

THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2017

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER OPENING REMARKS

MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed.

Allow me to convey my commendations to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and the members of Parliament. May I also extend greetings to the Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations for their presence in support of the role of Parliament. Moreover, I acknowledge the prayerful support of the country at large. May we have a constructive deliberation.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk read out Committee Reports tabled before the House pursuant to S.O.51 (5).

1. P.P. 2017/2018 No.53, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee Report on the P.P. 2016/2017 No. 142, Samoa Law Reform Commissions Report on Samoas Legislative Compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Final Report (17/16).

APPROPRIATION BILL 2017/2018

– resumption of debate on second reading

MR SPEAKER: Proceedings adjourned last night while the Member for Palauli le Falefa was taking the floor.

I now call on the Member to resume his speech.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker. I am grateful for the praises you have made to our Heavenly Father this morning.

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I am also thankful for the strength renewed that has brought the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and Members of this House here safely.

Before I continue on the points I was previously speaking on I was hoping one of the Members for the Finance and Expenditure Committee, Afioga Olo Fiti Vaai would be present. I was looking at the matter concerning SACEP last night together with the Ministry of Health.

I beg tolerance at this point, as I was responding in my capacity as the Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. It is stated here for SACEP, the continuation of its work without further funds being allocated. A total of \$5 million grant from the World Bank was given five years ago. An additional US\$8 million was received as a soft loan SACEP programme has 9 months left before it wins up after 5 years. There are no additional funds for the project. In saying that I do commend the Hon Minister for his persistence in continuing this program which has greatly benefited the employees concern. On another note I must apologize to this Parliament as the figures mentioned by this member are quite significant amounts. I only wish he would be here to hear my clarifications on this matter so he may understand. I apologize on behalf of the Member to the Leader of Government and Cabinet.

The Ministry of Health I visited them four weeks ago and talked with the Chief Executive together with some of the employees as I am curious about their work, it was at that time their wheelchair shipment arrived. There were a lot of new wheelchairs for patients but I do not know where the broken chair came from and why was it given. I apologize to the Hon Minister...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: This is the exact reason why we did not take the floor, we knew the Committee would look into the matter. It is how it is in this world we live in. No matter where we are, be it the hospital or even sweeping the rubbish there is pride in what we do.

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This means if I a Member were to be admitted to hospital where he will boast of his status and this will attract hostility. For instance, if one swears at the employee caring for patients at the hospital. Thus this person will most likely give this patient something terrible. I am glad that no one from this side stood up to clarify this issue, the hospital is in good hands under the stewardship of the Hon Minister and staff.

May I add that there is a provision of Standing Orders pertaining to a point of order when such is a 100%, on the other hand when it is out of line we will clarify it. This provision applies to all of us members. This is why those in the Committee should raise a point of order towards a fellow Committee Member. It would not be appropriate if we were to make a point of order towards a Member because it will reflect the incompetence of the Committee.

This is a reminder, our Standing Orders states we all have the right to raise a point of order, we should be mindful of what is right and try not to hold back what should be said or else we will have more issues to sort.

Mr Speaker that is my clarification of the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I call on the Member.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you. I apologize to the Hon Ministers on this matter, such information when issued to the media shall be balance and fair. One should be mindful of the fact that the Government must have a say, anyhow the view of the member was not done here but through an interview which I saw and heard last night.

Mr Speaker, may I remind the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development of my request for completion of our water catchment scheme. I believe there is very minimal work require, which is just a few more pipes to cover a few more families then it is done I humbly address the Hon Afioga Faimalotoa Kika Stowers and Associate to please consider completing this project.

The Hon Minister for Public Enterprises there is a matter I want to discuss....

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member, I call on the Leader of Government.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Before the Member continues perhaps this is an important matter concerning our water catchment scheme.

I will never forget one of the village representatives that came and saw me about setting up their own independent water supply. The Government is currently focussing on filtered clean water supply. They further said to me, “We do not care if it is dirty and causing sickness, give it to us as it is cheap”.

The truth is, as we head into the future everything the government engages in are projects and developments that must be done. We are gradually heading into a time where there will no longer be any independent water supply system. When it comes to maintenance it will be rather expensive. The water supply managed by the Government is filtered treated water to avoid bacteria which is the cause of a number of illnesses affecting our people. I am using this moment to remind our people, as some do not understand that this option for water is not expensive. It will seem that way when a consumer does not pay a small water bill. Moreover, the reason why such water schemes and meters were set up is to control the excessive use of water. This is the importance of setting up water schemes it is best to make use of Government water programme.

One of the villages of my constituency manage their own independent water supply. The problem is, it is poorly done, for instance, taps are often running without them attending to it. There is also a compulsory collection of \$10 which most families do not bother paying.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I believe the country has understood. I call on the Member to continue.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Hon Prime Minister for the reminder, it is important to consider such factors for our health and also conserving our natural resources.

The Hon Minister administering state owned enterprises I have a few suggestions and recommendations on measures that could save us additional expenses to be reserve for other developments especially under the private trade organisation. We strongly believe that the number of Board of Directors should be reviewed and perhaps reduce it from 7 to 5. We currently have Boards of 5 members and are doing marvellous work. There are also Government bodies which directly receive funds from the government to operate their organizations, they should also be reduce to 3 members.

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For example, the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority and the National Kidney Foundation. I think they are receiving too much but will leave that to discretion of the Hon Minister to review the number of Directors of these Boards. It is an area using up a lot of capital within our organization.

Another matter there are other organisations placed under trading bodies that should be reviewed. This includes Samoa International Finance Authority, United Trust Organisation of Samoa and the Development Bank of Samoa. I am aware that SIFA has contributed greatly to our Budget with \$15 million. I believe UTOS was set up for the less fortunate to have shares in state owned enterprises of Government. Trying to withhold people from getting their units considering the many family obligations (*faalavelave*) also if the organisation were to contribute to the economy it will affect their purpose. It is true that DBS is a trading body, but it has a different form of development, development is based on agriculture and private businesses. This is their objective but if we need returns this will mean higher interest paid and more private businesses will be affected and consequently close.

MR SPEAKER: The Member has two more minutes.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker I want to thank the Hon Minister of Revenue I commend you for your persistence and not being afraid because the divine mercy of the Lord is protecting you. It is great to see that the targets you set for 2016/2017 has exceeded and now more expectations have been set for next year, those are your blessings. The expectation here is nearly a whole year but I strongly believe you will reach this target as the Lord blesses you with wealth. I note that work on our prison is going well, I also know that there have not been any escaped prisoners lately due to good management, I commend you and your Associate for your effort. I am grateful to your tag team on being strict with certain companies [which will generate more revenue for our economy.](#)

Afioga Sala Fata Pinati, the recent census recorded 195,000. I do not know if this is right or wrong, but I believe this was the reason why you were chosen to where you are, you are good with mathematics. Mentally speaking and also looking at the Ministry of Health report it states that 5,000 babies were born at the hospital not including those born in the homes, the number of deaths recorded is 500 it does not include babies born outside of the hospital.

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A number of 1,100 are eligible for the quota with about 500 people are eligible to go. This means that there should be 2500 people added to the census count every year. If we think about it there should be about 250,000 people now in the census. The importance of this information will assist with the developments of Government and I know very well how much you want to develop what you have implemented.

I thank the Hon Minister of Health, the merge of the Ministry and Health Services should be carried out hastily. It is important to speed things up as it will affect the feelings of people. A person should know about their future and where they are heading because if we prolong it more people will get sick and more beds will be used due to the delay in implementation.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Member to conclude his speech, your time has ended. It is quite an informative speech but we have to be mindful of the time...

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I want to thank Members of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet we have done the duty of voicing concerns and recommendations nevertheless if we may have erred I beg tolerance. I have voiced all the matters and opinions which I personally believe will aid the decisions of this Government I pray blessings upon you all. We are here to support and when the \$200,000 is appropriated I ask that a slice of it be given to this side of Chamber, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call on the Member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe this morning we have encountered more blessings than calamity. We have overcome adversities and in return comforted with blessings. I am grateful we have been given strength by our Father to be here this morning moreover the Chair has already voiced praise to the Lord above. Our sincere gratitude to the Father cannot be expressed enough, I humbly greet the Chair, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and Members of this side of Chamber. I also want to acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations especially the support of all Samoa. I will voice a brief opinion on the Appropriation 2017/2018 tabled this year.

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First I take this opportunity to voice a few requests of this constituency, we have already made requests which are nothing new. As mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister yesterday these are the same speeches made ten years ago. My statement is more than ten years old but will again voice it as a reminder.

We need seawalls for some of the small villages of my constituency which are Fusi, Salelesi and Eva which is in need of upgrading. This project has been discussed for several years under the Environment project. There is a need for seawalls in areas overlooked by the Land Transport Authority to protect the main road from sea rise, this includes the village of Luatuanuu and others which I know the Hon Minister of Works is already aware of.

Regarding the road to Sauniatu, perhaps it has been three years since we considered one of the projects. The last thing we heard was it is awaiting advertisement for bidding from companies. Up until now I do not know where this notice has gone to so this is a reminder. We have already submitted a written request on the reasons for this development. Perhaps the constituents are also well aware of this matter, I will not elaborate further on it to save time.

I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance for the Budget tabled this year which will commence on the 1st of July. I am grateful for the benefits that will be received by our local businesses who are exporting goods overseas. I heard from your Budget address that there will be a 50% decrease on tax for profits earned by these companies exporting goods overseas. In my perspective I think this is an appropriate measure today, the quantity of goods sent overseas should improve considering the changes now seen within the country. Looking at it if percentage of tax is decreased to 50% from profits business owners will be able to use their capital elsewhere or set up new businesses. This will result in more employment opportunities for our people. This is applicable today considering what is happening with the closing of Yazaki. This means these employment opportunities is lost. The strategy implemented by the Hon Minister is quite outstanding it would be more commendable if we decrease tax on profits by 25% for businesses to accumulate more income to generate more businesses.

I believe employment is the main area that needs further consideration. There are a lot of young people who have finished school but are still trying to find work. This means it is important to push our exports. I noted over the last quarter of the previous calendar year December 2016 that we earned \$23 million from exports. This is remarkable considering we do not have anymore exports from Yazaki this is a good counter measure.

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I am grateful to the Hon Minister, I also noted in our foreign reserves, I think it is \$260 million, this means it will cover four months of imports. There were months in the past years where our foreign reserves on imports covered five months.

I suggest that we propose more ideas to develop our exports since the majority of our exports are agricultural produce. This will greatly assist our local produce especially our farmers exporting these goods overseas.

This is important I am sure the Hon Minister is aware of the new President of America, he has decreased taxes for American companies. I think it used to be half or 33% tax was paid but now it is slash to 15%. What is happening now is, some countries around the world have charted this idea, I personally believe we should implement it too. I heard through the address given that the Government is planning to restructure our taxes. The importance of this in my understanding is for us to have an attractive business environment, we are currently competing with other Pacific countries to bring in foreign investors to develop our country.

The areas assessed are the ones I believe is important. I heard the statement made on the Budget that tax rates and tax on base will be removed. This is good assistance given that other programs that brought taxes into Government will not be continued but it may be used for other developments in the country. I am speaking on the strategies mentioned in the Budget which outlines future plans and I support this wholeheartedly.

There are certain developments that should be done immediately, now that the Waterfront Project is mentioned it should be now underway considering it has been long mentioned. I heard that the project will be funded by the New Zealand Government. However, such preparations depend on the number of tourists visiting Samoa. We should look into the matter of our plane, what is the situation because we need a quicker response. I heard on the radio the announcement by the Hon Prime Minister that we will be cancelling our agreement with...perhaps this will be good news for our hoteliers, taxi drivers, bus drivers, rental car dealers and other businesses in the country. I salute you for the hard work.

I noted in the speech made by the Minister yesterday that there will be tax or is it a levy to be collected from cellphones. I was all ears when a member yesterday stated the problems stemming from using cellphones particularly on the young generation. Perhaps this new provision or legislation implemented will mean additional funds for Government.

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The matter mentioned is commendable I support this idea since it will minimize the misuse of cellphones not only for talking but texting. We all know there are programs such as free texting which encourages young people to communicate with each other and later resulting in problems such as conflicts between school students. If this is the plan, I am not sure how much percentage has been decided on but if it is finalized and tax or levy is imposed on cellphones it will be a good initiative. There are a lot of new businesses in the country selling phones which I am certain everyone knows about.

I have noted the fast growing pace of businesses set up by Asians and limited local business owners. I visited some of the shops and noted the unfairness of the business competition I am talking about fair competition.

Then I question the Bill we recently passed the Competition and Consumer Protection, whether it has been enacted, or has Government changed provisions. It is a matter concerning wholesale and retail and other competitive measures which results to one business thriving and the other failing. I humbly ask the Hon Minister to look at this matter considering it is a legislation pertaining to your Ministry I strongly believe this Act should be enforced. We all know that 80% of our land is customary, with 10% or 12% freehold and the remaining 10% being Crown land. I have noted that the majority of freehold land have been sold mainly to foreign businesses. I urge the Government to implement a strategy to regulate the selling of freehold lands since the value of these lands has gone up. This means in future Samoans will not be able to afford these lands. The parcels in the town area are now more than a million in value and only big businesses are able to afford it. It seems to have affected the lands of those living in the area and will later result to those lands being sold at a higher price. I recommend Government to implement a method to control this matter. I visited our neighbors in the East, Tutuila and one of my brothers living there tried to sell land to me, I told him I do not want to buy it because I do not think I am eligible to sell it as I am not a citizen of American Samoa. He responded you can because you are Samoan. Moreover, it is in our legislation that Samoans can buy land it is the reason Koreans and other people are living on leased lands. I was surprised by this. I did not take this up as I did not have the money. It would be great if we reviewed this and maybe initiate this idea here. They have stated that we are eligible under the law of the Government of America. This is a great initiative that we should explore.

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The matter concerning customary lands perhaps we will always have people going to Mulinu'u to argue ownership of lands, the important aspect to consider is our identity. This is our heritage from the Lord I humbly ask the matter on committees be reviewed. I see there are several committees compiling different reports and making recommendations to Government. How about implementing a strategy that will regulate the developments for our country because it seems that authority on customary lands is restricted. A recommendation to Government I came across one of the reports long ago, I think it was a report in 1993, it reminded me of a report from a Committee in which Afioga Samau Timani was Chairperson there was a lot of great recommendations stated in that report on this matter.

A recommendation to Government I understand that there is an opening implemented by our forefathers in the Constitution. Is this not the appropriate time to consider Clause 109 which is closely related to Clause 102, and perhaps select a committee to draft a question to be presented to the public in order to establish where the general consensus of the people lie in terms of a way forward. Devise a plan in terms of a sense of direction for the country to follow. There has been a wave of committees depriving our capital with no clear answers to a way forward. Yet there is an opportunity available within the Constitution. I ask that this be consider, is this not the right time to look at this. It could even be an issue in the upcoming general election. Let us ask the people for their take on this and then we will have some sense of direction. This matter is of great importance and a fvery fragile one. It is rather complicated and I therefore submit my suggestion on how to deal with it. The Government have struggle with this for a long time, and if my advice is considered it could be a step forward for us.

