

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9:00am in accordance to the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2018.

CLERK: Pursuant to Standing Order 27(1), I respectfully announce the absence of the Speaker and the Chair will be taken over by the Deputy Speaker this sitting day.

Prayer.

OPENING SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed.

We admire the experience this morning given the awe-inspiring and wondrous works of God. Such is the atmosphere we feel this morning.

It is with respect that I greet and welcome the dignity of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and Members of the Parliamentary Committees as well as the Parliament as a whole.

I also welcome the heads of Government Ministries and Private Entities who are the hands and feet of Parliament work, greetings to good health this morning. I also greet Samoa to its entirety in all your honorific salutations and the members of the clergy for your dedicated prayers for the wellbeing of Samoa. Well done on your prayers and support so that all plans go.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed – Day 3**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceedings adjourned last night when the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development was concluding his speech.

I call upon the Hon Minister for Revenue for your response upon the raising matters by the respectable members.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Revenue): Thank you Mr Speaker for the holy offering you delivered this morning.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

Right now I wish to give an explanation in regards to the submissions and recommendations pertaining to the two Ministries under my portfolio. The relationship between the Ministry of Finance and Revenue are interdependent.

In the previous year 2015/2016, revenue rose to 3.7% for the Ministry, now that the budget for 2017/2018 have commenced, we hope to see a continuous rise in revenue collection for the Ministry because if this Ministry faces trouble in terms of distribution, the Ministry of Finance will also face problems noting that the Ministry for Revenue is the core area whereby all government works relies on every year and most importantly the salaries of employees.

Despite the methods in place to sustain the Ministry's output expenditure, in personal belief, the country will not take this easily nor approve of it. In regards to the taxing of religious ministers, the Ministry is currently working together with the Village Council to determine the number of church ministers on island. And by request I ask the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development to assist us in this task as the village mayors should be fully aware of all the church ministers in each village. Hence the Ministry is now meeting with church ministers to provide an insight and obtain their registrations thus the work in currently ongoing.

On to the raising matters, 50% of comments were on prison development at Tanumalala. The project was initially set to commence in August, however works have not yet started until October according to Cabinet's approval on the 20th August 2017. To date, 60% of the project was completed which utilized less than 40% of allocated funds and there has been no variations to the contract. Hence the project is a bit ahead of schedule with hope that it will be completed in May. I can assure the House that the project spending was within the allocated limits, despite building work being behind schedule. In regards to contract variations raised by majority of the Members, the Hon Minister states that at times, contract variation is unavoidable; changes must be made to account for unforeseen factors. A Committee was said to be in place to consider possible variations, which is headed by the Deputy Commissioner and members from the Ministry of Finance, Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Works, the OSM Consular, and the Engineer from Kramer are all engaged in this task. The Cabinet also has a sub-committee tasked with overseeing this work including myself, the Hon Minister of Finance and the Hon Minister of Works, thus any issue pertaining to this project must be reported to us on a quarterly basis. However, there is no variation on the project for the time being, the work is still ongoing with the aim to...

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg indulgence to the Hon Minister, I call the member of Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I thought that variations are alterations which affect the original costing of a project. But if the project was given a building bid, then what project is this funding used for, that is the intention. This is the main concern raised by the majority, all projects must be tendered as these funds are not small to complete the project that costs more than \$10 million. That is our explanation on variations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: I believe the member is aware of the answer to his question, whereas the project is currently ongoing. We have tons of carpenters who can assist in this project to reduce the costs. With plans to relocate, most of the old houses will be demolished and used to add more buildings for juvenile offenders.

Some of the programs provided for the incarcerated youths totaling to 70% of early school leavers is employable skill and better social skills to ensure ease of integration back into the community. These skills will also ensure that released youths will be able to make contributions to their respective families. In terms of the process for the weekend release programme, the Hon Minister stated that inmates are assessed by corrections officers to gauge the appropriateness of releasing them to their families in the weekends. This is done on a case by case basis. In regards to food, the Hon Minister stated there was an ample food supply for the prison; however, the Ministry's aim was to develop food crops so that the prisons may be self-sustainable. Right now, the Ministry has passed six months for this Appropriation Budget, 40% was for food and remaining 60% is for the works of these prisoners, so much food production can now be utilized and has managed to save money. The prison also has a cattle farming and plantations and whatever they can develop to get food for self-sustainability.

