissions presented in improving our economy and the Budget Statement, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, there you have it, the statement by the Hon Minister of Finance in accordance to the raising matters by the members. Now we hand the floor over to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister of Women): Thank you Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to greet your good self for managing our meeting. I also greet the government and the Parliament of Samoa.

I also greet the Clerk and the staff of the Legislative Assembly who are serving this Parliament in all the scheduled sittings. Greetings to all the Government Heads Public and Private Enterprises filled with the government tasks and responsibilities for the benefit of Samoa. Great job and well done.

I also greet the Le Ao o le Malo and his good lady, the Council of Deputy and your good lady, Samoa in all your divisional significant status.

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I also extend great appreciation to all the clergy in the country for your endless prayers day and night for Samoa's wellbeing. I also greet my constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1. in all your honorific salutations.

Greetings also to Manase and chief Taito and your relatives as well as Tauasa. Mr Speaker, I especially wish to greet the church ministers in my district and their prayers for the welfare of Samoa. Acknowledging in specific Priest Jerry and the Catholic minister and your faletua, SusugaFilipo and your faletua and the congregation in Manase, thank you for your prayers. I feel humbled and confident given your support and pleas.

Mr Speaker, I now move on to the few raising matters by the members. I have noted the six members namely the member for Lefaga and Faleseela, member for Safata West, member for Faasaleleaga No.1, member for Faleata West specially the lady member who is the chairperson of the Finance Committee.

I wish to commence with the member for Lefaga and Faleseela and your word of thanks to the good works and programs by the leader of the Government on the program of woven fine mats and handicrafts by the women. You have pleaded to consider payment for these women committees as already responded to by the Hon Prime Minister whereby the Ministry of Finance has set procedures to follow for these monetary benefits to be handed directly to the alii ma faipule, women committees and such organizations.

The member for Safata has also rendered his thanks for this good initiative. Thank you for your support. The member has also queried the GDP program on district development programme for each village communities and when their district will get a turn. I also take this opportunity to officially publicize that the 17 districts have already had a turn and this undertaking is currently carried out in Upolu and Savaii starting from Falealupo Savaii to the central districts in Savaii and all of Upolu. Such is the plea to all the districts that have not had a turn to heed patience until the budget is approved. The main objective of the *State is to work collaboratively with the village communities.*

The member for Faasalelelaga No.1 spoke about the sui o le nuu or women representatives in the village/district, I wish to note that the Ministry is almost complete with their review of policies and procedures for consistency upon all the villages of Samoa in relation to the appointment of pulenuu, sui tamaitai o nuu and the sui o le Malo as carried out in the past upon the approval of the Cabinet before we take on new requests by the members.

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I also announce that the nuu mavae (traditional villages) must also have a pulenuu and sui tamaitai as set out by the Ministry. That is the insight on this matter because the Ministry has already received complaints on these appointments which are signed documents presented by the villages. The government will only step in when there are issues concerning these representatives and the way they handle things. Whilst I have the chance, let me remind the villages that if you have any complains concerning your representatives, you must submit a written complaint to the Ministry to look into before they call in your respective representatives to look into the filed complaints. Hence the Ministry has no say in the selection/appointment of these representatives which is the village internal affair. That is similar response to the member of Faleata West although I have not yet received your request as discussed, hopefully I will get to it once I have it. The member for Faleata West has also extend his word of thanks pursuant to the GDP program on the district development programme that was undertaken in his district last week. Thank you too for your collaboration in this initiative by the Ministry for the wellbeing of the district. A query on funding assistance for these developments was made and the Ministry is looking at it to ensure that set guidelines for these district and village community development are laid out. For the House's information, these funds are presented to the hosting villages that are contributing to establishing these guidelines. The district of Saleaamua was also given part of this fund as they hosted this program last week. The formal procedure by the Ministry is that these funds is paid or transferred directly to the account of the village or ecclesia for the sake of the Ministry. That is the response.

Lastly the member for Alataua West or the Chairperson of the Finance Committee also queried the same on these development funds. I wish to make clear that the government is seeking funding assistance from partners to finance these programs and requests based on the district developments guidelines. We have the current under takings by the Samoa Women Sharing Development Programme and the Samoa Disability Programme funded by the Australian Government to develop and up skill our local women. We also have the assistance through the partnership between the Australian Government and the Ministry which will officially commence this year 2018/2019 for all funds to be administrated and operated by the Civil Society Support Programme or CSSP to assist further requests. All districts will bear similar eligibility under this funding assistance. The Ministry will work closely with CSSP in this doing and bear assistance to districts such as filling up forms and meet the requirements to ensure that the security of these funds are met in a timely basis.

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Those are all the submissions made upon this Ministry. Thank you for all your comments and we hope that these ongoing programmes will operate well through government's assistance by the Ministry together with the support of village communities. I also heed appreciation to the submitted request by the district of Lefaga and Faleseela and your development, well done thank you.

I have also been advised about the 17 districts that their proposed development plans are nearing completion. The reason for the appreciation is that the district of Lefaga and Faleseela have already contacted the Ministry about their development plan launching next week knowing that they have already distributed letters of requests to businesses and organizations for assistance which is good to speed up their development, well done.

That is the intention of the Ministry, before I take my seat, I wish to thank my Associate Minister for your effort although you reside in Savaii, however that does not trouble you from working alongside me and giving great support to the works of the Ministry although it may sound dismal to the public but this a community based activity as the service we provide is our main focus at large.

Thank you also to the Ministry and staff although we are in shortage but you have done well for the sake of the Government and for the wellbeing of the public. In final I would like to extend great thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance, the head of the Ministry and staff, great work and well done.

I wish to support the Budget Statement before us, thank you for your contribution and efforts and wise spending. May God assist us in our budget allocation for the welfare of Samoa and its people, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, no one has the nerve to interject to the sound speech by the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. I also heed gratitude to the Associate Minister and your collaborating efforts together, well done.

Whatever is done by the Cabinet represents all of us and so is the *collective effort by this Parliament for the sake of our developments*. We can discuss in the House but we must also walk the talk.

We now come to the Minister for Revenue. I respectfully call the Hon Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Revenue): Thank you Mr Speaker, I wish to respond to the queries raised by the notable Parliament.

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I firstly wish to greet your good self, the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and members of the House. I also greet all the Government heads and Samoa listening in.

Mr Speaker we have a total of 11 addressing matters by the members towards the 2 Ministries that are under my supervision. I will start with the Ministry for Revenue. The raising concern on the X-ray at Fagaliuta is the duty of the Civil Aviation under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Forestry.

Thus the Immigration is continuing its duty on finding baggage and those traveling to American Samoa. This domestic airport is mainly used to and fro American Samoa.

The comment about the duration of 4 hours shipping air freight from New Zealand compared to 12 hours clearance by the Immigration Office, well that is the normal procedure by sea which takes 5 days before the manifest is submitted to the Immigration Office. If the import entry finds any difficulty with its imports, then the shipment is hard to clear out.

All imports consignment by air freight should reach the Office 2 days before the aircraft lands here. The Chief Executive's discretion is also applied through a pre-release request for this task to go through. A requirement of 20 days is given for the submission of these entries to the Ministry but if the release is urgent, all the required documents must be submitted to the Ministry.

I extend sincere thanks to the Immigration Office for its endeavors, because if it takes 3 hours to clear out all entries and that import entry must be released by 3 hours which is huge load of work which must be inspected well.

There are additional works engaged by the Immigration such as a new waiting air-conditioned room for the public and business operators to await their imports which had complaint about the heated room they had earlier, nevertheless the new room now has a television which is good improvement.

However, the public is given 3 months to pay off the duties otherwise their entries will be ceased and is put on auction by the Ministry.

Another issue is the problem with revenue collection. I believe it is... Mr Speaker, I pity the staff who are collecting these revenues. There is only way to find transparency in this revenue collection. If you see the 5 years of revenue collection in records, you will find the trend of revenue collection by the Immigration on a yearly basis.

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The first 3 years within this 5 years' period, although we couldn't find the minimum revenue record that the Immigration Office should have obtained, however the yearly surplus is also unobtainable. Seeing the last 5 years' record of revenue collection, we can tell the trend for revenue collection by the Ministry on an annual basis.

According to the Budget Statement 2015/2016, we have a surplus of \$5million appropriations that should have been collected by the Ministry. For 2016/2017, the appropriated funds the Ministry of Finance forecasted for the Ministry of Revenue to collect is \$491million per year. The target achieved by the Ministry for Revenue for the first time was \$501million which is half a billion and a surplus of \$9million.

So far, the total revenue collected by target for this financial year 2017/2018 is now increased from \$491million to \$459.6million within the past 11 months which is 88% of the total amount ending 30th June. Therefore, we have about \$62.2million left of revenue collection to be completed for this month of June. Although the total amount is not yet known until the end of June, the intention of explaining all this is due to comments received on lessening the accountability of the Commissioner and staff that are working day and night, in rain or sunny days and in dirt all for what? In order to find...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: What is it, point of order? Or point of clarification?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Yes Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I don't intend to question the service of the Ministry specifically on revenue collection which the government is relying on for our developments. However, the reason for questioning is based on the Minister's explanation presented in the Budget Statement details as reiterated by the member for Anoamaa East.

If you look at the page 7 in Roman numeral, it shows a breakdown of all this revenue collection. As indicated, the same total for the last financial year is similar to this year's financial year.

Revenue on imported entries is \$505.17million is similar to what's given here. Therefore, by figure, no entry is allowed to enter the country commencing from this month until next year if the consistent number is now given by the Ministry. That is the explanation for now.

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MR SPEAKER: We get you, I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, that is how preparations are done for our Budget Statements. It is based on the figures to guide us and the reality of things. Note that plans and predictions depends on right guess taking the past, it is like the common saying, if you view the future, you will never understand the future not until you view the past. Hence this is based on confirmed figures, that is how the preparation of Budget Statement is all about, we heed confirmed events. We can receive the latest Budget Statement and say that we will earn \$900million in the coming year. Mind you we are speaking of future events which we can predict but we rely and pray God to achieve them. Have you prayed? Do you not hear the common prayers by God's servants, we plan whilst God fulfills everything. This is what happens with people without any calling. By this I mean we are giving records based on things that have happened, we go by the common norm, what has happened will recur.

