

THURSDAY, 24TH JANUARY 2013

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.

Prayers.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1)
2012/2013 – second reading debate – Day 3

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Parliamentary Proceedings for the Legislative Assembly has now resumed.

I greet the dignity of the House this morning in all your honorific salutations. I applaud your patience as we have now come to recommence with our proceedings.

I express my gratitude for your opinions that were made on the appropriation.

I feel that it will not be long before we complete our work. There are a few that have not commented and then the government will proceed to respond. We intend to hurry along our work so that the Cabinet is able to carry out its developments.

Before we adjourned yesterday, the Deputy Speaker was addressing the House. Therefore I call on the Deputy Speaker to take the floor to complete your speech.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA (Palauli West): Thank you Mr Speaker for offering up the clubs of victory to Foga'a on our behalf and for the prayer or gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his endless love, care and protection upon us all. Because of Him we are able to gather here this beautiful morning; from the Hon Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations.

Mr Speaker, if opinions are given time, more views are generated. I have additional comments to be made that were not made yesterday but I will not repeat or go back to mention previous issues.

I apologize to the members but the private water supply that was mentioned yesterday was based on works that have been implemented. In June 2012 tenders were invited to work on the water supply for Salailua and a village here in Upolu. The letter head that was used was that of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and at the bottom of the invitation it stated that if there were more enquiries they should contact the son of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who works for the Ministry; I checked his credentials. I mention this because I believe that it is not acceptable.

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The procedure for a tender after it has been considered by the responsible Minister, on his advice it is then passed to the Cabinet for approval and that is the final stage. I will not comment further on this.

The elders of Savaii know the difference between black and white pipes. Now the elders are questioning the pipes that are being laid because they agreed on the black pipes but the pipes that are being used are white. I asked the engineer why the pipes had been changed and he said it was because of our water. I then told him that he should have informed the village of the change because they agreed on the black pipes. I have been told that the Ministry will look into it so I am very grateful. Thank you for the works that are currently being carried out for our water connection. The only issue we have is that the new pipes are being connected to the old pipes which were laid in 1953. The water from the source connected by the new pipes is fresh then it goes through the old pipes to reach our village.

Before I complete my comments Mr Speaker, I would like to comment on the natural disaster and the destruction by Cyclone Evan. Although our constituency was not affected, there are those from my electorate in Upolu that were affected. I am grateful to the government for the recovery effort.

I thank the Hon Minister responsible for the Samoa Water Authority for restoring the water supply to the Aleisa area on Monday the following day. The same goes for the Electric Power Corporation for removing fallen debris on the roads. Some of our electors reside in the Magiagi and Tanugamanono areas that were severely affected during the cyclone. This is the same for the Lelata area and the elders of that village say that they do not wish to return to this area because there is nothing to return to; no houses, no vehicles as we witnessed on the television. I ask whether the government has plans for these people's residence and land if they do not return because they are afraid.

There were many who recommended solutions to resolve these problems from occurring in the future. We have also heard the comments from the Hon Prime Minister as there were rumors that the reservoir at Alaoa was destroyed. Thankfully we have heard from Lefau Harry Schuster, one of the members of Vaisigano West's after his visit; that it is not true and it is only filled with debris. It is good that this is clarified because reports are that the damage at Alaoa is the reason for the mass destruction. The recovery efforts of this area will not be cheap and this is not the first time that this has happened. During the cyclones of 1990 and 1991 there was flooding and even when there is heavy rainfall it floods and it will continue to be this way.

Mr Speaker, I do wonder why it is that only Vaimauga West is affected severely by flooding but it is close to Vaimauga East and Faleata East.

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It rains in all these places not only Vaimauga West and there are reservoirs inland of Letogo, two big rivers at Fagalii and for Faleata East there are big rivers and the reservoir at Tapatapao but the flooding is never this severe. Therefore I constantly question why it is that only Vaimauga West is affected this way. I whispered to one of the members.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member; I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I have the answer. Any ceremony that I attend and it begins to rain, the preacher says “these are blessings” and that is the answer. We have been praying for rain during the dry season and now we have rain. I used to detest it when it rains during any event. During the display of women’s fine mats (fa’alelegapepe) I notice clouds float overhead and then it rains and the preacher will always say “these are blessings”. This means that this land is where the water is absorbed and who knows maybe there is water in the aquifer and when the dry season comes again, there will be water to use. That is the answer to the member’s uncertainty.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the member, the opportunity will be given to the member for Faleata East.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo (Faleata East): Point of clarification Mr Speaker. Vaimauga West has large steel pipes connecting the water from the reservoir but Faleata West does not have this and they also have a new reservoir that was constructed by an overseas company.

The problem with my constituency is the bridge and I am grateful that the government has answered to the need for reconstruction because the flooding is caused by the current inadequacy of the bridge with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The member for Faleata West may take the floor.

Tofa Lealaillepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Just to add onto the comments Mr Speaker. The blessings that the Hon Prime Minister mentioned is true for Faleata but what happened at Vaimauga, that is just flooding, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there were many constructive comments made yesterday such as the recommendation of the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 regarding bridges. The truth is that the debris clogs the water ways under the bridges which causes the water to run off in every direction causing flooding. Now the member for Faleata agrees that it is the bridges that are the cause of the flooding. See how valuable these advices are? The government is recording all this.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for all the assistance on the Deputy Speakers comments. You may now stand to complete your comments.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA: Thank you. The Hon Prime Minister has answered my question but we all remember well the Hebrew verses “From the mountains come a nations blessings, from mountains also come the fall of nations”. I whispered to the members for Vaimauga West and East and Faleata East that the answer is simple. As the saying goes ‘there is a reason for everything’. The answer is to simply kneel and ask for forgiveness and the answer will be given to you. God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I am not sure what other matter there is that the member for Faleata East is concerned about. I believe the members are clear on the matter. I know your role is to counterattack but we have just started but maybe by the afternoon you will be given the chance to do just that.

I thank the Deputy Speaker for his comments; I see the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 is upstanding. This is your opportunity to take the floor, good luck.

Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI (Faasaleleaga No. 3): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This meeting this morning did not come about by accident, it was planned and we have given praise to our Heavenly Father for allowing us to meet today in health. I humbly greet you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and all the members of both sides of the House. This is a new day that has been added to our lives to continue with our calling in this House. Today we are here to consider and comment on the appropriation to permit the development of our country to continue.

We cannot forget the support of our people and the traditional setup of our country from the mountains to the shore; His Excellency the Head of State and his Good Lady, the member of the Council Deputies and his Good Lady; Aiga ma latou Tama, Tama ma latou Aiga, Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

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We also acknowledge the encouragement from our cousins in the East and your traditional setup; paia o Sua ma le Vaifanua, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua, le mamalu i le Alataua, le nofo a Maopu ma oe le Faleagafulu, afio o Alii aua oe le Laau na Amotasi, e faapea foi le Auva'a o Tootoo ma upu ia te oe le Manuatele.

Our greatest appreciation goes to the leaders of the various denominations; the servants of our Lord praying continuously for blessings to be upon Samoa and its Parliament as well as the world to receive the word. We thank the Chief Justice and the members of the Judiciary as well as the CEO's of the various government ministries and corporations present with us today.

I cannot forget the support of my constituency in all your honorific salutations; paia o le Aiga Taulagi na potopoto i Siufaga ma Vaiolioli seia paia foi Ogevasa i Faasaleleaga No. 3. I le paia o le ia ituvai i le afio o le Tuiatua lau Afioga Tofa, faapea lou aiga. Susu foi oe Alo o Vaafusuaga o oe o le Falefitu ma Tatau. E faapea foi i Saasaai i le paia i Faleola e alaala ai lau Pule Leuu e faapea foi ma Segi o le pou o le Faletufuga. Afio le Aiga Taulagi e afio ai Vaafusuaga, le Suafoa, Tea, le aufono ma le Falelua faapea Usoalii.

To my village of Faga, thank you for your support Siufaga, Sapini, Luua, Malae and Salimu. Toaono, le Faleaana and Salemuliaga, I am humbled by your support and am grateful. The rule of our High Chiefs is paramount and everything happens for a reason. The past is done away with and we are now starting on this New Year so let us pray for strength to deal with any unforeseen disasters.

I do not intend to make a lengthy comment on the appropriation because I believe that in times of trouble we cannot continue to hold on to funds. This can be compared to a car. If the car breaks down, we cannot hold on to the money that was appropriated for the engine repairs and find money for the tires elsewhere. Therefore I congratulate the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet; this was not an easy task. The Word says 'Do not be concerned, on days like this we will remember'.

In the start of this year we were struck with disaster and I am grateful to all those that assisted in the recovery efforts. Our needs are endless at this moment. Whether we are a developed country, the people will always cry out for needs and wants. The appropriation may not be adequate but it is what can be done at this time because our tradition is one of giving.

Whatever our government is able to assist with I believe will be distributed equally and with truth and honesty. There are not many requests of my electorate as they are the same from last year. Access roads are needed for Saasaai, Saipipi and Faga. I express my gratitude for the seawall at Malaefiliga to the Hon Minister and the Hon Minister of Finance.

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My only advice is for the construction of the seawalls which are too low and the concern is the children as they are hard to control at times. Although it may not be to our satisfaction, we are grateful as we make do with what we have.

We thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet as well as the responsible ministries and our intention is to cooperate because without it we cannot action these developments. Therefore Hon Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, I fully lend my support to the appropriation.

Our constituency hopes for the best and may the Lord bless the Members of Parliament; Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. May disasters and calamity be far from our Country and may the support of Samoa never cease. There is a saying 'if the boat sails smoothly, do not row with the oars and let the waves carry it through'. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 for the remarks made on the appropriation and the recommendations.

The floor is now open to the member for Gagaifomauga No.1.

Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA (Gagaifomauga No. 1): Thank you for the opportunity. Although I am sick with the flu but I will still comment because our country is listening in. Some may think that we are only here to sign our paychecks as this is the pay week.

I was listening in yesterday on the comments made regarding the natural disaster that we were affected by. Let us be thankful that this disaster has left our shores and pray that we will journey through this year without any problems. Listening in on my way to the meeting I heard the prayer that was made and I concur with the plea to our Lord for assistance in this our time of need.

Mr Speaker, I support this supplementary appropriation for this year. Not everyone's opinions are complete neither is this appropriation. There are many needs but this is not for us to choose. The Lord provides and the government distributes when needed. I am thankful to the Hon Minister for the appropriation. Although it is not enough, I think these funds should be used for a project for the Maliolio River. After the devastation of cyclones and natural disasters, the Maliolio River will continue its destruction. I know this because I live in Savaii and travel to Salelologa for work and the car queues are ridiculous in this area because the river flow is unpredictable. I am not saying that the work be done now with these funds but it is something to think about for the future. What is good for Upolu is also good for Savaii. Almost every village in Upolu has a bridge but this is only one river and it affects the whole of Savaii.

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There were 2 funerals just recently in our village and the hearse had to return back to Tuasiyi because it could not cross the river. This is expensive for families as we all know and we never hear of a deceased returning back to the funeral homes but in Savaii, if the river cannot be crossed they return to the morgues. The deceased are returned and yet the families have prepared the food. I was thinking that we should have a cable car like the one in Tutuila to transport people to the other side of the river when it cannot be crossed on land. Hon Minister, I am not instructing you I am only giving advice regarding Savaii and this specific area. When this river overflows we have to travel around the island and then we are faced with the river at Sasina.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member while the opportunity is given to the Hon Minister to respond to your concern.

I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: Mr Speaker, regarding the members concern, the survey has already been carried out on 3 bridges; Sapapalii, Maliolio and Satui. The next step is to find funds for these projects. Proposals have already been made for these works with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister has answered to the members concerns for both of the bridges that were mentioned. Please stand to complete your comments.

Tofa TUILOA ANETEELEA: Thank you Hon Minister. My intention is to make known the problems of Savaii because we are also members elected by our constituencies to comment on the needs of Samoa. We are not here to only sit and not make known the concerns of our people.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member; I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, the member is right. The bridge should have been constructed long time ago. The project started before this government and until now it is incomplete but it should be completed as many lives have been lost because of this river. There was also an incident in which a hearse driver fell asleep at the wheel and there was an accident.

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The family made a report and they wanted another post mortem carried out on the deceased therefore this bridge should be prioritized before the other bridges. You may now move away from the issue and comment on another matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member for Gagaifomauga No. 1.

Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA: Thank you Hon Prime Minister, you are the best. If the bridge was not considered to be constructed I would pray that your car have an accident at the river. However, I am thankful and it is not as if I am the only member for Savaii. Only when they have experienced it then they will be concerned. The only thing...

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga (Faasaleleaga No. 4): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: You should not take to heart the old man's comments...

I call first upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga: Mr Speaker, point of order. Perhaps the member for Gagaifomauga No. 1's comments are stemmed from my comments made last year. When the incident in which 2 people lost their lives last year occurred I recommended a bridge for the Maliolio River as well as the Lano River. I thank the Hon Prime Minister that the Maliolio Bridge will be constructed first and then the Lano Bridge.

That is all I wanted to correct Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give this opportunity to the member for Alataua West.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa (Alataua West): I did not intend to interject Mr Speaker. We only need to clarify that we are not sitting around. We are also trying for the development of Savaii. These comments must be removed because this old man can make ridiculous remarks with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielega: I believe Mr Speaker that our proceedings should not be prolonged. As we are not being filmed the people should be aware that the two members are sitting next to each other and they should advise each other not to be concerned.

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Emergency Services.

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire and Emergency Services): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I should not be silent because this river is in my constituency of Gagaemauga No. 1 at Samalaeulu. Some members are implying that I am not doing my job. My constituency should be clarified that I have spoken in the past to the Hon Prime Minister about this project. I am thankful now that this project will be implemented first. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: There is no need to be offended Hon Minister. This is the difference between the members of Savaii and here; it is our respect for one another and we try to support the other. I did not mention the bridge at Sasina but the member for Gagaifomauga No.1 did.

I call on the member for Gagaifomauga No.1 to continue with your speech.

Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA: Thank you. This is how you can tell brothers that are united. If one sleeps, the other is awake. To the constituency, your member is busy with guarding prisoners but do not be concerned, I will raise these issues on our behalf. I am grateful to the Hon Prime Minister for approving this project but we must continue to raise these issues on behalf of our electorates. As the Hon Prime Minister stated many have lost their lives at this river so what time or date will this be implemented because if it is delayed further I would assume that the Hon Prime Minister wants people to lose their lives. However, we are now clear on this issue for this part of our country, other concerns on our constituencies you are aware of.

Hon Minister of Education and the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I am only reminding you of requests that were voiced in the past. You are aware of them and I will not repeat it as it would be a nuisance to you at this time but we will leave it at your discretion.

On another matter, we are now nearing our election. I personally am not keen on running in the next elections but someone else should occupy this seat. I am now resigning as I am tired of sitting in this air conditioned House in which before I entered I was not sick but now I am nearing death. As for this Parliament, may we continue to cooperate and keep the peace because of the love of our Lord. If I do return I will support the Leader of the Opposition because I am very fond of him but I dislike the member for Faleata West.

God bless this meeting Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the Tautua Samoa Party to the Leader of the Opposition and the members.

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God bless the Office of the Clerk and may this humble man from Safotu who will not return because he refuses, prosper. The other reason is because the salary is not enough. God bless us all.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the member for Gagaifomauga No.1. As the country is not aware of your appearance this morning, you are not as strong as you once were. Thank you for your remarks, thank you for your advice and wisdom. If another member wishes to speak, this is your opportunity or the opportunity will be given to the Leader or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

I call upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition also the member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA (Falealupo): Mr Speaker, with all due respect I rise to greet the dignity of this House; the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, all the Members of Parliament and the Opposition.

I also greet the CEO's present today who are the right hand of the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

I acknowledge the dignity of Samoa; Tupu ma Ee, Aiga ma Tama, o Tama foi ma Aiga, Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

This morning Mr Speaker, I am very happy and thankful for the prayer that was offered to our Lord because it is due to His love and protection that Samoa has endured through trials and tribulations now and in the past. Praise be to Him forever.

Mr Speaker, a special thank you to you and the Hon Prime Minister for allowing us to deliberate on the natural disaster that came upon Samoa in the beginning of the year. This is not normal but we are thankful that we are now able to. I am satisfied with the way it is now because we can now know what the programs are to be for the whole year. We used to only comment on half of the year but I am grateful for this change and now we will look forward to the next 12 months for any changes.

I will now acknowledge the support of my constituency listening in; the family of Auvaa, the leaders of the various denominations and all those in our electorate. Happy New Year and I ask for your support.

I first mention the developments of this constituency. I am thankful to the Hon Minister and the CEO of the Samoa Water Authority for the water supply that I have persistently requested for. Thank you for the water reservoir and the connection of the water to the main village but it is not available to some places.

Hon Minister, I believe that it will be connected through to Tufu and this is beneficial because it will not only be a gain for Falealupo but also Tufu.

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This is an admirable trait of Falealupo; we love to share but my question Hon Minister is whether the connection will end here in the part of the main village. I will sit down and let the Hon Minister answer to the issue.

MR SPEAKER: That is not acceptable. You will continue with your speech because the Hon Minister does not wish to respond at this time... I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That 2 minutes be added to the member's time to allow time for his speech to continue.*

The motion was not seconded.

MR SPEAKER: Okay.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Is there anyone who will second the motion?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue with your speech.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Before I comment on the Supplementary Mr Speaker I wish to touch on some issues. They are just some minor issues that affect the country as a whole.

It is a matter on the Ministry of Health and the pharmacists that have now arrived. I hear from some of the members that there is something missing from the pharmacy. The Hon Prime Minister mentioned before about collective responsibility and that is how the Cabinet operates and it is terrific. This means they cooperate and consult with one another. I look over to that side of the House and I notice that the Hon Minister of Health and the Hon Minister of Agriculture, and Fisheries are sitting side by side. We worked together at the Motootua Hospital 30 years ago when the Hon Minister of Agriculture, and Fisheries completed a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the local University. Is this the meaning?

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member; because you have mentioned the pharmacy which the Hon Minister has spent the whole week trying to clarify.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health): Thank you. For the information of the House, this is the fourth member to comment on the pharmacy and I tried yesterday to clarify this issue.

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I thought that this clarification was adequate but I guess not. I think that it should now be cleared.....

There are three levels of staff at the pharmacy.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister...is there.....

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA: Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister does not know the query that I have about the pharmacy. Can the Hon Minister be patient until I have completely stated the issue then he may respond fully aware of the issue?

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, all I need is half an hour.

MR SPEAKER: This is exactly what I was trying to reiterate in the beginning regarding our work and the time that we have. The Hon Minister of Health has already explained these issues because you are not the first to raise this issue. The intention of the Chair is that the government will proceed to respond later and the Hon Minister cannot prepare the entire answer in this time. Despite this, the floor will be given to the Hon Minister to clarify this once again and I hope this will clarify the issue for the following members that have not spoken.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I respected your ruling made yesterday but this issue has been raised again. I believe that I must respond to the matter in case the members are of the opinion that there is no transparency regarding the pharmacy. The division of the staff...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister...what is the nature of your interjection?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I also raised the same issue Mr Speaker but the Hon Minister is going to respond when it is not yet time for this. Our member is addressing the House and yet it seems that we are being withheld because the Hon Minister will respond when it is not yet time.

MR SPEAKER: Leave the running of our proceedings to the Chair. The member for Falealupo commented and the Hon Minister will clarify the issue that was raised.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA: Please Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: Rise member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA: What is happening now is that the clarification is being done before the issue is mentioned. I am merely saying that the opportunity be given to me that I may explain what my issue is and then the Hon Minister may clarify it. That is why...

MR SPEAKER: What I gathered from the comments is that the Hon Minister will clarify the matter of collective responsibility, is this right Hon Minister?

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: That is true Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: The collective responsibility in the Pharmacy relies on the staff which is divided into three divisions. The first are the pharmacists. These are the returning graduates that the member mentioned and there are 4 qualified pharmacists working at the moment. The question is why they are not managing the pharmacy? I was going to explain this later but since it has been raised I will reply to it.

The second division is the pharmacy technicians. They are educated in Australia and Fiji for 12 months and they assist the pharmacist in their work.

The third division is the pharmacy assistants. They are educated and work in Samoa and did not go on scholarships or overseas training. These three divisions work together and cooperate as they have a collective responsibility.

Mr Speaker, when the new hospital building is completed, there is a need for 12 pharmacists. There is a proposal that 4 more pharmacists will be trained to assist the current 4 at the hospital. I will now respond to the question as to why one of the pharmacists is not managing the pharmacy. As I have tried many times to clarify, there are certain qualifications or traits that the person that will be appointed as chief pharmacist must have. Not only should that person be able to mix, prescribe, distribute and order medicine, he/she should also have management skills. I mentioned...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. The Hon Minister is about to answer to the issue raised by the member for Falealupo.

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There is no reason for an interjection or point of order.

Continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: One of the members used the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries as an example for this. When he graduated and returned, he was appointed as the chief pharmacist and some question why it is that the current pharmacists are not appointed likewise. As I mentioned before, the Hon Le Mamea Ropati did not return after graduating. After he received his degree, he worked at the Otago Public Hospital. After one year he worked at a dairy farm and after two years the Government of Samoa decided that he was needed and so he was employed to be chief pharmacist. That is how the Hon Le Mamea Ropati came to be employed in this position. This position we should be aware is advertised...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister of Health; I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, I ask the Hon Minister if this means that the Hon Le Mamea Ropati is a professional in this area.

MR SPEAKER: Please continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: That is exactly what I was trying to explain. Continuing from what I was saying, this position was advertised 3 times because there has not been a chief pharmacist since 2011. There are procedures for these things; they are first advertised, then the applications are received, interviews are made and then a person is hired.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I thank the Hon Minister for the clear explanation. The clarification was more than sufficient even on the part of the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries when he could have explained that himself.

What I wish to shed light on is that your explanation has reached the point of being poles apart from what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition commented on and it is prolonging our proceedings. The Chair intends to have our work of the day completed within the time and this is why I am upstanding.

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MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The Leader of the Opposition should not be worried because the Hon Minister's explanation is very important. One of the members that raised this issue is not present and is perhaps listening in while he is doing other duties. This is why this explanation is important so that they can listen in and do whatever it is they may be doing at this time. As you see on this side, the whole Cabinet is here ready to respond to the issues raised.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Point of order Mr Speaker. The member in question is a doctor. When people are in dire need of help, assistance should be given to them. People's lives should be primary and that is why the member is not present.

MR SPEAKER: The absence of the member for Vaisigano No. 2 is noted; I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, we should remember our vows that were made in this House, in front of God to make our responsibility to our constituency primary. Whatever businesses you may have, that is second to the needs of the constituency.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I will not debate this issue Mr Speaker but the bible says that we should help those that are in need of help and I believe the Hon Prime Minister is of the same opinion.

MR SPEAKER: The Chair understands the matter. The Hon Minister of Health answered clearly to the matter raised yesterday. I now ask the member for Falealupo if the answer provided by the Hon Minister today is sufficient.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: I have become more confused. Mr Speaker, if I may, I would like to first make comments on the issue because the issue as you mentioned it is incorrect.

MR SPEAKER: That is what the Hon Minister was trying to do and it is on the right track. I asked the Hon Minister yesterday to wait to respond when the government responds to the issues but he has stood 4 times to answer to this same issue. If you said that you were satisfied with the reply then we could progress.

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Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA: If it pleases the Chair, I will just make one small comment.

MR SPEAKER: Is there another issue Hon Minister?

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: I would like to be done with this issue Mr Speaker so I do not have to answer to it later.

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I raised this same issue in my speech Mr Speaker but there is a matter that was raised in the Hon Minister's speech that I would like to understand.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister will now proceed to answer the issue raised by the member for Falealupo. Your issue will be answered when the Hon Minister answers to the general matters raised against his Ministry.

You may continue your response Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: It won't be long Mr Speaker, it will probably just take an hour. I am trying to clarify the issue as to why the current pharmacists are not appointed to be chief pharmacists. The four pharmacists currently working at the hospital have been there for only 4 years. I have already mentioned the procedure of appointing a chief pharmacist and the vacancy has been advertised locally and overseas three times. No one from overseas applied to the vacancy and that is why we sought the assistance of the Australian volunteer program. From them we were to employ the assistance of one pharmacist to train the four pharmacists here for two years. After these two years, this pharmacist will be able to point out a worthy candidate who will then be appointed to the position of chief pharmacist.

However, one local person replied to the last vacancy three months ago. This person is one of the long serving pharmacists and despite this this person was not successful with the interview panel because the ability to mix pharmaceuticals is not the only skill that is needed for this position. They need to possess the skill of good management and good governance and the absence of these skills resulted in the unsuccessful interview. Now some have been chosen to be in management positions for training. Each is responsible for specific tasks such as distribution of medicine to the Outpatient ward, distribution to the rest of the hospital, procurement and stock and there is one person in Savaii. Therefore it does not mean that once you graduate then you are able to be a manager.

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For the future, we plan to have 12 pharmacists and they cannot all be chief pharmacists. There are procedures for these things.

I do not intend to drag on our proceedings Mr Speaker and I apologize but Samoa is listening in and these things need to be made clear.