Mr Speaker, the issue seen in the town area mentioned by the Member for Palauli le Falefa the opinion voiced is commendable but it is all up to the Hon Minister of Education. I recall a time when I was working for Government, I came and sat at the back like the Heads of Government Ministries during sitting, at that time the late Afioga Tofilau Alesana was Prime Minister. It is not a new issue as it was raised back then the matter of children selling leis in town, before matches, earbuds and other goods became popular. The view of the Minister back then was to let the children sell their leis as they will become prominent business owners in future. I sat there and thought this is a different prespective altogether of children not going to school but selling leis.

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I recall those days that there was this one boy who used to sell his leis at the back of RSA and around that area, he comes from that side of the country and I know him very well. I still see him around and he is still selling leis as an adult. This is a matter I strongly believe the Hon Minister of Education should look into, what are some useful programs that will help improve their talents whether this could be noted as a talent or stop them doing this and send them to school. Personally I think what we need is specific direct action for the families of these children, there should be a task force to consult with the parents.

One day whilst in Apia I saw this man and I think were his children doing this. I went and asked him and he said they now live at Vaimauga or Faleata because he was banished from his village. It seems that there are people like this man now living in Apia with their children and cannot go back to their families which is a problem. It is not only the problem of selling goods but engaging in offensive behaviour as well. This is the issue I see...

MR SPEAKER: The Member has two minutes remaining.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. During the Independence celebrations when I was in front of one of the shops in Apia, a security guard came chasing one of these children. The child disappeared into the crowd of people and security did not know what to do. When he came past me I asked him, what had happened, he responded the child stole the purse of an old lady. Maybe it was a woman who was sitting down to rest from the heat but once she put her bag down the child came and grabbed it. These are the issues seen under these circumstances which is quite common in these areas but since the Chair has reminded me of my time I will now conclude.

Mr Speaker this is the problem seen with these children the families and parents should be approached to inform them of such matters. There could be a method to assist parents to find work while their children go to school, educate them to be intelligent. If we do not help these children and educate them the town area will be full of uneducated children doing such acts. I humbly request the Hon Minister of Education look into this matter.

Mr Speaker there are still several matters I want to convey but this will do for today. I just hope for the best for our Manu Samoa in their match tomorrow. Let us pray and support our team to win. It would make the Chairperson of our Rugby Union happy. I felt sorry for the Chairman of the Union during our game with the All Blacks, I saw him on television freezing from the chilly weather of Auckland.

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And I also saw Afioga Faumuina Liuga being in the same state. I felt sorry for them, I thought to myself maybe this is why our team lost. These men never played rugby before and their presence at the game which they knew nothing about, it would have been best if they stayed here.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I think what the member did not mention, Sometimes, it is not what we are being told that are factual, yet it is what we do not hear about. This means he was hoping that our Manu Samoa would lose so that we would be humiliated It would not have mattered if it was only me, but Le Ao o le Malo was there as well. I feel sorry for Le Ao o le Malo even though he was not mentioned the Member has clearly cursed him.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member to see if the Prime Minister is right.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker it was only the Prime Minister and Afioga Faumuina Liuga that I saw on television I did not see Le Ao o le Malo, this is why I only mentioned the two names. I conclude with a recommendation...

MR SPEAKER: I just want to remind the Member that Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni was there as well.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: I did not see Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni on the television. So this is why the All Blacks scored a try, it was because Leala was there.

My advice here although I am being humourous I do have great respect for the Chairman of the Rugby Union. He is getting old but has been hugely valuable. I have noted the fragile state of his health at times. I suggest that he concentrates on running our country, and allow the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture to be the Chairman. The Minister was a former player of the Manu Samoa. This was the outstanding Manu Samoa team of 1991 in which Afioga Loau Keneti Sio was part of.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: This is the kind of statement from someone who did not play rugby, he does not know how such game is run. To be accepted into the Mother Union, one must start up his own union.

Once you become part of the union you cannot put your own name forward. You are chosen in the annual meeting by the Members and they are the ones eligible in carrying out this decision. I do not appoint myself, my peers do, based on the calibre of the individual.

I suggest that the Member establishes his own Union so that he may be able to become a member of the Association and will come to understand the process. Regarding your suggestion that I leave because of my age, well my heart is still fairly strong, probably stronger than yours.

MR SPEAKER: I now call on the member, and there you have it the heart of the man is that of a lion.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker these are just recommendations, food for thought. If its unacceptable to you that is fine.

The rugby union that I am responsible for is operating really well. We will be holding our prizegiving next week and I will invite you to attend this event. Our Union have a few Manu Samoa players, Mr Speaker I pray for the Lords grace upon the Hon Prime Minister and that side of the House and also this side. I extend these well wishes to the Heads of Government Ministries and all of Samoa. I pray that the Lord will show compassion on the development of our country in future. This my contribution may we have a constructive debate.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I am glad one of our Senior Members has concluded his speech successfully. I now call on any Member who wishes to speak on the Bill.

I call on the senior Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, I have already paid respects to this Parliament acknowledging the presence of the Leader of Government and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and respectable Member, Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations.

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I also greet the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. I acknowledge the support of the public listening in to proceedings especially my constituency of Aleipata. I do not have much to say on the matter but I just want to follow up on the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister.

These are old issues debated in the previous Parliamentary term, therefore this is a reminder. It is important to keep raising these matters so that an opportunity may eventually come.

The Hon Minister of Communication, Information Technology, Afioga Afamasaga Rico Tupai, I appreciate your clarification, the television signal for Aleipata covering Amaile, Tiavea, Samusu and other villages in the constituency is now working. I will be tuning in to my television in the weekend. Last Friday I was watching Sky at our Pastors house and there were about a hundred people of my village watching the game, although the view of Lauofo may be on the lighter side, but I must say that after the 2 tries shortly into the second half I left. I could no longer bare to watch. Perhaps this was the general feeling amongst our people. Life goes on and so let us hope that the game against Wales this Friday will give us some sense of satisfaction. The Minister...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I do not intend to interrupt the Member but I must commend him. Such conviction encourages the young generation. Our boys are playing to represent our country with hearts of champions. They are sacrificing themselves for the the flag of this country is important to them. We have a lot of good players that are playing for the All Blacks, but they do not want to play for Manu Samoa. These boys have families here in Samoa and are playing with all their might to elevate the name of Samoa.

There is a difference in matches and such is the reason for some of the problems we are facing. There is the problem of bringing players together as they are playing for different rugby unions. The unions competing in the Southern hemisphere located south of the equator include New Zealand, Australia and South Africa which we are also part of. Their style is open play, that is passing around the ball which requires fitness and speed.

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The style of play adopted by the northern hemisphere countries is focused on holding on to the ball. They tend to favour having massive size players who are slow and unfit. This is our problem, bringing the majority of our players from the northern hemisphere. It is difficult for the coach to coordinate them in a short period of time. You are all aware of the Lions which have fixtures with a lot of teams before facing the All Blacks.

We are a relatively insignificant team, with limited opportunities to the top. When we do get an opportunity, what happens? We engage in a match before having any preparation for it. This is due to the poor decisions from the big boys running world rugby. Nevertheless, our boys are still trying, Wales have lost, so as Ireland, Scotland, Australia and Italy. There are only a few teams that are yet to lose but there is always a first time. Our team are trying really hard and is the reason why we attend, to encourage. It's important that the players recognize myself and the Head of State, and anyone that can attend with us as representatives of Parliament. So as to instill in their hearts courage and bravery when representing our nation.

Mr Speaker even though we may joke about such matters, there is a huge misunderstanding on the reason why we encourage our children to play sports. Nowadays a lot of young people are not in employment. Therefore, we should encourage them to get into sports for a brighter future.

Mr Speaker I really appreciate the opening remarks from the Member, this is the type of statement we need now to provide courage for our children to give it a go particularly with this game tomorrow.

MR SPEAKER: My commendations, I believe the statement from the Honourable Prime Minister is of great importance for the members and the general public for there has been queries and I guess the matter is understood. It is a very encouraging thought for us and I hope it will reignite the support of our people and not show disregard due to the decisions from the governing bodies. Let us keep the faith so that our **boys will have the endurance when carrying our flag.**

Thank you, for members and the country at large have heard and may we stand together in prayerful support seeking Gods grace in the game tomorrow. I call on the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo to continue.

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Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I also am grateful for the clarification by the Hon Prime Minister and Chairman of the Rugby Union. Well those are the thoughts of this old man from Aleipata to encourage our team. I am certain that if both sides of the park are covered in blue it will create enthusiasm for our boys to play their best.

I wish to convey to the Chairman of the Union my apologies for the statement I made earlier. I have high regards to the Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo and the Chairman of our Union as well as the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture the former Manu Samoa, perhaps your presence will be an encouragement to our players. I will move on to another matter.

The Hon Minister of Communications, Information Technology, I am not sure but perhaps....

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I do not think the Member knew that the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture was there as well. The speech he gave was beautiful. We must understand that Moses and the prophets are always present to plan such important things.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Now I recall that it was mentioned by... I did not see anyone. I apologize to the Member but I did not see you. Nevertheless, you were also present on that cold night. I will no longer speak on this. Let us pray that our team will do well this Friday.

I want to add this request on top of the ones I've already made to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. I want to thank your Associate for clarifying that he will try to get television coverage for constituencies in rural areas. I thank you with respect.

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I want to thank the office of the Regulator, since a request was made to your office on the matter regarding television coverage in our area. If we do not get coverage. I understand that you have the authority to issue a warning before revoking their license when certain areas are not covered.

The Hon Minister of Justice Courts and Administration, I was listening to some of the matters raised by some Members yesterday, this is one source of income for our country, tourism.

This point was cited by some Members yesterday, and addressed by the Hon Prime Minister. I have noted the same issue with rubbish seen everywhere, this is not only in rural areas but the whole country. When people go on drives around the island consuming food or a soda, after consumption they would just throw it out the window. This will pollute the side of the road, I talked with the former assistant Police Commissioner. There is a provision under the Police Act that constitutes this action, I humbly ask the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration to add more provisions to this Act since the Attorney General is listening in. These matters should be considered thoroughly there are similar legislations in Singapore and other countries in Asia. Once you are found littering you are instantly fined. This would be a great Bill if drafted to be amended and pass into law. Any car seen with rubbish thrown out shall be fine with bystanders as witnesses. The Government will generate revenue and at the same time it will help keep our country clean. Perhaps I have spoken three times on this very matter. With utmost respect this is a suggestion to the Minister to review this legislation and make amendments so that we can enforce such rules and be carried out by the Land Transport Authority or the Ministry of Police.

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture I am grateful to your response yesterday, I wrote him about one of our teachers that went to New Zealand. I think he went there to pick apples with his family hoping they would be able to live there. He did not take his sick leave after he had used up his annual leaves he was then let go. It has been six months since he returned and is looking for work. Since there is an acute shortage of teachers in our constituency I had requested the Minister to consider this matter, a decision has been made and the teacher will be able to work again. For clarification of the Minister our Primary school in Saleaamua, at the moment has only two teachers and the Principal, with 160 students.

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I humbly ask for your consideration on this matter, I know I have already mentioned it before but for the constituency listening in I want to reiterate this request. There are more than 160 students but only two teachers and the Principal. This is the same for our College in Aleipata, Vaisuli College we do not have enough teachers.

The Hon Minister of Finance I will not speak further on the Budget since this years one is relatively the same as the previous year. I can see there is not much difference with the one in the previous year. Looking at the capital circulating our economy which is different from the Budget, it is around \$1.5 billion and the good thing about it it is circulating within our shores. This capital comes from our visiting families when there are faalavelave, money being sent from our children and friends when visiting.

As the Hon Prime Minister mentioned, the other form of capital are our players. It is not being recorded but their families earn a lot from them. An example is some of them born in New Zealand and I think two are from Saleaamua. One plays for the Reds, he was here for the previous game and the other I believe is from Lalomanu. I met with the father of one of them two months ago in Auckland, and he was showing off his new car, I think it was a Ford Ranger. He said, "I do not have money, this is from my son that came after his contract and got me this new car." These are the type of blessings that I really admire and its rare. But I want to commend and convey blessings to our boys. The Hon Prime Minister is right, we have a lot of good players but they do not want to play for Manu Samoa, because they know they earn more money playing for the All Blacks, Australia and other countries like England. Blessings are from Heaven, and our players specializing in this sport of rugby are blessed with it.

I thank the Minister of Finance I support the Appropriation tabled. It seems our total Budget this year is between \$850 million and \$900+million which is less than a billion. I have also noticed that there are grants to assist with our Budget. I would really like for this trend to continue. I hope you will not require a supplementary as mentioned by some Members yesterday. Perhaps this ammount will be sufficient and with your knowledge and expertise to prudently appropriate.

I want to thank the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development for I have seen progress within the Ministry. My gratitude to the Ministry for your endeavours. Like I said yesterday conflicts that had erupted within some villages have been resolved. I really appreciate your assistance on this matter.

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The Hon Minister for Revenue, I do not need to praise you regarding your achievements as you are decendant of Atua. My only concern is that you are introducing a lot of legislations and a lot of it is to do with raising taxes to generate revenue. I want to touch on the bill currently before us on tax to be place on church Ministers I will be brief as a lot of members spoke on it yesterday. I want to bring to the attention of this Parliament a situation whereby a Church Minister from my constituency receives only \$1000 tala per month which equates to \$12000 or less than \$15000 per annum. Do I take it that a Church Minister with this kind of income will not have to pay tax Would this be the case according to the propose legislation?

I am grateful to the Minister of Finance on this matter concerning wages. As long as you earn les than \$15,000 you are exempt from paying tax. I note you nodding your head a gesture of agreeing to what I am saying. This is great especially for people who will not be paying taxes. The majority of Pastors like ours do not receive over \$20,000 in a year so they will not pay tax. If we think about it the income earned is divided between the Pastor and his wife. These are just a few thoughts to assist with the Bill. Some of the matters mentioned yesterday concern Pastors working and paying taxes which is reasonable as they are earning an income. This is my humble recommendation on the matter but you are correct with your arguement that we need money to develop our country. Let us try and collect them like...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member you have two more minutes. I will give the opportunity to the Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister for Revenue): Thank you Mr Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the Member considering he is asking directly. The opinion voiced is right, if the money received by the Pastor on Sunday does not reach \$15,000 in a year there will be no tax paid. This does not apply to the wife of the Pastor. Contributions received cannot be divided between the Pastor and his wife. That total amount will be subject to tax. If the amount does not exceed \$15,000 the Ministry will not take action. However, there are forms which should be fill out each month and the Ministry should be inform of any amount receive. When this Bill comes before Parliament we will elaborate on it.

MR SPEAKER: May I remind the members that this propose Bill is yet to come before the House. Although the point raised is thought provoking. I call on the Member to conclude.