Hence we must rely on God's grace, nothing happens for no reason and no culprit aims to fill up a form at the Immigration Office because there will always be culprits particularly business operators who are well aware of all the corruptible things they can do. That is reason for bringing in technological machines so that culprits can be caught in this false doing. You being one of them yet you still complain whereas the forms can easily be found if you faxed directly them to the Ministry whilst the ship takes a while to reach us, that is reason why your entry takes longer to reach you similar to the member for the Urban Seat, all of you who are business entrepreneurs must assist other people instead of raising costs for the public to pay. Yet you know the law very well. That is reason why you delay your time to the wharf and reason for the procrastination in these figures due to the assistance rendered by the employees to business operators which is wrongdoing.

Mr Speaker that is the assistance on this raising matter. I see that the member for the Urban Seat is about to up stand when I have already given clarification.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member. That is the clarification for transparency sake as the duty of the Hon Minister especially the Ministry of Police is not an easy one to take day and night. They are performing their best for the Government.

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In saying that, if we are dealing with them in public be considerate upon their work as they are no Indians, they are Samoans who are taking up responsibilities and roles today whilst we can take over tomorrow.

Hence do not mind the Prime Minister's statement as he was attempting to clarify something good which you have raised. I beg indulgence to the member, because if we are to go back then government will take another chance to respond...

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker just something small.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, you are Faumuina and that is not small.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: That should concern me given the question by the member for Salega East.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Go ahead.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: I was talking to the Hon Minister regarding the duty process because fax is no longer used but computers and if the Samoan Air Ways computers has a problem at the airport, then the shipment will be an entire waste. That is the question...

MR SPEAKER: I get it.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker that is the reason why I stood up now that Samoa Air Ways is being blamed. The Samoa Air Ways has just come on board. If Air New Zealand is the problem then why complain... how many hours has it landed, see how long you have spoken, you fly from New Zealand and [go back when someone is still here to clear your entry, never mind it is](#) now known that the problem is the computer. Why waste time then as if the problem is pointing towards the Ministry? It is good to complain fairly and truthfully.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I don't intend to deliberate this issue. In accordance to our Standing Orders, issues of this sort are not allowed to debated in Parliament as our constituencies are tuning in.

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For this matter, the member must note that there are times when the aircraft's power is unfixed. There can be trouble when the EPC will say that a vehicle has hit a post, pardon me.

I call the Minister to continue.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker point of order...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance, I respect your Seat...

Afioga Famuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: The Office of Immigration is responsible for the Office of the Samoa Air Ways as they deal directly with incoming cargos, if there is a problem, there is a process to it.

MR SPEAKER: I beg indulgence, doesn't that...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana DrSailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I wish to remind that the Government has the last saying. If the Samoa Air Ways, then why mention it? If other matters come to hand, the Government must respond, and they have the final say.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I remind all members that reality speaking, the respect you hold in Parliament is in your hands, do not be misled like Parliaments of other countries. You know it if you see in overseas Parliaments, members would almost caught other members in the eye when they argue. Why? Because they do not have a custom. Whereas we do that upholds our country and our Parliament. Hence we must heed as Samoa is bearing their support upon us.

I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Hon Minister thus leave chief Taatiamai to me as the Ministry will have a look into it.

Lest you think the same... that is the norm of Budget Statements and Estimate by the Ministry of Finance, note the proposed budget of \$491 million submitted some previous years back which we sought and found that the mistaken actual amount should have been \$501million which is reality, sometimes the figure is up sometimes it is down.

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I hope the actual current amount being sought is \$521million or \$528million because by addition the increased amount is significant to revenue collected by the Ministry of Finance at the end of this financial year, a raise by \$28million, hopefully this is the correct amount, although it is true as you say that it is \$520million...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, just a bit to a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance Hon Minister, this is the right of members lest I am affected.

Be short with your statement.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: The Hon Minister's statement is very nice to hear if only it was brought forward. Note that your estimates are based on the actual from the previous years. By the looks of the figures here, they are all the same noting a huge difference with the given Objectives. That is the correction.

MR SPEAKER: I get you. Pardon the member, just to note, whatever clarification by the Government is the final guide for all rising matters in Parliament. We all have our own interpretations, even if you have been here 30 years the Government's decision is always final to avoid any prolonging debates in the House. That is the assistance.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalenana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, if the member does not get it I will reword it. This is how far-sighted wisdom in order to achieve our work. Critically in moving ahead, these plans are based on previous events from the past. And if there are additions in our Budget, that is reason for our Appropriations when changing the gears to our motors. That is how it is done. The government has long demanded that we have one Financial Budget Statement. If this is a go from April to June the Budget Statement will remain unchangeable. What will happen? If that is the case we will not go in line with the rest of the world, rather we will operate in our own planet as we cannot predict the future happenings. The current financial statement commences from July to June of next year. If we reach December, January, February and March of next year and a cyclone suddenly occurs, those are the events that are unpredictable and we cannot meet up at that time, hence is the reason for preparing another Budget Appropriation.

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There was one year when we had three Appropriation Statements. That was during my reign as Minister, three Appropriations so that the Government can fall back on whenever necessary.

Since our Independence, no more than 1% of the budget allocation was the constituted portion the Government relied on from the Main Estimate for natural disaster recovery however this was not approved by Parliament. This is reason why this was called disallowed funds. Later on in the years, this 1% was insufficient given the many unpredictable events such as the Tsunami that struck us in September 9th 2009. It is hard to call sudden meetings when emergency cases arise. There are years when we have disasters and we had to call up meetings to make resolutions which we ended up with insufficient funds and had to allot 10% right across the board because we cannot prepare an Appropriation Statement to approve a Budget for a reduction that will rearrange the entire budget allocations bringing all first priority events to make up the emergency cases that are in dire need.

Mr Speaker, that is the assistance and process to this raising matter by the Ministry of Finance based on far-sighted wisdom.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since there are several queries by the members for the Hon Minister of Finance, hence we shall go to a break to find strength. That is the norm of our business pardon the members, bear with me, we shall work hand in hand bearing assistance to seeking better thoughts and opportunities for everyone.

I beg tolerance all, that is the way our business works, we plan and prepare whilst we rely on God's power to fulfill them. Hence may God grant us more funds to achieve our undertakings.

I now ask that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be now suspended for our normal recess until 3.00pm, thank you.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was not set aside at 1.00pm and was resumed at 3.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.

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SPEAKER: I now announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be now resumed.

During our break the Hon Minister of Finance was speaking. I now call upon the Hon Minister to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Revenue): Thank you Honorable Chairperson, we have come back from our break at this hour.

Mr Speaker, most of the clarifications has already been stated by the Hon Prime Minister and in addition to that, I will elaborate on a few more issues for the sake of the Ministry for Revenue. If I am on the correct page of the Budget, page VII in romans numerical, then the total revenue this year is similar to the estimated revenue of the last financial year. A target revenue of \$520million is proposed to be collected commencing from July this year until June next year whilst a total of \$518million is the target revenue accumulated by the end of this month. These numbers are all in estimates. Similar statement can be given to the collected revenue in July of the previous year until May this year at a total of \$495.6 million which are not estimates. The remaining \$60 million is left to be collected by the 1st of June and ending June this year. That is equivalent to 88% in percentage. If \$518 million cannot be accumulated by the end of June, then that depends on how much the Ministry can collect at the time. If by the next financial year the total amount adds up to \$530 million than that is it. This revenue depends on the major projects in the country involving imported supplies by business operations and the duty fees collected by the Ministry for Revenue.

Similar to tax, the Ministry for Revenue invests what we call tax credit into Hotels and business ventures making up \$71.5 million investment this year. From this investment a total of \$34.7 million remains and must be used up by the end of June however, new applications will not be acceptable. Whoever accumulates an investment in these Hotels until the end of June will continue for the next 5 years. If by 2023 these investments remains unfinished, these revenue will be ceased unlike the process that took place in 2001 or 2003 where the enactment of the law gave no specific deadline for such investment. To note, an amendment of 5 years was made in June last year for this investment. Fortunately, we still have 10 more days to go this year and never know we may end up with \$50 million investment thus exceeding the current total of \$34 million. These are public funds which must be refundable as investment for the tourism sector developments.

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This is also the reason for Government initiative in developing the Samoa Airways to collectively secure more revenue for the Tourism sector as one major revenue earnings in the country.

I wish to note a word of thanks to all the clergy who have already registered to pay tax to the Government. During our awareness consultations around the country, we managed to approach 548 Church Ministers. Until yesterday, we had a total of 35 different church denominations that have come under registration. Regardless of our statements and the stupid things we say, at least everyone is making a contribution to our economy commencing from January until June, we have a total collected investment of \$52,242.62 from Church Ministers. Though we had a list of 202 Clergy at least we have confirmed registration of 346. Such is the appreciation to all the Church Ministers for your contribution to the country's economy.

On to the next alarming issue on the prison at Tanumalala. For your sake, this project has been undertaken for quite some time now since 2011 and when I was Associate Minister for Sala, both of us had managed to work on this project since the start. All the side plans for this project were initiated by Sala and myself. During one of my visitation to the site, a new plan was put up as high requirement to avoid culprits from escaping making up a total of three different side plans for this project. This was one of the difficult planning comprised of contours and records by KRAMER. That is the response to that query.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker I have one small question.

MR SPEAKER: Patience until the Hon Minister is done.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker I only wish to make this tiny question.

MR SPEAKER: Why don't you wait until the Minister is through?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Because we have come to the point I wish to stress out.

MR SPEAKER: Since it is your right, go ahead.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: The Hon Minister has responded to the changes and side plans when we know very well that the KRAMER was the layout designer who designed the geo-tech assessment for this land survey. Why wasn't this land plan and re-design made in the first place? That is the reason for our concern because according to your statement, you said that there is evidence to these land survey when you restate that it has been changed when already we have confirmed reports on this.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, your question is well taken.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: This thought is as far as east is from the west. The comment received yesterday did not state any side plans, nothing, do seek evidence on that.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker the side plan is what you are holding whilst I am speaking of master plan because if we had a master plan we would not have any variations which at this stage, it seems that you are deliberately speaking about it as you have done this before.

MR SPEAKER: The member's view is well stated, perhaps the master plan has already been clarified by the Leader of the country. There is hope that we are deliberating again nonetheless at least the member of Salega East has made his point. What's been clarified will stay just to avoid any time waste. Pardon the member, I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, no matter how long we deliberate, the carpenters will also view this as master plan.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker ever since I came into life, no one will follow a plan as soon as its laid out. A plan acts as a guide to a person and during its execution, there will always be changes along the way.

