

*THURSDAY, 23 JUNE 2016*

*The Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayers.

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR SPEAKER**

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2015/2016 and  
APPROPRIATION BILL 2016/2017 – resumption second reading debate**

**MR SPEAKER:** In all respect, the esteemed member will continue his speech with regards to government financial policies and procedures on the second reading of the Bill carrying on from yesterday's debates. During adjournment yesterday, the Member for Falealili was speaking.

Before I call the Member to resume his speech, I shall advise the dignified accord of this Parliament. As you all know, the Cabinet Ministers and Associate Ministers are considered as the Executive, one of the three arms of the State while other members of this Parliament are Committee Members; therefore I think it is best if I give the chance for them to speak first. Hopefully, the executive will get a chance to respond later on before proceedings adjourned. With that being said, I will grant the opportunity to this side of the Chamber and Cabinet will respond later on to enlighten some of the concerns and issues raised in members' speeches regarding our economy and policies in accordance to the Bill.

With due respect, I call the notable member for Falealili East to resume your speech, you have five minutes remaining.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUEL TEO (Falealili East):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe proceedings adjourned while I was speaking to the Hon **Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure**, to remind him of the access roads within our districts covering all five (5) villages for your information, there are tourist developments in Salani, Sapoe and Utulaelae, which is why these roads needs upgrading. I will not speak on this any further, as a matter of fact Mr Speaker you have already extended your warm welcome to all parties and thanksgiving to our Maker. I thank God for his guidance upon us all and the gift of life and reason why we are all gathered in this Chamber.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2015/2016 and Appropriation Bill  
2016/2017 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the member since we have arrived at the end of our work, you can continue with your speech for another five minutes tomorrow.

There will also be a lot of time for the member to speak more during tomorrow's sitting.

Since we have come to the end of our work for the day before we adjourn I call on the Deputy Speaker to conclude our proceedings with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 7:03pm until 9:00am  
Thursday, 23rd June 2016.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2015/2016 and Appropriation Bill 2016/2017 – resumption second reading debate**

Your Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, I would like to raise seawalls constructions as some of the villages that were affected by the natural disaster include Salesatele, Sapoe and Utulaelae.

Hon Minister of Health, Afioga Dr. Tuitama Leao Tuitama, I humbly voice my proposal for a Health Care Centre. I trust the District Hospital at Poutasi is enough to assist the two constituencies but for our constituency, we need one so that people can take blood tests, blood sugar tests, dressing for wounds and emergency cases especially during late night hours, these small health care services can assist patients before going to the main hospital.

Furthermore, I have now arrived on the issues pertaining to the Minister of Police, Fire and Emergencies Services and Prison and Correction Services, since now that the Constituency is divided and I strongly believe that there should be an office in my constituencies to ensure the safety and security of the people.

Lastly, the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Hon Loau, I appreciate your time as Minister and your Associate because you are both popular former players. Therefore, I strongly suggest that you look into the development of rugby. I propose a new school building for Salani and Sapoe and also an international rugby field to promote this sport. This is the birthplace of rugby in the country and therefore suggest that you and your associate avail a time to share your past knowledge and experiences for the betterment of our rugby team. I trust all callings are from God and you two were called there for a reason. When I think of Jeremiah's calling by God, God said to Jeremiah "*I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations*". Although you are not a prophet but I believe this is your time, so I humbly request a rugby field for my constituency.

There are lots of lands in Salani and Salesatele, we can use those lands to build a rugby field and if possible we can organise our own district rugby union for clubs who wants to participate in the development of this sports especially in Falealili East, not only rugby but field events since we rarely get any gold medals from field events like shot put, discus, javelin etc, that suits the strength of our people. That is the proposal Hon Minister for your consideration with all due respect.

Mr Speaker, that is it from me, in all high respect, thank you for all the good works you have achieved in managing this House and your past calling as former Minister yet again, you are here again, great job. May God bless you and your duties in managing the House.

Hon Prime Minister, may your bag of wisdom be full as you lead the Government of Samoa until we reach the end of these five year term. May this Chamber be blessed. Thank you.

*The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Member for Falealili East delivered his Maiden Speech.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2015/2016 and Appropriation Bill 2016/2017 – resumption second reading debate**

**MR SPEAKER:** I wish to thank the Member for such a wonderful speech, you have prepared well you have spoken well on behalf of your constituency. I now call the Deputy Speaker, the respective Member for the Constituency of Gagaemauga Number 3, you may now have the floor.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No. 3):** Mr Speaker, it is with the utmost respect that I rise in accordance to the opportunity granted by the chair to speak/voice our views on the Budget Appropriation on behalf of my respectable Constituency, Gagaemauga No 3. Before I proceed, I firstly greet with respect the whole of Samoa. A House no one dares enter except for those who are deemed worthy. For the day is as calm as a turtle drifting through the waves says the legend of Tooa and Fitimaupologa. Praise God for His grace and guidance upon us this new day to embark on our duties for success and not failure. With that I greet everyone.

Mr Speaker, it is hard for me to address the sanctity of the Chamber and of this glorious morning because fellow member who have spoken already paved the way. But we are use to this, we are used to counting waves and getting through and reason why we stand in Taumeasina and look at Matagofie like the story about the house of Vaimauga. Leaders have gathered from all constituencies and respectable seats have been occupied. This is the House of Samoa where decision makings are carried out for its government. It is also the House that has the support of its people.

Mr Speaker, I must say, that we are with you in the prayer of thanksgiving and seeking first the assistance of the Holy Trinity. With that we give Him all Glory and Praise for giving us strength this morning. In truthful words, ‘you are the cornerstones in days like this’, and do not also forget the words of the Holy Bible, ‘Let all praise and glory be unto the Most High,’ not us especially for the things we wished for. Given this first golden opportunity, we should never fail to exalt God for we are here today because of Him and regardless of all the hardships we went through, we have now reached our 16th Parliament with prosperity.

So before I proceed, I wish to contribute to the Appropriation Bill 2016/2017 before the House.

Mr Speaker, it is my utmost respect to greet His Highness, the O le Ao o le Malo of Samoa and your Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, and all of Samoa and your honorific salutations. To all paramount families of Samoa, I humbly greet you all with respect. I would also like to greet the Hon Prime Minister, Susuga Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Galumalemana Dr. Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi as the Leader of the Hous.

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I would also like to extend acknowledgement to the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa as well distinguished Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

I would also like to extend a sincere gratitude to the Chief Justice, Judges and the Court Administrations. Not forgetting the honourable Speaker of Parliament and the stateliness of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, the ever hardworking Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and his staff in ensuring the smooth operations of proceedings within this Chamber. I would also like to extend a heart of gratitude to all Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Enterprises, not forgetting our beloved church ministers in various denominations. The works of the government is a success because of your prayers.

It is an honour for me to also greet the government of American Samoa and all the honorific salutations pertaining to American Samoa. I furthermore greet my constituency for Gagaemauga No. 3 and all your honorific salutations. I convey a heart of thanksgiving to you all young and old for the honour on which is why I am here in this Parliament representing you all in the Parliament of Samoa. I am nothing without your kind support. Who is this low key person to you? This is my time and yours is tomorrow. It is no wonder the servant asked Jesse, ‘Jesse, is there another boy?’ the old man responded, ‘*Yes, my youngest son David is out taking care of the sheep*’. And Samuel said, ‘*Tell him to come...we will not offer the sacrifice until he comes*’. To my constituency we have many qualified men in the village yet you have chosen this unacceptable person. Why? Because you have asked God first, God is a God of blessings, He is our Protector and Guidance in the future. Henceforth, I ask of His blessings upon you all.

I specifically wish to thank the sub-village of Vaipuliaasa in all your divisional status. Thank you for your true support and remembering your spring water in the village which now extends to the people of Matautu for their use. It is no wonder the saying in Falealili goes, ‘*e ta fia pa'i e i le vai o tama*’, meaning, ‘I wish to feel the waters of the lad’. Bless your support as I strive to make a contribution on our behalf. Saleia you are old enough and God did not put you there for no reason, you are situated in the corner between Gagae and Gagaifo as our protector in times of trouble. You are no different from the person in God’s Holy Bible, your developments paves success for our people. That was witnessed when you were the first in the fields during the General Elections, and your first gained us points and success. Lend me your support as I represent our constituency for the next five years. I shall not forget to give thanks to my spiritual parents, church ministers and their wives who are praying day and night for the betterment of our constituency and for all of Samoa.

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Susuga Reverend Leota and Aiga, Reverend Kirisimasi and wife at EFKS Avao, Susuga Siaki and wife of the VOC in Saleia, Susuga Sileli and wife of the EFKS Fagamalo, Susuga Epikopo Samu and Seuamuli of the LDS Church in Fagamalo, Susuga Salesa and wife of the Catholic Church in Safai, Susuga Afa and wife of the Assembly of God in Safai. I still remember your words of encouragement after the general election and the blessings you bestowed upon me. Deep within, I appreciate and give you great thanks for supporting me in all your prayers.

Mr Speaker, I would also like the professor who once took the chair of this constituency in the previous Parliamentary term, Hon Faamoetaulua Dr Faale Tumulii. I appreciate all that you have done for our constituency. I will carry on your legacy and perform my duties for the betterment of our people. If one door closes, God will surely open another.

Lastly, I would like to convey a heart of thanks to my Committee for the loyalty and hard work shown throughout the general election in both Upolu and Savaii. You played a major role in putting me to where I am today. I would also like to thank all of my families and relatives in Samoa and overseas, I will never forget your support and this success. To my wife Susiana, children, grandchildren and unborn grandkids, well done to you and your hope in God. True is the words from our ongoing prayer meetings, 'nothing is impossible with God'. We have earned one point; let this pile of rocks bear witness to the Most High God. If your future grandchildren ask you, tell them God did this for us not us. Let this offer of sacrifice spread aroma before God Almighty as a symbol of His true Unconditional Love and Kindness.

Mr Speaker, I will now speak on the Appropriation Bill 2016/2017. I wish to extend appreciation to the Hon Minister of Finance. The key objectives of the Budget Appropriation specify the good words, "*strengthening policies for a better tomorrow*". I think these objectives are in line with Samoa's Strategic Development Plan 2016-2020 (SSDP) which clearly stipulates the importance of living within our means. By reading through the Bill, I have noticed the priority in reducing external borrowings and initiate our own ways for collecting revenue without have to rely on others. In truth it is good to get assistance from overseas partners but it is a lengthy to pay them back. We are well aware of foreign aids and remittances that impact our economy but it is also good to prepare ahead. Hon Minister of Finance, we support this Budget Appropriation.

Mr Speaker, I wish to briefly voice the needs of this constituency in assistance to the works and developments you delivered this morning. This constituency submitted two written proposals to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. You see, Matautu situates some of the very well known tourism developments from beach fales etc. many visitors are accommodated here. However the beautiful white sand is getting washed away.

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When I was young the attractive white sand fascinated me and now it is getting washed away yet, these sandy beaches are attracting a lot of tourists which makes Samoa the heart of the Pacific. Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, we request that you visit these sites to heed these concerns on our beaches and the various tourism operations that have our support. The last seawall was built during Cyclone Val and we need your support on this. With all due respect. In the words by one of the previous members, who would have thought you would become the Queen in saving the needs and concerns of today? Hon Minister that is the request with respect, and hope that in a future time it will be implemented, I wish you all the best, thank you.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, we have also submitted our proposal regarding our access roads in accordance to the proposed Budget Appropriation. Hon Prime Minister, we have submitted our proposals with the hope that one day we will get your assistance and I wish to express our sincere thanks for the access roads of Fagamalo. It won't be long now before we have the bridge and drainage that are currently undertaken at Saleia, also look into the civil engineers...

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has five minutes left...

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** During the recent heavy rain and flooding, the water breached through wasting so much money. I wish I was there in the beginning; the rocks piled up the bottom and the top was cemented. Whenever we have future floodings, it will affect Vaipouli and Saleia such as what just happened. Therefore, this site should be reassessed to avoid money waste and ensure safe and security. These are the main proposals but we also have some recommendations because I only have five minutes left.

Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration, we ask about the discontinuation of district community services that was conducted by the Ministry before. There is a significant point to this during my former employment with the Ministry of Police which assisted significantly with protecting people from committing offenses/crimes because if a man were to stand before the entire constituency it can get humiliating. Hence it is good to take the service to the village community to determine and deter the public from breaking the law, I advise, have a look into this and whether it is relevant to carry on this service rather than traveling all the way from Tuasivi which is costly. Such is the State's responsibility by offering the available services for the sake of our people. This is critical for our protection and security.

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Hon Minister of Education, it is the same proposal over the years, perhaps you have seen on the Television and newspapers, in terms of quality education in our constituency, excellent. One of the students topped story writing competition and received a prize, others came second in Years 11, 12 and 13. Our main intention is for you to visit and witness these things and provide further improvement to our education in Savaii. That is the request. Further, we need your expertise with Tapuai, the Itu a Tane area is where most of our Manu Samoa players live. Such is the need for assistance.

Lastly, Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, this constituency recommends the continuation of planting the coconut tree project because it is a good development for our country that is highly supported by this constituency.

Those are some of the submissions from this constituency and with that, I thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. May the Lord grant you strength to manage the House of Samoa.

Hon Prime Minister, I salute you, despite the many constraints, our constituency is behind you all the way. May the Lord bless you as you lead this country. To the support of the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, may you have the courage and wisdom to respond to the many requests by the members and to carry out your duties and responsibilities and may we rest in His loving Hands and kindness. Thank you.

*Members showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Maiden Speech of the respectable member for Gagaemauga Number 3.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Deputy Speaker for the wonderful speech. Perhaps we have five more Members to speak before I give the chance to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I call the Member for Vaisigano No. 2.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No. 2):** Mr Speaker, it is with cautious that I stand before the dignity of this Parliament, I must say thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I only have a few recommendations which I will briefly speak on regarding the Budget Appropriation before I conclude with voicing a few needs for my constituency. This is such a dedicated day because the living God is with us, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



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It is an honour for me to greet the respective Church Ministers of various denominations. It is a privilege for me to greet His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo of Samoa and Samoa and my Constituency. I would also like to acknowledge the dignity of the Legislative Assembly. In saying this, greetings to His Highness Le Ao o le Malo of Samoa, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi and your Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and your good lady, Le Mamea Tuiletufuga Ropati Mualia and your good lady, Tuiloma Pule Lameko and your good lady, Hon Prime Minister Tuialepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Hon Deputy Prime Minister, Respective Members of Cabinet, Associate Ministers and all Members of this House. Greetings honourable Speaker, Afioga Leaupepe Taimaiono and the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, greetings also to the Chief Justice, Afioga Patu Tiavaasue Falefatu Sapolu and all respectable Judges and the Courts Administration. Greetings to all Chief Executive Officers of all Government Ministries and Enterprises.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Governor General and the dignified House of our neighboring island in the East in all your honorary salutations (Tutuila and Manua).

It is an honour to address the seamliness of my constituency of Vaisigano Number 2, consisting of the villages of Sataua, Papa and Fagasa and the usual cultural addressing pertaining to it. I would like to acknowledge the never ending support, service and prayers from Church Ministers to our people for the success of Samoa as a whole and ours too after the Elections.

I would also like to acknowledge my Committee for your perseverance, integrity, achieved works and keenness to succeed as shown in the results. To the families and relatives and the stately Constituency, thank you for all your support. I would also like to use this golden opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the previous Member for our Constituency, Tofa Motuopuaa Aisoli Vaai, for your support and for the blessings you have mentioned. Thank you for all the good work that you have done for our people during the past term. We would also like to thank all of our families near or far for all the good works and for staying hopeful, we succeeded hence may He be glorified for His Grace.

Mr Speaker, I wish to voice a few thoughts and recommendations on the long term objectives for the benefit of the general public. I also wish to convey our support on this Appropriation Budget 2016-2017 and will make a short submission on it later.

I firstly wish to acknowledge the effort of the Hon Prime Minister and the Government for all the good works achieved these many years by this Political Party. Thank you for your efforts and love for the future of Samoa and her people. These are some of the submissions in connection to improving the works of our Government this Parliamentary term through the Speaker and the Cabinet.

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Firstly, note the plans in promoting better education in Samoa. I trust these plans are ongoing to developing improved education from primary level, high school level, tertiary or university level and polytechnic education in order to obtain extensive knowledge for developing Samoa. I would like to acknowledge one of the initiatives by the government in funding Primary level education whereby if possible, I would like to extend and propose this same doing towards the University level education.

If possible, government can assist the setting up a loan scheme specifically in providing accessible funds to pay off students school fees in University level in order to deliver proper management and planning for students school fees. Unpaid school fees have been a rising issue for families that have children succeeding the University level education. Another vital point is the significance of having well educated teachers from primary school levels to high school levels. There are rising concerns in subjects like Mathematics and Science due to the limited knowledge of some teachers resulting to the further decrease in the number of students. Teachers should have open opportunities to enhance their capacity and competence in pursuing further education to be in line with the advance teaching methods and skills. I also thank the government for re-employing the retired teachers who are still fit enough. I also ask the government to reconsider the salary for teachers.

Mr Speaker, the second issue is finding ways to create more employment opportunities for people seeking jobs in Samoa such as setting up larger companies/businesses in Samoa. The government should consider foreign companies to be established in Samoa. There are a lot of unemployed people in Samoa and a lot of graduates who are still looking for jobs. If we are planning to attract foreign businesses like Yazaki to Samoa, then we must have policies in place to buy them into our shores to withstand this sort of issue. I believe that the government should be spearheading such initiatives to make sure that these businesses adhere to our required standards. In other recommendations, government should consider prioritising development apprenticeship to broaden the knowledge of students with qualifications to make use of their specialised skills and knowledge. Government should also conduct promotions on how to draw the attention of these businesses to create jobs opportunities for our people. Government and businesses should ensure to remain cautious of conducting capacity building on various knowledge and experiences.

Mr Speaker, the third issue is regarding citizenships for our seasonal workers in New Zealand. The government should strengthen our ties with New Zealand and Australia in maintaining seasonal job opportunities for our people. The same should be applied to the Quota scheme with New Zealand.

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To ease this process, I propose that government have a look at strengthening political ties with our counterparts given specific guidelines and policies to simply allow our seasonal workers the application for New Zealand citizenship.

Fourthly, government should consider positive alternatives to enhance the development of our agriculture and fisheries sector. Firstly, the Ministry should cautiously consider when to avoid the use of foreign methods and treatments for our plants and animals. It has witness that most of these methods have greatly affected our environment and it is good to take these matters into account. It is important to promote crops into another level to cater for the needs of our export markets. Crops like cocoa, coconut and others should be empowered by the Ministry for the development of our nation. In saying this, I propose that the government should maintain these markets for our local farmers. The Ministry should empower the conservation of our seas to develop our fisheries and conservation of our marine life.

Mr Speaker, I propose that government look at opportunity in reviving the Fish Market in Asau because it is still feasible and potentially good for anchoring fishing boats and building further developments. I believe this development will benefit a lot of people living in this area. Another major issue is fossil fuel and petroleum which is a major concern in the whole world. It may have a small impact on our country still I strongly recommend that the government should carefully consider set policies on the importation of vehicles using these energies for the safety of our environment. On the other hand, I am grateful for the government for being at the forefront of implementing the use of renewable energy which is safe for our people and our environment.

My other concern is the importation of second hand vehicles without any set rules or regulation. As I said, we may be too small to forge a greater impact on this area but it is good to be cautious and prepared.

Mr Speaker, I shall skip part 6 due to the limited time but I will now clarify my point number 7 that is, the government should consider improving the health services. I acknowledge the government for upgrading our hospitals throughout the country but my only concern is the service which also needs improvement. Therefore, I propose that each district hospitals should have their own permanent doctors due to the raising concern on the unavailability doctors and because we are dealing with the lives of so many people that the government should consider seriously.

In saying that, I shall leave the poing 8.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time is up, but I must say, I have monitored how well prepared the Member is towards conducting his maiden speech, but just a reminder that all member are entitled to two 15 minutes chances when considering items, so please stick to the time given.

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**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Mr Speaker, I would never think of going against your good will but as you clarified I shall adhere to it. Mr Speaker, I am very grateful for the chance given to give my maiden speech today. This is a very special day for my family. May our Le Ao o le Malo be blessed especially my constituency in every walks of life. Our sincere hope is that the government should not forget our constituency consisting of Papa, Sataua and Fagasa. Hon Prime Minister and the government, just a humble advice, be wise in disbursing our funds and may you be blessed.

*Members showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Maiden Speech of the respectable member for Vaisigano Number 2.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you respectable member for that wonderful speech, you have done well and I congratulate you. I now call another Member who wishes to speak. I call the Member for Faasaleleaga No 2, you may have the floor.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU (Faasaleleaga No 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this precious opportunity. I believe you have already given thanks to our heavenly father and I am with you on that.

Because of his grace, we are now gathered within this sacred Chamber this beautiful new morning. So before I proceed with the budget, respectfully I greet the dignity of this House, honourable Speaker, Leader of the House or the Hon Prime Minister, Hon members of the respective Cabinet and members of the House.

I would also like to extend warm greetings to his Highness O le Ao o le Malo of Samoa and his Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice and the Court Administration, and all the seemliness of churches that are praying for the betterment of this country in the future and beyond. I would also like to address the support of our nation in Samoa, Tutuila and Manua in all your honorific salutations.

Mr Speaker, I would love to use this golden opportunity to address my constituency and all the honorific salutation pertaining to it. To all my families and villages thank you for your support during the General Election despite the countless unsuccessful attempts these past 20 years, that is the spirit I have. To the sacredness of my spiritual leaders, all the respective pastors and their wives, thank you for support and prayers. To our Constituency in Salafai, you are remembered as well as those who are in Tumua, for having unwavering faith in me and reason I am representing you for this five year term. Special thanks to the previous member who held the office during the previous term, Susuga Papalii.

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Thank you for being such a humble servant and competitor. With all the strength in me, I will carry my duties well in the next five years.

On to the main part of our discussion which is the Budget Appropriation 2016-2017. The first page points out the importance of this Budget because it is good to observe where we get the money from in order to work the project development of the Government. This is indicated in the \$242million foreign aid which is a huge amount. This is for project development as the Minister advised; the utilization of these funds should be managed thoroughly. I believe this is not the case considering previous Parliamentary terms, funds were utilised properly whereby proper planning were involved except for proper monitoring of funds especially borrowings/loans which I trust is not enough to build our developments. If we look at previous years and given the Budget 2011, our economy almost took a toll from natural disasters occurred. As we move along we have witnessed a positive progress but the question is, are we borrowing enough money? No State can operate without borrowing. Despite money collection/savings, a country like us is still a developing country which has the term ‘developing’ and not a developed country. Therefore we should not be troubled when borrowing otherwise we will never achieve a good future. Any State that aims to develop requires wise spending. For us, we are no oil suppliers. The Minister also advised that we should not reach the average borrowing of 50% but if we look at our current borrowings, it is low in percentage which means there is still chance for us to borrow/loan and should not exceed 50%.

