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**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2020**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.*

Prayer

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. I offer greetings and acknowledgement to the Parliament for your patience. Even though our Sittings have continued later until late last night, we rely and depend on God to give us strength to continue our calling.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

*Clerk of the Legislative Assembly read out the list of Papers pursuant to S.O.49 (2)*

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.155, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation 2018/2019.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.1)  
2019/2020 – continuation debate on second reading – Day 3**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Work of the Legislative Assembly adjourned last night after members concluded their views on the Appropriation Bill No.1. The Hon Prime Minister has also clarified some issues for the awareness of the House, especially to all of Samoa listening and giving support.

As it has been stated we will now progress with the response from the Cabinet. I take this opportunity to call on the Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Technology to stand and respond to the issues raised by members of our Parliament.

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**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communications, Information and Technology):** Thank you Mr Speaker. The heavens have displayed the glory of God this morning, and have shown the divine work created by His hands. What do you think of God's love for Samoa with the rising sun this morning? This is the visual expression of the love of God who we worship, God the father, God the son and God of the Holy Spirit. Hence why, I call on this House, for a round of applause to praise the Lord.

I offer honorary greetings to the House and the support of Samoa spectating from all corners of the world in all its honorary salutations.

Before I respond to the issues raised by the members of the House on the developments of the Government, I firstly wish to greet the honorable Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and respectable members of the Parliament of Samoa. Furthermore, greetings to the strength of the Government, the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises and supporters, the Government officials especially the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff.

I also acknowledge my constituency that are tuning in to the Parliament of Samoa this morning. We have witnessed the many requests made by each constituency for the development of our country. Therefore, as you have already heard last night the Government are starting to respond as the Hon Prime Minister has initiated our response to the appeals and interests shown to the Government for developments for moving forward this year. That will be revealed in our statement, there is not much but we want to give a direct response to the appeals and circumstances that were voiced relating to the technology and communication developments within the country.

Two major issues were made regarding telecommunication and Digital TV connection, as already been planned and implemented.

In regards to the cell phones, your desires are correct. There are parts of the country that have yet to be transcended with telephones. The major issue we have heard about is that, there are parts of the country that is unable to connect to Bluesky but can connect to Digicel, and some areas can connect to Bluesky but cannot connect to Digicel. I apologise to the member that had stated this issue. These companies have spent up to \$50 million since the setup of the Tuisamoa cables in attempts to change the internet with speed and renew the connection of the internet; they also needed to replace the coupon and equipment used for the network.

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That is why the process is slow. But I tell you honestly, the testimony of these companies and their response, is that the work will continue in replacing and improving the situation in terms of cell phones and communicating using telephones in every area of the country. As you have all noticed, all businesses are based on the revenue. That is why it is progressing gradually, because our population is very few but we are still attempting to complete it before this year ends.

In regards to the plans for the digital TV that is in motion, the expressive opinions by the members are true. Those who had voiced this matter in their views, have yet to receive their digital TV. The first step has already begun, starting from the village of Vailele until it reaches Fagamalo on that side as well as the village of Taga on the other side. In addition, there are some areas that have received this service right now, even though this was not the decision intended, but the objective is to implement the second part of our plan so that it will cover 95% of the country which will be completed at the end of this month. However, as you can all see the harsh weather, it is making it difficult to pass the roads heading towards the broadcasting post. That is why I am respectfully imploring you all to be patient. Even though you are witnessing the sun rise this morning, but unless it is sunny for two weeks straight then the vehicles will be able to travel to where the pole is located and conduct this work. When 95% of the country is completed, then it will leave only a few grey areas that will be needed to complete the work. So this part of the work is expected to be completed in March and the whole country will have full access to this service if the weather continues to be favourable.

This is why I pray that you all be patient, but for the time being the usual analogue TV is still operational. The Office of the Regulator, with the inclusion of the box, is distributing the digital TV. If your television is an old model, then there are boxes available at Samoa Stationary and Books as well as Bluebird and other stores in town, as the Government has lowered the cost to \$55 to make it easier and cheaper for the people of the country to buy. This box is attached to the antenna, which is then attached to the television, and then your Digital TV will be operational. However, there are trainings underway, as you can see on TV and from announcements right now, instructions are being broadcasted for the implementation of the boxes to make it easier for the country.

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That is the objective, so that by the end of March or April we will be able to broadcast our new TV to the entire country. When the entire country is broadcasting the new TV system, then the old system will be removed. Well to the members of the House as well as Samoa listening, it is time to buy the box so you are able to watch TV, not only is it clear but all channels have been improved and made clear for your viewing. If assistance is needed, the Office of the Regulator as well as the Ministry of Communications is available to call. Now, TV1 and TV3 are the only channels that are not on our digital platform. TV1 was available on it, however, it was removed because it was incomplete and it required some improvements before it could be included again on the digital platform. Nevertheless, they are currently broadcasting on analogue. It is the same with TV3, as they are waiting for machines to connect them into the platform, but they are also still broadcasting on the old system. However, all the other usual channels of our Government, you can view them clearly on the digital platform.

Other opinions expressed were concerning our Samoa National Broadband, the means of communications for the Government that have been set up long ago since 2014. The opinions expressed are valid. In addition, the truth is, some Government Ministries are using it right now to communicate for work, but not all Ministries are using it. The Government have planned a digital transformation, which includes the digitization of all services to facilitate service to the country.

It also includes our E-health programme that was mentioned by a member to add this health service on the Samoa National Broadband, which will be carried out by the Government. It is the same with our National ID and the efforts to change all the services of the Government from the current situation with the usage of documents, which will be digitized to facilitate for the public. Wherever you are in the country, it is possible to implement the work and whatever you require using this Governmental service.

Another important issue that was raised is regarding our advertisement on social media. Your opinions expressed are correct, and the current level of inappropriate language and non-traditional advertising on the internet has been noted. However, it is not only Samoa that is affected, the whole world and even the United States of America, China, Russia, which is a big problem in these countries, even in a few countries of the Pacific. But for us here in Samoa, education are still being conducted, as broadcasts continue to make the public aware of all the necessary precautions, but the Government is also trying to keep in contact with these major companies.

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There is communication that is possible now especially between the Office of the Attorney General and the Police Department through the Act. In addition, if you noticed during the measles, there were ads that gradually disappeared, especially images. These ads were removed easily when the Office of the Attorney General wrote a letter on Facebook and other social media platforms, which were taken down because it is seen, and portrait in images making it easier for them to notice and confirm the truth of the situation we are conveying.

In addition, this is where it gets very difficult for these big companies to get their point across on matters delivered due to the language used, and they see to it that translators are employed in their companies to make it easier to see all the conditions that we presented. However, the Government is not resting on this issue as we are still writing letters, working together with the Police Department, the Office of Communications and the Office of the Attorney General, as they are the spokesperson for the Government and Government communications within these large companies, exchanging letters. It was seen in the recent court case, which had prosecuted foreigners, the man known as coconut shell and another man, and those are the reasons why we are still in touch with these companies.

Furthermore, there was an Act that was passed by the Government last year known as the Criminal Liable Law Act, with this Act you are entitled to prosecute any person who posts serious and inappropriate words and defames you on social media, like Facebook and other ways, as they will be qualified to be sued under this Act in Court. The Government also has an Act that allows the prosecution of people that say or conduct inappropriate behaviours towards the Prime Minister. Now the Government has Laws set for any situations, but we continue to work to develop that as the internet progresses, well, we defend it here and then tomorrow morning we are going in a different direction. These are all the terms, not only do we work together with these companies, but we also have Laws to register these companies within our country.

The Office of the Law Reform and the Office of the Attorney General are working to draft legislation in order to bring in these companies, social media, Facebook, google, twitter, Instagram and others to register all in the country so that we are eligible to prosecute these companies so we can organize and facilitate our work. Unfortunately, it is difficult for those big companies to take notice of us because our country is small.

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That is why the Pacific and the IT Association in the Pacific, especially all the Ministers of Communications here in the Pacific are standing together. In addition, not only will Samoa send 200,000 but also they will travel together with 10 million and plus people of our entire Pacific to spread the message which will make it more easier for us to get recognized by those big companies.

Government have set out plans and a machine has already been purchased with the help of the United Nations so that our Samoa National Broadband can be used in hospitals. It was seen during our dealing with the measles outbreak with one of the examples set by the hospital in Safotu, the Hon Prime Minister spoke at the hospital at Motootua and witnessed the current situation, to simply appoint a doctor in Motootua and use the Samoa Broadband to conduct consultation and direct doctors working outside to treating patients. It is for this reason that our Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Health are currently working together notably our Samoa IT Association, which have been rearranged to implement this goal as soon as possible.

I want to thank the Hon Minister of Health for allowing us to implement this for the sake of the public. This means that the doctor will visit the district hospitals at least once, so we will have a doctor available the rest of the day for the sake of patients and they can be contacted from any hospitals within the country.

In terms of education, most of the schools are using our school net programme, which is being transmitted on this platform except for schools that do not have computer labs, but for schools that possess computers, they are using our Samoa Broadband, which is connecting the school net to the school. At the same time, it has been used in accordance with the requests from some members so there are educational programs that are recorded by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and distributed online. That is the beginning and we will also be able to do online classes, and roles of the Ministry of Education will be set out to enable these online classes, so that students wherever in Samoa, that have few teachers are able to receive assistance and thorough education. This means, our lines are being used right now, the only thing is that it should be multiplied, because as you have heard we have many developments and we are trying to take full advantage of all the conditions required for our development.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Falealili East.

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**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East):** Mr Speaker, to save time this morning on the wonderful speech of the Hon Minister. I would like to ask a question since clarification has now reached the matter related to school net. The Committee went on a site visit and it was stated the line was used. We then requested records from the Head Office of the school because most schools, they only have screens but they are hooked up to the lines. Some schools are not using this equipment because they are not connected. As these are parts that you have stated that are being used, can we obtain solid records, because till this day we are awaiting records from the Ministry of Education.

A request has already been sent to the person managing the IT. By the time the report was completed it had not yet arrived, due to numerous complaints from schools in the rural areas since the ending of this program, staff was only seen when these devices were handed to the schools, but there was no follow up neither people to conduct inspections. With respect.

**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI:** I thank the member for raising this issue, now the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture is listening. But as I mentioned earlier in your statement, there are schools that are using it and schools that do not use it. And I beseech the member, to help find computers for your schools. Once the schools have computers then it will be easier to connect them to the line. We are also going to our own constituencies to find...

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Falealili East.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Perhaps the Hon Minister did not apprehend, as there are computers but the problem is there is no cable to connect to the computers. These schools cannot connect to our system. That is the problem, but we already have computers. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Minister to rise again.

**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI:** I thank the member, but the Chief Executive Officers of both Ministries are listening, so you can request for official records. Before the data arrives here, records to conduct the work must first be submitted so it can be connected before it is reported back to the Parliament.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister, I will allow the interruption from the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, all the schools that receive these things, they do not come to give them, that is the duty of the school committee.

Thus why I know these things and that is the reason why I joined my schools committee, so I am aware of what is being done. We are connected because we implemented it ourselves. That is why it is good to have a Principal that is vigilant, but if the Principal is not, what is to be done? The Principal should look into connecting with everyone. It is why we have these networks, for communications with schools and within Ministries, another member stated that \$20million was set aside for networks within Government Ministries to make communications accessible. But it would be better to leave it to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture to look into and to check all these schools, because these computers are useless if they are given to a Principal that is not vigilant. We need to look at these factors to be put to good use for the children of Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I call on the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Thank you to the Hon Minister for the clarification. We express our gratitude, and that is the spirit in which the speech of this constituency stated. We have also prepared a special room for this project. The statement made was there are different conditions and mandates that were given to install it. But up to now we are still waiting. The delivery was understood, as the Hon Prime Minister has stated. We will leave it to you, it is US \$17million. Hon Minister of Communications and Hon Minister of Education, this program has been running for more than five years. However, these programs are important for us that are from the rural areas. Nevertheless, if it had been stated that we have a role to play, since I am also part of our school committee, but we are still waiting. We have waited and waited, but thank you for the clear statement, the Hon Minister stand together with the Hon Minister of Education, to elaborate the progress of this important program for the education of our students.



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I am grateful for the broadband. Yes, this program costs US \$20million. All Government Ministries have connection bindings. You do not need to travel, hospitals, birth certificate, or anything else such as transport, but thankfully it has been stated, I wish you the best and a speedy outcome. Time is money. With respect.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, what I am holding is a telephone. If we are able to call abroad to Russia, to Britain, to the United States, why is it not possible for the Principal to contact Apia? Mr Speaker, it is very simple. These things are very easy. The only thing that is missing is the willingness of the teacher to raise the standard of learning for the children, to use these things. This is the reason why we visited Savaii, I went to observe and it was being used. There are new school buildings that have operational machines. However, this means the Principal is not being productive; he uses the phone to call to New Zealand but does not contact the Chief Executive Officers or the IT so they can give instructions. However, as soon as they need a loan or someone to guarantee, then they will travel from far to my office for an explanation. Nevertheless, they do not need to travel because they have telephones.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, maybe now that the situation is clear, anything difficult can be made easy when we work together. This is one duty of the Principal is to ask the Ministry. The Minister may continue with his clarification.

**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI:** Well, no. That, of course, is simple. If you have any problems, call us at the Ministry of Education. We will then proceed to implement the wishes of the Hon Minister.