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Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Mr Speaker this is why I am being cautious with what I say. For your information there is \$2 million in the Budget. With all due respect, it seems here that the horse carriage is in front with the horse following. This is the reason for voicing this suggestion but I will move on to another matter because my time is almost up.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I only have one concern which was mentioned by one of the Members yesterday, the rhinoceros beetle. I am quite saddened by the fact that this beetle is really affecting the coconut trees within our constituency. I have a small roll of coconut trees growing beside the road and I think ten trees have been affected by this beetle.

I came to the Ministry to one of my friends three years ago, and I was told that they will visit, perhaps I will have luck this time in 2018. I humbly ask that this issue be reviewed. The Hon Minister of...

MR SPEAKER: I want to remind the Member that there are two other opportunities of fifteen minutes Please conclude.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Is my time finished?

MR SPEAKER: I have been reminding you that you had two more minutes I ask that you conclude.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: I do respect the instructions from the Chair. Now a member can be cocky to a Speaker of one term. But not to someone whom has had, I think 5 consecutive terms.

I will be brief, to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, there is a part of the letter at the end in the last paragraph where there are words stating, "thanking you in anticipation for the work that is yet to be done." The Minister has stated that it will be implemented, but my village of Satitua is listening in, there were some elders that told me and said to me that I look down on Satitua. This is why I humbly request for development of our road that leads to the school I think it not even a kilometer maybe half kilometers from the main road. now If I were an ant travelling this road I would struggle with the pot holes on the road, It would be like climbing Mt Vaea. The road to our school at Saleaumua is less than 400 meters long, when it rains this road becomes really muddy.

Perhaps these are the only requests, thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, and not forgetting the Associate Ministers and Members.

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Regarding the issue with our teachers, to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and all Associate Ministers there will be refreshments serve when you do visit us. With respect Mr Speaker I thank you and to all Members, let us work together with the Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations blessings be upon us all especially my constituency of Aleipata. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the opinion shown respectable Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo Afioga Tafua.

The floor is now open to any other Member who wishes to speak. I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you for the opportunity. First and foremost, I convey greetings to the dignitaries of the House, Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet, Associate Ministers and Members on this side of Chamber.

I also greet this side of the House to Members and the Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations, the Clerk and Office of the Legislative Assembly and everyone who are here this morning. I also acknowledge the support of Le Ao o le Malo of Samoa.

I take this opportunity to greet my constituency, thank you for your prayers. I ask for your support while your Member will voice our contribution to the Appropriation now before the House. May I ask the Chair for an extra 30 minutes so I can have an hour to speak. I think it should take us exactly to our recess. I will now start.

The Hon Minister of Finance has already clarified the matter concerning the Appropriation in which some Members have voiced their concerns. The Budget highlights a catch phrase, Equity and Fairness. This is an outstanding statement implemented by the Hon Minister, it has a deep meaning, the budget booklet maybe thin, but the core of the Government is its capital. It also states that we should strengthen the foundations for tomorrow. There are two phases implemented in this Budget and it does not branch out to other areas if we think carefully about it, we will find that it is quite sound. It first states important developments that should be implemented now. For every Budget tabled we always look at the amount of funds allocated to carry out such developments of Government. It is seen that there is a small surge in revenue. There is also an increase of remittances from overseas. As we head into the future Government will progress. It is also stated here we have to meet our needs. This means if we have lesser needs I am certain this Budget will meet our objectives.

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I recall a statement by Tootooalii when we always talk since I was friends with him when I was seven years old. Looking at these small developments I remember him saying “how many water streams do you know of?” I responded “three”. Then he said “how big is the reservoir that you will use for these three streams?” The inside should be three feet. Then he said it will not fill up. Then he said to me try and create another stream. If it does not fill up today, it never will. Why is this? Because of our needs, no matter how hard this Government tries to accomodate the needs of our people there will still be more needs so it will never fill up.

Our needs become more every day. We cannot control the desire and needs of people. The reason why this reservoir will be full is everyone else putting in a contribution. I am sure there are many streams within the country that cannot fill up this reservoir because of the never ending needs of our people. If we limit our needs as is stated here to limit the spending of funds. It is very hard to acquire funds. Although there is a lot we tend to spent it, we have been warned in the three areas mentioned here. We should read the needs stated here carefully because we cannot just say whatever we want while they are trying to allocate it fairly. I am grateful to the Hon Minister for the guidelines implemented, it is great to see that we will not be paying more VAGST, this has drop. This is an area we should think about at the moment. This means if the Government plans to increase VAGST after this year they will because it is not specified how long this will be in place. It is not stated here the plans for progress of the developments in the works right now. The question is, what are some of the developments that are included? What are the developments that the country can assist with? Let us know so we will be able to assist. The problem seen here is, we do not know what developments are carried out. If we were to reiterate the story I mentioned earlier about streams and the reservoir, there are many streams and the reservoir has overflown. It is specifically stated in the Budget that we should allocate funds accordingly. Use it wisely from time to time. I have prolonged talking about this matter because of the Budget tabled, I am grateful and this constituency gives its full support on the Appropriation tabled by the Hon Minister.

It is stated within the Budget that one of its priority areas is education and health. I will elaborate later on the health sector but to the Ministry of Education. I am a bit worried about the idea of reemlpying retired teachers, these people have already been given pay offs and are now looking after their families. They have not been teaching for some time and may have forgotten the syllabus.

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In this day and age learning is at high speed. Is it possible for school inspectors to teach what they have missed out on, Moreover, we should ensure whether they are still able and in good health. With regards to the comment made by the Hon Prime Minister on the matter concerning cellphones, is it possible to adopt changes for students to not take cellphones into class. We recently heard the trip taken by our under 20 rugby team and the issue that surfaced from that was the result of using cellphones as stated by the Hon Prime Minister.

I ask that the Ministry to look into this matter particularly the Hon Minister we should bring back school inspectors whether this is the right choice of taking them away from their duty of looking after their families. Now that they will be going back to do the work, if this is a good option that is fine, I am a bit wary of it.

Another matter regarding the Ministry of Education, there is a matter I questioned in one of our Seminars I think it was last year, this is to do with keeping students from Salafai from attending school here. It is a difficult process for some considering the money spent to come here and also some do not have families to stay and they end up living on lease lands. There is also the problem of parents thinking they are going to school but some do not, they are influenced by peers and roam around town then commit crimes and end up in prison. I believe this is the reason why there are many inmates at Tafaigata perhaps 60% are from Salafai but we should try to avoid this issue from happening. Let them stay where their parents are living so they can get advice from them. They will get into a good school and achieve good grades. In saying that there should be a school set up in the town of Salelologa.

These are some suggestions to resolve this issue especially with money spent on travelling and the protection of our children from bad influences and instead have them understand our culture within villages and build a strong future.

MR SPEAKER: I apologise to the Member taking the floor, since we have arrived at our recess hour. The Member will continue his speech when we return.

I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for our usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its usual recess at 10:45am and recommenced at 11:29am.

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Proceedings recommenced on the second reading debate of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed.

Before recess the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 was voicing his speech. I now call on the Member to continue with his address.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: Thank you Mr Speaker I am certain Members have regained strength from the refreshments provided to continue with our work.

There are still a few matters I want to address to the Ministry of Education. This is related to a legislation I heard will be drafted as mentioned by some Members on child vendors.

For clarification this is one way for a 4 or 5 years old to learn and observe the use of money when selling these goods from shops. This will also assist them with school fees and also money for their Pastor. It is important as well because they will be able to learn to count money, they will know what is \$2 or \$2.50, it will not take long for them to change a \$10, this first step of learning is useful for 4 and 5 year olds. This is not taught at Sunday school once these children start holding money they will quickly pick up the knowledge. They will become smarter and will easily learn mathematics, how to subtract it is important to know these factors before we draft legislation especially in developing our businesses. If we ask how can I keep my money? But these children do not have any bags to put the money in they hold it in hand or in a knot. They will become smart in collecting and keeping it. When they grow old they will know how to budget their money and not spent it just as it is recommended by Government not to overspend funds, it is difficult to go back, I know the Minister is aware of this fact.

I want to thank the Hon Minister because it has been four terms now since this constituency made this request, I think it is nearly 20 years now but I am grateful that the school building in in Sapapalii has been completed with the assistance from China. The field in the sub village of Fatausi, we recently opened. I thank the Minister again but this was a request I made in 2001. This is the only village where ten players for the Manu Samoa came from. So we were planning a redevelopment but I am grateful to the Government that it has been achieved. This will be an achievement by the Minister for Safotulafai, once again this request was made 20 years ago. Now the Hon Minister has been kind enough to respond with the request put forward years ago, thank you.

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The Hon Minister responsible for the Budget, I want to reiterate a word of thanks. If we look at the majority of requests put forward they are asking for access roads. I suggest site visits be carried out to consider whether these access roads are used properly or is it just used for fun. If we look at Salafai in Safotulafai and Faasaleleaga No.2, taro is sold in front of homes alongside the road all the way to Tuasivi. If the Government is planning a trip on Saturday to Savaii you will see after the bridge at Sapapalii that there are seven small markets along that way.

This is the reason why I humbly request this matter be really looked at in case we build these access roads and will not be used. I am grateful to my constituency because it looks like most people from Asau are coming here to get crops because they do not have plantations, they only grow cocoa and orange trees but no taro. Taro is found only in Faasaleleaga, this is why...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member, the Member for Vaisigano No.1 is upstanding.

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua (Vaisigano No.1): Mr Speaker it is not Safotulafai. They do not own these as it is Government property. I am not aware of these people where they maybe from selling their taro in front of their village. Mr Speaker with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the correction. I call on the Member you have two more minutes.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: I will not disobey the instructions from the Chair. I am sure you will recall before recess and at the start of my speech I made a request for extension of time. My request was not disputed but I humbly request another half hour to voice a few more important concerns on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: The time for the Member includes the recess period. This is why I advise that you plan your time wisely. When you are done that will be it.

I call on the Member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Mr Speaker I have noted the Member has a lot of issues, also he has made a lot of complains to the Ministry of Education why not give him another five minutes to conclude his speech. With respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Alright. The Chair will give the Member the opportunity to continue nevertheless the Member should be mindful of the time and the work that we still have to cover.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity I will not respond to the Member because whoever interrupts means what I am conveying is true.

I have already mentioned that this constituency Faasaleleaga is abundant with taro, most of the people sell their taro in front of their homes. I instructed them not to sell taro at the market anymore because by 2 o'clock people living far away start coming for taro to take back home. This is a bit difficult which is why I told them to sell it in front of their homes when the day ends you can take it back to the house and bring it to front the next day. Now there are seven small markets or stalls along the way within the constituency.

The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, I put forward a request regarding our pools, there are 7 pools within our constituency and they could be used as tourist attractions like the one at Piula. I humbly ask for further consideration to develop these areas there are three pools in Sapapalii, the other four are used by people who cannot afford to pay water bills, this has greatly assisted those less fortunate families.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, thank you I know that it is part of your duty to find markets for our people. There is a problem I have noted with our taro, it is too dry, I do not know why but I ask that this matter be looked into. Taro that is planted with a $\frac{1}{4}$ of its root into the ground takes six months for the taro shoot to grow from the ground. It is then affected from the heat of the sun. In Fiji the taro is moist because it is deep into the ground. Another issue is the green taro shoots being planted, maybe this is why some taro become too dry considering it is exposed to heat for 6 to 7 months. This is my scientific understanding which I believe the Hon Minister has missed, I ask that this area be reviewed, I planted some taro and after two months the taro does not become dry because it was placed deep into the ground...will have to monitor this so that by the time it gets to New Zealand it will be...

Another matter is the coconut tree, we are all used to how our forefathers planted the coconut and we all know the disease. During my research when I planted coconut trees, I planted three trees together and had 20 lots, trees also reproduce this means if a tree stands alone it will grow but will only bear small fruits.

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If you grow three together they will be able to reproduce together and if one is destroyed by a rhinocereos beetle the coconut tree will tell the other about this problem. It will also bear more coconuts and much bigger ones. Anyway I will leave the matter to the Hon Minister to look into. I recommend that this matter be looked at since it has been investigated, this was one research I undertook when I was at the office.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member but there is an interruption from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker a point of clarification. It is the objective of this Ministry to take into consideration the recommendations and criticisms made by Members. The Chief Executive of the Ministry is present the reminder is important. I have to say that this is the first time I have heard coconut trees talking to each other. I request the Member to tell us about this important method considering we are facing the problem of the rhinocereos beetle. It will be great if the Member would share with us all the methods and strategies that will resolve such problems or whether these coconut trees are only found in Faasaleleaga. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Perhaps the Member is talking about the pollens that fertilize through the air. I call on the Member to tell us if this is true?

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: Well those are my thoughts on this debate. This is one source of revenue which seems to have disappear, our coconuts. We cannot revive this as it takes time to collect twenty coconuts from one tree but if we were to grow three together the pickup will only stop once before returning a fuul load of coconuts. I will leave it up to the Hon Minister and the Ministry to look at a way to contribute to our economy particularly the commitment to the needs of our people. This is my recommendation in catering for the needs already requested.

May I also say that this Minister is quite hard working, if you tell him that we may be able to find a solution from Papua New Guinea he would go there the next day to find it. The matter about cattle brought into the country, we have been trying for years to expand the growth of cattle.

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I humbly ask the Hon Minister to consider implementing programs to protect it because I can see that it is used inappropriately. An example is when a new baby is born a pastor would ask the family to kill one cow. We should protect these animals there is always the option of a 3lb can of corned beef. It will be a waste to kill a cow just for such occasion let us be mindful of these animals. Another example if ten cows are killed for one funeral and there are ten funerals in a week that is a hundred cows slaughtered. This should be looked at because only one calf per year. We should look out to a country where there are cows that can produce four calves in a year. I am certain the Ministry already has experience in this field, but let us develop this area for our livestock.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Perhaps the Member will note that the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has been taking notes of all his requests. I ask the member to conclude.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: I remember the old man Noah when he gathered all the animals he did not take only one but two of a kind, he was thinking ahead. All the Members here should understand that we are all desendants of Noah so we should be well prepared. The statement made was building for tomorrow let us concede with this theme. Let us minimize spending. If we want a lot let us save for the future.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I have already submitted a letter I will not mention it now because it has been 20 years. I have been in this Parliament then and now I am back again and still none of the requests were answered, I even told my constituency to take me to Court if they wanted to. Anyhow I am back again and have read the letter again and these are the same requests I want for my constituency. I have already given the letter to the Hon Minister and maybe after this Budget deliberation we can visit my constituency...

The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment the Deputy Prime Minister, it would be best if I came to your office and have a discussion to set a time for a site visit, then go from there. I know you care for me considering I am sick but am still here to voice the opinions of this constituency.