We now see government plans for Apia which is a good whereby no more traffic jams in the morning, schools, hospital, and businesses. Why is that? We now have many connected access roads we can use. If we are afraid of loaning more money then we cannot reach a good developed country. Therefore Hon Minister, we should engage to more borrowings to develop the country for our people otherwise, our economy will be seized by foreign businesses seeing that more foreign businesses are now set up in Samoa resulting in local shops closure. Why? Insufficient money to develop our families locally. When money is sufficient, our State will develop well. Borrow money say millions...

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I allow the interjection.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Since it is not a maiden speech, I would like to ask the Member about the exact amount of the loan he is proposing. Thank you.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Since the member is no one new to this House and his thought could be withdrawn otherwise, he is an official member and this is his Maiden Speech. But true as you ask as one of the members of the Finance Committee but we shall have current speaker to clarify on that to define the real purpose for this motive and how much borrowing he proposes to put through...

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU:** Thank you, I can't recall the...Can I ask that you take a break, thank you. The swift to the member's question is \$200 million for this money allocation to be saved into the Development Bank for people to loan from.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is it a very low interest rate? Is that what you are suggesting, the answer to the question has been well clarified.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU:** Please only 3% is allocated to operate small business developments.

**MR SPEAKER:** Move on already.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU:** This is why I advise the Minister of Finance, I will be brief. Whenever we have our Sittings he should be present and if he seeks money overseas, I suggest that if he needs company, he should take me and Olo with him.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thanks.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU:** On to development. I appreciate the many developments that are now in line such as the wharfs, long term plans of the government. The concern is, we may encounter having no ships at all coming ashore because they don't have any supply to carry back. This means, only once in a month we may have a ship coming in. The same for our aviation services, the fares are lower but we have not enough hotels. These are some of the issues that the government might want to have a look at. That is to conclude my speech on the budget alone.

Hon Minister for Communication and Information Technology please note some ways to minimise the selling of cell phones to kids at age 4 and 5 to avoid trouble of lying to parents on the phone.

Hon Minister for Justice and Courts Administration, I believe some members have already raised the adjournment of court hearings.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I ask for a site visit to our constituency as we only have four school buildings in the district.

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Hon Minister for Women Community and Social Development, we wish to conduct an awareness program for the developments of our women in the Constituency.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, we have some proposals for our bridges that were given 20 years ago, one in Sapapalii and one in Tapueleele and the access road of Fusi and Fuifatu requires assistance.

Hon Minister of Police, Fire and Emergency Service, Prison and Correction Services, all the prisoners of Savaii must be referred to Savaii to get the advice of their parents for the crimes they committed.

Hon Minister for Commerce Industry and Labour and the Samoa Land Corporation consider that deeply.

Hon Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, note the seawall areas, it should be 2 meters from the main road and sea. Sapapalii is still suffering starting from the backside of the Minister's house and the sea level rising.

Hon Prime Minister, thank you for your service. This constituency conveys sincere gratitude in light of the above and we support the Budget Appropriation. Have a blessed sitting, soifua.

*Members showed appreciation by a round of applause after the Maiden speech of the respectable member for Faasalelaga Number 2.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honourable member. Our country has witnessed such an astonishing speech and all the needs of the constituency have been covered. I now call on any other member who wishes to speak. I call on the Member for Salega East, one of the senior members of this House; he is now representing a different constituency. The member may now have the floor.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity this morning. As you can see, our Finance Committee is now having our turns, perhaps after me, then the Deputy Chairperson and the Chairperson to wrap up all Budget speeches.

Mr Speaker, you have already greeted all walks of life, and everyone in our country, you have firstly exalted Praises to our Lord. I believe Mr Speaker; we have come across many difficulties throughout our journey but we have come this far because of the grace of our good Lord.

This beautiful morning, I humbly greet your honourable Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Associate Ministers and the honourable Leader of our Opposition side, everyone and your well prepared speeches.

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I rise with utmost respect Mr Speaker to clarify our own views on the budget that is now debated by this House. But before I precede any further I would like to acknowledge all the honorific salutations pertaining to my distinguished constituency. I shall not add nor erase your cultural addressing for I don't have the authority to do so.

Mr Speaker, it is true what the member of Palauli said yesterday that they are the first in bloodline or origins of Savaii but let me remind that if it wasn't for Moouii the girl from constituency who gave birth to Tonumaipea Sauoaiga, these families won't be here today. In saying that I would also like to greet my constituency and address all the honorary salutations pertaining to it. Not forgetting the entire church minsters that supported and prayed for me during the general election. Thank you to all who have voted for me. You have chosen together with the Holy Spirit and I appreciate all that you have done for me to represent you. In truth, I am a weak servant and I ask of your prayers to assist me in this role for our constituency. To all fellow competitors, thank you for putting up a good competition, it is an honour to represent our constituency.

We may be in different teams though you are Fata and I am Tuna, you are Letufuga and I am Leaula, give me your blessings so that I can serve you in the next five years.

Mr Speaker I now come to the needs of my constituency...

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the member but as I have noticed, the member is changing the course of his speech from the budget so I am suggesting that it is time for recess. I now declare that proceedings may now be set aside for the 15 minutes recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 10:50am and resumed at 11:29am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I now announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I believe we have gained extra strength from the Leader of the House, Cabinet Ministers and members of the House to resume our work. I call the member for Salega East to carry on his speech.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the second opportunity.



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Mr Speaker, I will now speak on the needs of the people of my constituency. The first issue regards the salty drinking water in Sagone. Currently, the water supply for my constituency is channelled from Fogasavaii and some parts of Palauli West. The fact is Mr Speaker, this is why I am requesting the Hon Minister for Works that there is a shortage in supply of water. I heard from the Ministry that the water refill at Sagone is now under operations but I strongly advise that these people should receive good drinking water for my constituency and some parts of Palauli West.

Another proposal is the need to develop a beach site in Fogasavaii for tourists to surf. The concern is inaccessible road to the beach hence if possible to get some funds to assist this development.

The District Hospital at Foailalo as voiced before by the member for Salega West, the problem in regards to medicine supplies. Let me remind you your Hon Minister about the standby generator that is currently used by the hospital I believe it is enough to cater for the whole hospital. It needs to be well checked so that air conditioning could be up and on for the storage of medications.

Mr Speaker, I will briefly speak on the well clarified Budget lest our report is queried. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government Heads for the improved services you have achieved for the majority of you. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister, you are small in size but you have a bigger vision and this budget is one of the biggest achievements of your life and for that I congratulate you. Furthermore, I would like to propose some recommendation on some areas such as roadpath contractors for public roads. I suggest that these contractors focus on the overgrown grass areas and leave the roadside areas to the village communities. Another concern is the implementation process for various Government Projects where most of money is spent on the consultation processes and established policies etc leaving no improvement for the implementation stages. I wish to give an example; the SACEP or Samoa Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Project is one of the most discussed projects in the House and its assistance has long awaited the members of the public. This project is not being managed with honesty with its deadline drawing near and the proposed amount is not fully utilised. Other applications on records are those who have died 10 years ago. My concern Hon Minister of Agriculture, note these major concerns, we have had various projects in the past however the implementation process still needs improvement.

Mr Speaker, record keeping of Government Ministries is one other concern, there are many setbacks regarding this service delivery and the communication links/network of Government Ministries. I will speak no further on this matter as the Chairperson will clarify on it later however just advise on records/information that are unclear due to incorrect taking of information, that is all from me.

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Hon Minister of Finance I congratulate you once again for the well planned and transparent Budget Statement in comparison to previous Budget Statements, well done and no further questions.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I have thought the member will not speak of his stupidity from the past. Yet I extend I congratulate the Chairperson of Finance for the huge work she did in clarifying the old members as this one part of this campaign where money was borrowed to pay up other loan commitments. I salute the Chairperson for explaining this to him for his insight. It could not have mattered if he had one Parliamentary term however, this is his third term in Parliament yet now he has just gained insight. What then were you doing since? No wonder why you switched constituency because if you continued vying from Saleaula you would be TKO or totally knocked out. This is reason for being happy, he has just gained clarification of the Budget processes. We do not have any borrowings to pay off our debts. This is why I was waiting to see the concern of Leva-o-polo which is now omitted to Levaop leaving olo, now changed to, yet again you are still the same...

Therefore Mr Speaker I rise because I am a senior member of the Committee because we now know the problem for this member during the first and second term. Let me remind the member, the budget is drawn in a very transparent way that on the first page you would find statutory allocations which covers all the loans that must be deducted first to get the remaining total for our developments. I am so pleased that the Chairperson had given a detailed clarification of all these to you.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker...

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

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** This is the problem with Me, I jump too fast. Levao and P were left to you leaving me with Olo. I did not take it with me the last Parliamentary but what I am saying is the transparent Budget we have at the current but the previous ones were very confused.

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, that is why I say not to read the Budget, you start with this first. Whilst what you did Hon Aeau is the witness, how many times have you made false statements that government is making loans to pay off other loans. These borrowings and deductions from previous years are stated herein. This Budget processes and format is well explained. That is reason why I say, you have just gained understanding since your third term in office. I am in complete shock.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister, the member didn't agree because that was when he was Levaopolo as he was formerly known but now he is Olo representing a different constituency. I call on the member if the chair had interpreted it correctly.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, you are wrong, the Prime Minister is right look how at how many of us are right now but he is right. It is the same principles over and over for the budget but there are things which differentiate each budget such as priorities and allocations, for the first time the allocation of funds is now equitable.

**MR SPEAKER:** I advice the member to not please speak any further of the subject matter.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, and that concludes my speech. May this Parliament be blessed. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honourable member, I call on the member for Faasaleleaga Number 1 to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No. 1 West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity for this member to speak before the dignity of this House as a representative for Faasaleleaga Number 1 West. Although I am not a *taupou* or ceremonial hostess to the House however, the new translation to our constituency is still a *taupou*. Firstly, I would like to extend a sincere gratitude to the honourable Speaker for managing our Sittings. You are not new to the task and only a brave orator is entrusted to that role to ensure the safe journey of the Samoa's Parliament for this Parliamentary term.

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As you can see a lot of us are qualified senior members or *lauias* and are designated to oppose the Government as appointed by the Prime Minister to assist Aeau, Olo and Ili. May your strength be renewed in your duties in managing the Journey for Samoa.

I address the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers and members of the Parliament or representatives of Samoa, heads of Government Ministries and Enterprises, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly who are serving this Parliament with honor.

I address the dignity of this House, His Highness O le Ao o le Malo for Samoa and your Good lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and their good ladies, Chief Justice and the Judiciary of various courts. I would also add greetings to the Church Ministers of Samoa who are praying for the benefit of Samoa. Well done to you and your good works. I also greet our foreign Ambassadors, Commissioners and Consuls that are working abroad and in partnership with us for our development. I greet Samoa in all your traditional honorifics. I further greet our eastern neighbors from the East.

I shall greet the member for Faasalelelaga Number 1 West, it is true that our constituency has been divided into the East and the West, but I believe we are still connected geographically and culturally. And I congratulate my fellow colleague the Hon Minister of Finance, Sili Epa Tuioti for representing Faasaleleaga Number 1 East. Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to address the decorum of my constituency and all the honorific salutations pertaining to it. As a humble servant I would also like to greet all the church ministers and their wives serving God within my constituency, Tofa Vaaelua Sene Samau and your wife, Susuga Solomona Tuatagaloa and wife Aneli. Not forgetting our church in Lalomalava. Thank you for your support and prayers.

To my constituency, I am speechless; I am only a pitiable and inadequate servant to your respects. I have sought your words of humility and wisdom and you have allowed me another chance. I wish to use the verse from the Psalm, “*If I forget you my constituency, let my right hand forget its skill, Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth*”. Thank you for your kindness. My heart is more than satisfied with your love and loyalty. I plead your assistance and support in earning us points and in making our contribution for the country.

I specially wish to acknowledge my fellow candidates who contested with me in this tough competition specifically, the Afioga Magele Mauiliu Magele. You have done a lot for our constituency, Government and I humbly heed your support in order for me to carry out the good works for our constituency and the country. Mr Speaker, we now have on hand the Main Appropriation Budget for the financial year 2016 – 2017.

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So before I speak on that, I would like to acknowledge the Leader of the Government for his in depth wisdom and bravery entrusting that the wisdom from God is where proper management stems from in the eyes of our people, visitors and their observation of the Leader of Samoa and its managing of Samoa's economy for her people. I specifically speak of the existing/current reshuffling of duties pertaining to Associate Ministers; one Associate Minister for each Cabinet Ministers.

Mr Speaker, I trust this was one of the major campaigns in the Previous Election stating that everyone will get a vehicle, instead the decision now is fairer bearing love for the country. The roles of the Government such as the Executive Role and the legislative role is clear. As such I wish to voice great appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister for his in depth wisdom to better Samoa today and tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, this constituency wholly approves and supports the Budget Appropriation under discussion, in terms of well planned proposals as well as an important message for the whole country to work together, live within our means, cultivate our lands we are blessed with from God to grow and plant anything that we have available.

I congratulate the Hon Minister of Finance, Chief Executive Officer and staff for the thorough assessment in looking after our budget. I am not being conceited as is you have served this role before and that you are part of the Faasalele and the district that only had good things. The only advice is to note the debts of our private businesses and the concern for delayed payments of their services to the State. Thank you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the power fix for a couple new settlers in the inner parts of the constituency. This further supports the State's drills in evacuating people to higher areas for their safety.

Hon Minister for Tourism and the Hon Minister for Health, it is great to have you both as I need to give our requests. The ZIKA virus may be small, but it paints a bad picture for us overseas and its effects on our tourism industry. Some hotel owners have accounted that most of their visitors have cancelled their trips because of this issue. Therefore I urge the collaborating efforts of these Ministries and the Ministry of Women, because although we have seminar workshops in place, this can never minimise the thought that Samoa is no longer safe for our visitors. In plea we must carry out further awareness programs that Samoa is a hospitable, beautiful and safe place knowing that the tourism sector is one of the State's highest revenue earnings in the country.

Mr Speaker and that concludes my speech. Forgive me if I have overstepped in any way. May the Lord bless you honourable Speaker. May blessings be upon the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Associate Ministers.

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### Motion to Amend Sitting Hours

May the Heavens also bless the Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, Chief Justice and the Court Administration, Government Ministries Chief Executive Officers and also the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff for serving the House of Samoa.

Distinguished Constituency and Clergymen, may your dignity be blessed from east to west. Bless this Sitting. Thank you.

*Members showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Maiden Speech for the member of Faasaleleaga No. 1 West.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West. I call the Hon Prime Minister for the motion should you wish to move it.

### MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE AIONO NEIOTI GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move with respect, *That Sitting Hours be amended for today for the purpose to fast track our business and approve the Budget Statement commencing from 9.00am to 1.00pm break and recommence at 3.00pm until 7.00pm, have a short break and recommence with gratefulness and gladness at 7.30pm until 11.30pm tonight.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.*

*Motion approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** We shall ensue Proceedings of the Legislative as set out. I call the member for Vaimauga East for your speech.

### MAIDEN SPEECH

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, this is the Member for Vaimauga East. Before I speak on the Appropriation Budget, I want to reflect back to when the Speaker was appointed I quote “My calling is made easier because there is no opposition side”, but from yesterday’s proceeding I noticed how difficult it was to calm the new members.

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I like to compare this experience to a speedy vehicle on the road, and as the police waved him down, he continued to speed off, but as the police tried to catch up and asked if he had idea why I was waving, he said well it was neither speeding nor breaking the law, it was your suit hanging outside the door.

I am honored to be chosen to calm the waves of yesterday and resume today's work. I humbly greet His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo o Samoa Afioga Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi and his Good Lady. I also greet the Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, the Chief Justice, Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice. I also acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and the Parliament of Samoa in all your traditional honorifics.

Least I will not forget the support of my constituency of Vaimauga East and the villages of Letogo, Vaialele, and Fagalii and the honorific salutations of the Vaimauga East.

To the place I have served for many years, the Ministry of Revenue and its Chief Executive Officer, thank you for your support, my calling is no other than this year. I ask for your support while I make a submission to the House.

Thank you Hon Minister of Finance, I wish not to investigate rather thank you for your distribution.

I will to express a few comments to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in regards to rubbish collection. I see an increase in the budget allocation at \$610,000 for paying the rubbish collection contractors. If possible, I appease, allow \$2million or \$3million to the village communities to clear the rubbish. I request the Ministry if possible to give this allocated amount to 49 constituencies instead of the contractors, say \$50,000 each like for instance, my constituency comprises of 4 villages, henceforth each village should receive \$15,000 per annum given the limited space in Tafaigata disposal site, relatively there is still enough space in the villages to dispose rubbish.

On to the Office of the Regulator and licensing, Hon Minister, noting that only a budget proposal of \$100,000 is itemized for licensing for the Office of the Regulator and in regards to the various companies and license, there is not much revenue received. This office is also receiving a grant from the State yet revenue is achievable to meet the work they do.

Hon Minister of Finance, in regards to long service benefit, I humbly request the latest update on this. We have public servants seeking answers for the urgent discontinuation of this benefit. The Ministry wrongly handled the situation; public servants were notified via Cabinet Directive and teachers serving for several years have now ended their service. I humbly ask the Hon Minister for his consideration on this matter.

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On to the Office of the Regulator, in regards to licensing and the allocated budget of \$100,000 on licensing for the Office of the Regulator however not much revenue is earned from licensing and that Government is also allocating a grant to this Office when they have sufficient revenue to execute their works.

In regards to long service for public servants, what is the update on this Hon Minister because the public servants are disappointed with the urgent discontinuation of this benefit. The mistake stems from the Ministry who is looking after these things. The teachers have been serving for many years and now long service benefit has discontinued. I humbly ask the Hon Minister for his consideration on this matter.

I am grateful to the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Revenue for the tabling Budget Appropriation, and for the many years they have struggled in the rain and sun to achieve this task. On to duty and custom imposed on containers before they are being released, nevertheless you have cleared up this matter and it has saved us \$200,000 to build a warehouse to store up containers and goods in the Customs area. Thank you to the Hon Minister and its new Chief Executive Officer for this good work. On to the Samoa Cable project, what is our objective in obtaining the funds for this Samoa Cable? Those are some of my thoughts on the budget.

I will now speak upon the needs of my constituency.

The Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology this is one ministry that has the very handsome Minister the Hon Minister Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai. My village of Laulii your Hon Minister, wishes to have access to broadband unfortunately connecting lines have not yet reached this part of my constituency, especially in times of bad weather. I humbly ask to install pole lines between Letogo and Laulii.

The Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration, I commend you on the many changes within your Ministry. My only request your Hon Minister is the selection of judges. When I was a public servant, I applied numerous times but was told I have not reached the set age requirement. But when you have a closer look at the judges now, they are retired public servants from different Ministries, because as far as I understand when a person retires, it means he/she has reached the retiring age of service, which means that he or she is no longer capable. Have a look into this matter.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, the village of Letogo humbly requests a new school building. With the growing number of people living and buying land in Vailele this has caused the filling up of our school in Letogo. I ask if the MNRE reserve in Letogo could be used to set up a school building. The settlers of Maugafiafia and Vailele uta also do not have any sports field, therefore we request a sports field and a school building.



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Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, I am grateful to the way you have been called. Before I have heard that it was not a good idea to have a man as the Minister for this Ministry, but now you and the Associate Minister are called, I am grateful to the Hon Prime Minister for his selection. If I could recall one specific Chinese man who came to Samoa with hope to export pandanus leaves to China to make fine mats (siapo). Because in Samoa it takes almost a month to weave a fine mat. What bothers me is that foreign people are adopting our cultural assets and in the end they look like those items we sell in the store.

Hon Minister for Revenue, your Ministry is doing well, I only request for overtime pay for employees such as your Ministry. These overtime works include ports/wharf clearing and airport pass so it is a must do overtime for these employees.

Hon Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, our only request is getting some livestock to make us get a move with our developments.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, our humble prayer for the village of Laulii from the beginning has never had any access roads to the mountain. This is one village with unique landscape, ocean on the upfront and mountains on the backside. I humbly ask for new road constructions along the moutainside area for the residents to access their plantations and to vacate from the Tsunami. Another request is fix access roads for the village of Laulii. For the most part, the road is close to families home and therefore the need to fix tar seal roads. Furthermore, we also request access roads for Vaialele, and Letogo and also requesting a footpath area along the Fagalii airport area.

Hon Minister of Prisons and Correction we humbly request for a prison or another Police Office in Vaialele or Maugafiafia. The majority of our residence they are good people, but just for the safety of people from all over Samoa who are banished from their original villages and are now residing in Vaialele, our only hopes is that if anything happens it is easier to call the Police for help.

The Hon Minister of Health our request is for a clinic in Laulii, maybe ones a week a doctor can see its patients instead of people heading to the hospitals for checkup. Another request your Hon Minister of Health I have noticed the excellent service delivered by the doctors at night time. And with our private doctors who are now *helping out during the night, can our private doctors operate* in the daytime to assist the hospital while our hospital staff take over the night shift, regardless thank you for the well done service.

The Hon Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa, in regards to my request for a seawall in Laulii, if you look at the condition today it is extremely bad. I asked why and they said that the Ministry has permitted the collecting of sand for government developments. I have families in Laulii, they have mentioned when the weather is worsened, the seawater reaches the back of their house.

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This is the reason for requesting a seawall construction in Laulii to counter sea level rise and to secure nearby homes from the freeway road. That is all your Hon Minister.

Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your leadership, all is well and all is giving you their support and prayer to lead our government, in return has blessed our people.

At this very hour I wish to thank my dearest constituency for your support, who am I to you? Who has ever thought Esther would become a queen? For this I thank you, who I am today all because of your support, as one saying goes, “brothers in good times, friends and village in difficult times”. Least I forget the servants of God and your constant prayer day and night. This is your honor, I am overwhelmed. Thank you. I conclude, may we be bear love from our Father for the service we give to our people. To my constituency lest not forget to keep me in your prayer. I also like to take this opportunity to thank my brother whom I competed with, Afioga Tuisugaletaua, thank you for a job well done and for serving our people. We compete against each other but we are still family.

Mr. Speaker may you be blessed and may the support of our Members be blessed, because of Jesus, soifua.

*Members showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the delievery of the Maiden Speech by the member of Vaimauga East.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done, thank you for your speech it was very overwhelming as you have conveyed the needs of your constituency. A reminder to all respectable Members specifically new members regarding the order of our proceeding, reference to our Standing Order, speeches given in Parliament should not be read out. This is a reminder for other members who haven’t had their turn. This is the chance to another member who wishes to take the floor.

**Susuga Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Just a reminder on matters directed on our Budget, there will be a time when we have the consideration of the budget, we will not make any response nor interject during the course of maiden speeches otherwise, we can and will respond on the raising matters concerning the Budget when we have the consideration of the budget.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the clarification on this matter is well given, for this is important for the sake of new and old members. A job well done to the Government for being patient, when wee come to the details than we will consider the detailed aspect of the Budget Appropriation.

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In general, direct your statements on the principles and policies of our Economy and the important items in this regard as the Hon Minister mentioned. I call the member for Faasaleleaga No.4, the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No. 4) :** Thank you for my opportunity. This constituency wishes to convey an opinion to the Parliament Proceeding for this XVI Parliament term. Mr. Speaker I have numerous thoughts to say to the different Ministries, unfortunately we have limited time.