It was also witnessed in some schools, they are given these things, but the Principal or the teacher keeps it for themselves, but the reason it is given is to educate children. Now the Government is moving in this direction. They have all been integrated into what is called the TWG of the Government, Technical Working Group, all those who work as IT, and have started working on researching, on when they will be able to visit schools in the rural areas, to assist the teachers, and to help the students.

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It is also scheduled that children are beginning to have training on coding. It teaches young children on how to use computers. So now, our country is smart. Now our communications are in good condition. In the case of our data, it is now compiled with the assistance of the United Nations in integrating our big data.

These are the two additional things to the computer skills of the children. Samoa will then move on to the next level, and then we will stop talking about cyber security to protect our country from foreign attacks, but we will also look at ways to create some products in Samoa, or other developments that we can sell abroad on our cyber security.

However, for the time being, if anyone is listening, as well as the sanctity of this House, start teaching your children how to use computers. If there are computers at home or try and buy a computer for the children's learning. We should start assimilating the interest of the child, so they will pay more attention to using computers. For any job, farming, financial work, and any other job, the computer is used. Therefore, we are also trying to obtain such telephones as quickly as possible, to make it easier for us to become qualified, and to make it easier for all the children to have opportunities, for them to strive to always have the opportunity to develop their minds.

To summarise my statement, the situation of our development is still ongoing, as we work together. The Ministry of Communications, Information and Technology is just a Ministry that works to implement communications, implementing it on that side and on this side. The many responsibilities of the Ministry of Education....

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East):** Mr Speaker, an opportunity for this constituency, because I have noticed that the Minister is concluding his speech.

**MR SPEAKER:** Was this part included in your statement?

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

**MR SPEAKER:** A reminder to respectable members, only if it was included in your speech then it can....

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**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** This was the only member who mentioned this important aspect that I will explain but before I comment on the Ministers statement, first I would like to thank Mr Speaker for his recovery, and to witness the goodness of God to you.

The important question mentioned by this member for Vaimauga, to the speech of the Hon Minister was, where is the OLP? It is noticed this morning in this House, that this is the only member that made a statement about it. What is the cause? I love the country, the leaders, and the country.

This is also, why I wanted it as I have noted that the matters stated by the Hon Minister is not important to this member.

However, in fact, ever since the both of you have held this designation for 5 years, the country is being ruined and even us leaders. It is also not possible for most members to speak about it because once they do it will be posted by OLP. Mr Speaker, the meaning of my statement, is to look at the defamation of this House, as well as the heads of families and even villages. My village often comes across these people hiding from the back. However, I feel sorry for our country. Therefore, with these Laws and the many cables that you have set up...it means such information is coming in faster. Nevertheless, are you looking at filtering the information that is coming in?

The service is good, but I feel sorry...especially the Hon Prime Minister, as that is the concern of this member for the Hon Minister to clarify the outcome of the situation? Especially for the people who are anonymous on this network. There should be an investigation, which is what the country wants to hear.

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

**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI:** Mr Speaker and the House if you noted my response, I started by responding to the wishes of the member. I thought the TV and telephone were important to him. Nevertheless, he is prioritising things that are not important. Well, with these lines we are able to hear rumours from overseas, as America is still searching for the person that ruined their election. Philippines are also investigating who hacked their systems and ruined their election. To this day, these great nations of the world are not the only ones. They are still trying to find where these people are and how to catch them.

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This time, and as you can see with the information on the internet, it is a business. There are certain companies in the world that specialise in this, if you were to run in the elections there is part of the company that is paid to only do promotions for you.

As for the other fraction of the company, all they do is to defame the member that you are going against in the election. This has become a business in the world.

Therefore, a lot of money is spent on these investigations. The Government knows some specialists that are involved in this. However, it will cost a lot of money. However, for something like this, the Government does not need to use a sweat to pursue this. Do not read those things. There are plenty of positive things and developments you can read about and put do ignore such useless things. Let us not waste sweat on it but let us move forward.... the country is well aware.

Most of the things that are posted by OLP are not true, and it is slanderous and false. Therefore, whoever is being slandered by the OLP online and is witnessed by the country, it is all a lie. There is no truth on OLP, thus why the Government is moving forward with its work. There are many good things with these communication networks from overseas. That is what our Government is protecting, and striving for our children and our country so that Samoa can move on to the next level for our economy and other matters.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, can I get an opportunity please.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well I...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** There was no intention of talking about this issue as it was emphasized in my speech.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will ask the member, was the OLP included in your speech?

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** No, but the language used on the internet. Mr Speaker, there is nothing wrong with words spreading. However, the concern is the language used which ruins the reputation of our country. If the Hon Minister has stated that, it would be difficult to find them, let us look for another way.

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We should not be negligent with our language, as it will ruin the country. Mr Speaker, that is what I wanted to talk about, look at what that village did, pardon Tuisamau Lau'lii, Alii and Faipule warned these families, to control their people from using inappropriate language online. The same goes for my village. Two warnings were given and it was done. Nothing has occurred since then.

Mr Speaker that is the motive, if we do not want to spend money on finding these people that are ruining our language, please, let us not give up on finding ways to solve it. Because as I have mentioned without language, there is no culture. Without culture, a country cannot exist. That is my prayer do not give up in resolving this issue. If we lose our language.

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Perhaps it is best left to the Government...which has...This issue is of national importance. We are also taking action to deal with cyber-crimes. It not only affects Samoa, it also affects every country. These are also issues that have been discussed in the Commonwealth forums, and almost all the Leaders of each country have addressed this issue.

Even in the United States, with Russia controlling their electoral process, which has led to the court case that is underway to remove the President of the United States of America.

Mr Speaker, the issue that has been raised is correct, but there are some complications that are legal. I also sought assistance from Australia and New Zealand through my office. However, what I have noticed is, it has changed completely in New Zealand and Australia. Perhaps I had instructed the Office of the Attorney General as well as the Law Reform Commission to review the Acts that specify these things; it has been completely changed since the deceit of these people in New Zealand.

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This Government seems to mostly value rights and practise expressing opinion, but what has happen, there is nothing wrong with expressing a direct opinion to a problem. Nevertheless, what is happening now, is the use of vulgar language by our people. The decision made by the Village Council is very important.

As for political situations, we have Acts now, but it needs to be enforced so that it is in line with foreign laws, which are dealt with by them. The Government knows, I have already stated people that use this, they think they are the only ones with the knowledge.

But this is also the method used by those known as hackers, as there are those who directly contact them for assistance on legal complications, and that is the reason for the implementation of our project to deal with those who commit such acts generally cyber-crimes.

Mr Speaker that is the response, which the Minister should have conveyed. Mr Speaker this is assistance on the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, well the entirety of Samoa has witnessed. We have a culture, but the cooperation of Government and the village council is vital, in dealing with these problems, since there are some areas that are not well known. There are also parts that the Community are clear about.

The village is affected if a person or whoever it is in America or wherever in the world showcases such attitude, whether the father or family is in the community, the situation will be dealt with by the village council. Because there are, villages like that even our village of Fasitoo-uta. A chief has been banished up to now. Therefore, as the country is listening, this is a matter we should examine closely since we are the members of our constituencies, who were voted upon to come together and lead the welfare of its people.

This is something that should not be advised, but if a member, then that have stated it is also our duty. This is no different from the measles outbreak that occurred. We must work together so that it can succeed.

Well I call on the...

**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI:** That is the response from the Hon Prime Minister and Mr Speaker, as well as the members who were able to answer the queries.

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As I mentioned earlier all Government legislations implemented, are to protect us from these types of cyber-crimes. All the Acts that were read out at the beginning, these are the intentions of Government right now. Now, a Bill will be presented today and will be amended tomorrow according to the statement by the Hon Prime Minister, there are always changes. This Government does not rest. As for the issue raised by the member regarding the OLP, I apologize but those are the conditions of the answer.

There are ongoing trainings on the use of the internet by some Ministries like the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Education and the Office of the Regulator. Students and the public are being trained on the advantages of internet using although there are advantages; there are also so many bad people online. This is why trainings are still ongoing right now, trainings are ongoing here and Savaii, the focus is in the town area, especially about resetting our TV and these Laws in order to work collectively for our protection. The goal is to start from within the family, starting with the parents, to teach the children the language, customs and values of life. It starts in the family. It is also requested that the village councils within each village to regulate and make it a rule for those who defame and know where they are from. Where ever in the world they may be, there should be no oversight on these type of actions. However, I thank the villages that are already like this, as the member has stated his community, gratitude to the village council as they have implemented these Acts. In addition, this is a plea to all the villages to work together, as the Government is trying its best to protect us from these situations.

Mr Speaker and respectable members of this House, these are the issues raised by the members. However, if there are any issues we will negotiate after, as for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, these are our current priorities. Work is now being implemented, to make communications effective for education and health programs for a prosperous future for our people. Well, may God be Gracious, now I have concluded but our Cabinet will take turns responding to all your requests. God bless our forum today.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Thank you Hon Minister of Communications, Information Technology for the statement. Now we come to the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration.

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**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister for Justice and Courts Administration):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Firstly, I would like to offer greetings to the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the Associate Ministers. I also offer salutations to that side of the House where the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees are residing, male and female members. Joining us are also the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations, thank you for your patience.

I also offer greetings to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the staff. I take this hour to greet His Excellency Le Ao o Le Malo and his Good lady, the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady as well as the support of all of Samoa. Let us not forget the prayers of the holy servants of God who are praying for a prosperous Samoa.

I also acknowledge my constituency of Vaimauga West No.2, thank you for the support and the prayers. Mr Speaker, I will now be responding to the issues that were raised by respectable members of the House, those who has mentioned the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Electoral Commission.

The members from Safata West and Aleipata Itupa I Lalo spoke on whether it is possible to carry out the sentence of the court, which is known in English as home detention. We have the penalty know as community service, which is quite similar to the one that is administered overseas, but the problem is that this penalty is very expensive. That is the reason why it cannot be implemented right now. Maybe sometime in the future the Ministry of Justice will look in to it.

The member for Falealili East had asked why the dismissed judges were not charged. Well, in this case, it is the responsibility of the people who are affected by these issues in Court to send their complaints to the Police Department and the Prosecutions Office. However, the responsibility of the Court is to investigate the problem and advise the President and the Judiciary on the course of action. Moreover, that can be done now.

The member for Gagaifomauga No.3 my brother Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Schmidt, my faith has been dithered.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** The Minister can continue, as I do not know if anyone is upstanding.



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**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Mr Speaker can I get an opportunity?

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Minister as the member for Falealili East is upstanding.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** No, as the Minister will be moving away from one of the issues that the member of this constituency had cited, as it is being clarified, it is not clarified properly with the response conveyed by the Hon Minister. It looks like the families involved will have to take care of their own case. However, the question is, if he had been released because he has been proven unfaithful, the release was based on this. This means that the families do not have to sue because the commission had already ruled that he is dishonest. This means that the Commission or the office must prosecute it because it is within the Ministry. Because it is not necessary to identify the number of families affected however, the extent of which they are affected is not certain. This is the part that I want to clearly understand.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. It has been noted thank you. I call on the Hon Minister of Justice, Courts Administration and Electoral Commission.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** My advice to the member as that is not how our work is implemented. They are not prosecuted directly by the Ministry, but by the people, that is making the complaint, and then it is issued to the Police Department before charges are filed.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I would like to offer assistance, the Minister does not understand his answer. In this case the judicial services commission has a role to play in making the decision. If the decision is to dismiss without prosecution, that is their discretion. If they want to press charges, then they can be prosecuted which is similar to our Government. There are times when the Government decides to press charges on a member because of their countless offenses then they will be prosecuted. Also, remember, if a member is penalised they will be dismissed, the penalty is great, this means that they will not be able to get another job in the future.

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That is what our Government usually does but unless it is a serious offense then they will be prosecuted under the Ordinance and face two fines.

Mr Speaker, the same thing was done to the President, a decision was made and was re-charged and was brought before this House, there were no restraints but there is the discretion to do those things.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. It is clear not only to the Parliament but also to all of Samoa that is listening.

Well, arise...is there an argument or...it has been answered.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Mr Speaker, no, it is not an argument, it is gratitude for the response...it seems clear because it is being applied to crimes within the Government Ministries, not only will they be dismissed but they will be prosecuted. That is why I was pursuing this issue, but thankfully this matter is clarified and it is clearer than the response that was given by the Hon Minister. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I assumed you stood up because you do not agree, but now it is clear. Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** I apologise to the member as the Hon Prime Minister has spoken on this issue. In terms of the issue that was raised by Susuga Laauli Polataivao Schmidt, it has weakened my faith with your statement last night. It was revealed in your statement your uncertainty in this matter. I must respond as Samoa has already witnessed your statement. The issue that you mentioned in regards to the case files. Firstly, the selection and termination of a Chief Executive Officer is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission, or known publically as PSC. Secondly, the prosecution and investigation of a Chief Executive Officer, was the responsibility of the PSC and not me. Third, the conclusion of the investigation that was done by the PSC included serious issues reviewed by the PSC which does not include files. Files are not involved in this matter, but there are three serious cases that were considered by the Commission to recommend to the Cabinet to terminate the services of this man. That is the course of the matter, but it does not have anything to do with me. The only involvement is the so called files that were brought to my office. The files that were brought to my office are permitted under the Act. This is a brief explanation on the statement already voiced by the member.