Although I did stray from the issue of collective responsibility that was raised, I believe that this includes all services and not only Health but also the government.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu (Gagaemauga No. 2): Mr Speaker, yesterday I understood clearly the explanation, today however I have become more confused because of the lengthy explanation.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the members, the explanation is finished.....

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: This is why I humbly request for another half hour to clarify everything.....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, because of the importance of some of the Hon Minister's comments that I raised I would like to query the Hon Minister. The Hon Minister has mentioned that the pharmacists have been working for four years now and the courses for a degree now not only covers the technical side but also the management side of the discipline. So for the past four years, who has been carrying out the task of chief pharmacist? The answer is the pharmacists that are there now. If there is no manager then the Ministry of Health is at fault.

MR SPEAKER: The query is clear and I ask the Hon Minister to answer to this issue when...I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. The answers can be provided when the time comes for the government responses. The member for Faleata West has voiced his issue and we should continue with the proceedings.

That is the humble request of the Chair.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Just a brief comment Mr Speaker. I have already stated that the position is advertised and then an application is made. How can we appoint a person that has not applied? Three times the position has been advertised and each time, none of the four pharmacists applied. How can we appoint one of these four when they did not apply? I don't understand the logic behind these comments.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Politics aside, when it comes to the lives of the people and medicine, there should be a qualified person to take this responsibility possessing the skill and knowledge of the different pharmaceuticals and the latest in the market. We experience this problem of mistaken prescriptions and some do not apply because they know that they have not accrued the knowledge needed. The explanation is clear and I am merely adding onto the Hon Minister's comments. It seems that the some members are being sarcastic with our deliberations.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister of Health to complete his remarks.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: That is the end of my comments Mr Speaker until the issue is raised again and then I would be more than happy to rise again to clarify the issue with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for clarifying the matter raised by the member for Falealupo. Please rise to continue with your comments.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA: Thank you, Hon Minister. I did not know that the pharmacists did not apply. My concern is that these are returning graduates and they are unable to be in a management position and I think it is an insult. The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is aware that those that graduate in this area are knowledgeable in any sort of pharmaceutical and the administration area is common sense. That can be learnt in Year 13. Mr Rivers that managed the pharmacy for quite a while has a book for everything that needs to be ordered and you only need to follow it. Do you understand?

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member while the opportunity is given to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, it is incorrect to say that management is common sense. There are many technicians that have no common sense. There are also those that possess knowledge but they do not have any common sense. If you had been in this seat for as long as I have then you would know this but all you have done is dental work.

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MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to complete your submission.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: I enjoyed the comments but I didn't get the last part.

MR SPEAKER: There was nothing. I call on the member to continue.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Thank you Hon Minister. I am concerned because there is a possibility that the current staff would resign. It seems as if they are not good enough but they graduated from top universities and they may feel like they are not being appreciated. That is what I am concerned about...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member while the opportunity is given for the interjection by the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order, Mr Speaker. I don't think the member is aware that some do not apply because they know that they are not skilled enough. How can you want them to apply when they do not want? They do not apply because they do not have the confidence.

MR SPEAKER: Please resume your speech member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: I will leave this issue but my concern has been made clear.

I will now comment on the issue of the Pacific Forum Line. The only information that the country needs is the exact cost of the purchasing of the PFL. This is an important issue and it is an appropriate course of action but do we have the funds to purchase this shipping service because we have sought assistance from Unit Trust of Samoa (UTOS).

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, the report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee is clear on this issue. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition members that are in that committee are aware of this. Information was also broadcasted at the time the purchase happened. There are just some minor procedures that are underway to complete the purchase and the only thing to do now is to move forward.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

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Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Point of Order Mr Speaker, I do not know why the Hon Deputy Prime Minister is dodging the issue instead of answering the question.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is why members of the Committees consist of members from both sides. They have the power to request any information on the issue and ask CEO's to answer their queries so I am not sure as to what else is needed. In the past, there was seldom an opportunity for the Opposition to be in a committee but now you should be overjoyed that you are able to. Do your job and don't expect us to do it for you because we are not your children.

I already mentioned that we made a vow to carry out our responsibilities with honesty. We are trying to find answers to your issues raised but not all of you are present. It is the duty of the Leader of the Opposition to consult with their members that were in the committees for the answers to the issues discussed.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Point of order Mr Speaker. We have already cleared the reason for the doctor's absence. I am merely pursuing the answer as to why the truth is being hidden. Does this mean that the Hon Deputy Prime Minister does not know the amount that PFL was purchased for?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaoi: Point of order. When you become a Member of Parliament, this is your primary duty. If you have other responsibilities then it is better to resign.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition I think the matter is clear.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, when lives are at stake, it must be made primary and adjustments can be made.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition please be seated. Most of the day yesterday was spent in trying to sort out this issue with the committee and its information. Again it is being raised this morning. The Cabinet also tried to respond to these issues yesterday and again they are being raised.

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I requested this morning to be mindful of our time and orders of the day and be patient for the government's responses.

As it has now come to the time for our usual morning recess, we will resume when we return.

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

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly recommenced at 11.20 am.

MR SPEAKER: I am grateful to the members for your patience and I believe that we are nearing the end of our orders of the day. I am also thankful to the government for trying to clarify and explain the issues that are raised during our sitting.

I now call upon the Hon Prime Minister to move a motion regarding the change in sitting hours.

MOTION TO CHANGE SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: I greet the House and all its members and believe that the refreshments provided have given us strength. I also believe that a motion should be moved to change the sittings hours because I have noted that there are issues that need to be debated in depth and the Opposition is also upset that there is not enough time to answer to their queries.

Therefore I move a motion, *That Standing Orders be set aside and the sitting hours be changed to be as follows: the proceedings will be set aside at 1.00pm, resuming at 2.00pm to 6.00pm, resuming again at 7.00pm until whatever time we complete our orders of the day. If it is completed at 8.00 in the morning then so be it.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

The motion was approved and the sitting hours were changed for today, Thursday 24th January 2013 to be as follows:

Sitting Hours:

9.00am – 1.00pm

2.00pm – 6.00pm

7.00pm – until the orders of the day are completed.

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Debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013 resumed.

MR SPEAKER: Before the proceedings were set aside, the member for Falealupo was addressing the House.

I therefore call upon the member for Falealupo to resume your speech.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVALISEETA: Mr Speaker, I rise with all due respect to make a brief comment on PFL. My concern that I mentioned before was that of the UTOS funds. I believe that this initiative is one that would benefit our people to invest their money but the government is given the permission to loan from this Trust Fund but what about the people? If the government were to loan \$7 million, the people would be at risk because they will make deposits and the government will use it. Another Trust Fund should be set up for when the government needs funds and those who are wealthy can deposit into this fund.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member while the opportunity is given to the Minister responsible for UTOS.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Minister of Finance): I did not intend to interrupt the member's speech. The unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 will be considered after the appropriation. If the UTOS funds are used to refinance government developments it is for the benefit of the State which will be tremendous if all its sources are utilized. The people's shares are not used for these programs. In the last 18 months UTOS raised almost \$50million and I am sure the Opposition was also betting whether the benchmark would be reached. I have challenged the Board to be able to raise another \$50million to reach the amount of \$100million. The member should not be concerned about UTOS and if you are commenting on PFL then stick to that issue and leave UTOS until the bill is considered.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member to continue.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVALISEETA: My concern is that the banana bunch has been cut down before permission was given because the UTOS funds has already been used but it is okay because it is what that side is used to.

I have now come to the issue at hand; the Supplementary Appropriation. There is one minor...

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The member is right Mr Speaker. UTOS is just beginning but this is the norm for governments regarding financial policies. Caution should be exercised so that the government does not use all the funds and there is enough left for the people. In those days, there were not many institutions that the people could seek assistance from and UTOS is new but there is NPF, DBS, ANZ, National Bank, WESTAC, SCB, WSLAC; 7 financial institutions in total plus UTOS. The difference between UTOs and these financial institutions is the amount of funds that qualifies for loans like the World Bank. Only when there is a billion then it would be permitted and that is why they established the branch in Australia because the Pacific Islands are able to access these funds and we are using it for the hotel at Siumu and other projects. So don't worry, there are many financial institutions that we can utilize.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Prime Minister for the explanation. Please continue member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: I thank the Hon Prime Minister for the clarification.

There is one minor issue that I would like to comment on regarding the Supplementary Appropriation. Before I comment I would first like to make it known that these comments do not intend to be prejudiced, bribing or critical in nature. They are based on observation and information heard and I will leave it at the discretion of the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet to consider.

This Supplementary was done after the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet assessed the damages after Cyclone Evan and the cost was estimated to \$300million. However the appropriation is \$5.1million and I would like to know why that is Hon Prime Minister? I ask this because of my sympathies for the people that were affected. Water supply has been disconnected, pipes have been destroyed...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member; I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, our appropriation is appropriate for the plans that have been laid and we have changed our policies to allow for an increase of 3%. Every appropriation is made according to the funds that are available not on what we don't have. This is why the Principal Act has been amended so that reductions can be made to other Ministries as is shown in the end of the Supplementary. We have funds that we can turn to when it is needed.

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MR SPEAKER: Resume your speech.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Thank you. Those that were affected are now aware of the situation. I believe that Vaimauga West was affected not because of the reservoir as it is strong enough to withstand the water volumes but rather it was the pipes. They could not withstand the force at which the water was flowing. Safata and other villages have rivers and even though they overflowed they were not devastated but the problem is the pipes. It is nobody's fault because these pipes are old and if this is the reason.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg leniency of the member. The floor will be given to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure because this is their responsibility.

I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: Thank you for the opportunity. The member mentioned the issue of pipes and it was broadcasted, televised and the Leader of the Opposition also commented on the same issue. These concerns are inappropriate and they affect the government's developments and plans.

In the year 1982 these pipes were implemented and 5 years before that an environmental impact assessment was carried out to study the feasibility of such a project and its impact on the environment. This study was carried out by academics from overseas. Forty years later on to this day, the reservoir has been effective. There is a difference between the reservoir, the dam at Alaoa which is 30 meters high and the head pond at Alaoa which is 50-100 meters. If anyone went to witness these water catchment areas during the rain they would witness that they are stable. The Alaoa head pond also filtered the debris. I have with me a notice from the Electric Power Corporation that their engineers from New Zealand have completed their assessments of these areas and none of the EPC reservoirs were destroyed nor did they contribute to any damage incurred upon the Ueligitone and Lelata area as was advertised. For every government development and plans, policies were made to guide these projects. The policies for this development required these pipes to be 1.2 meters in diameter and one log cannot compare. No accusation can be proven because the specialists from New Zealand have made their assessment and it is clear. If anyone wants to believe for themselves then Alaoa is free for assessment. The government initiated these projects for the benefit of the whole of Samoa and not a select few with all due respect thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Minister for his explanation and I believe that the response is clear. We will all agree to do away with this issue as the report is with the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Mr Speaker, I am not criticizing the projects the government is responsible for. We know from the report of these scientists and engineers that there was nothing left and lives were lost and that is the end result. Why? Because the pipes burst. We know that these projects are beneficial but it was not enough. How about if they were buried underground? What happened was that the pipes were not good enough and people lost their lives.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister for his explanation.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I have with me a report showing the amount of rainfall from Tuesday 11th November, 2012. The recorded rainfall began at 33ml on the 5th November, 16ml on the 6th, 3ml on the 11th, 3ml on the 16th, 15ml on the 21st, 12ml on the 30th, 1ml on the 1st December, 9ml on the 2nd, .5ml on the 3rd, 1.5ml on the 4th, 10ml on the 6th, 5ml on the 7th, .5ml on the 8th, .5ml on the 10th, 24ml on the 11th, 120ml on the 12th, 467ml on the 13th, 27ml on the 14th and then it decreased from then on. Note the increase on the 13th of December where the rainfall recorded was 467ml and it is wrong to say that it was the pipes that caused the destruction but rather the rain. We cannot go against these occurrences. When it is too dry we pray continuously for rain and now that the Lord has answered our prayers it caused some devastation but we cannot oppose nature. The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure has said that the pipes are still in good condition as well as the reservoirs but it is just because of the increase in rainfall from 3ml to 467ml in one day. That is the case Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member to please rise to complete your comments.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Mr Speaker, even if it were 1000ml the fact of the matter is that the EPC pipes burst and who is responsible for these pipes? The government. If the pipes did not burst...

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, only a small volume of water passes through the pipes.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: The point that I am trying to make is very clear. If the pipes were in good condition, the pipes would not have burst on the river banks and into the Vaisigano river which cost the lives of those living in Magiagi. The pressure was too strong and the pipes were leaking and burst in a residential area and now they are being told to find residence elsewhere because of the rusted pipes owned by the government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Member for Falealupo, your comments are cloudy. What else is there when you just heard that the rainfall peaked to 467ml? The pipes are small compared to the river and it is no use trying to convince the people otherwise.

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member to not mind the whispers by the member for Saleaula and the Leader of the Opposition and continue on as your time has come to an end.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: I only whispered one point to the member Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Continue member for Saleaula.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: The milliliters mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister are not that of the river but the sea.

MR SPEAKER: Please round off your comments member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: Mr Speaker that was the emphasis of my comments this morning. If the government is responsible for these pipes then they are also responsible for the rapid flow of the water. I sit down but I weep for those who have no roof over their heads, no clothing or furniture because of the rapid water flow.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, when the Council and Red Cross requested assistance for clothing, I tried tirelessly to find the member for Falealupo's name on the list of those that donated. One member stated yesterday that love is not only shown with words but actions.

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You are one of the best scholars from St. Joseph; you studied overseas, came back with a degree and have pulled out the teeth of most of the country and all that is wasted in your persistence on ridiculous claims. You persist on the pipes but it is the rainfall which as a result caused devastation. The recommendations from the member for Aana Alofa No. 3 and Faleata East were useful and you are continuously beating on a brick wall.

I rise Mr Speaker to remind the member that he is a scholar of St Josephs College and should not act childish.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: I have completed my speech Mr Speaker but before I sit I ask as to where these people will go? I have witnessed the destruction for myself and it is as barren as an airstrip with nothing but building foundations. There are 20 that need some assistance, whether it be 5,000 or whatever the government sees fit because they are struggling.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the member began his concern on the pharmacists that are currently at the hospital and that they may resign but I advise them not to because they will be like some doctors that resigned. They returned in 2006 and this is my final comment Mr Speaker because the member's time has come to an end.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA: My final remarks is to the government; you are responsible for this damage and you must help those that were affected because if the pipes were in good condition, this would not have happened. Remember that; that is all Mr Speaker.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The rain is a blessing and blessings sometimes come from the sky and that is my final response to the member for Falealupo Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the member for Falealupo for the thought provoking comments as well as the government for the responses.

This is now the opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition and I believe that this is the final speech to be made on the Supplementary before the government proceeds to respond.

Please take the floor Leader of the Opposition, Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II.

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Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise with all due respect to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation.

I will not address the dignity of our country because it has been done but I greet those who are listening in support from the elderly to the young. It is because I am mindful of the government's aim I will make my comments brief. The shadow cabinet has made their speeches contributing to our inter-dependent reliance on each other. I only have 4 matters to comment on.

The first is the cyclone. The members of this side have commented on the natural disaster and have offered their gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the Disaster Management Organization, private organizations and organizations that assist the government such as our overseas partners. I will not attempt to say what has already been said but I can only offer my congratulations. We must compromise because we all have our opinions and we are right in our own minds and I believe Mr Speaker that the right thing to do is to have a Commission of Enquiry. Not to find fault with anyone but for future reference because lives have been lost and affected not only in Vaimauga but the whole country. The Hon Prime Minister has commented on the affects to Faleata and Safata because of the bridges and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition commented on our carelessness with our developments. This means that there should be an investigation and the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure has said that it will be expensive but it is a must.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I will answer this simply; there will be no investigation. This will mean that we will investigate the reason for the increase in rainfall and why the cyclone came to Samoa. The issue of climate change is on an international level. I have now answered that there will be no investigation and that is the fact of the matter.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of the Opposition to continue.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: You have made your decision and the people will be the judges for that as they are listening in as well as those who were affected that there will be no investigation.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member; I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

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People were also affected during the Tsunami and Cyclones Ofa and Valelia. Do not rely on the newspapers for your information because we should have the wisdom and logic. Do you want an investigation into the reason of the cyclone or the bridge that was constructed by New Zealand? This is for the administration to look at for the future. One hundred and forty people died during the Tsunami and why did you not raise this issue then? There was more destruction during the Tsunami but there was no investigation. This would mean investigating the reason for the Tsunami and the earthquake. You should use your wisdom and foresight to judge the situation and not rely on external inducement just like the member who just spoke. No matter how much I tried to clarify that it wasn't the pipes he still mentioned them.

Mr Speaker, the decision is yours. There are matters that are beneficial but when these kinds of comments are made I cannot stand by and have them continue.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Point of order Mr Speaker. I will explain the difference between the destruction during the Tsunami and the cyclone.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to be seated while the Chair makes a comment. I believe that we are nearing the end of our speeches and many have commented on the natural disaster that affected our country. The government has tried to answer to the issues when they were raised. What has happened is that this is a conflict that started through your comments in the newspapers, radios and broadcasting mediums...

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: With all due respect Mr Speaker, a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Leader of the Opposition to be patient while I finish my comments. This morning, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke on the devastation and the Hon Minister has responded that specialist have made a report and presented their findings. The Hon Prime Minister has also replied to the issues.

Therefore the Chair rules Leader of the Opposition that you move away from the issue because this issue will have no end if we investigate the reasons behind the devastation. The government and the responsible Minister will do their investigation which will be presented to the House in due time and we will then have the opportunity to deliberate on it. In the meantime we cannot pursue this matter because the reply has been given that there will be no Commission of Enquiry and that is the end of the matter.

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We can only find out whether to dig deeper, elevate, strengthen or make bigger. Self proclaimed prophets begin to ask why these things happen and others say that these things happen for a reason. We can only ask God for a solution. There is no argument to be made because residences have been demolished and lives have been lost. Therefore I suggest that we not argue but talk about solutions.

This is the Chair's humble request Leader of the Opposition. You and the Hon Prime Minister will be at it and we will go on to midnight or 2:00am in the morning. The issue of the cyclone will not be debated and your recommendations are now with the government. Please comment on other matters.

This is my decision and I believe that you will take heed of this request.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Thank you Mr Speaker for your decision but I am merely following our Standing Orders and a point of order has to be made on the Hon Prime Minister's comments. There was a difference between the devastation by the Tsunami and the cyclone. During the cyclone, government assets were destroyed but not during the Tsunami and we do not pursue irrelevant external inducements. The only way to find out the truth is to carry out a Commission of Enquiry but you have made your decision.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition; I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: This is the problem Mr Speaker. There were many government assets that were destroyed during the Tsunami; electric and telephone poles, roads. How can you say that there were no government assets that weren't destroyed? The Leader of the Opposition is still persisting on an investigation for the reason behind the increase in rainfall. See how ridiculous these comments are. Do we ask God and question Him? Mr Speaker.....

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Point of order Mr Speaker.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker these are weak and ridiculous remarks.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I am not talking about investigating the rainfall.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: There is no investigation to be made.

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Are we going to investigate the reason for the cyclone and the overflow of the rivers and the increase in the rainfall? Mr Speaker, we cannot investigate or question the works of the Almighty.

MR SPEAKER: I will give this opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: I ended this issue Mr Speaker with the report on the pipes and reservoir that I read out. A team of experts from the World Bank will be arriving next week to investigate the destruction to the bridges and I know that these are the solutions for future development with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I remind the Leader of the Opposition to please take heed of the request made by the Chair.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I am mindful of your ruling Mr Speaker. I will now move away from this issue but it was a recommendation but it is now established that there will be no investigation. Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order. There will still be an investigation but not a special Commission as the Leader of the Opposition recommended. It is an investigation into the technical side of the devastation as is the norm. This is why we have requested the assistance from the World Bank to finance the infrastructure that was demolished. Just a few minutes ago, the member stated that there should be a commission to investigate the devastation because government assets were destroyed and it was not like that of the Tsunami. I then mentioned government assets and infrastructure that was destroyed but you are only focusing on one asset which is the pipes. This is not enough to base an establishment of a Commission of Enquiry.

Mr Speaker, I cannot sit idly by and listen to these comments because they must be corrected.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I will move away from the issue Mr Speaker and I have accepted the decision but the pipes are an area of focus because it contributed to the destruction and flooding. The recommendation will not be accepted and it is clear that no matter how persistent we are the government will do as it pleases.

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This is our recommendation and there is no difference between those that lost their lives in the Tsunami and this cyclone and we must think of those who are left with nothing. Thank you Hon Prime Minister that funds will be appropriated to...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is the same thing that happened to the Tsunami stricken areas but there was no Commission of Enquiry set up then. There were more than 140 deceased after the Tsunami and the government's assets were destroyed. This is why I constantly interject because the comments made are not relevant.

MR SPEAKER: Okay.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: The country is witness to the point we are trying to make. Houses were destroyed during the Tsunami and the cyclone but it seems that there is no assistance for these people. There is sufficient food supply and for this we are grateful.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: We are all knowledgeable Mr Speaker in making enticing speeches but where were you all when the committee asked for assistance after the devastation. I also visited Tafitoala and passed your residence but you were not there but I was out assessing the damage and you were not there.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I was not there because we were also out assessing...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: So how can you be boisterous here but you were not present at your own village.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition this is my last instruction.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: God is my witness...

MR SPEAKER: Please be seated Leader of the Opposition. I have requested patiently and our meeting is becoming prolonged. It is clear that there will be no Commission of Enquiry and we cannot question the work of the Almighty.

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Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I have already moved away from this issue and my second issue is that you consider the families that have nowhere to live. There will be \$5million appropriated for this but there is also the Housing Corporation and they must also be given funds so that people can receive assistance for their residence because to this day...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I only remind the member that the Housing Corporation was established before he came into Parliament. This is the whole purpose of the establishment of the Housing Corporation to assist those who are affected and the bill was introduced by me. This is the exact bill that resulted in the removal of the member for Anoamaa East because I stood to comment on the bill and he said that these were corrupt actions by the government. This bill for the establishment of the Housing Corporation was established after cyclone Ofa because of the foresight of the government. When other cyclones occur this is where refuge can be sought for residences.

I thought that my first explanation was clearly heard because I commented on this during the first day.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: It is true that you commented on this but to this day the loans have not been accessible to the people. I understand that there are terms and conditions as well as policies and I ask that the Hon Minister of Finance look into this. If there are not enough funds then funds should be taken from here to ease the burden. I will leave this at your side and interests should also be reduced.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Finally, there is one useful recommendation from the comments made but this advice has already been put forward by other members.

MR SPEAKER: Please continue Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: There are many recommendations but you do not accept them but I am grateful that you have accepted one advice.

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Thirdly, Mr Speaker. I will comment on the PFL. The decision is final however the reasons for the purchase are weak stating that it will be used to train our marine students and that Tuvalu has a thousand sailors on the ships.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Isn't that a benefit? The local marine students will not only receive employment but they will also learn. That is one benefit and there are many more. From the beginning of negotiations for the establishment of PFL in 1971 it was difficult for the Pacific which is why it was only passed in 1976. In 1978 there were only 2 freight ships; one for Tonga and the other for Samoa. Fiji did not need PFL because they are in the centre of the shipping route. This is why I mentioned only Samoa and Tonga because we need this shipping service and we need to keep this shipping line operational or we will move backward to the events of 1970 when food supply was scarce and the prices increased. Yazaki relies on this shipping service to ship its products overseas as well as us for our exports.

I am appalled that you state that there is no benefit but these are all benefits for the whole country. Even if there was just one benefit it is a benefit nonetheless. Your comments are weak and ridiculous.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to rise to continue your remarks.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, I am only concerned for our marine students. I also remind the Deputy Prime Minister of his remarks. He stated that Tuvalu does not have a shipping line and yet thousands of their sailors work on overseas ships and this is one reason why the purchase was made. We are now beginning to pay off the PFL loan but the ship has not yet returned to our shores.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker, we are all aware of the situations of other Pacific Island sailors. It is true that Tuvalu has a thousand sailors and Kiribati has more than a thousand. This is why we are pushing for the development of this venture so that our marine students are able to find employment when they graduate. There are currently 250 sailors that are working overseas including those on the Forum Samoa II ship and from these 250 sailors the country makes \$10million. This is one benefit and we are also now training our marine students at our local University.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

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Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: It is true Mr Speaker that there are 250 sailors but none of them work locally. I think there are only 12 sailors on our local ships. I don't think the Hon Minister knows how many sailors there are.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker, there are 16 sailors working on the Forum Samoa II but the rest are working on overseas passenger ships and container ships owned by the Italian freight company MIC.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I now understand. It is not as if this is the only avenue for our youth to work overseas – there is also the issue of office's that is need for our marine school, captains and other necessities...

MR SPEAKER: Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker, this issue was clarified yesterday when it was raised by one of the members. This is one reason why the Ocean Campus will be established somewhere along this coastline because at the moment our sailors are currently training at the Marine School. At the moment the students are learning about the ships engines but we would like to enhance the services provided to cater for our sailors to be able to become captains.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi No.3): Mr Speaker I am being mentioned.