Before I give my speech I just received an advice from one of my constituents who said, ‘Peseta Vaifou Pevagaena keep it sweet and not sour’. This is me all troubling and confused, I responded to this chief what do you mean by sweet? He replied keep it short, for a long speech symbolises sour. Mr. Speaker this constituency only has a few opinions to convey, but before I proceed, I like to greet all respectable Members of the House, Mr. Speaker, Hon Prime Minister or the leader our Father, the Hon Deputy Prime Minister and all Cabinet Ministers.

I also like to greet Head of Government Ministries, and private sectors who are present today to witness the first proceeding of this Parliament Term. I like to extend my thanks to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Clerk for your support.

I also like to acknowledge the respectable O Le Ao o le Malo and good lady, Members of the Council Deputies and your Good Ladies, Chief Judge and the Judiciary and the support of the village council and representatives. I take this opportunity also to thank the Servants of God for their constant prayer night and day for a blessed Samoa.

Mr Speaker this constituency will now express an opinion in support of the tabling Budget Appropriation before the House.

Hon Minister of Finance, this constituency extends its gratitude and also the constituency of Saleleloga of Falefa to your calling this Term. I am overwhelmed with happiness because you are no stranger to the calling, you have served the Government in this field for many year. *Our Nation has limited prosperity and yet we have been blessed by our Father with strength and health everyday.* This we give our appreciation to the Hon Minister of Finance, you were toiled with the State for many years and this constituency accepts the Budget Appropriation. Before I carry on, I wish to address an issue that could have caused chaos in regards to tank fuel at the wharf. I suppose this is the exact Ministry that deals with petrol and fuel.

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Hon Minister, I advise your review for the security of installed pipeline connection from the (Matautu) wharf to the mid town area to the fuel tank in Sogi.

Our Island is faced with constant earthquakes at magnitudes of 6.7, 6.5, and 5.7 and one of the critical aspects that utilize most of Government funds is water supply. I trust this project is going well however these pipelines are buried underneath the earth and when they shake these pipelines will also shake which is something that needs to be assessed. Government is spending millions and millions on water leakages due to earthquakes. Recalling then, ships would anchor directly in the position where the fuel tank is situated; the remaining fuel goes to Sogi. Today is different and I guess the States' intention was also good then in terms of protection...

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Go on Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Nothing should worry the member. It is my Associate Minister you should have asked me. You did not dive under, I did.

I personally went down to examine the pipes and made the necessary changes. The pipes from the wharf come in stages which means whenever there is a problem we block it. You have nothing to worry about. Move on to other matters.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member, this is the very reason I counsel Associate Minister to ask for clarification before you shoot your Minister. To the respectable Member you may carry on.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** It is almost 6 years since the Associate Minister and Hon Prime Minister have worked together yet there is no line of communication. If this happens again Hon Prime Minister you should look into...

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr. Speaker I have meetings with him all the time, only or unless we have issues then those are the things we did not talk about.

**MR SPEAKER:** Try and see the old man to get clarification of these things. You may proceed.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA:** This is the common thing with the Member of Faleata, the matter is just between me and the Hon Prime Minister, which has nothing to do with you. There will always be a time to offer advice to the Hon Prime Minister. To the Hon Minister of Finance if there be any other matter I shall visit you in your office.

The Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture the Hon Minister I suppose today and yesterday many members have make inquiries in regards to school matters. I have noticed the many problems being dealt with by our students and not a year has passed without an incidents. I suspect the cause of all these problems are students from all over the place being put together. Hon Minister of Education I request for a Samoa College and Avele in Savaii. Parents from Savaii have this high expectation for Samoa College and Avele, so they make it possible for their children to attend these schools. But if there be a Samoa College and Avele in Savaii we will likely have a decrease in problems, and each child can have that individual relationship with their families. Many of our students they live and come from rural villages with strong cultural and family values.

I humbly request that if we have schools like these for the Island of Savaii, the load for parents will decrease, the problem with school fights will reduce and the burden with the families they live with will lessen as well. Another request you're Hon Minister, the APTC program in Vaivase, would it not be probable to recommend a similar program to the Australian Government for Savaii.

I extend my appreciation to one Catholic Church School Don Bosco, I am aware they now have another branch in Savaii, also with the apprenticeship school in Tuasivi. I suppose if there be a similar school in Savaii, our students will learn and be taught in Savaii, and the parents will not be concerned about bus fare and extra money.

To the Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration a plead to your Hon Minister, when amending the Election Bill, this constituency wishes to convey an opinion on the matter, regards to Special Voting Booth in Upolu. I humbly request Hon Minister on the amendment of an easier approach to secure the Special Voting Booth in Savaii. Many instances have happened, and have made it complex for Government personnel.

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Now to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development would you reconsider fine mats, perhaps it will lessen the load for our people if it was part of a bill. If we remove the thick fine mats compared to the mats we use nowadays. This is refer to as finely woven mat of cultural value. Hon Minister, this has become a heavy load on families, with one sii (cultural token of respect in the form of fine mats) with nearly 50 mats, because it's easy to weave now, and if it's a faalavelave...

**MR SPEAKER:** You have two minutes left Member.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA:** I suppose I will conclude my point of view of things here with the Hon Minister of Women. Mr. Speaker I apologies but just a few more opinions for the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Hon Minister of Works I will not speak any more on tasks laid out for this Parliament Term for my constituency. But I wish to convey a matter concerning the bridge and a concrete road in Lano; the bridge is too narrow and too low. When there is heavy rain our people cannot cross to the other side and many of our children are incapable of attending school due to the overflow, and it has affected small business within this area. Another aspect your Hon Minister is the village of Asaga this village have yet to have access roads. I humbly request to the Hon Minister for his consideration on improving access roads, and the quality of Lano bridge. These similar proposals have been given to the past term Minister.

I like to take this time to thank the Ministry of Works and the Government for the village of Puapua access roads. Just a plead to the Hon Minister, in the village of Puapua about 5 kilometer it is from their plantation. Thank you for the 2 kilometer in place now, our request can the road be smooth out due to making it easier for farmers to access their plantation. With grateful hearts we wish to thank you Hon Minister for the road.

The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, we have put forth requests from the last term for a seawall in Asaga.

I will conclude my speech by saying thanks to my constituency of Faasaleleaga Nu.4 for their support. Thank you for trusting me to be your standing Member, honorary salutation for Faasaleleaga Nu.4. To my dearest village of Puapua and all its honorary salutation, thank you for your support, thank you for your confidence, I am pleased. I believe the choice selection is from God, for this is the reason I have been blessed once again with the calling to serve for the next 5 years. I ask for your support as with whatever strength I have I will push and strive to fulfill our work that has been put forth in the last Parliament Sitting.

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I also like to take this opportunity to greet my brother who competed with me in this past election Afioga Vui Sione, not all who vie wins. My highest desire is that we will work in unity, when the day comes for me to rest from this calling, it will be an opportunity given back to our constituency and to you. But now is the time, as was testify by one renowned verse in the Bible “If our God closes the door, only he can reopen the door” which means, there is a season for man, and if it be your time, to my constituency thank you for your support.

Mr. Speaker thank you for being patient in cases of extremity for I believe you are a Satuala, full of endurance. May the Lord bless the Hon Prime Minister, and Cabinet also the chair and respectable Members of the Parliament of Samoa. Blessed be our proceedings.

*Members show their appreciation by applauding the Member of Faasaleleaga No.4 for his Maiden Speech.*

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has now concluded his speech, and we have also arrived at our recess hour.

With respect I announce proceedings of the Legislative be set aside and recommence at 3:00pm.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1:00pm.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 3:18pm.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) 2015/2016 and the Appropriation Bill 2016/2017.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Well done. Cabinet and respectable members have avail time as well as the Government heads to resume our Sitting.

I now give the opportunity to another Member who wishes to take the floor. A reminder to our respectable members that the final speech will be by the Committee of Finance Chairperson in which he will answer back in details, after the chairperson the opportunity will be given to the Government to answer. If there be a Member, I will extend the opportunity.

I call on the Member for Falelatai and Samatau.

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**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai ma Samatau):** Mr. Speaker I thank you for the opportunity given to this constituency to convey an opinion. With utmost respect I am grateful that we have been guided with full strength to this time of our proceedings. I greet the dignified House in all your traditional honorifics although we went separate ways now we are being reunited again in Parliament this morning.

I also greet the Head of Government Ministries, the Clerk of the Legislative, who are the instruments to the work of the Parliament.

I also like to greet our people of Samoa, for your silence support most especially His Highness O Le Ao and his Good Lady, Afioga le Tama Aiga, Tuimalealiifano and the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies. The Chief Justice, Judiciary. I also like to acknowledge the chosen servants of God whom are our prayerful warriors for Samoa. I acknowledge the respects of my constituency of Samatau and Falelatai, and all its honorary salutation. I acknowledge also the Arch Bishop, Chairperson of the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, the district Elder Tautiaga Senara, Father Livigitone Toelupe of Amazing Love Christian Church of Samatau, Father Ogapo Soanai, and all clergy in any denomination within our constituency with all its honorary salutation.

Mr. Speaker before I convey an opinion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my constituency, in regards to this past election. The selection of a candidate to take on this calling was put forth to the constituency. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dignity of Samoa and neverending support. His highness O le Ao o le Malo and his Goodlady, respectable Tama Aiga Tuimalealiifano, Member of Council of Deputies and their Goodladies. I also acknowledge the Chief Justice and Judiciary, the clergy who are serving in different areas of the country. I know you have been working night and day to give praises and prayers to the Lord Almighty for the blessings upon Samoa.

I acknowledge as well the dignity of all Samoa, *o paia o Aiga ma Tama, o Tama ma Aiga, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I also acknowledge honorary salutations of my constituency Samatau and Falelatai, *le paia o le aiga Sa Levī, afifio a outou Afioga i Ositaulaga.* I acknowledge as well the respects of Bishops, the Chairman of the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Susuga Elder Faatonu Tautiaga Senara, also Susuga Livigingsitone Toelupe of the ALCC at Samatau, Susuga Opapo Soanai the spokesperson of the denomination and to all servants of God serving within the constituency.



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I acknowledge the honorary salutation and dignity of *aiga Tauaana ma le latou tama. O paia o le falefitu o Leati Tagaloa ma Tuimalealiifano. Afio Faasavalu o le matua Moepo ma lona aiga, Salū ma Auvaaipeau, afio Tāiivao na falefia i ai aiga. Afio Tonumaivao o lo outou matua Aiga. Alaalatai Galuefa ma le Tula o Salogo, Vaeonofoaia Falelatai ma tagata o le vavau. Afifio le falefa o le Usoalii ma le Gafa, Fiamē ma le Tamaitai, alaalatai le nofo ituaiga ia te oe Leulumoega.*

Mr Speaker before I proceed I wish to extend great thanks to my constituency for the general election we had. You have used your far-sighted wisdom and knowledge in searching for the right representative yet you have the democratic system considering our individual rights in finding the most fitting representative. I trust this is appropriate timing in commemorating human rights today, the kings of the world is sought by strength belittling God. In the saying, it isn't about the strength or power rather it is the truth bears the strongest. And in the country's saying, 'humility is where we will find success,' this is similar with praying to God to show us His will. And if that is so, praise and glorify His name. His Will shall be done and not ours. No one dare rises above the Most High.

There are times when the word of God wishes to take its message to the people of Israel by using other lands as we read in the Bible, lands like Babylon, Assyria, Persia, and many other lands that he uses as a tool to deliver his message to his people. Choices were made by members of the Tauaana and Falelatai, nevertheless our God used Samatau to bring his will. And this is my stance, thank you Leulumoega, for this honor, your advice, tool of speech (*upega lauga*), to your people, *faafetai i lau fatuaiga tausi*, you have looked on the spiritual side but ignore the physical person itself. Thank you for your protection and respects. You have chosen the one to represent you in this Parliament. Thank you Siufaga in all your honorifics. Thank you for your endeavour, honourable care, your trustee and our priority is the clergy whom are we have amongst us. True is the word, "*E tetele lava i pesega, ae matua lava i le oō.*" We aim to live peacefully and the peace of God within our constituencies. In the words of the king Fonoti to Melegalenuu, "*E taaalo a tama, a'o se uso.*" That is how we the lineage of Tauaana live, they live together because they are one family one village and one father. *Tama a le aiga Tauaana, tama a le falefitu o Leati Tagaloa.* We are one. For a family that lives together has the mysterious works and power of God.

I extend greatest appreciation to *afioga Anae*, you have given your word of blessing. These things are getting in your way yet you need to travel abroad to seek health treatment and get a good rest. I have thought that we are one village. Therefore may this strength of mine be that of a lamb and give as sacrifice for the next five years, this is my time and yours is tomorrow.

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I like to extend my thanks to the Speaker of the House and the Office of the Electoral Commission, thank you for the well prepared work. The task at large was not small, and yet all went well. There is still some aspect of the work that needs reevaluation, and it should be fixed immediately. Our democracy is based on chiefly system which makes us different from the rest of the democratic world. There should be a protocol the candidate running in regards to its high chief name listed in the ballot, he has no choice, the registers high chief name in the system that is the name he use in the election. He only has the option of choosing which high chief title to use if he has more than two titles. But my only request Mr. Speaker the candidate who has more than two high chief titles, first priority is given to the tile in whichever village he resides in currently, and in which he serves, meet, and attends church. Despite having many titles, he should at all cost run under the title in which he currently resides in. Another aspect Mr. Speaker whenever a title is bestowed upon an individual, he must registered that title immediately, in many cases when overseas families return to their homeland, the title is still not registered, but if it be bestowed upon and register the cost is inclusive.

When it comes to registering candidate for the election, it is something that needs reconsideration. I propose that in due times an organize Committee is what this Government needs to better improve its election service. The committee should consist of ministries who are inclusive in the role of the electoral, such as the Samoa Bureau of Statistics which deals with the total population, registering of new names, birth certificate, and the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment who deals with boundaries. The Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology who deals with National Broadband Highway, for a time now there work has not been known, and representative from all Ministries with the help of a delegate from the Legislative Assembly who understands the needs of Members. These procedures and guidelines needs be implemented Mr. Speaker and a follow up meetings with how the work is moving along, and the number of register individuals. With this in place, I guarantee the work will progress faster because of the network amongst the individuals. We should also have a provisional registration for all individuals who have reach the age of 21 they can be register immediately, the office will get in touch with them to come into the office to take a picture and be finger printed and explain that in November 2016 the Samoa Bureau of Statistics have recorded them staying in Falelatai, and it's also listed in their birth certificate. This process will make it easier for the office to have accurate records of the individuals.

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Mr. Speaker I have noticed the many changes being implemented in this last Parliament term and I am aware of the good outcome it came from it. We spoke of extending school hours for children, nevertheless when changes were implemented the end results of their SLCC and SC average were still the same as to the time school finished earlier.

Just a friendly reminder to our Government that this is our Government, isn't their another process of implementing these changes, and what were some of the good outcome that came from these changes. The problems that occur amongst these children usually and often happen around the two hours after school from 2 to 4.

I humbly request Mr. Speaker to the Government to take this matter into consideration and also to the parents. To the parents are they fully aware of their children whereabouts, do they understand if their children has a phone, or if he/she is part of a fight. This is the problem Mr. Speaker the misunderstanding message between teachers and parents, or whoever the personnel that is heading the discussion. The problem also is that when theres a fight between schools, it is the alumni of each schools who are the ones preventing it, and when there is an investigation in the matter its usually the alumni's that are involved, and it's not a matter we should take lightly. I like to thank the Government, for taking control of the matter that came up with one Government College, and I highly recommend it, I believe enforcing final decision on certain matters such as this will help our children understand its purpose.

Mr. Speaker another aspect I discern is the relationship between Governments being acquainted with churches and understanding where they are coming from, especially with United Nations and Large nations. They are coming to a realization of listening to them, and where their talks of unity as churches come in, because with big nations they seek advice from church organization in regards to keeping the peace. I speak of this matter, because we too as a country have our own organization of Churches, but the thing is Mr. Speaker we have other church organizations that are not part of the National Council of Churches, and this is where the problem lies, because with other churches not being part of this organization they have a certain way of operation, and the leaders of these churches are the same leaders these government such as in Iran. This is the type of model these other churches want, they want their own government, which is refer to as ISIS, they have their own Government and wishes not to include any other church into it.

This is my humble request Mr. Speaker, that it is a matter we should take into consideration, because soon a new church will be founded and one of its members will be part of this Parliament, and it will be a shame if given the opportunity to pray and yet they are praying to a different God.

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This I humbly request and a reminder that Samoa is founded on God, and they too will say the same thing. Because in all reality if we are converted to it, the saying will never change, Samoa is founded on God, this I humbly request because the God we worship is lucid.

**MR SPEAKER:** You can conclude now.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Mr. Speaker these are some aspect I have prepared today, because our Constitution starts from these things. Within the Constitution it brings freedom, but we should always go back to the constitution to find a resolution to these matters. Mr. Speaker thank you for the opportunity given to sit on this side of the field and to lend a helping hand to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, for it is the Ministry that deals with changes in the weather. To the Hon Minister, our priority is given to the Environment because of its drastic climate change; it should reflect your priority in the Appropriation and your allocation of funds. The meaning of this your Hon Minister, environment is a broad topic and it's a huge thing. I only ask for your contemplation into the matter. Mr. Speaker I deem my 30 minutes is not up yet, but nevertheless you have spoken my time is up; anyhow I will conclude my speech. May our people of Samoa who are listening in be blessed, to the His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, the family of Levites servants of God who at the helm of our spiritual welfare. May you all be blessed. To the people of Samoa in silence support on behalf of our Parliament may you all be blessed.

May my constituency of Falealatai and Samatau, Mr. Speaker and all respectable Members of Parliament be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thanks. Any other wishing to speak, I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3, the Associate Minister of Women.

You may carry out your statement on the Budget.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU (Faasaleleaga No. 3):** I would like to thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity, and am very grateful to God that we are able to meet this evening/afternoon in such peace. We can feel that the presence of God has not left this House, even though we had a short break, but our lives are cared for by God. And so I would like to thank God for His Love for us and the Parliament this day. Mr. Speaker, the member for Faasaleleaga Nu.3, would like to make a contribution to the Budget as tabled in the House by the Hon Minister of Finance.

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But firstly, I would like to greet and pay my respects to the House members, even if we are here, the dignified status and importance of Tiafau will forever remain, it is where the wisdom of the chiefs and oratory knowledge and skill are honed, it is the House of Samoa, the House where nobody argues in, because it is a dignified and a place of high statue. I beg your pardon House Members and I would like to greet and acknowledge you Mr. Speaker as well as the Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for your patience, and for the leading of our Sitting.

I would also like to greet the Hon Prime Minister and his Deputy, I you beg pardon for your dignified status, for your leading the Nation and the government, I also greet and acknowledge the respective Hon Cabinet Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, as well as the members of the Samoan Parliament, who have been chosen from the best from the many constituencies for this last five years of Parliament. Well, I cannot forget the support of His Highness, The Head of State, Afioga Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi and his good lady, as well as the Council of Deputy, as well as the Honourable Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice, the Three pillars of Government of Samoa and her Legislaive Assembly for the last five years.

I cannot forget Heads of Ministries, Corporations and Authorities that are working for the benefit of our government and the many development initiatives it has implemented, I am not singing your praises for your many duties, but again, congratulations and kudos to the Heads of Government ministries and corporations and the many various businesses. I will never forget the support of the whole of Samoa.

Honourific Salutations of Samoa follow.

Thank you Samoa, your support and prayers have ensured that work in your Parliament has been successfully. Thank you to the prayerful support of the Servants of God who are praying for blessings for the Government and the nation. Thanks for the prayers by all the church ministers from all the various denominations, I am grateful for your fasting and prayers for Samoa, and I believe it is your prayers and the power of your prayers that has enabled Samoa to journey safely in the peace and love from God.

I cannot forget the support and prayers fom our brothers from the East.

Honourific Salutations for American Samoa follow.

Those are the dignified salutations and cultural status of both Samoas that we are now being blessed by, and is benefiting the country and their mutual support. So, I beg your pardon, I will not try and take something in case my words might not come out well and embarrass this orator.

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As per your dignified status in the government, church, village culture, they will never be changed, because she has already had been chosen, and no one person, no matter how wise they are can ever add or subtract any of these dignified elements, so, therefore, the continued patronage of these dignified and glorified salutations and status is the sole responsibility of Tumua and Pule, especially the Chosen Orator chiefs, who are tasked with this responsibility.

I would like to take this important opportunity to greet my constituency Faasaleleaga Nu.3 which is very dear to my heart, from the village of Saipipi right up to Siufaga and its honorific salutations. I am so very grateful for your trust and respect shown for me, and the successful end to our recent elections which concluded last month. I especially would like to acknowledge and am thankful to my village of Saipipi and my elder church minister Rev.Elder Kaleve Leifi as well as the fellow clergy from the Mormon Church, Worship Center and the Seventh Day Adventists.

I am very grateful to the clergy for your prayers and the preaching of the Word of God that ensured that the election was a peaceful and good one. I appreciate the Village chiefs and orators in all your honorific salutations for the following villages.

I also acknowledge the Women's fellowship, the Wives of the Chiefs and Orators, Toleafoa and the single ladies of the aualuma. Not only that but all the sons and daughters of Saipipi overseas, as well as those who are church ministers who supported the cause, and there is truth the saying, family is truly one. Our village is one, because we have known that it has been a long time since we won an election and a Saipipi member won after forty years, and that is why I am so thankful. Thank you for your supporting our village, village spirit, and your prayers were answered by God, now you have a member because of your faithfulness my dearest village, all the families who worked. Now place your trust in me, so that whatever this humble person can achieve, we must hope and have faith in God. I will not forget our village of Saasaai. Honourific salutations of the village follow. I thank you for your support. I especially am grateful to Afioga Tea Peato, for your showing respect to the Tofa clan. You have served your constituency well in your chair and in Parliament for many many years, I thank you so very much. I am also thankful to the Women's fellowship, the Wives of the Chiefs and Orators, and the young men, and Toleafoa and the single ladies of the aualuma. Thank you all for your service.

Thanks for your service, thanks for your trust and respect shown regarding the election at the start of this year. I would also like to greet our village of Faga from Salimu right up to Siufaga. Honourific salutations of the village follow. Thanks very much. I am so grateful, for the peaceful Election Day. Thank you Afioga Toala Tulouna and Afioga Unasa and we are one family. The Taulagi is one family, and the trust you have given my family, the Sa Tofa clan.

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I will not forget Afioga Tuileutu Alaivaa who was in the Chair of the constituency, thank you my brother for your respect, well done for your service for the last five years when you were in the chair Afioga Tuileutu. Well, give me your support so I will be able to work and serve our constituency that is the spirit here.

It is the spirit of happiness and thanks as our election day was so peaceful and so easy when you think about it, nothing went wrong everything was peaceful, thing was a thing from God, your trust and respect shown to me is greatly appreciated.