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Even with the development plan that we had, it's more like a guideline that defines each task, not as a permanent plan because a plan is just a design or picture but when it comes to the execution part, this will involve several other things and therefore Mr Speaker, this is far different from sitting behind your desk and drawing up a plan.

So once the implementation process comes to hand, the plan will vary, I have never seen an accurate plan of 100%. Mentally speaking a plan will definitely involve changes. However, things will not go as planned when a cyclone strikes. In the story of the Alexander the Great going into war with Darius, they stood on top of the mountain and looked down. Alexander the Great said to his two Generals, what is our plan of attack? The Generals replied that the 250,000 soldiers of Emperor Darius is one major concern. Alexander inquired his Generals about the number of soldiers they have? The gentlemen replied they only have 37,500. And what is your plan with these 37,500 men in order to defeat the half a million on the other side. The generals responded that the only way to success is by attacking the opposition in the night. Alexander agreed and instructed to feed the 37,500 men before they commence their attack by 6.00 in the morning. He added that no one should interrupt him again as he will now take a nap. Why? That is exactly the plan the Darius army had in mind as they too have scouts which to say that the plan is nothing new. If 37,500 versus 250,000 do not match up then this is the only solution, prepare to attack in the night. In consequence, Alexander declared that Darius will remain alert all the time and all their 37,500 combatants will die. Never mind, make sure you eat up well and sleep well so that by the time we attack in the morning, we will become strong enough whilst they become worn-out. That is the number one solution to any plan including these master plans we are discussing and if these master plans are no good then change is necessary,

Thus instead of attacking in the night, they now use day time because they are now exhausted from staying up all night long and gathering from the so much blood-shed, this war marked history for the Emperor of Persia which altogether commenced the sovereign for Alexander the Great stretching all the way up to the Indian mountain cliffs. Mr Speaker, that is the brief clarification on the interpretation of plan as no plan remains unvaried forever.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, I call the Hon Minister for Revenue.

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Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, however the plans and its layout, the main thing is the budget to execute the project and whether it has variations, the budget set for this project is \$7.4million. This \$7.4million was approved by the Bidding Committee to fund this project.

The Chairperson of the Committee made a statement that 98% of the work has been completed. What is the latest update on this? This project now has a total of \$210,000 from the reserve funds which however did not meet the finance from the tendering process. As for the Warden project, this decision was made by the committee that is overseeing this project and this room has all the wire connections for the entire prison. Furthermore, Hon Sala also agrees that two towers should be set up.

Otherwise, the final decision by the clerk of the work, project manager, engineer and the Committee supervising the project affirmed that it is suitable to build one tower for this Warden Office on higher ground. That is the only new project that has no involvement of the variation from the recent completed job. What more is involved? The main thing to note is that the Cabinet directive did not involve any variation from this \$7.4million which therefore should be able to complete the project appreciating the company that carried it out. We are not used to this doing as we aim to do the right thing. The allocated budget from the last Financial Year Statement to meet the contractors' payment under this project was \$3.8million. The total fund the contractors aimed to receive should add up to \$7.4 million comprising of \$3.8 million from the main budget, \$3.7 million from the end of the year Supplementary Budget totaling up to \$7.5 million compared to the sum price of \$7.4 million for the previous contractor.

The \$1.5 million was received from the first supplementary budget in December for the Administration block and other works that needed completion. This adds up to \$9.4 million in total; \$10 million was the proposed estimate for phase 1 whilst the total cost for building the entire prison project is \$20 million. In total, if the current budget allocation of \$3.5 million is added together this should sum up to \$12 million which unfortunately, will not complete the prison project. Of the \$600,000, \$3.5 million is allocated for the prison construction in Savaii. If the prison in Upolu is well built then so too is Savaii. I extend appreciation to the Minister of the Samoa Lands Corporation for the land lease of 470 acres in Savaii.

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This plot is proposed to build the cafeteria for these three prisons in phase 2 covering the roads, administration block using \$1.5 million whilst the remaining funds will go towards the payment of other services provided by the KRAMER and the OSM. A total of 500 liters of water tank should cater for the entire prison project. There's also going to be a dwelling place for the night watchmen of three in Tanumalala. A resting place for the night watchmen will also be provided given the remote areas they reside. The kitchen area for men and women is yet to be constructed.

A temple and a standby generator of 200 KVA is not yet covered under the budget. Such is the reason for this Supplementary in order for this project to go through. The exterior fence of 5 meter has already been tendered out whilst 4 meters for the concrete and razor wire that surrounds the top will all be evaluated in this tendering process, thus the allocated funds from Japan and the Ministry of Finance from the sales of vehicles from the SIDS Conference summed up to \$1.4 million. That is half the price of the fence whilst the evaluation of the tendering process for this project by the Committee cost up to \$3 million. Therefore, the current evaluation process still requires more funding to complete the fence.

Mr Speaker, I believe that is the clarification for this project with high note that all works we do is for the sustainable development of this country. Appreciation note to all those people involved including the engineer, project manager and the clerk of works for putting together these two projects to save up costs. If we were to find another clerk of works to specialize in projects like this, we will definitely have to look for another \$600,000 or more. Never mind, sincere gratitude to the OSM for accepting our request to implement both projects with the objective of saving up costs and reduce expenditure.

Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai: Mr Speaker just a small clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Minister I call the member for Salega.

Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai: Thank you, if you can recall from yesterday I did acknowledge these contractors and the changes they undertook for this project. As for the clerk of works and the project manager I have thought that we could make good use of our local engineers from the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure whom are paid well by the Government.

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Otherwise, if that is how it's done that no payment is being made to the contractors then that is good. But looking at the statement and the entire changes that covers \$240,000 for the OSM, it amazes me to see all these things by which you never made a mention of during your speech where as you stated that there are no more expenditures. Nevertheless, never mind about these changes. I wish you well on this project.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. Since this side is appointing the Parliamentary Committees to review these laws most importantly the main Estimates and the Supplementary Budget by the Ministry of Finance that is currently under discussion.

I wish to advise that regarding the submissions provided by the witnesses, they should remain confidential. These protected documents and submissions should not be discussed openly inside Parliament as this is confidential information to the Parliamentary Committees alone for their decision in warrant of the CEOs of Government and Public Enterprises and those involved. Therefore, note only the summary report and not the details for the sake of the witnesses, Chairperson and the Committee. That is the reminder, I recognize the Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, well I am confused with the paper I am holding. This \$240,000 is the first payment to the OSM for phase 1 lest the payment which is greater than this amount. But I appreciate the query by the member. This is the same person who made a statement to the OSM and KRAMER that they failed to do this job. How? You were meant to build a prison yet you constructed a hotel instead. Thank you for the challenging words that have motivated the contractors upon this project. That is similar to what I gave to these engineers because this prison project is far different from the proposed project area in Tafaigata that is mud-spattered. We are talking about this \$12million or \$20million project. But in New Zealand, their prison project costs NZ\$40million. In contrast, our prison suits our size. Hence I take this opportunity to convey sincere thanks to the two Ministries namely the Ministry for Revenue for your dedicated task in the rainy and sunny days specifically the Customs and their respective role in clearing the goods and supplies from containers in order to incur revenue for our country. This is evident in the increasing revenue generated on a yearly basis. By whom? It is not because of the Minister nor myself but the Ministry CEO and the staff tasked and assigned to do the work. Well done for the great job.

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To the Ministry of Prison and Corrections, congratulations the work you are doing is very challenging given the 12 hours of your time dealing with the convicts inside the prison and the words they throw at you, your hearts are full of courage. Whatever we come across I believe this country is a nation of counseling and no complains which derives from our upbringing and the lessons taught by our parents. Perseverance, I heed a word of gratitude to the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and staff of Tafaiata, Oloamanu and Vaiaata, well done. To the clerk of works for overseeing the project at Tanumalala, I wish you well with stage two of the project and please note that we aim to launch that part of the project by December. This new prison aims to be relocated to this new location by December of this year including the one in Savaii. What's good in Upolu should also be the same for Savaii.

On that note Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge everyone for your comments and support upon this Ministry including your good self Mr Speaker for managing our Sittings. Also special thanks to the Hon Prime Minister, fellow Ministers and Associate Ministers specifically the two respective Associate Ministers for your perseverance in the many tasks I delegated upon you to achieve on the motive that you did it with courage and pleasure.

To the dignified House and the Government Heads and my beloved district of Vaa o Fonoti from far away, thank you for all your support upon me. Have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for Revenue, we now come to the Hon Minister of the Ministry for Forestry and Fisheries. Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon LOPAO NATANIELU MUA (Minister of Forestry and Fisheries): I wish to first of all greet the Honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Honorable Associate Ministers. I also greet the other Side of the Chamber specifically the Honorable Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons for the various Parliamentary Committees. Greetings to you all.

Unforgettably the support of the Le Ao o le Malo and Masiofo, Greetings to the Chief Justice and the Judiciary as well as the Church Clergy in Samoa for teaching the good news.

Greetings to all the Spiritual Leaders in Samoa for your support and prayers. I also greet the lovely Clerk of the Legislative Assembly Sefuiva and staff. Greetings to all the Government CEOs and the Civil Society who are present before us today, let us carry on with joy.

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I wish to start off with Pau's query who is the only person I wish to mention and I wish to say that I do not like interruptions as I too remained silent during your speeches. In the astonishing words of Pau that we must be like the Chinese we come in the morning with our bottles and genuflect from morning 'til night. For me alone, I enquired the Chief Executive Officer if he had seen anything like this? He said no. Then we conducted our investigation, you see Pau, when you see the Samoa Airways take off and by the time it comes to landing and you see the plane tires again say in Auckland, therefore in relation to the Chinese when he kneels, once the plane lands with tires it is the same with the Chinese who is drinking his bottle and sits on the tires lest you think and wonder that the Chinese is kneeling when not, he is sitting on tires. That is the response as there is no such thing in Samoa, so beware and do not ask me again.

To the notable Parliament, I wish to note a word of thanks to the farmers and the livestock owners who are specifically the suppliers for our exports overseas considering the increase production supply we have in the country.

Afioga Pau Sefo Taumata Pau (Faasaleleaga No.2): Mr Speaker, please a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me let the Minister conclude. Or whilst he is on that point?