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I want to thank the Leader of Government. The heart and spirit you possess is powerful I only wish this could be the kind of spirit our Manu Samoa has, to have strength. I appreciate the support given to our boy Lupesoliai Sefo Parker. The second fight I was saddened with the boxers who fought in the first round I did not hear them mention Samoa its like they look down on us I could not make out who was the person there but in the second fight Samoa was mentioned and the announcer kept looking around for the Samoan. Anyhow I am grateful to the Minister of Education for attending. The thing is with the first fight the Ministers mouth guard went missing and it was the Minister of Telecommunication that had it.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member speaking, I will allow the interruption from the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker a Point of Order. In reference to the speech by the Member and in mentioning us well it is true I was there during the second fight, but I did not enter due to caution as I had already been in the boxing ring in the first fight. As for the third fight we will be going into the ring again.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: Thank you. The important aspect here is that during the first fight only New Zealand was mentioned, but when he was hit he was Samoan, during the second fight he was mentioned as a Samoan Sefo Parker not Joseph Parker, because Joseph is New Zealander, but it is the same Lupesoliai Sefo Parker. I am grateful...

The Hon Minister of Communication I humbly request for a pole up at Tapueleele we do not have a television signal, I advice to not be concern with the problem with cellphones, it is the negligence of parents when giving children money for credits. They will use cellphones and not listen to their parents' instructions. This is a major [problem which we are all seeing, the dependency on cellphones](#). In the past parents taught their children proper manners. Nowadays they are becoming rebellious. Since my time is up I will conclude with the understanding that the general public are aware of such issues.

Lastly I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance again for his efforts and also to the Ministry. I commend you all for the meticulous task, we usually criticize the Budget but this booklet has been well prepared. May the Lord bless you in your future duties and remember the requests of this constituency to be considered. Now you know that this is the only constituency in Savaii that sells taro.

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These are only a few requests of this constituency in relation to the matter deliberated. I pray blessings upon the Chair, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and all respectable Members of this side of the House. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I believe the House has heard some great recommendations from the scientist as well as requests for his constituency.

I believe all Members of this side of Government have spoken, now I think we only have the Chairperson of the Finance Committee left.

I call on the Member for Alataua West. Pardon the Member I think there are still a few more Members who are wanting to speak before Committee. I call on the Member for Falelatai and Samatau.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker.

I extend greetings to the Leader of Government, Cabinet and Associate Ministers and respectable Members. I want to take this opportunity to voice a few matters in regards to my constituency.

On behalf of the Members on this side I rise to convey a few thoughts. The members on that side of Chamber are fortunate to have spoken yesterday and this morning. It is the Samoan culture to discuss and deliberate such matters within the House. Since all Members have spoken and have been address by the Cabinet. We are the Members assisting Cabinet. We have no problem in being supportive of Cabinet. When Members of that side ignore us at times I want to declare our support in all the decisions that are made by the Government. I congratulate the Speaker in your role of dictating our proceedings.

I acknowledge the support of all Samoa in all respects, O Le Ao o le Malo, Member of Council of Deputies and the dignity of Samoa, *Aiga ma Tama, o Tama foi ma Aiga, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I acknowledge my constituency in all aspects. It is with humble thoughts that I thank you all this morning, I thank our village Falefitu o le aiga Tauaana, the village upholding our Constitution, through services to the village, Government and the church. We have served this Government for a long period of time ever since the establishment of the Constitution by our forefathers.

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I am grateful for your patience to the respects of *aiga Tauaana ma latou Tama, Tuimalealiifano o le Tama Aiga*, them who have served the Government of Samoa from the past until now, Tuimalealiifano Suatipatipa I, Sualauvi I, Siuaana and Suatipatipa II, Sualauvi II, let us continue to serve the Government of Samoa. May I say to the *aiga Tauaana* and family let us continue serving our country.

I am grateful for peace from our Heavenly Father, I thank the Elder Deacon of the Board and Susuga Tautiaga Senara and members of the clergy who are serving the cup of life in our constituency. I thank Samatau for the duty of safeguarding the dignitaries of our families.

Mr Speaker I will now move on to the matter under deliberation. I recall the speech given by the Hon Prime Minister when he was Minister of Finance in the previous term, he said the calling is very simple it is a case of adding and subtracting when carrying out the role of Minister of Finance.

Therefore, Mr Speaker I will not go into subtraction and addition, but will speak on the objective of this Main Estimates.

Mr Speaker, the goals set by Paul in the Book of Corinthians includes three things, *faith, hope and love. The utmost important is love.* I believe this is the same with the Appropriation before us. We attempt to distribute what we have with a clear sense of compassion. Mr Speaker if I were to express my gratitude for all the developments carried out by Government I will not imitate the old man that prays day and night, for our prayers can never be compared to the compassion shown. We are here to give recommendations and to voice our concerns on matters that may affect our developments.

Hon Minister and Cabinet overall we want to thank you all for the distribution seen. There are plans already set by Government which I hope will be achieved, the development of infrastructure all the way to the airport and the wharf at Mulifanua towards Falelatai. I am grateful for the four lane road that has been completed right up to Saina, I know there are plans in the pipeline to continue this project. Even if its just two lanes, we will be content. My concern though with this [development is that we all know the airport has been expanded.](#) We also have the wharf in that region of Mulifanua to Salafai. When the plane lands passengers are expected to be there at checkin two to three hours before boarding, some people will also be heading to the wharf at that time. This road is quite busy during that time Hon Minister. I humbly ask that the two lane road development be carried out carefully, ensure there will be bus stops and a overtake lane to ease traffic especially commuters rushing to the airport allowing other drivers to take their time.

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I am aware that the intention of Government and Cabinet is to carry out good quality work on this project but this road is quite long and when there is a traffic jam towards the airport or the wharf it affects others. This is why I humbly ask that the planning undertaken for such project be utilized carefully.

With Road Maintenance during heavy rain we encounter a lot of problems especially with heavy traffic. I hope that this area is looked at for I know there are already contractors allocated to each section but there are times when the quality of work done is fairly poor. As for monitoring and supervision, these are areas that should be undertaken by the Ministry, road maintenance should be carried out once a month, thus there are already set provisions for such work, it would be best to carry out visits to ensure the work is done right.

There are contractors who mow the side of the road, and this has become an issue since certain areas are large and must be mowed twice. I humbly ask that this area be assessed.

There are times when road shoulders are questioned on how wide it should be, there is only a small portion of the road used for it. These are some of the issues you witness when coming into Apia from rural areas. I humbly request the Hon Minister to keep an eye on these contractors by monitoring and supervising them.

The matter concerning wastes, I am grateful to Members of the House for voicing the importance of keeping our country clean. This is also part of our concern, there should be licenses for buses, there should be set rules to monitor rubbish being thrown around bus stops. What is happening is that the buses on their last trip heading out to rural areas would stop at an area and dump their rubbish. I ask that these actions be taken into account, the bus owners should clean the rubbish from their buses and put it into a plastic bag and use the stands along side the road for it to be collected by the rubbish truck. This is a responsibility of bus owners. This problem my fellow members, is not only happening in rural villages but all of Samoa. In a sense it is the bus drivers and taxi drivers who are irresponsible. I am saddened by the site seen at the side of the roads and even around reserves. Eventhough there are Ministries in charge of looking after these areas, it is not monitored everyday but rubbish is being dumped there daily. I noted from the Committee meeting that there are times when tourists visit those areas and end up picking up these rubbish wastes. I strongly recommend that these areas be monitored and for everyone to keep our country clean and beautiful.

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The rubbish that is being collected by the rubbish truck, I believe that majority of the waste are plastics and plastic bags as for other rubbish such as dead leaves, dried grass these can be used for decompost. These can be used for banana plantations for it to grow well, this is a Samoan fertilizer used by our people long ago.

I pray to the Lord to help us and our people in keeping Samoa clean.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I commend you for the hard work especially in emphasizing the importance of agricultural development in Samoa. I am concerned about the use of pesticides today especially with our crops being affected by many diseases. We did not rely on the use of pesticides. Farmers should resolve this problem by letting the grass grow wild for a few months before clearing it for new crops. I have noted the strong use of weed killers, I do not know why some use it but it will greatly affect crops and the soil. I humbly ask the Hon Minister if it is possible to put a duty on these pesticides so it becomes difficult for the consumer to buy.

Mr Speaker there are still a lot of opinions I want to raise, but I am grateful to the Minister for the work being carried out. I humbly request consideration on the road between Falelatai and Faleaseela, I already made a request but just a reminder, this road is used by all of Samoa. It needs further improvement considering it is used by everyone travelling towards Samatau, we do not call it an access road since it is the new center of Tulivae, and these are lands given to our constituency which are now being settled and the new road has yet to be constructed. These are few requests but I support the opinions of some Members since our funds are scarce. I ask that assistance be given to our constituencies, on development of access roads which can be later be tarsealed and hopefully all of Samoa will get such benefits.

These are my requests Mr Speaker God bless this Parliament of Samoa. I also pray blessings upon my constituency. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call on the Member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga ALAI'ASA MUAGUTUTI'A MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East): I believe that we have heard a lot of opinions and views from the Members. This sitting is very important because it is here that we share and report on the economy and the wealth of Samoa. We also want to voice our views on the subject matter on behalf of my constituency and I will be brief. I trust that we are all gathered here today, respective Members, Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers of Parliament. I am delighted with this Budget.

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I know that there will always be requests for projects to develop the Constituencies. This is why we became Representatives to cater for the peoples need when they ask for assistance. We are their voice in Parliament. Who else will do it? This is our time, this is our duty and it is our responsibility to the people, so we must exercise patience. My Constituency is doing very well, in terms of allocating resources and money to where it is needed, there is nothing to worry about, we all know that we gain benefits through different forms such as percentage and so on. If we look back to the year 1980, we faced difficulties and challenges. These days we are moving forward with advance technologies. I suppose that we do not want to go back to the difficulty we faced back then. We have all read the budget and we understand that we have enough capital to fund our projects to benefit our country, and I appreciate the arduous task undertaken and I also ask to please be consider the requests of this Constituency, if we are given the green light with access roads, that will be enough, praise God.

Hon Minister of Finance, as it says in the book, "The Lord does not provide the spirit to intimidate us but the spirit to give us strength and compassion so we may live well" You also experience this feeling when you are in a village fono. When an argument is presented you automatically know whether it said in a compassionate way or through deceitful motives, for ones gain. Thank you for the report on the Budget, I have listened and learned that this is done by someone who is close to the Lord. It is from God, for the prosperity of the country now and the future. I would also like to say that we have a few requests for assistance from the Government, provided that this Budget can accommodate. It has been mentioned that, Associate Ministers should go and teach but they are not teachers, they have been chosen by the people to be their voice with regards to the advancement of Government.

There is a difference between the Public Service and the Executive, we should understand already and I trust that we will not be making these kind of comments in the House. If he really wants to be a teacher, I suggest that he does this at his Constituency. We have only the Government who are responsible for the Budget as we currently do not have an opposition but the newspaper. They have been reporting, this and that, even news about the President of America; we should understand that there is fake news, and such can cause confusion in the minds of our people. I want to tell the general public listening in to not be concern. Samoa's economy is stable and is in a very good state. We are moving forward and slowly progressing for we know that Rome was not built in one day. Let us not be misled by these ideas this is my conviction on behalf of my constituency.

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May the Lord bless this day and forever guide us in good health, Afioga Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Members of the House, Speaker of the House particularly the citizens of Samoa supporting us. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, this is what we call a chiefly oratory typical of Tumua. I will not praise the speech from the Member for Anoamaa East but I believe it is a productive one. Thank you. I call upon the Member for Faasaleleaga No 4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No 4): I would like to thank Speaker of the House for this opportunity. Allow me to greet the leader of our country the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers and the respective Members of this House. I would also like to welcome CEO of the Government Ministries and Statutory Organizations I acknowledge the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Parliament and the citizens of Samoa who are listening from near and far. Mr Speaker, my gratitude for this opportunity to voice the conviction and views of this constituency. I am very happy to hear that there is progress in the Budget compared to the previous one. It reminds me of the wise words of King Solomon *“there is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to reap, a time to be happy and also a time of sadness”*.

Mr Speaker, this is the day that we should be glad and rejoice, because it seems to me that in the past year we were sowing, metaphorically speaking, and now we shall be reaping. I commend the Minister of Finance, CEO of the Ministry, orator Lavea, and the other Ministries collaborating with the MOF for the meticulous and work. We have witnessed the outstanding work that you are doing proven by the surge in Revenue for this year. I will not attempt to praise you after all it is your line of work. We envy the talent and skills that you possess and your purpose to serve your country. A proposition to the Minister for [Education, Sports and Culture](#), I applaud the wonderful progress in this field. I have notice the improvement in our Technical and Vocational Training Center. I have seen the potential in the youths that are being taught in this profession. My only suggestion is ensuring that students are taught on safety so that when engage in major projects they understand everything about being safe on the job. I therefore recommend that they be drilled along this line.

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I thank the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure for responding to my requests regarding the bridge in Lano, we have been devastated twice by this bridge during the two natural disasters that hit us not long ago. The problem stems from the pile of white sand deposit sitting inland of the river bed. So when the water from the Mali'oli'o River starts overflowing, once it gets to sand deposits it immediately starts flowing out of the river bed causing flood. Thank God for our constituents were spared from these horrific experience. There were no fatalities other than the damage to homes and land. This is why I humbly ask to consider our request on this very matter and also access roads for my villages of Asaga, Puapua and Lano. I would like to make a request to your Honorable to look at improving the access roads in my Constituency. I'd appreciate any degree of improvement from the Government to make this happen since tar seal roads cost is substantial, whereas with one access road it could around \$800,000. There are 3 villages in my constituency and if they could only assist us in clearing the area all the way inland to enable the vehicles to reach. Give us the \$800,000 and we can use our resources which is a mound inland of our constituency to minimise the expenses. Access roads are not included under our maintenance programme and at the moment we are maintaing other roads that were done by the Government. If we could be assisted by the government with the access roads for these villages, we will maintain them in a good condition. I would like to thank the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, for supporting us in matters that we have requested assistance in. We have plenty of taro in the village and the problem is that we need a market for exporting ou produce. Hon Minister if we encourage the farmers to grow and export only taro number 1 and 2 perhaps this is the answer. There are those exporting a mix of taro types and I think this where the problem lies. We should focus on only taro #1 and #2.

Hon Minister, I ask if you could look into the matter that I requested in the last Parliamentary term, a seawall for my village. The Mormon church was destroyed by flooding not long ago, now they have moved to higher grounds. If the budget allows I ask that a seawall be constructed to protect the village in times of poor weather. Thank you Mr Speaker, we have notice the improvement with the work done to the streets of Salelologa and the establishment of a University in Savaii as well as the Technical and Vocational Educational Training Center now in progress. This is all I ask for the Minister to look into since you have the authority to do good things for Salafai. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I now call upon the Member for Faleata East

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Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING (Faleata East): Mr Speaker I thank you for the opportunity. I respectfully greet the members of this House. I acknowledge the Head of State and the people of Samoa tuning in especially my Constituency of Faleata East.

I had no intention to speak today however after hearing the requests from other Members it has urged me to take the floor. The Budget that is now before the House is of the authority of Cabinet and the Minister of Finance, with the support of the Associate Minister. The one thing that impresses me about this Budget is our foreign reserves of \$4.2million. This is a very good state we are in. When disasters come our way this is where we measure our capability to keeping the country stable for a few months. Eventhough the numbers have dropped a little, we are in a safe comfortable position. In saying that, I applaud the Government for being prudent in our expenditures whilst running the country and its developments. I feel sympathetic towards the members on that side with the problems they are raising and their demands. In due course the Minister will respond accordingly but let me tell you that we are really occupy at this time of the year....