I would like to take this time to thank my committee, right from Saipipi to Siufaga as you have been through a lot in our journey, in the hot sun, rain, and cold and yet you persevered all this so we could have a member to represent the constituency in parliament. Well done, great job, it was never easy, but now you have achieved your set goal as God has answered due to your integrity and commitment and sincere love for our constituency which has seen it end well. I am also very grateful to our families, and in laws and extended families, friends and acquaintances. I truly appreciate for your wisdom to enable me to work and serve our constituency.

I would like to thank our constituency but at this time I would like to try other things for our constituency. Well we continue to meet every week, and we are always speaking and when we meet and ask, well I already understand what the problems are in our constituency. So please continue your support, with due respect to you all, whatever we can issues we can raise and give to the Cabinet we do so with humility and with our hearts yearning for the completion but it all depend on the planning of all these things.

Before I mention the requests of this constituency I thank the Hon Minister of Finance, Hon Sili for the very good Budget for this year. Just looking at it now it is a beautiful one indeed, and I can see that there is a surplus and also funds from overseas which is an important issue.

We all must seek, but God gives, we knock but God opens the blessings, so thanks again to the Government, the Hon Prime Minister as well as the Cabinet, because it is our seeking which has improved our economy, and raised our capacity to do things. And if you look at Samoa today at the present time the saying goes like this, there have been changes in Samoa. Why? There are good development projects and also many like for example, electricity, roads, water as well as many new family homes, there are hardly any villages now with old Samoan houses, as there are many European style homes, beautiful homes, schools. Families too are living in their nice homes and able to watch television, so I guess there is a growth in that regard and that is indeed the target and goal of the Government, to raise the standard of living and of the Samoan people and for them to live in prosperity.

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That is why I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance for his Budget, and our only words of advice, look into obtaining more funding and reach and make more partnerships because Samoa has gone away from the word, Samoa is a small developing state. We have gone away from that status and have up a level to a developed nation, and her economy has seen growth and that is so very pleasing to the spirit. Those of us who just come into parliament, we were supporting and applauding the government and her work, now that we have been blessed because of the government and her work.

Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure, well I know that there are a lot requests tabled here in this House and are mostly requests for things to be renewed. I am grateful for the inspection made when you came to visit together with the Hon Prime Minister after the cyclone that hit us in April. I am not going to address our request as it already has been forwarded to your office. What happened at Saipipi, we are thankful to God because it was just the one night, but if it had been two or three that would mean there would be no more Saipipi for it would have been washed away and everything destroyed due to the strong rushing water from inland and the waves. The area covering Saipipi to Siufaga is really quite a difficult one; it is very prone to waves crashing on the shoreline due to the close proximity of the passage/channel and really impacts our constituency.

So our request to you, the Hon Minister of Natural Resources, we would like to have some new strong seawalls built as that is the problem for this constituency is the water, not only the sea, but the water rushing from inland. The problem is that this stream of water which comes from Vaiaata is actually from the Maliolio River at Samalaeulu. So when it is full, it bursts through down to the sea and the other stream bursts down at Sapapalii.

Sapapalii though is alright, as there are two streams which have fords and bridges. But the strong surges of water from the stream inlands at Saipipi, Saasaai and Faga there is no stream, no proper drainage it just flows everywhere. Remember that water looks for it's own course, so that is one of our requests Ministry of Natural Resources for you to look at some walls (riverwalls) to save our taro plantations, coconut tree plantations, homes and shelters, cattle and other livestock like pigs from being washed away. Everything is destroyed and that is so disappointing seeing all that devastation and personal loss.

Secondly, Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure, the plans for the road for Saipipi, is so very important, as it goes straight to the primary school as well as Amoa College. Further inland, it reaches the Government Water tanks and Pumps, there are now many families and the road is so big sir while the House is listening in. This road reaches Vaiola College further inland and so if this road is properly constructed then it will become one of the country's public roads.



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It will be a good one for the students who attend Vaiola College who come from Itu o Tane, and so they will have easy access inland and make their journey much easier. It reaches Vaiola, Tapueleele as well as the Prison and the Police Station; everything will be much easier once this road is built. This is the road that links us with the other access road of Saipipi and the access road of Saasaai all meet at this road and then it goes inland. That is why it is so important for our children, that means they do not have to jump in the car at Safotulafai instead they jump in here and that is what is needed when going to the Itu o Tane, this road is much easier. Therefore Hon Minister I do not have to say it again as you saw it for yourself when you came over.

The work is still carrying on right now; the seawall is still being built. Did you notice that there were two things that were broken in the road, broken in the middle of the village and the other side has been destroyed? The water from inland at Saipipi and Saasaai destroyed the road in 1989 and washed away family homes, and graves were all washed down to the sea. What a sad sad sight and this disaster happened again in 1991.

That is why we request that if climate change is what happened and duly affected our environment, then the remedy is to not wait around but to work together right now. Well that is our request, also access roads are needed for Saasaai, Siufaga as well as Faga, and that they are well built roads. Another thing to consider looking at is that many people of this village have moved inland, no families want to live close to the sea, but have moved inland and left the it for construction of the public road.

Which means that is what is going to happen for the next 50 years the whole village has move inland altogether. That is our vision of what what will happen in the future Hon Minister of Works, but I will leave that with you. Also, the wharf at Faga, in case it might be forgotten, I think it is being looked after by the Caferelli family, and I recently saw a helicopter parked there. I thought to myself, well this is great; the wharf just has to be upgraded of course, the helicopter landed there for emergencies. This wharf is close to the the Tuasivi hospital, the Police Station and the whole island of Savaii will gather there.

So if there is any emergency very good, the Caferelli family is looking after it, but if there was form of assistance from the government to widen this wharf, it will also enable helicopters to land there. We are grateful to this very important company, there are things that can happen together at once, and if there was an emergency case this would be helpful to make things easier. That is why this wharf at Faga would be very useful, and it is also a wharf from many days gone by, as that was where coconuts, cocoa and boxes of banana were loaded before there was a wharf at Salelologa, and these were one of the wharves that started our shipping.

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Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure as well the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, well those are some thoughts, and I believe that you are now fully aware and understand the devastation that happened at our constituency, some access roads which need upgrading and some street lights as well as the construction of some seawalls built further seawards, so the waves can break earlier there and not onto the shoreline, as that really caused considerable destruction to our constituency.

Now I refer to the Min of Health, thank you for the hospital, it was a wonderful hospital which was opened this year and now the doctors have a magnificent place to work in. The only thing that is not good is the place for patients to stay, it is a major problem. That is why this Ministry that given priority funding, well, that is our request. Tuasivi was the centre of Savaii, as it has a hospital, Police Station, The Courts and now Samoa Victim Samoa Group.

There are many offices at Tuasivi but look at some of these that need repairs, another thing about Tuasivi is that it is quite small, even for those that pass away and lie there, I think it looks like a container what they put the deceased in. But, you should see, if Savaii has twenty people die weekly, it will not fit, that means we should look at making a larger mortuary at Tuasivi. Afioga Sefo Pau, we are grateful for your mortuary/ funeral parlour at Safotulafai, which half of the deceased bodies are kept in, because there are deaths daily.

But these days are different from the old days when someone dies they have the funeral straight away and buried. These days, people wait for one to two weeks before the funeral. So where do they wait? They wait at the mortuary / funeral parlour. Those are but just a few views Hon Minister of Health for the Tuasivi hospital.

There are many sick patients and another advice for today, we need more doctors, and it looks like there is only oner doctor per three hundred patients per day. Alas, they travel from afar, but this is the ongoing issue is the lack of doctors, and perhaps it is not just Tuasivi where this occurs, but also at our hospitals throughout Samoa. I ask that that this be looked into why there is a shortage of doctors and yet we have a medical school. And so where are they sent to and what is the main priority the health of the people or is it money? The spirit is whether we are prioritizing health or budget. That is one area you should look at in assistance to the Tuasivi Hospital that needs improvement and a good environment.

Hon Minister of Education, our College of Amoa wishes to extend great appreciation for your inviting us to perform at the Independence celebration. However the playfield is very small and we need better fields as this school also has good and talented students and some assistance in improving our school buildings in Amoa.

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**MR SPEAKER:** You have one more minute.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Thank you Hon Minister of Education, this is the issue which has greatly impacted on the shortage of teachers. They are taking courses at the National University of Samoa, which is the truth. So when the teachers go to their courses, there are only eight teachers left at the Secondary School or College. There is a shortage because they are doing their Degree courses. So who is going to teach the students in their classes? This is another issue which has resulted in the students' suffering due to the lack of good planning of teaching resources. And then they come here to Apia and fill up the College, and then when they sit their NUS exams these teachers are absent from their schools and therefore the College programme has been affected. So I ask that you look closely into this situation.

The programme called Second Chance Education is good for the teachers, but if they were to go and study full-time and pursue their Degrees and then return to teach that would be great. But this thing about two jobs to do, there is truth in the saying, 'they will be honest in one area and not honest in another area because they will go and study at the NUS and then go and teach but there is still not enough time for the students who will suffer. Another thing is the changes made from the Education Office, who have stopped the roles and work by the school inspectors. But they were called the Father of the districts they were appointed to work in the villages, to oversee any problems being faced in the villages, committees and teachers. They return with their reports to the Education Headquarters. Not only that there are so many educational material and equipment allocated to the schools but unfortunately have always been lost or damaged.

So if the school inspectors' positions were to be revived as it is their responsibility to monitor and review the work done in schools and together with the curriculum. Well the Ministry staff cannot go and look after it. How can they look after these schools which number almost 200 in the country? This is why I suggest that if these roles were to be reviewed and the package of school review officer were functioning again, then there would be no problems in schools. The issues arising out of Avele College, I trust that these would be resolved by the school inspector in their relationship. *Yes that is one aspect that is important in the work, the monitoring system to visit the schools and make informed reports as well as remedying any concerns especially the situation regarding teachers. There is always the shortage of teachers in Colleges because many come to work in Apia, and they work and graduate with their degrees.*

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There is also a two year bond and after that they go and look for other employment but were sponsored by the Ministry of Education. So they take up other jobs and forsake/leave the work they were called in the first place to do as teachers. And why can't the bond be five to ten years before they are given the choice to do what they wish. This is the problem all throughout of Samoa, there is a shortage of teachers at College level and I trust this is not good. Mr Speaker, I know these are just a few suggestions with all my heart, with regards to the Budget, this constituency fully supports it, we only ask that we continue looking at blessings and prosperity for the future.

In conclusion, may you find good health honorable Speaker and the Leader of the House, Cabinet and the esteemed members of this Parliament. I also heed the support of His Highness O Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo and the member of the Council of Deputy and Samoa. May you receive true wisdom and blessings. Thank you have a blessed Sitting.

*Members showed appreciation by applauding after the Maiden Speech of the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you to this respectable Member of Parliament. I call the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to end our Proceedings with your speech. Do you want to speak member of Palauli West? Very well this is the last one before we have the Chairperson of the Committee. go on member of Palauli West.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI (Palauli West):** Thank you Mr Speaker.

I wish not to speak of your traditional honorifics. You have already offered our sacrifice of thanksgiving to God who Samoa is founded on.

I wish to acknowledge the prayers of the Servants of God and Church Ministers for all demoninations throughout Samoa. I also wish to formally acknowledge/address my constituency of Palauli West.

Mr Speaker I now wish to voice the requests of this constituency. It has been 15 years and the problem of water supply has been a major concern for the villages of Foailalo, Foailuga and Satuiatua. We get water pump from Sagone and Fogasavaii under the management of the Samoa Water Authority unfortunately, the water is not clean and is only useful for our toilets.

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It is also working persistently by time switches the water is stored in water tanks and is consumed by our constituents. Salailua has had their water catchment for well over 50 years and their water tanks need to be fixed. In Taga, the water from SWA water pump also works periodically by time switch. As mentioned by the member of Sagone, it is not easy and it is also an expensive undertaking. Not only is the water unclean, but the electricity to drill the water is expensive and the water from the earth usually dries up. I trust there is a long term solution to the water problems in Palauli West as well as the neighboring constituency of Salega.

My village of Salailua there is a spring, its depth is cold like snow, and the villagers have been drinking from it and living from it for well over 50 years. I liken this spring with the rock that Moses hit and the water sprang forth to quench the thirst of the Israelites many years ago. I trust this spring is a gift from Lord our God that Samoa is founded on and it should be used and distributed to our neighbors who are in need of this water. Most of the time, this precious water is wasted as the two tanks in the village could not store up this water so water seeps out.

Hon Ministre of Works, Transport and Infrastructure Afioga Papalii Niko, the request please if we could have two or three water tanks storage for our water. I trust that spring from the sea belongs to the Government under the supervision of Chiefs and Council of Salailua who believes that they are God-given gifts freely received and are a blessing for the village and their neighboring constituents.

I understand that the European Union or EU, Savaii and Samoa Water Authority Water Programme, I ask that you look into it with love and give my constituency of Palauli West freedom from the slavery due to our water issues.

I wish to speak of the fighting and violence in public places that has is very alarming and has increased all around the country significantly. This is a very destructive nature and beating up people in public places is very dramatic and becoming a terrible view in public. This further includes thieves breaking into homes and destroying personal properties. The fighting amongst students from various schools including the recent issues involving Avele College now has Cabinet assistance and solution for the time being thank you. I believe only very few people started it however the entire school, parents and the official Avele College who were never involved in this fight in the first place.

The hammer should fall on the head of the nail meaning the persons involved should answer for what they did and for all these worldly trials and tribulations as the only solution is the teachings of the Holy Bible. In Ezekiel 18:1-2 it says, *“The word of the Lord came to me. What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘the parents eat sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’”*

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*As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. And then Verse 20 says; "The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them".* With that I advice the Parliament to make a law on violence to go in line with the laws for murder, rape, drug addiction at a sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment until thorough investigations are through. If found guilty they should be locked up in high security prison cells and stop their release until they have served their first year in prison.

Mr Speaker on to the issue of fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters at the Prison Rehabilitation Center in Tafaigata like the juvenile delinquents who start fights which I mentioned before, it has been confirmed that even if two or three prisoners escaped, this has led to prisoners who abide by the prison rules to have their parole privileges like authorised weekend visits to families cancelled because of these other few who escaped. Most of these brothers and sisters are unlucky to be imprisoned due to Betty Crimes such as unpaid bills and I ask the Cabinet to look into allowing them to have weekend privileges extended as well as those who continue to obey these weekend parole privileges. As for those prisoners who continue to escape and numbering only three or four should be locked up in the concrete cells and that will soon have 200 police officers on duty which as mentioned by another member will cost more.

On to the roads of the member of Palauli West, Hon Minister of Works Papalii Niko, I notice that road works development has reached Palauli West, one access road in Salailua has been completed and there are now two more that have yet to be done, the access road in Foailuga is not yet completed. There is no Satuaiaua as well as my village of Taga and we are still awaiting the road inn Taga at the tourist attraction blowhole which is the number on tourist attraction site. Hon Minister we regard you as the king when two years is passed we hope the two project development is a go in this Term.

Mr Speaker I trust that Samoa is only a small nation in the world, but if you compare its development and its beauty the wonderful public roads our beautiful buildings and the delicious food we have, we are living in the most peaceful and safe country and so we say to ourselves, we thank God which Samoa is founded on. Thank you to the Government for the good developments for the benefit of Samoa and her people.

Mr Speaker I am so very grateful and thankful to my constituency of Palauli West for this opportunity given to me as chosen members of Samoa. May God bless the honourable Speaker, the Parliament of Samoa and may the member of Palauli West live long and prosper, blessing and Soifua.

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*The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Maiden Speech of the member of Palauli West.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thanks, thanks for that well prepared speech and thanks for the reminder and considering the works of the Speaker so that we can quickly finish so the Cabinet can work on their part.

Before I give the chance to the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, is there any other speaker who wishes to speak? Well, we have one more minute should anyone wishes to speak, I see that you are not making my work any easier, we have wasted a few minutes just by getting you to stand, this is a collective effort, without any further a due, I allow the last speaker before we hand the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee.

I call the Associate Minister of Agriculture or the member of Gagaemauga No. 2.

**Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA (Gagaemauga No. 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance. We listen to you we will start from here and conclude from there nonetheless *obedience is better than sacrifice, a listening ear than the fat of rams.*

Mr Speaker this is a good chance for me to express sincere thanks to the Leader of the country and the respectable Cabinet for the good works engaged with them in the previous year all for the benefit of Samoa, as such I also congratulate the Speaker and the members of the House gathered here this evening.

I thank God for his guidance upon us all into our Sitting this year. I feel that without God we would not have been able to achieve anything.

I trust that it is the spirit of thanksgiving to God that is the main focus of the constituency and blessed us all in all our Parliamentary works right to this time of the year otherwise nothing can be achieved without God on our side. This constituency has been so very grateful and we are neither crying nor lamenting whether to make any speech or not rather we intend to ask God for His blessings and Mercy upon Samoa. Samoa is indeed founded on God and it is a nation which has already been chosen and blessed by God and is not struggling for life and guidance. Tonga was chosen to be fearless warriors to fight for her people but Samoa was chosen to be leaders. *All the dignified salutations status that our distinguished members of Parliament have been adorned with literally so to speak as they are accustomed to it from their respective constituencies there is nothing hidden from the Omniscient God. Hence praise God for using us as His tools to work for the good of this country.*

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I would also like to extend great appreciation to my constituency for I have never thought I would make it back to Parliament nonetheless I trust I am called back again and trust I am able to do good things by bringing up good suggestions and good advice by relying on God who is the ultimate call to everything such as the foundation of Samoa and where Samoa is founded on. We are blessed nation and we are no longer crying out for help like the saying we are no longer going 100 miles we are going 200 miles we are running the race instead of walking. Samoa is seen as a nation with so many good changes.

We pray for God's peace upon us all. The only request to the Hon Minister of Works is the two roads for Saleaula in Savaii and Saleaula which is Salamumu here. As for the completed works, well done and thank you.

I also wish to acknowledge His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo, Afioga Tui Atua and your Masiofo, Chief Justice and the Judiciary, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet and members of this Parliament. In Jesus name Amen.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you honourable Associate Minister and now we have the Associate Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I call the member of Anoamaa East to speak.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East):** Thank you Mr Speaker, the remarks will be brief. I see that we are attempting to fast track our work in discussion of the Budget.

So we have concluded that we will not beat around the bush, we also see that we see that we are trying to speed up our Sitting so we have ample time for the discussion of the Budget. We will cut through the chase if you will in regards to our small request for our Constituency. As I mentioned before, we are like baby birds full of energy at this time of the day pigeons that were from different forests have now congregated here in the House in Tiafau, the House that was responsible for the blessings of our country has received when our forefathers sought wisdom and knowledge for Samoa's success in the future. This day was a day that was set aside especially for the discussion and deliberations regarding the nation's economy and finances, thank you. So I trust firstly render to God praise and honor for His continued love and blessings on our lives for guiding us here this new day. Your goodness Lord has enabled Samoa's canoe to better tides overall we have also successfully travelled through choppy and dangerous waves which have now weakened and have made us ride steadily for Samoa's brighter future.



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The warrior princess has already chose her fighting staff for the battles for new Governments and she looked seaward for a capable person a smart seaman to successfully steer and command Samoa's canoe which the Lord has answered by way of His calling us all. So le us be grateful to God for everything above all else. I would just like to aknowledge the mutual support in case there is an error made in my speech, whilst they are supporting from their thorns and abodes and hitting the back of the large rock and blowibg the last rays of the sun towards us starting from the eastern tip of Samoa where the yellow tide of the King Manu'a resides.

I wish to aknowledge the traditional honorifics of Samoa, this is the sacred foundation that can never be altered ever, and I also aknowledge the prayerful support of the Clergy chosen by God to serve in their respective denomnations and faith communities and whose prayers have enabled us to successfully do our work. Just recently we were hit by a cyclone, despite that God continued to do greater things for us His children so we must continue to praise His Holy name, the cyclone has been cast into the oceans, a place where no one lives so our land could be saved. Thank also to the support of the Three Pillars of our Government, His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and the Council of Deputies, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Speaker of the House and the dignified Members of Parliament, as well as the Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice. This is the dignified entirety for each Government Ministries.

To my constituency and your support, thank you for your prayers that I am now your representative for this Parliamentary term. I greet you in all your honorifics *O le paia lava lea aua le afio o le Tapaau ma oe Lufilufi o le Tumua, ae a ou fuaiala. O le paia foi aua le falefitu o le itumalo i le afifio o Aiga, Aiga o Tupu ma Aiga o Nofo, tainane i laua Matua ma le tofi faasolo i le aai o le Tupu.* Thank you for your prayers. To the servants of God and the Elders all around Samoa, thank you very much for your prayers and support. I pray for God's blessings upon you and may I bear benefits and good strength for Anoamaa East.

This constituency has very few requests...

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the member as we have arrived at our normal recess hour.

And we will suspend the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for its normal break.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended at 4:59pm until 5:30pm*

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*Debate resumed over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2015/2016 and the Appropriation Bill 2016/2017.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I trust that each member has regained new strength to resume our work. I acknowledge the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly for preparing food for us all.

Before recess the member for Anoamaa East was speaking. I call the dignified member to resume his speech.

**Afioga ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU:** Thank you for the chance. Members have enjoyed the break with their replenished energy to resume our work. I will now address some requests from my Constituency of Anoamaa East. Just as I said before, our Constituency are not requesting much, because we are used to anything and what's granted is that.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure we have forwarded to you our project development from this Constituency for your perusal. In 2001 a different member stood here. Again in 2006-2011, every electoral year comes with a different representative. This means this is the fate of members, if you do not fix the roads the member will not be returned in the next election. That is why I humbly request this for our constituency as it looks like it is included in the new budget allocations of our government. You all know that for any Budget, its balance sheet should have the same balance for both sides. In 1985, the Government built a development project where electricity is produced by water. So right up until this day, we have never complained or requested anything we only hope that the water from Anoamaa East is used to ensure the steady water supply for the whole nation.

Hon Minister of Finance, my word of encouragement to you is to remember what God said to Joshua when the Israelites were continuing their journey in the Holy Land, "*Be strong and courageous, for I will be with all your life.*" Therefore Hon Minister, do not be afraid. Do not fear, yes, for money is meant to seek and find. If you do not knock then nothing will opened to you, do not worry for life is sometimes difficult as sometimes we move forward and sometimes it goes backwards. Just like the things of God. You are moved from one place to another, from dignified status to another but it looks like it is coming to a halt. That is why this is my encouragement to you, have a big heart to do the work of the nation. We have all heard Samoa crying out. And who do they go to for help. They come to the Government. That is the advice.

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Regarding the distribution of funds for Samoa, I also notice with great appreciation this large fund which has been allocated to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. This is the only country in the whole world that have free education for children from Year 1 right up to College Level. This is such an important milestone achieved by our country. When villages have meetings on Saturdays the village council and chiefs always advise parents to take their children to school. Even though there are laws now like compulsory education but there are still parents who do not adhere to the State's requests/intentions.