MR SPEAKER: Was your name mentioned?

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Yes Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I will give this opportunity first to the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: A point that needs clarification Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Hon Minister of Health.

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: I was ready to run outside because the Leader of the Opposition stated that a bomb would go off that he would bring forward but I am still waiting for the time it would go off; or maybe it did go off but made a squeaking sound because I did not hear it.

MR SPEAKER: You may rise.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, it is clearly stated in the Standing Orders that double meaning comments are not permitted. I notice that you are allowing that side to do so. This Standing Order has been breached so many times and I only ask that you give us an opportunity because our time is being shortened because of this.

MR SPEAKER: I did not pay any mind to the comment and I also give the opportunity to your side for these kinds of comments but please continue you comments...I'm sorry, I give this opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: I would just like to clear the comments made by the Deputy Prime Minister. I think he is mistaken and it wasn't me that mentioned the issue of sailors but perhaps it was another member, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the government's intention is to raise the category of sailors to have the qualifications to become captains of passenger ships overseas. The Leader of the Oppositions comments are very important because up till now we only have sailors.

This is why the headquarters will be relocated close to here. The Leader of the Opposition is trying to state that we need more ships for our sailors to train on. As a result when they go to work abroad they would possess the knowledge to do the work required.

Mr Speaker this is why it is important that we have a ship so that our local marine students can train on it.

MR SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition may continue with your speech.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I know Mr Speaker that these are the importance's of this ship but we should be mindful of the debt and that we might end up in the same situation as Polynesian Airlines...

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, if a business does not make loans it will not move forward. Fear does not move a country forward. We would either stand still with no progress or move backward. When there are not enough funds, we find other means of financing projects. That is why the Leader of the Opposition should not fear but be brave.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I am sympathetic of the country that will be repaying these debts. That is why I advise the Deputy Prime Minister.....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: That is not sympathy Mr Speaker. If you want to lead a country you need to be brave but if you have fear you will sit where you are now for the rest of your life.

MR SPEAKER: Is there something that you are unhappy with Deputy Prime Minister?

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo: No, Mr Speaker. I would only like to add to the comments made by the Hon Prime Minister. Our company is just starting out under new management. Give it a chance because you have started your criticisms but it hasn't yet organized itself properly yet. Maybe in the near future it will become organized and its benefits will be seen.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of the Opposition to continue.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I am not afraid as the Hon Prime Minister indicates and I only show courage when it is appropriate. We were lucky to have solved the airline issue with Virgin Samoa and the merge or we would still be worried now. This is why I advise that this be looked at thoroughly because we might experience problems.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member while the opportunity is given to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo: I personally believe that we will not experience any problems. More than once you have mentioned Polynesian Airlines. That was then, but what now what has happened? The government made a decision and Samoa knows the reason and importance of this decision for the future. The government has also considered other modern procedures for managing businesses. Leave your recommendations with us.

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Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: As I said before the decision is final. My last question on this issue if you could answer it now; how much is the loan that we are beginning to repay? In the interest of transparency and that we may give our blessings for this joint venture.

I now come to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. I assume this is the only Minister.....

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker, the government has nothing to hide in regards to the PFL venture. There are also no loans to hide. Any business has to be financed and they also have overdrafts for the operation of the said business. As for your statement that the decision is final, it has been not because of you but because of the government and the Cabinets approval.

MR SPEAKER: We will move away from this issue...

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: There was nothing valuable mentioned in the Deputy Prime Minister's comments. The only important thing is that the decision is now final.

As I was saying, the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture is the only Minister that is calm and collected if only the other Minister's were the same. I thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry because everything that the Tautua Party has requested is being looked into and it is wonderful. I cannot believe it and programs have been carried out. Every project is clear and transparent and nothing is being concealed. The only...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition; I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I advise the Hon Minister, CEO and the Ministry not to be fooled by the comments made because it might affect how you carry out your work. The programs carried out are transparent and are being broadcasted, televised and printed. Interviews have also been broadcasted. This is not a mute government and you are also members of committees and may request any information you wish. Even the grants and aid that was received has been made public. I interject because these comments seem to indicate that there is a hidden agenda. We all know how to play politics so I know what you are insinuating before you say it.

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MR SPEAKER: Continue Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Again I remind you Mr Speaker of our Standing Orders. Another member cannot discredit remarks made by another member. These comments are implying that I am wrong and deceitful. I am not like that. These good works that have been witnessed must be acknowledged...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The reason why the Leader of the Opposition continuously uses the phrase ‘ua see lou vaa’ meaning it is final is because he cannot admit that he has made a mistake but cannot admit to it. The Cabinet has reviewed the study and there is no mistake in regards to the PFL and I only stand to correct this.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition you may continue.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, we have long completed discussing that issue. I am now commenting on the Ministry of Education.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: We have finished the issue of the PFL but this is the same implication that is being mentioned regarding the Ministry of Education. Note the Leader of the Opposition’s comments that this is the only Ministry that has nothing to conceal. This means that everything regarding the PFL has a hidden motive...are you and the member of Falealupo done with your conversation? This is why there is error because the Deputy Leader loads the gun and you fire it. The Hon Minister and the Ministry are oblivious to your deceit so it is better not to continue.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Hon Minister of Education, Sports of Education, you are my brother and I cannot deceive you or your Administration. Well done for the hard work and for the changes so far as well as the availability of technology for our students. The only issue is how can we stop this corporal punishment from continuing?

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We have passed the bill not to beat the students in case of an accidental death but I advise the Hon Minister.....

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I answered this issue clearly and yet it is being raised again. Your recommendation is to have a bill that allows corporal punishment but to a certain extent. You constantly state that you make recommendations but we do not accept them and this is a valid issue but I would like to know if this is the same view shared by the entire party.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker. I am only trying to assist because you do not know what to do. This is why it should be allowed but to a certain extent.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I ask Mr Speaker because if we do introduce a bill then you would then say that we are being inconsiderate and everything that is being said now will be forgotten. Just like you said before 'Tuilaepa none of us will oppose the Supplementary Appropriation', these are your words and yet here we are; three days we have debated this appropriation. This is why I am making sure that you if we were to take this recommendation and present a bill I do not want to hear any opposition. The government will consider this recommendation.

MR SPEAKER: Make another useful recommendation Leader of the Opposition, your time is almost up.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: It won't be long. We oppose because of common sense but we do express our gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. I ask that you review the teachers' salaries because the schools are keen to implement the government's plans but their salaries are still the same.

On another matter where does.....

MR SPEAKER: I again give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: What about doctors, police officers and other public servants?

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I am commenting in an order. First the teachers and then the police officers, doctors and other public servants. You are too quick to interject but I will get to it.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: What about the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration and the Parliament?

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I leave that at your discretion because you were chosen to lead the government. I leave it at your good judgment.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member...do not listen to the whispers from the member for Saleaula because your speech will not progress forward and we are trying to complete our work.

Please continue your recommendations to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I ask Mr Speaker that you let them be so that the Leader of the Opposition's speech can be extended. All of you should contribute to his speech because he might make incomplete comments again. He has only placed value in the teachers but what about the others? It was only teachers but now he has added police officers and others.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, everybody is valued, even the pensioners.

On another note, the construction of tall buildings should be stopped. Appropriate those funds to more relevant developments. Discard the idea of a five star hotel but use those funds to fix the pipes and what needs to be done first.

I now address the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and a word of gratitude is in line for the Hon Minister because the plantations have become the size of airports.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member; Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: It is because of the good relationship between us Leaders of the parties I stand to move a motion, *That one and a half minutes be added to the Leader of the Oppositions time.*

Seconded by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

The House was not in consensus with the motion.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize Hon Prime Minister, your motion was not approved.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, I rise already knowing that the motion would not be passed therefore I will proceed to conclude my comments. I refer to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries because this is an important area which the country relies upon. Job well done for the works that are underway and I only ask that the money appropriated be distributed hastily to the farmers that were affected by the cyclone. The Ministry was not allocated to you by accident because you have the knowledge to guide this Ministry and I am grateful for your patience to accept the recommendations made. The side is in full support of the work that is being carried out except for some of these developments.

Please review your stimulus package because your visits have recorded that farmers were greatly affected. The 2 acres that was allocated should be used for whatever you may see fit but in return the farmers should be given money because their developments were destroyed. If the two years could be decreased to say 6 months so that they can be able to recover because another cyclone may hit and then it would be difficult for them to make payments.

There are many other matters that I would like to comment on but the Hon Prime Minister is continuously interjecting. If I have said anything to offend anyone, I ask for your forgiveness. We are trying to support the government and its proposals. Whatever recommendations that we made, we only ask that you keep them at your side for consideration.

God bless you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, members of that side and may this side also live long and prosperous, thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his remarks. I believe that completes the speeches by the members on this appropriation. Before I give the opportunity to the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and the government for their responses, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members for your contribution this morning.

I now call on the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee also a member of the Individual Voter's; Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I thought you had forgotten about me.

I first greet the dignity of the House; Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and the members of that side of the House.

I acknowledge the support of Samoa; His Excellency the Head of State and your Good Lady as well as all the country from the old to the young. I also recognize the continuous support and prayers by the Leaders of the various denominations all over Samoa not forgetting my electorate. Happy New Year!

Last but not the least I greet the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations present here today as well as the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Office.

Mr Speaker, my comments will be brief and I would first like to begin by thanking the members that commented on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.1 even though there were no comments on the Committee Report that supports this appropriation and offers recommendations for the Ministries.

I humbly apologize Mr Speaker for the events that occurred yesterday between some members of the Committee because of a misunderstanding on the process which guides the Committee meetings. Mr Speaker, I believe that the members are 200% clear on the process but the problem is that they refuse to understand.

I express my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance for the Appropriation prepared in consideration of the funds that are available to our government at this time. Well done on your endless hard work as it was not easy.

A word of gratitude also goes out to the employees of the Ministry of Finance, the Auditor General Office and the Public Service Commission that assisted the Committee with their investigation.

Mr Speaker, just a few reminders on my electorates requests Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure regarding the Leopardine Road at Aleisa which was mentioned by my co-representative as well as the Vaitoloa road.

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To the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries; our farmers in the Aleisa area request assistance for their plantations that were destroyed during the cyclone especially the vegetable farmers. Whatever assistance the government can provide we would be deeply grateful.

The member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo mentioned the devastation to the Vaisigano area and I would like to add to those comments made. I suggest that it is about time riverbanks were constructed to reduce flooding in this area. This area also experiences flooding when it rains and I recommend that there be a drainage system for this area also.

I also ask that the government consider a drainage system for the town area namely around Saleufi, Taufusi and Fugalei as they also experienced flooding during cyclone Evan. This is a humble request also for the residence in the low lying areas for their health and safety.

I now conclude my speech Mr Speaker. May God continue to bless you in carrying out your duty to this Legislative Assembly. May His grace also be upon the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet in your decision-making for the benefit of Samoa.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity; God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee for your remarks.

I now give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAIPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I express my gratitude to this side of the House as well as the Leader of the Opposition and that side. This is the norm during our deliberation over any appropriation as it is during the distribution of food in a village. It is not done in silence but there is noise because if you do not speak up, you will not be heard and will not receive a share.

Our House is the same. Words spoken here are not sugar coated but we cannot forget our relationship with one another as elected leaders of your respective constituencies and the country. Therefore no one is more important than the next person and the dignity of Samoa is being represented in your requests and recommendations. Although it may not seem like it but they are being recorded and noted and I should express my gratitude for the views that were shared which in turn benefits the Cabinet in its decisions.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister of Police, Prison, Fire and Emergency Services has been keen to comment and so the government responses will proceed from there afterwards I will comment to conclude with due respect. Soifua and God bless.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the remarks. Our proceeding for today has seen the successful completion of our work and the government will soon proceed to respond to the issues raised.

Because we have arrived at the hour of our usual recess when we return the Hon Minister Police, Prison, Fire and Emergency Services will proceed with his response.

I now announce that our afternoon refreshments are ready and we should all partake of it because we only have an hour to rest and I invite the CEO's of the government to join us. We will continue our proceedings at 2:00pm. I announce that our proceedings be adjourned for recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 1:00pm for its usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly recommenced at 2:00pm.

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Debate resumed.

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

I believe that we have recovered in strength from the break as well as the refreshments that was provided.

We will progress with the government responses and I now call upon the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons, Fire and Emergency Services to answer to the issues that were raised by the honorable members.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Mr Speaker, I am grateful to you and the Office for the refreshments that were offered. I stand to thank the members that commented on this Ministry. Our Almighty God has not forsaken us as He always has been since the beginning.

I will begin my response from the issues raised by the member for [Aleipata Itupa i Luga regarding a police outpost for his area](#). Last year I stated to give me 4 months to implement this request but this was not done and I apologize but as we know weather patterns change as well as appropriated funds but it will be done.

Regarding the outpost that was mentioned by one of the members for Salega; Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele, the blueprint for the building is completed.

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However, before the cyclone the plan was to have the outpost in a low lying area but it would be susceptible to large waves and strong winds so the location should be changed. Therefore I will speak to the Police Commissioner for a better proposal to safeguard the lives of our people.

I believe that those were the only issues raised against the Ministry. I would now like to express my gratitude to the Police Commissioner and the Deputy for the work carried out with honesty and integrity. Even through the devastation of the cyclone you continued your duty. Therefore gratitude is in order as well as for the police officers. The country is watching and be mindful of the country and serve with honesty and patience because no one is above the law. There are problems and temptations everywhere.

After the devastation and destruction of the cyclone, inmates from Tafaigata assisted in the cleanup efforts at Fuluasou and the Head of States residence for the whole week. A hundred and fifty inmates assisted and they put aside any thoughts of selfishness and refusal and they were happy to assist and serve which would not be expected from prisoners. Therefore I am grateful to the Tafaigata Management for their assistance.

I believe these are initiatives of the Commissioner of Police.

To conclude I will comment on my constituency. You have heard the member for Safotu mention the Maliolio River and the proposed bridge mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister.

Members of Parliament, Cabinet Minister and the Hon Prime Minister, these are my concluding comments. I will now rest while the opportunity is given to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons, Fire and Emergency Services. The issues clarified are now clear and pleasing to the members. We have now come to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I humbly greet those present here with us today; Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament. Not forgetting the CEO's present as well as the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. I acknowledge the dignity of Samoa; Tama ma Aiga, Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

We cannot forget the support of the servants of God praying for blessings to be upon us and our work.

We were stricken with a natural disaster but we are now safe. We thank God that we now experience more blessings and less disaster.

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I will now proceed to comment on the issues that were raised on the Supplementary Appropriation and the government's plans.

The Electric Power Corporation's recovery efforts are still ongoing to parts of the country with disconnected electric lines. During the cyclone and flooding our generators broke down and this is very costly for the Corporation. The work is being carried out to the best of their abilities.

The generator at the Loto o Samasoni is destroyed as well as part of the Alaoa facility. There are 6 standby generators from New Zealand that are assisting in providing electricity to our country but the voltage is still not strong enough. This means that electricity has to be allocated accordingly and so I ask the country to be patient. The report has been received and we are awaiting a decision for future strengthening of our pipes.

The power sector expansion project is still continuous and has been since 2008 continuing on to 2016. The Cabinet passed the opening of the Fiaga power plant in February but there will be a slight change and the delay will be about 2 weeks. If this power plant was operational during the time of the disaster I believe that we would still have adequate power supply. This same project will also be done for Savaii.

On the issue of the electric poles there are specifications to its position and it should be dug 5ft into the ground but there were still complications and the Corporation will be reviewing this for future reference.

As for the Samoa Water Authority, work is still continuous to improve the problem of flooding because it was the cause of problems to reservoirs and pipelines. Fuluasou is in the process of refurbishment. As we are aware this is where Falelatai receives their water supply and it is noted that some are illegally siphoning water from this reservoir. This is one problem that was raised by the member for Falelatai and Samatau and the Authority is dealing with it.

There are also bore holes at Lefaga to Falelatai to assist in the need for water supply. For the Vaimauga West area work is being carried out to ensure restoration of the water supply to the town area by fixing Alaoa.

For the requests for water supply to schools the issue is that the water pipes are located near the road but schools have relocated further inland. There are plans to use pumps to pump the water supply to the schools. The advice received is important but in the mean time I suggest that the schools use water tanks. The plans will take time because it would be costly especially the electricity needed to operate these pumps.

Afioga Toolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Is there something that needs clarification?

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Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while the opportunity is given to the member for Alofi No.3.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: The Hon Minister needs a rest. I am thankful for the mention of water pumps as per my issue raised yesterday. The school committee has resolved that if there is a pump they will pay for the electricity. In addition there are already water tanks but during the dry season there would no rain for 5-6 months and there will be no water in those tanks.

That is my assistance Mr Speaker.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi (Aana Alofi No.1): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: In the best interest of time Hon Minister I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Aana Alofi No.1.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: Hon Minister you have the ability to lead in these times of disaster regarding the disconnection of the water supply for Samoa. Also because of the devastation the works will progress in a steady pace but you are the head of the strong family and you are competent. I believe that there is no need to be boisterous in the House with requests which is why I did not comment on my requests but I think the importance should be on the written requests. The constituency might be under the impression that we forgot this issue but we wrote to request for the water supply at Faleausiu and Lepale with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Your issue is similar to that of the member for Gagaifomauga No. 1. The member for Aana also reminded the House of your issue.

Continue Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: As per the water for schools, I will consult with the Authority for a course of action. I have answered on impulse but the requests are with the office. The issues that were raised today will be secondary to the requests that the office received before today. As Jesus said 'Knock and it shall be opened unto you'. If you become desperate then you can go to the responsible Minister's residence with a fine mat.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker.....

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MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister has not proceeded to answer to the issues raised. Is there something else?

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: It is a brief comment that was raised.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the opportunity to the member of Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Hon Minister I apologize but I was of the view that this was the purpose of our parliamentary proceedings; so that the responsible Minister can hear the requests from the members. I hear now that we raise the issue here and then we make written requests. I raise this issue Hon Minister because it has been six years that I have been making requests but I have only found out that written requests and kneeling in the office is also needed. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No 1.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: I rise to acknowledge the wisdom of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. This is why we are not boisterous in the House but we continue to knock and kneel to beg because the bible says knock and it shall be open.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Member of Saleaula did you get that? After this you continue to knock.
Hon Minister you may continue.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: The issues raised in the House are allocated accordingly but there are requests in which village councils brought forward. It is the time and order that these requests are received that is important and it is then implemented in that order with all due respect.

Now to our drilled water holes as raised by some of the members. The process is quite a lengthy one. After the water is drilled then it is tested and appropriate pumps are ordered with specifications. The layout of the pipes and their location is also outlined and all this would take about 6 months. Not only is water drilling important but also the supply that can be distributed to the villages. If the Falealauniu water supply is being delayed there is water in some areas. Some have approached the Samoa Water Authority.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Alataua West.

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Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa: I rise Mr Speaker to follow up on our issue that I raised on Tuesday and we would like a straightforward answer.

If the Hon Minister were to answer as he does now I would have understood clearly but his answers contradict those made by the CEO of the Samoa Water Authority. My question is to an exact date? Now I know that it takes time to carry out. The CEO on the other hand continuously says 'do not worry, next week, next week'. This only causes anger with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I humbly request that the honorable member have patience with the CEO but what the Hon Minister has stated that is the answer. Next time you can ask the Hon Minister to get a direct reply. I believe that we should be patient as it is not an easy road to the city of Canaan. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: It is said in the Holy Bible that the sun should not set and you still hold a grudge towards your fellow men. Although the answers may contradict at times, the intention is the same; that the water supply be provided.

Last year the Land and Transport Authority gave first priority to the improvements preparing for the 50th Independence Celebrations. Regarding the four lane road from Lepea to Vailoa, we spoke with the World Bank who is funding this project whether the road can be continued to Vaitele. The World Bank has agreed and they have also granted \$25million to continue the road works to the Faleolo Airport. At the moment, the blueprint is being drawn up to also include sidewalks. The funds are not enough to continue the use of asphalt for the road works but we will try nonetheless.

I am aware the roads at Aleisa, Lefaga, Safata and Siumu are in need of repair after the cyclone especially the bridges. The road will be reconstructed every 2km with the standard width of 7metres and a concrete street edge will be proposed to stop the erosion of the road edges. It would be a costly exercise but we need to ensure the longevity of our roads.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while the opportunity is given for the interjection.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: I would like to comment Mr Speaker on the four lane road to the Airport as mentioned by the Hon Minister. I recommend that maybe there should also be a bike lane with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: These four lane roads will only go as far as Vaitele. We cannot afford the continuation to the Airport but we are designing it to ensure the durability of the road. We must cut the cloth according to the measurements.

In the coming week, the World Bank representatives will come to carry out a study and investigate the damage to all our bridges in Upolu and Savaii. This has long been in the pipeline.

We have already designed the bridge for Vaimoso and all that is left is a construction company which we are currently advertising for. This project should begin in the next month or March depending on the weather and so forth.

If only I could work miracles when I was chosen as a Minister I would have constructed all the access roads at one time. Sadly this is not the reality of things because we need funds. There are 49 members and one constituency might have 7 access roads while one village may have 3 access roads and this would all total to about 150 access roads. At this point in time, there are only 4 access roads in Upolu and 3 in Savaii that are being constructed as well as the Fagaloa to Lona road and the seawall all the way to Samamea. \$4.764million is set aside for these projects and \$10million will be used for the routine maintenance for Savaii and Upolu inclusive of the drains and mowing of the road sides.

During my trip with the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to Singapore, we came across a large artificial tree in a garden which was about 5metres in circumference. The Hon Minister laughed when I said to him that this was a waste of money which could have been used for our access roads but they can do that because our population cannot compare to theirs. But with the help of our Lord, we can do anything.

The Samoa Shipping Services is still in good operating condition and you might have watched on television that the Corporation bought a Tokelau ship for USD\$700. The Corporation believes that this would be beneficial to our training sailors. It can then be repaired and used for transporting passengers. This was made possible by our partnership with Tokelau.

MR SPEAKER: Was there an issue that was mentioned in your speech member for Gagaemauga No. 1?

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: I did mention the ship from Tokelau Mr Speaker. I would like to understand a point that the Hon Minister stated that this ship from Tokelau could be used for transporting passengers. I only remind you Hon Minister of the policy that a ship will cease operation after 15 years. We might be in violation of this policy and it may be risky for the passengers with due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: In the best interest of time I give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No. 1.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: We have moved away from the matter of access roads but the country is listening in and I would like to record my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Authority for the road at Lealaalii to Faleasiu which will soon be completed. Thank you for the work well done but there is a road that was not done when the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology was in your seat. This is the road at Mataillili to Fasitoo which could not be done because it did not reach the main village but there is a piece of land that will allow for this to be done. That is the only road left with all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on.....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, because the Hon Minister has not spoken but if it is changed.....

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga: There is one matter that I was persistent on which is not an access road but a main road. I believe that the access roads in Savaii should be secondary to the Lano road which is a main road and needs to be repaired because this is used by the general public and students to travel to school. Priority should also be given to the bridge for Maliolio as mentioned by one of the members with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the member for Falelatai and Samatau followed by the member for Faleata Sasae.

Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I mentioned the access road for our constituency that was on the waiting list and I believe that it was third in line. We will be waiting for the beginning of this development.

MR SPEAKER: This is your opportunity Faleata East.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Thank you Hon Minister for the response on the Vaimoso Bridge but in the beginning of this Parliamentary Term I did request the tar sealing of the Vilimaa road.

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The population in that area is increasing and the road is used to access the quarry but it is still in bad condition. I leave this issue at your side Hon Minister with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: There will be one more opportunity. I ask that no new issues be raised.

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaio manu Taeu Masipau (Faasaleleaga No. 2): I would also like to express my gratitude for the bridge at Sapapalii that the Hon Minister mentioned earlier.

MR SPEAKER: Please continue Hon Minister. There are no issues to be clarified just expressions of gratitude.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: I am glad that there were no requests but only expressions of gratitude.

Regarding the ship from Tokelau you should not be concerned. The suitability of the ship will be investigated by the Samoa Shipping Corporation and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. They may not be for passengers but to transport goods...

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Please be patient until the Hon Minister has completed his remarks. Have you finished Hon Minister? You may continue member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: There is no problem with the clarification Mr Speaker but I am concerned about how old the ship is. The Ministry will look into it but the ship has docked already.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: I am not sure if the member heard me but the price was \$USD700 but it will benefit our training sailors and our people.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity again to the member.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker and Hon Minister, I am only concerned about the policies guiding our shipping services in case we might be affected later. How old is the ship? The answer would justify the price that it was bought for.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: This is exactly what is meant by not wanting to understand. Can you not understand that it was bought for US\$700; it was a present from the Tokelau government. This is what I call a deed register and it will cease operation after 15 years. It has a purpose.

MR SPEAKER: Again I give the opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: I am not trying to question the Hon Minister as I mentioned in the past that this is a good venture. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Perhaps the member is unaware that the ship will dock at the wharf and whether it sails from one end to the other it will be used for training our students.