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker, if you please I would like to request an opportunity to say a few words.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Member for Vaimauga East

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa: I thought that the Government have responded to the statements from Associate Ministers. I was of the view that the members on this side will all get to speak in response to the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. It is sad to hear that they are discussing their own Budget which they had prepared. I am disappointed for the Doctor is raising the numerous demands from us. Let me be clear, we on this side of chambers give our full support to the Budget. Its just sad to hear them addressing their own.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you for the interruption from the member for Vaimauga East. Yes, this is a concern, I will say to the Associate Ministers that the Chair is of the same view as raised. I am recognizing our rights to speak. At the same time, I am allowing you five minutes.

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Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Mr Speaker, as I was trying to say, we are really busy at this time. So when you do try to find time with the Minister and he is not available, it is for that reason. The next option is to approach me and I will note you down and have the Minister attend to you on a first come first serve basis.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker now I get it, the Associate Ministers title should be substitute with Secretary to the Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I appreciate the Associate Minister for clarifying their role, this is what we call working together. When the Member for Vaimauga East becomes an Associate Minister he will understand the meaning of collaborating. Nevertheless, the interruption has merit. I call on the Member please keep it short.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you, this is the role of the Associate Minister to support the Minister As I said before, the first person to come through my door will be the first person on my list to the Minister. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister for clarification on the matter.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this is the kind of situation that requires working together since the Associate Minister is a doctor. When one needs a penicillin vaccination you do not need to go to Motootua.

MR SPEAKER: I guess everyone understands that you do not need to go to the hospital since the associate Minister is a Doctor. I advice everyone to show good conduct in case the doctor may provide you with the wrong injection. I ask the Associate Minister of Health to conclude.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you I am glad to have assisted. But it is true if you become ill one does not have to go to hospital just come straight to me and I will give you an injection that will quickly put you to rest. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. I believe the speech serves to put us at ease with the matters discussed. This is will be the last time for the Member for Palauli East to speak.

Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISUAO PALEMENE (Palauli East): I bring greetings Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Members and Associate Ministers. I believe the objective of the budget 2017/2018 is to cater for equal skills appropriately and this is strictly followed in the Development goals of the Government. It also covers the implementation of projects and to promote skills and qualifications for everyone. The objective and the goal is for people who are eligible to contribute in funding projects for the country.

In saying this I applaud the Minister of Finance Sili Epa, the CEO of the Ministry and other Government Ministries who collaborated in the compilation of this Budget. Palauli East fully supports the Budget 2017/2018. Cabinet Members, I believe I have submitted the requests on the developments needed at our constituency, for I know in my heart that as long as I keep reminding you, the door will eventually open. To the Ministry of the Prime Minister, thank you for the seasonal programme that you have implememnted for our people to help their families. The CEO of the Ministry has receive my submmisions which I have tendered a while back and I hope that we will get a response fairly soon.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for your ongoing endeavours to meet the effects of climate change. I would like to remind your Honorable of the request that I submit regarding a seawall for Faala, seawalls are now in place at Vailoa and Vaitoomuli. I gather that the funds under the Ministries budget for this particular programme is quite a bit. Subject to your discretion I ask that Faala is noted in your list since sea level at this very village is rising. Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I believe you made a visit to our District College and we are in your [schedule for this Parliamentary term](#). For your information Palauli College is in the village of Vailoa, It caters 4 Electoral constituencies made up of 19 villages. Mr Speaker I appreciate the project for renewable energy in Vailoa Palauli which has taken off. I want to thank my constituency in all of its honorific salutations for their support of this project. In addition, with these major Governments projects, I ask that the maintenance of access roads towards these projects is noted. To the Ministry of Agriculture, thank you for recognizing our hard working people in Salafai.

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I humbly request a supply of Israelian bananas for the big island, since the bulk of the supply have been distributed around Upolu. Thank you to the Tourism Authority and the CEO of the Ministry we have received assistance through the climate resilience programme and we now have cascade pools and beach fales in Aganoa.

Mr Speaker those are my requests for the development of my Constituency, for your consideration if it suits the Budget. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you for the speech, and I believe it is time for the Chairperson.... I call upon the Member for Faleata West. Apologies to the chairperson, I believe this will be the last Member and then yourself.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): No, as I have said before, we may joke around these kind of matters but we are Members of Parliament after all, not logs flowing down Vaisigano river. When Parliamentary is in sitting our Constituencies tune in to hear our deliberations on issues that will benefit them. We were elected to be their voice in Parliament. Being an Associate Minister I do not sit in Cabinet meetings so my understanding is limited on the decisions made by the Executive branch. Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity, normally when we debate the Budget we all get an opportunity to speak.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, as I said in our last meeting, I am familiar with these kind of meetings, it is all the usual formalities, the same old matters of projects and requests, so last year I wrote a letter at the beginning of the Parliamentary term and had it delivered to your office. It contains a list of things that I would like done within this 5 years term. It is not a big list and its only a year into this term so I will hand you another copy of this same letter today. I will not go into it again but there is a road in Toamua that I had raised in this same letter. The road to Vaitele needs maintenance, I recall another Member speaking of the road to Falelauniu.

I am thankful to the Government, but we should be doing this work. A word of advice for the future, with all the sub-divisions that are coming in including the sub-divisions of the lands I believe it should be emphasized that they maintain their own roads. Minister of Samoa Land Corporation I know you are a man with many hats and responsibilities but I want to bring to your attention the road at Fiaga which is in my constituency. This road is mainly used by the farmers and planters when heading to their plantations and I believe that Fiaga is supplying most of the Vegetables to the market.

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Now I hear there an increase in the cost of lease will be impose, if this is the case, can you also look into this road to Fiaga, it does not need to be tar seal it just needs to be maintained and cleared for the people of my village to walk to their plantations.

Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture, I have heard members praising you this morning and asking for this and that to be done. You will recall in your prime when you played rugby with the long sleeve jersey, socks pulled up to the knees and a try was 4 points. Well, times have change, everthing is technological but I appreciate your on going commitment. I submmited a letter addressing our need of a new school building at the Vaitele area seeing that this part of the country is now over-populated with the children attending this one school. Hon Minister, with the programme that enables teachers to return to school to acquire a degree in Science is a concern, due to the possibility that these teachers once receiving their degree will not be coming back to teach these students, they will either go to NUS or a private school because of the high salary totally forgetting the reason why they were urged in the first place. If you would please look into this matter, and perhaps initiate a bond in which they will be obligated to return after graduating and teach at the respective school that employed them.

With regards to the SQA, I have noted the substantial ammount of funding they receive every year. Would the Hon Minister look into its operations whether their performance is on track. Such Regulatory Bodies core role is to do with the legislations they are bound to. Other similar entity operate with a minmum number of staff, maybe 10 or 12. My point is appropriations for SQA is clearly getting out of control. They receive almost the same ammount of money as the NUS.

Minister of Finance, thank you for this is a very comprehensive Budget. I only want to ask about the levy propose to be place on electricity and Telecommunications. My concern is it might affect the cost of electricity. Once a price of electricity unit increases, who will bare the consequences? I am worried it will be us the consumers. It seems that the reality nowadays cntradict the promises you made. In a [previous Parliamentary sitting there was a huge applause when you announced the drop in the cost of electrcity](#). We all remember this statement from you. Several members have spoken about unfair competition and the varied prices of goods. What surprises me is the different prices of the same product from the same supplier. For instance a box of chicken at 5 different shops will sell it at varied prices. Yet they are bought from the same supplier. This applies to a whole range of other products such as soda and canned foods.

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It is something the Ministry should investigate because there are so many wholesalers out there. Strict set of criterias and standards should be establish since some businesses are well organized within guidelines such as aquiring licenses whilst others are set up at their homes without any legal bearing.

I am also thankful now that we have launched the full standard safety for canned products being imported into the country. We should really look into the situation of canned foods such as fish, corned beef etc... They are being resold so many times that by the time it is consume it would pass its expiry date. Proper standards should be in place to avoid the circulation of products in the wholsalers Canned fish for instance are sold to familyls for the usual occassions, these boxes are being sold back to the wholesaler and are being sold again to the public. This goes on for 3 to 5 years and by the time its finally consume it would have pass its expiry date. To the Hon Minister of Works, road maintenance is an on going process, yet there is a need for maintenance in certain areas. For instance their is a massive pothole along the Alamagoto road and its been this way for 2 months. It is fortunate that near accidents from this problem were avoided. I have submitted a letter regarding matters and issues with our roads. I understand that there is a construction company already assigned to this area. The bridge at Leone has finally been completed and I am surprised that an overseas company built that small bridge when it can be done by a local company. If its the World Bank that gave advice on who should build the structure, we should have written to them to allow a local company to do the job. The thing is, they come here with their strict criterias which becomes an obstacle, disqualifying our peole from taking up these opportunities. Yet our very own companies are quite capable. I appreciate the fact that the job is complete, although when I came on this bridge this morning my vehicle could barely fit the width of the structure.

To conclude my speech, we are in a time of the Digital Era or the Digital economy and we cannot escape it. We are confronted with a lot of challenges within our Ministry. My advice is for us not to discuss these matters to the media. I understand the importance of the radio service to adults and generally the villagers without television sets. Come December radio services will be up and running around Samoa. Minister of Finance, I note from my records the staedy rise in all our revenue sources.

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The introduction of the x-ray machine to scan containers coming in to the country should be welcoming for we will be able to detect everything being imported which should result in more revenue. You have done a marvelous job and I think this target can be achieved. Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity given to me. God bless this Parliament and my constituency. If anyone wishes to contact me about anything, I can be reached on Twitter and Facebook. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. You have heard wonderful opinions from the Member. At this stage it would seem inappropriate to ask Members to take the floor. Opportunities will be available to anyone when we return from recess. Parliamentary proceedings will now be set aside and will recommence at 3pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 12:57 and recommenced at 3:00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly commenced with the continuation of debate for the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 in its second reading.

MR SPEAKER: I now announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resume. I believe we have regained energy to continue with our work today. I now call upon the Member for Vaimauga West No 1 for your speech.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West No.1): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity and I apologise for the poor communication between myself and the Member who spoke before we went to recess. He implored me to speak first as this location is part of his constituency. Greetings to the Members of this Parliament, the CEO's and everyone present here today. Mr Speaker there are 3 things I would like to talk about today. First I want to thank the Minister and the CEO of the Ministry of Finance for the well prepared Budget and may I say that we endorse this Budget of 2017/2018.

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Secondly, I would like to thank the Ministry of Police and LTA for their role from morning till evening in ensuring that we are safe on our roads when travelling back and forth to schools and employment. My appreciations to the Government for the ongoing work to the areas destroyed after Cyclone Evan of 2012, from Ueligitone Maagiagi to Lelata. I would also like to thank the Minister of Works for the constructions done on the roads leading to Faatoia called Faipule road, Mr Speaker thirdly, is just a reminder we have it in the CIM plan the construction of seawalls for the village of Moataa from the year 1997 and it was reviewed in the year 2006 and I believe we will be reviewing again this year. It has been 20 years since this has been in the pipeline. I suggest that an impact assessment of the environment can be conducted or EIA or the social safeguard feasibility study to assist with a report to be provided as a guideline to Government when assessing a probable decision for the safety of Moata'a.

Another reminder is drainages to be done at Vaipuna, because when it rains it leaves a massive pool of water in the front of the church. The access road leading up to the water reserves at Magiagi currently used by Government Ministries such as EPC and SWA. There are families living in the area. Mr Speaker this particular area has been earmark by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to be a location for refuge in times of natural disasters. So what it needs is the road to be maintained for public use and also the Government Ministries who are constantly using the road. Mr Speaker thank you for this opportunity, these are the only issues that I wanted to point out. May we have a pleasant day.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I call upon the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 3

Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU (Faasaleleaga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker, Praises be to the Lord for your good health, and also the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Members of the House, Praise be to God for his guidance.

Greetings to the dignitaries of this Legislature, and also the Chief Executive Officers present. I acknowledge the general public tuning in at this hour. I would also like to greet my Constituency of Faasaleleaga No 3 from Siufaga to Saipipi. I also extend these greetings to the respected church Ministers, for your prayers and support for this Parliament. I would also like to greet my village of Saasaai and Saipipi and the honorific salutations pertaining to them. I acknowledge your support throughout this year.

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I would like to mention Elder Kaleve Leifi and the respected church ministers who are constantly praying for the safety and prosperity of our country. I commend the Minister of Finance for the budget, it is wonderful and pleasing in my view. The most important aspect here is the appropriations of funds for we have many demands that need be met. There is a lot that need to be done for our country so it is very important to manage our capital wisely. Budgeting wisely is very important, if a country lacks this, we will be in a pool of disaster, I must also acknowledge the head of Treasury Lavea for your vital role given this is not an easy task, and it is for the benefit of Samoa and its developments. My prayers are for you may always be in good health to maintain your great work for the development of Samoa. I salute you. We have a few requests that I wish to voice on behalf of my constituency and I do believe I also raised them last year. Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure there are two important things that a village must have, one is good roads and two is seawalls. This Constituency is in dire need of seawalls to protect us from sea level rise especially in times of Natural Disasters. You have seen the developments that my villages are making throughout the year, on the side of roads, they sell seafood, and on the other side of the road people are selling fruits, vegetables and food from the plantation. We are making good use of the land and the sea to provide for our families but the problem that we are facing is the road to the plantations. I ask, whether the government could assist us with the access roads to these areas. There are also people living far inland of the village and it is difficult for them to get to the main road because of the terrible condition of the access road.

The other thing Hon. Minister is we need water supply for our constituents residing inland of Saasaai, for their daily living. Another matter that we badly need assistance with is a access road for Saipipi. As you have seen with the disasters that we have encountered the Maliolio River banks overflow creating floods. First, we were severely affected in March when the water washed out most of the houses in the village. This was a repeat of 2005, 2003, and 1991. The water flows from Samalaeulu and Patamea to the Maliolio river, whilst the other water path remains within Fasaleleag doing a lot of damage instead of flowing towards Vaiaata and Tapueleele. Mr Speaker, I ask that the road in Saipipi to Vaiola be used as a main road, the reason being is, it will be easier for the children to get to school and it can also be used in times of emergency situations like Tsunami and Cyclones the public will be able to reach higher grounds.

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Vaiola is one college in Savaii that hundreds of children from Itu o Tane, Asau, Faasaleleaga and Palauli attends and this is the only road to the college, I urge the Minister for this road to be maintained for this purpose. Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am sure the wharf in Salelologa has been mentioned. My request is for another ferry to cater for travellers operating between Savai'i and Upolu seeing that we only have the Lady Samoa III in service. With the EFKS conference that took place recently, I noticed that the one ferry serving the two islands is not enough particularly in busy occasions like such.

Then we come down to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Deputy Prime Minister, I also had request seawalls and drainages for the villages of Siufaga to Saipipi. We have marvellous beaches in Faga but the problem is that we don't have seawalls. Another problem within our village of Saipipi and Saasaai is the drainage system is terrible, when the water overflows the Vaiaata it needs a very good drainage system for the water to flow directly to sea. A good example is the drainage system at Avao We would appreciate the same for us.