So that is our request to the nation, you are very blessed, that is why some children's education is not good because it is free. So we might look at charging some fees because we are always playing bingo and end up using so much money and we tend to forget about our children who are the blessings from God and the future of families.

Thank you Hon Minister of Finance, for this is a huge amount of money we have only two challenges for the Minister before we conclude our speech. Firstly we now have the Village Fono Act with further amendments to it by the old men not allocate some money to make some money for this Fono or Councils. The old men are supporting so we must look at security boxes for the security of the nation. This is where the village council has so much influence. Our police force cannot sustain their service and they also do not carry weapons. If the Village Council did not stand together in unity well that is all I am saying, will leave it with you Hon Minister.

Secondly, please look into the salaries of public servants it has been a decade and there is still no payrise for the public servants because what I am saying is, I think there was a big increase the last time. There should be a gradual increase for salary otherwise people will be used to using up their salary quickly. These are the two challenges to you, I ask you to be alert on this matter. I thank you for the recent developments like the enhanced airport which is very important in this Budget, this is one major development for this Parliamentary term that will use up most of our budget, the airport development. The only other request is to start a new airline with a new aircraft and change the name for this new development for progress of our nation.

We conclude with some remarks regarding the election committee who are supporting us and my families. The motto for our election such as in the Catholic song is faith and trust and the most important of these is love. I have been crowned and elected thank you for your love and trust. I am very grateful. I would like to acknowledge all the families and the people who should've have been mentioned.

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The name title of this member is Alaiasa Moefaaouou Malagaitutogia, which means I am from Lufilufi o le Falefa ma le Falevao, those are all my family and relatives and am not sure whether there will be any more new titles in the future. There are many families and relatives but I thank God for your support for I am now crowned. Let glory be unto the Lord. The plans with... just a short one for my village of Lufilufi, thank you Lufilufi and Father Faapaū. I am grateful with our relations and your leadership, well done. We pray for God's blessings upon the Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo, and the Prime Minister and Cabinet for Samoa's support and benefit. Soifua and may the member from Anoamaa East prosper.

*Members showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Maiden Speech of the member for Anoamaa East.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call the member for Vaimauga West No. 1.

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West No. 1):** I would like to greet all the distinguished members of the House, greetings to you all. This morning has dawned twice with the paddle of Ulualofaiga because it is the morning of Kings and leaders of Tumua and also for God. For all dignified members of Parliament are gathered from the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, I greet you all. My last time at the helm, Mr Speaker this might be your last in the Seat of Authority of this House, job well done sir. Thank you for your great service and dedications. In the words of the Bible, "*you will do great things and surely triumph*". May God bless you on your effort. You have been at the helm of Samoa's Parliament. Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance to contribute to our Budget. Firstly, I wish to greet His Highness Afioga O Le Ao Mamalu of the State of Samoa and your Masiofo, Members of the Council of Deputies and your Masiofo, Chief Justice and the Judiciary. Also with due respect I greet the Church Ministers and the Clergy of various denominations who reside the unsafe in the villages around Samoa and fighting the spiritual warfare for Jesus and His Gospel of Good News. I am grateful for your intercessory prayers for Samoa and her Government.

With respect I greet Samoa in your honorific salutations followed by the traditional honorifics of the Constituency of Vaimauga West No.1. The Church Ministers who are preaching the Gospel. The dignified Kings, Chiefs and orators and various leaderships in the village right to the village committees and youths as well as the general public who voted at the elections.

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I also would like to acknowledge all the others who contested this seat for our constituency, well done for your great, like the in the previous Parliament, I strive to do my best to serve you through this role. I ask for your prayers, I bid your support as I make our contribution for this tabling Budget in the Parliament of Samoa.

Mr Speaker I would like to acknowledge with thanks the Minister of Finance and the Ministry for pouring out all your soul like the potter moulding clay for this work to be achieved. Well done, you have done a wonderful job. Mr Speaker I wholly support this Budget Appropriation 2016/2017 and I will not say anything about it. But I will note a few matters for the improvement of my constituency. Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the dignity of the House, some of you have received our written requests however I only wish to remind you with respect.

Firstly, the access road leading to the large water tank storage in Magiagi, this road is still being used by the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation to carry out monitoring visits to this site. This part of the village now has settlers who are heeding government warnings to seek higher grounds for their safety whenever we are struck by natural disasters.

Secondly, we need street lights for our inland access roads for the walking track from Maagao in Faatoia. Many families who live there need to walk on this access road at Faatoia to wait for buses to go to school. This area is very dark at nightfall and therefore is a very dangerous place for everyone.

Hence I implore you with all humility that we need street lights to illuminate these areas for the sake and safety of the members of the public.

Thirdly, the seawall area in Moataa, the seawall built from Mulinuu to Apia and Matautu to Vaiala misses out on Moataa and again extends around Fagalii. We humbly plea this gap filling (seawall) before moving on to the other villages in the eastern side of the country.

Fourthly, the walkway in the mangrove reserve at Moataa which is the only walkway built by our forefathers and our old chiefs more at least eight years ago. We visited the office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in years gone by and we bid the Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister to look into this report that the office had put together.

Fifthly, the Primary School of Moataa, I ask the Hon Minister that this request had been made several times in previous years, the Ministry has made it their priority after the Cyclone Evan in 2012 and still up to now, our village is still waiting for a response from the Ministry.

In final point is the need to upgrade the road for settlers living nearby the eastern side of the Apia Park. In the XIV Parliament, records has it that this road will be fixed under an agreement by the Ministry of Environment. I humbly ask that the Ministry look into this especially the Hon Minister that this request is achieved.

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Mr Speaker and distinguished members, these are the overdue requests we have and we will voice at this time, the first year for this new term while I suppose it is good so that there is enough time to process our requests.

Mr Speaker before I sit down, I wish to acknowledge my constituency for your tireless efforts, the heads of Ministries and Enterprises. Well done to your good services for Samoa and her government. Thank you gratefully to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the staff of the Legislative Assembly for your dedicated support. I am also indebted to the mutual support of my constituency of Vaimauga West No 1.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. May God bless the remaining Proceedings of today. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Thank you Mr Speaker I would beg your pardon and to greet with utmost respect those present here in the House. I first of all wish to acknowledge the honorific salutations of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and distinguished members of the Opposition Party which you have called us.

I have been thinking whether I should make a Maiden Speech as the Leader of the Opposition and then again thought, no leader was chosen however the member for Salega East is saying he is the leader rather I glance on my right side and see the member for Palauli le Falefa and the member for Anoamaa West. These members are all leaders just by hearing their speeches. They are the big fishes on this side with respect. Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I beg your pardon dignified Heads of Government Ministries and Private Enterprises, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Clerk and staff. I also respectfully acknowledge the support of Samoa, especially the Servants of God, your dignified honorific salutations of the villages you are all ministering in has already been mentioned by the members who spoke before I had this chance. I acknowledge and greet my friend Governor Lolo in Tutuila and the distinguished members of the American Samoa Government. I extend our warm greetings to you and your Government.

Mr Speaker I only have a few things to say this evening as it has been a long day and I have been waiting patiently to listen intently to what the Ministers have prepared to respond to the members' enquiries and speeches regarding requests for assistance. I stand with due respect and the constituency might think did he just come to sleep and sit there. I apologise Mr Speaker. I will only make a short speech probably only for five minutes to keep people awake. There are so many requests and everyone has requests they want to make. So it is best to speak directly to the honourable Cabinet Ministers with regards to our requests.

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But before I do, I have noticed that the Minister of Finance mentioned “each request depends on the funds we receive, and allocate firstly, to be fair and look to a better future for our country”. Hon Minister of Finance I have looked at the Report by the Finance Committee, they say it is next week they will increase our petroleum terminal levy, starting on 1 July. But the question is, do you think that what has been done is fair and honest and love for the future. There are plans to increase our levy by 3 cents so we can have \$11million as projected in our Budget. That is my only question please with due respect Hon Minister if you can reply to it when you get the chance.

Thank you it is very clear now, for at this time our debts are very high when we look and measure it with the restrictions that as dictated by our laws and policies. Seeing the flexibility in the state of the local economy as well as the world economy and the distance of our country from our business partners, and why I would support a motion as this is one of the main obstacles for our country. But we will rely heavily on our exports or our development. Well I must say I feel saddened the Hon Minister of Agriculture is listening, this matter was also raised by other members in their speeches. For SACEP, I went to see a young man who looks after this project but he said that the main problem was that there was an available vehicle so that he could make visitations to farmers in the rural areas.

But I think that from the budget from two years ago, there were ten or so vehicles that were purchased, and this was another expense we used funds on. Nevertheless, I have referred this to the Hon Minister to look into. The coconut rhinoceros beetle population has increased greatly. I even visited your Ministry to find out where exactly was this damage they do. But the young man laughed and did not give a reply as they will try and look for solution to this problem. But this problem has existed for a long time. Just a gentle reminder Hon Minister to look into the section that is looking after this problem and what exactly is happening. Now I come to the Hon Minister of Works, as per normal you have our written request with due respect. Our constituency is not asking for much, just a few things like a desert dove who wishes to find fresh water and I hope that will be alright with you. As you start your new role in your calling as Minister, I have previously asked the other two Ministers back in 2008 and 2011 and all they said was ‘leave it with us and so it has been with left with them all along. I have already furnished you with our letter requesting water for a village further inland, as it has been affected ever since the tsunami. The previous Minister said, if the water from Tiavea is connected to the water that flows from Lalomanu or Satitua, as they are all receiving water and all the inland villages of our constituency will be blessed by this too. I would be very grateful if you are able to visit that Hon Minister.

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Secondly, we have already advised you regarding access roads for these villages which we have not had any access roads built since the time of the tsunami, like at Tiavea-Tai especially at this time, as next week they are dedicating a new church for worshipping God.

It is the same with the access road of Lotopue, Utufa'alalafa, if you find a plan and a course of action, our road at Saleaumua still has not been completed since it begun and around say twenty to thirty families have been affected due to this.

I have already spoken to the Hon Minister regarding street lights, and this is another thing I suspect the village mayors of my constituency are listening in and hope they can repeat to the EPC how many street lights that are not working as this is the responsibility of the EPC. Also representatives of the Ministry of Women in villages must work together with the EPC and SWA to fix water leakages as well because it would be good for a village representative to assist in this area. When they find out that something is wrong, they contact the appropriate Ministry. With regards to the Ministry of Education, I thank you. Hon Minister, as we have already discussed the road of Satitua and its school, an elderly man of Satitua said to me, 'Tafua the only thing that we need is the road for the school as the road is really in bad condition and the vehicles for some families are unable to access it. There are two main things our constituency love back in our rural village, that is turning on a light switch and see that it works well and the smooth ride on the road when visiting the plantations and dropping the kids to school.

Our schools at Satitua and Lotopue of Saleaumua, have hard soil with all due respect. As discussed yesterday our College need a large sports field for the Aleipata College or College of Vaisuli. There are also many students who have been selected in the top team. There have been many students seat on overseas scholarships too and am very grateful if you were able to visit school with regards to providing a larger sports field for our children. Now I come to the Environment and I continue to ask whether it is relevant to connect the Hospitals, SROS and the MNRE, as as this stage, people in our villages have moved to higher grounds just like people in Apia. Ever since the floodings and tsunami people have moved inland and what has happened is that families dig and make their own septic tanks. I highly suspect that any leakage would contaminate the water cable in the ground.

That is my question to the Ministry of Environment. Would there be any chance of leakages or seeping occurring from these septic tanks? And would it then affect the soil and infect our water with germs or a virus? Will our drinking water be affected? If possible, will there be any checks and tests done to follow this up and to address these issues? Many people have more onto hillsides, and higher grounds of the country, and I am just concerned disease.



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Now about the Environment, I question regarding the slipway at Satitua, I ask please whether the paint is cleared upon the ship moving out from the slipway. I spoke to one of the contractors there who gave a very good explanation regarding this matter. There is a bag that paint is brushed into so it can be removed, and would appreciate it indeed if this still is the case and that it should be properly monitored.

For your information, our constituency is another part of our village, especially in the shoreline and seabed; we do not have any more fole shellfish, no more seaweed floating on the seashore, no more seafood delicacies like sea, maisu, starfish and no more whitesand like the old days. So I question whether the turtle project with about 60-80 turtles which was held on the seashore of Malaela, do you think that this is a season with the turtles feeding on the seaweed and this led to all the seafood/shellfish disappearing from the coastal waters. The project that was promoted was specifically for turtles. Therefore I beg indulgence to the Office of Environment because we did find some turtles and we will release the smaller ones. This is to compensate for our seafood delicacies of our constituency which have disappeared.

And now to the.... perhaps there are plans in place, but the contractor who is taking care of our roads. I do not know whether it is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment or the Ministry of Works. I would like to offer some advise pardon the House. In regards to the Lemafa Pass, it is like a rubbish dump, I beg your pardon. Mr Speaker and the Lemafa looks like a dump site right now.

Upon returning from Lalomanu, people would just throw their rubbish down the valley at the Lemafa pass and I request those who are contracted there if they could also clear the roadside and have \$50 - \$100 when their team come to mow the lawn to also clean up the rubbish lest we have no more visitors traveling to our villages and beaches due to scattered rubbish being an eyesore to them which happens to be our major source of income for our economy. This is useful for the future of our economy as we are hoping that our tourism industry will bring in good revenue for the country by ensuring that we protect this side with all due respect. There should be urgent plans to resolve this issue.

I have also mentioned it before however nothing is being done to it. Whenever I go pass here, the grass has been cut rather the rubbish is still left there like plastic cups or polystyrene and plastic bottles etc and if we could ban these plastics cups like what is happening in New Zealand and Australia. What they are using now are the biodegradable which are recycle and can also be burned and rot in the soil with due respect. That is the humble advice Hon Minister, with utmost respect for you to look at as I believe we can bring these from New Zealand and Australia as they will be useful for the country.

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Mr Speaker, the issue regarding our usage of paraquat weed killers which has greatly affected our seabeds and coastal areas, I advise that we should plan to cease using these chemicals to safeguard our environment. Mr Speaker I am now the Chairperson of that Committee and we recently had our meeting and saw a lot of problems with the Annual Reports.

I also request the Infrastructure Sector to please be mindful of your Reports. Meetings will start next week and I advise the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to not give us anymore money, but then again I think that it is important to give money especially for work that has to be done. That has the advice that I was going to give to the Prime Minister to not give us anymore money, if there are no Annual Reports given to us because how will we know and be clear if the money is well spent. With due respect I ask our Public Enterprises, Hon Minister to please remind our Corporations that this is a very important task undertaken by the Committee on this side of the House. And my last point Mr Speaker with due respect is regarding the Ministry of Police, Hon Minister Sala, I suggest roadblocks for us through the new road from Samusu to Lalomanu and also the road that leads to the coastal areas, as there are so many people returning from Lalomanu and have had some beers – and then come racing through the new straight roads. My concern is that people are driving under the influence of alcohol and they could produce accidents. There have been accidents and people have died and that is why we need at least one or two roadblocks weekly. Just to keep our constituency safe from these wreckless drivers driving frequently on the road.

I would like to end my speech on the issue regarding the Police Academy that I hear people talking about. I have been thinking quite a lot about this as I see this as one way that our country can make a lot of revenue, as a lot of our police graduates can find work in the United Nations peacekeeping mission as well being able to provide training in the Marine, Security guards, fire services and prison guards. I would like to provide further advise to the Hon Minister regarding a possible entry point especially regarding those police recruits who come in with their graduate degrees to have their starting salary rates at twenty plus which is a good entry point so some of our people can go overseas much like our fruit pickers and others. And so I would like to conclude my speech, Mr Speaker I thank you Sir. It has been a long day of work, well done and again, thank you. I finish by saying this to my constituency, I am very grateful for your support, your dignified salutations I do not need to repeat them. May God bless the Church Ministers and Samoa, the honorable Speaker especially the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. We also give our support with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. I call the member of Anoamaa West for your speech.

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**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West):** Thank you Mr Speaker. It is very nice to sit from here watching the other side yes. The word of confession to you Associate Ministers do not be afraid of being on this side, it is very nice.

Mr Speaker we have been blessed with many remarkable blessings in our respective meeting grounds. I trust that God and His servants have been recognised respectfully and therefore this is their domain and responsibilities of the servants of God. The three main dignified statuses which Samoa is guided by for all time are like three pillars, country, government and Christianity. I believe praises have already been voiced for a safe journey ahead. There is no knowledge or wisdom that can change the respects of Samoa. This is why I will leave this matter to our high chiefs who are word bearers of the country.

My constituency I believe our companionship has grown over the years also everyone is well aware of our accustomed words of conversation starting with the XIII Parliamentary term and now with this XVI Parliamentary term. I am grateful for the trust you have put upon me, thank you. The Government of Samoa will now commence services in serving our country for the next five years of this Parliamentary term. We pray that no obstacles be faced so we can travel the calm seas.

Thank you for this Appropriation Budget Hon Minister of Finance. I am certain it is not an easy task trying to assess/analyse the economy of the country. Nevertheless I am confident that you are well versed with these preparations. Eventhough I can see that the Minister is being strict with his distribution perhaps this will also be good for everyone. If the intention is to pay off some of our debts then thank you.

This is important. The important aspect for me is that most of our essential developments are ongoing as our key priority areas. Thank you for the just distribution. Perhaps this is releveant to the economic outlookthis year 2016 and into the future. I commend the Minister for the Appropriation address I hope it will go inline with the performance because implementation is important. The plans outlined for the increase of revenue within the country is supported by this Member, this will increase our revenue base which will assist you with further plans. It is not a big increase, it is only a 3sene increase for fuel and petrol together with the cost to use facilities. There is a 28sene increase for airplane petrol. These are costs we are all used too. This is just a matter of how businesses work, people are informed of such changes this means we have to be prepared increased costs in future. If it is going to be implemented on the 1st of July we will gladly await the implementation of the Bill together with these changes. Thank you.

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The increase of 6.5% excise tax for imported alcohol is an appreciated decision. It is better to implement excise tax because if we imply tariff, we will be affected by international trade provisions which we signed. Let us not imply tariffs but use excise tax that is 100%.

The only recommendation I want to convey to the Minister on this matter considering there will be an increase on local products such as liquor. I humbly ask that you review the last Bill passed in the previous Parliamentary term the Competition and Consumer Protection whether it has any discord. If it does not have any then we are a 100% alright. The increase put on tobacco is 5% this is the same for alcohol. If alcohol from overseas is expensive then we should make our locally produced more affordable and this way it will benefit our local companies. Increase tobacco by 5% because I believe the British American Tobacco company at Vaitele are well prepared for this change. Also we have earned a lot from the imposition of excise tax through this tobacco company. There is a competition I was surprised when we had a consultation with the management and they said their competition was the Samoan tobacco. I did not think there was much development on the Samoan tobacco in the country. I was surprised when the survey was given and saw the outstanding use of Samoan tobacco in the country. This means overseas tobacco is much expensive.

This is the usual behaviour of people they always find what is cheap which is Samoan tobacco for others. I want to speak on this matter regarding revenue measures which is good but on the other side there is health measures.

**MR SPEAKER:** I commend the speech by the Member, thank you the speech given was very clear. The only aspect here is we have yet to get to the matter of considering our economy. This is a humble recommendation nevertheless you have the capacity to do what is appropriate. I call on the Member.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you Mr Speaker but I was elaborating on the Appropriation as stated in the booklet which was clarified by the Minister. Nevertheless I will abide with the instruction by the Chair.

The matter concerning sugar and salt eventhough it was not clearly stated which products perhaps once research is undertaken a list of products will be released notifying what is going to be taxed.

If it will include canned soda from overseas then it will be of great help to our local companies. The guideline implemented will be useful for our companies within Samoa. The important aspect here is to encourage healthy living. Because consuming of such goods have a great effect on the health of a person.

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As we see today with our Kidney foundation more capital is been set aside to assist with dialysis treatment of patients which is a result of unhealthy living stated by the Ministry of Health.

It was found in last months report that another nine patients have been added to the list. There was a team of doctors from Australia who specialize insurgery for people who have diabetes. I asked the Hon Minister of Health whether our health foundation has been closed or still in use.

The reason why I have mentioned this matter is to signify the importanceof awareness. It is the objective of the Ministry to make people aware of the effects such goods have on their health and bodies due to consumption of these food. This is a reason why we have seen many patients being taken overseas which is why funds have been allocated for such measures under the Medical Scheme.I believe last year we spent \$10 million in sending patients overseas for treatment. Therefore I am grateful that a portion of our budget has been allocated to aid this scheme. A request to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health whether it is time to review this program on the eligibility of patients to be taken overseas to save us expenses. I am requesting that this program be looked into because it is not something easy. I heard this morning on the radio that there is a conference where the Director of the Health Services spoke on the use of technology for communication with overseas. This is *vice cersa* for overseas to communicate here, they can make decisions and recommend to Government patients that need to be taken overseas.

The Hon Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor, looking at SBEC, it would be great if more funds were allocated in the Appropriation in the next financial year. Also more funds are needed for small businessesbecause I have noted there is an organisation in Salafai now involved in this program and I am grateful for it. The Tourism AuthorityI believe a lot of work is needed to be done for the authority to uplift standards. I have noted the trend of tourists visiting that there are months when it fluctuates and other when it is lesser people. If we look at the overall statistics within a year there is no major improvement, as some of the Members stated we need more airlines coming to our country. I know we have been trying to implement this matter even with the Government of China, we tried to seek if they have any airlines.

I want to ask the Hon Minister have we signed an Air Service Agreement with China? This will be another way for overseas airline companies to come to Samoa or a Chinese airline bringing in tourists that will aid our hotels.

Our hotels need tourists for it to accommodate, they have a lot of debts that need to be paid off but they are in a bad situation. These are some of the areas that need improvement I humbly ask that the Minister look into this matter.

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There are a lot of small farmers within this constituency who talked about the SACEP program. The issue they are faced with is part of their contribution stated in the Finance Committee report is 30%. Some small scale farmers find it hard to reach this percentage for them to be part of this program. If we look at it there are trainings, business plans to prepare and majority of these farmers cannot do it. I humbly ask that this matter be reviewed for all farmers to be able to participate in this program.

Lastly the matter involving a direct link between farmers, the project and export of produce overseas. It seems at the moment as mentioned by some Members only local markets in Samoa are benefitting from this but there is a need to export it overseas to aid our economy and foreign reserves. This will greatly assist our Government with future developments.

I only have a few more queries Mr Speaker but I am grateful that Laauli Schmidt has been chosen as the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I ask that the matter concerning Nonu be looked into, the nonu we advertised in China. The truth is there is so many rotten nonu within my constituency and people do not know what to do about it. We went to China and I think we went to ten major provinces and I had to promote this produce. After promoting we would dance and there was this one time when I turned to my left and saw Tafua who was also dancing. On the other side there was the Member Peseta Vaifou unfortunately the two are now having a court case on nonu. I ask the Afioga Peseta Vaifou to put this matter aside as it just might end up with someone being imprisoned. Considering the new prison that is going to be built that will stop prisoners from easily escaping.