MR SPEAKER: I believe.....

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: There will be no debate on this issue. This ship has long served the Tokelau-Samoa route and the Corporation did not decide on this on a whim. Another ferry will service this route and maybe this ship could travel to Savaii but the Corporation can decide on that. I believe that the Hon Minister has a report for the advantages of this ship to ship cargo from Apia to Aleipata.

Please continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: Again the member probably does not understand that I have mentioned one advantage which is for our sailors and then there are other.....

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to one of the members for Safata.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: A point that needs clarification Mr Speaker. I support the purchase of the ship because it is cheaper than the ship purchased by the Deputy Prime Minister with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: You do not need to comment on this ferry anymore Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: The Samoa Ports Authority's work is still continuous, there is also...

MR SPEAKER: This is precisely what I feared. The PFL issue is done away with but it is still being brought up. I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: I am appalled at the Leader of the Oppositions comments. He has seen the ship bought by PFL and he knows that it is bigger than the ferry bought for USD\$700 and there are more sailors that can be taught on that ship but the main intention is cooperation with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: We have now come to the Samoa Ports Authority. Please continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: I only mentioned the Authority but no member commented on it but I just wanted to make known that its work is continuing. As for the Airport Authority, they are still doing well and the Ministry is carrying its responsibility to monitor transportation on the air, sea and land.

I believe that is all that was mentioned and I would like to take this opportunity to greet my constituency.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

Afioga Taefu Lemi: Mr Speaker, I do not know if it was a dream but I am not sure whether the Hon Minister commented on sea walls with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. The member did mention the sea walls between Manono and Sualo. I give you the opportunity for the explanation.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: There were requests for the construction of sea walls and I inform the member that the Ministry will fulfill your request in due time.

My constituency is listening in and we were greatly affected by the strong winds and flooding during the cyclone. To the constituency as a whole and all the servants of our Lord, the government has carried out its work. The restoration of the electricity and water as well as the reconstruction of the bridges is expensive. Machinery has already cleared the debris from the villages affected by flooding. Now we must work to replant our plantations and repair our homes. The Lord will help and assist us in our works and may he bless our constituency.

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I apologize Mr Speaker and Members of Parliament if our Ministry, Corporations and Authorities could not carry out your requests. Nobody is perfect but things happen for a reason and we can only improve and move forward.

God bless this meeting and our journey through this year, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. There is no member here that does not know the pressure that you are under. If at times there may be harsh comments addressed to you, may you hold steadfast to faith and have strength to lead the Minister.

We have now come to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

This is your opportunity Hon Minister; Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Before I proceed to speak the language of angels and prophets I greet you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers and members of this side as well as the Leader of the Opposition and members of that side of the House.

We cannot forget the support of Samoa; Tama ma Aiga Aiga foi ma latou Tama, Usoga a Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

I also acknowledge our cousins in the east in all you honorific salutations; Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofa ma Aitulagi, Ituau ma Alataua, Saole ma le Launiu na saelua faapea Faleagafulu. Not forgetting the island of Manua; Laau na Amotasi faapea faatui ma tootoo o le Faleula ma le mamalu po o le lavelave ia te oe le Manuatele.

The support of the leaders of the various denominations all over Samoa should also be recognized. They pray continuously for Samoa and its future as well as protection from natural disasters that we may experience.

To my constituency; Gagaemauga No. 3, I greet you in your honorific salutation; Aiga Sa Peseta faapea le Maupu, afio Leusoalii, alalatai le Nofa a ituaiga o le faleiva ma le mamalu ia te oe Matautu. To the village of Satoalepai; Afio o Maiava, susu Mataia, alalatai Leaitutagata ia Mauigoa ma le mamalu ia te oe Satoalepai. I ask for your support while I carry out my duty as a Cabinet Minister.

Mr Speaker, there were many issues raised by the members but they were similar in nature. I have divided them and the responses will be to the issues raised by the members.

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The assistance for the people affected was mentioned and the Hon Prime Minister has commented on the first emergency responses to those affected. I believe that some are unclear as to why \$5million will be extracted from the Ministries appropriation. This is because this Ministry is responsible for the Disaster Management Organization and it is the right hand of the National Disaster Council chaired by the Hon Prime Minister. When the disaster struck, the Chairman was immediately informed and assistance programs were carried out. The staff numbers are adequate to distribute this assistance. Other members also raised their concern for those affected by flooding and ways to reduce this effect in the future. The Ministry is working towards a solution for not only flooding but to improve the state of the head ponds. The Ministry is not relaxing and there is an act...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister; I give the opportunity to the member of Faasaleleaga No. 2 for the interjection.

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaioamanu Taeu Masipau: Thank you Mr Speaker and I am now clear on the \$5million Hon Minister. Does this \$5million also include the over time of the employees.

MR SPEAKER: In the best interest of the Hon Minister's time I give the opportunity the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: The Hon Minister has now come to the issue that I raised regarding cutting down of trees. My question is whether there has been anyone that has been charged for breaching this Act and who is responsible for the Act? Also what is the Ministry doing about it? With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAU LOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Thank you for the questions. The \$5million is for completion of phase 1 of the project which includes restoration of electricity, water and all that. This also includes the Ministry's checks and everything that you mentioned. It is not enough but we try to provide these services when needed.

As to the question on the Act.....

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker, a point that needs clarification.

MR SPEAKER: May the Hon Minister first complete his comments.

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Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: I commented on the DMO Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I call on the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: The Hon Minister stated that phase 1 was the restoration of the electricity and water. I thought that phase 1 would be to cater to the people affected and phase 2 would include the electricity and water.

MR SPEAKER: I believe phase 1 and 2 are the same. Water and electricity is important to the people.

I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAU LOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: You have answered the question yourself and you did not comment on this issue; I have noted it all down. As for the question on the logging of the rainforest the Act states that 5-20 meters from the water catchment area should not be logged. Currently there are plantations and livestock located within this perimeter and the Ministry is trying to hold consultations on this issue. The Ministry is consulting with village councils before anyone is charged.

When there is deforestation, the aquifer cannot be replenished. This is why the Ministry is advising against this action because when the rivers begin to flow this will cause soil erosion and when it is the dry season, the aquifer will dry up. This is why we are employing the assistance of the village council because the Ministry tries but people will not be obedient.

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

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West for the interjection.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you Hon Minister for clarifying that matter. I believe the majority of the country understands. The Hon Minister of Finance also mentioned that after the boreholes are drilled people plant their plantations nearby. I think that if someone was charged for this act as well as broadcasting it on the radio everyday then it could be stopped.

MR SPEAKER: The interjection is clear. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

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Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: As I said before, we are first seeking the assistance of the village council before any decision is made to take it to court. We must first acknowledge our relationship with the villages. There are villages such as Afiamalu and Alaoa that are owned by the government but after visits with the Hon Prime Minister we noted that they are being used for plantations and farms. The owners of these plantations and farms were sought out and this forest clearing was the exact reason why there was clogging and damage at the Fale o le Fee reservoir during the cyclone.

We need to be mindful in the change of the weather patterns as we are aware there is a global effort to counter the effects of climate change. That is why we plead with the villages to heed the Ministry's requests because it is through our collaborative efforts that we can save our environment. As our forefathers conserved our environment for us, we want to do the same for our children.

The government is still prioritizing water catchments as I stated in the beginning if we perceive that there is a human threat to these areas we will claim it for instance the Malololelei water catchment area. Between this area and Lake Lanutoo, we witnessed that it had become occupied by farms, plantations and residences and it had also been subdivided. To protect the water catchment area, the government claimed the 33 acres that was previously owned by the Methodist and Catholic churches. This is not only happening to Upolu but Savaii as well.

As for the grants from overseas for climate change projects, the Ministry is using these funds for these developments. Samoa by way of the MNRE are leading the Pacific in having shares in these funds for instance the adaptation and green fund. The scene plans are being constructed with specific standards. Seawalls, drains and rock walls are all constructed at a specific standard and there are project managers that oversee these projects making sure they adhere to the design as approved by the Tender Board.

An assessment has been carried out on the damage during the cyclone and the cost has been estimated to \$64million. The report has been distributed to other Ministries so that an appropriation can be allocated accordingly.

As for the sea walls, we are aware that there are 2 types of sea walls.....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I would only like to be clear on a point mentioned by the Hon Minister. Is this \$64million the cost of all the damages or is it just for the environmental damages? I think that we have different costs because I thought it was more than that.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The Hon Minister has quoted the costs for the environment only. I have here the report with the total costs which is \$479million which is divided into damages and losses. The productive sectors amount to \$178million, the social sectors are \$56million, infrastructure is \$172million and the environment is \$72million and these damages and losses together would amount to \$479million. This would be the basis of our requests to overseas countries which will be lodged this year but they will only be received in the next 4-5years. This will probably coincide with the end of this parliamentary term and the beginning of the next.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: As I was saying, seawalls are highly requested but the priority will be given to the seawalls that are in poor condition but the construction of the 6 that were mentioned in the Appropriation Bill 2012/2013 are in progress. I wish that we could construct seawalls with water but we need funds and there is not enough. We are also working on access roads that lead to the shore such as those located at Samata Tai, Samata Uta and Fogatuli.

On the subject of cemeteries, the Magiagi cemetery is now fully occupied except for family plots; which is why we have opened the Tafaigata and Vailele cemeteries. I apologize for the terrible state of the cemeteries but there are a few that continue to cut the fences and sit in the cemeteries. As for the Tafaigata and Vailele cemeteries, we are trying to have it of an international standard. We know that overseas they have special days and anniversaries for their dearly departed and they enjoy spending time in their cemeteries.

MR SPEAKER: There is an interjection. Please rise member for the Individual Voters.

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him (Individual Voter): I rise with all due respect Mr Speaker because I mentioned this issue in my speech. I believe that the maintenance of our cemeteries should be consistent. The fences are not really the problem but I believe if there were gates it would be sufficient. I am only recommending this but I believe that you have the wisdom and knowledge to make good decisions for the cemeteries. As one member for Vaimauga mentioned, these are holy lands where our chiefs and orators lay, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

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Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Thank you. The recommendation will be noted as the Ministry is trying to find ways to protect these lands.

I am thankful to those that made recommendations regarding the land fill especially the member for Itu Aleipata and the government is now seeking a location for rubbish disposal. As for the issue regarding the garbage collectors, if there are problems with the contractors the Ministry should be informed and their contracts terminated if they are being dishonest.

I believe these are all the issues that were mentioned Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. Is there a matter that the Hon Minister did not respond to member for Aana Alofi No. 3?

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. First, I am not sure whether it is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment or the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure is responsible for the expensive waste water treatment that I mentioned for the companies and residence in the town area.

Second, I am grateful to the Hon Minister for the clarification of the water catchment issue. However the Hon Minister did not touch on the issue of replanting because there is logging but there is no program for replanting. Replanting is only being done around the areas but not on the verges and beyond such as at Fuluasou and Vaisigano. I also stressed the tamarind tree and its effects and the Ministry should look at replanting in the verges zone, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: In the best interest of time Mr Speaker, the water waste tariff is to be reviewed because it is expensive and in reality it should be four times more with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The issue of the water treatment has been responded to but the issue of replanting will be left to the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Even though the water treatment is not in my portfolio I was prepared to answer to it however I will comment instead on the replanting matter that was raised. Our native trees are now being sown because these are the types of trees that will be replanted as it is the scientific belief that these are good for protection against wind. There is also a project known as the...one million trees, I was about to say million dollar tree.

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There is a plan to employ forest rangers that will monitor the logging in the villages working in cooperation with the advisory committees.

I now thank you Mr Speaker for guiding our proceedings as well as advising out members. God bless this meeting and its progress forward.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the clear speech made. We are grateful for your patience as we noted that your Ministry was busy during the period of devastation.

I believe it is now the opportunity for the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. Yes member for Aana Alofi No. 3?

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Yes please Mr Speaker. We did mention the land fill at Vaiaata and we are concerned that digging this area will cause contamination to the aquifer that is being used for the Faasaleleaga districts. The Hon Minister did not answer to this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Your concern is noted and you can use our usual recess to speak personally to the Hon Minister because we have moved on to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU (Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): As the member for Faasaleleaga No. 1 I am also thankful to you for chairing our proceedings. I rise with all due respect to respond to the issues raised against the Ministry even though we have no supplementary appropriation.

I first and foremost thank the Leader of the Opposition for the praise given to the Ministry this morning. The only true comment in the praise was that we are brothers and that is it. An elder of our village told me to be vigilant of the Leader of the Opposition; he is hairy like Esau but has the voice of Jacob.

Policies guiding the government's developments are not new. They were adhered to when I was the CEO and it is the same with the current CEO. We have worked together for a long time and we also attended training on good governance and the Leader of the Opposition is also aware of these policies. This is why I am surprised that he would say that these are the works of the Tautua Party when it is actually from this side. The Ministry was slow in catching up but these policies are the same from the beginning.

I will now comment on the pump at Aana even though it is a Samoa Water Authority concern involves the schools. The ministry is concerned that schools resume on Monday but the work should have been done already. If school committee's are not doing their job you have the power as a representative of the electorate to instruct the committee. The request should have been made in November last year.

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The school committee's are also responsible for developing quality facilities and if they do not carry out this duty the government projects cannot be completed. I humbly beseech the school committee's to do their duty. I now come to.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 as he mentioned the pump.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity and the Hon Minister for the support. I want to clarify that this request was made while the school building was under construction 3-4 years ago. The intention was to have the pump installed before the school building was completed. In case the blame is being put on the school committees of this electorate but this request is on behalf of the districts of Aana Alofi No. 1,2 and 3 as the school will cater to students from these areas. We are cooperating to ensure that the school will be adequately equipped for our students, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU: I thank the honorable member. There is still the issue of insufficient water supply. If the village has this problem the school will be affected. One of the members of the Individual Voters made a useful recommendation that water drains should be used. The committees are advised to also have tanks for the water drains to lead to. The Ministry is still doing its duty and I am thankful for the reminder.

The issue of gallons that we debated last year was again raised. Mr Speaker, pictures of this gallon that is used for ablution purposes was sent to me and it has been posted on the internet for the world to see. This is an important issue and the CEO made a presentation to the principals and School Review Officers showing this gallon again to remind them of their cooperative duty with the school committees. I would only like to correct that these gallons are not being used for consumption and are only for the purpose of the ablution and washing hands in case we might risk being called the 'gallon country'.

The member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga mentioned the issue of shortage of teachers where one teacher teachers three classes. This is not how a teacher shortage is measured. It is done by observing the teacher-student ratio which is 1:30 and only if the number of students exceeds this number then it is a shortage.....

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the Hon Minister's speech because we have come to the time for our usual recess.

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You may resume your speech on the ratio when we return.

I announce that we will break according to the change for sitting hours made this afternoon.

Proceedings for the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 3.45pm.

Proceedings for the Legislative Assembly resumed at 4.20pm

MR SPEAKER: I believe we have recovered from the refreshments that were provided for the members. I also believe that it was satisfying as well for the CEO's to take us through to the second half of this evening at which we will break for another hour and continue on again until tomorrow morning.

Before our proceedings were set aside the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture was addressing the House on the teacher-student ratio.

I call on the Hon Minister to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the refreshments prepared for the members of the House.

It has been reported that there are 77 schools that have a teacher-student ratio of 1:6, 1:7, 1:8 and so the teachers multi-grade teach which means that three classes may be combined. The teacher is prepared and skilled at teaching in these types of situations. There is no confusion in the subjects taught and they are taught according to the students different levels but it must be done because of the small number of students in one level. There was also the concern that some students are not college material and I absolutely disagree and parents should not give up on their child. Some students are late bloomers but there will come a time as we have noted that some have made it past foundation and have scholarships overseas as well as at our local University. College is not the end of the road and late bloomers can become successful.

Now to the issue of the lecturers at the National University of Samoa. Their contracts are for 3 years and like the concern for the Faculty of Science, if the positions are being advertised from time to time this means that their contracts have expired. Members should be aware that there is a board of directors and those who are responsible for this and at times they may seek the assistance of the Minister.

I am grateful that the Opposition is in favor of disciplining students but the problem is how to measure the harshness of the punishment. If there were a machine to test the harshness of a slap then the Opposition can be the first to test it starting with their Leader.

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As for playing fields; there are 6 that are appropriated for in this year's budget. As for the remaining requested playing fields, the next appropriation is near and then it can be added into it.

Mr Speaker, these are the only issues that were raised. I am grateful to the CEO and the Ministry, the Chairman and the Committee's of the SQA as well as the Chairman and Board of the NUS as well as my Associate Minister. God bless this meeting, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: There is an interjection Hon Minister.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, the Faculty of Science issue that I raised please.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU: I did answer that issue of the advertisement of lecturers for the Faculty of Science. It is a policy that the positions be advertised after a lecturer's 3 year contract has expired, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I have noted that this issue has been clarified and if there is another issue that needs to be clarified this can be done outside of the House.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Health.

I call on the Hon Minister to rise and speak which would probably go until the end of our sitting.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I will not attempt to address the dignity of Samoa and its traditional setup. However I greet the members of the House and you Mr Speaker. I should not forget my constituency listening in support; aiga sa tuala, aiga o Mavaega, Aiga Taulagi faapea po le mamalu o Tama aitu ma le maugafa ma alo o Tamalelagi, le faletolu ma fuaifale i Faleasiu not forgetting Fasitoo Uta; paia i Aiga Satuala, Falefitu ma le fetalaiga i le Matua ia Tauauvea. Thank you for your support and encouragement. I also greet the leaders of the various denominations in the constituency and am grateful for your prayers which have seen us through to this New Year without any major devastation in our constituency. I implore your support as I adhere to my duty as a Cabinet Minister to attempt to respond to the issues raised by the members.

I believe Mr Speaker that my remarks should be brief because I have answered most of the matters that were raised. There is not much left to comment on and so I must be concise in the interest of time.

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The members for Faleata East, Faasaleleaga No. 4 and Faasaleleaga No. 2 raised the issue of mental illnesses but I have already answered to their issues except for the matter of the Kosean Trust mentioned by the member for Vaisigano No. 1. This trust is assistance for those who are mentally ill and the Ministry is currently preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to utilize their willingness to assist our mentally challenged. I only make known to the honorable member that there is no establishment to shelter these patients but the Ministry is working closely with the Kosean Trust.

The members for Faleata East, Faasaleleaga No. 2, Vaisigano No. 2 and Falealupo mentioned the issue of the pharmacy which I have already answered to. This is a sensitive issue because a forensic audit is currently being carried out and those involved may become offended.

I have also answered to the issue of insurance raised by the member for Salega as well as the pharmaceuticals for Lalomanu mentioned by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

I have consulted with the Ministry on the matter raised by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga on the vehicles. There is a new pick up that is servicing the Lalomanu area but as for the ambulance, there are not enough funds to have a separate ambulance for Lalomanu and the one available is desperately needed at the general hospital at Motootua. It is true that the member for Palauli West had a four wheel drive but it did not come with a canvassed tray and so it was returned and replaced with a van. Sometimes the pickup trucks that we order come as is and there are no provisions for a canvassed truck tray for the back. The van ensures the safe keeping of medicine and equipments used by the nurses and staff during their regular visits to the rural areas and this is the whole purpose of these vehicles. If a vehicle breaks down it is the Ministry's responsibility to have that vehicle repaired and find a replacement. I only ask for your patience. The van that you are currently using is in better condition than the van used at Motootua.

On the issue of district hospitals, the district of Satupaitea will still have their hospital built with a special room for the member for Satupaitea. The funds as well as the land are now available for this project.

The proposed hospital at Faleolo funded by the United States of America will be constructed accordingly and so the design has been altered to suit its need. We are reminded of the SARS and bird flu epidemics that could have been treated faster if this hospital were completed then. The distance from Faleolo and Apia is quite far and we were lucky that there were not many affected at that time. Now if an event like that were to occur again, they could be taken straight to this hospital and monitored. During the ground breaking ceremony, the Hon Prime Minister stated that Apolima, Manono, Falealatai, Lefaga as well as Savaii will benefit from this hospital.

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If the service is up to par, the patients from Savaii and that side of the country can be treated there and the number of those travelling all the way to Apia will decrease and the doctors will be able to handle their own patients in Apia.

One of the members raised a concern regarding the construction company that built the Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi building because he noticed problems with this building during the cyclone. Maybe the member saw a problem with the building but I did not. The government feels that someone from this company should supervise this project. I personally believe that if there is a problem with the building the supervisors should be blamed. The design and plans for any building is robust and if something is wrong, the supervisor should be fined. We should look at this issue because these supervisors are paid substantially and if they are not doing their jobs then they should be blamed with any faults in the project when it begins. Engineering and architecture is not an area of expertise for the Health sector but I mention it because it was raised by one of the members.

The member for Palauli West was concerned about circumcision and I believe it is an issue that should be raised with the religious denominations because this began with their sermons that males must be cleansed. It was not a concern for the Ministry because it is not a sickness but rather a requirement from the church. It is now important to the Ministry because it is linked to Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV and we are beginning a program to cater to this issue. As mentioned by the member it costs \$60 and it may sound expensive but the doctors are listening in and it is more expensive to have a private doctor do this surgery. They charge \$300, overseas countries go to at least \$600 and in Australia it is AU\$1000+. It is not an easy task and this price of \$60 or \$80 is reasonable. To carry out this surgery drugs, bandages, needles and thread are needed and the doctor must provide this and not forgetting the doctors time should also be accounted for. If anything were to go wrong, the doctor would be blamed.

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister as the member did raise this issue.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, if the Ministry has proven that this is a form of prevention then the price should be decreased or like the initiative for diabetes which is being supported through the availability of free medication. If the Hon Minister believes that this should be done to males then the price should be decreased or it should be done for free to prevent sexually transmitted diseases with all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I understand the members concern and thank you for prolonging our sitting with that comment.

There is an intention to have a program such as the HIV prevention program for this matter. I will tell you what I did for my constituency and our village. I have two other children that are also doctors and we did this surgery. It was not easy. Some males were at the adolescent age and I gave up and employed the assistance of other doctors to assist and we were able to quickly get it done.

I recommend that members should employ the assistance of private doctors to carry out this need. Pay them to do the circumcision as I did and I speak of this because I did it.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi: I ask the Hon Minister that you speak with the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons, Fire and Emergency Services because there was a prisoner from Savaii that is now at Tafaigata who did this surgery in Savaii. He might decide to carry out his profession on the inmates and problems may occur and there are still those that are doing this in the villages. The modern doctors have just learned to do this but we have had our own traditional doctors do this for the mere price of a chicken or fine mat. I only recommend that you consult with the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

MR SPEAKER: In the interest of time Hon Minister I give the opportunity to the Deputy Speaker followed by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

I call on the Deputy Speaker.

Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa: Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I don't know why the other members stand because I was the only one that mentioned this issue.

I was listening intently to the Hon Ministers explanation and it is easy enough to understand. I only requested that the cost of this surgery could be decreased. If so, thank you; if not, thank you nonetheless with all due respect.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker the member did not comment on this issue.

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MR SPEAKER: Did you comment on this issue member for Gagaemauga No. 2?

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: I apologize Mr Speaker but there was a comment about the prisoner from Savaii. The truth is that he is not from Savaii but from the constituency of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Leader of the Opposition.

MR SPEAKER: It is now clear that he is from Safata. I call on the honorable...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: A point that needs clarification Mr Speaker.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition did not comment on this issue and I will not respond to any matter he raises because it would be a waste of our time.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I rise because my constituency has been mentioned.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. This is an important matter because a traditional healer from Safata is in prison.
I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: A hundred thousand years ago we did not have any doctors and our traditional healers carried out this surgery on the males. As time passed, doctors became skilled at this but this skill that was passed down from generation to generation; a gift from God could not be ignored. It is a talent that those in this constituency possess and it is being used wisely for circumcision because the hospital fees are costly.

If the Hon Prime Minister has mentioned someone in Savaii that is doing this, then this is also the case in our constituency. I know that those in my generation also utilized the expertise of a traditional doctor. I have seen this in practice and as a matter of fact it is safer and cheaper for parents that cannot afford this service.

Mr Speaker, these traditional doctors contribute in easing the financial burden for families of the young generation of our constituency and the neighboring constituencies as well as Falealili.

This is the clarification Hon Minister on this talent. There is no money to pay but the talent from God is being used.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe that this issue is clear. Thank you Leader of the Opposition.

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However, it is because of provisions in the law and the testimony of the Ministry of Health that this traditional treatment is no longer relevant nowadays. I will let the Hon Minister clarify on that because there are modern changes and we are not practicing these old methods.

I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, I was going to move a motion to add time to the Leader of the Oppositions speech as he seems to be speaking from experience. Not to worry though because you must first have a license first to practice that and problems only happen when you use a razor blade. The traditional method as we are all aware only involves the use of a coconut shell and a bamboo.

The interjection came too quick but I wanted to explain that arrangements can be made with the specialist and the doctors that make visits to the rural areas to circumcise other males on top of those that are being circumcised and maybe the next week another 10 can be added. This is where you use your brains. I would only like to stress that the Hon Prime Minister is right and the traditional methods are not safe because if there is an infection it would have drastic effects.

It was mentioned.....