Minister of Health, thank you for the great work been done at Tuasivi hospital. One thing that needs improvement on is the morque needs work on it. I have seen that there is cable right next to the morque and that's fine. All I ask is for an upgrade to improve the current state of our mortuary. I must acknowledge the wonderful health service within Savai'i particularly Tuasivi and other health services on the island. I would only bring to your attention the situation with doctors and nurses, if their number could be raise. Thank you Afioga Loau, Minister of Education Sports and Culture I sincerely thank you for the reintroducing school inspectors.

This is vital for they were referred to as "tama o le itumalo" district head. The countless problems that occurred was due to the absence of school inspectors. They were the eyes and ears of the Ministry. They were the mediators between teachers and the community if problems surface. Similarly trouble from the villages would be reported to the Ministry. I understand that some schools have just two teachers, school inspectors can assist with the reshuffling of teachers. They could also be the link between the ministry and school boards. They are also responsible for the curriculum taught around schools they monitor the performane of teachers to ensure the syllabus is being taught in the way the Ministry requires.

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For Pre-schools, we are also very supportive of them, in any way possible. This is the first stage of a child in learning before we continuing further to higher education. I believe I have come to the end of my speech, I thank the Speaker of the House, Hon. Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and also Members of the House. Lord Bless this day. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, you have pointed out useful and beneficial facts for us and for the information of the country. Thank you. I believe the Member for Aiga i le Tai will be the last Member to speak. I call upon the Member.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI (Aiga i le Tai): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I stand to voice opinions of Aiga i le Tai in this sitting. I bring greetings to the Afioga Head Of State, Hon Prime Minister, Speaker of the House and all the Members and also citizens of Samoa who are tuning in to this Parliamentary sitting. This is also an opportunity to greet my Constituency from Faimata and Lalotoa to Luatimu and Malaetoi, Atiga and Falemaii, Anamaai and Falemanono. [Honorary Salutations] I would also like to greet respected church Ministers who are constantly praying for the safety of our country. I would also like to voice heartfelt condolences for the passing Fetalaiga Auapaau, may you find peace and comfort in the arms of the Lord, My heart felt condolences to the family. The Lord giveth and takes away.

I now move on to the matter of the day, which is our budget now before Parliament. I was hesitant to speak on the budget for this matter is particularly concerns this Ministry, Hon Minister Susuga Tupufia. There is also a saying that the elders keep saying and it goes like this, "*Aua le taia i fale, a malu i fale, ia malu i fafo*" and it means, respect is given when its due. This is the feeling I have this morning, of gratitude and appreciation to the Hon Minister, Fetalaiga i le Alii o le Itu and the Executives for all the complex task in compiling the Budget, I know it is no easy feat. We are very pleased with the report and we fully support the Budget for this year. I have heard a lot of requests from the Members and in saying that I ask that another Budget be made available for the demands of my Constituency since I believe the Members before me will have used up the Budget with their many requests. On another note, it is no problem for us, we will try as the saying goes "*e le galo Afia i si ona vao*" meaning, good deeds will not be forgotten, those who have helped you through will not be forgotten.

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I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Tourism and Authority, also the CEO of the Ministry Afioga Papalii and the Executives regarding the public conveniences now complete. I respectfully ask the Minister if the same could be done for Manono-tai for my constituents and tourist. I also would like to thank Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the wonderful work done for our water supply and electricity, even though its yet to be completed we are very happy with the progress. I applaud your endeavour, and I hope the Good Lord will guide you through when juggling the numerous requests heard this morning. Mr Speaker and Cabinet Ministers, thank you for all the hard work you have put in this year. I will leave you with the parting words of Sina and Tuiletai, "*a ta mavae a e tofa i le po, ia tofa i malae ae fale i le fale o le Atua*" Mr Speaker and the Cabinet, Members of the House, thank you for your support. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. This is the opportunity for the chairperson of the Finance Committee, the Member for Alataua West.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): Thank you Mr. Speaker of the House, respectable Members of the Parliament of Samoa gather here today, also I acknowledge the people of Samoa tuning in, and my constituency of Alataua West. Praises to the living God of this Parliament of Samoa, for this opportunity to convey my contribution on behalf of my constituency of Alataua West with regards to the Appropriation 2017/2018, at the same time suggestions as contained in this report by the Committee of Revenue and Expenditure. The members raised several issues which I will address on behalf of the committee. It is only fitting that an explanation from me is necessary. The Appropriation is a mere plan, an estimate, a guide for us when allocating our spending considering our revenue. Quite a lot of views touched on the \$45million of which \$23.4million comes from the previous financial year whilst \$21.3million is from the 2017/2018 Appropriations. Realistically there are no such profits as mentioned, I want to be clear on this for it would mislead the public with ideas such as to why it could not be utilise on roads and schools. Until the actual figures for the financial year is tabled we will not know whether there is a surplus and how much.

For example, the last Budget Report was submitted in June 2016/2015. The Appropriation for the budget of June 2015 was \$4.5million, but when the actual report for the year 2015 came before us a surplus of \$7.8 million has been gained.

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We were asked to elaborate on the \$49.6million reserved for major developments and the \$58.4million received from grants, as well as the \$52million for borrowing. With the \$49.6million for developments, \$26.7million is allocated to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. With \$2million towards the Electric Power Corporation whilst \$10.6million is earmarked for the Samoa Water Authority and \$7.7 million for the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and The Regulator. The \$58.4 million in grants/aids for major developments, \$20.8 million is allocated to the climate change project, \$20.1 million is towards civil aviation projects, \$8.1million is for the maintenance of public roads and \$9.4 million is for the maintenance of the countries bridges. In regards to the \$52 million acquired from soft loans, this is for the renovation of our Airport and its extension project.

One of the queies raised was regarding a Fire truck suitable for the extinction of fires to large buildings. The Committees report on pages 64 and 65 stipulates that there is \$24,783 allocated for a fire truck of this sort with an aerial ladder of 30 meters. The interest rate for loans from the Samoa Housing Corporation was raised. It is 8% when there is collateral to guarantee the loan. With unsecured loans the interest rate is 17% with personal guarantees as securities. Reason being is the risk for financial lenders when the borrower does not pay as there are no securities provided to cover the loan when unpaid.

An enquiry was raised in regards to the percentage of contribution on the use of cell phones and our findings indicate that 1% is proposed to be place on voice calls.

It was also raise what major developments are listed in the Budget? If you would read the budget statement from the Finance Minister it contains a list of developments to be done including the airport, the wharf at Matautu telecommunications developments, Parliament House, prison and much more.

There was a quiry regarding the Samoa Qualifications Authority and I wish to inform members that funding for this service has been reduce [since our current budget is slightly below the previous one](#). On this note the Committee advises that they perform prudently according to the appropriation given. The concern with the effect on levy and minimizing the involvement of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) and their assistance to the Electric Power Corporation and the Samoa Water Authority. We asked the management of these Organisations. It is our conviction that a tariff increase is not necessary, afterall this is a Government initiative to assist with low income families. The CSO help out in the installation of pipe lines. These organisations collect the water rates and electricity cost which covers the reduction in levy.

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Mr Speaker I think I have said enough and am sure the Ministers are keen to address the issues which I may have missed.

Mr. Speaker my overview of our revenue and expenditure is that our expenditures always exceed our revenues. As indicated in past budgets soft loans serves to balance our books and its helps us fund our major development projects. I am delighted to inform you of the low interest rates on Government lending towards the economy. I applaud the Minister of Finance for highlighting the message contain in the main objective of the budget. When making the right decisions for a prosperous future such resolution must be based on fairness and eligibility.

In the Hon Minister of Finances address he emphasizes the importance of promoting and making necessary changes to improve the services of Government Ministries and encouraging the private sectors. It is made possible by the prudent control of Government capital, and with changes implemented services supporting Finance policies. This would serve as a powerful policy to ensure a solid economy. The necessary changes and services by the Government supports the Financial policies and are in line with the recommendations of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee to Government Ministries and Organizations. To emphasize the importance of implementing annual work plans to accommodate performance indicators or performance measure so that its consistent with the funds allocated.

We are of the belief that if projects and its objectives is planned out right and in line with the actual project, it will become viable to measure the projects compared to the results achieved by the Government Ministries and Organisations. This is vital to the Chief Auditor when considering whether funds were properly used according to financial policies, and was the proposed project completed within the time frame and were there any record achievement. When considering the Ministries budget reports we have noted their goal of attaining funds yet there are important projects that need be improve. With work plans, since we introduced performance budgeting, proposed project plans from Ministries seems to be increasing every year despite the large amount of funds provided by the Government. Sound capital management according to financial policies is crucial, that is the importance of financial audit. It is equally important to show proof of improvement in services comparative to funds given.

For instance, a Ministry will have received \$26million, and at the end of the financial year their audit report indicates the said amount accurately used. Now that is fine I, but what I would like to know is, their accomplishments, was there improvement in their service? Or was it business as usual.

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The point I am trying to make here is the importance of accomplishing goals pertaining to the funds given. Work plans of Ministries and Organisations should link with with national development codes or objectives to the development of Samoa at the same time having a bearing to the millennium development codes which we often see on television. That is to say, adopting the same strategy to reach our common goal. Overall I appreciate the fact that all Ministries have adhere to the recommendations of the Committee from last year. We have notice progress in your preparations for the Budget, although there is room for improvement.

To the Hon Minister of Finance, thank you we also like to voice our appreciation to the Chief Executive Officer Lavea and the Ministry of Finance for your efforts, and the sound management of our limited funds. I am very happy with the fact that VAGST has remained the same. It is welcoming to the low income earners within the \$12000 - \$15000 bracket. I also like to extend my thanks to the Hon Minister of Revenue and its Ministry, for achieving its highest revenue this year. We have noticed that the Ministry can collect up to \$46 million a month as to their target. My only suggestion is to challenge yourselves with the amount of \$50million a month, I believe it is attainable. Let us hope for that in our next budget. Well done.

As the Ministry continues its great work of collecting tax, I wish to draw your attention Hon Minister to the report of the Audit Office, regarding the 2015 budget report in which \$16million in debts goes unrecorded and unrecognized. Could this figure be recorded into the Government system or has it already been done? This would be another positive point for your Ministry.

Mr Speaker and Members of the House, before I convey the wishes of my constituency, I want to comment on our way of life nowadays. Samoa is a blessed nation and so often we ignore this fact as our growing desires come up. When watching television, we see abuse and poverty overseas and is a testament that Samoa is a blessed nation.

I have notice the progress in our developments despite other aspects of life going too fast I note a gradual improvement of developments in certain areas of our economy. It is our duty as leaders to find ways to improve our way of life so we may be stable and growing.

Mr Speaker the statement by the Hon Minister of Finance is understandable with regards to the objective of the Budget "*Equity and Fairness*". Emphasis is place on the importance of promoting and making necessary changes, in order to improve services within the Government offices and also to the private sector. With this in mind I like to put forth the request of my constituency for the consideration of Government.

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The demands of my constituency, is subject to the same eligibility rules as everyone else in the country. They are relevant to their prosperity and good living which applies to everyone. Mr. Speaker may I remind you of the two things which I raised last year to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers. To the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture my previous statement towards your goodself and how well you played in the Manu Samoa and the lengthy period in which SCOPA held the shield. I made that statement with the intention to inspire our Manu Samoa players. I was right when I said that the implementing of projects would be swift and solid, just like the manner in which you approached the game, with speed and power. I am really glad that a location has been confirmed for a school building at our district and Falealupo.

My overview of the new district school buildings which have just been completed 7 years ago until 2 years ago is very impressive. The large modern structures are very attractive with computers installed. But the problem is the computers are not being use and only about 3 or 4 classrooms are occupied. I believe these schools were built according to the proposals made to the Ministry. I suggest that the buildings and funds be base on the number of students within the area. For instance, if the total number of students in our constituency is 400, then \$5.2million should be enough and if the number is 500, then more classromms should be built with an extra \$3.5million on top. In other words, funding should be appropriated according to Equity and Fairness. The Minister has the wisdom to do this.

I want to convey my sympathy to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure due to the numerous demands from our side of the chambers. I wish you courage. I understand there is \$8million earmark for the roads at Savai'i. Would you please consider the access roads at my villages of Falelima and Neiafu. It does not need to be tar seal, we only ask that it be clear so that my constituents can get to their palntations. Several Cabinet Ministers relayed to me the poor conditions of the road within my constituency form Tufutafoe to Neiafu. My response was, would you please confirm that to the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastucture.

To the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology and your associate, we did not request anything in the previous financial year. I'm happy to inform you that our constituency is now receiving a clear radio signal and I am certain that they can hear their representative as of this moment. We are currently going by what you said to keep tuning our TV sets for it will eventually come on. I firmly believe that this will be sorted by the end of the year.

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To the Hon Minister of Health, I was quite vocal when I requested medicine for our district hospital at Sataua which caters for our community. I am happy to inform you that this shortage is no longer a problem. The community are now issued with prescriptions for their medicine after visits, thank you.

My final appreciations go to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, thank you for the awareness programs in relation to development being done at our constituency in which we are required to be part of.

Mr. Speaker I have come to the end of my submissions for the constituency of Alataua West. We will leave it to the Ministers to implement the appropriations and I am sure they will do so wisely. They were appointed to the role for their calibre. In saying that, I now conclude with my apologies in case I may have offended anyone in my address on behalf of the committee.

May the grace of God be upon you Mr. Speaker, may you be blessed with good health in every aspect of your calling, and may you possess wisdom in fulfilling your role in this Parliament.

To the Hon Prime Minister, may our Heavenly Father bless you with intelligence and sound health whilst at the helm in leading our nation. To the Cabinet Ministers may you be blessed with strength and wisdom from God in executing your roles for it's not an easy task. May the Associate Ministers be blessed in their role.

May this side of the House be blessed, for we have been trusted with the role of opposition to government, I extend my well wishes to the chairperson, the vice chairperson, and also Members of Parliamentary Committee, may they be blessed with spiritual strength to fulfill their calling.

May the good grace of God be upon Head of Government Ministries gathered here today. The support of the people of Samoa, and to the servants of God, for whatever challenging obstacle that confronts us their prayers keep us safe. To my constituency of Alataua West may the grace of God be upon you all. The last of my thanks is extended to the Clerk of the Legislative and her Office for their service to Parliament. May the Speaker be blessed abundantly, respectable Members, and all of Samoa who are listening, and let us wish our Manu Samoa the best of luck.

Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: I applaud the Member for Alataua West, Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I believe the country at large have heard the address submitted responding and clarifying the matters raised by members.

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I commend the member for I believe the clarifications will assist the government greatly when addressing the request from members. I call on the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA DR. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I wish to take this opportunity to extend my commendations to all the members that have contributed to this debate. The chairperson of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee concluded with her well wishes for our rugby team.