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**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, just this bit, just a short one for clarification. I beg tolerance Hon Minister, there is no intention to pick and point finger, this is to set guideline for the smooth sailing of Samoa in everything. The main thing I am after is the warranty of our files, do not make anything inappropriate. This is the intention. This fellow of the country, I have explained it, lest we consult of this matter then refuse again. The matter was caused otherwise. The letter that was prepared for him to sign, pardon the Hon Minister, that was the attempt. How can this be done to someone who has served the country for so long? You too are aware of what happened? I will not debate nor make any decision, because I am well aware of the reason why Papalii had signed the letter. I too prepared a letter.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recommend the Hon Minister, your clarification has been made and the member's comment was mentioned in it too. Both sides have already given clear clarifications and a decision has been made. Anything has a decision to it, and so it is useless for Parliament to discuss it again. In saying that, I advise the Hon Minister to move on to another matter and provide a response or clarification to swiftly progress our work.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I will carry on with another topic, the member is aware of the process in verifying his hanging letters.

**MR SPEAKER:** We cannot allow the members of the public to respond in our debate when a name is called. Although we are speaking in general, we are aware of those involved in this matter. As such, I advise the Hon Minister and the respectable member, the members mentioned cannot respond to us during our deliberations. Therefore, that is the notice, I ask that you get on with another subjectmatter.

I allow the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, to lay this matter on the right track regarding the issue raised by the member against the Minister, it also came to me and I broadcasted it publicly. The truth of the matter is whenever we have difficulties like this, the normal procedure is that Minister consults the Head of the Ministry about the case he or she is involved in or the Minister can give advise or teach the accused.

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The Minister can also give a letter during their talk as he has the consciousness which he can use to bring advise to the Minister. So when this complaint was submitted through this letter, which I made an official response to, publicised it and have also talked to the member about it, therefrom, you do not need to accuse the Minister or any of them for the recommendation they gave, because you are the Chief of the Ministry. It is also not the head of the Ministry that is problematic, the chief also has a high education for him to know well the good and the bad, the good advise and the bad advise. If the Minister did give a good recommendation which he used and had him regret later, there is no use to mumble and complain in general thus falsifying the people, as he is knowledgeable person whether or not the recommendation was used. Mr Speaker that matter is pertained to him. I then explained them, the advise I gave is to bring matter to peace. But if this recommendation to object still managed to press through, all other unnecessary conduct would have opened up. Who will be affected here? It will be him, his wife and the reputation of his entire family will be ruined.

That is the correct information, the recommendation was very useful, which kept all the other issues from surfacing and the catching of several predicament that existed.

Mr Speaker, that is the explanation, because the Law seems to be withheld making it look like there is some serious matters going on, when that is the clarification, I have also talked about it in general during my program talks to provide elaboration to the public to avoid any misconception.

**MR SPEAKER:** Statements is now 450% given the clarifications of matters, so far, we are on further elaboration of this matter. That is reason for stating 450%. I have questioned one matter and the clarification provided has covered the entire guidelines. That said, leave that matter aside and conclude your statement Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** Thank you Hon Minister, the Prime Minister has provided clarification on this matter. The member for Vaimauga East was the last one to query the delaying of the trial upon the alleged bodily harm against his son. Tuisamau, before I respond, I have a short story to tell first.

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The proceedings of the Court, the role played by judges is very difficult. We have seen the various trials and if such is fast tracked resulting in putting a person behind bars, then it will be useless. The only sympathetic view on matters like this, the prison is now being improved further since the Hon Minister of Prison had taken over. That is the reason why...

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa:** Mr Speaker I do not mean to interject as the fellow member for Vaimauga is my brother, I have thought...it seems his statement is quite severe on slowing things down and then put them in jail. Why be fearful to put these people behind bars? The incident about my son is a general comparison for delay. Not only with long overdue court cases but also cases that have been given final decisions, which could not be revealed. That is the width of this matter. But when I hear talks on fast tracking these matters and end up in jail suddenly, I was very disappointed. I was very happy to state my son as an example, it has taken months and years, some cases were just submitted yesterday and decisions have been received. Where have these cases gone to? This is the feeling I have now which is quite painful, saying that they are afraid to take them to prison.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance member for Vaimauga East, I recognize the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, note from the previous week when a judge was sworn in, the other judge has been sick for a long time. As such, for the former Judge retired Judge, it was discussed in Cabinet if this appeal says to add Judges, there were 7 Judges that were approved by Cabinet to swifly go through these cases. And possibly the week before last, there were seminars conducted for these Samoan judges involving three judges from the Supreme Court, the Deputy Chief Justice together with the other two whereby I had emphasised to them, that justice delayed is justice denied as that is the top role for any court. Giving a just decision, if delayed, then you are contributing to injustice. The member is therefore correct on this raising matter, justice delayed is very unfair.

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This is what I told the judges, in international courts, if by three months that no decision is delivered, it is appropriate that a judge must resign from office. Henceforth, that is rightfully what the court of Samoa should be doing now. What it is now, it has been more than three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten months and no decision has been delivered by many of the judges.

That is the situation Mr Speaker. Perhaps another reason for the delay is the shortage of judges. As for the Cabinet, they are more than able. The normal word I say to the judges, justice has no limit. If justice is sought, regardless of the number of judges required, ask the Cabinet for them to give its supporting decision. Such is reason as any time, in the case of other appeal cases, they are submitted in court before submission goes to Cabinet for their approval.

The supporting intention of Cabinet towards the court regarding their appropriate and urgent decision is reason for the motion I moved in this Parliament, investigations must be conducted on the court, the public cannot wait for the lands and titles court and the criminals court. I am tired of people coming to me for decisions on the many adjourned cases, why? It specifically indicates the drawback of the Court.

Mr Speaker, this is why Cabinet is prepared to give assistance to the Court to assist the offending members of the public from criminal cases and lands and titles hearings. I even told them, we have two courts which are the lands and titles court and the criminals court. The procedures for criminal matters has an ending such as the conviction of a criminal while, the lands and titles court deals with family assets and treasures that should bear warranty, not only for those people living, the assets that have been taken due to unnecessary decisions made by the court, furthermore, future generations to come will be very much affected from these decisions.

Mr Speaker, the issues raised in the House regarding the court are very significant, such is the urge of the State to amending the existing legislations from very weak into a more stronger one. If a decision is not met after three months time, it is best to obtain a resignation letter. It is baseless to sit and rock on the chair whilst people are waiting for their decisions. Mr Speaker, that is the situation. It is also useless to make delightful words when it comes to this, the country is upset about their taken assets. It is why my recommendation is still submitted to the Office of the Attorney General and the Law Reform Commission to look into these Laws again, and think samoan about our tradition and custom. Foreigners do not have a custom, including talks regarding the measles outbreak investigations.

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We have our culture and custom that we seek remedy from, whilst white people do not have traditional healers. Funds must be used to carry out investigations, we are all insightful of the children passing from the measles disease and our people are getting frightened and terrified.

Mr Speaker, the matters raised in our deliberations in Parliament are very noteworthy.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well done thanks. The Hon Minister has heard you, let us hear a wonderful speech. I think the statement you just gave is quite troubling as some are upset.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** I beg the pardon of my fellow colleague. The meaning of my explanation, if we fast track, it can lead to mistake resulting in the release of this man or the imprisonment of someone. It is not...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, that is reason for...the judges we have is not enough, we need judges from overseas. It is not about sitting around and wait. Mr Speaker, the true testimony is that adjourning will not do us any justice.

**MR SPEAKER:** May the speech of the Leader be beneficial to obtain good thoughts for affirmation, such is the challenge to seeking justice. Because if the decision is delayed, the devil is deciding for you...Let us hear another response.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** I have pardoned the member, my fellow member of Vaimauga. That is the essence of my explanation; the Attorney General is now saying that the case is now set on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

**Afioga Sulamanaia Fetiaiai Tauilili Tuivasa:** I do not object nor...the main spirit...I have a forgiving heart, if you have looked at my speech I delivered, this family bears forgiveness. God is watching. I have stated my son as an example for any further investigations that comes forth. Because the country is in support. This is heart of mine is to forgive and forget.

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I have pitied these children of the country, it seems that my blood has gone up, when they said to put these kids in jail if you have heard the statements made, if caught fine. Thank you to the Leader, I beg your pardon, I have seen how spiteful you have become in your attempt to elaborate, no, as I said, I have forgiven them. The case of my son is useful to bring good thoughts to you in your stance.

You should not have answered me back the only thing to do is look into it. But answering back, why urgent when he is in jail, who is in prison...are you scared of making decisions on those people...forgiving as the family is also hearing us in this. I have already paid for the fair of my wife after...up until the previous month, the woman is probably crazy as he went and cried on the grave of her son, "come back" because you did not experience this. I did pay her airfare to go to the holy land in Israel. Then she went to Rome the land of our church, to gain her thoughts. When she returned, I asked, how was it, release the boy, he is now in eternal life. Because my son was hit, and had a chance to live, such is why I had insisted to take the boy overseas, the only word I said when I saw my son lying there; he was beaten up by these fearful fellas who were at the event. Son the doctor said that if you have your operation, you would live; it will be 50 50 life and death. Tell me, do you want to proceed with your operation, what was the answer, he cried. Then I told the doctors to go ahead with the operation. His operation proceeded from 4 to 5 in the morning, mind you, this was an internal bleeding in the brain. God answered, he lived. That was the life at that time, but all throughout the week, we had the urge to take him. We played our role, son whatever it is, release it, may you find eternal life. That is my only delight; my son is now in everlasting life.

The hope for my son was through the advice I gave him, have a look into the laid charges Hon Minister...for not only my son but also the delaying of these matters, although I support it, because Vaimauga is his family. I stand to support too...it is because my heart is hurt once again this morning. It is said that the prison is fully equipped, it seems like you are not looking over this side, rather you are looking at...that is the intention...I declare to seek a forgiving heart. That is the explanation.

**MR SPEAKER:** As life is like that, psalm 37 says, 'Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.' Do not worry about anything. You will gain more sons to increase your party from God.

I call upon the Minister of Court.



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**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** Thank you Tuisamau for your forgiving heart. If we have said anything mistakenly, leave it to God.

Honourable Speaker, my speech is concluding. My constituency of Vaimaga West No.2 strongly supports the Supplementary Budget No.1 with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. We now come to the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I call the Hon Minister to speak on the issues raised.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Thank you honourable Speaker for the chance. The morning is pure and clear and the feeling is quite different this morning. Regardless, God's merciful sight is watching and is protecting over our Sitting in Parliament today. The honorifics of the House have already been mentioned.

I acknowledge the presence of the Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister and the dignity of Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Chairpersons of Parliament Committees, the chosen male and female members of Parliament present to make the decisions of the Government. The honorifics will not be repeated as the Hon Minister Afamasaga and the Hon Minister Faaolesa have already made a mention of them.

As observed this morning, it is said that the House is built with wisdom and consciousness, the weather change portrays the magnificent power of the Lord Almighty. It is such a fine good weather. Maybe it is because Government Response is delivered today on matters raised by the members and in accordance to the Leader's statement last night, for the sake of Samoan listeners and their support. In truth, there is no wholeness in this side and so we rely on the issues and comments from you. With that said, I appreciate your gathering and presence here today. Praise God.

I will move on according to the addressing issues from this House. We are in the last year of this Parliamentary term, starting from 2016 until this year and therefore, there is the spirit and sense of thankfulness from the Ministry.

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Most of the times you have lifted me to the top, and sometimes I almost reached the clouds. Then I recall Petelo the comedian, please put me down. Regardless, it is unforgettable the time when God spoke through you to speak the truth and implement the good works through this Ministry. It is therefore not me; the exaltation is not mine, because there is a Ministry that is the hands and feet of this service. Praise be to God. Nevertheless, thank you for appreciating the effort of this Ministry in support of our children so they may gain knowledge and wisdom, which is the fundamental key.

The raising addresses I wish to speak generally on them lest I take each member specifically and could end me up making a mistake. Henceforth, the entire purpose of this service, policies have already been laid out to guide the Ministry in all areas, so that service is implemented with quality. The saying of the country, *e leai lava se faiva e asa ma sona maumau*, this saying is very true. We too are not perfect, for there will always be shortcomings at work; sometimes we encounter problems during intervals. That said, I bid your forgiveness if we had lacked anything in our service. We recognize the recommendations provided with due respect and any recommendation you have given, I have noted them all down and will pass them to the Head of the NUS and SQA for their use. Let no recommendation go to waste as all wisdom is necessary. As such, voice some of the recommendations. Some of these teachers, they come by bus to get their pay almost every Wednesdays. I am not joking, you notice the changes we have these days, it is getting different, policies for committees to work together, lest you blame the teachers, because the teachers and committees now wears the same uniform and so as the tea ladies. There are also supporting teachers and they all wear the same uniform. There are some Wednesdays whereby teachers would give their account booklet for their pay lest a member is mistaken. Although, advice is still ongoing for the teachers as also set out in school policies. Because it is true as the Leader said, the principal should be vigilant of all these areas. It is the service, what about those teachers who live distantly, even the public workers, when they go to draw their pay on Wednesday, they never come back to work, even though we work together in Apia. Lest you look back, like the story, see the birds flying afar. As for the recommendation, we accept it with due respect.

The Ministry will look deeply into it although policies have been set out for things like this. The shortage of teachers is very true. This job is what we all share. This is the issue with so many primary schools, almost every villages has a primary school.

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Even though there are eight households within some villages, they still want to build a primary school. The resources I endeavour to collect from one village to another is impossible. For example, Falevao and Lalomauga. These two villages are small yet they each have large school buildings situated in it. This is a waste of resources like teachers for example; they live right next to each other. I therefore, do not intend to say it but that is the perception. When it comes to statistics and figures, the ratio of teachers to students is more than enough although this is the main difference. Members would want their own school set up when it should be one together. Such is this shortage, which the Ministry is considering.