I want to ask about our National Broadband Highway and the latest status? I think it is being setup by the HUAWEI Company from China. What state is this program now in? I am grateful for the Samoa Submarine Cable that we are now able to communicate and watch from overseas countries. It is also important for tourists, hotels, businesses and other companies. The Privatisation Programme, I was surprised when I read the report of the Finance Committee stating that state owned enterprises are in debt. The English translation used was bankrupt I do not know of any State owned enterprises that have gone bankrupt.

I want to ask the Chairperson of Committee to elaborate further on this matter if this is right. Perhaps there are companies who have not reached the acquired profits for state enterprises, we all know that the term bankrupt is a serious matter. The Minister of Finance is well aware of this fact I had a talk with the Director of one of the Board for state enterprises and he is was worried about the liability of the director. I will leave this matter to you and in time it can be clarified further what exactly is the meaning the Committees trying to convey. But this is the reason why I have mentioned this matter.

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I will conclude the speech of this constituency in conveying an opinion regarding our elections. There were a lot of issues seen during the elections and also good results which I am grateful for to the Electoral Commissioner a lot of new changes were seen. The matter here is a reminder because it was mentioned in the previous term a way to review the Electoral System that we have now. Review the borders of constituencies which was a controversial issue in the House at that time including other minimal changes. It would be appropriate to implement change considering this is the same system we have been using for over 50 years. Implement a study and make recommendations to the Government to consider in the House then we can consult on the matter whether it is possible to change our system of voting. How can we not do what is best?

There have been changes made by our neighbors such as New Zealand and Fiji and now Tonga has a new electoral system. We should review this matter because there are a lot of issues seen in this system. As I mentioned Mr Speaker I will not go into detail to explain the issues that arised.

Incase I miss saying this to my brother Afioga Loau Keneti Sio, I second the statement made by Afioga Faumuina Wayne Fong. I am grateful that you have been chosen as the Minister of Education, Sports and Cutlure because over the years only former teachers were chosen. Some were professors and others normal school teachers teaching our children but you being chosen I support it hundred percent. The Minister is also a teacher in the area of sports also a coach in boxing. Now we see changes in the chosing of a person who has experience in sports to lead the Ministry. I am grateful, on the night Laauli Joe Parker had his fight I congratulated the Minister on the win. Although the person that he won against was Fuiava Warren who won 18 professional fights but he lost to the Ministers trainee. See the decision made is 100%. I commend the Member and pray blessings on your new post.

Perhaps this will be the resolution to students' fights set up boxing rings within all schools under your authority. What we have found out with these students is, they want to fight when in groups but not individually. They should be encouraged to fight in the ring because this is one sport that the country has gained a lot of gold medals over the years. Perhaps this will be another good aspect for this matter. Perhaps in the next Parliamentary term a person who is well versed in our culture will be chosen and continuously change from time to time.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Faleata West.

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**Tofa LealailepuleRimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker let us give the Member a break, this is one jealous Member. I am the only Member of this Parliament that fought and won yet he is telling Loau he can do all these things. Why did he not say this to me a coach training boys in boxing? Loau does not know how to train people to fight, it was the strength of the kid that won him the fight, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright understood, I call on the Member to conclude.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO NUAFESILI FONOTOE PIERRE LAUOFO:** Yes you are right the fights the Minister is involved in are true as for you and the other Member I think it was more like practice? In truth I salute Afioga Loau Keneti Sio thank you, blessings on your new role.

Another matter are the funds allocated to Churches and their Primary schools which is \$6 million this amount should be evaluated. Because I think there is a formula used to base the amount of funds like the percentage of students and other aspects. How about setting up performance targets to be part of the curriculum then include students not fighting. If they do fight then funds should be decreased this way the school will try and improve their performance by teaching their students manners.

I conclude an opinion on Clause 11 of the Principal Act conveying the rights of person to choose a religion this is stated in the first paragraph. Although it is stated in sub clause 2 that there is an opportunity for Government to pass legislation that restricts this right. However there are talks for an amendment to be made, thank you because this is a matter mentioned by some Members the matter of disagreement between churches. This is evident with the issues happening in countries overseas.

If this is the case then I support it a 100%, the Government should implement a plan and evaluate this matter and maybe draft a regulation to restrict this right. But it must meet the standards stated in the Constitution.

There is another issue Mr Speaker I want to mention, social media considering we are amending the Constitution. This is the issue seen in schools trying to control social media like facebook and texting. Even if we set up a solution the students will just go to school and log on computers and access such content. This is an area our Government should look into set up programs perhaps there are already Acts restricting such matters. This is just a reminder whether more amendments should be made to overcome such issues.



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I conclude with words of thanks to the Chair and respectable Members of the House, now Members will be taking the floor to convey their opinions and see who will be the leader of Opposition. Nevertheless such matter can be easily sorted, I thank you for the respects but we all abide by Standing Orders. If the Hon Prime Minister is okay with it, why not give me the keys for the car used by Afioga Palusalua Faapo II to go in. Bless our proceedings and all of Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you for such insightful speech. The opportunity will now be given to one of the longest serving Members of Parliament Palauli le Falefa followed by the Member for Falealupo and be concluded by the Chairperson of Committee. Later the matter will be referred to Government.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to voice an opinion of this constituency. I also thank some of the Members who have made their maiden speeches in the House. I am uneasy every time I hear Members stating this side as the Opposition but this is not the intention. If we were to calculate the number this side out numbers that side 14 to 13.

In another aspect there are three women on this side and two on that side but if you are thinking that Afioga Aeau Leavaseeta is not good at fighting let me tell you he is quite fast because he is our half back. If we consider the population of our country this side also out number that side because we are mainly from big constituencies. Eventhough there might be many Members on that side the number of population within constituencies is mainly on this side. This does not mean that we will be making speeches as the Opposition. No we are facing you to convey recommendations to assist with the development of the country.

I was not going to speak but considering the importance of the next Appropriation I will voice future plans not only for Upolu but Salafai. The respect of our country not excluding the respects of Parliament which will never change. I will not speak on the Appropriation as a Member of Committee because this will be conveyed by our Chairperson Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau.

The matter mentioned by Tofa Lauofo Pierre Lauofo is important because I have seen the English translation and it is wrong. In our report we state the statement made by the Ministry, it is the intention of the Finance Committee for state owned enterprises to earn more revenue for future Appropriation, it also states the recommendation but I will not speak further on this matter.

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Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet I thank you for the developments undertaken for our country also for the island of Salafai. In my presepctive as a Member of Salafai I have noted that there is a big difference in development in Salafai and here. This is also the reason why most people living in Salafai have travelled here because there are no jobs. The key to the success of Savaii is to finish the work at Salelologa wharf, there is no company that will want to go to Salafai if the boat taking cargo cannot go there.

This matter Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet the cargo boat only goes to Savaii when there are more than nine containers. I know it is not a hard job trying to finish the wharf at Salelologa. The depth of the wharf there is eight meters deep. The depth found in the underground surface is 40 meters. This means there is a lot of coral base at the bottom if we remove it we can make the wharf deeper. Then these materials can be used to bury our town in Salelologa.

There are some businesses who do not want to go to Salelologa because products are expensive in Savaii because it comes thorough here. If we think of the cost of a trunk to go there it is \$400 to go and \$400 to come back. There are also extra costs to hire a trunk which is quite expensive. This is the reason why I humbly ask that our wharf in Salelologa be completed. This is also the reason why I said that we should go and set up a Government in Savaii because things are done differently for here and Savaii. This is why we should work hard to create more jobs for our people and to keep people in Savaii that coming all the way to Upolu.

Government should also look at a way to move these services at Tuasivi. When people travelling from the west side come they have to catch another bus to go to Tuasivi, I humbly ask that these services be relocated to Salelologa. I have noted that there are some developments undertaken to renovate offices of Government how about making a recommendation to relocate these offices to a new town.

A recommendation to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet complete the wharf at Salelologa. Also set up a Police station within Salelologa. Four acres of land has already been allocated within the new town area for this development.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker the Member was a former Minister therefore this was the time he should have implemented what he is conveying, how come you did not do this? I ask that your request be entrusted to us even though you had the opportunity to work on it in the past.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker perhaps the Hon Prime Minister is aware that there were a lot of other duties that was given to me at that time. Whatever the Cabinet decided upon was done, now it is time to start development in Savaii to minimize the number of people coming to live in the town area.

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I see that a lot of people are crowding the town area but have no jobs, I suggest new employment opportunities be set up to resolve this issue. Once I was removed from the Government all the developments for Savaii was put on hold. I humbly ask the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet to kindly look at finish the wharf at Salelologa.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Member was transferred away from his post to the finance sector, this is where he should have argued his opinion. How can he argue this now when he is no longer here? This is the important aspect before you move hastily think of your time.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker I thank the Hon Prime Minister. This was the exact time when Government was continuing with its relief efforts in urban areas after the Cyclone Evan \$470 million was allocated for what was destroyed. This is the reason why I could not do anything because priority of Government was for these efforts.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** This is the reason why I stated once we carry out the work is dependent on the time you where there. Also whatever developments set out once a disaster strikes everything is put aside. Nevertheless I know the Member had time to do what he wanted then. I am afraid to mention it anymore but I thought you were in deep thought of the responsibility I gave.

**MR SPEAKER:** I am certain Members are feeling exhausted. Considering that we have arrived at our recess hour as moved in the motion at 7 to 7.30pm. It is best that we find strength before we continue on, I announce proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for usual recess and recommence at 7.30 pm. Thank you.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for usual recess at 6:55pm until 7:30pm.*

*Proceedings recommenced with the second reading debate on the Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2015/2016 and the Appropriation Bill 2016/2017.*

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

Before recess the Member for Palauli le Falefa was giving his speech. I believe Members have found strength with recess to continue with remaining duties as moved in new sitting hours. I now call on the Member for Palauli le Falefa to continue with his speech.

**Afioga FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the refreshments provided by yourself and the office.

Before recess I was conveying a matter to Government on further development of our town in Salelologa. I want to voice a few areas that need a decision from Government to assist with the west side of Savaii. This will resolve the matter of going through Salelologa to catch a bus to Tuasivi which is where some services of Government are located. This includes the Police and Courts. I heard Government has allocated 3 or 4 acres for the establishment of a police station in Salelologa.

There is also the need for the courts administration Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet within Salelologa. I know there are a lot of lands there which was taken by Government 440 acres to set up a town. I give out the list of services that are needed to stop people from Savaii migrating here also to create more jobs within the new town that will be set up in Salafai.

Another matter Mr Speaker there are a lot of lands how about setting up a University in Salafai to go inline with the policies of Government on setting up Colleges within rural areas. This will stop people from travelling all the way here especially the bond between parents and their families also villages.

Mr Speaker another matter most of the lands has already been surveyed and I know only 100 acres of these lands have roads. As I earlier stated it is now time to develop our town in Salelologa starting with our international wharf. I know Cabinet have already made the decision for the wharf in Salelologa to be one of our international ports.

Another matter Mr Speaker is noted in the many comments made by Members on the shortage of teachers. But I have noticed that it has been five years since the National Broadband Highway has been in place. Most of the consultations carried out with some Ministries and organisations it seems there is no coordination between them in using these services. This service can be used by one teacher to teach many children in various locations. Not only will it be easier to teach students in classrooms but also for doctors to communicate with nurses in rural clinics. Brief them on what to do before the doctor gets to the village especially if it is a critical patient. I strongly believe that coordination should be encouraged in Government Ministries and organisations.

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Government should also assist private businesses because I believe this is the reason why this project which cost \$US 20 million was established. The isolation factor mentioned by one of the Members as being far away from other countries in the world, this is the solution. You can use this to talk to your business partner for a second anyway in the world.

Another decision made by the Government at that time was changing our time zone. Ever since Samoa changed the time zone the sun has risen in Samoa and now set in Tutuila. The time difference between us and Tutuila (American Samoa) is 24 hours ahead we are also ahead of Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Asia and others. This means we first wake up and do our work and go home before they wake up the next day you go to work and check your mail whether the response was already given. Any Ministry can use this like the Ministry of Justice and Courts, they do not have to travel to Savaii but judges can use this service to converse with people over there, it is a great development. I only ask that our Government Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet utilize these services fully. It has been long implemented but we are not using it properly.

I mentioned in my last speech in the previous term the effects of climate change, we have also signed international agreements like the one signed in Paris, and the confirmation signed in New York not long ago. I understand the use of the Cabinet Development Committee in drafting programs and give proposals of Ministries and Corporations to carry out the work of Government.

I am worried about the poor coordination within our Government. A recommendation since a Green Climate Fund has been established the amount of money given which the Minister is aware of is a hundred billion dollars every year which is a lot of money. But this is dependent on the proposals that are given. If proposals submitted are not relevant these international funds have a policy of first come first serve principle, tautuauega, o alatupe nei faa-va-Malo e masani lava i le first come first serve principle but we cannot just pile them there.

A lot of the Members mentioned today the changes seen due to climate change and the relocation of villages to higher ground. Our water supply has also been contaminated by sea level rise, this means there is a rise in sea level under the ground that has made water saline. What I mean is we can use funds today to set up a Ministry to deal with this matter a stand alone which can focus mainly on [Climate change](#). [Eventhough we have the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment](#) but it is all over the place.

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

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

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**Susuga Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Aiono Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Nothing is new for the new matters mentioned by the Member this is exactly what the Government is trying to do. It does not mean that people are 100% but these are all the matters Government is trying to carry out. The matter mentioned, at the moment we have yet to reach 100 billion but we are still counting to reach 100 billion. Last year I attended a meeting in Peru. I sat in the meeting for Finance Ministers from around the world it was their first meeting. There was a statement made by the Chairperson for the Prime Minister of France this is the first time a matter related to the Climate Fund was mentioned. First it was mentioned by the Minister of Environment who did not understand financial matters. This was the outcome of the matter but it is expected this month of this year the total funds that have been collected will be put together. Some said it has reached a 100 billion then another 100 billion the next year and the next until 2020. This is why at the moment we are only preparing and considering but will not know the overall result until 2020 when funds will be overall collected. This is also why we are preparing I have told some of the Ministries if all plans are carried out well then we will be able to rely on such funds for our projects and develop our country.

All of this is dependent on the implementation of our people to have enough engineers to prepare plans and designs. Our bridge at Maliolio, we have long ago made a decision on it but up to now the blueprint has not yet been finished. There are 90 developments set to be implemented and 500 million has been allocated to carry out this work. Although we must first draft a design and outline the information needed for the project because there is no stupid country that gives money if the plans laid out are not done thoroughly. It is best to consult, the truth is we do not have enough people with this capability and experience. It would be easy to just say it is not good but this is a result from our people who are well qualified with such tasks. It was five years ago when we received funds to build the bridge at Leone but we have just now started construction based on the conditions I just mentioned.

This is what the Member who is speaking should understand, you were there and we worked face to face, at the moment we are trying to improve these processes. We have already implemented a lot of developments but it would have been many more if every sector had the funds. Everything is based on our economy, at the moment we are already implementing plans for further funds to be brought into the country. This is the same for the funds from Japan received from them through signed agreement until recently the project undertaking has just begun. Perhaps and hopefully it will be completed next year.

Mr Speaker these are projects funded from overseas but there are also guidelines that we have to follow to protect finances of those sending funds so it will not be used wrongly. This is the same for every country in the world.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Very well perhaps this matter has been clarified by the Hon Prime Minister. I call on the Member to speak on another matter hence the issue has been cleared by the Hon Prime Minister.

**Afioga FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker I also thank the Hon Prime Minister for the clarification given on the matter. The clarification made is true, but this is one duty of the Leader of our country to make our people aware of the developments being carried out. I am grateful for the many developments that have been completed for the good of this country. It is our expectation to do what will benefit our people and our country, it is our goal to work together to achieve what is best for the country supporting us.

Mr Speaker this concludes an opinion of this constituency I want to thank Tapaau e Fa ma Faleupolu e Fa, le Alala Matuatala ma Tapaau Faasisina Ulu ma Maota ma Toiloto, thank you for your support blessed evening, Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you for your words of wisdom. I believe this will be the last Member to speak before the Chairperson speaks on the Appropriation. I call on one of the longest serving Members of the House the Member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA (Falealupo):** Mr Speaker with respect I move on behalf of respectable Members of this Parliament this hour of the day. Our words of praises have been voiced to the Heavenly Father, we are grateful that we have been guided here safely to do the work given to us.

Mr Speaker the state our Parliament is now in is a new milestone. The Hon Prime Minister and that side of Chamber, I commend you for your services to your Party but I believe this is a historical moment for our Parliament. I was trying to think of a way to show gratitude if there were none of the Members of this side but only that Party, how will it turn out? It is alright to us but from the perspective of the world they would say that one Party is dictatorship fortunately we do not have such ideas.

It is a blessing that there are still Members remaining for this side that will oppose the Government. Perhaps there will be a use for the three Members remaining maybe it will emphasize our partnership with overseas countries considering we are still a democratic state. Eventhough we may be small in number we will still represent a democratic Government. I strongly believe Mr Speaker that our country differs from other systems of Government because of our cultural traditions. We have a scared space for communication like passing in front of a person you would automatically speak tulou, it is term ingrained into us.

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This is what makes us different from any other country, we bask in our beautiful environment which is peaceful and conflict free. I thank the Chair and I believe whatever the decision we will make for this term I will accept it. We have all been put together as one to make the decisions for our country because this is the place where it first started.

The support of our country I believe we can serve them whether it will be from that side of this side it will all result to a decision that will benefit our people as a whole. Nevertheless we put our trust onto the Hon Prime Minister and his Government let us work hand in hand for the betterment of our country. Let us not go back to 2010 because we were wronged with the number but majority have the right to everything. If we know how to administer, anything you overruled and might have misled can be a picture of what to expect and learn from in the future. Respectable Members of Parliament this Parliament is quite old now. The number is important but being able to work together is much better because it will result to a strong and well managed Parliament. I am confident that this is also the will of our people.

Those who were chosen into Parliament make your mark, it is the objective of this Parliament. I am glad there are still three remaining Members for this side I only ask that we work together. I commend once again the Hon Prime Minister and his side of Chamber. Our country is witness and has come to support the Opposition but truthfully we are all one because where would we go? We gladly convey our services to this Parliament as we always say you contribute, we contribute let us make this term an outstanding one from all the others since we became independent.

As for the previous term there were a lot of new and important things that happened then which is why we are thankful to the Lord. We have the same goal to work together and show support, I am sure it will be easier now if everyone work together to achieve the best results. Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet those are your blessings, let us assist one another.

The Hon Minister of Finance I am confident that you are well versed in the field you have been chosen too, it will be easy for you to just compile the information and we will follow. I am grateful for it, I want to be part of a Parliament that is pure and free from issues and is praised by the people. This is a different Parliament term it is much stronger considering it is now put together as a one party state. I am proud of this let us all contribute together not only for our people but to give back thanks to the Heavenly Father.

Mr Speaker this is an opinion of the Member, how our work is carried out is dependent on Members working together. Let us deliberate and share our knowledge and work together to develop our country.



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Mr Speaker I take this time to greet my constituency. My constituency listening in it is important to voice an opinion to the House first. I am grateful for your support, with respect to Auvaa ma Aiga, Tofa ma Tapuaiga, aemaise o le nofo a Faafeagaiga i totonu o le tatou afioaga, o Falealupo, I humbly ask for your support as I earlier stated we will work together. I am grateful for the trust put on me to carry out this role and represent our constituency in Parliament. Mr Speaker this is a brief word to the House moreover this Parliament term is quite outstanding. I pray the Lord for peace upon us and whatever we may achieve is all thanks to Him, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you, I thank the Member for Falealupo one of the eldest Members of the House. Perhaps this will be the last Member to speak the Member for Faleata West. I call on the Member or is it the Hon Minister of Communication Information Technology. I call on the Member.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. This Parliament term is quite different from the previous ones ever since yesterday with the Members making speeches until now, I commend you all. On such days at the start of every term speeches made are mainly of gratitude.

It is an opportunity to thank the Lord who owns the strength and for choosing us which was also made possible with the prayers of our people. The people of the country have been praying to the Lord to choose its leaders which is now achieved, I give thanks back to the Almighty. I want to thank our country for the support from the highest point to the lowest parts of the country especially to the church Ministries thank you for your prayers. The respects of Samoa have already been voiced by other Members before this is why I will not mention it further.

I thank all the Members of Parliament especially this Parliamentary term is quite different, it seems like time has been turned back to when Samoa's first Parliament.

I believe for Samoa alone the Parliament is mostly made up of the Cabinet but all other Members are the Opposition. I do not think there is a Member that comes into Parliament that will object what is good and support what is not. Whatever *good things we may encounter we support but for other matters it is where we should contribute too and discuss considering it is our own Government.*

Today listening to the speeches given and the one given by the Member Hon Lauofo Fonotoe, it has been ten years since I have been sitting on that side of the House looking towards this side. I have just now noted that it is my seat that is being occupied by the Member. It is great seeing you speaking from that side of the House I have always wanted to sit on this side but now that you have spoken I want to come back to your side.

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On second thought I think I will stay for a while on this side. Democracy in my opinion is now the status this Parliament is in right now. It will also portray to the world that we can make this system of democracy work, the Opposition has been trying their best over the years which included myself. Now I can see there is no more official Opposition rather there are more Members sitting on the opposite side. Let us pray to the Lord for his wisdom as one of the eldest Members stated let us work together and see where it will lead us.

In hearing the speeches made by Members I have thought of a word from the Bible, 'there is nothing new under the sun.' The speeches made by Members mainly addresses issues such the improvement of roads, economy and others. I believe this will also be the case after we retire from this Parliament others will ask the same thing, developments for our country. A challenge for any Government, strategies resolve services provided, the approach to try and change. Now what are some of the methods that could be used to provide good service delivery to the country different from what we are used to. These are some of the challenges of Government that will continuously be seen.

The Hon Minister of Finance I will not speak much on our Appropriation, I am just happy that we are all here to consider it and witness that there are funds to implement our developments. The Minister has worked for both the Government and private sector so he should know very well the frustrations and challenges faced by the private sector in working with Government. We all know that one of the initiatives of Government is to work together with the Private Sector. Now you are here and have seen the work process carried out. In my prespective as a Member what is needed to improve are the processes of the work carried out daily.

These are the challenges which are the usual issues. Some people get frustrated because of late payments and the delay in ordering of bill. I believe these are some of the areas that we are working at to improve. Some Members especially the Finance Committee have mentioned projects such as SACEP which was implemented a long time ago that it should carried out promptly.

These are some of the issues seen that should be resolved by drafting a strategy. The funding from overseas that is given to be used in 5 years should be clarified to the people especially the process that it takes two years to find someone to do this work. Then by the time the other three years are over the work will have just started but the time is up. We must remember that we have been noted in history by some of the countries overseas to have good management of such funds.

A lot of our children are now working in international organisations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. We are proud of them because some have returned to work as consultants and assist with our development. This means we have the knowledge to implement these measures, it is just the use of commonsense.