Afioga Pau Sefo Taumata Pau: Yes your honor lest he moves on. The reason for stating the example so that the Hon Minister works accordingly. Now that the advice is given yet he went alone and investigates...why go all the way to the airport when we have it here in the town area. Therefore, beware that you must investigate well. Why go to the airport where planes are filled when farms are what I am after. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I get you.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you. The spirit is to give great appreciation to our export suppliers who are working closely and alongside our local farmers. Truthfully, given the received reports on our export supply, they have increased significantly particularly taro, copra and essential oils that are in small quantities. The Samoa Scientific Research team is also spending more time testing and assessing all this.

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I also convey sincerest appreciation to some of our largest exporters in the country namely the Ah Liki Investments, Women in Business, the Pacific Oil, Coconut Clusters Percival and the for their huge contribution given the statistics. I received last week in preparation for this Budget because speaking from my past farming experience, I can assure you that a farmer has more tasks then a drain digger that is working on the roadside area.

That is the reason for appreciating the farmers because many times we would visit them and found the difficult task they are engaged in. Our taro supply is also good although there were times during the year that some problems were encountered due to the drop in this supply.

As queried by one of the members for Safata, I have the statistics on a total of \$16,000 being spent by one of the exporters amongst three of the villages in my constituency within a month. This is quite high when the number of supply is dropping given the short in crop supplies being planted by those in the plantations. Currently there are 102 containers exported by Ah Liki. About 20 of those containers are frozen taro including other containers prepared and supplied by one of the farmers and a Chinese man residing in Savaii. Therefore, we have exported a total of 130 plus containers of taro. There is plan that we should be able to export up to 150 containers of taro supply. One of the reasons for this significant rise in our taro export is because Fiji has just been struck by a cyclone and even though Fiji has the best taro, nevertheless, let me challenge you to inform all your families and relatives living in New Zealand, Australia, America and Hawaii not to taste our taro by mouth but by heart. If you taste it by heart, they will think that this taro is from Samoa and originates from the villages of Fusi, Safata, Aleipata or even Asau.

Given the strong taste of the Niuen taro that Fiji now have, that is the reason for their success, nonetheless, that is the message for you and your relatives abroad including our Methodist church members who always supports Government initiatives and developments that they ought to be reminded to get and buy the taro from Samoa.

Our Ministry and the Scientific Research team is also endeavoring to produce other local items using taro such as chips and whiskey. Although there are challenges but I have courage and so as the Ministry that the outcome will be positive, we will get the interior side of the taro to substitute the potato chips.

I also could not agree more with the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development on the recommendation to increase the quantity of taro seeds from 1000 to 2000 by monthly basis for 12 months. I have observed this initiative whereby some villages are supporting it whilst others are not.

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The cost for a sack of taro used to be \$40 for 22 kg is gone up now to \$50 or \$60.00. This is a good price. Thus 2000 tiapula will cost \$3000. This is no kidding based on the current prices. Therefore, if this is the amount received per month, then I don't think a farmer will want to go to New Zealand.

This is the reason for supporting frequent trips to the farming areas considering the increase of taro seeds from 1000 per month to 2000 given the competitive markets that are now available like Australia. Thus the investigation of the Australian taro by the Samoa Scientific Research of this yellow leaf virus is almost complete and given that only the frozen taro supplies are shipped to Australia, however the main thing our people would prepare to receive is the fresh taro instead of the frozen ones. At least our frozen taro is now competing with the Fijian fresh taro in Australia.

As for our coconut plantations this is problematic these days due to the rhinoceros beetle. I also wish to make known that the Cabinet has approved to distribute 100 chainsaws to some of the villages that we have visited particularly the villages where coconut trees have been highly affected by this rhinoceros beetle. For the sake of the affected villages this program is also on television with the aim to minimize this parasite by destroying it.

As for the chainsaws, we will have our crew coming around and assist you with further assistance by the government to minimize this parasite and to protect our coconuts from the yellow leaf that is found in Papua New Guinea and other Pacific island nations.

Some of the products produced from the coconuts are organic products by the Women in Business and the Pacific Oil which are widely used internationally. This product is now being regulated under the collaborating efforts of the Attorney General Office and the Ministry of Agriculture for our organic markets and farmers. It is vital to take this process in order to maintain our country's reputation and recognition on the various agricultural products available here without the containment of any chemicals.

One of the huge customers in the country that uses this organic virgin oil product is the Body Shop in Britain through the Women in Business.

Going back to taro, the Ministry is working on why we are being affected by the virus called the TVCV or the Taro Vein Chlorosis Virus and the preliminary findings by the Chief Executive Officer who is a Soil Expert in collaboration with the Samoa Scientific Research Office on the results that could draw from one of the chemicals we are using, otherwise, we will discharge the outcome sometimes in the future.

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It is best to look deeply into the chemicals used as some are meant specifically for gardens whilst some are for agriculture products.

On to our breadfruit, we have managed to produce the Gluten Free Flour and was not aware that there is a high demand for supplies of 10 tanks of flour by one of the Japanese men however the concern is the limited machines we have in producing flour. We hope to get a positive response from the Hon Minister of Finance on some funding assistance in order to get more machines to assist us with the making of this product using breadfruit.

Some Members have spoken about our livestock and realistically speaking, we have two mobile slaughters that are currently in operation hence this is not a problem. We also have our slaughtered mobiles for Apia for those who need it urgently. One of the projects under SACEP has it that a permanent Static Slaughter Unit in Nuu will be built for the slaughtered animals.

This is also the reason for the commencement of negotiations with Tutuila to recognize our slaughtered livestock that we have in abundance whilst a new regulation is in place to minimize the use of cattle for *faalavelave*. This is to save up cattle in the local markets as otherwise known by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank as Import Substitution and to cater for the participants of the upcoming South Pacific Games next year including the participants comprising of 200 to 300 members per conference of three by which one of them includes the Ministry of Agriculture. This is why we are saving up these cattle in order to generate more revenue earning for our local farmers and reason for holding talks with the SPC and the Head of the Ministry of Agriculture in Fiji.

In truth, we have high demand however it is unfortunate that we lack funding. We also have what I call SACEP 2 to finance more projects such as this.

We also have the IFAD or the International Finance Agriculture Development to assist our farmers and our Ministry of Agriculture including the sheep and calves in Togitogiga and gathering from our latest visit, the number of livestock have increased. Reports on the nonu clearly states that the company overseeing this has a total of 80 tonne of export per month. The aim is to export 200 tonne per month however land is limited.

We have also spoken with Afioga Lautafi on a land to build this factory. That is the message to districts like Safata for these companies to come and collect and consume the nonu. Once negotiations with the Samoa Land Corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture starts, then this new factory must be in place in order to house these nonu.

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Hence already we have the trainer, the house project and tunnel houses which have already been set up in the country. A request has already been made to increase 100 tunnel houses.

Truthfully, this is no easy doing we started off with the disadvantaged people and once the water bill was received, it went up to \$300, \$400, \$500 and more began to give up, nevertheless it is confirmed that this job can be done. This is not for everyone, but...

MR SPEAKER: I call the... never mind I see that you have a thick book there which means to say that you repeat the same old submissions addressed by the former speaking Members but let me assist you that this is a collective effort.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: I only wish to voice the issues that were put forward, not by their names because if I were to pinpoint their names then we will have an endless debate.

MR SPEAKER: Alright because I am also prioritizing the comments they reiterated. The Ministers are not the only once keeping a record of these comments. And by observation, we have a huge number of raising concerns. But do draw closer on that addressing matter.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: The last two matters are cocoa which is easy to make. You pick the ripe one out, cover it with dust and then plant it. Do not wait for the Ministry as they too are doing the same.

On to one of the raising matters regarding the US\$862,600 received from the Ministry of Finance through the Forum Fisheries Agency which is equivalent to \$2million+ when converted into Samoan tala. I guess this query is made given the fact that it was submitted by our Ministry to the Committee of Finance. It should come through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In reality some of our staff are working by monthly basis under the FFA in compiling the compliance and regulations for FFA. This is the reason why this fund should have come under the income of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. That is the short response to this, funding received from the Forum Fisheries Association is our share for the American use of our high seas. Thus we will have confirmed negotiations with the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry of Finance but just to note this funding has been put into good use given the many tasks we are executing within the Ministry.

I believe that is all, oh we have the ramp at Siumu and Poutasi...

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, just one more thing to elaborate.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister, I call the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Now that is clear hence the funds I stated is \$212million received each year. The main reason I raised this is because it is not covered in the revenue incurred by the Government on a yearly basis? And how is this funding used, respectfully.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Tofa Hon LOPA00 NATANIELU MUA: Thank you, we have included this in this year's budget but all executions should commence now. However, the Ministry of Finance implied to remove it as such were the negotiations we had before nevertheless, it is best that we negotiate with the Ministry of Finance before we come up with the final answer. Lest we talk of something that has not yet been decided.

For the ramps in Siumu and Poutasi we already have provisions under the Project Development Fund of FFA. I am unsure as to the cause of delay, but probably because the CEO of the Ministry of Agriculture is not well.

Since no one has raised this, we also have a new fishing boat that is in the pipeline, we will have a look at the design once everything is set.

I take this hour to extend a note of appreciation to all the notable members who have commented on the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as well as the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa. I also convey sincerest thanks to the Ministry for their support. Sometimes I am amazed at how you do not give up on the Minister. Thank you for your perseverance. Thank you also to the CEO, Management and staff of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my dear district of Vaisigano No.1 for your support. Toil without support will never become successful. However, the reason for a job well done and the will of God is because of your prayers.

I also take this time to thank the villages of Asau and Auala. We had two jobs tasked by the young men of the village in cleaning the Government land in Masamasa without payment. Thank you all as the aim for that cleaning space is to produce a surrounding fence for calves. With the 600 acre of government land the aim is to fence up sheep, calves and to build up a nursery.

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In the words of Kennedy, ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country. That is the main motive behind our thoughts and comments thank you.

I also heed great thanks to the President of the Methodist church. As one of the permanent members of the Committee for our church, I convey best wishes to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the College of Piula. Have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I first of all greet the dignified Parliament, Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Associate Ministers and the various Members of Parliament. Greetings to all Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, Clerk of the House and staff, I also greet Samoa from high mountains to the least, particularly the Church Servants of God who are pleading for the wellbeing of Samoa and its Parliament.

I specifically wish to greet the district of the Urban Constituency East in all its significant and divisional status.

Mr Speaker, before I respond to the submissions raised by Members, I first and foremost extend a word of thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Chief Executive Officer and the staff for the hard work in preparation of the Main Budget Statement 2018/2019 beforehand.

On the same note, I convey sincerest appreciation to the Committee of Finance and Revenue and all the members of this Committee for your detailed Report and review of the Main Budget Statement 2018/2019.