I wish to acknowledge the works of the Samoa Land Corporation for leasing 420 acres in Vaiaata to the prison for a plantation. I also acknowledge the contribution by the Ministry of Agriculture, namely in the form of 1,000 bananas to help these Ministry begin its prison plantation in March.

I trust every Ministry of the Government is working collectively with the Ministry of Police in order to...

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

Tofa Hon Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the notable member.

Tofa Hon Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Thank you for the clarification, I support the move for food independence for inmates.

I rise in regards to the matter I raised yesterday in the presence of the Hon Minister of Prison, this project has my support and I aim to follow up this matter which the other members spoke about and the first response the Hon Minister gave in his clarification on the total cost to this project which was \$20million. However, well although I did not want to interrupt you on your response last night because I believed you had the correct answer to this concern of mine. In terms of the project, I note a discrepancy in the responses provided by the Minister for Revenue and the Minister of Finance – who seemed unsure as to whether the project cost was 15, 20 or 25 million. This is rightfully the reason for my upstanding in regards to the real cost to this prison project. Because according to formal procedures, this project has to have the Cabinet's approval first. What exactly is the cost of the project because this has to be clear first?

Because in personal view, this project will not be completed with \$20 million; we cannot change what's being done. I also query the Hon Minister for Revenue as to the likelihood of the entire project costing a total of \$30 million or more. This is the interjection with respect honorable Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, I call the Hon Minister.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, to save time, thank you anyway. I am very confused with the range of costing and estimations that are given by the Hon Minister. He explained that the project will cost \$20million to complete it, yet he also said this project will not be completed with this \$20million, again the third time, he said the cost may be over \$20million, I am very confused with this information.

Why wasn't all this incorporated when they had the Tendering process for the entire project rather than giving it like this? We all know that doing, it is corruptable which is very good for contractors and so forth, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I wish to give a reminder in accordance to our Standing Orders that unless I give opportunity then you can speak. It is best that you comply with this order as a reminder to the member.

I call the Hon Minister for Revenue.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, the prison project is funded by our government whilst the fence is funded by the \$1.3 funding assistance from Japan.

The initial costing of the facilities was \$10 million given in allocated portions. Half of the allotted fund from the Main Budget in June is \$3.8million in the hope that whatever amount is required to complete the project will be taken from this year's Estimate Budget, the First Supplementary and the allocated amount of \$3.7 million.

The administration is currently undertaking the tendering process through this Committee, \$1.5million is allocated for the Ministry Center and if this funding is not fully used, then this can be allocated to other projects. All projects have been completed using the \$20 million. Most of the time, the estimated cost exceeds the planned project. Other times the cost received from the contracts is smaller than the estimated cost of the project.

The proposed estimated cost for the project was \$20 million because we know that new facilities will be built from old building materials as no one knows what the future holds. Otherwise, the project is proposed...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister, I allow the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): I understand the intention conveyed yesterday. The questions presented yesterday on estimated costs seemed to be presumptuous. There is an English wording that combines the word 'guess and estimate' to make up guesstimate.

That is the exactly what's happening now, it seems that the project is guesstimate, why? Because our view is not of God's, He is the only one who knows the truth. This is similar intention by the Minister of Police and the Minister of Finance in response to your questions which had Cabinet's resolutions.

Mr Speaker, the Cabinet is well aware that whenever funding is involved we must be extra careful with our planning, why? Because the project will be built on land which is very rocky. Such is denoted in the cost which could possibly involve high expenditure for excavating the rocky foundation where the house stands.

That is what I meant by being careful whenever a project is built. Whereas, borrowing funds from foreign countries would definitely involve foreign authorities together with the lengthy process it requires.

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Hence we cannot just sit back and relax as crimes are constantly building up including drug offenders, international convicts, mentally ill inmates etc. We are now setting a new standard for our prisoners as they are also human beings who deserve to be treated like Christians created in the image of God. Hence we must bear mercy.

The aim is to respond to the raising matters given, thus any foreign contract comes with conditions and requirements. With due foreign exchange rate, our government is also expected to exchange accordingly in order to meet foreign payment.