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

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Is there something...

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** The Hon Minister's statement is true, but what I am saying is, before school buildings is a go, consent must first be made by the Ministry of Education on what to do and what not to do. Remember when we raised colleges, members are very fond of building colleges. The Ministry has the approval on all this. The Ministry plans and provides the resources such as location of school buildings, lest a college is set up and ends up with no library, no science lab and so forth. That is the recommendation; the Ministry of Education must make a proper decision.

**MR SPEAKER:** What is your view will you respond, I have not permitted you yet.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** This is the nature of Lealailepule; he makes interruptions whenever he wants whilst a vital statement is given for the sake of everyone. It is not Leala; it is the country that is listening in. If you want to speak after that, then speak to Fiamē instead of me. Pardon the lady Minister. What can you do, demolish the school building that has already been erected?

**Afioga Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment):** Please honourable Speaker.

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

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa:** I only wish to remind the Hon Minister, we have two more Ministers before it is my turn.

**MR SPEAKER:** Have mercy Hon Minister of Education, be careful with your arm movements lest you hit the Minister of Finance with your arms.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Mr Speaker, I have already advised my fellow Ministers, to move aside a little lest my hand movements hit them. Thank you for the recommendations, Lealailepule is correct about this situation. The problem is that all small villages have this and that lacking human resources such as teachers. Never mind, there is still enough teachers compared to the number of students in the country.

**MR SPEAKER:** I allow the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa:** The only thing to remind the Hon Minister who is speaking now, the country is listening in. Whatever statement he gives, the heart of the respectable member, every member had gone to its own school and its own college. You speak to the nation and what about the people in this House. Because that is the meaning of your speech. It is not the intention of the country but the people in here. Lest you rely on the tuning in of the public when there is still...it is our subject, although, you are very correct.

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

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Thank you for the recommendation Deputy Prime Minister. The overall intention as this is vital for the listening men of the village, due to your persuasion to build this school building and that school building.

Your troubling desire for your district and your corrupt politics has gotten into you without spotting the necessary thing to do. Now that you say that school buildings is not enough, who do you blame. You and your persuasion. Such is the attempt...

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**Motion to extend Sitting Hours**

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg your pardon; it seems the mistake is from you Hon Minister.

Since we have arrived at our normal recess hour, proceedings will now be set aside.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now set aside for normal recess at 10:45am and resumed at 11:37am.*

*Deliberations resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No 1) 2019/2020.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Well done to your commitment. I see that everyone have been reenergized from our break to resume our work.

Before we...the statement of the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I firstly call the Hon Prime Minister for a view on our sitting hours.

**MOTION TO EXTEND SITTING HOURS**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, with respect, the House has completed its debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.1 and the State has already given its response.

In thought after the State's response, we shall move on to the consideration of the Budget, *To resume Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly this afternoon until the Government's Response is complete, then we shall review the Budget and adjourn our Sitting tomorrow.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet.*

*Motion was approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture with respect.

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**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Thank you honourable Speaker, seeing this time of the day, the House has restored new energy and strength from our break so that we can resume our works and calling.

I rise with respect, perhaps the topic is understandable according to the shortage of teachers I attempted to relay. Our work regards collective responsibility such as the policies of committees and the Ministry of Education as well as teachers. Whenever I go to a school opening, I normally speak to the parents to work together with the school committees especially the teachers. This relationship is vitally important so that our children are able to gain full knowledge from school. Parents have a huge role to play here. I always say to check these school committees properly; similarly with the principals and look after one another. What is said about teachers leaving the children behind is correct, that is the job of the committees. You must tell them off whenever you see them leaving. That is the same intention of the Government for all of us who are attending these school committees, if there are nine villages in a district, there should also be nine committees for us to attend, so that our children is fully equipped with this service.

Some of the statements demands the implementation of scholarships, and perhaps, time will come for the Prime Minister to speak on that concern, as he is the Chairperson of scholarships. Because there is different changes these days, in the view of the State who is in charge of our scholarships.

For instance, New Zealand, the first semester gave students who earned a total mark of 75% to apply for online interview. It is different now, the State is also looking at their procedures. Lest you have that intention and observation, it is the same thing. Australia will take the full total for a student. The PSC or the Public Service Commission, they are the ones who are managing the scholarships for our local students that are going abroad. New Zealand has a different procedure from Australia. For Australia, only the Samoan citizens are acceptable to pursue their scholarships there, whereas for New Zealand, nothing like that. Lest one is unclear of this, perhaps the Chairperson could elaborate more on this matter later.

Students' school fees as...is a subjectmatter that is often talked about...it is true, divide so to...I have said that there will a new management pardon the former head, I have often given advise and the Minister does not accept it. Perhaps now that we have a new chief and hopefully he will approve the division of school fees to make it affordable for the parents to pay from time to time. Therefore, comes the end of the year, children are still able to continue their education.

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The set guidelines and policies that I mentioned are to be complied by the Ministry and myself in order to provide consistency. The sector plan for 2019-2024, which began this year. The emphasis of the Ministry of Education is childhood education, which wise and intelligent countries give so much importance to, the value of education starts from kindergarten or a very young age. True is the normal saying, it is through humility that we can achieve. Such is the priority of the State, kindergarten and early childhood development. There is also negotiations that perhaps comes the next financial year; the State will make compensations for a few schoolteachers. Note that we now have a compulsory education Law for children age 4. Therefore, the State will have to seek how much funds to pay, now that we have plans according to talks with the Hon Minister of Finance, avail funding for kindergarten teachers.

There is discussion to pursue this program in NUS, after attaining a certificate from the maritime training school in Sogi, they can take the diploma certificate at NUS and move on to the degree level so that our children can be educated well by quality teachers for the sake of our Early Childhood Education.

There is a new development known as the ECD or the Early Childhood Development which is vitally important for the country. During the early development of a child within its mother's womb, researches were conducted and found out that the origin of a child's knowledge starts from here. A child's development begins a connection with its mother.

There was a seminar I attended with Sili the Hon Minister about the importance of child development's demonstration. I demonstrated the massaging of a mother's belly and while doing it, I had felt baby's kicking. I then said to the instructor, the baby is aware that this is not the hands of its father.

Hon Sili demonstrated the hearing of baby from a white lady's womb. Whilst doing it the Minister was giggling. When he finished, I asked, why were you chuckling? The Minister replied, it is true, the kid can tell. I was schocked when he said, Hello Mister. Beware of Leala who aims to nominate another person to have you fail.

The moral of the story, that was a very critical time, we members, must go and spread the message. The Chiefs of Government Ministries and Corporations and us public servants who are wise and intelligent must send the message accross as this is where the issue starts.

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Yes, for unplanned couples, things like this brings about problems in a child's life. If it can be solved, it can improve us. Start with ECE, Primary Level, this will enable all children to gain scholarship if proper planning begins from the early childhood life.

The ICT as spoken by other members and the respective Hon Minister of Communications, that is our collective role in order to get the message across. As aware, how many cables do I have? We have 1,2,3 cables all coming together. It is getting advanced, that is the intention, whilst for the service, we aim to bring coverage to all areas for the sake of education and the Ministry of Education.

Some have commented on the school net that is inaccessible and troubling. There are schools which have had problems with continuing this service, however we are still working on it. Statistically speaking, 61% for Primary Schools are using the Samoa National Broadband Highway SMBH that is now working. 15 Colleges are using 38%.

There is also endeavor to use other services to cover all areas. The life today, we are in a totally different world. We are living in a world of technology nowadays. Yes the speed is nonstop. For google, whenever a kid does not know the answer, they would just google it up to find the answer for  $2 + 2 + 8 - 5$  square root of 10, the whole answer would pop up automatically. Education is getting advanced, but the old man and the old woman did not get this type of education in the past, such is why we have what we call the capacity development or capacity building to educate our teachers in the ruralside areas, as this was never available before.

Nonetheless, the Leader is correct, it is the teacher that must be vigilant and have the urge as they have been made aware of this matter now for some time. Our school in Faletuamasaga, the old ladies are afraid of touching this lest it explodes. What about us, we go to...we too have negotiations with the Ministry of Communications, for them to swiftly bring assistance as they are the ones with the expertise so that they are able to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to ensure that these services can reach all parts of the country.

Well have I met everyone else's request before I take my seat down now, although...

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Mr Speaker...since there was...

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member for Falealili East....



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**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Since I have raised it earlier. Perhaps the improvement of service is now complete. The reason for commenting on communications is School Net. It seem that you are providing the equipments however the problem with our area, we too have written to the Regulator and have received a copy of the Regulator's letter stating their negotiations with the ISP. The matter of concern, is that our broadband has not yet reached this area.

The reason for stating it like this, is to strengthen the conditions and agreements that was arranged with the ISP so that service is improved, and to further enhance our service all the way to the rural areas. This covers all villages of my district including the West that has an issue with this coverage. That is the request on this matter as submitted in our recommendation please.

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

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West):** I wish to save the time of the Hon Minister and the honorable Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I allow the member for the Urban Seat.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Thank you, there is a request that was put forth about a school building. No it is urgently required. There is the need to know whether you have approved it. Since this school building has been quite old, perhaps it is about 50 years old. I will leave it to you for your approval or no approval.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Thank you honorable Speaker, the views of the recent speakers have been received. The Hon Minister has now responded to the member regarding the internet which does not cover this matter. It works using the Samoa National Broadband which is still available, thank you, your view is well taken.

Policies are already in place in relation to what the member for Faleata is talking about. A request is made and is submitted directly to JICA like the Primary Level, this is pertaining to them as service is already in the country for the construction of school buildings. Then a supporting letter is required from the Ministry, if necessary that a school building is required to be set up.

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As such your honor, do keep in mind that comes the next Term and by then, your school building is a go. Then I conclude by...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker I see that the statement is nearing conclusion when it was mentioned in my speech, it is very short. au Afioga i le Fofoga Fetalai, sina avanoa lava ua ou matau ua lamalama faaiu le saunoaga ae sa taua i lau lauga faamolemole, e puupuu lava.

Hon Minister, as I said before in relation to sports, Loau, your hard service for the country though the Manu Samoa. No kid in the country does not want to be like you. That is why I stood beside you, show your love towards the development of rugby in the country.

Almost all our good players have gone overseas. This morning there is a squad selection in the village of Letui, they go straight to join the rugby 7s in Japan. That is the true intention your honour. Almost all good players are no longer playing for our local Manu Samoa team. The same with our coaches. We even brought the best coaches in the world. What happened later? You have the knowledge there, we even had our own local managers. Muagututia Meredith, Pafuti Schaffausen, Sua Peter Schuster, it is all there. We have the resources available here but we need your assistance to further improve our rugby team with all due respect.

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

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** That is what I was refusing about according to the statement of the member. Regarding sports, lest I become proud as I too used to play, the real spirit, there is a Developments Committee, since the member is talking about rugby...hence our sport has gone into a different divert these days.

Yes we must commit to all games. If you had observed our recent games, we favoured gold and silver medals and the most important thing is the world series rugby, there were so many issues faced with our team. I trust the Management is trying its best to improve all areas.

Our local players that have gained contracts abroad, this is the true spirit we need. They went overseas and earned money out of their contracts to be sent home to support their families. Let us not be concerned about our Manu Samoa team. We had only succeeded Fiji and Tonga in 1980 during my time. But before that, we were always losing.

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Therefore, we did not gain this development for long...another observation made, it seems that our men are getting shorter, yes that is my own observation. During the time when I used to play, I was the biggest and tallest center there was and if you see me nowadays, I have gone short...Therefore, see if possible to do our breeding process. We must look at another doing. Bring home the white men...bring our breeding process to produce us tall and big kids to do our...this is not a lie. This is the truth as it is done in other countries, as such, it is why our team is weak at this time. I have asked Dr Tuitama and he said that is exactly what is happening now. Yes we have an immune system. A samoan should no longer marry another samoan. We must seek Japanese, Russian and South African people to bear us tall and humungous children to support our team. That is my personal observation with our young team at this stage.

The games nowadays is now moving on to a professional level and money is the main target. Our Rugby Union is all to do with money. On that note, let us work together on one good breeding or allow Laauli to go so that we can gain some more props, if he can perform well...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, because you mention...the reason for me being like this is because of my Schmidt. This is my German blood, it is the reason why but my sport is different. Boxing and Politics is my sport.

**MR SPEAKER:** How do you measure this member of Falealili East?

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** See how important this talk is on the...he has a sport. 10 for boxing, 1 win and 9 lost. The true essence is that the member for Falealili looks like one good breeding. It would be helpful if we can gain back the good old guys although that is our own personal view...

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Mr Speaker, my disappointment is I am attacked for no reason. I have no half caste or German surname. That can be confirmed here, if they would approach me.

**MR SPEAKER:** I advise the Minister to change the subject.

**Afioga Hon. LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Thank you Mr Speaker and my apologies to the House.

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

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

**Susuga Hon. Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The recommendation given on this issue is correct. That is another part of your duty. You go out to find breeders instead of looking at yourself first. But that is how you go about it and if you do need advice, approach Susuga Laauli Polataivao Schmidt.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** Thank you Hon Leader. The good thing is that he has given his permission. Maybe I will start tomorrow, but meanwhile I will be looking at that side and it seems moderate. I recall Abraham asking Sarah for permission first before proceeding to engage in breeding.