This Report states significant recommendations that the Ministries and Corporations will have to look into it in detail moving forward. I heed the essentiality of your recommendation under the Ministry of Works, [Transport and Infrastructure for the State to look at more avenues in order to amend the Legislation for the Land and Transport Authority](#) and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. That is, to transfer the Regulatory Function from the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to gain the independence as well as the balance and check for the terms of reference performed by the Land and Transport Authority.

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The question that comes to mind Mr Speaker is whether it is appropriate for one to check and approve its own work? In response, there is always doubt to the integrity and the transparency for that particular assessment unless there is an independent opinion for that matter.

I believe that it is about time for this amendment to take place given the piled up complaints from the public regarding the problematic execution of public roads by Contractors under the Land and Transport Authority.

Mr Speaker, most of the Members' submissions given were words of thanks and appreciation followed by complaints to the Government. We accept both recommendations and complaints. But in the words of the Prime Minister, this Government is a working Government but we do not sit and rock. Hence whatever complaints specified, the Cabinet will look into for improvement. With the many requests received regarding unpaved roads and tourist pathway which is new but that is alright. The Ministry will seek the exact pathway for tourists as this is vital for our tourism industry and visitors from abroad.

If only we have sufficient finance in our Budget Statement we would have fulfilled all the requests put forward by Members more specifically the roads. The Land and Transport Authority is trying its best to distribute its funding wisely to cater for as many unpaved roads as possible given this Budget Statement 2018/2019. Government has a priority list. For the requests we have received, we will conduct site visits and we will go further towards the plantation areas, if we find that there are no plantations, I am sorry to say that your requests will come under the requests of those who are putting up more developments to assist our economy particularly in assistance to our local production supply for our exports.

Truthfully speaking Mr Speaker, we have three more years to go for this term and the main objective is to extend and ensure that all unpaved roads are completed before the end of this Parliamentary term. Mr Speaker, we had launched some of the unpaved roads at a total of 10 for both Upolu and Savaii. Total unpaved roads were 12 hence we have two more in Upolu for the roads of Aleisa East and Toamua that is yet to be completed. During the launching of one of the roads in Savaii, one Minister stated that the roads have been well built however, it is now becoming a racing track for some. This is to remind you all that these roads were not built for car racing rather they were built for better access towards the plantations and other developments on the inner parts of the village.

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On to the submission for Planning and Urban Management Agency or PUMA under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Government's plan on whether it is suitable to transfer PUMA back to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. The reason being is the delay in the process of granting the Development Consent (DC) and the issuing of permits by the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for new house building for the public.

Mr Speaker, we had a request from one business operator from American Samoa in regards to getting a permit for their new beach resort at Falelatai to go through. We visited them and they affirmed that they are yet to receive a business permit from the Ministry of Works, I then called up the building section of the Ministry of Works and asked as to what is causing the delay, they responded that they are awaiting the development consent (DC) from the PUMA Office. I contacted the PUMA office and they replied that the Committee is yet to meet and review these requests before the development consent is approved. Obviously, the PUMA office has several processes to go through in regards to legislations for the environment and for boundary protection. Importantly, these raising concerns from the public and Members ought to be dealt with and looked into thoroughly by the State.

One Member requested street lights for its district, let me remind you to take up the formal procedure such as a written request to the Electric Power Corporation or the EPC for them to prepare a supporting document to the Committee of the Community Service Obligations or CSO for their review and approval.

I see that the member who presented this query about the Water Authority and reason why their village is not getting anymore drinking water is not present. I will otherwise explain this for the sake of his village tuning in. Mr Speaker this task by the Water Authority for the village of Samata back in December 2017 was to lay out four sub-mains in order to improve/restore consumable water for the village. The households who are yet to install new pipelines will have to pay up their arrears first to the Water Authority. For the information of the querying Member, the machines that came for the job were removed because we had to use them for other projects. But once all these arrears are cleared then the machines will return to fix the drinking water for your village.

The member for Gagaifomauga No.3 raised a concern on drinking water portion they get every now and then. For the sake of the member the drinking water is connected from the water pump of Letui and the cost to operate this water pump is \$88,800 per annum. The total amount of collected bills per annum is \$45,600 and therefore this is why a drinking water schedule is set for your district.

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Hence the time schedule for drinking water begins at 4am to 9.00am and reconnects from 2.00pm to 7.00pm. That is a total of 10 hours altogether but as reminder try and save up as more drinking water given the limited water we have so that water connection prolongs. Otherwise if water is not switched off properly then it will be burned.

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister of Works in regards to the Members' submissions, I apologize, you will resume upon our return you shall resume your speech.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was suspended at 4.43pm and resumed at 5.39pm.

Deliberations over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 resumed.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now resumed, during our break the Hon Minister of Works was speaking. I believe we have been rejuvenated from our break in order to proceed with our work. With respect I call the Hon Minister of Works to carry on.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker, I take it that new energy has been restored for everyone during the break for our work to resume this evening.

Mr Speaker I have one more submission from the member for Gagaemauga No.3 who is not here. He queried the Samoa Shipping Corporation and the trolley which is probably the trolley that is no longer shifted within the MV Lady Samoa 3. In response this service is still carried out only or unless the weather is bad then this service is put on hold.

Secondly, can the Corporation look into changing fees for confirmed bookings for traveling vehicles. In reply, the Corporation is looking at the terms and conditions for the rescheduling of pricing for changing fees to confirmed bookings. These changes will be effective next month.

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Mr Speaker I believe that is all, but all works including public roads and new roads over the river and streams, seawall areas and various submissions presented through your speeches have now been noted down. Hence lend me your faith as we proceed for these three year term on the motive that we will try to complete all unpaved roads for all districts. But as highlighted earlier, the main thing to consider and make a note of is that you must have plantations on the inner parts of the village because there is no use of building accessible roads when car racing is all there is to it. In conclusion I wish to finish off with a small fairy tale that perhaps the Parliament members who have just joined us can benefit from.

For the sake of Nafotoa who knows it well too, I have been a Parliamentarian for four terms now that is 17 years altogether. In one of those terms, I was a former Minister in fact, the moral of the story I am trying to relay is that for the past three terms, I have never had any roads or unpaved roads fixed. This is the message to you because I trust that I will return in the General Elections given my closeness and doing the wishes of the district. Roads are only a service of the public for everyone because we will not win by building access roads neither inner roads. That is my own belief because our people are very understanding. They know that the money allotted to build roads is theirs through taxation which is why the Minister for Revenue is striving to seek more taxes to build more roads. But that is my own personal experience given the four years of service and success I have had, I assure you it did not come by developing access roads. It came through working closely with the district. I did a survey on some of the running candidates and found statements from some of the constituents that these successful members never got back to them after the elections. Lastly your honor I wish to note a word of thanks to the Associate Ministers as one member accorded yesterday that the Associate Ministers are only mocking around in government vehicles and are not doing any job. This is not true because my Associate Minister is always engaged with meetings and as a Committee Advisor **he is always occupied and that we meet with all our Sector Heads on a monthly basis.** When I am in Savaii, my Associate Minister takes over and attends all the meetings on my behalf so again this Associate Minister of mine is a busy man with a busy schedule. Last but not the least I thank all the Corporations, Ministries and Public Enterprises and everyone under my supervision, well done as the work we do is not easy, everything is prepared commencing from our Budget, proposed projects and tasks and again, we must reconvene next week to draft a program in regards to the various work we do for Parliament. Thank you to all the respective people under my supervision.

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Mr Speaker, may God grant you blessings to manage our Sittings in this House. Same with the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers and that Side of the Chamber. This includes all Government Ministries and Public Enterprises in our presence. With respect, have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, I wish not to comment on the wonderful speech by the Hon Minister of Works. Well done. Thank you also to the Associate Minister or the member for Sagala le Usoga as your Minister has conveyed his thanks, that is the spirit, work alongside each other to push the Ministry. That is no secret in the eyes of God, your work is all for the benefit of Samoa.

Then we come to the Hon Minister of Tourism, Afioga Sala, I call you for your speech.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI (Minister of Tourism): Thank you Honorable Speaker, greetings Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister most specially the Leader of the House or the Speaker. To all the dignified members of the House, we were not called to come and relax as the Prime Minister states, this is a collective effort by all hence we work according to the need of our constituencies who voted us in. We have just heard the story of the Hon Minister confirming his four terms in Parliament without having to deal with any road fix. I can add that we are in the same boat. This is my second term and 12 years in Parliament for the district of Patamea and Samalaeulu in Savaii. The reason for saying this is because I haven't a chance to build any roads since I started in Parliament in 2006. This is to say because the cake we have is not easy to divide. From a Minister's perspective, I cannot say that I will go first, I have done 5 years and the only thing I hear is whispers of help from the constituents on debts that the representative owes them. That is fruit you bear for discarding the constituency hence there is also belief that the representative is a liar. For the constituents tuning in, we distribute wisely according to the means we have available. We need your support in order for us to carry a light burden.

I move on to my fellow members from Falealili, I salute you for your good works. God is watching us and the works you do, why? The Minister has given his word, wellbeing will be sought for everyone. I have here this paper which affirms our talks with the Ministry of Works and the Land and Transport Authority regarding funding assistance for road improvement and once the budget allocation is confirmed then it is a go.

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Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Falealili.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Thank you Hon Minister for your wonderful speech, the paper you hold does not specify anything about fixing roads for Falealili, the paper he holds must have something else written on, respectfully.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, plans have already been in place and perhaps the member is not getting it.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Thank you, no I do not lie to you if \$400million is revenue earning generated from Tourism sector, then why work extra hard to bring in more tourists and say I wish to be from Falealili.

As for my fellow colleague Tafua, there is nothing you request that I have not done. Do you recall when I was with the Police and I did everything you wanted. In regards to garden toilets and sanitation projects funded by the European Union well again that is a collective effort for our visiting neighbors from abroad, we must stand together to protect and keep Samoa clean.

In regards to Gatoloai's statement, it is true that the Cabinet's work is a collective one, what does this mean? The main objective by the Cabinet is to take the Miss Samoa to Savaii. Why? Because Savaii has the saying that says anything is possible. That is the spirit as what is good in Apia and Upolu should also be good for Savaii.