At approximately 2pm today, I was at the Maluafofu College dance practice, for they will be performing at half time. There will also be a quartet singing our national anthem and Wales. I suggested that they sing in acapella which does not require instruments, but instead let their natural voices fill the air for the 4 corners of the world will be tuning in due to modern technology. People from all over Europe, Great Britain to Russia, China, America and all of Asia to Africa will be watching. This is the global trend we are now part of, and it is the very reason the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology has not been getting much rest due to wireless communications which he is working on to have our cable under sea completed. When that time comes machines will be put in place there is a great possibility the Unit Trust of Samoa (UTOS) will give their support. So in all reality games hosted by our Nation including matches under light will be transmitted instantly to the world.

When singing our national anthem, it should be 100% to 200% perfect, as the whole world will be watching and it is the opportunity for us to draw the attention of the world to Samoa and give them reasons to visit our shores and so we may empty their wallets.

Mr Speaker this Parliament have heard the Appropriation of \$934 million allocated to developments being laid out for this financial year. \$955 million comes from revenue, \$615million is our own capital and \$237million from grants and soft loans of \$103million. This comes to a total of \$255million. After deducting our expenditures from revenue we are left with a surplus of \$21million as indicated in the Main Estimates.

That is the summary of the Appropriation indicating that we are \$5million away from a billion. There is a great possibility that we will achieve this in the next budget.

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It's really important that projects are done since the \$934million will not be fully spent, but in saying that all the proposed projects will be completed. We merely plan things but the Lord will fulfill. Who knows, a hurricane may strike us in December and there goes the budget down the drain. We will then plan again. We initially plan ahead but with implementation we just got to wait and see.

For this reason, Cabinet in 1984 came up with the initiative that the head of Ministries must sit in during parliamentary sittings when the budget is debated. So they may get the grasp of how the work must be carried out. The appointment of Ministries CEO is in line with policies established by the Government, in which the best candidate is chosen.

I will not hide the fact that the instability of our economy from time to time does not depend on our financial state, but these very people. They are the right hand of Government when it comes to the implementation of our projects. At the same time, they must deal with hundreds and thousands of issues, not one or two. The role of Cabinet is monitoring their poise and providing solutions. It is the reason for our constant prayer to God for guidance to the 13 members sitting here for the burden of the task is upon their shoulders.

You all understand as you are all frequent travelers, and times are changing with the looming threat to peoples lives and the prevailing number of refugees seeking asylum else where due to problems with their own governments. We are fortunate to be surrounded by the ocean. Unlike countries in Europe, Russia, China, East of Asia, Africa, all the way to Spain, Portugal, Britian they are connected by lands. You can literally stroll to South Africa kicking stones along the way. They are connected by land and the problem is you can put up a fence and people will still crawl under.

This is the very reason of Trumps concern in containing the Mexicans, as these two countries are joined geographically. In our case being surrounded by sea it is difficult for them to come. However, people are seeking places where there is peace. This is why Samoa has set up a refugee centre because even though we are surrounded by sea we are still at risk. Let's take Australia for example, there are so many boats and ships approaching their vast oceans and stretches of beaches.and it is something we should be equally vigilant about. We will never know who may come into our country, for there could be terrorist. The modern world is full of problems. In this day and age with meetings between foreign countries the main issue of concern is climate change, which is complicated to control. Climate change is cause by heat which consequently melts the ice at both ends of the globe at the north and south pole resulting in the rise of sea level.

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Once that happens, the Island of Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu will be under water and many of our lands will submerge causing us to head to highland areas. This is the importance of the government programs of access roads. That is the reality, with poisonous gas in the atmosphere it all started 1800 years ago when trading stores started. Back then there were not that many people, in Jesus time the world population was at 250 million, nowadays it is at 7.3 billion. So a lot of our forest is cut down with less rainforest to absorb the gas in the atmosphere. There are nights when one just cannot sleep and reaches for a fan. Those are massive challenges before us other than our long term goals for our developments. We have funds allocated for these projects, but the future is unpredictable with climate change. There be any Tsunamis or hurricanes heading our way, but we are on the subject of the budget the beginning of July, but we never know what lies ahead. It is why we have annual prayer meeting to be reminded of how crucial it is to be nearer to God, so his grace can be upon us. We have noticed first hand the many occasions that the grace of God redirects adversities heading our way, and for that we praise him. This is also the reason why we have weekly fasting and prayer meeting at the beginning of every year.

Mr Speaker speeches made by Members are now before the House, the usual procedure is, Government response starts with the Minister of Communications, Information Technology, then followed by others if we can cover all today we should be able to consider the Bill in detail tomorrow. I ask that your response be directed on important matters and we will deal with the rest next year. May we have a constructive debate.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Prime Minister. This is now the opportunity for the Minister of Communications Information Technology to respond to some of the queries raised.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communications Information Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to convey greetings to the dignity of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Members. Greetings also to the Heads of Government Ministries and all employees of the Government Ministries and organisations present here today.

I feel that I do not need to reiterate the respects already stated by the Hon Prime Minister and similarly conveyed by Members which plenty and colourful as the colors of the rainbow. As of now I believe all matters have been put forth before the House during the progress of our deliberations today.

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I thank the Lord for his blessings in allowing Government to respond accordingly on the various developments within the country.

I will start with the future plans of the Committee set down for technology within the country. The national committee in which the Hon Prime Minister is Chairperson, alongside fellow members the Hon Minister of Finance and Heads of private companies. At this time last year we spoke of our cable already installed. I am happy to announce the long term goals of the National ICT Committee in which Tuisamoa will be officially open at the end of the year. By the end of 2018 we hope to open another cable undersea from Tahiti passing the Cook Islands and Niue, and we are currently consulting with Tonga for it to be called the Manatua cable. We are also negotiating with the Southern Cross on another cable that will be implemented in 2019. If this goes to plans we should have our 3rd underwater cable by the end of 2019.

I am certain everyone have seen or heard about our partnership with our neighbors in the East, American Samoa. We are also in negotiations to set up one between our two islands, it will be called Samoa American Samoa second or SAS 2. We are also consulting with our colleagues in Tokelau and Tuvalu for a cable from Samoa to go through Tokelau then to Tuvalu. This has the financial support of the World Bank. Once this cable is establish it may continue on to Kiribati and Guam where there is connection with countries in Asia and America. This means in the next five years Samoa will be the center for telecommunications around the world particularly within the Pacific.

The objective now is to connect more countries onto the Tuisamoa cable coming from Fiji which covers Wallis and Futuna and part of Fiji. In other words by 2021, 2022 there should be twelve countries in the Pacific connected with Samoa, making us the center for communication in the Pacific and thus open up opportunities with Asia and other countries which should provide us with economic benefits. It will also assist in the advancement of technology in Samoa. It is the mandate and aim of this Government to achieve affordable technological services and improve forms of communication for the development of our country. So we may be eligible for trainings overseas in health and other fields and also acquire materials that can be used for trainings for our peoples intellectual development. The Government has a lot of plans. The undersea cables set up will all be connected to Vaivase at the location of Samoa College. Where there will be Government building called Data Centre. This Centre will contain all applications and programmes which are quite expensive and will be made available to our people and will be shared to other countries in the Pacific.

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This service will be offered at an affordable cost and will mark Samoa as one of the countries in the Pacific to assist in providing high standard technological services. It will also assist with the development of other small Pacific countries as well. In return these countries in the Pacific will be able to assist us as well in generating our economy.

In this same building our Government hopes to include a Pacific Renovation Centre. We will attempt although it seems like a small idea we think this will later become a huge development, allowing us to use it for overseas developments.

I have found out that even if you live in Samoa you can still work for countries overseas by using internet services. This is the goal of Government now, and it should commence once the Tuisamoa cable arrives implementing these services at an affordable price. There are countries that we are researching on their methods of communication, they have long installed undersea cables but up to now their communication systems have not improved. This has taught us lessons on how to improve the development of our communication systems. It is our intention by the time Tuisamoa is activated communication will be cheap and fast. I take this opportunity to inform all businesses especially tourist developments listening in if communication is not good at where you are I ask that you contact the Tourism Authority in Apia to familiarise with the methods the Government has approved for this purpose. This should be in place before all cables arrive in the country.

These are some of the plans Government are looking at now. There is another project the Government is expecting to be implemented this year. There is a vessel under contract for the Pacific carrying out maintenance work on undersea cables, our Government together with the Samoa Submarine Cable are trying to get it to anchor at our wharf. Not only that but the building of a warehouse on the wharf to be used by this company. There will be a lot of opportunities for us once this is in place. Such as rental businesses and collection for lease of the warehouse. The vessel will anchor at the wharf raking in more. The vessel will be manned by a crew of sixty Filipinos.

Another objective of Government if everything goes to plan is looking at including submarine cable work in the syllabus for our Marine school at Vaivase. If this initiative works out then maybe in the next two, three years our own people will replace 30 to 40 of the crew members. This will be a great opportunity for our people to be employed at this type of environment overseas like our sailors who are now working on ships abroad.

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MR SPEAKER: I respectfully interrupt the Hon Minister but we have arrived at our usual recess time. Therefore you may continue when we return from recess. Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will now be set aside for our usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 4:44pm and recommenced at 5:51pm.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. I hope the refreshments provided have given strength to the Leader of Government and Cabinet hence all Members of the House to continue with our orders of the day.

Before recess the Minister for Communications Information Technology was giving his clarification, with respect I call on the Minister to continue.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Thank you Mr Speaker, I trust energy has been restored unto everyone from the refreshments.

I will conclude with a clarification on the vessel which the Government is trying to bring into Samoa, the TEZ Com a company from America currently contracted for cable maintenance in the Pacific. This vessel is needed when there is a problem with undersea cables, therefore if it is anchored here it will be easier for it to go to Fiji and Tahiti, to ensure communications between countries will not be offline for a while and so it will not affect our businesses.

These are some of the future plans set out by Government for the next 5 years through the National ICT Committee. With the queries raised by Members, the majority conveyed appreciation for the work carried out as was mentioned in June last year. The gratitude for the efforts of the Government is not necessary, after all this is the reason for Cabinet and especially Government Ministries existence, to instigate the requests from Members.

Over 70% of the work has been achieved as mentioned by Members from last year, at the moment Government is still engage in improving communications through television, radio and to areas it has yet reach.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the partnership between Government and Private Companies, working together to distribute telephone poles throughout the country, which has allowed broadcasting stations to reach other parts through radio and television.

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I want to thank the Associate Minister and also the Board of Directors for their effort in implementing this work especially to all companies who have participated and assisted Government. The future development goals...

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I will allow the interjection of the member for Vaisigano No.1.

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you for allowing my interjecting the wonderful speech from the Hon Minister but due to the fact that he is wrapping up and I had asked about funding of this Tuisamoa cable. Once the budget is passed a total of \$125million will go into this project. However, Tuisamoa cable is in operation by a company in which Digicel, BlueSky, Samoa Life Insurance Corporations, UTOS and NPF are all shareholders. I need clarification on the conditions of this venture.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: I was just about to address that matter now. The government's current operations and long term plans on telecommunications have been made possible through its partnership with the Samoa Submarine Cable. This Public Private Partnership in submarine cable has an outstanding reputation not only in the pacific but the world. We have resorted to them due to its current good standing.

This project is funded by our partners namely Asian Development Bank and the World Bank in a form of grant assistance. We then lend it to Submarine Cable Company at 1% to undertake this project.

Therefore, no funds is allocated from our Budget for this project considering the requirements of this Submarine Cable company is working in partnership with six other Government agencies and development partners which are the UTOS, NPF, Samoa Life Insurance, CSL, Bluesky and Digicel. All of the 6 companies contribute \$8 million on top of the loans from the government at 1% which we hope according to our agreement should be returned to the government after 5 years, therefore...

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the interjection from the member for Salega East.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker first of all I do acknowledge the Hon Minister in achieving this important project with the assistance of his Associate Minister. The question I have stems from the fact that the shareholders mentioned are local companies or if I may say, ours.

For the record Mr Speaker, the development partners are local companies. The phone companies using our fields will be officiated by the State. Similar scenario happened in the past with satellite systems. Once Digicel and Bluesky came into the scene there was fierce competition for the gateway. I believe the Government should own 100% of this new cable venture so they may collect all the benefits accrued from the using of the internet within our region and beyond. I say this with caution as it is clear that the shareholders are local companies and possible problems may come up in future.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUAI RICO TUPAI: I appreciate the query from the member but the government has ensured full protection on all aspects which you are concerned with. The Government have signed 3 different agreements to protect us from corrupt practices and all connectivity processes for the benefit of the country.

This task is assigned to the Executive or Cabinet to look thoroughly into the Shareholding Company. As you have heard in addition to shares from UTOS, NPF, Samoa Life, CSL, Bluesky and Digicel which means that afterwards we might make about 75% to 80% for this company owned by the State. That is the intention for this development project which is why it's a good idea to be operated by the private sector.

All concerns regarding protection on our side is well taken care of and so as requirements and signed agreement in relation to our development partners. For the understanding of the member funds from the ADB is ongoing for this development project which started from the previous year.

Money earned in according to plans is to enable us to connect with other countries of the world. Because revenue earned from this will benefit us all including our neighboring island countries. That is the detailed explanation on this development as we move forward.

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I allow the interjection, is it a point of order or point of clarification.

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Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: No it is something I raised...

MR SPEAKER: Go on.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: The question I had put is simple and this regards speed. I wonder whether the Ministry has sort out a way to block gross and vile contents coming through which I had raised since it is a real concern to our community. That is my only question Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, you are correct, I allow the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: I was just coming to the point raised by the member. With this new development comes a sense of sadness and compassion after hearing your concerns from yesterday until today. It does show your commitment to ensuring the safety and protection particularly of our children from the dangers of the modern world.

The biggest government project right now is cyber security and we are working in partnership with Australia whom have assisted greatly and other partners on internet security. I can assure that we are safe and protected from any cable issues and communication systems in space. Meanwhile the government has signed an agreement with the telecommunication companies and the stake holder companies to protect their respective Ministries and Offices and their point of connections before internet reaches the country henceforth filters have been arranged.

When you tune to the radio or watching television you will have gather from the notices and the various awareness programs being broadcast. The role of the Office of the Regulator and the State through the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology as well as all the Ministries including the Ministry of Police, the Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. There are various organisations and the government Board of Directors promoting public awareness from these realities. The government shares your concern of safe guarding our country, particularly our young people from the effects of cyber crime. This is to ensure a safe future for our young generations.

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Let us ask ourselves, where do we want Samoa to be within the Pacific region and the world? This government's main objective is to place Samoa at the forefront within the Pacific in terms of communication and technological development. We want to be the hub of the Pacific where our pacific neighbours will look to us for guidance in terms of technology. To verify this, most of the technological places on earth with high internet access have the highest economic standards. 10% goes into the country whilst 3% goes into raising its economy or the country's Gross Domestic Product or GDP. That is the main intention of the State at this stage. This does not in any way diminish the vitality of your concerns about the safety and security of internet usage in the country. On the point of internet access and advance technology which is now within reach, we urge parents to be vigilant of your kids safety when they go on the internet. You must have in place a curfew, which would bar them from using the internet by 10.00pm. This will be a great start for parents in protecting their kids. There are lots of other agreements in place with other countries that Samoa has signed with the assistance of the Attorney General. This makes Samoa eligible in its capacity to create programs. Since this is all fairly new to us we must ensure our security whilst accessing these advance technology and further improvements.