Therefore, I express to the dignity of this House my apologies if I may have spoken out of context and been unethical. My intentions are to divulge my humble thoughts regarding the matters raised about my Ministry. If the service may have been short of perfect, I beg tolerance of you. May we have a constructive meeting Mr Speaker may you continue to have strength in administering our Sitting, Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well said, thank you to the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. It is now the turn of the Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon. SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to further clarify my response and clarifications on Government policies. I do think that it will be brief as the Hon Prime Minister took the floor last night to elaborate and clarify policies which the Budget is based on. We have also received the report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee indicating the sufficient amount of time allowed for the dialogue with Ministries and Public Enterprises after they had fully approved the Budget in its entirety as tabled. Which means, there is very minimal matters and will now proceed to present my response to some questions raised.

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I guess the most important aspect is the emphasis on our revenue. The bulk of our revenue will enable us to respond to the numerous demands of Ministries, particularly the requests from members of Parliament concerning the developments and projects required within constituencies and communities.

The Supplementary Estimates details the bulk of funds used to finance some of the new projects or to improve some of the developments currently carried out, this is adjustment of our funds in the Main Estimates. Some of the funds have been withdrawn from Ministries as we were unable to go ahead with some of the projects which these funds were intended. It is an opportunity to channel these funds into other important projects which the Government feels priority should be given to at this time. I commend the Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee after hearing him last night. It seems that he has got the idea of where the priority goes to within the Supplementary Appropriation.

These are the areas mentioned earlier that have already begun construction at the township of Salelologa. The first funds is allocated under the Ministry of Justice, in order to start the design phase and the premises to relocate the Judiciary offices from Tuasivi. The Court House at Tuasivi will also be relocated to Salelologa to make it more convenient for the people of Salafai and make it easier for the community from having to travel to Tuasivi. Now we have the funds to do it and start construction of these buildings.

It is the intention of the Main Estimates 2020/2021 that the entire budget will be allocated according to the design and plan so as to realise and eventuate this intention. Also for the information of Parliament, the construction of the new NPF building will probably start in March. It will be located at the township and will be a two storey building with the NPF office within and spaces to be made available for other Government Ministries and Organisations the services that are much needed in Savai'i.

Mr Speaker preparations are also underway for laying of water and electricity lines to be ready and in place over the next 18 months, it is expected that more businesses will be branching out once Government operations take place for these big offices.

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There is also the intention within Salelologa other Government sectors outside of the town area would eventually set up offices within the town area. There is space available at the top floor of the market which will be made available for some Ministries to await the financing of their permanent offices. The Government is of the belief that its policy to have all the Government services including Ministries and Non-Governmental organisations to be based within the town area. This is the proposal initiated with this fund to start the preparations and will eventually continue.

It is also proposed that the Police Station should be relocated from Tuasivi to the town centre, it is vital since that is where most of the community resides. The township must be safe.

Mr Speaker we are also looking at other major areas to support the Main Estimates for the New Year. Particularly in the area of enhancing services. So as to make it possible to improve the state of our economy not only here but also Salafai. As you are aware the Minister of Infrastructure spoke about the objective for a new sea vessel to serve and improve the safety of travelling between Upolu and Savai'i.

We also met with the World Bank this year and we initially discussed the possibility of the World Bank financing a bridge which would join Upolu towards Manono, Apolima and reaching Salafai. I guess 3 to 4 years ago they were not really interested in entertaining such idea. But at our discussion last year with the Chief Executive Officer of the Land Transport Authority, there was signs of that possibility. We will be pursuing that discussion so as to acquire funds to finance this goal.

The purpose and vitality of this objective aligns with our 20/40 strategy. We are envisioning the kind of economy and prosperity that we must achieve by the year 2040. If we begin to undertake these important projects, not only will it contribute to the development of the economy, but also to the well-being of our country.

As it has been evident in the formulation of our Budget over the past years and continuing to today, priority always go to education and the health of our people. Negotiations are ongoing with international organisations to assist and support us. For instance, the funding from the World Bank of over \$8 million close to \$9 million was given to accommodate the required services in our response to the measles.

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For the past two years we have been negotiating with them and the intentions were that when a problem and catastrophes like these does strike, financial assistance like this is quickly received to support us in situations like the measles and upgrading hospitals and other necessary measures which need be taken. So we may respond accordingly to the demands of the Ministry responsible in this area.

Mr Speaker, the essential of our revenues collected from within the country, as stated in the Budget, \$3 million is from dividends collected from our Private Sector. We are of the view that there should be more now, at the moment there are provisions and regulations of the Ministry of Public Enterprises for these corporations to pay dividends.

The problem now is that payments are actually due but instead it is being temporary deposited at the Commercial Banks. We are looking at drafting a legislation to say that once declaring a dividend it must be paid up as a matter of priority. We have to break the process of making term deposits and instead return this to us for the implementation of our developments in progress. We are planning to have a discussion about this, so that come the new financial year we are able to initiate this opportunity.

Mr Speaker, a member mentioned that at present we have a huge surplus. And why are we not using it. For your information, the surplus we do have are grants which comes from the World Bank, or the Asian Development Bank or our other partners which gives us funds for our developments which normally takes up to about five years to complete. So we cannot touch those funds, but we must adhere to the conditions of the agreement between our Government and these major banks. It is true that there is a lot of money but the problem is we cannot touch it as it is specifically for our major developments...

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

**Afioga Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, I applaud the statement from the Hon Minister of Finance which I fully understand. If the Hon Minister would refer to the revenue procured within the country, it contains projections, but the actuals that is also in it is 641 in 2018 with \$21 million remained. It is not done, so I understand the usage so projections were made for grants given as aid and grants given to us in clear terms.

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There is not that much money. Projections from the previous financial year was \$90 million, it was set aside to be received but the actual amount received was \$1.9 million. That was the actual amount we used. We are discussing the money left over from our domestic collections. But do look into it. We do understand what you are talking about. Thank you.

**Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. There was a question on procurement, it was said that there were too much variations and they felt it must cease and to review it.

For your information and members of Parliament, there are different types of variations. Some variations have been made because the designs have been changed. It started with a different design but has been altered, an example the construction of the bridge at Mali'oli'o now near completion. A company from overseas called Dual Deck did a research and consequently submitted a report to indicate that it was fine to go ahead. However, when construction began, shortly after work began they hit a solid rock, realising that the research was inadequate. Therefore, another research was done which required further digging to ensure that it was in contact with the rock so that there would be no problems during heavy flooding or heavy loads on the bridge, this constituted more variations. When there are variations in designs, the contractors doing the work should be considered, since it is a different design the price will be different, incurring additional costs.

Public Enterprises whom have the expertise, like Land Transport Authority, Samoa Water Authority, and Airport Authority, should lead the purpose of the Tenders Board. The Government depend on them to make the right decisions in terms of ensuring the right designs and do dual deck and such before it is recommended to the Tenders Board. The Asian Development Bank or the World Bank and some of our partner's finance most of our projects. As you know those banks after giving their approval let us handle the whole thing. Every year their representative visits us almost every month to check on the progress of things. Variations cannot happen unless they have consulted with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Works, and the LTA before they review the possibility of further variations.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Minister I will allow the member for Palauli le Falefa.



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**Afioga Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker I appreciate the remarks from the Minister where he states that the designs of the bridge at Mali'oli'o was initially done by a company from Korea. This is the attitude of donor countries where they demand the use of their companies for construction so as the money would go back to them, but their knowledge is limited.

It is the reason we advise the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Works to carefully consider these aspects, since our local people are more knowledgeable of our own environment. However, the procuring of this company has revealed that it is not recognised as an international company yet they want to take all the money, which they have given to operate the World Bank, ADB and others. It is our request that you and the Tenders Board look at it and demand to have our own people whom are qualified and understand the environment.

The other thing Mr Speaker, since we are talking about the Tenders Board. We visited the prison at Vaiaata and it has been four to five months since the work done has stopped, therefore the steel is getting rusty and the frames on the ground have been worn. My request is, since the Ministry is trying to minimise the cost of this job. The problem is bigger than what should have been spent to continue. Respectable Chairperson and the Tenders Board, it would be good if you would pay a visit. We have also advised the Ministry of Finance about having someone to be present when Committee does site visits. It is very important and Cabinet have stressed the importance of visiting these projects.

My recommendation is to look at delaying the projects, for it is costly and a waste of resources. With respect. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow the Minister of Works to take the floor first.

**Susuga Hon. Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Thank you for the opportunity. I want to address the point made by the member for Palauli le Falefa. The tender process done by the World Bank, the member should understand as a Minister of Works, Government has no say in it since the World Bank has total prerogative on the conditions of the tender, which is open to countries around the world.

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So if the World Bank decides that we are not eligible that is the situation. However, with this project, the World Bank found out the shortcomings with the Korean company who did the design. This resulted in the World Bank suggesting the contract be given to the second place contractor.

The second contractor was a local company who are responsible for carrying out this construction. As soon as it was discovered that the design was faulty our engineers went back to review the work, which in turn caused variations being carried out now. As the Chairperson stated, these variations cannot be done as long as the contractors are at fault with their evaluation of the design. Since every aspect of the job goes to the contractors, so the contractors should submit a full assessment to avoid doing any variations. That point will be emphasised when the Tenders Board carry out their investigations, if variations is required given the fault of the contractors, it is not acceptable. That is the firm decision of those on the Tenders Board. Except for projects, which the Government may become aware of any possible faults such will be reviewed by Cabinet to consider whether the reasons were beyond the contractor's responsibility. As for other additional aspects, they are areas the Government wants to further improve a development.

Mr Speaker, an example is a project, which the Tenders Board approved for the Police Academy, just last week application was filed for variations. The only thing the Chairperson mentioned which I also agree with is that the Tenders Board does not accept the variation. The contractors went to the site to oversee the project and made their bid when it was submitted it was rather small. We suspected it and we approached the project manager for the project of the Ministry of Police, we asked is this amount sufficient since the bids from other contractors were higher. It was given approval. They turned up again with an application to review, but it was denied. That is why the Tenders Board always emphasizes the following decisions. You cannot change your variations after the contractors have altered the design and the cost. There have been many complaints coming to my office Mr Speaker, like the project at Tiavea. For your information on the variation Mr Speaker, after the first survey was done, the whole village community signed an agreement on the layout of the airport.

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However, when constructions got under way, two or three families interrupted. This caused the airport site to be relocated. However, this was the only preferable location as it is slightly longer than the first site, so changes were made with the Airport Authority going through the Tenders Board before taking it to Cabinet where they had questions and eventually resulting in a site visit by Cabinet to confirm this very point.

What happened was the new site was lower than the original one meaning it needed to be elevated by reclaiming the area. There was no other option but to carry on with constructions and only under these circumstances those variations is allowed when it becomes beyond the control of the contractors, as they had no prior knowledge of such situation. The community initially approved it and when constructions were prepared for the go ahead, some families objected. Which has attracted many criticisms like it is too costly. However, it is the same cost, which was presented to the Tenders Board and was approved, after hearing the opinion of the consultants and engineers employed by the Government. It was presented to Cabinet and they acted upon it to by visiting the site and gave their approval for constructions to begin. Now that a member has questioned the project, well it is currently under way.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the clarification from the Hon Minister is now understood.

**Susuga Hon. Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I do have a minor matter of concern regarding variations, which I did mention in my remarks. A recommendation to the Minister of Works and Minister of Finance take a closer look at these issues. If the contractor is not the problem, I suggest that you look at the starting point of the master plan, when this initially began. It is costly to have these constant changes. How can this be done? This has been going on for too long in our country, yet we are watching. It is something that was not started well and planned.

**MR SPEAKER:** My apologies to the member, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon. Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I thought the member who was in Cabinet understood. He has been in Cabinet for a long time but he continues to raise these types of issues and goes on about reasons. Nothing can be changed until it is brought before Cabinet to consider whether it should be done or not. During the aftermath of cyclone, Val the road from Apia to Aleipata was rebuilt completely.

The bidding cost at the time was \$13 million. However, when the project was completed we were confronted to pay the cost of \$36 million from \$13 million. It took quite some time to sort this in Cabinet, then we were informed that the reason for delays was the families interrupting the work, from here to the rural areas. They would confront the workers and stop constructions which goes on for days, and all this time cost and expenses are noted. This argument became heated therefore the manager of the company from New Zealand was called and after consultations the cost was dropped from \$36 million to \$19 million. That is why Committees are appointed, so when such issues arise they are consulted. But these are things these families like to do, like this incident yet they do not know it costly on the Government. It is a difficult task to operate a project; this is the reason why village mayors are called upon to initiate dialogue. This is also why I travelled to where the bridge project is carried out as discussed by the Minister, we had a meeting and they wanted the bridge to be built on the cement road. I said to them, it will not be done on the cement road because it will be done inland. It is up to you whether you want the new bridge to be at the same location where the cement bridge is at, but we will have to build another bridge altogether. When we were finalising the plans some the elders from the village came to us and said that the village wants the bridge on the cement road where the Maliolio flows. I said to these four senior chiefs, if you want to change there will be no bridge, then they left. Before the month ended they came back to apologise to Government asking to build the Maliolio bridge inland. This is what we did.

Mr Speaker I had thought that he would understand, how many tenders has he sat in when he was here, and he is still asking questions about it. Mr Speaker this is further statement on the matter.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I beg tolerance of the member but I do feel...