Mr Speaker that is all from the man of Leauvaa may God bless you, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet. May blessings be upon everyone too and bear in mind love and mercy when you do anything. People stand by the Government and not the other way around and everything is fixed on good governance. If anything goes wrong you must report it to the Cabinet to find justice and integrity as this is our sole responsibility by doing what's best for Samoa through support. Have a blessed one, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you Hon Minister of Tourism and other Ministries under your supervision. We now come to the Hon Minister of Health, I call upon the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): I wish to thank everyone for your comments and questions on the intention that we are working collectively for the sake of everyone provided the services that we offer through the Ministry of Health. The Ministry through its staff aspires to do its best by providing the best service possible with the plea that we rely solely on the power of God upon the sick both physically and mentally.

Of the 12 submissions I received, I feel that this 12 all points towards one thing and therefore the response will be short. I know the majority were querying the service and the need for general practitioners in the district health centers, which means that the main thing the Ministry is after is the merging of the two Services for your demand to be fulfilled.

Such is the proposal being submitted to the Committee undertaking this review and in regards to the various diseases that is affecting the Pacific nations including Samoa. As such, this is the only solution by taking the service back close to the districts where the sick live nearby. This is evidence of our meeting with the World Bank in the start and end of this year. The World Bank sought to find ways as to how finance assistance could reach us through the health sector. Their objective was in line with ours on taking the service back to the rural districts in order to cater for the primary health care at the early stage because although so much money is spent on this service and emergency cases operations, sadly enough most of these cases do not make it and neither is the delay in receipt of equipments to proceed the operation. In consequence it is necessary to take the service near the sick before it gets worse, and given the cases for dialysis patients that have grown rapidly, we have 109 now for both Upolu and Savaii. The cost for one dialysis patient is \$1,000. Government is compensating greatly to this amount.

With the increasing result to this concern, most of this funding will go towards this service. The Ministry is also looking at ways to minimize this disorder although the main cause derives from diabetes and high blood pressure. The end results for diabetes patients, first it can lead to blindness, secondly, it can affect kidneys and thirdly there is a need for more wheel chairs as majority of these patients have lost their legs. In reports from Fiji we read in the previous week, three patients are operated on either removing one or both legs at a time. For us, fake or artificial body parties are now available for these kinds of patients. Majority of the patients are also filling up the eye clinics with some traveling to New Zealand to seek eye medical treatment.

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With ongoing set plans, there is hope to increase the amount of doctors for the district health centers. However, before we do that, talks with the World Bank has it that we will focus on improving the health service facilities first for the staff to work in on a 24 hourly basis. That is the overall summary for our health service facilities in the district areas.

Secondly, some have raised concerns on vehicles stationed in Sataua rather they reach Saasaai to fill up their tank. During our visitation in 2015, we instructed these people not to use the gas stations in Salelologa or Saasaai but the one in Asau which is the case since 2015. However due to the merging of services that we have now, all accounts have now been transferred to the Finance section who do not allow prepaid petrol which is why this vehicle had gone back to Saasaai. Only two weeks is permitted for this vehicle to be in debt otherwise either they are demanded to pay up or no more additional debts. All three health centers in Savaii each has vehicles, three ambulances, two in Tuasivi and one in Sataua. Staff using personal vehicles instead of the Ministry's vehicle is the decision done on the freewill of the staff themselves.

With patients' discharging fees this is one alarming issue that is not new. I also see in the report of the Committee of Finance and Revenue on page 63 which says that the finance staff will go together with the doctors during their visit to see the patients and find that if they are discharged they are given an invoice of the amount they need to pay. I for one did not agree with this doing, if there are five sections in the hospital all five will be visited tomorrow. Never mind there will be a more appropriate process to doing this. But thank you for raising this management issue and we will seek a solution to this problem.

Some have raised Boom Vodka which is common spirit throughout the country, if I were to visit the rural areas there is always an advertisement on Boom Vodka. For everyone's interest, starting in January of next year, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Revenue has set plans to stop the selling of this spirit that is over 500 milliliters in a bottle that anyone can purchase including little kids.

Never mind at least the decision by the Liquor Board disallows the selling of this spirit below 500 milliliters. The allowed content for buyers alone should be equal or less than 40%. However the allegations received says that these spirits contains the ingredient of a cleaning spirit that requires appropriate investigations.

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Personally the Liquor Board has met with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Revenue to present a sample of this spirit to the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa or SROS for a legal exercise to investigate what exact ingredients are contained in it in order to obtain confirmed results. Otherwise, this could be misleading information provided by the public.

In belief, any new spirits has to be regulated under the Liquor Act or registered under spirit drinks and ingredients must be provided. For instance the local whiskey that is produced from our taro hence any spirit should come with a prescription ingredient contained in the whiskey or vodka spirit.

As for the procurement process of drugs and entries of medical supplies, our Audit Sub Committee to our Transitional Board is looking into it. I did request a meeting with the external audit of procurement of these pharmacy supplies and the external audit is yet to get back to me with their report on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: I wish to assist the Hon Minister of Health, no the matters ought to be clarified still but yes do keep it brief, you have stated the objectives and procedures of the Ministry but that is the reminder, our duty is to clarify for the sake of the public and members, I call the member.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I am through, just a few more things, at least, this is the boss that is talking, hence we must all abide the Speaker, in conclusion, to the women's groups (KomitiTumama), this is one area that is strengthened.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: Mr Speaker, I speak of received reports from overseas, I can get the person who did this supply but never mind at least investigations is now carried out. That is the information collected from overseas; this spirit is not for consumption but for cleaning, respectfully.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Palauli East, pardon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Tuifaasisina Misa Lisati Leleisiuao Palemene (Palauli East): I wish to remind the Hon Minister about the raising matter on food in Motootua and the district hospital in Tuasivi. What is the procedure there, thank you.

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Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I am not done with my presentation because of your interruptions, this includes the matter raised by the gentleman behind you. On to the matter raised by the member for Gagaifo....

MR SPEAKER: The Ministry of Health also has a chief title..its there

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I am getting to the point where one of you should be knocked down.

To the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, yes thank you for assisting us perhaps that will help a lot with the ongoing investigations we have now, but you should have brought that up when you had your turn yesterday. I wish to talk about our Women's Groups (Komiti Tumama) and our Advisory Committees whom have already discussed the aim of reviving these Groups for both Upolu and Savaii in order to greatly support the health care for our people. And may I remind all Parliamentarians that collectively speaking, all districts must have a Women's Group or *Komiti Tumama* for effective health delivery outcomes and improved health care services moving forward.

Mr Speaker, I conclude with the impatient gentleman and his concern on food for the Health Centers in Savaii.

Tofa Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili (Aana Alofi No.2): Mr Speaker, may I?

MR SPEAKER: Go ahead, I appease the Hon Minister, go on member for Aana No.2.

Tofa Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili: Thank you, I see that the Minister is about to conclude when he has forgotten about me and my raising concern of the Leulumoega district hospital.

MR SPEAKER: He will now conclude.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Leulumoega has already been covered in my previous response on all health clinic services in the country. It has not been long since Leulumoega has gotten new tiles set for all wards. During our recent visit, new bed supplies were seen in addition to the bathrooms tiles.

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A new doctor is also working their full time hence Leulumoega has not been forgotten. Although we have had set plans for Faleolo, nonetheless, the Government is trying its best for the inadequate space in Leulumoega given the many requirements and proposed plans, but do note that we are not leaving Leulumoega out.

On to patients in Tuasivi under privilege life, the flat fee of \$15 is a huge assistance that can be extended for two weeks or even a month. Now on to food, for breakfast menu of say, bacon, egg, toast, butter jam, peanut butter, porridge, coffee, sugar and milk, if the total cost is added, who then should be responsible for it? As of now, a patient prefers the food from home that costs no more than \$10tala. If the patients in Savaii were to accept the hospital food, other than the flat fee, this means that they will have to pay \$50 in the morning, \$50 in the afternoon, \$50 in the evening excluding the fruits which costs up to \$25. By the end of the day, the total cost will sum up to \$100 tala. But if that is the case, then do not make anymore complaints, because at the moment we do not have any kitchens neither cooks but we will talk with the caterer who are professional chefs and therefore expect a higher price than this. Starting next week, the caterer will be prepared to cook all this, but do note that this comes with a warning to your patients that they ought to start making applications to New Zealand to send over some money to pay for their food.

The Ministry is more than able to meet all requirements including appropriate food for the patients. But if that is your demand, then so be it.

Mr Speaker, I extend great thanks to the district of Aana Alofi No.1. God bless your Mr Speaker and this Parliament. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you for the clarification Hon Minister of Health. Then we come to the Minister of Public Enterprises and the various corporations under your supervision.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Mr Speaker. Before I go on, I first of all greet the notable House.

I rise on the six comments that will briefly have its responses in as short as possible. My office will always be open if you are not satisfied with what I am to give you.

One of you mentioned Government's support towards the private sector. Clearly our government is working closely with the private sector. Why? Because the contribution we get from the private sector aims to drive our economic development forward. As you may know, the export award was held last week and the government gave its full support on the objective to push our local export supply.

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Government has donated a total of \$200,000 to all the prize getters for this particular award in assistance to their businesses. The Government also offered an assistance of \$450,000 to the small business ventures including tax credit, duty concessions etc. Government's main objective is to develop the private sector to boost our economic development.

One queried if we have public lands available to develop our commercial farming. Public lands are insufficient especially public lands under the Samoa Land Corporation SLC and if lands are not developed they will be confiscated from the property owner. Cases of this sort have violated the contracts where the Samoa Land Corporation is not permitted to remove the lands from the owner. Nonetheless the legal officer for the Samoa Land Corporation is working on a remedy to this matter. But all landowners are well aware of this policy, use it or lose it. The same goes with new lands. I guess the same application can apply with the concerning member but do submit your request and never know you might get lucky.

On to apprentice scheme which is another one of the State's assistance to the private sector, the aim is to push the public servants in collaboration with the National University of Samoa to upgrade and develop their knowledge and skills at work. The review for the curriculum is carried out between the National University of Samoa and the Samoa Qualification Authority in order to raise the standard of knowledge and skills for the apprentice scheme and in comparable to the low standard of knowledge/skills of other countries. There is also review to add two more trade skills to the listed seven as noted by one member. Notably these additional skills will cover auto electronics, radio and panel fitting considering nowadays most electronics now operate on electricity. These two additional trades rely on the provider and the current undertaken review, the theory side of the scheme and the curriculum at the National University on whether it is fitting to perform them. Such is reason for these additional two.

For now the main focus for this apprentice scheme are the most common ones we use in order to get enough trades people opportunely, this should not avoid any further additions.