MR SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I see the Leader of the Opposition is still anxious to understand and I would like to know if the cost of a male child and an older male are the same?

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Do not be anxious. The price is the same for all males.

Mr Speaker, one of the members questioned why our piece of cake is larger than other Ministries. With all due respect I ask that they be given a copy of the report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee because it will be used to answer to this question.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Minister, each member has a copy of the report.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Okay. I still remember the Chairman's comments that no members commented on the report and it can be proven in the Hansard. However the answer to the question is in the report which states what the large piece of the cake will be used for.

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Therefore I ask that you refer to your reports, in the English copy it is on page 27 and I quote ‘Part of the package include \$1,000,000 allocated for procurement of medical equipments for the newly constructed Hospital at Motootua’ and it further reads that ‘For the Ministry of Health, a provision of \$835,748 has been allocated which include a sum of \$665,000 for the Oceania University of Medicine (OUM)...Also supplemented is an amount of \$65,962 for constructing a security fence for the Office Headquarters. That is the answer Mr Speaker and this is what the funds will be used for as was investigated and approved by the Finance and Expenditure Committee. The Committee should share the knowledge they acquire from the interviews to those who did not attend. That is the answer will all due respect.

The member for Vaisigano No. 1 mentioned an important issue.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. Although we have moved on to another issue perhaps the clarification was not clear. I give the opportunity for the interjection by the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you also Hon Minister for clarifying the issues that were raised by this side. It is stated that about \$1million will be used to purchase equipment for the new hospital building. It is noted that SWAP is funding a large part of the building and equipments and other improvements to the Hospital.

Therefore my question Mr Speaker is if a part of the SWAP funds could be used for the equipment as requested by the Ministry of Health. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: The issue is clear. The Committee visited and investigated these areas and it is being simplified in the report but it is not for the purchase of equipments only. I did not want to mention the name of the member because the country might be under the impression that the member did not read the report but thankfully he has stood to make himself known.

Mr Speaker, there are 250 beds needed for the new hospital and the total cost is \$13million but we are only being appropriated \$1million and the remaining \$12million will come from SWAP. Our country cannot finance all this. This \$13 million does not even include the cost of the CT scan which costs almost a million.

As I was saying the member for Vaisigano No. 1 raised a very important issue to me because I also experienced it when working in the rural areas.

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When we visit these areas, there are patients that need to come to the general hospital also known as the transferral hospital because this is where we transfer some patients because they cannot be treated when we visit them. They may need an x-ray, injection or to see a specialist. If this transfer is not done properly the patients do not know where to go as was mentioned by the member for Vaisigano NO. 1. I have inquired into the present system for transfers from district hospitals to Motootua. If it is urgent a doctor from the ANE prepares the necessary requirements and an ambulance for transport from the wharf if coming from Savaii or the ambulance from Savaii comes straight to the hospital. If it is not urgent the specialist is contacted or a letter is written to that specialist and the patient may come to be treated. It is not a perfect system and there are areas that can be improved. I thank the member for raising this issue because it is a service that should be improved for the country.

There was also a query on why the morgue is shutdown but the simple answer is that it is not; it is still in operation. The morgue cannot accommodate the deceased from outside because it is reserved for the deceased awaiting post mortem operations. Only 3 bodies can be put in there because the motor for the freezer is not strong enough to accommodate an increase in capacity.

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister.....

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: For the information of the House, our new hospital is being built and there will be a morgue in it. The Ministry is deciding on whether to refurbish the morgue or if the new one would be sufficient.

MR SPEAKER: Please be patient member for Faleata West while the Hon Minister finishes his clarification and then the opportunity will be given to you.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: For the moment, it is adequate but if the service is needed there are private funeral parlors that can be utilized when the hospital cannot cater to this service. The intention of the morgue...

MR SPEAKER: I apologize Hon Minister. I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West. The Hon Minister has stated that our new hospital will soon be completed as well as a new morgue.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you. Remember that our morgue was shut down but thankfully it is now reopened to the public.

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It is needed and the people have been asking for the status of the morgue because it has been defective for quite a while and nothing has been done about it.

Hon Minister, the morgue is needed and this service should be continued.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister. The query is understood.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: The morgue is not being abandoned, the refurbishment is in progress. It was only in the beginning of December that it became faulty and perhaps by next month it will be repaired. It will not be done because of your constant persistence but because it must be done.

The member for Vaimauga West questioned what the Ministry of Health will do regarding the hardened mud because it is infested with germs. For the member's information, there are germs in any sort of dirt which is why we are encouraged to wash our hands. This mud is a concern because it has mixed with other debris. The Ministry believes that this is not our responsibility but it is our responsibility to prevent the contamination of the people because of the solidified mud. Prevention methods are to first wear shoes and avoid contact with the mud. Second, grow grass to cover the mud. Third use sand or gravel to bury the mud because by the time the grass grows there will be no germs in the mud. It is more important to me to help the people that were affected. We are proposing to have counselors to work with the victims as was done during the Tsunami. That is an assistance that will be given to the victims of Cyclone Evan.

Mr Speaker, the member for Faleata West raised the issue of sexually transmitted diseases. It is true that we attended a meeting in Brisbane and I was also appalled at the fact that we are almost number one in the number of those affected with Chlamydia. It is being treated at the moment if patients are found to be affected as well as for all expectant mothers but the numbers are still increasing. There was a proposal to have a meth drug therapy but it was discarded because of legal issues that would arise against the Ministry because it would involve females from the age of fifteen. Mothers reject the idea of involving their daughters when it involves these types of infections. We are trying to look for other ways to address this problem because it is easy to treat but the symptoms are not visible and patients must be tested to find out if they are infected. The important thing to know is that it is spread by the males. Many of the women that have tested positive have been faithful to one partner so this would mean that it is the male that has multiple partners and this should be promoted as was done with WINLA.

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The Women in Leadership Advocacy involved in the Samoan Cricket Federation did an awareness program for the STI's to males and they were educated on the measures of prevention.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister to take a brief break while the member for Faleata East makes his statement.

I call on the member for Faleata East.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: I was the one that raised the issue on this Mr Speaker and I am thankful to the Hon Minister for the explanation. I also mentioned the report and the paragraph which makes mention of this because the country might be of the view that this side does not read the reports. I am distressed at the comment made by the Hon Minister that they are 'trying' but this has long been a problem in Samoa. The numbers of infected patients are increasing as shown by the statistical reports and yet a substantial amount of money has been spent for awareness programs and others programs. Can the Hon Minister answer when there will be a solution to decrease the number of people infected because the report clearly shows that it is increasing.

MR SPEAKER: The interjection is clearly understood. In the interest of time Hon Minister I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you. I would like to assist the Hon Minister regarding the meeting that we attended in 2009 which I again attended with the member for Alataua West in 2012 and the report shows that the numbers are increasing. As some of the members of this side recommended, we should cooperate in finding a solution to this issue with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, I understand where the honorable member is coming from and I ask that it be left to us and you will be informed on our progress in the House as this is where all our efforts are debated.

This is our attempt Mr Speaker at answering the member's requests and I express my gratitude to those who commented on our Ministry and its service provided. We also thank Samoa for their support. God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for your responses and I believe that members are clarified on the issues through your explanations.

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A word of gratitude is due to the Ministry for the service which is not an easy one because it touches on the health of our country. I thank the various divisions from the doctors, nurses and the rest of the staff. We will prepare and await the opening of our new hospital and that we arrive at that day in good health and spirits. Now to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; I give the floor to the Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati to respond and explain the issues raised by the members.

Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Agriculture Store Corporation): Thank you Mr Speaker, I foremost acknowledge your steering of our proceedings during the past few days till now. The traditional setup of our country I will not attempt to address as it remains unchanged. I greet the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition and the Associate Ministers. We are present with the CEO's of the Ministries and Corporations as well as Samoa listening in support.

I stand with all due respect to respect to respond to matters raised by the members.

I believe I have answered to some of the issues. I thank the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 for the recommendations and sympathies towards the ministry and the country. There was a matter that the member raised regarding the taro and a notice that did not include Savaii. I replied at the time that I would consult with the Ministry as I was not aware of the notification. I now understand that it was because of the urgency in the preparation for the container for New Zealand that only Upolu was notified but there is a container New Zealand bound soon and that will be stocked from Savaii. As for the issue of the taro, I have explained that it was not easy for us during the years to research a taro species for consumption because of the taro blight. We have now witnessed the success in the research. There are many taro species now and the Ministry is not stopping there. The cycle seven process is now underway to ensure quality for our country because taro is our preference. At this moment we have the type 1 and 2 taro that has been approved for export to New Zealand and America. Plans are in the pipeline to include Australia. We have also mentioned during our past proceedings the Ministry's plans.

The member for Faleata West remarked on why the Ministry does not export this taro because it is being done by the individual farmers. We are trying to supply this market because it was once a revenue earner in the past. It is true that there are only 2-3 containers but it is a start. Overseas consumers are beginning to become accustomed to the taste of our taro.

Another thing that should be...

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau: Mr Speaker.....

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while the opportunity is given to the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 for his interjection.

You may take the floor.

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you also Hon Minister for the clarification because the farmers in Savaii were a bit anxious but we now know that it was a container that was urgent. Savaii was also waiting for the opportunity for the container bound for America but since December we are still waiting. The farmers in Savaii listening in are now aware that there will be another container for overseas that we can prepare for as mentioned by the Hon Minister. Thank you Hon Minister our concern is now clearly understood.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI: We should be grateful to the Ministry for their regular notifications because it is clear from the speeches especially the Leader of the Oppositions that plantations in Savaii are increasing in number and the same goes for Upolu. The truth of the matter is that if the cyclone hit and we did not have our plantations we would experience famine. We witnessed that even through cyclones there are still crops except for a few banana plantations that were affected. The bananas were also affected by the bunchy top disease but we have enough supply of bananas. There are efforts to restore the quality of our taro and bananas and there may be a time when we can again export out bananas. The older generation can perhaps recall a time when boxes were distributed to be filled with bananas and then it is left on the doorstep to be picked up and shipped overseas.

The member for Falealili mentioned the destruction on not only the plantation but the cattle farms during the cyclone. Last week there was a collaborative effort involving the Ministry and representatives from the FAO, UN and the World Bank to assess the damages to agriculture alone. The report is complete and we are preparing for the project funded by the World Bank and I apologize for the delay. These types of projects involve many ministries such as the PSC and the Ministry of Finance resulting in the slight delay. The Ministry is preparing for the project to begin in the near future because the bulk of the funds will be from the World Bank. This is a good time to start the project to assist the farmers in the rural areas.

On the issue raised by the member for Falealili regarding the coconuts; we start this year to use the public holiday following White Sunday in October to plant coconuts.

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We will continue this program and training has been carried out in the rural areas on sowing coconuts because it would be difficult to transport when they grow. Perhaps some time this year the second phase of the China funded project will be made known. The Deputy Speaker I think raised this issue on the Ministries stations in the rural villagers that will be refurbished by funds from China and the sowing will be done at these stations. The member for Falealili also mentioned the planting of sweet potatoes, cassava and yam. Our county is used to this and the Ministry will be more than happy to assist any farmer interested in improving these crops or for advise or training with due respect.

As for the issue of the stimulus package, I have already commented on this regarding the intro planting of crops within the 2 acres which is a program that offers bonuses after the ministries visits every two years. However after the cyclone the Leader of the Opposition did mention that many plantations were destroyed and the Ministry will review this program. The Ministry and Ministry of Finance have noted that the funds for the stimulus package will not be expended all for the bonuses and so the \$100,000 will be extracted from the Ministry's appropriation. The Main Budget is near and so if more funds are needed, the Ministry can request for more. The funds remaining are sufficient enough for the Ministry for the months leading up to the Main Budget.

The members for Vaisigano No. 1 stated that the funds appropriated to the Ministry are insufficient but this is the case for all the Ministries. The honorable ministers are also aware of this but funds are distributed sparingly for the development of our country. There are many needs of the various constituencies and ministries but the funds must be allocated wisely to different sectors.

I answered the issue of importing cattle during the last sitting. Cattles and sheep will be imported but it must first be finalized under the World Bank project. I also mentioned during the past that artificial insemination will be looked into because it is cheaper than importing the actual bull. The Ministry is looking into all these different areas to improve our livestock.

One of the members also made a valid recommendation that SROS should research produce that could be processed to wine or other products. The SROS also researched into the taro species which has seen the success in two species that I mentioned for exporting which is similar to the Niuean variety.

To one of the honorable members for Salega; Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele, I have already commented on the stimulus package and the project which has the intention of holding more training and workshops for the farmers.

The member for Faleata West is a dear friend and he makes wonderful thought provoking speeches.

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I notify the members that there are 3 companies that have contacted the Ministry regarding the fishing of sea cucumbers (fugafuga) and green fish (maisu). I have met with the Fisheries Division and after a background check we will be issuing a license to one of the companies. Checks are a must because we should be cautious about the effects on our marine life. This plan will begin with this one company and we will observe its credibility in fishing sea cucumber and green fish for consumption. Negotiations have just completed and you will be advised on this development.

There was a comment that we should import a lot of sheep but we should remember that the sheep we have now are from Fiji. If a sheep is too woolly it would become heated and become useless to us. We are looking to the North of New Zealand and Australia for a different breed. If there is inbreeding with our sheep it will not be good for us. I believe that sheep can help us as we notice the price of imported mutton flaps is very expensive. The Ministry has finished its research and this is one venture that can be developed and distributed to the villages to continue the development.

The query from the member for Palauli West regarding the agricultural stations in the villages has just completed its first phase. The second phase for the refurbishment of these stations will soon begin. There was also a mention of the giant elephant taro (taamu) and why there is a scarcity and my simple answer to this is chemicals. Studies are being done by the overseas scientists and I believe that the government and the Hon Prime Minister agree that paraquat has devastating environmental effects. Research is being done on a less harmful chemical to help with the weeds. After this study is done then the country will be notified. These chemicals are also hazardous to the health of the people which is why it is banned in the European Union and other countries. Overseas countries are at an advantage because they utilize protective gear when spraying compared to our country that does not use this gear and could spray with just a lavalava. The chemicals can then cause irritation to the eyes and skin. Study has shown that these chemicals are harmful and some even use it to commit suicide. Until these findings are finalized then we can proceed but that is just a brief answer to the issue. We are trying to reach the goal of becoming the first completely organic Pacific country. It will not only serve as an attraction to the tourist but it is good for our health.

Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa: If I might have an opportunity Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. There is an interjection by the Deputy Speaker.

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Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa: I did not intend to interrupt the Hon Minister's speech. I only rise to point out that our village of Salailua, Sagone and our constituency has banned these chemical for many years now but the giant elephant taro (taamu) is still in short supply. The reason I mention this is to query whether the research facility at Nuu would consider researching solutions to this issue with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Is there a point that needs clarification or are you providing assisting comments?

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: I would like to assist. The Hon Minister's speech is pleasing and we should remember that we are the farmers listening to the beneficial and drastic measures in developing the country since the devastation of Cyclone Evan. Although the Hon Minister has moved away from this issue we are also the sheep farmers and the shepherds protecting our sheep from the members that raise this issue constantly because they are the consumers of mutton flaps. We accept the advice from the Ministry thank you.

Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI: I thank the member for Aana Alofi No. 1 for the useful advice. As I stated before there are many plans the Ministry is aiming towards regarding both the fisheries and agriculture divisions. I thank the honorable members for constantly raising issues to better this Ministry. The CEO and the management are listening in for beneficial recommendations to improve the fisheries and agriculture sectors. As the saying goes 'No farmer, no future'. This is true because everything else we can do without but we cannot do without food.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, the correction is 'No consumer, no farmer'. The Hon Minister is the farmer and I am the consumer.

MR SPEAKER: Please continue Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI: But if there is no farmer, there will be no consumer. What will you consume if there is no produce? Thank you member for Faleata West. This is why it is important to attend our Agricultural Shows because this is the purpose and it is not only for display.

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For these shows all plantations and livestock farms in the country are visited including but not limited to cattle and sheep farms as well as coconut plantations. It is not only those with good quality produce that is involved but also those that have more than one agricultural development. That is the Ministry's assistance to our proceedings today and I would just like to greet my constituency.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister there is a minor issue left. What else is there member for Aana Alofi No. 3?

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you also Hon Minister for the explanation and the clarification on the issue put forward. If there was a comment that offended you, they are just friendly reminders. There is only a small issue that you must have overlooked regarding the Enhancement Competitive Program and the \$16million received. When will this program begin Hon Minister?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI: Perhaps you did not hear my response to that issue. This is the project that I mentioned which is being funded by the World Bank. It will take time because of the current situation. Just because we want it to be done doesn't mean it will be done right away. There are other factors involved such as the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service Commission who will employ the staff needed as was advertised in this week's paper. This is the beginning of the project and the Ministry is preparing by importing the necessary equipments and barbed wires ready for when the requests are made. This project has been in progress since the end of last year. There was a meeting with the World Bank representatives on Friday last week to finalize other plans.

That is the answer with due respect. I would now like to greet my constituency which is one of the constituencies along with the neighboring villages of Falealili, Safata, Siumu, Matautu and Faleseela that were devastated during the cyclone. It was heartbreaking to see the destruction during our visits. Be patient with the insufficient funds of the government, in the meantime we should continue to recover what can be salvaged and farmers affected should begin their agricultural activities again and await the government's assistance. We can provide with our own efforts for this is our nature. Overseas countries have minerals for revenue but we have limited resources and it is also because of international aide that we are able to finance our developments. May God bless and comfort those in mourning because of the death of their loved ones and those lost at sea.

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This is life and we cannot control the Almighty's acts of nature but we can only pray that the spirit comforts you all at this time. God bless our country, constituency and His humble servants. I thank the CEO's present here with us especially our Ministry and its various divisions. Let us work hard to carry out our plans. God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for your speech. I believe that you have contributed tremendously to making the members understand their concerns. We are thankful Hon Minister for the attempt at developing and improving our agriculture and fisheries. Thank you for your patience and we see that our plans for the future are moving forward with every year.

We have now come to the Ministry of Women and Community Development.

I call on the Hon Minister to take the floor.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA (Minister of Women and Community Development): I rise with all due respect Mr Speaker and I greet the honorable members of the House; Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and your Deputy and members of that side of the House. I believe that our country is chosen and blessed. We acknowledge the support of our country and the prayers of the Lords servants chosen to preach the Word to guide our lives and the country.

I acknowledge the traditional setup of our country and the support of His Excellency the Head of State and the three arms of the government. I also acknowledge the support of our cousins in the East to Tutuila and Manua and your traditional set up; Faleagafulu ma le nofo Maopu, le Laau na Amotasi ma le Tootoo o le Faleula. Even though we are two separate countries we are of one spirit and maybe one day we will merge to become one.

Without further ado Mr Speaker, I rise to clarify issues referred to this Ministry and its services as well as the Ombudsman's Office and its service.

Before I comment on the Ministry and its duties and developments I offer my condolences to the family and village of Maauga and Nuuausala for the sudden passing one of our dear mothers. I apologize for not attending but as the saying goes 'we leave other important duties to carry our other important duties'. I was absent to attend to other duties which you have bestowed on me as a representative of our constituency and Member of Parliament. May the Lord comfort the Reverend of the Methodist Church and its congregation in this time of sadness; afifio o Sooaemalelagi ma alo o Tamaalelagi ma i laua na Faiga ma upu u ate oe le Tumua silisili.

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To the family of Satuala; afio o le Fofoga o le Vai e faapea foi le Falefa o le Ailaoa, susu le Alii Matua e faapea fou itupaepae e fia o le Aiga Sa Tanuvasa ma ona Fuaifale not forgetting the family of Sa Tanuvasa and the chief Afioga Aloalii Muagututia; o mamalu na aua Faiumu ma le Faleaana, e faapea foi le Faleaana i le gage. I ask for your support while your humble servant carries out his calling.

Mr Speaker, this Ministry has been appropriated the approved amount of \$11million for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the Ministry as well as the Ombudsman's Office has tried to allocate these funds wisely. This was my advice to the CEO of the Ministry and the Ombudsman that our funds should be used sparingly because there are times when we have financial difficulties. As a result we did not need extra funds from this supplementary appropriation but by June there will not be a cent left of the Ministry's appropriation as the Hon Prime Minister reminds us that funds must be used within the allotted time.

Mr Speaker, the developments within the Ministry and the Ombudsman's Office are progressing well. Only two members mentioned these services in their speeches. The member for Vaa o Fonoti was concerned about the state of our youth or our country; students involved in inter-college violence especially in the town area.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. We have arrived at the hour of our usual recess but when we return you may continue. I believe it will be brief as only two members raised issues against the Ministry.

The proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual evening recess.

The Deliberation of the Legislative Assembly was disrupted to allow for Proceedings to be set aside at 6.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 7:00pm.

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Debate Resumed.

MR SPEAKER: We have now come to the final session for our sitting. I congratulate you all for your patience and dedication.

Before we adjourned, the Hon Minister of Women and Community Development was about to comment on the issues raised by the members.

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I now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to continue where he left off.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe that the cup of coffee we had has added strength to our bodies to continue our work. I thank the Office for the refreshments provided which indicates that you are mindful of our health.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I apologize because we do what we can with the little we have. During the next break we will have a hearty meal ready for the members.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: We should be thankful for the meal provided because we may joke about it but it serves for the health of our bodies and our minds to carry out our work.

Before the adjournment I was commenting on the concern raised by the member for Vaa o Fonoti on the youth. I believe the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture is responsible for the educational preparations of the youth. I am grateful for this program that was launched yesterday on television. I watched as one of the senior officers or an ACEO, I am not sure, explained the initiative for the partnership between the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and the Ministry of Police. We are all aware of the youth related problems occurring in and around the market and the bus depot. This is not an issue that should be taken lightly because the youth are the future parliamentarians of Samoa. I thank the member for his insight to question this issue. I have already stated the collaborative efforts of the Ministries and the presence of the Ministry of Police is crucial in these places where there is constant violence between the youth. I truly believe that these attitudes are not being taught in the family. Our preacher constantly preaches against this on Sundays and the need for humility amongst the youth and to lay importance on their parents and villages reputations. There is so much in a name and if one child disgraces this name, everyone will know. This is why I am grateful to this Ministry for the continuous cooperation with the villages and the councils as well as the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.

My gratitude also goes out to the chiefs and the village councils for their role in encouraging respectful behaviors amongst our youth and prioritizing education as the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture does. This is the future of Samoa. If there is an educated youth population, it will have a positive effect for the government and it leads to a prosperous economy. If the youth are listening in, it is time to heed the teachings of your church leaders, chiefs, orators so that you do not disgrace your family reputation, your parents, your village and Samoa.

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The various Ministries are cooperating to address issues in our community such as incest and encouraging education not only in the classrooms but also in the overall development of health. The most important thing is the reputation of a country and its prosperity depends on education. Honorable members the man from Tuamasaga sleeps unprepared while the man from Aana is alert, the man from Faasaleleaga sleeps in and the man from Alataua is an early riser and to sleep and be alert is the best state of sleep as the leaders of Samoa do. This enables the government to carry out its policies to prepare the youth through the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and the Ministry of Women and Community Development.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Is there an issue member for Alataua West?

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa: No Mr Speaker just a point that needs clarification.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister...did you mention this issue member for Alataua West?

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa: My constituency is being mentioned Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Your constituency is being praised, nothing more. The states of sleep are being mentioned. Do not be offended by the Hon Minister's comments. Please continue Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: I will not comment on that anymore because anger has no control. Again, these ministries cooperate to solve these issues especially with the Ministry of Police. Samoa's reputation is not harmed if our youth are educated and law-abiding citizens. For the future the Ministry intends for the youth of Samoa to be obedient in all aspects of their lives for the benefit of Samoa and their families.

I now come to the issue of private water supply mentioned by the Deputy Speaker. I have already commented and clarified the government policies when raised by the Opposition. I will only comment on the Deputy Speakers issue as to the change in the pipes. I have the layout and these are the correct pipes for Salailua. There are two types of pipes; the poly vinyl chloride (PVC) and the Poly Ethylene (PE) and both are being used in the layout I have. I apologize if the Deputy Speaker has a different layout to mine but I believe the Hon Minister is never given incorrect information because there are consequences for the errors.

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I ask for your patience. I will meet with the contractors, architects, engineers, representatives from the Counsel and the Ministries to prepare adequately. There is no prejudice in this case and I believe I have answered appropriately on the water supply for the consumption of Salailua.

Mr Speaker, these are all the issues that were raised by the members but I will comment briefly on the Office of the Ombudsman and the amendment to the Principal Act. The Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Select Committee have done their work and these are included in the compilation of the report. Perhaps by the next sitting the bill will be before the House for the registration of the new government ministries and corporations as well as merged ministries as stipulated in the amendment.

I now address my constituency; the Hon Minister has commented on our request for an access road to Nuuausala College and the borehole to connect with the Aiga and Faleaana road. Let us be patient and pray. Whatever is implemented each year, may we continue to have patience. The Hon Minister has also received our request for the seawall from Vaialua to the west.

I believe that is all Mr Speaker and the few that made comments is an indication that the service is pleasing.