Mr Speaker and the dignitaries of this Parliament, that summarises the general feeling amongst members, and their concerns and advice on te governments endeavours in telecommunications.

The truth is as I have reiterated, once we achieve this, our standards will improve. We must educate our people, not only students but adults alike. This new cable should improve the service of the Ministry of Education and the health sector, with the shortage of teachers and doctors. This should enhance education online for everyone through the existing Samoa National Broadband to further boost the level of schooling for our children academically within the country.

I take this moment to say a few words to my constituency and its support towards our work today. Thank you sincerely especially to the clergy, chiefs and orators, women, youth and to the dearest district and the villages of Fasitootai, Vailuutai, Faleatiu, Satapuala and Satuimalufilufi, thank you mostly to God for your support. The intention is for us to work together in supporting the State and its endeavors because for all these developments, we can only plan whilst God fulfills our goals so we may grow and prosper in all things.

Mr Speaker that is all about communications and information technology for the benefit of Samoa in the future, thank you for this opportunity.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology everything has been well clarified.

I call the Hon Minister of Justice and Court Administration for you statement.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister of Justice and Court Administration): Mr Speaker, thank you. I wish to officialy greet the dignified House, Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Hon Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers. I also greet this side of the House, as well as Government heads gathered here. I also greet His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, and the support of Samoa. I also acknowledge the Church Servants of God praying for the benefit and welfare of Samoa.

I specifically wish to greet my constituency of Vaimauga West No.2, in all your traditional honorifics.

Mr Speaker I think we only had one or two comments towards this Ministry and none on the Electoral Office which are under my portfolio. I ask myself why this is so. The short answer is that everyone are satisfy with the service of this Ministry. The leaders for these two Ministries were not an easy selection, they are young and well educated and qualified and I agree with the Hon Prime Minister in his statement given earlier today, the Cheif Executive of the Electoral Commission is a *lauia* or big fish meaning he is the right man for the job. This is the very reason why I jog at 5am every morning, so I may be able to catch up with these fellas who are young and quick in performing their duties. What is the result? No one made a comment about their performance. As said at the start, only two members commented on this Ministry they were the members for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo and the member for Siumu. I can put forth the list of Ministers and their portfolios to enlighten members. I say this because the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo raised the point of enforcing the law against rubbish disposals around the township area to promote tourism. We are not the actual Ministry that deals with this issue. It is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Police and the Samoa Tourism Authority are the respective Ministries that deals with rubbish all around. Let me suggest otherwise to leave this matter with me...

MR SPEAKER: That is covered in the speech of the Hon Minister. I call the member of Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

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Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, I do not wish to interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister of Justice.

With respect, the essence of this legislation starts from you (Hon Minister) you introduce it into Parliament. I did ask whether we have depositing litter legislation like they do in New Zealand. This does not cover the town area alone rather the entire country including Savaii, Manono and Apolima, and anyone caught littering is instantly fined. This is the assistance with great respect thank you for your statement.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Thank you for the clarification. I will say again that the recommendation will be passed to the related Ministry with the authority to collect rubbish to submit recommendations to Cabinet in drafting a legislation which will be tabled here for the members consideration.

The complaint from the member for Siumu to look at the legislation on indecent sexual acts... If I heard you correct... is it true that it is prevailing in your constituency...

MR SPEAKER: The Minister states that this crime is on the rise within your constituency. I call on the member, is this true?

Afioga Faalogo Iosefa Sopi (Siumu): Your honorable Chairperson, I am merely reminding you that this does not pertain to Siumu alone but the entire country. It is not a complaint but a request.

MR SPEAKER: Very well then. I call the Hon Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: I beg your indulgence. I had thought that your concern was about your constituency. This is similar to the member of Aleipata Itupa i Lalopoint of concern. The enforcement of the laws is the duty of the Police and the Office of the Attorney General.

As I had reiterated before, the House is tasked with making appropriate Laws from one session to another with the official approval of this Parliament and once it is approved the next process of the State is enforcement.

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If this service is not properly done, you must submit a letter of recommendations to Cabinet for a directive to the respective Ministry to investigate and report back to Cabinet for the drafting of legislations and pass them to us for approval. Those are the procedures to this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, continue your speech.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Mr Speaker, I am concluding and I totally support the Budget 2017/2018 before the House. With all due respect, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you Hon Minister for your speech. Now we come to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to provide a responsive remarks to some of the expressions and comments.

I will not go into the honorifics salutations of the dignitaries present as its been said by the members. I believe that a lot of meaningful statements have filled the air in this House and has been heard by the people of Samoa, all concerning this Budget Appropriation 2017/2018.

A total of 24 speakers spoke on this Ministry, including Associate Ministers and I am being general to make to make my work easier.

I remember speaking of advance technology as we are living in the world of technology using email and my Office is available 24 7, if I am not at the office you can contact me via email and I will respond to your requests.

For the sake of the member, this is the fourth year since our Principals have been working under contracts.

Another raised a concern about the shortage of teachers, yes you are right. There are several reasons for this, some leave for New Zealand when are accepted under the Quota, others continue their service with another Ministry due to a higher pay, some due to bad behaviour, all these reasons contribute to the problem.

Another aspect of this matter is such that one resides in Patamea and teaches in Asau whilst the spouse lives in Salelologa. The Ministry is trying to address and find solutions to all these issues and this is the reason teachers are being transferred to other areas to be with their spouses or rather other teachers could be affected by...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg indulgence Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, take heed of the other Ministers.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I am telling my fellow Minister to move over as I am waving about my arms and it may hit him

MR SPEAKER: It is true thank you the intention of the Hon Minister is to provide clear clarification for your sake. We have an interjection.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, just a query is wearing sunglasses allow in Parliament or not? Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well I guess not but if there is good reason such as your eyes may be sore or to that effect. In saying that I caution the Minister to be considerate in what he says as the saying goes, "*malu apefoe ae pisia ai fofoga*" sea water may be cool but will hurt your eyes. Anyhow I call on the Minister to continue.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you Mr Speaker I suppose the member can't see me from where he is. I am using a long range glass as my view is becoming poor.

Mr Speaker all these concerns such as the shortage of teachers well we have the Ministry's awareness programs that will assist to attract more teachers:

Firstly, raise the salaries where it is appropriate. After Bachelors in Education, your salary starts at \$25,000; if you are a Science teacher you will kickstart at \$30,000. Yes, this is to attract students to attend school and study teaching as a career.

This is encouragement for us parents in the rural communities to urge our kids to take up teaching. In yester years the two most important jobs were police officer and teacher. This is a collective effort for our children to become teachers to increase the number of teachers in the country. The Ministry is also trying to promote awareness programs for people to take up the teaching profession.

For school buildings reconstructions, we have what we call the memorandum of understanding or MOU by Education School Committees to work collectively together. If a school needs construction, they must submit a written request and the Japan International Cooperation Agency JICA will visit the site. Therefore, you come to us for a supporting letter to be submitted to JICA for them to find a suitable day to meet that requirement.

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For childhood education, the Ministry has completed its mandate as we understand that the core of education is at childhood level. This is where it all starts. The Government is also looking at ways to fund this. It is good a thing to be next to the Minister of Finance and he too has advised that until it is all approved hopefully the salary increase for teachers will go ahead. Note that if the teachers' salary is achieved, they too must be trained well to become quality teachers so when they do teach the students for the first year levels from 3, 4, 5, they will do a successful job as it is not easy to deal with students at this level. Teachers should therefore have skills and knowledge at these levels. We also have teaching programs by the NUS and the USP to provide adequate insight for the teachers before they can start the Childhood Education.

The member for Falealili East and the member for Siumu requested and raised playgrounds. Well your requests must be achieved. I recognize your requests as soon as we have the Budget 2020/2021.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Mr Speaker a point of order, it is not Falealili East its Falealili West where the Falealili College is located.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Minister to resume his speech.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Alright I get it, Falealili West, right, Falealili is the same as Falealili. West or East it is the same thing with your one sports fields.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: No just a point of clarification that may be so but I did raise in my speech the sports field for our college which is located in Poutasi not Salani thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well honourable member for Falealili and Falealili well do not take it to heart this simple matter, Falealili is Falealili, go on Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you for your assistance Mr Speaker I beg indulgence to the member, but you two discuss where you want the playing field.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beg forbearance Hon Minister, the other member of Falealili is also begging for a chance...

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Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: I do not mean to interject the view of the member of Falealili West, this request was put forward the previous year and this year, as you know this constituency is now divided. A playing field for this constituency has been in discussion. To shed light on the matter, this request is about maintenance to the sportsground of our constituency alone.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you that is well delivered, go on Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I hope that settles that. Several members raised the drop off range and what will become of these students. Since they have failed to reach year 12 and 13, where will they go? Some of the recommendations are quite good, it was suggested that they attend the village groups for untitled men and the women committees. I wish to inform you of the programme that has been running for 3 years now and will end in September. This is by the Manukau Institute of Technology and is in partnership with our Ministry and the National University of Samoa. This is where our children are heading and so far seven colleges are under this programme.

Students are now moving towards this programme to achieve a higher education level which they failed to here. I think this will continue and it is funded by the NZAT of NZ. This is the pathway for these students and therefore, instead of attaining School Certificate or University Entrance they will go through the Polytech programmes and straight into employment.

For Science Teachers, there is a programme to upskill teachers from Diploma to Degree level. We recently received 50 Science graduates from the Diploma field who are now moving up to the Bachelor of Science Degree which is a significant move by the State for our Science teachers. The Prime Minister has also spoken about the huge amount of funds spent on upskilling our local teachers in the science field with the objective of attaining higher standards and quality science teachers.

With the Samoa Qualification Authority, they have submitted their response which states that they have tons of work which Cabinet has approved.

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On School Inspectors, the Ministry plans to reinstate them to foster their relationship with teachers, Principals and the Ministry, in order to assist the Ministry. Particularly when it comes to consultation with the rural community. Currently school principals are covering the role of school inspectors instead of teaching. Therefore, school inspectors have been reinstated.

Some also queried the relationship between the Polytechnic and the NUS as it has now been a decade since their merging. Well that merge is being re-visit to see whether this union should remain or dissolve. A solution will be sorted and made known in the near future.

I think that summarises all the matters and recommendations which you stated and I will say that I do agree with your contributions.

I ask that you share constructive recommendations to improve our services as we move forward. Afterall this is where the bulk of government capital is spent. Its important that we ensure that it is done so appropriately. I ask for your trust in our role of running the education system for our childrens future.

Mr Speaker that is my response to the submissions from my fellow members, if somehow it does not please you, Rome was not built in one day.

This is the only chance hence I wish to say something to my constituency of Sagaga East I mean, Sagaga le Falefa, I have thought we have already amended this change. Thank you Sagaga le Falefa for your support. Well done to your well support and prayers. I am very well. If my may have err please disregard.. I wish to acknowledge the village of Aele, you will not be forgotten with Avele and Aleisa. Knowing this village is inhabited by mainly halfcastes, let me say in english thank you Aleisa. I love you.

May God bless our deliberations.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. As you stated everyone is well aware of the concerns voiced. Henceforth we now come to the Minister of Finance.

Respectfully I call the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance): Thank you for the opportunity. I believe this will be short as the Hon Prime Minister has already covered in his overall summary to this Budget and forward plans and I trust that we should be reminded of the main objectives for this current Budget Statement, strengthen foundation and the means for tomorrow. There are two main significant objectives.

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Firstly we have prioritised developments that needs to be implemented as soon as possible to raise and strengthen our economic level and for our people to gain opportunities and access to services.

Secondly, these undertaking must be continued this year and beyond. As you are aware, the Budget now tabled highlights additional projects and developments that are currently underway.

As you all know, most of the projects implemented and revenue assessment with their review is now highlighted in this Budget. A lot of the completed projects noted in this review is set out in the Budget.

Another very important undertaking is enhancing the service of Ministries and Enterprises to facilitate the smooth processes and procedures specifically to respond to the demands of the public. We intent to roll out the public sector reform this year keeping in mind the mandates of Ministries to support all of government's agenda so it be in line with Government Strategic Plans. At this stage there is conflict between Ministries as they all have respective roles to play but there is uncertainty as to the boundries of the limitation of their roles which has resulted in a deadlock consequently blocking the dissemination and sharing of information between Ministries so as to perfect their services. Reform will take place sometimes next year together with tax and duty. The main objective is to increase revenue collection to address the demands of the public and constituencies. It is also clear from our Sitting yesterday and today the usual request for the maintenance of main roads and access roads, water, transport and electricity. On thing is for sure, we need huge ammount of capital to implement these. It is also important to have investments on our infrastructure as a avenue to improve the state of our economy. Given the key priorities is place on education and health, we feel that it is vital our children are getting the best education and heath care. All these priorities are indicated in the budget.

The Budget also highlights the importance of reviewing our key priorities and the fact that everyone should help out with the developments in terms of financial contribution and is the reason why exemptions were altered today as well as raising costs to some Government services which have not come under review for many years.

I am of the belief that at this time we should not be hasty to get things done but to work within our means. What is important is delivering quality service. Ministries must utilise their respective appropriations with prudence. We are also. We have major devlopment projects funded by our overseas partners through grants and soft term loans from the World Bank and The Asian Development Bank.

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We feel that this is the right time to implement these as our economy is improving and perhaps in the near future our status will gradually rise meaning we will no longer be eligible to the conditions of soft term provision. I feel that with the outlook for the coming year as shown in the budget we should be able to meet our demands particularly education. You have heard the Hon Minister of Health, the government hopes to merge the Ministry of Health and the National Health Services. Perhaps there is similar concerns with other Ministries where there is overlapping roles and functions and the imminent need to reduce expenditures and make good use of resources and knowledge of the employees within Ministries so as to achieve efficient and quality service.

We had a comment from one of the members in regards to fuel levy from the Lands and Transport Authority, and in accordance with the existing legislation, the Ministry of Finance collects levy from all local businesses except for fuel levy on vehicles assigned to the LTA. The LTA have their own financial sources through vehicle registration and so on. They are in consultation with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that they have sufficient funds to assist with the maintenance of our roads.

We had a query on the private sector assistance to reduce the burden on tax payment for exported goods and returned investments. Since this is reduced by 20% henceforth only 13.5% of this tax is paid. In regards to trade, adjustments can be made in the future.

The main intention is priority on the business and the private sector who employs the majority of our people. These people are able to invest in assistance to farmers to earn employment. It is not the State's role to find jobs for our people rather to promote and attract the assistance of the private sector with the support of the State. The reduced burden is 13.5% which is almost similar to Fiji and these assistance should be reviewed annually. We should prioritise these areas.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I note that you still have quite a lot to cover in your address responding to the matters raised. We have come to the end of our proceedings for today. Therefore, you may continue tomorrow, God willing.

Before we adjourn, I call on the member of Falealili East to end our Sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 6:57pm until 9:00am on Friday, 23rd June 2017.