**Susuga Hon. Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, it has been stated that I have been in Cabinet for a long time and it is a serious statement considering the public tuning in. I had thought that yesterday's talk would be different than today. I was in Cabinet for just two years, and all the tenders that came before us I objected to it, due to the variations presented. It is in the records.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the member, but the nature of our debate is such that both sides get opportunities. You must realise that I have to allow the Government to respond. The whole two years in Cabinet, and the policies which the Chair is keeping to, well we all understand it. So I advise the member that the issue is trivial as it is not a matter from yesterday. It is the same situation with the road towards Faleolo, where most families claimed money for their breadfruit tree, the coconut, it was like that and so variations were done again. So I beg tolerance of you but the Minister will resume his remarks.

**Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI:** Mr Speaker, my last words on bidding is that, there is ample opportunity to raise questions and most of the time during these consultations the Board are asked and it is not a simple part of the process. In some cases, the contractors will ask for variations without cost but time variation. The bottom line is the Government does bear the responsibility of cost but sometimes it is the delay in completing the work. We are currently trying to limit the possibility of variations. We are also aiming to ascertain the financial capacity of contractors in situations where the project is not complete or it was not done properly. The Government is not in a position to allow them to complete the project or retain the project within a 12 months period, the contractors should have that liability. So when a problem occurs within 3, 4, or 5 years the Government should resort to the contractors to complete the project as it was poorly done. So we are at that stage of amending the law to secure the Government position so the responsibility rests on the contractors with no integrity. The Tenders Board are also working on stopping the occurrence of any shortcuts in future.

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Mr Speaker, I do believe that is the reality of where things are, a member mentioned the importance of airports like Tiavea and its purpose for the economy at that part of the country. It was moved from Fagalii due to the risk of the location and the concern for a probable disaster. On that note, maintenance is still being carried out at our airports at Maota and Asau. We hope to start commuting by plane particularly to Savai'i due to the terrible weather, which results to our tourists not being able to make their flight.

There are high hopes with the potential of the airport at Tiavea and we should be looking at getting slightly bigger planes like the ATRS, since the twin otters are becoming outdated. We will be able to fly to Tutuila and Tonga and even Tuvalu and so on. It will also have a significant impact on the economy of the country and especially the constituencies it is located.

Mr Speaker I would like to thank the members who spoke on the Budget. Mr Speaker I can confirm the certainty of funds allocated for Salelologa, the town...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister of Finance but I will give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I beg tolerance of the Minister of Finance, but there is just one matter, which people are constantly asking about. I also mentioned it in my remarks. What actions are you and your Ministry taking concerning our country being in the black list and particularly the issue under SIFA and the likes. We were also notified not so long ago that we are on the blacklist with Tutuila. What are you doing about it? After all, we are in a good state, we have a good reputation and we have laws in place to protect us from these kind of concerns. However, what has been done to resolve this current state for future improvement. With respect.

**Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI:** Mr Speaker although the member did not speak on this issue, I will say that we are currently undergoing consultations with the European Union. It was raised by our Prime Minister in a recent Pacific Forum meeting where a representative of the European Union was present had asked for more time to have discussions.

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As for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD they have been monitoring our jurisdictions and have been told that they have upgraded us due to being substantially responsive. We are complying with the OECD and they are handling the role of investigating. But with threats from the European Union, we are not sure whether their council are fully aware of the actual way things should stand. We have asked them, as well as other Pacific countries to allow more time for consultations. That is my brief response to the member.

I want to use this moment to extend greetings to my constituency, the prominent chiefs and Salelologa and the members of the Clergy praying for what we do and us. My commendations, for this is our contribution to our constitutional role and our Government's Budget, so that it may reap the fruits for our constituency and the wider community to enhance the welfare and our constructive development. Return praises to God. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you Hon Minister of Finance. It is now the turn of the Minister of Customs and Revenue.

**Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister of Customs and Revenue):** Thank you for this opportunity. I extend greetings to you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, and also Associate Ministers, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons and the members on that side of Chamber. I recognise the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises present and our people tuning in.

Mr Speaker, I will start with our prison and it will not be a long address. The funds allocated in the First Supplementary Estimates for the Ministry of Prisons I am grateful to the Hon Minister of Finance. This fund is earmarked for the building to house the staff. There are currently two shifts rotating at the prison due to the distant location. There is a shift from 9am to 5pm and 5pm to 9am. If you look at it the other shift, it is 16 hours due to the difficulty in travel at night. Nevertheless, once this building is done there will be three shifts. From 9 to 5pm, 5 to 1am. The other shift from 1am to 9am can use this building for accommodation and for the shift from 5pm to 1am. Come morning they can be transported back to town in vehicles.

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The purpose as I am explaining is for an accommodation building for the staff due to the great distance of the present place. Work at the Tanumalala prison have once again resumed this morning. A truckload went this morning and the frame will most probably go up today and with the roof to follow.

The other point raised was for the possibility of inmates to serve their sentence at a pastor's residence. This was done by the Ministry of Justice where prisoners were taken to a clergyman residence and somehow could not continue. The Ministry of Justice still have a program for those sentenced under 12 months to work in clean-up programs where they do hours at a time. Most of this group are used by the Victims Support organisation where they do perhaps 4 hours a day if it is a sentence of 50 hours. Once they have completed those hours their sentence is over.

A member raised the idea of having ankle-monitoring devices for prisoners. Well that is the decision of the Ministry of Justice and the Police. These people are expected to live in their families, it is beyond our control outside of prison, and our duty is to oversee those who have been convicted by court, serving their sentences in prison.

I now come to the Ministry of Customs and Revenue; there was a thought whether we should still connect with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour since they have the responsibility of checking the guards of delivery vehicles without receipts. Our Ministry is also working to pursue the matter with deliveries not issuing receipts so we may start the process of issuing penalties. Goods for example vehicles, there are two types of duty imposed on imported vehicles. The price and the engine of the vehicle. We use these two figures and determine which ever is the highest to control the situation of false invoices. In observation of this Ministry when I first came to be, this method had been in place for car engine and price whichever had the highest duty it was given to accumulate revenue for the Ministry. For the control of our borders we are awaiting x-ray machines.

I am grateful to the Government for taking this service to Faleolo to be used at the airport. It has been here for many years but the x-ray did not work. Utilising this machine at the airport reduces the workload for the Ministry now we have enough staff to work in one location.



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There are also x-rays used to scan travellers from Tutuila as well as Fiji and many other countries, especially between us and Pago since it is rumoured that a lot of drugs come from there. The distance between us and Pago is close and we can go on a boat and meet at sea. It is a very difficult task to monitor, therefore it is good that it has been shifted to the airport which will greatly assist in our role of keeping drugs out of our country. The only one easy way these can be detected are dogs.

We currently have only 2 K9s. One is with Police and the other one is with us. They are not cheap since it costs NZ\$200,000 for a dog. In addition to that is the cost of feeding and care. I know we are still trying to appeal to the Ministry of Finance for another dog. We cannot use one during a 24-hour period, as we are using the 2 dogs for Faleolo and the wharf at Matautu.

I think that about covers the matters raised concerning our Ministry. I do appreciate the recommendation, which the Ministry accepts, as we all want to do everything we can. Nevertheless, it is not simple following up taxes. The Ministry of Agriculture have added new incentives, which was not there before using part of our revenue. However, the Ministry is trying to collect whatever money is available so it can be put into Treasury to assist the demands of this House.

That is my response and if I may now say a word to my constituency of Vaa o Fonoti. Thank you for supporting your representative, I have become somehow different this term. With the changes in electoral constituencies, I envy everyone, but as far as I am concerned really do not know where I stand. Since my matai title is of Faleapuna, and being the Sa'o of our family. Yet they have placed me in the Anoamaa East constituency I am lost as to where to start since right now, Anoamaa East has two representatives given the law that is now in place. It is true that this has come about two weeks prior to the elections, it does not benefit me. However, it is fine I will abide the resolution of the Minister of Electoral Commission. I am certain this Parliament and the public are thinking of the efforts of the two Ministries I am in charge of; I believe the staff are doing their best for the prosperity of our country.

This is a clarification Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, we now come to the Minister of Women.

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**Afioga Hon. FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister of Health):** It is the Minister of Health.

**MR SPEAKER:** I take it back, the Hon Minister of Health.

**Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister of Health):** Once again greetings Mr Speaker of the House. I applaud your patience in steering our deliberations. Greetings to the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet as well as the Associate Ministers. The same goes for the Chairepersons and Deputy Chairperson's of Parliamentary Committee and the distinguish members of Parliament. I recognise the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises since you are the force implementing the projects and various services for the welfare of the country. I salute you on your role and patience. I convey greetings to the Clerk of the House as well as the office serving this Parliament. Greetings as well to all of Samoa tuning in, His Excellency, Le Ao o le Malo and his Good lady. The member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady, respectable Deputy Chief Justice and the Judiciary. The dignitaries of Samoa in all its honorific salutations. Last but not least greetings to Gods chosen servants, praying for our duties for the betterment of this country and our prosperous future.

I will greet my constituency now in case I forget after. Greetings and a Happy New Year to my constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1. *O le paia lava lea i sao e fa, le aiga sauimalau atipouniu ma le faasau. Lau fetalaiga i le tulafale, lau tofa Lavea le alii o le itu na e mua i malae, tausii vaatele aua le malae i Fanao faapea le paia i Safotu ma aiga.* I also acknowledge my village of Manase. I warmly recognise the clergy praying for us in all we do. I feel the courage in every way due to your prayers. Let us continue to worship and have faith in our Lord so our endeavours are blessed.

Mr Speaker I will not say a lot about the measles as the country have heard a lot already on the matter. It has been three days since our session commenced so I think I will say something about it before addressing the issues raised by members.

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First, I would like to convey a heartfelt message from the Minister of Health and the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry, my deepest gratitude to the faith of the nation, while facing adversity in the past year, due to measles. I apologise, as during the chaos there were times when some asked for my presence. My role as Minister together with the Ministry focused on the priorities set by Government in strategic plans for issues, which need be taken to ensure that matters were under control regarding the required services. In particular the implementation of the work to save lives.

Samoa, I will not attempt to address your salutations but will just say thank you and my commendations for your prayers, encouragement and warm support whilst engaged in battling to save the lives of our people especially the young children whom were most affected. True is the saying about fishing expedition duties that are supported end with success. God has answered your prayers as the pain and suffering have slowly disappeared. Although the close bond with loved ones has been broken especially the young children, I extend my condolences on behalf of the Management and everyone at the Ministry, may the warmth of God comfort you. I also convey our appreciations Samoa for your kindness and compassion in helping our Government in various ways.

During the heartbreak experienced by the country, with churches, organisations, the business community, companies and individuals through food offerings, monetary gifts, resources for the hospitals for the patients and staff. I commend you and thank you for your love and generosity. In case, I miss anyone, but God knows and sees everything. May the Lord through His wealth return your kindness in abundance during the suffering we encountered. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our foreign partners and everyone that came to our aid. In addition to the relief workers who came and brought necessary equipment to assist relief efforts. There were those who generously donated money and all sorts of assistance to contain the measles epidemic and saving lives. It is a long list, which is on record, but due to the limited time, God knows each and every one of you.

The truth is, if it were not for the relief workers from our partners overseas, it is doubtful whether our very own people working at the hospital could have executed and delivered the desired services at the time. I believe that the support from overseas greatly contributed to our work; I believe it was the spirit of God that led them to Samoa.

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On that note, I now come to the Chairman of the Natural Disaster Council, the Hon Prime Minister you stood at the helm, and you were far-sighted and unassuming in standing up to lead us at difficult times together with the strong support of all Ministers of Cabinet. As the country struggles and suffers in the face of the epidemic. My congratulations for your leadership, for your perseverance and service to Samoa, may God bless you.

To the Chairperson of the Steering Committee in charge of the National Emergency Operation Centre, NEOC. Respectable Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations as well as the many public servants who worked tirelessly day and night. Your exposure to the sun and rain and the difficulty encountered because of your desire to end the catastrophe while the country prayed for the better. I commend you all for the hard work. Thank you for your service to our people as shown by your dedication.

I also extend my gratitude to the Minister and administration of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. There was so much input on your part through your support of the Alii and Faipule through the Governments representatives and the women committee when searching for everyone that needed to be vaccinated throughout every village in Upolu and Savai'i. We hope to continue this collaboration in the future with other necessary projects and to revive Hygiene Committee. This is a priority of the Ministry to ensure a prosperous and healthy living Samoa in future.

In case, I forget my good friend Nanai Laveitiga Tuletufuga and the staff of the Savali newspaper. They of course represented the Government Press Secretariat in the publicity and broadcasting on the daily basis of the situation. With the Hon Prime Minister at the helm in distributing and informing the outside world on information. Whilst we were working at the hospital as you know.

I cannot forget to mention and commend the staff of the Ministry of Health in Upolu and Savai'i. Mainly the group of doctors and the majority of the service, the nurses. It will never fade from memory, and how can it be. When recalling your commitment and dedication without any complaints or signs of discontent during the long arduous hours you toiled with a smile. I would normally be reprimanding but I was surprised with your attitude and performance during that time.

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Particularly your cooperation and working together with your peers from overseas who put their hand up to come and help us in our cause. If you are listening I thank you and applaud your patience and service to this country.

To the Director General of Health Leausa, I salute you for your patience, persistence, for it was not easy with the numerous responsibilities of the job, and the many obstacles and challenges encountered not to mention the criticisms and accusations. I thank you for you persevered and I appreciate that you considered my advice from time to time. As I was depending on you people, the lives of our people were in your hands during the difficult trying times of the measles epidemic.