Others raised concern on safety at work which links to this apprentice scheme however time will come for that. To note, the university's curriculum is all about theory but when it comes to the practical side of things, this is where the Ministry of Labor comes in concerning safety at work or occupational health safety.

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Safety at work is vitally important within the workplace. Possibly this directs to one of the member's statement through the instructions by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor that all gas stations should have a forklift which is untrue, this information is false. But if that is the case, then perhaps this is why we have the transportation of the two-tire 44 gallon for the safety of workers. That is all part of labor safety standards the State should consider. These heavy gallons should no longer be used as we are heading towards the advanced world. Moving on to the Member for Vaimauga and his submission on selling public lands which also applies to other districts like Faleata. Many constituents have resided on customary land that belongs to the Government and now that the Government is getting back to it, there appears to be some conflict. Majority have approached the Government on their own freewill for land sales however this does not go well with the village concerns. Although the asking price is \$8000, however the actual price for a quarter acre is \$35,000 tala. This applies to all other lands under Government policy and procedure.

That is the response to the asking member but do come to my office for more clarification because you are asking about the different kinds of land and its values such as the Fagalii water catchment area which is no residential area as the main intention of Government for that particular land is not to cut down trees. But do come see me or the Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Land and specify the lands you are after. There is a family that resides near the Fagalii airport which is very risky. For safety reasons, the Ministry is in the process of seeking a suitable land plot to relocate this family. But as I said, I advise the member to come over to my office for a talk and bring some pancakes.

You also requested lands to erect a sports field for Letogo and Laulii. A request has been granted for Letogo and the Ministry was able to visit them for a suitable site for this undertaking however, for Fagalii we have not yet received any request from them. But if you have submitted it, then we will look into it with the Ministry. Government land does not grow, we can only do so much with a certain motherland but if you demand land to stay and to build schools, we can only maneuver. Our intention is to meet your demands.

On to the market and the concern on filled space for sellers, well that is the normal case at the market, we go by whoever gets there first but there is more spacious area available for everyone as the Ministry is aware and is providing the necessary assistance upon this matter.

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On to another query about the Ministry of the Public Enterprise according to our Budget Statement and the Financial Year that is almost over, the total revenue of \$31.2million plus \$4million for this Financial Year was incurred by this Ministry. The Ministry's revenue comes from dividends of the Public Training Bodies the Government relies on. The aim is to increase this fund annually which is part of the Ministry's doing.

Then we come to our local airline and the several comments we received in comparison to the different statements made in the beginning. Your support is all that counts for this development. We are the government and leaders for all these developments. We represent the entire country by improving these developments. We expect similar support from our relatives and families living abroad.

There is a saying by the Minister of Education in one of our Sittings, it takes a community to raise a child, takes a country to run an airline. Therefore, we need everyone's support as we will bear the fruits once this development grows. We stick by the motto - Samoa for Samoa. That is, your heart, soul and mind must be denoted here. Give your support to our airline but do not mock by using other airlines. The Minister of Agriculture is also sharing the same heart. Eat with your heart not with your mouth. Be patriotic by getting our taro and positively speaking, these are very good statements. The same should apply with our airline. We are all Samoans and this is our airline, not the HRPP's nor the Polynesian's and neither the Cabinet. It belongs to all of Samoa from Saa'u to Agalega. To America, New Zealand and Australia, this is our aircraft. That is the plea, come together and support our airline.

May God be with us and all of today's Proceedings. I wish to say a few words to my constituency of Satupaitea, thank you for your support. That is our contribution to Parliament, although we do not meet often, at least our work is being progressed. We have developed and completed two of our projects for our new roads, and phase one of our health service clinic. Well done. Now go and work on developing our land according to government intention for unfixed roads and may God bless our Constituency.

That is all for me, I extend word of thanks to all the CEOs of the sectors I am overseeing, great job well done. Have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Prime Minister, I call the Hon Prime Minister for the motion.

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MOTION TO EXTEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker the night is still young, and I feel like working onwards and in moving the motion we shall progress to 2.00pm until the Budget is approved.

Mr Speaker, I move the motion, *That Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly proceed until the Budget Statement 2018/2019 is approved tonight or early dawn tomorrow.*

Second by the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor and the Minister of Health.

Motion approved.

Debates over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 resumed.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the motion by the Hon Prime Minister, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will proceed until the Main Budget 2018/2019 is approved.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): With great respect I rise before the Hon Speaker and the dignified members in accordance to the continuation of debates and discussion upon the tabling Budget Statement. I affirm that the clarification will be short given the few matters raised by members in relation to the Ministry and the duties I am responsible to.

On to the matter regarding land and lease, the Hon Prime Minister has explained the History of our roads and public lands specifically the sales and purchases of these land but according to the recent clarification by the Hon Minister of the Samoa Land Corporation therefore I believe this matter is well understood.

I will specifically be talking about the Water Management Alarm Areas. There is still intention by some of you that these particular areas should be transferred under the village authority.

Mr Speaker these specific areas are essential not only within the proximity of Apia area but all throughout the country particularly the effects of floods on the villages communities. The problem with our Water Management Areas is the overworking of our land for the purpose of our developments and therefore water from the rain is just unavoidable.

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This is the contradictory result of life we have in existence considering our natural resources mainly water that must be reserved for our future generations. This is one priority area that the Ministry and the village should work closely on in order to regulate and encourage these water catchment areas.

On to seawall and drainage areas, this is the collective responsibility of the various government sectors including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through the funding agencies and projects that are assisting us in close partnership. At the current we have close to 100 requests on seawall areas yet the assistance is still ongoing for this list.

May I also take this opportunity to seek your view given the protection of our environment and in terms of developing the seawall areas as well as tree planting in assistance to our water catchment areas within and around our surrounding area. This will greatly assist our environment from the sea level rising that is affecting our shores and around the globe. I guess the erection of seawall areas is our main target and remedy.

Mr Speaker and the notable Parliament, the solution to the problem is reason we are at risk, we have not been cautious with protecting our environment. The rising sea level is something we cannot solve alone because when we look at the bigger nations and the gas emission effects, this is to say that this is the major cause to climate change. That is why small island nations like us are being affected. We pity our neighboring atolls that are less mountainous unlike us. But that should not keep us from doing the right thing whereby other than building up seawalls for protection, there are several other avenues we can take in order to protect our environment.

Mr Speaker, on to the mangrove areas and the environmental belief or statements which implies that mangroves help grow land and assist greatly with fish harvesting that is consumable hence our mangroves should be put into emphasis. In fact, two months ago, the sustainable development of mangrove areas were commemorated in Apia and [therefore the mangrove development must be revived and develop](#).

Mr Speaker, on to housing permits and the processes by the Ministry of Works and the Planning Urban Agency, the PUMA Act enacted in 2004 was based on the policy for sustainable development to be in line with environmental assessments and requirements involving the physical environment and anti-development. As witnessed today, climate change is natural given the developments we built. Flooding is also experienced due to people and what they do.

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Speech by the Hon Prime Minister

The aim of the Planning and the Urban Management Agency is to reduce and mitigate the negative effects on our environment given the projects we undertake from time to time. I know you all mean the same thing, to make easy permits but reality speaking, the world and changes that comes with it is no easy. The nature of people and the inevitable changes requires our suitable choices and planning so that we are able to deal with these developments and maintain the available resources we have for our future generations. I know there are processes that can easily be dealt with whilst some cannot include matters like this where more time and effort is required in order to discuss and plan. That is all the raising matters so in conclusion, I wish to ask what we are doing here exactly. We can say that we here are to make good decisions for the sake of our people. But truthfully, we are here because of one main vision, to be able to raise and improve the standard of living for the people of Samoa. Some of us may agree with the Maori saying that the most important thing in life is the human itself. But when I see the Samoa Tourism Authority advertisement on television about a peace-corp who asked the taxi driver how much taxi fare from the hospital to the market, the taxi driver replied \$30 tala. The peace-corp replied oh my we are killing our own selves. Therefore, Mr Speaker we were called to perform our duty yet again we also work for our people. The problems we face comes from our own people, have a blessed evening, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. Now we come to the Leader of the Government, your Hon Prime Minister.

SPEECH BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker that is the response by the Hon Minister. We have understood that all addressing matters points at improving the entire country. The State speaks according to the wise distribution of funding available. But all submissions are vital for our people to enjoy and secure a harmonious living plus a spiritual life despite the various types of religions in the country nonetheless we worship the same God. Ultimately, the main objective is to achieve all submissions within this 5 year term. The main intention is for us to work hard to achieve these goals and requests for the constituencies as we are aware of the budget allocation to implement the various government projects and requests put forward.

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Speech by the Hon Prime Minister

The government's two central objectives are to ensure that we have enough funds and people to execute the job. This applies duly with Government strive to push our developments forward. Such is the plea with foreign aid and borrowings however, we must take the first attempt by helping ourselves first without having to rely on foreign countries desperately because these grants is the sweat of foreign employees in a form of tax. This is what happened with one of the past Parliamentary terms whereby New Zealand had to stop sending foreign grant over as they reasoned that we are spending their people's money to pay for our cigarettes. Therefore, we must help ourselves first.

Mr Speaker this is what we are working towards. When we had the different political parties that is where the party main objectives are laid out for the people's interest. We ensure to avow our constituencies that these strategies and objectives ought to be fulfilled within this 5 year term, otherwise, they will call us hypocrites. The reason for saying this is because our constituencies have take it that we are moving too fast when we were the ones who made oaths to them that we will achieve all objectives as promised. However, this is different from the term politics which looks dirty eventually, its real meaning is a sign of creating further opportunities for the sake of our people so that they can enjoy life and live peacefully. That is the interpretation of politics. This is where we will seek good opportunities to find more jobs and health services for our people and their children. Our people should live a secure, happy life but if problems arise, we have the police authorities to take care of that.

Mr Speaker, that is the definition of politics. If we come in this House to discuss the Budget Statements every year, that is the reminder. Some of us have forgotten that given the advance world we are in, they have forgotten the oaths they made according to the agreed/specified manifesto. Notwithstanding, all this cannot be possible if conflicts and violence is present within our homes. On this note, the same occurred in the year 1982 when Government was not stable. Historically speaking this year marked the most difficult times in the country's history where we had to change four different Governments in one year. In 1982, no development was achieved because we were putting other things first such as our (political party's) aim to win and gain power or authority and see who will overtake this pule or authority? As a result, the authority was regained by the Human Rights Protection Party HRPP up until today. When the HRPP came into power the economy was very upsetting, it was bankrupt and unstable. Hence this is why we have the stability of government to ensure that we have a stable and growing economy for our people.