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I was talking with one businessman not long ago and he showed me how unhappy he was when he went to get his car that was shipped in long ago and was told the bond for it is \$4,000.00. The process it undertook was going to one office then to the next but the car was just sitting there at the wharf, it does mean I support his argument but it is something that should be explained clearly. These are some of the areas we should work together on to make it easier especially for businesses and for our employees to understand the vision implemented by Government. Everytime the Budget is addressed the Appropriation always ends up to the STS for the goal of Government to implement its developments for the next five years.

We all heard the disappointment of the Hon Prime Minister at one of the programs launched which was Leadership Samoa, I believe it is a must because at this level participants should be able to understand the vision of Government. Also the direction Government is heading into because they will be the future leaders of our country. They are also working in high positions so we can also learn from them. It is stated within the Appropriation that a review will be undertaken on the structure of Government. Our elections I am grateful to the Chief Executive and office for their work, I have noted that it has been two elections and the number for this constituency is still the highest. The Leader of Government has already stated that priority will be to redefine boundaries; I will revisit this matter again once it is finalized. I recommend that these changes be done now for Members to understand also new candidates for the next elections. Also look at the matter of compulsory voting together with other provisions especially with the issues seen in the previous elections. A recommendation if it is possible there is already a Parliament Committee to overlook electoral matters. I believe it is best that they do this work than setting up an Inquiry Committee which will be spending more money and time but these people already have the knowledge on this matter. It would be best to give everyone in the country the chance to voice their opinions on the changes made for future improvement.

I recommend the Ministry of Statistics considering another census survey will soon be carried out to work together with communities and get the accurate information on the number of people living in Samoa. This way everyone will be noted within our records. As mentioned by one of the Members together with the report that Government has implemented a major infrastructure project the National Broadband which is estimated to cost \$40 million has been implemented.

This infrastructure will greatly assist with communication between Ministries and this is a resolution to some of the issues raised in schools, hospitals and especially elections and this service. What saddens me is the use of the NPF document when you go to vote it is not acceptable but it is also a Government ID.

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This will ensure the communication between Government Ministries. This is the same for car license if you go with a valid license they will not allow it under the Act. These are some of the areas that should be improved especially within Ministries and for Heads of Ministries, I ask that we not hide from the law. The law is a guideline but it can be changed from time to time to make work easier. The Hon Minister of Education I feel sorry for you because I can see that your diary is full. Once a person speaks you write it down no wonder why you are compared to Queen Esther who was the cure for her village. The name given to you by your father is quite accurate. The name Keneti I believe he knew you would end up in politics like the President Kennedy of America. Eventhough President Kennedy was scorned by his people for his good deeds, I believe this will also be you if you were to do serve with honesty. I can see you and your partner from Lufilufi which some say are like the twin towers unfortunately it has fallen. When I look at you two it is like seeing the two deciples Moses sent to look after the people of Ghana, they were the ones that came back and told the people that they could take over the next village.

The Hon Minister it was mentioned by the Member Afiofa Faumuina Liuga who was in town and went to Vaitele School. I believe this is the fourth or fifth letter written to the Minister of Education now I have submitted it once again. It is true that the Ministry does not deal with the building of schools but we have overseas partners who are currently assisting with school building funds that cover the one at Aele. These are some of the areas that we should work on considering the state the villages of Vaitele, Falelauniu and Nuu are in. We all know that such developments are included in the future projects of Government this was set up in Vaitele together with land to be used for a school building which is now in place. Some of the Members mentioned the challenges now faced by the Minister and Ministry on school children fighting which is sad because they are the future of this country. If this is the future for Samoa I am disappointed. Not only in schools but also in church and youth fellowships, this was done to convey compassion with one another but it is not the case.

It is not the fault of Government or the Ministry but of the parents, they are being spoiled. This is no different from our sevens team who went overseas, they were spoiled they had not respect for their parents or the coaches and police.

This is a complicated matter I know the Ministry is trying their best because if these students are expelled from another school they will not be accepted into another. I am saddened with the future of these students, it is a challenge that we should encounter together. The Hon Minister of Women while we are on this subject, as I always say I go out at night in Apia. If you go there on Tuesday nights where the shows are at Matautu after the show when the tourists come out the little kids would be hanging around selling goods but not only are they young but they are also girls.

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**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has two more minutes.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** I have just started...thank you Mr Speaker do not worry I am nearly finished. I humbly ask that this matter be overlooked, one Ministry should not blame the other but should work together on a resolution to this problem. The picture portrayed here and taken overseas by these tourists is not right. This is not how Samoa should be portrayed.

The Hon Minister of Works, I am grateful for your assistance eventhough we have been doing our site visits during the rain I am grateful. I have already submitted a letter to your Ministry on some of the work that needs to be done for this constituency for the next five years. It is up to you what will be done first whether it will be the roads for Vaiusu, Toamua I put my trust in you for the next five years. There are developments that I want to prioritize, I talked with the Samoa Ports Authority while the Chief Executive of SPA is listening. The development planned for Vaiusu some said the project was stopped by some of the chiefs, I believe they stopped it not because they object the idea but because they do not understand.

If it is possible it would be best if one or two members of the council work together with the Advisory Board to assist with the work. They have the indigenous knowledge on the area if it is not a problem I think it is best if one or two chiefs work with the Ministry so that the work will not be interrupted. As I stated they are not stopping it because they object but because they do not understand the intention. The Member Afiofa Faumuina Liuga also mentioned the fence at the church at Vaigaga beside the road, well there are things that are good and some that are high power. It is mentioned in the Bible, "if you do things for the greater good you will be praised." But this fence is only made around the church although it should also reach the school. I know we have minimal funds available but I humbly ask if we do get more I hope this fence will be constructed towards the school. This is the same as the fence in Lepea it looks very attractive and once the road is complete it will look more beautiful.

I requested as well improvements on our access roads, the opinion voiced by the Member for Asau was outstanding as long as the road is cleared and made smooth then it can be accessed. It does not have to be tarsealed as long as the road is cleared and makes it easier for people to travel up and down the road.

The Hon Minister of Health I commend you on the efforts taken, the matter concerning our ambulance. There was a previous Member of the House who passed away at the start of the year the statement from his wife was, there was only the car with no nure or machines to assist the patient. I humbly ask for your assessment on the matter. The important tool that should be there is the oxygen machine and an assistant to do it. But only the car and the driver it would have been best if the family took their patient in their own car.

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I strongly believe if there was a first hand response it would possibly save...but we do not know the will of God. These are a few recommendations for future improvement especially this service because it would be useless to have ambulance cars but no services provided.

Also the food being brought into the country the quality and standard, a tax levy has been put on sweets and soft drinks. I ask that the quality of the food be inspected especially the packaging so people will understand what they are doing.

The Hon Minister of Tourism the infrastructure has now expanded and there are now many hotels and other businesses. I want to recommend to our Members that we should work together to get more airplanes to bring people into our country. We should do what we did with Virgin whether we can set up another airline to assist with this major development in our country.

Mr Speaker I will leave these other five pages considering the year is long but I will conclude here. I thank the Chair I am proud that you have made history to taking role of the Chair for the second time now. I want you to sit there as well in the next term because no one can be compared to you only Afioga Laauli Polataivao.

The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet I pray blessings on each one of you on your duties, we will also try our best to assist you in all that we can especially the Hon Minister of Communication, Information and Technology. I will try my best to assist you and our Ministry to do what will benefit our country. Blessings to all of Samoa listening in and to this Parliament and the Chief Executives of all Ministries, I pray that everyone take care of their health. We have not long come back from visiting our Chief Executive who is a bit ill, I think it is not enough rest. The computers and laptops were supplied to assist in doing the work but some have taken their work to do at home as well. Once you finish work go home have dinner with the family and relax. Some say the sun will rise again tomorrow, I recommend that we find strength so we can be able to continue our work the next day. Soifua and God Bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I thank the Member for his contribution this will lighten the load for the Chair as well even though I can see you have prepared a lot to discuss although it is unfortunate because we have to follow with our Orders. I will now give the opportunity to the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee respectable Member for Alataua West.

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West):** Thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House all of Samoa present here and everyone else listening in with support.

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I am grateful to the Lord, for this Parliament and the opportunity given to convey the first words of the constituency of Alataua West, for this XVI Parliamentary term of the Independent State of Samoa and will conclude with an opinion on the Appropriation.

I respectfully greet the Chair, Hon Mr Speaker the administrator of Parliament, the Leader of Government the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge respectable Members and Members of Parliament Committees whom have been given the trust to oppose Government in carrying out the work considered in this Parliament that monitor the work of Government Ministries.

We are also in the presence of Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations the media and services of officers of Parliament. I convey greetings with utmost respect to all respects of Samoa, Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the three seats of Members of Council of Deputies and their Good ladies. Never forgetting the respects of the Chief Justice and Judiciary also the holy servants of the Lord protected by the authority of Alii and Faipule within each constituency.

I voice the respects of all Samoa *Aiga ma latou Tama, Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. Least let us not forget the support of our neighbors Tutuila and Manua, *o le Uso ma le Aiga, aua Sua ma le Vaifanua, o Fofu ma Aitulagi, Ituau ma Alataua, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua, faapea le Faatuiolomotu, Tootoo o le Faleula, ma upu i le Manuatele*.

I take this opportunity to the Heavenly Father for choosing this lowly person to fulfil this duty, now I have come to represent the seat of my constituency Alataua West, and be able to see the Chair and respectable Parliament and take part in making the decisions for our country. I did not expect this but I will do my best. I will serve my constituency and all of Samoa with strength that I have but praise if first given to the Lord above.

My constituency of Alataua West, and the respects of my village *Falelima, le afio o Tapaau ma Nofo a Faalupega, lau fetalaiga Folasa o le Fofoga o Papa ma Faiga ma le mamalu i le Alataua*. My village of *Tufutafoe, afio o Gisa ma Leusoalii, afio le Seuula ma le Aiolupotea, susu ai Toleafoa, afio Tuifaiga, alaatalai ai lau fetalaiga Momoemausu ma le Lautinalaulelei, ma le mamalu i le Alataua*.

Least I convey greetings to my beloved village *Neiafu, aua le afio o le Tama na Faasau a le Alataua, o le Tapaau Tasi, lau afioga Tonumaipea o le Alataua, afio aiga o Samoeleoi, o le aiga Faitatau, o le aiga na au i Ao, o le aiga na au i Papa, alaatalai laua Taatiti ma Tuaiaufai, i le mamalu o le Nofoapule ma Faleauga, ma Upu ia te oe le Alataua*.

I cannot ignore the support and prayers of the servants of the Lord within my village and constituency.

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The race has ended with success especially with the support given by the constituency thus I will not forget such decision to choose such lowly person to voice the opinions of the people to the Parliament of Samoa. Who am I that you have chosen to carry this duty? What can I say or do to convey my sincere gratitude? Nevertheless I will pray to the Lord day and night for blessings upon our constituency. I also pray that I not be forgotten in your prayers because to have such support will assist in carrying out this duty which I believe will not be an easy task. It will also be my continuous prayer to the Lord to not abandon you all also may you continue to praise his name in giving us life. I want to thank my sisters and brothers who were in the same roll to find a representative for our constituency. I am grateful that this opportunity has been given to me but I want to commend everyone for their perseverance. I believe the Lord has already made his plans, it I today and another tomorrow. Let us pray for the love of the Lord because it is renewed everyday. I want to thank the previous Member who represented the seat of Alataua West for two previous terms. I will try my best to continue the good work you implemented.

I want to thank our Leader, the Hon Prime Minister you have served this Parliament for many years and you have greatly contributed to the development of Samoa. These deeds will follow in your legacy even the blessings from the Lord and the next generation that will follow. Those who will come after you will be blessed because of such achievements. I want to thank you especially for not choosing me an Associate Minister but as Member of Committee that will be evaluating the work of Government and fulfill other duties of Parliament. In all honesty I thought I was acknowledged when I was not chosen as an Associate Minister but after returning from our first Parliament Committee trip in Australia I came to learn how important the work and the role is to this Parliament. This is a word of thanks I am not complaining about the role I am given but I am glad that this role will develop me as a Member considering its importance.

Mr Speaker I also want to thank my families not only in my constituency but all over Samoa and abroad. I am grateful for your love, thank you for treating me as a daughter, a sister and as a sibling and I feel comforted by such acts of encouragement I pray the Lord bless each and everyone. I thank my friends and companions for your support well I have come all the way and have been blessed. I thank everyone who has worked together on this campaign. May the Lord bless you all in full.

Mr Speaker I want to thank my family, my husband Afioga Leota Taatiti Manaia Kenape Tuuau and children, there is only one way to be able to take part in this race in politics, it is to be given blessing from the man of the family.



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Mr Speaker and Members of the House before I convey the requests of this constituency I would first like to say a few words about our country. Samoa is a blessed country there are times when we forget that Samoa is blessed because of the desires and need to compare to other countries. Although if we look at the television with what is happening overseas we look at Samoa and think we are truly blessed. Some of these countries have outstanding economies and good military forces but they seem to live cautiously because of the acts of terrorists. It is certain that some of these powerful countries are easily affected by such attacks because of their economies. If compared to our country our economy is not abundant and when we are struck by disasters it takes time for us to recover. This was noted during the cyclone Evan when Government had to rearrange its priorities to rebuild what was destroyed. This is exactly the point I am trying to convey Samoa is very blessed if we see the life and challenges faced by overseas countries. Unfortunately these problems seen overseas portrays an important message, to be cognisant especially us as leaders to protect our country so that such misfortune will not reach because of such spiritual beliefs. We do not know if we will be able to win against them. This is why Alataua West supports the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister to amend the Constitution of Samoa to include that only Christian beliefs should be accepted into the country. Eventhough the address made by the Hon Minister of Finance on the Budget 2016/2017 is “strengthening the foundations, building for tomorrow.” But I strongly believe that this statement also conveys the message that we should take action to safeguard our country from any harm ensuring peace for future generations. This is the reason why we were chosen to prepare Samoa for a better tomorrow. Mr Speaker the clarification made by the Hon Minister of Finance is understood and the Appropriation 2016/2017 also goes inline with the theme of the 2015/2016 Appropriation which is, ‘live within our means.’

The Appropriation 2016/2017 readdresses this in rearranging of revenue and expenses to build a foundation for the economy in future. This is where this constituency believes is core where requests are made for the distribution of Government.

Mr Speaker a few requests the constituency of Alataua West would like to convey to the Cabinet and Government. The Hon Minister of Finance I heard a lot of the requests made already by some constituencies and I know it is not an easy task to distribute and meet every request. We should take into consideration that the needs should be based on the availability of funds. I humbly ask that you be brave and let us work together through the Finance Committee, this constituency will voice some of its requests based on the funds we have, this will portray our support on the Appropriation tabled.

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The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I remember you when you played for the Manu Samoa you were quite fast and always had the ball. I remember at that time SCOPA was on a winning streak having held onto the shield for years. I believe this will be the same with your duties carried out in the Ministry you will be making swift decisions and pass them to your staff so that lapsed work will be accomplished.

I humbly request an assessment on the matter regarding the division of the schools within Itu Asau, I think it was two years ago they said that Falealupo, Tufutafoe, Neiafu and Falelima will be put together. Also construction on our own school within the constituency will be undertaken because Sataua is too far for some students. I found out that there was an agreement made that funding of the school building will be from the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, I am grateful if this is true. I am just worried in case the funds might be given to build another school but my constituency is waiting for such blessing being brought to develop our children.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I am thankful the access road for Tufutafoe has been completed which was in February this year. I believe distribution of access roads have now reached this constituency, it has been 30 years since the last access road was constructed now there is only the roads for Neiafu and Falelima that should be developed. We do not need it tarsealed since it is expensive considering Government is trying to ration funds. The only request is to excavate the road so cars will be able to go through to peoples' plantations. There is a need for improvement on tarsealed roads as well from Tufutafoe to Neiafu-tai, because small cannot use these roads anymore. These are the only requests we convey that will cost Government money and this is based on the funds available.

There are two areas that I believe will not cost money that I want to ask the Hon Minister of Communications, Information Technology and his Associate for assistance. I might have stated this before but my village of Neiafu have no idea of what is happening in Apia because of the poor television and radio signal. I also believe that no one in Neiafu knows that their Member is making her maiden speech today. I am thankful since I have noted on television and radio the continuous reminder from the Regulator to those who provide these services radio and television to pay their licenses so that they can provide for Samoa.

Hon Minister if the license issued is to provide services to all of Samoa then there are parts of Samoa who are not receiving these benefits. This will also portray the workmanship between you two to resolve this issue. Moreover, I will leave this matter for your consideration.

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The Hon Minister of Health, I have heard the requests made by some of the Members of Salafai and majority have requested the same issue, the need of doctors and medical supplies for our district hospitals. The problem seen in the hospital at Salega is the same with the one in Sataua, only pandols are available at the hospital which is visited by everyone residing in Itu Asau, most of the prescriptions are found at the Tuasivi hospital.

The Government is prioritizing health within the Budget and the funds for many Ministries have been reduced to 10% to have more funds given to the hospital and schools. I believe it is not the money that has resulted to having no medical supplies in Savaii, but the poor management of services to order enough medical supplies for district hospitals.

The doctor would usually say after writing a prescription is, we do not have any supply because there is no money, we will wait for the new allocation next month then we will have the supply. Our elders will not understand such instruction. I humbly ask for a review on this service to be improved.

Hon Minister I apologize if there has been any rude statement made I humbly ask for forgiveness but I ask for your consideration on the issues seen in hospitals in Savaii.

Mr Speaker these are a few requests of Alataua West including the requests of other constituencies, we trust in our Cabinet and their decisions in carrying out what will be best for Samoa.

I will now speak on the question made on the Report of the Finance Committee. The question on the use of the term, 'pau'. As the Ministry responded on findings I believe the response by the Ministry stated in the Samoan copy was, "o le lē maua o ni tupe faasili," the English term commonly used by us Accountants to translate this is Deficit. Perhaps the term Bankruptcy is too harsh. An overall summary of the Appropriation on behalf of Committee I want to say that we support the Appropriation 2016/2017.

Mr Speaker may God bring you strength to fulfill all your duties in managing the Parliament of Samoa. I also pray for replenished health and wisdom for the Hon Prime Minister to lead our country, may blessings be upon the Parliamentary Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons most importantly the spiritual side to carry out your callings. I also heed the Government heads and all representatives present here this evening.

Thank you to the support of Church Minister to the youth of Samoa, God is merciful. To my constituency, let God bear forgiveness if we have done wrong.

Lastly I wish to thank the Clerk of this Parliament. This is our statement with respect. May God bless the Speaker and the members of this House and Samoa. Soifua.

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*The House showed their appreciation by applauding after the Maiden Speech of the member of Alataua West.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you the Parliament has heard the statement of the Chairperson of the Committee of Finance as well as his Maiden Speech. Well done. This is the chance to the State. I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE AIONO NEIOTI GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate all the members for their comments and Maiden Speeches noting there is a collective understanding that we must endeavour to implement further national developments. In truth none of us is perfect.

Three weeks ago on a Sunday one person told me about his disappointment when their Team from New Zealand came here to carry out Operations and all of sudden cancelled. The cancellation was a result of no wound care supplies which was a terrible excuse. The very next day on a Monday I called the Minister of Health and his team for a talk. I asked them why the operation did not go forward and none of them knew who cancelled the operation. This was similar instance last Tuesday when I had to take a 10.00 flight from Sweden to Brussels and dreadfully at 10.00 exact we were notified that our flight had been cancelled.

I had to catch the train to other city in order to get the flight to Brussels. And whilst preparing to get from Brussels to Samoa our reservations were not in the system because I had missed the official flight that was cancelled from Sweden which had me missed the flight to Samoa. The Swedish Airlines crew were not aware that the reason for the cancelling flight in Sweden was due to the Airlines Strike in Sweden. The reason for saying this is because we are not in paradise. We are not in heaven. We can only find peace in heaven whereas in this world we have tons and loads of problems. There is no perfection in the world. That is similar to all your comments made just now. You all hope to achieve this and that which is also our intention and reason why so many projects were set up and despite of the many hiccups the Cabinet strives its best to execute and push all our works through.

I have observed from the individual speeches that the Chamber is filled with potential and wise Members in comparison to previous Parliamentary Terms. This is reason why I must say that I congratulate you all knowing that that this term comprises of so many new members; I believe I must point out something directly.

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The month of April is normally the month where we have the preparations of budget submissions. Since 1962 the Fiscal Year for Samoa commences from January to December however in 1989 it came to thought that we should change our Fiscal Year for us to be in line with the Fiscal Years of other countries who are assisting us financially like Australia and New Zealand. Why? So that it is easier to gain funds to implement our developments.

I recall statement of objection made saying that this Fiscal Year is not Christian however the change was passed for the Fiscal Year from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July ending June.

June is almost through and this is why we are growing weary in trying to approve this Budget when June is not yet over. In April a Budget call is made by the Ministry of Finance to all Government Ministries to present their budgetary proposals and provide adequate justifications for their requests. The Ministries would have to consult with the Ministry of Finance on their Budget proposals. Despite requests being able to exceed ST\$2million the Ministry attempts to limit spending to appropriately align with estimated revenue. This is the first step.

After initial consultations, respective proposals are then referred to the Minister after which a report is given to Cabinet for discussion before the budget is tabled in the Assembly. Once tabled, the Minister of Finance will then deliver the Budget Speech after which the respective bills are referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee for scrutiny. Further consultations are held between the Committee and relevant Ministries and Entities regarding the contents of the budget. It is a mandatory requirement that during these deliberations no Chief Executive or Member of his or her respective Ministry may leave.

The second step is submitting these budget proposals to the Cabinet for a few more consultations with the relevant Ministries/Entities to meet with the Cabinet and another chance to make further additions or cuts to their proposed budgets reference to the revenue. Once this is done then we have the Budget Address for the Cabinet's approval before it is tabled and approved by the Assembly.

Mr Speaker we have had Government heads requesting the Committee for further additions to their budgets and in compliance to the law the Committee has no right in making any additions. The Cabinet's approval is the final approval. This Budget will then go into the Assembly through a Budget address by the [Minister of Finance before it is referred to the Committee for scrutiny](#). This is the third time for these consultation processes to be undertaken with the respective Ministries and Entities to further justify their budget proposals and no Chief Executive is allowed to leave. This is where thorough assessment is carried out by the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

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The reason for stating this is because in 1984, the then Prime Minister Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana and his Cabinet resolved that during budget deliberations Ministry representatives should make themselves available to the House for relevant queries on matters unclear to respective Ministries as it is bad practice for Ministers to provide incomplete or vague responses to Member queries.

In acknowledging the unique sets of the Chamber for this Parliamentary Term there are in addition to the HRPP Members 3 independents. The Members seated opposite Cabinet should endeavour to uphold Parliament's independence by encouraging effective debate through enquiries. When Members wish to speak, they should relay their thoughts to Parliament without restriction.

This will encourage transparency, accountability and good governance – despite the HRPP having a majority hold on seats in the House. Those Members who do not hold Ministerial Portfolios will have to take up the role of the 'Opposition' in the sense that they oversee the work of the 'Government' Members. It is for this reason that Associate Ministers have not been appointed to Parliamentary Committees, to ensure ample distance is maintained between the 'Executive' and the Assembly.