Mr Speaker I will now respond to members who raised matters concerning the Ministry of Health. In the last three days. I have been all ears patiently with a smile since almost every member taking the floor expressed gratitude and well wishes. The fact is you do not need to thank the work done. What really excited me was at the end of every speech you touched on the motto of the Don Bosco School during long boat racing. You showed, one heart, one soul let us all charge forward strongly and the recommendation that we work together. Thank you for your service to the country. As I said earlier, my thoughts are not yours, we all have different views. But I guess this was the opportunity provided by God for us to unite and work together for the welfare of our people.

There were two members that spoke and I have been trying to search for the answers to your queries. This is me, when I do not understand something I get up and find the answers and I do not want to mislead anyone. The member that asked about a pandemic plan.

I got up and went to see the Chief Executive and the medical team, not only should we look at the pandemic plan but we need to amend the terms so it will be easier to understand. The meaning of the term pandemic given is the infection of a large portion of the world or a country. The example given is the 1918 Spanish flu, although the measles affected New Zealand, Tonga and Fiji, it did not reach the stage where it was identified as a pandemic. An epidemic is a disease that is contagious and affects a large population in a single country or countries but does not cover a large part of the world. This is the same with the measles. An endemic is a disease that occurs within a country all the time.

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For example, there is malaria in Solomon Islands and many Asian countries. In Samoa, there are reports that eight to ten typhoid cases occur within a month. The question asked by the member was, for the pandemic plan it was stated that it was just done in November 2019. It has been clarified that this is not true. We already have such plans for pandemic, epidemic, endemic, which is the Avian and Pandemic influenza Preparedness Plan of 2008. It was implemented when avian influenza affected the world. As you can see from this book, it has been reviewed and updated and have all plans, medical treatments and knowledge, it has been in place for a long time the Samoa 2019 Medical.

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the Hon Minister but I call upon the member for Salega.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East):** I thank the lady Minister for the clear clarification. But I heard the suggestion in this pandemic plan I mentioned is not right. I just managed to discuss a pandemic plan of the Ministry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2019. There was instruction to submit a draft of the pandemic plan; I have with me these records. It is noted that the copy of the pandemic plan from the Ministry was given on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. I gave a recommendation to the Chair and the Hon Minister, it is not necessary for us to re-examine such things and see who is right or wrong.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps it is not important...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** There is a reason for taking the floor...

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Tell us who is wrong and who is right.

**MR SPEAKER:** This may not be important.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this is the reason for taking the floor, leave the Minister to address what is of interest to the country, but when the Minister is trying to convey the matter the member have taken it upon himself to show his knowledge, he is not a doctor. But this information should be made public for the country listening in. The hospital has a plan let them promote it. But do not try and interrupt the clarification or it might lead it elsewhere, carry on with the explanation the House wants to hear it as well.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I apologise to the member for Salega.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker the Hon Minister is accusing me of being wrong. How can it be wrong when it is the document from your Ministry.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member for Salega, the Hon Minister has already clarified the matter. Now the matter is being brought back, there is no reason to do so hence the information given under the Ministry and presented by the Hon Minister into Parliament is the official one.

I appease the member we have already deliberated this matter in the previous Sitting. If we are to go back there it will complicate the opinions of some of the members.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Health to continue with her clarification and conclude this matter.

**Afioga Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker, apologies to the member. I have mentioned this since it is in my speech because it was queried, the plans as you can see includes the Influenza, Preparedness, National Aviation, Panademic Preparedness Plans starting in 2008 up until today.

This other book of plans for 2019 and other plans of the Ministry in place includes the Health Sector Plan completed in June last year before the measles outbreak 2019/2020 will continue to 2029/2030. After 10 years it will be reviewed and re-examined whether it is stable and good, before other changes are implemented. This is how the Ministry will be looking at it.

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This is what I wanted to point out, thank you. As mentioned by the member in his remarks before the recent debate, I am proud and happy and it has encouraged my weak self, on the support given saying there is no one to blame for who is wrong. But let us all work hard and with each other, strengthen our policies and plans with integrity and make sure we have set plans.

Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House it is unfortunate that we encountered such occurrences as stated by members. There are a lot of lessons learnt from this as mentioned by majority of members, such occurrences are important. The Government is not looking anymore to this Ministry and what has already happened. The focus of the Ministry now, while we set aside this debate let us go and do what you have urged me to do, let us come together and work with one another so that this will never ever happen again in Samoa and in future.

It has been set, but as you can all see there are a lot of plans now all it needs is implementation, let us all work together to make it happen. As I said yesterday what happened is a responsibility of us all. It is the father and mother in the family, we often talk that we are matai working for the village, the respects of alii and faipule, it is here where we find strength since it is the highest council within constituencies. The elders easily order the young men, to all gather at 9.00am to go to the plantation.

They are told to find this and do that, they are the strength of communities, this is why I want to thank the Hon Minister and Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development.

We are the decision makers on anything in families, let us implement this however I only pray for your patience, what I can see in the Ministry once all the resources are secure our services will then be upgraded. In addition to personnel, doctors, nurses, equipments, tools, vehicles and other things that the staff can access, there are plans once school starts they will be in schools to start updates.

It has been questioned and reported by majority up there the need of the enrollment form of students, I have already met with the Minister of Education. The two Ministries have also met, and it has been reported to me then I had to go back up there and ask, what is the plan? I have been informed by this department of the Ministry that the measles yellow vaccination card will be used because it is believed that all students have been vaccinated.



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As for the booklet required under the Bill it has all the vaccinations, but as I stated earlier leave this matter to us this year we will be monitoring vaccinations because a lot of Government funds will be spent if these are lost. What we have seen up at the hospital is that most of the booklets taken are now lost.

Furthermore it is known through Health reports provided from time to time, that all children who were affected did not get any vaccinations. When asked where they were vaccinated, they would say I forgot, once the injection is completed everything is signed by a nurse, but when we looked into it there was no record meaning no vaccinations was done at all.

This is a clarification there is a lot of work to be done, the next priority is to encourage and empower, Primary health care, Public Health and Community health. There is a need to provide services out into the communities where people reside. As requested the need to re-establish *Komiti Tumama*, we want to enforce it if only we had enough funds.

Some requested that there should be more doctors, we also want this, to have more staff because more hands will lighten the load.

It was also stated by members that the vans used for the games were also used for the measles. For clarification and I am praying to the Lord for his authority through the Select Committee for the request submitted, after the first week I called Afioga Loau Keneti Sio, I asked him what happened with the vehicles used? He told me I should write an application letter. I want to thank the Chief of the Treasury, I called Afioga Leasiosio if I could visit him. And he responded do not worry I will come to you, do not come. It is so easy if we can communicate and knock which will get the work done quickly.

The request has now been submitted, I asked for 10 vans so that every hospital in rural areas and Savaii each have a vehicle. If I think about the budget I am certain there is almost no member that came to the hospital have not requested for an ambulance. I am not sure when we will be able to acquire any based on funds available, as for the time being we will be using these vans to go to schools, committees, rural hospitals to transport medicine. These vehicles are in great demand for the services already put in place.

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The implementation of services in rural areas will minimize complaints made to the main hospital. Also it will not be crowded anymore, as a witness in the past there used to be vans bringing nurses to the villages with medicine and first aid kits. I recall the red and purple ointments used on children, babies were weighed, vaccination shots were distributed together with medicine such as panadol for old men and women. I strongly believe our country will be in good health if we return back to implement these methods of the past.

Most of these plans cannot be implemented if we do not have enough plans to do it, but once school starts we will look at doing it. I pray to all members of the House to visit the hospitals within your constituencies and report back to us. I do not have any appointments arranged at my office, whenever someone knocks at my door my secretary will tell me, Afioga Pai and Lafai are here, I allow them in.

It is quite rewarding to explain something to someone who comes asking for answers. My office is always full with people everyday. They think since I am the Minister I rule over everything like taking patients overseas. Please Pai and Lafai I thank you for your patience but there is a process that need be followed.

There are policies that must be followed. However I will call the Chief Executive about this matter since the office of the Minister is not in charge of submissions. It is submitted to Cabinet for approval, but you have to go to the hospital to get a checkup then the doctor makes a report if it is necessary to take the patient overseas. the report from the doctor is submitted to the Committee for Overseas treatment, if satisfied for the patient to be treated overseas a PK is prepared after approval is given from New Zealand. This is approved by Papalii Benjamin, who is in charge of our scheme, it will state I have approved Faaulusau Rosa, to come to the appointment on this day, stating the address, this is the process and policy.

There are many others who crowd my office for days, they tell me they went to visit the brother and his wife taking the elders with them. When they were there they were admitted to the hospital. They had to carry out an emergency treatment. And the bill given stated the amount spent on treatments was NZ \$107,000. I apologized to them wishing the authority I had could help them.

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If I were to write a letter for approval from Cabinet, I will only be reprimanded and told off since it is not allowed under Government policy. I believe in implementing our work, the best way to address it is through communication and clarifying it well so people will understand. This will minimize the crowd of people bothering you and taking up time allocated to do the work we were chosen to carry out, it is our duty to enforce it. You will not have time to look after the staff whether they are performing the plans laid out.

In case I might take longer, there was a member that queried the issue regarding the hospital in Saanapu. It has been noted also the Chief Executive and Management have heard, we will look into it and see whether it is possible with available funds, it is very easy for me to say yes add another 2 or 3 rooms. Unfortunately everything is dependent on funds available and the plans already approved. I think this is enough talk, thank you for listening perhaps the work carried out is now understood, Samoa I ask for your patience and I pray for blessings...

**Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West):** Mr Speaker I did not want to interrupt the Hon Ministers address which is why I waited until she concluded.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I call upon the member for Anoamaa Sisifo.

**Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** It is a minor matter as mentioned in your introduction on the matter related to a report. Does the Ministry have plans to submit a report to the House on the work carried out in relation to this disaster, it is nothing new because it is usually done during the aftermath of a natural disaster. This includes all the work done, the assistance received, not only on medical supplies provided by overseas partners but the teams of medical professionals who assisted and others. This should all be recorded so it will be part of the official Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. This is the query with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I call upon the Hon Minister.

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**Afioga Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS:** I thank the member for the question. I have noted that yesterday I tabled the report before Cabinet, now I am awaiting their review and recommendations to be submitted together with a report from Treasury.

Everything that was received, the gifts given to the hospital are now put to use not only in the main hospital but also equally distributed to hospitals in constituencies and Savaii. I personally went with some of the staff to ensure these are delivered, this includes beds, bed sheets and pillow cases, to equip the hospital in Tuasivi as well.

The specialists, well there is a long list of names in the book that I have with me here. It is quite a long list if I were read it all, however the report is now with Cabinet, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I believe we have now arrive to the...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I see that this matter available at that time was stated as part of the Budget. I mentioned this, I thought he was listening, the report is now with Cabinet, Cabinet will review it and then submit it into the House. The member is accustomed with such measures since he was also part of this Cabinet.

**MR SPEAKER:** Parliament have heard the clarification by the Leader of Government where he mentioned some of the assistance given in the Budget deliberated. The matter is now understood and will later be tabled in Parliament.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

**Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** Thank you Mr Speaker, just a correction it is Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, there is no forestry.

All of this side to the back is our group. I will briefly voice a word of thanks since we are short on time.

Humble greetings Mr Speaker, also to Chairpersons of each Parliamentary Committee and members of that side of Chamber. I acknowledge as well the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and office of Parliament. Greetings to our country, dignity of *Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma Tama, le usuga a Pule ma Tumua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

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I acknowledge as well the holy servants of God, for their offerings of praise in every village preaching the word of the Lord throughout the country.

I will not take long, there are only five members that queried this Ministry, the truth is they are not questions. It is not demands as well, it is voiced as such but it is not, however I will respond to it in one sentence.

We ask that these matters be left to the Ministry to review. Once members spoke upon it yesterday the Ministry worked on it right away, except the member for Vaimauga East who was given a response yesterday on the requests and needs voiced.

Mr Speaker I want to take this opportunity to say a word to my constituency, since they are listening in, thus I have already responded to the House.

I greet the respects of my constituency Vaisigano No.1, *le afio o le Tapaau ma le Gafa, Safune ma Taulauniu, le afio o le Aloalii ia Vaai ia faapea aiga ia faapena foi ia si ou afioaga i Auala, Tapu ma Lealiifano ma le afio o le Toalima, ia faapea le maliu mai o Safune. Ia ae faapena foi ia si ou nuu o Asau, le paia ia Aiga ma Salafai, Susu mai Tufuga, afio mai Masoe ma le Falefa o Usoalii. Ia faapea foi le Faatualalua faapea ia Siufanua.* Thank you for the support and for your patience, I am grateful for the prayers of blessings upon the duties given to this member. I want to summarise some of our developments, it was noted that our road at Auala was completed at the start of 2018. I thank the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Samoa Water Authority for our water supply in changing the pipelines. Also in the establishment of water supply in Sataua which is used as drinking water for our village. I have already met with the Hon Minister about our access roads in Vaisala. The work at Utulua is being discussed as well as the water in the sub village of Ogala, Asau. As for our other requests made by this member it has been accepted by the Hon Minister of Works and the Water Authority, relief was provided on the cost of water in Asau. Our request included Vaisigano No.2, thus we were lucky since there was a lower cost put on the water bill of our constituency.

Thank you Afioga Papalii Niko Lee Hang, I do not dare say your name but this Ministry has also greatly assisted as well to the work of Cabinet.