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Speech by the Hon Prime Minister

Such is our main objective today as this Government does not belong to HRPP alone but the country as a whole including the various Church denominations. This is why it is crucial to have a harmonious peaceful community. Similarly, is a reason why more foreign investors are interested in setting up new businesses here to generate more employments for our people in particular our children. This is the more reason why we have various government projects to produce more occupations. Additionally, this is why we go to New Zealand and Australia to hold talks with them to obtain further job opportunities although this also comes with disadvantages. What about the developing of our lands? Although the majority have gone abroad this leaves us with no one to develop our lands at home. On a positive note, this should not avoid us from taking on our set plans in specific for our economic development. Since the commencement of the world economic standards and ranking, we had the categories for developed, least developed and developing or very poor. The total GDP per capita is equal to the total salary earning per year divided by the total number of population in a country. All countries with GDP below \$US100 will be categorized under the least, the poor the poorest of the poor to which Samoa came under.

This GDP level cannot regroup us to lower ranking because our GDP level is now at \$US4000 and above produced from the various government undertakings which aims to sustain and boost our economic level per annum and in accordance to our Budget Statement, it states that by the end of this year, we should be able to earn \$3.7million to generate our economic growth. Therefore, everyone must work together with the private sector to achieve this objective. Hence our GDP level is currently more than the year 2014 and we are now called a middle income level country.

Mr Speaker, the reason for this statement is for everyone's interest and for you (Members) to do your job given the support of the districts that is well aware of our issued oaths and statements which mean to say that what is good for Apia or Upolu should also be the same for Savaii. Therefore, they (constituents) are not stupid. I will never forget one Sitting day when former Opposition Leader, Tofa Asiata pleaded Tuilaepa to delay the progress of our economic undertakings that is advancing too fast. I said alright and turned to the Cabinet to ensue with his plea, but right now I say this to you, how else are we going to do this, we must do it now because the people in the rural side lose hope in us by not fixing their roads for easier access to their plantations.

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Speech by the Hon Prime Minister

In addition, the importation of right hand vehicles which was a good chance for the majority to obtain vehicles to drive to their plantations whenever they felt like it. Isn't this what we call improved standard of living and better life which is eating food from the plantations even if we do not have to sell anything in the market place?

Mr Speaker, for the sake of sound and secure living in the village, this is where the authority of the alii and faipule comes in. Such is the strong encouragement by the respective Ministry and the push for village fono to carry on involving the respective representatives or sui o le nuu to remind and teach the young ones to become more responsible. For our village, the young men are asked to learn from the challenging words of the matais. This is why it is saddening to see the latest incident that occurred in Salelologa, Luatuanuu and Salelavalu. The message sent to the alii ma faipule was to remind them to manage well the behavior of these youngsters as foreign influence is easily affecting them plus too much exposure on television. Samoa is the only country in the Pacific where respect and good governance is found. In the words of the Pacific leaders when they come to Samoa, they testify that I am blessed to have a country that still upholds/maintains the authority of the alii and faipule. This custom no longer exists in Tonga, Fiji and the Solomon Islands as these leaders affirmed. Mr Speaker those are some of the vital words to assist our young men and authority in the village. Although there are times when we grow weary as I speak specifically for my village of Fasitoo, for a period of 15 years, no meetings were conducted in Fasitoo. However, Fasitoo now has a set meeting schedule that everyone follows on a monthly basis. This is to avoid disorderly behavior in the village. The same concern goes for the village of Luatuanuu where the alii ma faipule ended up stirring up conflicts for the young ones due to the huge influence that has affected our tradition and custom.

Mr Speaker that is the conclusion, do not back down and be discouraged to give the necessary advice to the pulenuu and encourage village meetings in return for the allowance they get. These representatives should do their job accordingly instead of mocking [around in order for the villages to live harmoniously](#).

Mr Speaker let us have the question and move on to the consideration of our Budget Statement in accordance to the statement of the alii ma faipule of the House.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you let us proceed according to the approved motion, the State has also presented its responses pursuant to the raising matters and submissions for the economic welfare of Samoa according to its policies and procedures.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018
– consideration in detail**

The motion moved on the 29th of May 2018 and the second reading of the Bill now approved. The Question will be put.

Question was put and the motion moved on the 29th of May 2018 and the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 was approved.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.2) 2017/2018
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative will now consider in detail the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019. In progress of the consideration in detail of the Bill the members can comment on matters written on Paper 2018/2019 No.38, Supplementary Appropriation First on Revenue and Expenditure of the Samoan Government for the year ended 30 June 2018. Pursuant to Standing Orders 134, the consideration in detail commences with Schedules.

**FIRST SCHEDULE
VOTES AND APPROPRIATIONS
ADDITIONS IN APPROPRIATION**

MINISTRY	APPROPRIATION
REVENUE	\$62,593.
<i>Approved.</i>	
HEALTH SERVICES	-\$5,000,000.
<i>Approved.</i>	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS 2018/2019.	\$5,062,593.

Approved.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL (NO.2)
2017/2018 – third reading**

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I rise to move, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 be read for the third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister for Revenue.

Motion approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 be now read for the third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative will now consider in detail the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019. In progress of the consideration in detail of the Bill the members can comment on matters written on Paper 2018/2019 No.38, Supplementary Appropriation First on Revenue and Expenditure of the Samoan Government for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Before we proceed with the Consideration in detail of this Bill, I wish to publicize the Correction in Samoan Print of the Main Estimates 2018/2019. These corrections cover pages 10, 94, 95, 96, 97, 176, 201 that have been distributed on your desks.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 134, the consideration in detail commences with Schedules.

SCHEDULE

APPROPRIATION

MINISTRY	APPROPRIATION
AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES	\$17,115,561.

Approved.

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**Appropriation Bill 2018/2019
– consideration in detail**

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & LABOUR: \$18,371,462.

Approved.

**COMMUNICATION &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: \$10,581,790.**

Approved.

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE: \$103,678,563.

Approved.

FINANCE: \$89,326,611.

Approved.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE: \$23,274,821.

Approved.

HEALTH: \$18,405,623.

Approved.

JUSTICE & COURT ADMINISTRATION: \$12,954,826.

Approved.

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Appropriation Bill 2018/2019
– consideration in detail

**NATURAL RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENT:** \$25,568,464.

Approved.

POLICE: \$29,773,936.

Approved.

PRIME MINISTER: \$7,868,122.

Approved.

REVENUE: \$13,229,346.

Approved.

**WOMEN, COMMUNITY &
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** \$11,448,451.

Approved.

**WORKS, TRANSPORT &
INFRASTRUCTURE:** \$44,506,804.

Approved.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: \$4,889,770.

Approved

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**Appropriation Bill 2018/2019
– consideration in detail**

AUDIT:	\$3,768,659
<i>Approved.</i>	
ELECTORAL:	\$3,031,454.
<i>Approved.</i>	
LEGISLATIVE:	\$6,455,602.
<i>Approved.</i>	
OMBUDSMAN:	\$1,110,777.
<i>Approved.</i>	
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:	\$4,839,368.
<i>Approved.</i>	
HEALTH SERVICES:	\$80,134,187.
<i>Approved.</i>	
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:	\$2,664,235.
<i>Approved.</i>	

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**Appropriation Bill 2018/2019
– consideration in detail**

STATISTICS: \$4,682,939.

Approved.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION: \$1,351,522.

Approved.

PRISON AND CORRECTIONS SERVICES: \$9,581,377.

Approved.

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS 2018/2019: \$547,614,267.

MR SPEAKER: The Committee of Finance has Amendments to the Total Appropriations.

I call the Chairperson of the Finance & Revenue Committee.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move the Amendment of the Total Appropriated Expenditure 2018/2019 from \$547,614,267 to \$546,890,252.

Amendments approved.

Schedule approved as amended.

CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriations of \$547,614,267 out of Treasury Fund.

MR SPEAKER: The Committee has Amendments to Clause 2 in accordance to the Supplementary Paper.

I call upon the Chairperson.

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**Appropriation Bill 2018/2019
– consideration in detail**

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move the Amendment to Clause 2 as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

Remove \$547,614,267 and replace with \$546,890,252 to have Clause 2 be read as:

Grant and Appropriations of \$546,890,252 out of Treasury Fund.”

Amendment approved.

Clause 2 approved as amended.

CLAUSE 3: Grant and appropriations of \$398,410 out of the Trust Estate Fund.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Grant and appropriation of \$16,428,428.

MR SPEAKER: The committee has an Amendment to Clause 4 as given in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call the Chairperson.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move the Correction to Clause 4 as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

Remove and replace \$16,428,428 with \$16,406,708 out of the Treasury Fund.”

Amendment approved.

Clause 4 approved as amended.

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**Appropriation Bill 2018/2019
– third reading**

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.

TITLE: Appropriation 2018/2019.

Approved.

Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 progressed with Amendments.

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019
– third reading**

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker and the esteemed Members of Parliament I take this chance to offer our appreciations and congratulations to all the works we have achieved which did not come by easily and given the additional time for the Budget Statement to get approval for the works and projects to progress. Hence I move, *That the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 now read for the third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

The motion was approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

Members showed appreciation by applauding.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: Well we have come to the end of our session today given the motion to resume our works so that the budget is approved and be handed over to Cabinet and Government Heads for their work to progress and be implemented as well as the submissions and requests of districts through their representatives to develop roads, electricity, water and all developments covered under this Budget that we have now approved. I therefore wish to congratulate the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Deputy Prime Minister as well as all the Ministers for your hard work which did not come by easily and your responses upon the comments and submissions of Members.

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Adjournment

I also take this time to thank the Chairperson and all the Members that have made their submission including the Associate Ministers for your contributions. It is believed that everyone makes mistakes nonetheless, the main thing is to bear forgiveness and achieve our session pursuant to the schedule. Everything depends on God because without Him, we would not have come to the end of this sitting in peace.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate all the Government Heads especially the Ministry of Police and all the other collaborating efforts and individuals who have worked collectively for the country's sake. I also thank the Clerk and the staff of the Legislative Assembly for all your dedication and time for the betterment of Samoa. That is the concluding explanation at this hour as we come to its end and before we adjourn and reconvene again tomorrow at 9.00am, I wish to end our business with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 8.38am until 9.00am on Friday, 22 June 2018.