I also take note that after Cyclone Ofa, the road from Falevao to Apia required extensive and costly repairs. The initial estimate for the project was valued at 13 million; however, at the completion of the road, costs added up to 36 million. In 1983, a special engineer told us that the airport needed reconstruction and the meeting was between me, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Works whereby special areas like the slope needed repairs to cater for a 747 aircraft. The slope we had which was crooked. The specialist viewed that not all countries have similar slope as Samoa, but the advantage of our slope is that it can do take offs and landings for aircrafts swiftly. I then asked about the costing as this was the normal duty for any Finance Minister. Engineer Smith replied that the cost was \$2million. I said what? He said \$2million. I replied how an international airport construction is possible with this amount. That was the estimated cost for the original airport however the final cost was actually \$47million, this was after we conducted further assessments. This is how Tofilau and I decided for Australia to provide \$47 million to build the airport back in 1983. If such plan did not go through, the estimated cost could have exceeded \$100million. This is why it is vital to implement policies wherever and whenever government finds it fit and necessary in order to move national developments to completion. The initial prison plans did not include the costs to excavate and construct the prison roads that have since been an additional cost. Also the cost does not involve a particular year; it takes two to three financial years of estimated costs to build these projects. Hence if the ending period is July of the coming year therefore, other estimates will be received in July's Budget of next year.

Mr Speaker, that is the process for our works and developments.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your precise clarification. May I remind you once again that in accordance to Standing Orders, Government Response is the final response so we do not intend to meet your satisfaction? If you are not satisfied, you can hand in your written or verbal queries to me for further clarification. I give the last chance to the notable member.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you, that is precisely the purpose for this raising matter in accordance to this legislation, I do not intend to get contentment through a proper response.

Mr Speaker, the reason for the range of questions we make is due to poor responses we get. If the Minister of Police and the Minister of Finance had made it clear that the project would be given the cost or the guesstimate of \$20million, we would have agreed to this prison project long time ago for Samoa and question it no more. However, stating them in portions earlier is called extra mates. On another note, we all agree to set up a good prison for the notable people of Samoa, no one objects to that. If that was clearly given in the first place, that is the intention of my upstanding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your explanation. I beg tolerance Hon Minister I grant the chance to the notable member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Thank you Mr Speaker, this is rightfully why we asked the Minister of Police. Hence, this will not be a guesstimate. So let us hear it, what is the guesstimate for this project?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you too to the senior members of the House, I give the Hon Minister the opportunity to resume his speech.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe most of the matters have been clarified by the Prime Minister regarding this project. The estimated cost is \$20million if appropriate.

I wish to extend appreciation to members of churches namely the Catholic, Methodist and the Congregational church for the weekly maintenance programs and Sunday services they conduct as well as the private sector for providing training programs for the juvenile offenders. Previous prisoners took computer classes at Oloamanu and have taken these skills with them when they went back home.

I now take this time to convey gratitude to the Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, members of Parliament, Clerk and staff of the Legislative Assembly, Government heads, the Police Commissioner and his staff as well as all the Ministries under my portfolio. I also heed the prayers and support of church Ministers of the Vaa o Fonoti constituency upon everyone and myself for its benefit. Thank you Mr Speaker.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done Minister for Revenue. All matters have been thoroughly discussed and I wish you well on your undertakings this year.

We are still on government responses; I now call the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker, I hope all plans will go well and in accordance to God's will.

Mr Speaker since I am new in the House, I wish to make an explanation. I wish to acknowledge the honorable Speaker, Leader of the House who is the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and that Side of the House.

I also greet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly whom we had worked together. I further greet the male and female Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations and the Private Sector.

I also extend greetings to the O Le Ao o le Malo and his Masiofo, Members of the Council of Deputies, the Judiciary and the public tuning in, *Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma Tama, Tumua ma Pule, Aiga I le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

Greetings also to the clergy members for all denominations around the country tasked with preaching the Good News. I also greet our neighboring islands of Tutuila in all your honorific salutations.

May I also take this opportunity to greet and thank my constituency in all your traditional honorifics. I further greet the different members in my district, the women and men councils, well done to your prayers and support upon me.

Before I come to responses, I wish to express appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister for the appointment made upon this constituency of Vaisigano No.1, this is for you, thank you.

I also would like to thank that side of the House for all your works since the beginning of this Parliamentary term until today the 31st August 2017. I especially wish to express gratitude to Tuiatua who is the Chairperson of the Committee of Works and members of the Committee for their collaborating efforts and your words of encouragement and recommendations. I heed God's blessings upon you and your duties you are paid to do.

I also greet the Ministry and staff in good health. I now move on to the raising matters by the respectable members of about eight which I will try and sum up into one explanation. As you know I am new in this thus I too do new things which however must be in line with the House's procedures lest a Minister is thrown out of the House by the Speaker.

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I wish to convey a word of thanks to the farmers who are tasked with caring after their families and the wellbeing of the country. Well done. I also thank the Taros Exporters who are assisting us with our exports without any cost, thank you very much for your contribution.