To the CEO and the Management as well as the Ministry, may you continue to work honestly and may God bless you. The same also goes to the Ombudsman and the Office. Thank you Samoa and the House for your support. God bless the Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and all the Members of Parliament. May his blessings also be upon the CEO's present. God bless my dear constituency for their support, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. I believe you have responded adequately to the issues raised and the members are pleased. Thank you for your advice that was given regarding our youth and we should be mindful of the future and address this issue now.

We have come now to one of the important Ministries in the country. I call on the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology to please take the floor.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communication and Information Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker for your unwavering conduct as we come to this evening and prioritizing this House and its work because even though we are not all present we are still eager to continue and complete our work.

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Mr Speaker, I first acknowledge your patience especially the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the Members of Parliament for your comments on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. There are only a few issues that were raised but they are important.

I first thank the members that expressed their gratitude to the Ministry and its work especially for that of the 2AP for its service rendered during the disaster. Thank you for taking note of this service and those who carried it out.

The first issue that was raised was the new 2AP building appropriated for in the Supplementary. I thank the members that supported this appropriation for the government to rebuild the building. The original building was established in 1917 and it has not been refurbished for many years but there were only additions and demolitions to some parts. This was the only radio station broadcasting in those days but now we have FM stations.

During the disaster the electricity was disconnected and all the other stations could not broadcast but the 2AP was still operational and continued to work throughout the recovery period of the disaster. This Supplementary has an appropriation for the building which will still be located at Mulinuu. The Main Estimates will then release the funds to complete the building; the work is in progress from the funds left after the design phase of the project.

There is an intention to have another radio station further inland and there is a piece of land available at Nuu. This is in the Ministry's future plans but in the mean time, first priority will be given to the Mulinuu location. There are many advantages for this location. First is because of its close proximity to the transmitter poles and the equipment beneath it. Second, is the close proximity to the parliament house and third its proximity to the Meteorology Office which is beneficial during natural disasters. It is also close to the Court House which serves as news and also the electoral office which is positive during the elections to broadcast the results. The idea behind a relocation of the station occurred during the tsunami but the effects are devastating whether it be a tsunami or tropical cyclone. The building should then be strengthened and not disaster prone but the Ministry is looking into this. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance for this appropriation to continue this work.

There was a concern regarding the selling of the 2AP and the Hon Prime Minister has already responded that these are just rumors and there is no truth in them. There is no intention to privatize the 2AP because it is too important to the entire country. Only 5% of the country tuned in during the preparation for the cyclone and when the other radio stations were disconnected, 100% of the country was tuning into 2AP. Our neighboring islands of Niue, Tokelau and Pagopago were also tuning in therefore the service is essential to our country.

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Private owned stations are businesses and if they do not make profit from their broadcast they can be monitored or limiting.

On the other issue of the broadband highway; at the moment in the national development this is the middle stage. Broadband should first be used to connect all the government ministries because there is currently no access between these ministries and corporations. There will be firewalls and when all this is setup then the Ministries will no longer have to contact via telephones or letters.

This will make communication easier for all the Ministries in providing services to the country. The only access that is available which is provided by Digicel and BluSky is for overseas access. It cannot connect the ministries and if an individual needs to access information it would have to be sent via email. We do not have a database for the Ministries and that is what we are currently working towards so that each employee can login using their personal codes to also protect their information.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No, 2 because he mentioned this issue.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatunu: Thank you Hon Minister for the clear explanation on the issue that I mentioned yesterday. This is exactly what I wanted to understand but now it is clear that it is the government's broadband which will be separate from Digicel and Blusky. So our government corporations and ministers should be advised to support this project and it is wise to have the information protected. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. In the best interest of time I give the opportunity to the member for Aana |Alofi No.3.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also thank the Hon Minister for explaining this issue. I am only concerned Hon Minister that there has not been a practice stage because the data that will be saved ranges from court decisions and other Ministry documents and it will probably take the next 10 years to input all this data. If the broadband is completed in the next 2-3 years, it will still be incomplete.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata East.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Just to add on to the comments Mr Speaker. I know that the company that is now implementing our broadband is banned in America and New Zealand and there are reasons why that is.

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I would like to know if there has been any investigations into this company because there might be security risks with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: I thank the members for the additional questions but if you had mentioned them in the beginning I would be prepared to answer them now. The implementation of the database is true and the compilation of all the Ministries data is another stage of the project. For your information, there is a select committee chaired by the CEO that will be responsible for this task. Members include the CEO of Finance and EPC because they are responsible for the cables. CSL is also included because they will be managing the project for any problems that may occur. We will also be monitoring the progress of the project as I have all the reports in case there may be a complication and then it will be questioned.

As to the query on the company being banned in New Zealand and America, I do not think it is banned in New Zealand. There has been an investigation into the company and we are not the only Pacific country using this company. Other islands have also started this project and this same company is implementing it. Our issue will become more complicated if we go into the details of the other islands and this company but we can only learn from the mistakes and not repeat them.

This is also an important task for the company that will be managing and monitoring the work which involves 12 local engineers. They will be closely monitoring the project so that there are no problems.

One of the members raised the issue of the television station. The Ministry consulted with the television station and they apologize deeply for the disconnection in their coverage because their transmitter poles are often destroyed by fallen trees. This is why telecasting does not reach other parts of the country. It is not able to be fixed now but the work is progressing...

MR SPEAKER: Is there another issue member for Faleata East? I gave you the opportunity before.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker a point that needs clarification. I apologize Hon Minister it was not New Zealand it was Australia that has banned this company with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: We will leave this issue because the Hon Minister has answered to it. There is a select committee that will work towards investigation this matter. I believe the committee has the wisdom and knowledge to carry out that task for safety reasons.

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I call on the Hon Minister; I think the matter is understood whether it is America, New Zealand or Australia.....

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Thank you. That is why I mentioned that it is probably not New Zealand but the member has corrected his statement.

Again on the issue of the television station that is currently dealing with a complicated and extreme problem at the moment. During the cyclone, there was damage not only to out power supply but also to the solar panels and batteries and the electricity supply is on the way to being restored so that these batteries can be recharged. This is their response to the issue and they ask for your patience as the recovery work is underway.

The internet cost was mentioned. It is noted that our internet charges are expensive and the reason is because that there is only a small part of the population that is using this service. If the internet users increase in number then the charges can be decreased.

I did mention that the Regulator is working on this issue and next month the preparations will be complete. This involves the inter-connecting fees between the companies, this is the wholesale part. After this part, the Regulator will work on the retail prices for the individuals.

The Regulator and the sector responsible for these fees believe that the charges can be decreased but that is the intention for the moment. We should also be aware that we are only using one cable known as ASH for our overseas communication. This is another barrier to decreasing the charges because there are specific terms and conditions for its use. There was to be a final decision on our own cable to be made tomorrow but this will not proceed. Next week though the committee will request specialists in this area to make a decision. There are five options that will be considered and then the decision will be presented to the Cabinet. The options include a cable, a satellite and others. This is important in deciding on the internet charges because we are only using one marine cable at the moment and a small part is using the satellite.

Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I call on the honorable member.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I think the Hon Minister should take a break from his comments. The investigation is almost complete and the government should provide these services provided by the private sector so that the whole of the country can access these services. I believe that these costs are too expensive for the country and the recovery costs are tremendous.

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I mention this because 2 years ago I had internet connection for only 2 months because the bill came to \$300 for one month and \$400 for the other month so I had it disconnected. If there were legal terms and conditions for this cable to be for one of these companies they will have the power to adjust their costs. I do not think the number of users can increase if the costs are still expensive. I am thankful to the Hon Minister for the implementation of this project because it is important for education purposes as well as the hospital with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: It will be brief Mr Speaker. I thank the Hon Minister. Again there is a mention of the internet charges and the work of the Office of the Regulator. I think I did make a recommendation in the past that the government stops the interconnection system with BluSky which makes the Regulators job difficult. If it were under the Regulator instead of BluSky there would be no debate on this issue. I will leave that recommendation at your side Hon Minister for now.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Thank you. I believe that we will not comment again on this issue because SamoaTel has been privatized by BluSky. As I said before, we will consult with specialists on the options that we have on a cheaper option. The committee will meet with the specialists and a Cabinet decision will be made on the report. That is the final comment on the issues that were raised.

I would now like to use this opportunity to thank the Ministry for the services rendered as we are also aware that you have families that needed help during the devastation. We are grateful that you provided your services to keep Samoa informed and God bless you all.

Before I take my seat I thank my dear constituency Vaimauga east for your support. I have already spoken to the responsible ministers concerning our requests. I believe that our requests will be answered because of your continuous prayers and support.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity for us to make clarifications on the issues that were raised. I also thank the House and Samoa for your support. God bless you all this evening, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the clarifications and explanations on the issues concerning Communications and Information Technology.

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I also thank the Ministry because of your services rendered during the cyclone. Thank you for your patience and your service to not only the Ministry but also Samoa.

We have now come to the Ministry responsible for the matter tabled. Hon Minister of Finance, you may now take the floor to comment on your bill.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker for your patience in conducting our proceedings this evening. I thank the House for your patience during the two days that we were faced with deliberating on this supplementary. Our Lord makes weaknesses strengths. We are all aware of the prayer offered by one of the members for Salega; Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam that the Main Estimates reminded him of the miracle where Jesus provided for a multitude with only 3 fish and 5 loaves of bread.

Mr Speaker, as I mentioned before, the Main Estimates and the Supplementary are to be used hand in hand. It is close to \$800million that has been appropriated for the country's development. The Holy Bible says that the Lord does not give you more than you can handle as Paul taught to the Corinthians.

Mr Speaker, in appropriating the funds, the Ministry together with me and the Associate Ministers discussed where to allocate these funds. Funds were saved with the selling of some of the government's assets so that we will no longer compete with the private sector for instance what was done with the quarry. The amount was \$1.86million of savings in the Central Bank adding up to \$9.8million plus the grant from China making it \$12.86million which is assisting in this appropriation. For the information of the House, 50% of the Main Estimates were not used by December of the fiscal year which means that the Ministries performance should be reduced. As I mentioned before, the Main Estimates cannot be separated from this Supplementary and the funds are appropriated according to the needs.

Mr Speaker and the honorable members, funds that were not used within the period by the end of June by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure were revised and added \$2.3million totaling the appropriation to \$14.6million.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister's have commented on the appropriation of the funds from this supplementary for the next 5 months. This appropriation also includes the 3% put aside for unforeseen expenditures which is \$13million. We are still working within the limits.

I have already explained all the issues that were raised and I will not repeat my comments because it will be a waste of time. There are some issues that I did not rise to explain. First is the Disaster Risk Insurance piloted in 5 Pacific Island nations.

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I instructed the Ministry to check with the World Bank and the Japanese government if we have used this insurance and we can use it. The response is that we are not able to use this fund now because Vanuatu's government has not put in there papers. This means that this insurance can be used for future disasters. Leave it with me, I will speak with the President of the World Bank to request a grant for now.

The issue of gifts.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister.....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Point of clarification Mr Speaker.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, the member did not mention this issue and our time will be wasted.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I did mention it.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: No. it was the member for Faleata West that mentioned the issue of the insurance I have recorded it all here the Leader of the opposition mainly commented on the PFL. I was about to believe it but I think he is lying it was the member for Faleata West. He is interrupting and wasting time.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, I will just state my question and the Hon Minister can choose to answer it or not.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. It is because of the respectful relationship that we have that I give the opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition. Please make it brief.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker the country can judge the validity of my question. It seems that Vanuatu's situation has prevented us from accessing this opportunity. We were affected by a natural disaster so why is our insurance being held because of Vanuatu's situation if the Hon Minister of Finance's comments are true? That is the question.

MR SPEAKER: The question is clear; I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I will answer the query because of my respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

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Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I know the Leader of the Opposition did not hear that the World Bank has given its reason and I will speak to the President that this is not acceptable. The answer has been conveyed to me through the CEO of the Finance that we will not have funds because Vanuatu's agreement is late. For the Parliaments information, when the request was made for the signature of approval to be made before 4pm I presented it into Cabinet and do not be concerned because I am also one of the Governor's of the World Bank. I am also unhappy with the reply because it is not our fault and there is USD20million in insurance. I am telling you in case we come back and then you would think I have misused any funds but leave it with me while I speak to the President of the World Bank.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Finance, the issue is clarified.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Another issue that was raised was whether there will be another NPF cash payout. Before Christmas I sent a letter to the NPF to review if there can be a cash payout. The NPF met before Christmas but the problem was that the accounts for December have not been received. I have been told that there will be a meeting next week to review if there can be a cash payout based on the member's contributions and the Funds profit with all due respect.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister has stated that the cash payout for the contributors depends on the NPF profit. That is not how the Lord's love is distributed. It depends on how much the person has suffered; do not make profit primary to the needs of the country with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: It depends on what is available Hon Minister?

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: It depends on the funds available. NPF would go bankrupt if we did what the member wanted. The percentage of interest was also requested to be decreased and now the NPF is looking into it and I believe it will decrease because other financial institutions such as commercial banks have decreased their interest below 10% based on the UTOS investments and loans.

Mr Speaker those are our policies and there is currently a pile up if investigations on 8 Ministries and 8 Corporations to improve revenue collections on non tax money to increase revenue. There is a belief that there are ways to collect uncollected revenue and the project is aimed at improving this system.

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The wish of the Cabinet is that there will be more than a million in revenue within the next 6 months for the Ministry of Revenue.

Mr Speaker I acknowledge my constituency of Palauli le Falefa for their support.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker there is an issue that I raised.

MR SPEAKER: What is the issue?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The 3% and 5million that should be used because we have been affected by a natural disaster and the Hon Minister has stated that \$13million has not been used as well as the \$5million. I leave with you a request for houses for those affected because this fund is for those who are affected by these disasters.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you the question is clear. I call on the member for Aana Alofi No.3 and then the Hon Minister will complete his responses.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I thank the Hon Minister for his responses but I would like a reply to the funds that are being paid out to the Agriculture Store. Can there be an explanation why this is being given to the Agriculture store, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the queries. I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I have already answered Mr Speaker to this issue. This is the same query that was asked by the one of the members of Salega; Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele. The problem is that I answer the issues and the member is conversing with the member for Vaisigano No.2 on the pharmacy. To clear this issue, the money will not be paid out to the Agriculture Store, it is a bond to hold on to the land that the Agriculture Store is located on to guarantee its loans. It is being repaid and then the company can be purchased by the Private sector with due respect.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: A question Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister of Finance while the opportunity is given to the member for Falealupo.

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Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Hon Minister because I mentioned in my speech; the \$5million that has been allocated for the recovery efforts. Are there funds allocated for those who have no houses to go to? Is there a government plan for this?

MR SPEAKER: This is the same question that was asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: If these two were allocating the funds we would be in trouble. The Hon Prime Minister has already mentioned the costs of the destruction. Any donor agency cannot do anything unless this report is out. A total of \$1.5million is to make known to our partners that we are cooperating but this report is used to bring in the funds.....

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member the Hon Minister has not completed his reply.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I have not finished my response. Each donor has a specific area to donate to as per their requests whether it is a social sector such as education or health. As for the individual needs, they also assist in this area. I did say that the Lord can make abundance from any scarcity.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Thank you. This means that we will rely on overseas but not our own, is that correct?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: You are a veteran member and you still do not understand how things work. Any government that cannot be trusted will never receive any assistance.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker I did not ask.....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaai: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition; the government will reply.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaai: This act of campaigning is false.

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I have already explained the assistance that has been delivered by way of clothing, food and water. You are already aware of the assistance and whatever comes after is accepted and there is also the Samoa Housing Corporation but what is happening is encouraging reliance on others. This life is not like that and overseas countries help us when they see that we are helping ourselves first. I know that you are trying to cause upset with the people.

MR SPEAKER: I think the issue is clear and the matter is noted by the Hon Minister. Please proceed to acknowledge your constituency.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to greet and thank my constituency for the support.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker, my question still has not been answered.

MR SPEAKER: Did you not hear Leader of the Opposition that the Hon Minister has noted your issue. The first phase has been completed and we will proceed onto the other phases to carry out your requests for houses and vehicles if there is enough money. I call on the Hon Minister of Finance to take the floor.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: My dear constituency, I thank you for your support and encouragement. I thank the Associate Minister for the cooperation as well as the CEO for the continuous hard work for the development of our economy.

I thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Office for the service provided. I also thank the CEO's and the Parliament for the patience also to the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and the Associate Ministers. God bless this meeting, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the speech. Your task is not an easy one and we do not question your wisdom. We thank the Ministry for the hard work and your determination for the good of our economy and country.

We apologize for the Opposition as their duty is to support and make recommendations to assist in our cooperative work. We are stressing but the responsible Minister for collecting revenue is present.

I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue to take the floor as it is time for your speech.

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Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister of Revenue): Mr Speaker, I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and all the honorable members.

I also greet the dignity of our country including the religious sector and the traditional sector. I will now try to comment on the supplementary before us. Looking at the appropriation before us, I am thankful to the Ministry and the Hon Minister of Finance but also our Ministry because 90% of this budget is from the Ministry of Revenue.

Logically analyzing the format of this budget, we can tell that it has been planned and allocated cautiously. I say this because of the \$14.5million for this appropriation; \$12million is from our own local revenue. During these kinds of times, we usually rely on loans but most of our appropriations have come from our own profits. Even though we are in a time of global financial crisis we should be thankful of the funds that we are allocating wisely. Our country has the means to sustain its economy with its land and I believe it is not only because of the government that we are not too severely affected financially like other countries.

It is a collaborative effort of the Ministries and Corporations and the CEO's and employees as well as the parliamentarians and abiding with the government policies. Your support Samoa is also needed in sustaining our economy and May the good Lord look favorably on the Parliaments intentions and that they may advise the Hon Prime Minister and the Ministers accordingly on building our State.

I would now like to comment on my dear constituency of Falealili and its needs. There are roads and the water supply that need upgrading together with the requests that have been mentioned by our other member; Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure with the assistance of the Hon Minister of Finance. I believe that we need to make known the requests of our electorates.

My dear constituency; le paia ia Alalagafa ma le la Nofo and the whole of the constituency of Falealili, I wish you all a Happy New Year. May we continue to be known for assisting in the development of our economy.

Mr Speaker and all the members, only one of the members for Salega expressed his gratitude to the Ministry and I return my thanks to the member. Because there was no mention of this ministry I assume that our work is satisfactory.

I thank the CEO and the Ministry for the hard work because if it were not for this Ministry, we would try to request but there will not be anything. This service is needed as well as the revenue generated from this Ministry to carry out the governments proposals. The Ministry is listening in and you should continue to prepare for when the government has needs during dire times.

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God bless you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition; may you continue to possess the knowledge and wisdom to lead in this House. God bless this meeting and all of us.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Revenue for your speech. Even though you have seen many years, you are still in good health and strength to carry out your calling. I would also like to record my gratitude to the CEO and the Ministry for the hard work and patience.

We have now come to the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration. I call on the only female Cabinet Minister to answer to the queries raised against your Ministry.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration): Mr Speaker and the honorable members it is during this time of the evening that I recall the words of a song loosely translated as 'the sun has set...I feel like taking a stroll'. I congratulate you all on your patience in continuing our work with the aim of concluding tonight.

I did not think that our Ministry would be given an opportunity because we are not being appropriated in this supplementary but some members did raise issues concerning this Ministry.

The member for Vaisigano No. 1 mentioned the same issue from the last meeting to have the Lands and Titles Courts services made available to the western parts of Savaii. The Ministry plans to have a branch on the western end of the island. I noted that the member expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Police and Fire Emergency which are located at that part of the island because it is needed with the continuous fires in that area. All government services can be provided such as hospitals and school to that part of the island but it all depends on the funds that we have. The eastern part of the island at Aleipata can also have these services but again it depends on the funds and the foresight for these projects and the future.

I now come to the issue mentioned by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo regarding the term of the Chief Justice. If I am correct the member is questioning the term of office of the Chief Justice and why it is not being for a set time as is with the Head of the State and other government appointments. The Chief Justice's term ends at the retirement of 68 and can be extended as provided for in the Constitution under the recommendation of the Hon Prime Minister if still of stable mental and physical state.

I believe these are thought provoking recommendations. As we know the Head of State is the leader of the Parliament and the Hon Prime Minister is the leader of the government but I think the term for the head of the Judiciary is set for a long period to enable just and consistency in the system.

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The truth of the matter is Mr Speaker that all the judges are the same and the only difference between the Chief Justice and the other judges is that the Chief Justice is appointed by the Head of the State upon the recommendation of the Hon Prime Minister but the others are on the recommendation of the Judiciary Board. In our Standing Orders it states in the beginning it states '(1) In all cases not provided for in these Standing Orders the Speaker shall decide guided by the rules and usages and relevant practice of the House of Representatives of New Zealand and the House of commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom' meaning the Commonwealth. All the Commonwealth countries are democratic and their Chief Justices are appointed as such. The intention is to have the judicial system separate and independent from the State. .

I believe last year marked 20 years since the current Chief Justice was appointed in July 1992. The Chief Justice was probably 42 when he was appointed to this position as the first Samoan to be because his predecessors were all Caucasians and under the Constitution he is to hold this position till retirement.

We all understand that Samoa is not a big country and our judges are appointed from those who are lawyers. We do not have many to select a judge from and the truth is most lawyers do not want to become judges because they will be separated and isolated from joining other organizations. They will be isolated from their families because of the oath taken and they are not to make bias decisions but their decisions must be made solely on justice and if a conflict of interest is determined they must withdraw and not be associated with a case. To be in this position is not an easy life to live. The current Chief Justice is in this position for a long period because he is still young but if he were to resign then I assume the next successor would be older.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the Hon Minister's speech has progressed splendidly but I do apologize as we have now come to our usual recess time. The Hon Minister will continue when we return from our break.

I announce that our proceedings will be set aside for its evening break.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 8.30pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 8.45pm.

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

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I thank Samoa for its support and prayers this evening. I believe the evening prayers of the families are done and we will continue our duty until our work is complete this evening.

I thank the dignity of the House and I believe the soup was satisfying and we will again be served at 11.00pm tonight. Thank you for your patience and determination and I call upon the constituencies of Faleata and Vaimauga that vaisalo would be greatly appreciated at 5.00 this morning.

Before we adjourned the Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration was addressing the House.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Office for the services rendered this evening. The member for Vaimauga West reminded me during the break to not forget the honorable Vaovasa Manaia who was also a Chief Justice. I absolutely forgot but he was also one of the Members of Parliament but his services cannot be forgotten.

As I stated before this post is not one to be taken lightly and the separation is a must to enable the Chief Justice to carry out the duty and make independent decisions. This is also required from all other judges as stipulated in the Constitution.

I know the judges and the Ministry will look at ways to improve the service and meet the needs of the country that may arise from time to time. During this Parliamentary Term there have been bills that have been passed to help ease the workload. As I stated during a past speech I mentioned that there are many changes that are now underway for the courts especially the Lands and Titles Courts. They are now able to have arbitrations without going to court. The workforce has also been increased in the area of Judges and Administration staff for the purpose of improving the service.

This is common with most organizations to restructure and improve the services and the Ministry is leading in trying to improve their services. I believe that the Chief Justice and the Judiciary are aiming to improve the service and the professional development of the staff.

Mr Speaker, my comments are lengthy but the member's recommendations are important.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, the member who raised the issue wishes to interject.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker and the dignity of this House as well as the Hon Minister. I did intend to interrupt but I was going to wait until the end of your speech then I would stand to make a brief thank you.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– second reading debate – Day 3

Any career path has its end and for a lawyer there is uncertainty. Some may choose a different career path such as the member for Vaimauga West and the Deputy Prime Minister because they may not have the opportunity to be appointed as a Chief Judge in any court. As the Hon Minister mentioned most appointments have set terms such as the Hon Prime Minister and the Speaker which is five, the CEO's of the Ministries and the Corporations have 3 years in office and the Auditor General has a term of 12 years. We do not have to follow in the footsteps of the Commonwealth countries we are the Independent State of Samoa and we should consider changes. I am not saying to replace the Honorable Patu Tiavasue but we should think of the future of the judges and. This is my humble request Mr Speaker but I am grateful Hon Minister for the explanation. God bless the Ministry and the Administration.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the Hon Minister has taken note of your request and the Cabinet will be considerate.

Because you mentioned the Deputy Prime Minister who was also a lawyer I call on the honorable Deputy Prime Minister to take the floor.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I rise to make a comment because the honorable member mentioned my name. I would like to point out that I had no intention of becoming a judge because the Holy Spirit whispered that I should come and be a member in this House where laws are made. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I see the member for Vaimauga West who was also a judge is also eager to interject. You may take the floor.

Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster (Vaimauga West): Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration as well as the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo for raising this issue.

I think the honorable members request is based on the American judicial system but we are a member of the Commonwealth as the Hon Minister mentioned. I believe that it is difficult to choose judges but as a lawyer I would prefer to fight the cases from the floor and not to be seated up there. Another reason is that there is more profit to be made in a private practice as a lawyer than a judge. There is prestige and honor but as one man in our family said 'you do not eat those'. As the Deputy Prime Minister stated as a lawyer, debating a case is more rewarding. When I was a judge all that was done was to interpret the laws from here so I thought to myself that it would be better to come here. Even though the salary is lower we make the laws here, thank you Mr Speaker.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
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MR SPEAKER: Thank you member for Vaimauga West. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I have noted Mr Speaker that there are only four lawyers in the House including myself. This issue is very important. This is why this House is known as the Legislative Assembly because it is where the laws are made and the laws are interpreted at the courts. The Clerk is also another lawyer.