Despite Samoa lacking a robust financial grounding there is a soft term financing totalling ST\$98million which is how the overall budget deficit will be financed. All this is given in detail in this Budget to implement our developments for the rest of this year. There is another method stated by Faumuina for us to meet twice a month to consult and follow up some of these ongoing projects and further to Cabinet's approval whenever required this will make work and processes much easier.

In response to the Member of Anoamaa West's issues regarding electoral boundaries, a Commission of Inquiry has already begun to review the existing boundaries.

We will start from Fiame. I also take it that we do not have many responses to give in reply to the few raising matters. We will start from here and in a future sitting we will go back to the normal doing. Anything left I will clarify further in final.

Mr Speaker that is the progress of our work this evening.

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

**Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment):** I trust this is more than enough. Samoa is paying true support to our works. I will not make additions to the honorifics statement which remains forever.

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It has been a long day however our callings must carry on as from the start lest our new members are stunned for us to prolong meetings in this House which is normal doing commencing from morning to late night. Our works relies on the available Budget we have in response to the many requests for the country including the constituencies. With that I greet the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment tasked with our natural resources such as land, water, forestry and renewable energy. The Environment comprises of the Meteorological Office, Rubbish collection, PUMA and Climate Change.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the Lady Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the Committee for the tabling report before us through this Budget Statement by the Ministry of Finance. This Committee was able to find out that the Ministry was able to utilise less of its budget with some of its works. This is a great challenge for this Ministry to raise its services for better efficiency and let us assist the Hon Minister in collecting revenue for distribution.

Henceforth we have fully recognized the Committee's resolution in its report in regards to the appropriated funds for the works of the Ministry of Environment.

Mr Speaker we have six matters addressed by the members. This is the norm of our debates in accordance to our Constitution and the processes of with how our work should be done within the Ministries. Notwithstanding most of the statements made were about seawall areas and the protection of our coastal areas.

There are certain criterias which govern the construction of seawalls for example the need to protect the shoreline from erosion and whether there are recurring instances of sea water corroding tar sealed roads. There is every intention to continue such projects particularly to guard against future natural disasters. In addition to a focus on constructing seawalls, priority will also be given to installing water catchments and other resources necessary to ensure high quality water supplies.

Mr Speaker that is the priority at this stage in time, secure our resources and people by raising our settlements to higher grounds to counter natural disasters like tsunamis and build seawall areas.

For those members who requested the construction of escape roads' inland, the Government has been encouraging residents to relocate inland since the 2009 tsunami.

For rubbish collection this particular service has proved to be a challenge to the Government in that where the service is provided, it has not been provided in full. The Government will continue to review relevant policies which will help guide the involvement of this service. However I support the remedy raised by the member that rubbish collection should be the responsibility of individual villages, provided that rubbish disposal follow environment friendly guidelines. A partnership between villages and the Government could be established wherein funding currently extended to contractors should be redirected to villages.

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Fourthly aquifers or water tables and the effect of sewage wastes pardon the House and the listening public. For health protection this is a major concern for hygienic standards. A programme has been initiated which will remedy these raising issues by members. The sewage plant has already been established in Apia, other projects will be implemented for the other areas of the country in due time.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the speech of the Deputy Prime Minister as we are on our break time I announce that proceedings be set aside for our normal recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 9:30pm for its normal recess and resumed at 10:03pm.*

*Proceedings resumed over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) 2015/2016 and the Appropriation Bill 2016/2017.*

**Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA:** In resuming we have a few more matters left before I conclude. The mangroves were also raised and this is one of the largest areas by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as the saying on mangroves goes, it helps land expansion.

I beg indulgence to the member who raised mangrove, I think this is the one in Moataa, I will consult with the responsible Ministry on these raising matters. This also goes to the Satitoo wharf and the fainted paint on boats that is affecting our coastal environment.

Mr Speaker I conclude with climate change. There are recent global efforts and several meetings to counter climate change and one of those was attended by the Hon Prime Minister such as the United Nations Conference in April where it was resolved by the General Assembly that the issue should be addressed as a matter of urgency. Other international meetings were aimed at finding responsive solutions such as one held in New York whereby set targets for funds to be collected were established. The effects of climate change affect everyone and therefore I suggest that the country work together in an effort to combat and minimise its effects, a first step is for everyone to be environmentally aware so as to preserve natural resources for future generations.

Mr Speaker mentally speaking of environmental protection this seems to mean that this is foreign doing but I remind our people about our conservation areas in the village communities which is preserving our environment so that our environment can last for a very long time.



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This is a very good message in regards to the many undertakings from seawalls, roads, bridges, drainage and such we must seek to find the best technology. That is the statement on this have a blessed Sitting. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thanks I now call the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour for your speech.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I greet everyone in this House this evening.

All since from morning until dusk we have witnessed the merciful love of our Almighty Father upon us and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. Your honorifics remains undivided. I wish to note a few raising concerns by the members.

Some of these matters concerns the services of this Ministry in term of seeking employment opportunities and seeking overseas markets for our locally made products.

The primary way to create more employment opportunities is to develop the private sector. By seeking major international businesses to invest in Samoa, employment opportunities must be created. I am attempting to assist non-degree holders to find employment such as through the various schemes promoted through the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for youth. The recent legislation enacted by Parliament are further attempts to attract major businesses to establish branches in the country. For example Yazaki has provided Samoa with a large amount of employment opportunities for locals. And that is the kind of opportunity we are looking for that can employ up to 500 to 600 locals that comes with major challenges such as what is happening to Yazaki company that is about to close down why?

Because it is found that there are cheaper labourers such as in Asian countries despite our attempts to keep this company here. Our main hope for the time being is to pray for more large companies like this to employ a huge amount of our people.

We need more businesses to be set up here starting from million investment hence we also have the assistance of small businesses called code 12.1 specifically for agriculture, elei and printed t-shirts things like that. We also have the private sector support facility who can assist with the farmers under the funding partnerships with New Zealand to assist in developing new businesses as well as the assistance of the Samoa Business Enterprise Centre or SBEC.

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In terms of assisting the development of small locally owned businesses, there is a collaborative effort being undertaken with the Small Business Enterprise Centre wherein they are able to guarantee start-up loans to assist small private enterprises. Apprenticeship programmes continue to be implemented for students who have graduated from various technical programmes.

In regards to tourism, the aim is to increase the number of tourists visiting Samoa on an annual basis, for this reason support for continued infrastructure development is vital. There is a collective understanding even amongst *Ali'i and Faipule* as to the overall benefits of developing Samoa's tourism sector. It would be beneficial to the country to acquire its own plane noting that it would decrease the cost of travel and further entice tourists to the country. Agreeing with the member of Anoamaa East's comments regarding negotiations of a direct flight from China well the agreement will soon be signed.

I wish to voice my support for the continued development of Salelologa as a main centre for Savaii. I wish to thank everyone for all your raising concerns on this matter.

Some of you have raised a promotion for Savaii alone which is also what I have in mind for our people in Savaii. Nevertheless we are all Samoans - Upolu, Savaii, Manono, Apolima, we all have one promotion for our visiting friends to come to Samoa, one country comprising of four islands and the biggest of them all is Savaii, second is Upolu and this is what's available etc. The same for Manono and Apolima.

But visit us if you want to go to Manono, we have the boats of Mulipola for you to go there and so as Savaii, its all set up in Samoa by the Samoa Tourism Authority chaired by...

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Associate Minister or the member of Aiga i le Tai.

**Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai):** Mr Speaker I only wish to remind the member lest she forgets please about the raising standard of accomodations in Manono which is reason for the lifting whart a chance to further assist and improve our tourist markets. If you can to visit it please do. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Anyone else wants to speak of the Tourism Sector? Ministers shorten your statements to avoid queries.

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**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour):** That is the objective to bring more tourists in the country. We are negotiating to bring in another plane under the options and hope to obtain our full control/ownership for us to have more control on the prices and fares. Because if our accomodations are costly and if prices/airfares are also expensive no one will come otherwise we must find out other attractive ways to get these visitors. One person also mentioned the Air Service Agreement from China which is one way to getting more visitors.

Someone mentioned ZIKA well I trust the Minister of Health will respond to that.

I wish to thank my constituency for the ongoing support upon me, God knows everything and your respect, there comes a time for us to meet and there I will officially give my gratitude to you all. Have a blessed evening.

Mr Speaker I wish you all the best, have a blessed Sitting and blessed evening. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour for your speech. I now call the Hon Minister of Health for your response.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health):** Greetings everyone from the Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers and the rest of this Parliament. Greetings to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Government heads gathered in this House. I will not mention your honorifics and significant divisions.

I express my gratitude to the members for the raising issues for the Health sector and also for your advice and words of encouragement. I trust this Ministry involves several of your comments and submissions which is a must as this Ministry concerns the health of the nation involving health service delievery which we don't take lightly as health is a priority concern for everyone. In light and regardless of our tireless efforts, sometimes not everything ends up well given that for anything there will always be challenges and difficulties.

I have noted down at least six constituencies who have requested the construction of medical centres, we are restricted by available funding. It is senseless to construct a multitude of medical centres and/or hospitals when there is an existing shortage of medical personnel. I would like to make a mention of the existing hospitals and medical centres in both Upolu and Savaii which are available to the public. The patients suffering from non-communicable diseases should be referred to district hospitals however the patient-doctor ratio at Tuasivi is currently 150/180:2 (one doctor is from Upolu who visits one per week).

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The situation is similar at the Motootua hospital where the ratio is approximately 75:1 with an average of 380 patients visiting daily. There are attempts to ensure that rural residents utilize district hospitals to avoid lengthy travel to Apia.

The hospital has already arranged for strategic locations to cater the patients in all parts of the country. For this strategic move, we have six District Hospitals, three for Savaii and three for Upolu. All these District Hospitals will operate on a 24 hourly basis as well as health centres from eight to four from Monday to Friday. The existing district hospitals so far are Leulumoega Poutasi Lalomanu in Upolu, Foailalo and Sataua and Safotu in Savaii. The Health centres are Lufilufi, Faleolo, Saanapu and Vaipouli which makes up four Health centres. The aim is to take the service to the rural area closer to the patients given that we now have a medical school in the hope to increase more doctors to assist us. The demand is greater requiring more doctors because so far we have 72 doctors in total; 12 recent medical graduates and sixty registered doctors employed in the Ministry. I will talk more on the raising point about Tuasivi health service and if we are to maintain the rising number of medical graduates then that could be the answer to more district centres for our people. Currently we have a Package of Essential Services or PEN programme to treat or to combat NCD or Non Communicable Diseases that is undertaken under a pilot test within two villages. This involves communities and the revival of the Women's Komiti Tumama for all village communities. So we are trying to educate everyone and for any serious case, they can refer it to the nearest district hospitals instead of coming all the way to Apia or Tuasivi in Savaii.

There are two doctors working there they are Papalii Samuelu Petaia as well as another person from Savaii who is also assisting at the kidney foundation in Tuasivi. The Ministry is trying its best to distribute its services to satisfy everyone in response to the requests of the country.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Minister of Health I call the member of Vaisigano No. 1.

**Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua (Vaisigano No. 1):** I wish to correct and claim that the Tuasivi hospital only receives between about 35,000 patients from a total population of approximately 82,000 per year and this is stated in this 2015 report. I think the figure the Hon Minister gave is quite huge compared to the figure given in the report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. With respect.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I am talking hundreds whilst the member is talking thousands. He is talking about the whole year whilst I am referring to daily visits not annual figures.

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**Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua:** Whether your figure is for an entire year it is 82,000 per year to 150 or 180 a day. With respect.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** This figure was just given to me whilst your figure is from the previous year, we are talking about today.

**Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua:** I do not intend to point fingers rather these funds were allocated under you through this budget, that's it from me.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well let us pay respect to the Minister; he is the respective Minister of the Ministry. Go on Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Thanks these interjections are good to liven the day although they are inappropriate it does not matter.

The Ministry is attempting to source more doctors to service these centres and hospitals. There is currently a shortage of medical personnel and that district hospitals and centres are being serviced once a week by private practitioners. It is hoped that during this Parliamentary Term, there will be an increase in medical personnel or in the number of rural visitations carried out by existing doctors.

In regards to the current scarcity of medicine, I have consulted the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance as to possible solutions. There are issues in the timely release of funds from grants which the National Health Service (NHS) has negotiated with the Ministry of Finance, wherein in stock will be ordered and released every six months.

It is common practice that medication is dispensed by medical staff. When mobile clinics visit rural areas, a dispensary is also taken to re-stock out of stock items at various hospital centres. If a hospital only has panadol on hand, it is because it is the only non-prescription drug that hospital staff is permitted to prescribe without a doctor's prescription.

Then we come to the virus going viral around the country and in newspapers essence to ZIKA. As known Zika is a disease similar to dengue and chikungunya which is a virus that is transferred from the aedis type mosquito. This virus is believed to have been discovered in the forest of Uganda Africa in 1947. Between October and November last year, 3 cases were confirmed which thought to have been transmitted from New Zealand visitors. Up until February of this year this virus flared up saying that Zika is getting close to countries like Tonga, American Samoa and us. Tests samples were taken on this virus. The symptoms for this virus is almost the same for all three such as fever, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, retro-orbital pain which is similar to dengue and chikungunya and difficult to diagnose on clinical grounds the difference between the three only/unless we get the blood tests.

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This is reason for the delay alert on the presence of Zika due to no scientific evidence or confirmation to verify which is which because at that time, Zika and chikungunya were already spreading. Since 2015 of the 168 samples sent to New Zealand for testing, only 24 were confirmed to be Zika. The virus has been limited to certain areas of the country and it has potentially harmful effects on pregnant women such that women's newborns may end up with the condition called microcephaly whilst women may be affected by what is called Guillain-Barre Syndrome which is the immune system attacks the healthy nerve cells leading to your fingertips and toes progressing towards the glove or the stocking fashion until the body is entirely affected leading to cripple. This virus broke out in very few parts of Samoa specifically at the end of Salelologa and Tafua. The main remedy is panadol and warm water or *vaiauli*.

Your...

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister is getting to the conclusion of his speech I allow the member of Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** The Minister's elaboration is taking the whole night when we want to know the name for this mosquito because there are 17 types in Samoa. What is the name of the mosquito and where is it found in Samoa as the cure looks very easy, just panadol.

**MR SPEAKER:** This was not mentioned in your statement so do not bother.

**Tofa Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** For your information there is aidies, Aedes Polynesiensis and Aedes Egypti that spreads this virus. Listen intently to avoid anymore questions. Do not sleep and wake up asking stupid questions.

On to the generator in Foailalo, we paid a visit to Foailalo on the same day we had the launching for Tuasivi, we visited Foailalo and found that the generator was well operated, however I will look into the raising concern of the member on this regard.

Mr Speaker I think that is all unless we have any more queries which is getting me impatient.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member of the Urban Seat West.

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**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West):** Mr Speaker I did not want to interrupt the Hon Minister but I see that he is about to finish yet I did mention medical insurance or insurance for public servants and whether there is a scheme by the State that can protect us from diseases before it reaches us moving forward.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I was part of a research team tasked with investigating the need for medical insurance in Samoa in 1998. Our report was presented to Parliament yet there was no resolution as to a feasible timeframe for the initiative to begin. In regards to overseas medical treatment, when all efforts to treat them in country have been exhausted, it is stated in the current report that the NHS expenditure figures have increased owing to an increase of patients being transferred internationally for medical treatment, however the expenditure costs have decreased.

For your information the expenditure for patients taken for medical treatment abroad has gone down to \$5million in comparison to previous years. Hopefully that will be a go very soon to save our expenditure costs.

Mr Speaker that is all from this Ministry and if there is anything else you can come to my office for a cup of coffee and I will give out some more responses to satisfy you.

I take this opportunity to thank my constituency for all your support. May God grant me the spiritual wealth to achieve this calling. I also wish to acknowledge the Church Ministers. Have a blessed evening. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Health now that the raising concerns on health is now elaborated.

This is the chance to the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons and Fire Services.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI (Minister of Police, Prison and Fire Services):** I only have two minutes to speak. I greet the honorable Speaker, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and everyone here this evening.

This Ministry received very few comments and the main concern was safety of the public from emergency cases like fire, speedy vehicles, toxicated drivers, *police providing poor services, insufficient post requests by the public etc.* This is a very common problem from five years ago. Perhaps you have all heard the phrase, leave it to us so many times. However the spirit with us is safety. When I first came on board there were heaps of problems. Then the Cabinet assisted me which is team work or collective responsibility that involves everyone. That is the intention I wish to deliver this evening.

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I wish to thank the Fire and Emergency Authority, the Police and Corrections Services for without their support, it would be useless for me to stand here, yes. I am only a small servant and I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister for his faith in me because everything that's happening stems from internally. If you are untruthful at your homes why don't you do something better? And if what you do at home is good then you must do the same for others. So with that we are all one we work together for one goal for Samoa and its welfare.

In conclusion there's a normal saying we are used to, walk the talk. That is the same with words of uncle Bush, read my leaps and all your requests will be granted, blessings and soifua.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West):** Mr Speaker please can I get a chance...

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister's statement is now through so note that everything you have told him will be done.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Thank you Mr Speaker however his response did not cover what I asked for and I was about to ask nevertheless he sat down.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Minister well go on lest his done you wrong.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Briefly just querying whether there is a strategy to deter and stop inmate escapes.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI:** Thank you. Oh my I thought the answer was hard. That means we need to lock up all prisoners. The new prison facility is in its works to avoid anymore escaped convicts. The new prison is for everyone and this is the truth before the Almighty God.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Mr Speaker thank you this is enough response for me.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thanks, at least you are satisfied. This new facility is for everyone that breaches the law so thank you Hon Minister of Police, Prison and Fire and Emergency Authority for your statement.

Now it is your turn Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.



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**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Greetings to the House and Parliament of Samoa and various heads of the Government.

I also acknowledge Samoa and Lana Afioga Mamalu O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the member of the Council of Deputy and his Good Lady Judiciary, the Clergymen praying for the benefit of Samoa. I also greet my constituency of the Urban Seat East. I wish to be short. I wish not to touch upon your honorifics.

Mr Speaker, 37 members talked about the Budget. Before any further I wish to express my gratitude to the Minister and the head of the Ministry of Finance and your staff for the Budget Statement before us which has my entire support.

I also thank the Committee for your well versed report. I have only one matter which I wish to discuss from this report regarding the Land Transport Authority.

There is a dispute between the Police Office and the LTA in regards to tickets issued to drivers on the road due to minor offences like talking on the cell phone whilst driving on the road. Personally I think there is a problem with money collected on these offences between the LTA and the Police. In saying this it is inappropriate since the law is still under LTA hence they should be the ones to collect the money. However by reading this report it says that the Ministry of Police is disappointed with the LTA when too are doing their job. This is a dual responsibility by the traffic officers of the LTA and the Police Office however my concern lest the police will not be doing their duty. This money goes straight into the Government and therefore they should coordinate and support this role by sitting down together and sort this out to ensure that the Police are performing their duty in compliance to the Law whilst revenue is collected by the LTA.

In regards to the requests given most of them were on access roads, water, electricity, streetlights and access roads or tourist sites. For streetlights and for the sake of the members raising this, there is a process for this request to the EPC, and a Committee to the Cabinet who are tasked with reviewing these requests, the investigations is carried out by the EPC before the request is granted because we cannot grant anything if we are not aware of the name of the village and how many streetlights are needed. On that, we must get the written requests first.

The LTA budget is now reduced by \$1.54million from the Appropriation of the previous year. So given the many requests put forward it will be hard to implement them all in one year.

So I ask for your patience as all of those requests cannot be implemented in one year.

I wish to note that there are current projects in the pipeline such as hydro projects; micro-hydro projects as well as solar projects. There will be hydro plants constructed at Faleaseela, Vailoa ad Safata which will assist with the development of renewable energy as a primary energy source.

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In proposal, by 2017 we are 100% renewable energy however we will never achieve this due to the fact that we cannot avoid our generating energy which has not been... the Government has invested a lot in this power at Fiaga, but we will have to give this investment some time to recover whilst the State is seeking hydros to assist with the reduction of electricity costs. Gladly, the Cabinet has just received good news about the request of the EPC on a new tariff which will become effective in January upon the Cabinet's approval.

In regards to the request by members for Urban West and Faleata West for the four lane road to be extended, this is not possible at present due to a lack of funding.

We gave the village some options to use chain-link to build this fence towards the school building given the lack of funding, however this option was not accepted by the village and so we will see about the LTA budget if possible to assist this fence.

Mr Speaker I think those are all the requests from members but I need your patience...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister; I call the member of Aiga i le Tai.

**Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai):** Mr Speaker I only bid to remind the domestic wharf between Manonotai and Manonouta and the lighthouse for the safety of travellers to and fro the two islands. I also remind the shortage of water at Aiga i le Tai, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** To save time I call the member of Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker I am just concerned about the fence here and for the record, this area situates a church and a school building and no settlements alongside it. It is the centre of the village most particularly the township area. This issue must come with Godly wisdom and if you say that until we have the funds to fix it then I trust that the village should bear patience and beautify this area to its fullest. With respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright I call the Hon Minister to conclude now.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Mulipola's statement is perhaps given in full and in response to roads. As for the lighthouse and the wharf for Manono well we will look into that as soon as we have the funding. That goes for the members for Faleata West and Urban West as well, with respect.

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Mr Speaker I think that is it. As explained, we have five years per Term yet we have just started so bear me your patience and perseverance because the last constituency that has its requests granted will be the only constituencies that will remember you and your works. As for us who have just started by the fifth year we will be forgotten by our constituents. Lend me your faith. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. Well there you have it as well as the advice of the Minister it is good to delay so that the old men and women in the village will remember you.

Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries perhaps you will go first tomorrow God willing. As for now, we have arrived at our adjournment time and before we adjourn I call the member for Faleata East to end our Sitting with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 11:36pm until Thursday  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 9:00am.*

*FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016*

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

Prayer.

### OPENING SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER

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

May the Divine be glorified for guiding us safely to this new day, I see that everyone has regained new strength from the Prime Minister to the Clerk and staff of the Legislative Assembly and the Police and their continuous efforts in serving this Parliament and Leaders of Samoa.

Well done thank you, greetings all in the spirit of respect. Greetings Samoa and all of God's Servants for your prayers for the prosperity of Samoa and this Parliament. We exalt the Most Highest.

### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) AND APPROPRIATION BILL 2016/2017 – resume debate over the second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** The member will resume his speech on the Budget and the relevant Policies on the second reading of the Bill.

Before adjournment last night the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure had already responded to the raising matters by the members in their statements.

With respect I give the chance to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for his statement in response to the Members comments.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I first of all stand by our prayer of offering this morning and His guidance and blessings for guiding us into another new day.

Mr Speaker, this Ministry has the powerful creation of the Almighty God. It is said that after God separated the light from darkness and the sea from the land, the Ministry of Agriculture was set up and all the animals were created before Adam was created to oversee the garden. On that, God knew very well this heart to His creation, agriculture and fisheries.