**MR SPEAKER:** I just want to assist this is within the scope of Cabinet. I ask that you conclude your statement.

*23 JANUARY 2020*

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
- second reading debate**

**Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA:** The work carried out by this Ministry, I strongly believe that the reason why the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is not perceived well, is members not visiting their constituencies to overlook plantations of the people. However it is now all in the past. The Chief Executive and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries keep doing what you do well, thank you. With respect, have a blessed day.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I now call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. First I greet the respects of the House this day. The Hon Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and to that side to Chairpersons of Committee and all members who are part of Committees.

I acknowledge as well the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and office especially the Heads of Government Ministries and organisations of Government who are present in observing Proceedings today.

I also convey greetings to Samoa and the support given, from the top to the bottom, the holy servants of God who serve in various parts of the country who give praise and pray for blessings on our work especially for our country.

Least I cannot forget to greet my constituency, Urban East. Eventhough it is a fact that it will be changed to Vaimauga, I believe it will only be made official after the 2021 elections. Humble greetings to all, the dignity of churches, Government and country, I am certain all respects have been stated already by previous members of Parliament. I will not reiterate it further.

Mr Speaker majority of members conveyed a word of gratitude to this Ministry, especially to the Chief Executive because I believe it is necessary to give thanks to those who deserve it. I want to voice as well a word of thanks to the Coporations and every sector under the supervision of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. It is you that carried out the work and accepted the recommendations of the Minister through Cabinet in the implementation of developments members have voiced thanks upon, however we should always give praise to the Lord for everything.

*23 JANUARY 2020*

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
- second reading debate**

Mr Speaker many of the speeches and requests made are common when discussing the Budget, most of the issues raised by members include, access roads, water supply, street lights, seawalls, speed bumps and others.

As for these requests and recommendations conveyed leave it to us, it has all been noted within my book. The Chief Executive of the Ministry is also listening to your requests, I am confident that all recommendations have been taken into account. There are plans once the Budget is passed the management and other organisations Susuga Seiuli and I oversee under the Ministry will start reviewing requests and draft a priority listing. There is a criteria that outlines which work comes first and others that will follow. Everything will be carried out, it is just a matter of organizing it based on priority of developments, the truth is Mr Speaker there is a lot of work but we have little funds, but it will be done in moderation. The plan is to accomplish as many developments within the last year and to satisfy the needs of all members. If the progress of developments does not reach a member now, I hope you can return after the elections to follow up on the requests voiced. The Ministry will make every effort to try and implement the requests made to the best of their abilities.

Mr Speaker, there are a few issues raised by members I briefly touched on, but as I stated earlier it is all been recorded. There was a member who mentioned speed cameras unfortunately this division, the Land Transport Authority is now under the Ministry of Police overlooked by the Hon Prime Minister perhaps information can be disclosed on this matter. Speed cameras are important, it is a fact that the issue seen today are many accidents this is because of speed, also the cars are good. In this regard, I also recommend the Ministry of Police to look into the installation of speed cameras on the road to the airport. There are other matters I want to address, especially on the issue raised for the ferry for Salafai, as I stated in the previous Budget preparations are being undertaken by the Board of Directors and administration to have another ferry to make it two for use of our people travelling and living in Puleono Salafai. We are planning to get a bigger and faster ferry for more space not only for the passengers but vehicles.

A proposal will be drafted by the Director Board and management of the Shipping Corporation, then we will visit the Hon Prime Minister to submit it too. After that the usual process will be to submit it to CDC for an opinion of the Committee before preparations are carried out for a new ferry. The ferry is expected to arrive before the 2021 elections.

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Another member requested a ferry that is suitable for severe weather conditions. I want to apologize to the member because we cannot find such ferry anywhere in the world, because priority is always safety. Even if the ferry is very good but once the weather is bad we cannot do anything, as the saying goes, prevention is better than cure. Another one as I stated I do not think it is found at a ship building company. A submarine. A member also voiced a reminder for an additional ferry, I have already discussed this with the Management of the Shipping Corporation to get another ferry so we can have two together with the Lady Samoa III.

A member spoke on the fees charged if you are not able to go on your trip. This additional cost is reasonable as the airline also does the same, if you change the date for your flight there are penalty charges, however missing your flight means the opportunity of another person that wanted to go will be missed. The recommendation has been noted, I think this should be amended for example notice should be made the day or two days before your trip then a penalty is not paid. But if notice is not given before you depart then a penalty fee should be paid, since the booking was not changed. However the recommendation will be given for consideration of the Shippini Company because this would be my recommendation, people can change bookings two days prior to their trip so it can be rearranged. The fee noted was \$29 or \$19, a recommendation was also made to decrease it to \$15. Saying the \$15 is more reasonable. There are statements made that the ferry earns a lot of money, a lot of profits, let us not forget that 50% of the profits pays for our dividends which drives our budget to implement the developments requested. Also a fraction of this profit is saved for a period of time and used when getting a new ferry as clarified. One of the members also mentioned that we should have airpoints. Nonetheless leave this matter to us, the Directors Board will consider it, the fee is cheap except for VIP that is \$30, I believe this is the fee that will accumulate travellers' points if we were to adhere to this recommendation.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker this is a correction for our records, the dividend is not 50% it is now 35, this is a correction of our records. With all due respect.



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**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** The member is right but I was talking about before when it was 50% now it is 35%. This means a smaller amount will be given to our Budget so there will be less funds to carry out developments. But the statement is true it is not 50%, I was stating the past but I believe it was changed last year to 35%. I am grateful to the Hon Minister of the Corporation who have decided to give back all profits...how will they be able to operate if they were to give it back? I am grateful that the contribution of corporations have been decreased to assist with our revenue.

A member mentioned the project at Maliolio saying it is taking too long, although it is expected to be opened before June. There is a reasonable explanation on why it was delayed, during Cabinet visit it was noted there were problems. We have requested the Land Transport Authority and the contractor for a variation since there are still funds for this project available for such circumstance but this is the progress for Maliolio.

One of the members also mentioned the closure of the airport at Fagalii. The matter has been mentioned in Government advertisements and reasons why this airport should be closed. Since the member who raised this matter is not present, I apologize for any inconvenience for this request however; the Cabinet has already made a decision. I believe the decisions of Cabinet cannot be reversed.

Perhaps these are some of the matters apart from the usual ones, I have tried to clarify, although if there are some I have not addressed we can meet over tea and discuss it further. Mr Speaker perhaps this will conclude a response on the matters voiced by members, as well as recommendations, which will be taken into consideration for the improvement of the work of the Ministry of Works. Finally yet importantly, I want to thank the Chief Executive of the Ministry and Corporations under this Ministry, your contribution is important, thank you for following the recommendations given through Cabinet to administer the work.

This is the guideline for this last year, if you are listening, I ask that we speed ahead and let us not drag the work since the term is nearly finished. Thank you for your patience to carry out the work as passed through Cabinet approval. As I earlier mentioned the work laid out is given to be implemented immediately but not done lethargically.

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**Motion to amend Sitting Hours**

Mr Speaker this is a clarification to respond to the queries of members of Parliament. I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for our work, working together and supporting one another so our work will come into fruition before the end of this term. With respect thank you.

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

**MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS**

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I have observed members of the House and it seems everyone are feeling a bit tired. The man name Fiaai comes from our village. It seems we are the ones who are used to it but not the House. I can see that those who have yet to respond are those who speak the longest, this is why I take the floor to amend a motion, it is the intention of Cabinet to thoroughly respond to matters raised but not so hastily. I move a motion *that we adjourn Parliament Proceedings after the next response and continue our work tomorrow.*

*I believe we will be able to conclude our work tomorrow. It is not appropriate to rush through it this evening. After the next clarification, we will adjourn to find strength and come back tomorrow. This is the amendment on the motion for approval of the House.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister for Tourism.*

**MR SPEAKER:** The motion is moved for after the following Ministers speech is concluded, the Hon Minister for Tourism.

Then we adjourn until 9.00 tomorrow morning. This will allow Cabinet and the Leader of the country to find strength especially the support of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises and all of Samoa.

*Motion approved.*

*Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
- second reading debate**

**MR SPEAKER:** With respect, I call upon the Hon Minister for Tourism.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI (Minister for Tourism):** Humble greetings Mr Speaker and respects of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and that side of the House. Respectable members of the Parliament of Samoa. I acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and organizations present here today. Thank you, the Lord is very kind, for guiding you all here today. We have witnessed the goodness of the God in the face of the transition in life in various stages and the blessings witnessed by our country and all of Samoa. There are two members who made queries to the Ministry but I believe the work of tourism is a responsibility of everyone here in the House. Because it is the work pertained to Samoa. Whoever is appointed it is our duty to work together for the future of our country.

The main purpose is to attract more tourists to see the beauty of Samoa. Not only for hotels but also beaches and various constituencies where special attractions are kept to meet functions of the industry. One of the members for Palauli mentioned the attractions in Palauli. It is not easy, since there is also the request for a vehicle.

I already mentioned a humble opinion that this is the responsibility of everyone, the members of the Parliament of Samoa. Everyone has feelings, if we were to take into consideration giving a vehicle to Palauli. How would Falealili, Safata or Anoamaa feel. We must also assess the stability on how to take care of our possessions, so that one is not lifted while the other is left behind. There is belief that it is the responsibility of Government to ensure that everyone is equal.

I want to mention the matter raised by the member, Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua in regards to the houses already built unfortunately there is no water. This is the problem encountered. Now the Samoa Water Authority are working on it to provide water on the East side of the island to be used for these outdoor toilets used by tourists when visiting Samoa. The situation as it is...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I just want to add on to this matter. This is important development under tourism. There are outdoor toilets with respect situated throughout Upolu and Savaii.

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We all know that not many tourists need this service since most will probably just go to the hotels. I have noticed that there are signposts pointing out these places. The establishment was made to be close to families so they can be able to maintain and use it as well. It does not mean these houses are not being used.

That is why these houses were set up, to have a family take care of it. This means they get free access in using these houses. I know that the notice voiced yesterday is not true. I wanted to take the floor but I thought this would be a good time to clarify the matter. It is not only for tourists. It includes all of us. This should be understood well and by this House, Hon Minister instruct your Chief Executive and Ministry to find a way to inform the public about it. Even members, Ministers and Chief Executives travelling, they should know this because it is not pleasant for members who travel around. These houses are not only used by tourists but by everyone. This is an effort of the Ministry, which was done for a good purpose.

I feel that it is not publicized well; also, the family in charge of maintenance should emphasize the beautification of these houses. These could be noted as their houses. They can use it all the time. I heard something happened in one of the villages, they were looking to see who would look after it, some thought it is best if a Faletua of a high chief carry out maintenance, they do not understand.

How can the faletua that lives on the other side go all the way there to look after it. It seems they want the Government to pay for them. This is used by the family as their own house, however the main purpose is for the public who travel around the island to use. This is further clarification on the matter, these houses were specially built, so not only can the families use and maintain it but it is for the public to use when travelling.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter is understood. I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI:** I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister for his clarification. I mentioned earlier that this work pertains to all members of the Parliament of Samoa. This is our responsibility that we were appointed, to look after the possessions of the country. The problem is there are not enough houses mentioned in the clarification by the Hon Prime Minister. Any member who needs this service is welcome.

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- second reading debate**

As I stated, we should make sure the image of Samoa is portrayed well, and be known as a clean and well looked after country. The truth is, I do not have to say it but nature calls when you are on the road. Then you have to find a place to do your business however today we have these houses prepared by Government to be used.

I thank the Hon Prime Minister because the initiative of all this stems from the Prime Minister. There is a Chinese man who was bestowed a matai title in Lepa is Falevao as Toilet. This is the truth, this Chinese is blessed to be named toilet. This name Toilet is not bad these are the stars.

**MR SPEAKER:** This matter was not part of your speech.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** A point of clarification for the record. Perhaps this is not the correct matai title, but the correct one conferred is Tuifalevao. This is different from the English name now noted within official records, with respect.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI:** Mr Speaker, *o le aitu lava o le moomu*. Toilet is the same as Tuitoilet. The member for Falealii spoke the truth. It is the responsibility of everyone to take care of these properties. This will be promoted in every village. There are already huge signs at Falealili and Togitogiga; there are garden toilets there that can be used by tourists and the public. There is a drawback to this; it is the failure of our people in maintaining our properties. This is pinpointed to us alone. It makes me proud when I go and use these houses and it is clean. When it is well maintained. I will not mention the West side, into rural areas there was a request given for toilets...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The matter itself is very easy. All that is needed to be done is to direct the Chief Executive to carry out site visits once every week. This is his duty. We now have a large-scale program for the improvement of toilets in Government buildings. He should personally oversee these things and not send the staff. This is a recommendation to the Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I ask that the Minister move on to another matter.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
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**Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister, I will take this into consideration. The truth is I am the one that goes and oversee these things. This is what portrays our duties. The lower you go the more famous the person doing the work will be, eventhough there is no need to do it but it portrays the kind of person you are. Our duty is to set aside our dignity, to remove it. This does not define us but it is the work we do that does.

People talk about what you do, but they do not if you have a lot of material things, what money? It is not money that makes this life. It is mutual respect.

The Hon Prime Minister has mentioned Alo, always smile. Service with a smile. As for the situation we are in? I will perform to carry out all of my duties.

I want to thank the Chief Executives of the Ministries under my leadership. Samoa Trust Estates Corporation are now packing our taro. It will be the first container for STEC. The goal is to be able to ship to overseas markets, I am grateful that this is a sign that our container is now sent.

*The emergency alarm suddenly rang and the members of the Legislative Assembly had to evacuate the House for security and safety.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned at 2.20 pm until 9.00am Friday 24th January 2020.*