Other times when Acts cannot be interpreted then the Hansards are sought for reference and sometimes our comments made here are used against us in the Courts if recorded in the Hansard. This is why you should all be mindful of your words and manner in the House. There was a court case that I attended and the Hansard was referred to and this is where the actual meaning is if the interpretation cannot be made in the courts. Another case in which I was on the government's side was to determine the use of the 2AP by the Leader of the Opposition. This is why it is important for you as members to correct your statements when the transcripts are given to you.

Mr Speaker that is my brief comment and it is better for the lawyers to come here instead of the courts.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the issue has been clarified beyond clarity therefore I call on the Hon Minister to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: I believe that there are no more issues and I thank the lawyers for their comments. For the time being the term of office will remain as is but it is thought provoking. That is our response with all due respect, God bless.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the responses are pleasing to the members that raised the issues.

I now call on the Deputy Prime Minister to take the floor after which will be followed by the Hon Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given me to greet the House; the Hon Prime Minister and all the Members of Parliament. I am grateful to the Lord for his love and care to us this evening as well as the CEO's present with us.

Mr Speaker, I greet the dignity of Samoa as well as the religious leaders for their continuous prayers and support for our duties as well as the prosperity of Samoa.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– second reading debate – Day 3

I have noted Mr Speaker the members and their speeches regarding my portfolio. On the issue of our shipping service, it has only been in operation for only 2-3 months. The Board and the CEO are working to build this service and I believe the whole of Samoa is now aware of the initiative behind this purchase. In the future, the implemented work will be made known.

Mr Speaker, I now greet my dear constituency.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Deputy Prime Minister. Is there another issue?

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker I mentioned the PFL service. The Deputy Prime Minister did respond to the query from the member of the committee but I am not a member of the committee and I have queries that were not answered.

My question concerns the shares or dividends of the shareholders and if there are any that have not been paid out yet. This is on page 26 of the report and I could read it out if you wish as you see there is a recommendation to.....

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: The question is understood Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: In the interest of time I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: First Hon Minister, I ask as to when the ship will be returned to assist our company's service.

Second, are there negotiations with other shipping services for a joint venture as there is only the Neptune but there are also other companies such as MAXUM that can assist?

MR SPEAKER: The Chair is clear on your issues and concerns. The Deputy Prime Minister has answered to these issues on the shipping service raised in the past 3 days. Any other in depth issues can be stated during the consideration in detail of the bill. It is almost 10pm and I ask that you be mindful of the time. Your concerns are not being discarded, as the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned your issues are all noted and this means there will be a time when they will be addressed. The figures at the moment are assumptions and there will also be a time when the total price of the ship will be made known.

I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker a point of clarification.....

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– second reading debate – Day 3

MR SPEAKER: Is there another matter Leader of Opposition?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: You are correct Mr Speaker and I did not intend to interject but I would like to point out that these questions are the questions being asked by the country because they want to understand. I am sympathetic of the Deputy Prime Minister but I would like to clarify that these are questions from the people.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Leader of the Opposition but the country did not come to you with the questions; those questions are your own. The Deputy Prime Minister has noted all your concerns and we would be here to the late hours of the night if we were to satisfy all your questions. I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to continue to reply to the issues that were raised.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker, I am not going against your decision but my query is different from that of the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. If there has been a purchase, what is the price?

MR SPEAKER: The Deputy Prime Minister will attempt to answer your query.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker, I will first address the comment made by the Leader of the Opposition. Keep in mind that we are all representatives of the country. We talk with the people and so do I and they tell me that they understand the purchase of the PFL so I do not understand what the Leader of the Opposition is confused about.

As for the question mentioned by the member for Faleata East on the dividends; at the current time there are no dividends and when there is you will be notified.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker, I believe the Deputy Prime Minister has not answered my question correctly.

MR SPEAKER: Please be seated until the Deputy Prime Minister has completed his reply.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: That is the answer as you are aware our company was working under a contract and it is almost done.

As for the joint ventures mentioned by the member for Faleata West, it will be looked into.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– second reading debate – Day 3

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Please be patience while the Deputy Prime Minister completes his reply.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Negotiations are still underway with other companies.

MR SPEAKER: As I stated before this is not the end of this issue and the Chair has made its decision. This is only the beginning of the deliberations and we will talk again on this issue in the future. The company is only in its beginning stage.

Please take the floor Deputy Prime Minister and continue your speech.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will now address my constituency.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker I am not opposing your decision but I was mentioned but the Deputy Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Contrary to what you may think, you are countering my decision by continuously rising. The Deputy Prime Minister has noted your concerns and issues. Please be mindful of the time. The negotiations are still underway.

I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will now address my constituency. My dear constituency that was affected by the disaster, let us work together to repair what has been destroyed. As you are by now aware, our funds are limited and our economy is small compared to overseas countries so let us rely on our Heavenly Father.

Mr speaker, may the Lord continue to pour His blessings upon you, the Hon Prime Minister and all the members of the House as well as the employees of the government. We rely on Him to guide us through this New Year and this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Speaker for his speech. We have all contributed to a beneficial future for us all through our recommendations on the issues raised in the House.

We have now come to the final speech on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2012/2013.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– second reading debate – Day 3

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I believe that the deliberations have reached its peak and there has not been an issue that has not been raised and the answers were clear and complete.

If you look at the Bill, the grants and appropriations are \$14.8million and the reduction is \$2.3million therefore leaving \$12.5million for the budget to be utilized.

I would like to make a brief comment. We should remember that this House is where we come to meet to decide on the assistance to give to the victims of the disaster in cooperation with other organizations such as Caritas and Red Cross and others who may want to contribute. This is where we decide on the allocation of funds from overseas and nothing is being concealed. I notice from the report that 2,614 houses were destructed.

The first relief was given to 2614 families from 164 villages. As I stated before, when there is a natural disaster, the Parliament convenes and the first relief that is distributed consists of water tanks, water bottles, boxes of canned corn beef, herring and tuna, boxes of milk, crackers, sacks of rice and sugar, tents, bath soap, washing soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, mosquito nets and so forth. As brought forward by the Leader of the Opposition, families living in the temporary shelters could not return to their homes on the assigned day because there were no lavatories and so 20 temporary lavatories built. This is why the recommendations made by the Opposition are important to our proceedings and I am grateful to the Leader and the Deputy Leader. The recommendations are useful such as; to clear the tamarind trees, draft bills to enact disciplinary actions for the students and support the traditional healers and the circumcision of adolescents, these are all useful recommendations.

I would now like to express my gratitude to my constituency for their support; Siupapa, Saleapaga, Lealatele, Lepa, Aufaga and Falevao especially to Fasitoo and the Reverend Iuta. Please remember that there are three members, Tuitama, Toleafoa and myself to be mentioned in your prayers. God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Prime Minister for his speech. Our appropriation is now before the House and it was not an easy task for our Parliament and we thank the country and the members of the clergy for their support.

The deliberations between the members and government have now come to an end and matters have been clarified. I apologize if some issues were not answered accordingly, this is not the end of our proceedings and the Lords days are countless. I believe that the deliberation on the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2012/2013 has come to an end.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– consideration in detail

The motion that was moved on the 18th December, 2012 was approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013 was read the second time.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.1) 2012/2013
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative Assembly will now proceed to consider the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2012/2013 in detail. A member may use the Parliamentary Paper 2012/2013 No.60 and Parliamentary Paper 2012/2013 No.62 as reference during the consideration.

For the members information there is a correction in the Supplementary Appropriation under the heading Health on page 15 of the Samoan copy which should be as follows:-

To remove the figure \$6,115,811 and replace it with the figure \$1,835,748. This correction will not affect the other figures in the bill.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, consideration in detail begins with the schedules:

FIRST SCHEDULE
ADDITION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TOTALS
	AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:	\$293,558

Approved.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:
\$730,000

Approved.

FINANCE: \$2,705,000

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member of Gagaemauga No. 2.

24 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– consideration in detail

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: First, I would like to comment on section 11 on legal financial advice. I would like to ask the Hon Minister of Finance whether it is about time to review the member's allowances. The petty allowance at the moment is \$100 per day from 9am to 1pm but there is no provision for after hours. Board members receive \$250 and I only raise this issue because we do not receive much salary and the cost of petrol is expensive.

Second, I have noted the persistence of the members to extract money from the National Provident Fund but I would like to query the funds from the Accident Compensation Corporation. Is there any assistance from them because the country has put a lot into this corporation and there should be assistance given to those affected in the cyclone and tsunami?

Third, Mr Speaker, I would like to raise the issue of the \$500,000...

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: The issues being raised by the member are being done so at the wrong time because he is only offering recommendations but this is when questions should be raised.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you. Is asking what the ACC has to offer to the afflicted not a question?

Third, I would like to comment on the \$500,000 that is put aside for the maintenance of the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese building. The Hon Minister of Finance has mentioned that the main generator was damaged but is there another standby generator for this building? Or does the contractor of the building replace this generator or will it be covered by the insurance. If there is insurance coverage for this building and we can save this \$500,000, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: As to the query on the \$500,000, this is for the maintenance of the car park but the house is under 12 months warranty so the damages are covered. As for the other queries, I will not respond to them because they are not in the Appropriation with all due respect.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– consideration in detail

The Appropriation of \$2,705,000 was approved for the Ministry of Finance.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE: \$471,154.

Approved.

HEALTH: \$1,835,748.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. There is an amount of \$43,477 that is appropriated for staff salaries, I would like to know if this is additional staff or is it for committee members?

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I query the Samoan version of the amount appropriated to the OUM if it is correct.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: The amount queried by the member for Faleata West is correct. The amount of \$665,000 is allocated for OUM.

As for the query by the member for Aana Alofi No.3, it is clearly stated that is for employees salaries.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The House is clear on the explanations.

The Appropriation of \$1,835,748 was approved for the Ministry of Health.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT: \$8,693,184.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEAU MASIPAU: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEAU MASIPAU: There is a contractor that is responsible for the water wastes and rubbish collection in Upolu appropriated for in this \$8,693,184. I would like to know if this amount also consists of the digging of the Vaiaata rubbish dump.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– consideration in detail

My concern is that underground springs and water sources will be affected. Will the works in this area affect the water sources in this area?

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for the question.
I call on the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: That is the case. This appropriation also includes the testing and research on the effects on the aquifers in this area.

The Appropriation of \$8,693,184 was approved for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

REVENUE: \$127,200.

Approved.

TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2012/2013:
\$14,855,844.

SECOND SCHEDULE
REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	APPROPRIATION
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AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES:	\$(100,000).	
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Approved.

FINANCE:	\$(525,000).	
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Approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT:	\$(664,035).	
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Approved.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– consideration in detail

WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE: \$(1,000,000).

Approved.

TOTAL REDUCTIONS OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2012/2013:
\$(2,289,035).

The Schedules were approved and stand part of the Bill.

CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriation of \$14,855,844 put of the Treasury Fund.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Reduction of amounts earlier appropriated and re-allocation to other outputs and sub-outputs

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013.

Approved.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013 be progressed without amendments.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1)
2012/2013 – third reading

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013
– third reading

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and the Minister for Women and Community Development.

Motion approved, the Bill was read the third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

UNIT TRUST OF SAMOA LOANS BILL 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Because we have received a certificate of urgency signed by His Highness the Head of State, we will now proceed to second read the bill.

I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 be read a second time and I would like to comment on it.*

Seconded by the Minister for Communication and Information Technology.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker and Members of Parliament, this bill is brief. It is to enact the loaning of funds from UTOS. This is an urgent bill because the government needs funds to assist with the payments of the land with the oil tanks and in turn the oil will repay the loan. This bill not only allows loans to be made but it also provides for the separation of the government and the Organization with all due respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Minister for the explanation of the bill and I believe that the members are clear on the bill. I believe that the urgency is due to the need for our developments.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

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Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013
– second reading

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Just a brief comment. This bill has just been tabled and yet the loan has already been made for PFL. It's like cutting down the banana bunch and asking later for permission.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker, a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: I believed that the explanation by the Hon Minister was clear. There is no reason to mention PFL in this matter.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister of Finance will answer first Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: PFL is a private company like the other SOE's, it is not the government's loan. This bill is to allow the government to make a loan. The government is not the Development Bank or the Samoa Land Corporation either.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, they are owned by the government. These organizations and corporations are State Owned headed by the various Ministers and they have boards. The boards cannot make decisions without the consent of the Cabinet and that is why I do not believe what you just said.

MR SPEAKER: The query is clear but in the best interest of time I will give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. My question will also be brief. My personal view is that this is beneficial because making a loan will increase revenue for our country. I am only concerned about the terms and interest that is not clearly indicated and it is at the UTOS Boards discretion.

On another issue, does UTOS intend to open up the applications for loans to the community and businesses? I believe that this will decrease the interest rates that we argue about all the time for the future with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister...I apologize Hon Minister I will give this opportunity instead to the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

24 JANUARY 2013

Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013
– second reading

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. There was not enough time given to look into this bill but I will try and comment on it.

First, I believe the interest rates should be fixed for when the government loans for its development.

Second, I wonder if there are any bank securities that the government could utilize instead of turning to the Unit Trust Fund. I believe the SOE's are helpful and can be used to assist community and business developments.

Third, I would like to comment on the remarks made by the Hon Minister that the money will be used for the land where the oil tanks are stored. I recall in the beginning of last year there was a bill to loan from the OPEC, I think \$16million which would cover the purchase of a ship and the land if I am correct. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The interjection by the member for Aana Alofi No.3 is clear therefore I will now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister for his explanation.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, the board has already allocated a set percentage. For the member's information, these percentages set by the UTOS Board have led to the decrease in interests of all other financial institutions. CEO's of these financial institutions are complaining that the interest rates on people's deposits are narrowly spread. It used to be 2.7%, 3% and other banks had 4% however it is now 5.5%. Commercial banks have their rates below 10 and then there is a competition to decrease interest rates on loans and raise deposits therefore there will be no room for a profit for the bank because of this narrow spread.

As for the interest rates that are to be decided by the Board there is no interest rate that is more than 9% depending on the period in which the investors invest their money. In the beginning of the UTOS the interest was 5% but it is currently 6% because banks have come up to 5% and this competition is beneficial to the people and that is one purpose of UTOS.

Regarding the provisions for government's guarantee of funds, the government has guaranteed investors funds including those from religious denominations and private companies for the security of the investment in the organization. SOE's have their own boards and policies. As you may have noted from this bill, every expense from this loan will be recorded as is required by law and it will be done in future appropriations but not in the SOE's Annual Reports and that is the difference. The SOE's will present their reports to their Boards and to this Parliament for deliberation.

24 JANUARY 2013

Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013
– second reading

The Ministry of Finance responsible for the bill will use the loan for the land as was mentioned before with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the explanation. I beg tolerance of the member for Salega while the opportunity is given to the Leader of the Opposition because he raised the issues.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I apologize Hon Minister of Finance I am not opposing UTOS because I believe that whatever benefits our country I will support. However, you are constantly separating the SOE's from the government. It is true that they have their own Boards but their reports are all tabled here in Parliament to be debated on because it is a government entity. The CEO's for the SOE's are present because they are government enterprises even though they may have different policies. I am only concerned that there has been a press release reporting that the loan has already been made because of the urgency to purchase the ship but the bill has only now come to the House with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The concern is clear; I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I was also of the same view as the Leader of the Opposition but the Attorney General explained the difference to me. The government is different from the SOE's and to have the confirmation from him is enough because he is the advisor to the government. As for the query on the OPEC loan, under the terms of this loan, land cannot be purchased with it. It must only be used for buildings and other needs. There was an intention to use the funds and a request was given but it was declined and this was the next resort with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I will give this opportunity to the honorable member of Salega.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. My comments will be brief. I wanted to add to the comments on this useful bill. I only have a recommendation for the Hon Minister to be cautious of the financial market because we may be too eager to lower interest rates but other financial institutions may be affected. The government needs to help these financial institutions and at the same time offer competition. That is all Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call again on the Hon Minister.

24 JANUARY 2013

Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013
– second reading

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you. I will first reply to the query from the member for Faleata West; loans to individuals and the private sector are not permitted.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I am only now clear that the land being bought is the land where the oil is thank you...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while the opportunity is given to the honorable member.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you for the intended development. This was the recommendation made while the land was being leased that it should be purchased and then lease it to the companies...but I am grateful that the land will be bought and I support this decision. It can then be leased to repay the loan.

On the issue of interest rates Hon Minister, it has now been 20 years and it is still increasing, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I call on the Hon Minister. I believe that these are the only comments on the bill.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you for the remarks. I have answered to all the comments except for the issue raised by the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele. This is why competitive rates are good. I will not sway to one end because only one party will benefit. There is the 3% margin allotted to them and we do not know where their profits will be invested and then our financial institutions will not profit. I am grateful for the recommendations and I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity that is all.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the explanation.

Motion approved, the Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 was read the second time.

UNIT TRUST OF SAMOA LOANS BILL 2013
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: A letter of urgency signed by His Highness the Head of State has been received therefore the Legislative Assembly will proceed to consider the bill in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102, the consideration in detail will begin on Clause 2.

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Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 2: Interpretation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Authority to borrow from UTOS.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Implementation of obligations under agreements.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Statutory Expenditure.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Arbitration.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.

TITLE: Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013.

Approved.

The Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 be progressed without amendments.

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UNIT TRUST OF SAMOA LOANS BILL 2013
– third reading

MR SPEAKER: Because we have received a letter of urgency signed by His Highness the Head of State, the Legislative Assembly will proceed on the third reading of the bill.

I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology.

Motion approved, the Bill was read the third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

MR SPEAKER: I hereby announce that the Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 was considered by Parliament and therefore passed by the Legislative Assembly.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2012
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For this Parliament's information, the bill was read a first time on the 18th of December 2012 and I therefore call on the Hon Minister of Revenue to take the floor.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister of Revenue): Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2012 be read a second time and I would like to comment on it.*

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker, this bill is to amend the Income Tax Act 2012 which is the principal act.

The bill proposes to exempt the income of individual unit holders from payment of capital gains tax and the Unit Trust of Samoa and the Unit Trust (Management) Ltd from income tax, to give effect to Cabinet Directive F.K.(10)49 dated 20th December 2010.

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Income Tax Amendment Bill 2012 – second reading

This Bill also amends the Principal Act to exempt the income of the non-resident shareholders in Virgin Samoa from payment of income tax and the Virgin Samoa Ltd from payment of income tax to give effect to Cabinet Directive F.K.(12)41 dated 21 November 2012.

Mr Speaker, that is a short explanation of the Bill, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the explanation; I call on the honorable member for Faleata West to take the floor.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I only have a minor issue. Are these companies and individuals being exempt from paying income tax currently paying income taxes? I support the first part of the bill exempting the Unit Trust of Samoa but I am not sure about the other part with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Have you completed your questions?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Yes, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No.3 to take the floor.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I support the comments made by the member for Faleata West regarding UTOS. For the time being this is reasonable however for the future this can be reviewed to be able to tax individuals and companies that may have increased shares in these companies. For instance the Virgin Samoa Company and other companies that may intend to make use of this bill, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Mr Speaker, I would only like to know why this bill is specific to Virgin Samoa. What about other companies and individuals with shares in overseas companies? With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I believe these are the only questions on the bill. I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: The purpose of this bill is for exemption from income tax for now. When we get to these other issues that were raised they will be dealt with then.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the Hon Minister's explanation is satisfactory.

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Income Tax Amendment Bill 2012 – second reading

Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I will give the opportunity to one of the member's of Salega but I ask that you please be mindful of our work.

I call on one of the honorable member's for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele: Thank you. I am concerned that we are favoring only our companies but what about other private companies, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. That was the final query. I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: We are beginning with our government and that is why these companies are being prioritized it is because they are under the government and that is the explanation.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Just to add on to the explanation by the Hon Minister. This is another means of attracting overseas companies to invest their shares in UTOS and in turn these funds can be used for the countries developments. There is a saying, pick the breadfruit that is farther from you and don't worry about the one that is closer because it is here.

Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the explanation because I was a bit confused but now it is clear, thank you.

Motion approved, the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2012 was read the second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Standing Orders, the bill will be presented to the Finance and Expenditure Committee for a report to be presented to the Legislative Assembly during a future sitting.

LAWYERS AND LEGAL PRACTICE BILL 2012
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For this Parliament's information this bill was read a first time on the 18th of December, 2012.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012 be read a second time and I would like to comment on it.*

Seconded by the Hon Minister of Finance.

MR SPEAKER: I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister for his explanatory statement on the bill.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, this bill has long been over due. The purpose of the bill is to repeal and replace the Law Practitioners Act 1976. The policy objectives of the bill are to first, continue the establishment of the Samoa Law Society and its Council. Second, to provide for a permanent roll and a temporary roll of barristers and solicitors. Third, to provide for rules and application for admission as barristers and solicitor. Fourth, to provide for rules about the practice of law through issuing of annual practicing certificates. Fifth, to provide for rules about solicitors' trust accounts and auditing. This should have been provided for earlier to protect the clients money so there is no misuse of funds. In New Zealand, lawyers are audited three times a year to avoid lawyers from misusing any funds.

Finally, the Bill provides for disciplinary rules and procedures. Many other professional bodies are guided by their own rules and procedures. No one is perfect and there are those who need to be disciplined because of attitude that may not be becoming of a professional. This bill is very important.

This bill also fixes the costs of legal services and also terms of lands used for guarantees and at times disadvantaging clients. This bill will be referred to the committees and lawyers will be called to make opinions on this bill.

Mr Speaker, the members also need time to look into this bill when it is referred to the committees to guide the procedures of legal practice.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe that there are members that would like to comment on the bill but we have come to the time for our normal recess. We will recess and resume deliberation on this bill when we return.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 11.00pm for its normal recess.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 11.45pm.

MR SPEAKER: Before we had our recess the Hon Prime Minister had just completed his explanation of the bill.

I have noted that there are members who want to comment on the bill.

I call on one of the lawyers in the House; the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No.2 to begin our deliberations on the bill.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Office for the refreshments provided. It has renewed our strength.

I rise with all due respect to comment on the bill before the House. This bill is to repeal the 1976 Act but in my own opinion, the Act was sufficient and complete in regulating the legal practice. The Hon Prime Minister has mentioned that the bill will be referred to the committee but it is also important to put forward our views at the time.

Mr Speaker and the honorable members, there are some issues that I would like to raise. Legal services are essential as we all know. I believe that the intention of this bill is to have this service be independent because lawyers include the Justice sector, officers of the court under the umbrella of the judiciary.

First Mr Speaker, the Cabinet, by way of His Highness the Head of State may appoint a body to carry out the roles of the Council when defaulting its function, duties and powers to deal with applications for admission, issuing of practicing certificates and disciplinary matters.

Also concerning the Solicitors Trust Account whereby the Minister can order an independent audit if the Council fails to carry out its auditing duties, there is a complaint about misuse of trust account or in the public interest. This was already the way that the Council operated as it is not unknown through the media the cases that have gone to court because of this; however now the Minister has the power to elect an auditor to carry out this task.

In addition I am concerned on the decisions made on complaints made against lawyers. The role of the secretary of the Law Society is set out whereby he or she is to give the decisions to the Attorney General and the Chief Justice. I notice that the Minister is also involved in this but the Attorney General is the Minister's representative. Does this mean that there will be a separate Minister responsible for the Law Society? The intention being to have the Law Society and the legal services separated from the matters of the State. Has there been an event or situation which has caused the need for this change? To this present moment, the operation of the Council is excellent and as the chair is elected annually.

Second, the lawyers seem to have been separated in two categories; barristers and solicitors.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

In Samoan, they would mean a lawyer and an advisory lawyer. To have two separate legal workers are more adequate for bigger countries but as for Samoa and its geographical size, one lawyer can carry out both tasks. I also notice that there is a barrister sole but I am confused as to why there is a need for the separation of lawyers because there is nothing wrong with the way the system is at the moment. I believe that these overseas influences are not suitable for Samoa.

Those are just some of the issues that I wanted to raise Mr Speaker on this bill with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your contribution to the bill. I call on one of the member for Vaimauga West; Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster. This is your opportunity to take the floor.

Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER: Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I acknowledge Samoa listening in.

I congratulate and thank the Hon Prime Minister as well as the Attorney General and the Office for the bill before the House. This is an important bill for our profession. This bill fills in the gaps in some areas not provided for in the 1976 Act such as complaints and misuse of funds. I am concerned only that Samoa might think that all lawyers are crooks but this is not so, it is only a small group.

I would like to first comment on one provision which was not in the 1976 Act regarding scale of costs and other legal fees or costs which the Law Society may make rules on. I support the way the costs and legal fees are done now. The Law Society can review costs given to a client if there is a suspicion of overcharging but if the Law Society sets the scale for costs, this I do not accept. I compare this to a fisherman. I can go and look for fish to buy and the fisherman has the freedom to price his fish from \$30 to \$100 and say that he has the freedom because he is the one that has to dive underwater for fish. This freedom we lawyers cannot have because the Law Society will set the scale but there are different lawyers and their expertise thus the difference in their legal costs. An associate or clerk may have a different cost to an aged and knowledgeable lawyer and the same goes for lawyers that have court cases and those that do not. Also legal fees for a lawyer for intellectual properties such as music, patents and trademarks are different. It is hard for me to accept that there will be a set scale for all lawyers. If the bill were to only empower the Council to look into complaints of overcharging clients, this I would accept. There should be a freedom of choice for the people. Other services have this freedom for instance doctors. If one doctor charges more than another, the people can choose to go to another doctor.

This is my view on this bill Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I now give the floor to the member Faleata East followed by one of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker. To a non lawyer, this bill looks good but to a lawyer it would not look too appealing. I would like to comment from a legal perspective and I believe that there should not be a bill to protect lawyers in their work because it is a profession like a teacher or accountant. Our party had a seminar with a professor from Victoria and he said that being a MP is a career not a profession and we opposed this view. We believe that to become a member you need to serve which leads to a chiefly bestowal. Serving as a chief can then lead to a successful election as a representative of their constituency and this is how you become a member. It takes time, similar to being a lawyer. I am concerned that because of this bill, the future generation will not opt for a career in law. We should be mindful that this is a free world we live in. If we spend years to be educated we should have the freedom to choose our profession and costs for the service we provide. The only matter that should be clear is if I were to seek legal advice and I am not satisfied, I should be able to make known my grievances.

On another matter, the government provides legal aid for those who cannot afford a lawyer and this should be made known. I am saddened at those who are for this bill and this is a communist type bill. If a teacher decides to provide tutorials after school hours, he or she can charge any fee and I support this because I was a teacher and I know it is not an easy job. If the salaries are not sufficient then other means of income are sought. This is making use of your education that you acquired.

If you go to see a doctor, we are all aware that the medical fees are different for each doctor. We were just debating on circumcision and its fees so why is there no bill to set the cost for this surgery to \$20? It can't be done because the freedom has been given to you by God and this is why I do not lend my support to this bill.

There is also a part of the bill which sets out the general qualifications for all lawyers. The Hon Prime Minister mentioned that there are exams that are held from time to time to test the level of knowledge at that time. This is beneficial but it is not legalized. These should be criteria's for those looking to become lawyers. Therefore I am in opposition to this bill because we should not legalize services that are a result of our knowledge from God because it was invested in by our own parents.

That is all with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your remarks. I call on the honorable Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I am not a lawyer but this bill has made me want to become one.

The Hon Prime Minister's comments on this bill were agreeable especially on the solicitors trust account. One of the members who is also a lawyer has expressed his view that honesty should be sought but I would like to comment on the powers given to the Council to set the scale for legal costs. Many businesses and the economy of Samoa follow conditions on the competitions of markets for services needed. This legal service is also under this condition under supply and demand therefore the state of the market can decide the costs of lawyer's services. I am concerned because this is an essential service.

If there is a death, you cannot go to a lawyer whose fees and legal costs are set. For the lawyer to succeed in a case, he or she must collect evidence whether it is in New Zealand or wherever. After the collection of all this evidence, the lawyer will compile it and the cost of this effort is paid for by the client including a profit for the lawyer for his work. If the fees and costs are set then a lawyer may not work to his or her full ability. I believe there are guidelines for a lawyer to carry out his duty to the fullest and with honesty and truth but if this is set the lawyer may not be able to pay for the information needed and the victim that is being defended will not have justice. But if the market does not allow this to happen, we will pay for the service if the market is too expensive through the help of the government.

The intention is that the costs are lowered but not set at a fixed scale which will limit this service. However the bill and its repealing of the 1976 Act is set to assure the legal service is on the right track.

In truth, I was also a critic of the legal fees however when I do consultancy work for the UN or World Bank, they provide us with their rates and I would see if it is relevant for the work I did. If you are not satisfied then you can make your own price. If you do not receive the price that you want, the work provided will not be up to par.

I am concerned that there will come a time when other professions will also have bills but these professions are controlled by the market. Only when they cannot operate under the market then the government will step in to assist through a bill.

Mr Speaker, those are my views on the bill with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for his comments. I call on another lawyer, Toeolesulusulu.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

I am not a lawyer Mr Speaker but I would like to advise all the lawyers to make submissions on this bill when it is at the committee stage so that all the recommendations can be recorded therefore improving this bill.

Like my fellow party members, I would also like to comment on the bills regulating of the free market. Many businesses and service providers offer services according to how much the client is willing to pay. We should not use this parliament and bills to regulate or dictate the free market. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for his comments. I will give the next opportunity to the member for Falelatai and Samatau because he was first and then the floor will be given to one of the members from Aana Alofi No. 1; Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi followed by one of the Individual members; Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

I call on the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was listening intently to the speeches that were being made but I wanted to make my comment at 12.00 so that it could be recorded. Many honorable members have made comments from a lawyer's perspective but I will comment from a client's perspective.

This bill is very pleasing but I am especially happy about is the part that the previous members were concerned about. I think that they would support this and it should have been done long ago. I would like to illustrate my point.

If a couple from the rural areas wants to change their Childs citizenship to New Zealand, the lawyer would charge them New Zealand currency. The man may then tell his wife to change it to Australia or America and the currencies for these countries will be used in these cases. This is why I support this because we will be using the Samoan Tala with the face of His Highness the Head of State.

There should be a standard. I am not saying that it should be \$30 or \$0.50 tala an hour. No. There should be a minimum and maximum cost and the lawyer can charge within that scale.

Before I became a Member of Parliament I worked for a few years at the University of the South Pacific. There was a review of the working terms and conditions and I was asked to get quotes from different lawyers that could carry out this task. There were four or five quotes that I received and they were sent to Fiji for review. In the end, Fijian lawyers were used because the quotes were too expensive. This is an essential part of the bill so that these fees will be set and that is my assistance on this matter, thank you.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: You should have been a lawyer. I thank you for your remarks.

I call on one of the members of Aana Alofi No.1; Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI (Aana Alofi No. 1): Thank you, my comments will be concise.

Because this bill is very important, I am in support of the views made by the lawyers that spoke previously.

I would only like to comment as a client. It is not a secret that after elections some members may not be successful and followed by that there may be court cases. On top of being unsuccessful, when the bill from the lawyer is received, it would be \$100,000. It would be nice if a client lost, the fee could be less but more if the client wins. The bill is agreeable but I only ask that the government look into amendments for the future to ease the burden on the clients.

On another matter, with no disrespect to the lawyers, some lawyers are aware that the case is a lost cause but they give the client false hope. When the case is lost, the legal cost will also be \$100,000 and that is my only concerns, God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on one of the members of the Individual Voters followed by the member for Faleata West.

Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It will soon be morning and it is a privilege to be in a meeting this long because of the load of work that needs to be done.

I am grateful for this bill in relation to lawyers and their practice. I believe that lawyers provide an essential service to the country. I especially support the trust accounts. In my own experience of using this service since 1971 till now lawyers are important because they are used in every institution in society. Observing overseas lawyers, they are united and organized. There are set fees for every service provided and there is an amount automatically deducted to the trust account. This would a good thing also for Samoa. Some of us have not used this service but there will come a time when they will be needed for land deals or other matters. It is reassuring to know that your matters are being dealt with at a price that you are able to afford. I believe this bill is complete and addresses all the issues in this profession. This is also important in the matter of change of citizenships of children and the need is increasing because parents want a good future for their children. The problem is that different lawyers have different fees. This is one importance of the bill but there are more that I cannot point out at this time. I believe that lawyers have their standards and morals and I value this service. I am grateful for this bill and I support this bill wholeheartedly, thank you.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for his comments, I will now give the floor to the member of Faleata West, do you wish to comment? Okay he will give the honors first to the member for Faasaleleaga No.3.

Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI (Faasaleleaga No.3): Mr Speaker, I support this bill.

There were two males I think from Atua named Mauola and Pule who were being charged and so they sought a lawyer. This lawyer charged them \$7,000 in legal fees so they did not use this lawyer. They sought a Caucasian lawyer and the lawyer asked Mauola, “what is your name?” and Mauola said “I am Mauola and my name is Pule”.

Thank you.

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

Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I was sitting here with the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 and we agreed to oppose the bill but he stood and supported it. This is the beauty of our party.

This is an important bill. I was under the impression that these Societies have their own policies and regulations governing their operation without having to have a bill come through parliament. This is my own view and the only need is for the society to be strengthened but we will be repealing an Act with this bill. It seems that the main concern are the legal fees and cost and being a person that has gone to court for many reasons, I have spent a large sum of money on legal costs. I believe that this is like the ability to choose whether to see a private doctor or pay \$5 tala at the general hospital. There is a freedom to choose which service to use. With the many criminal cases that have gone to court I wonder how the clients are able to pay legal fees. We should bring back the use of public defenders because I believe we do not have it now or do we have it and there is no one in that position. I think that lawyers are earning more from civil cases rather than criminal cases. We have been commenting on the free market and this depends on supply and demand. We currently have many graduating lawyers and there is a possibility for the cost of this service to decrease. In the past, the Ministries had to struggle to find lawyers, now almost every Ministry has a legal advisor. This would mean that not many cases will be referred to the private sector and the government is looking into this.

I personally support the part of the bill which empowers the Society to make rules to add regulation of fees and costs, trust accounts and preparation of securities and loan documents. This is a must to control the fees and that the Law Society can modify these costs so that the country can afford these fees as was mentioned by other members.

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Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

I believe that the lawyers here are considerate and value the relationship so they may adjust their legal fees accordingly with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I now give the floor to the honorable member for Satupaitea and then the following opportunity will be given to the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

You may take the floor member for Satupaitea.

Afioga LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Satupaitea): I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity and I greet all the honorable members on this Friday morning.

I rise to comment on this second reading of the bill. I have always wanted to be a lawyer but the problem is that I do not have the knowledge for it but I will try to comment on this bill.

I understand that professionals have their own standards and obligations in carrying out their work. I am not being prejudiced towards the lawyers but they go into the profession with their integrity which is why they chose the career path. This is just a preliminary reading for this bill and I see that part 3 of the bill repeals the 1976 Act. I do not know what was in that Act but I know that the world has changed since 30 or 40 years ago and now a lawyer is needed for almost every transaction made in society. Many think that there is only one type of lawyer that stands in court but there are different lawyers and their areas also vary from a criminal lawyer to an employment lawyer and a cooperate lawyer and others. The purpose of the bill and the fundamental applications of a lawyer are set out in the bill and I do not see anything that would offend a lawyer or their professional integrity.

I note that there is concern over the costs of fees but it is to ensure that costs charges by lawyers are fair and reasonable it is a must but it does not state that this ensures the lawyers will charge this exact fee. It is merely to ensure fair and reasonable fees for whatever work is being done. So if a lawyer does the work and charges fairly then there is nothing to worry about. There should also be a bill to protect the clients because an emotional prospective client may seek assistance from a lawyer and the lawyer's bill may not be affordable. The lawyer will never refer the case to a lawyer who is cheaper but the client must be protected also. There is the Law Society to deal with these cases but the Law Society should also be answerable to the law.

That is all Mr Speaker. I support this bill on first glance and perhaps more opinions will be formed after it has come back from the Committee. Lawyers who are honest in their work need not worry. They are not being disadvantaged by this bill and I believe that the bill is protecting the profession as well as their clients with all due respect thank you.

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– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to comment on the bill. In 1976, the Law Society was enacted in the Law Practitioners Act. There was no scale for lawyer's fees and cost and so the scale used by New Zealand was used. If I remember correctly, it was in 1996 when it was becoming clear that the nature and complexity of the lawyers work was becoming difficult and by that time, the New Zealand Law Society was not using this scale that we were still utilizing. This meant that the Law Society would make their own scale as well as for other lawyers therefore making the market competitive. Some law offices tried to regulate their costs but there was one or two that had expensive costs for their services. The only addition I see in this bill is that the Law Society will not have fees and costs over the top to the point where there is greed. This is an issue that may happen to every institution and society.

A client may now complain to the Council or take the matter to court if they believe that a lawyer's fees is unreasonable compared to the nature of the service carried out.

I believe there is no difference. The Law Society is still regulating the costs but they need to make sure it does not become too unreasonable. I would like to comment on another matter raised by previous members on the trust account. We must remember that there is a difference between the trust account and the operating account. The operating account is used to run the business, the trust account on the other hand is not the lawyers money but it is the clients to pay for whatever services they may need to be done.

A lawyer who has nothing to hide need not fear this bill but if there is something to be covered up, then that lawyer should be aware of this bill.

Another important fact about a trust account is that it is not audited as it is not categorized as income therefore it is not taxed. This may lead to tax avoidance if a sum of money is deposited into this trust account. This is a criminal offence and now it can be audited to look out for these offences.

On another issue, I would like to touch on the matter of conflicts of interest. I think it was in the year 2001 that one of the members for Vaimauga West; Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster was appointed as president of the Law Society and I was appointed as Vice President. When we were working together during that time, a matter that was constantly raised was that of conflicts of interest. It is now being provided for in this bill and there was a committee that made a report on lawyers ethics which included conflicts of interest because lawyers were beginning to be employed in financial institutions and clients of these institutions.

ARY 2013

Lawyers and Legal Practice Bill 2012
– second reading

ort gave rise to the review and a new Code of Ethics for the Law
This helps to stop this issue from arising and that is also the
of this bill.

ker, those are my thoughts on the bill before the House.

EAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4,
already commented on the bill and we are trying to progress
other speakers.

Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau: Mr speaker, it
if the Deputy Prime Minister has replied to our issues that were
instance the issue on the trust accounts.

EAKER: No, the opportunity was given to the Deputy Prime
for his remarks on the bill.

Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau: I'm Sorry, I
was answering the matters that were raised, thank you.

EAKER: No, that is the Prime Minister's responsibility.
the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): I notice
members are beginning to nod off but I am not complaining, it
a long day. I have a few comments to make but I will begin with
ory. I have been a member for the Rotary Society for more than
which comprised of mainly lawyers and accountants. The
joke at that time in this society was that
.....), no offence to the lawyers and accountants.
this was the basis of this bill which is the concern made known
vyers in the House that one dead fly can spoil the ointment. One
lawyer or account can ridicule the whole profession.
cause of this that I support this bill however I do understand
members views that this bill will infringe on the freedom of choice.
the powers of the Law Society are still being utilized and this is
wyer's ethics are regulated and also fraudulent cases can be
ed. There was a case 2 or 3 years ago I think in the Ministry of
n where a person was hired based on their qualification which
d out later to be false. This can also happen here if others from
can be employed as lawyers but they are not qualified.
profession is one of the oldest professions in the world. While I
eas, I used the law services of Bill Hodge and John Good; from
ison Good Firm in Auckland on Green Street. This lawyer told
he law profession is no longer the same.

JANUARY 2013

Samoa International Finance Authority Amendment
Bill 2012 – third reading

I see anyone that is looking tired and I have told the member for who exercises that we will soon come to the middle of the House for a jazzercise session. The intention at the moment is to have the completed before the end of this sitting period therefore I ask for patience. We are almost finished and then we can have a rest.
Thank you Hon Prime Minister.

Thank you Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sialele Tuafaloa. Mr Speaker, I notice that there are 9 or 10 third readings. The Opposition can be patient. I trained from last year for these sitting hours but I am only worried that by the time we finish there will be none of the Opposition left. Therefore I request Mr Speaker to continue and complete our third readings and then we can end the proceedings if the Leader of the Opposition is weary. I am concerned that they may all fall asleep because of the load of work we have to complete.

Thank you Hon Palusalua Faapo II: With all due respect Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Hon Prime Minister's statement is clear however we will give the opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition.

Thank you Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your words of wisdom because this side cannot carry out unless that side helps us to. Mr Speaker, I would only like to point out that it is because of the delay in the reports of the committees chaired by members of that side that we are rushing our work. Our meetings do not line up with the committee reports therefore resulting in this delay but it should not be generalized because this side is always punctual to committee meetings. Despite that I thank you Hon Prime Minister for your wisdom in extending our sitting hours, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Your will shall be done Leader of the Opposition. We have only a few more orders of the day to complete and then we will adjourn.

SAMOA INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AUTHORITY
AMENDMENT BILL 2012 – third reading

THE SPEAKER: For this Parliament's information this bill was introduced in detail on the 18th of December 2012.

We will proceed with the third reading, the Finance and Expenditure Committee has a correction to be made.

Thank you the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

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24 JANUARY 2013

Samoa Institute of Accountants Amendment
Bill 2012 – third reading

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, with all due respect I rise to move a motion, *To make a correction to Clause 1 and Title of the Bill to be as follows:*

“CORRECTION:

To omit the figure “2012’ and replace it with the figure “2013” therefore the bill will read as follows:

SAMOA INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AUTHORITY
AMENDMENT BILL 2013”.

Correction was approved.

Clause 1 and Title approved as amended.

The Samoa International Finance Authority Amendment Bill 2013 be progressed with the amendment.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Samoa International Finance Authority Amendment Bill 2013 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved, the Bill was read the third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

SAMOA INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS AMENDMENT
BILL 2012 – third reading

MR SPEAKER: For this Parliament’s information, this bill was considered in detail on the 18th of December, 2012.

Before we proceed with the third reading, the Finance and Expenditure Committee has a correction to be made.

24 JANUARY 2013

Samoa Institute of Accountants Amendment
Bill 2012 – third reading

I call on the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, with all due respect I rise to move a motion, *To make a correction to Clause 1 and title of the bill to be as follows:*

“CORRECTION:

To omit the figure “2012” and replace it with the figure “2013” therefore the bill will read as follows:

SAMOA INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS AMENDMENT
BILL 2013”.

Correction was approved.

Clause 1 and title approved as amended.

The Samoa Institute of Accountants Amendment Bill 2013 be progressed with the amendment.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Samoa International Finance Authority Amendment Bill 2013 be now read the third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved, the Bill was read the third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITIES BILL
2012 – consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 106, the Legislative Assembly must first approve the committee report on the bill before it is considered in detail.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

I call on the Chairman of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labor Committee.

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the Committee Report to progress with the Personal Property Securities Bill 2012 together with amendments.*

Seconded by one of the members for the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

MR SPEAKER: I hereby announce that the Legislative Assembly has approved the Report of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee on the Personal Property Securities Bill 2012.

The Legislative Assembly will now proceed to consider in detail the Personal Property Securities Bill 2012.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102, the consideration in detail of the bill commences on Clause 2:

CLAUSE 2: Interpretation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Overview.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Act binds Government.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Application.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 6: Obligations.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Security interest in consumer goods.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Description of collateral.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I would like to understand clearly what this Clause means Mr Speaker if the Chairman would be so kind.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairman to explain the honorable members query.

Afioga LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Mr Speaker, Clause 8 is clearly explained in the bill and if the honorable member does not understand he may come and see me. That is my answer to the members' query.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, you read out 3 Clauses at once and I think the member wants you to read them out again. This means that the honorable member did not read the bill but he has a copy of the bill/

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker, I specifically would like to know what the meaning of collateral is because it is in the report if the Chairman would be so kind to explain it.

MR SPEAKER: You are aware of the meaning of collateral.

Clause 8 was approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 9: Attachment of security interest.

Approved.

CLAUSE 10: Notice to account debtors not required.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: Continuity of security interest.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Request for accounting or statement of account.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Security agreement.

Approved.

CLAUSE 14: Perfection of security interest.

Approved.

CLAUSE 15: Means of perfection in special cases.

Approved.

CLAUSE 16: Meaning of “possession” in certain cases.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 17: Perfection by different means.

Approved.

CLAUSE 18: Assignment of security interest.

Approved.

CLAUSE 19: Lapse of perfection.

Approved.

CLAUSE 20: General priority rules.

Approved.

CLAUSE 21: Priority continues in proceeds.

Approved.

CLAUSE 22: Purchase of secured sales contracts or instruments.

Approved.

CLAUSE 23: Transferee exceptions.

Approved.

CLAUSE 24: Purchase money security interest.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 25: Priority in fixtures.

Approved.

CLAUSE 26: Crops.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I would like to query this clause on crops Mr Speaker. A filing system is used to record data. My question therefore is how will crops be secured and recorded when it will be used whether when it the crop is grown or harvested?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairman who is also a known farmer for an explanation.

Afioga LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Mr Speaker, this bill is essential to boosting the economy of our country and helping our people access finances. A loan can be secured with the crops. The farmer can go to whichever bank they are using and provide a record of the crops they have and the month it was sown. If the bank agrees then the opportunity will be given to the farmer to use their crops as security. There are also risks that the bank must consider and that is the answer with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Clause 26 approved.

CLAUSE 27: Right of retention.

Approved.

CLAUSE 28: Priority in accessions.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 29: Commingled goods.

Approved.

CLAUSE 30: Subordination.

Approved.

CLAUSE 31: Meaning of “knowledge.”

Approved.

CLAUSE 32: Establishment of electronic filing Registry.

Approved.

CLAUSE 33: Public Record.

Approved.

CLAUSE 34: Initial notice.

Approved.

CLAUSE 35: Name of debtor and secured party.

Approved.

CLAUSE 36: Effectiveness of notice.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 37: Effects of change of circumstances.

Approved.

CLAUSE 38: Amendment of notice.

Approved.

CLAUSE 39: Continuation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 40: Termination.

Approved.

CLAUSE 41: Notice of objection.

Approved.

CLAUSE 42: Appointment of the Registrar.

Approved.

CLAUSE 43: Registrar duties

Approved

CLAUSE 44: Refusal to file notice.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you for the opportunity.

Honorable Chairman, the Committee should have looked into the Appointment of the Registrar which is done by the Minister whether it is appropriate especially since there is no mention of the salary grade for this position or what benefits he or she would be entitled to. The report only has one paragraph that focuses mainly on the ADB.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, Registrars salary grades are not put into bills.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the issue is clear. Is there an additional comment honorable Chairman?

Afioga LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Salaries are provided for in Regulations that are presented to the Cabinet with all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Clause 44 approved.

CLAUSE 45: Search of filing office records and certified report.

Approved.

CLAUSE 46: Fees set by regulation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 47: Secured party rights upon default by debtor

Approved

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 48: Recovery without judicial process in certain cases.

Approved.

CLAUSE 49: Expedited possession by secured party

Approved

CLAUSE 50: Right to dispose of collateral.

Approved.

CLAUSE 51: Commercial reasonableness required.

Approved.

CLAUSE 52: Notice of disposition.

Approved.

CLAUSE 53: Security party possession of collateral.

Approved.

CLAUSE 54: Notice and claim for distribution.

Approved.

CLAUSE 55: Application of proceeds and clear title.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 56: Retention of collateral by security party.

Approved.

CLAUSE 57: Debtor's right to reinstate security agreement.

Approved.

CLAUSE 58: Consequences of reinstating agreement.

Approved.

CLAUSE 59: Redemption.

Approved.

CLAUSE 60: Remedies for secured party non-compliance.

Approved.

CLAUSE 61: Pre-emption of conflicting Acts.

Approved.

CLAUSE 62: Regulations and orders.

Approved.

CLAUSE 63: Offences.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2013

Personal Property Securities Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 64: Repeal and transitional.

Approved.

CLAUSE 65: Consequential amendments.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.

TITLE: Personal Property Securities Bill 2012.

MR SPEAKER: The Committee has a correction to be made to Clause as stated in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call on the Chairman of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labor Committee.

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *To Correct Clause 1 and follows:*

“CORRECTION;

To omit the figure “2012” and replace it with the figure “2013” therefore the title of the bill will read:

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITIES BILL 2013.”

Correction approved.

Clause 1 and Title was approved as amended.

The Personal Property Securities Bill 2013 be progressed with amendments.

MR SPEAKER: I believe we have now come to the end of our orders of the day as the Leader of the Opposition has been looking forward to.

24 JANUARY 2013

Motion for Adjournment

The Hon Prime Minister has to move the motion for adjournment and if it is not approved then we will not end our work.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise to move a motion, *That the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourn until Tuesday 26th of march, 2013 pursuant to the Parliament Sitting Program 2013/2014.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion Approved.

MR SPEAKER: We have come to this morning because of the good love of our Lord and we have come to the end of our work that we started this week. Therefore I am grateful to all the members in all your honorific salutations for your patience and courtesy during our proceedings. I believe we have completed a large amount of work. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and all the members for your presence at this time of the morning.

Words cannot express my sincere gratitude to the members as well as the CEO's of the Ministries and Corporations for the assistance and your patience on matters raised throughout our proceedings.

We cannot forget the support of Samoa. While you are resting our Parliament continues to consider and continue its work for the development of our country. I believe we have succeeded in our work because of your support and prayers. We ask for our Heavenly Fathers protection on us until we meet again on the 26th of March.

Before we end our proceedings I ask the honorable member for Gagaifomauga No. 2 to please end our meeting with a word of prayer.

Prayers.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:20am till the 26th of March, 2013 at 9:00am pursuant to the Parliament Sitting Program 2013.