I wish to remind a speech by one of the former prominent figures of this constituency Afioga Kolone Vaai who normally says, money under the tree are money buried under the bush, and money under the coconut and the cocoa is real money. At the beginning of my term on the 31st of August, I decided to travel around the hillside of Manono to get a glimpse of the existing agricultural practices. In truth and agreeing with yesterday's comment by the member for Anoamaa East, those who work hard will reap joyful results. This adage is confirmed by the variety of available resources seen around the country. Your labor, toil in the sun and feeling drained is not easy. Our economy is in your hands. Most of the research conducted by the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa SROS aims to find ways to improve or develop new forms of crops to boost Samoa's agricultural profits. The main target for me and the Ministry is to revitalize the Ministry of Agriculture as Samoa's main source of income for its economy. Such is the aim for us to work collectively together as reiterated earlier, 'you reap what you sow'. When I started, the contribution made by agricultural products was below 7%. This is very disappointing figure compared to what we can do to the means available in the country.

In regards to various queries regarding the tiapula scheme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, 1,000 tiapula were provided. This is equated to an approximate NZD\$1,000 if the taro were to be exported. This is an encouragement to families to utilize the natural resources available because there are riches in our land, if people were to recognize it and work for it. Hence I wish to thank all the villages who managed to plant tiapula from October to December during our visit.

In regards to comments made by the Member for Salega East, the Quarantine has already made public the need for people to check their fine mats 24 hours before intending to depart with them overseas. I also thank the Member who proposed a cash scheme for the collection of rhinoceros beetles, stating that this is a good idea however there is no promise for cash rewards.

In terms of Nonu development, there are 3 Nonu companies currently exporting Nonu, one based in Vaivase Uta and the other in Vaitele. The Nonu tanks were currently filled to capacity however when the need arises, the public will be informed.

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A new Nonu company was looking to begin its operation within the next month. In response to a Member query as to the possibility of interbreeding international and local cattle, the Ministry currently had 307 cows, 174 sows and 278 sheep.

On to banana farming developments, we received 20,000 bananas on Monday from South Africa on route to Samoa, a variant which was noted as being easier to grow and maintain. The Ministry is still negotiating possible banana exports to New Zealand with the aim to boost our economic level as well as our foreign exchange. This is the reason why I plead the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank for \$80,000 to get another 80,000 bananas for one of our offshore markets that will soon open its doors to us. A total of approximately 60,000 bananas is also required by the country. At the current, we can take one container within a month and by July and August we can export three plus 20,000 bananas and who knows, we might be able to take more towards the end of the year depending on the quantity the farmers can make.

In terms of taro exports to New Zealand and the United States, the exports were running smoothly however Australia had yet to accept Samoan taro. In terms of egg supply, the owner of the Frankie's Supermarket chain has considered establishing a poultry farm. The chicken farming projects are also in the pipeline.

In concluding, I wish to acknowledge TV2 for airing the public awareness programs on agricultural practices last week which was a very great assistance for the Ministry. If only this advertisement could reach Savaii and areas like Asau, Aopo, Alataua and Falealupo. The same goes for the FM radio station because every morning, the Quarantine program is put on air for the public to avoid any more complaints on these matters.

Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge my constituency of Vaisigano No.1 in all its honorific salutations, thank you members of the clergy for all your prayers and support. As you are aware, the government also needs your assistance and similarly, you also need the government.

May God bless the House and everyone involved in the works of this Parliament. Have a blessed day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Well done and may God bless you and your Ministry this year.

We are continuing on with Government Responses, I hand the floor over to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to respond to the matters raised by the Members.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also heed the prayer offered this morning for God's merciful love this sitting day as well as good health and spirit upon everyone.

I first of all acknowledge the presence of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and Members of Parliament. I also greet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff, heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises.

Greetings to Samoa in all your traditional set-ups, Church Ministers all around Samoa who endlessly pray for the benefit of Samoa as a whole.

I also greet our Urban Seat East constituency, greetings and happy new years.

Mr Speaker most of the comments and requests put forward by the Members regarded the roads, water and electricity supply.

As known, we are in the wet season hence I need your patience as the Ministry attempts to deal with all issues regarding potholes and contracts for our roads. One of these areas includes the East Coast Road that we visited and needs to be resealed. Road maintenance and repairing takes only two to three years before it goes back to destruction. Hence I plead your patience as we are looking for foreign aid and grants to fix this job given its high cost. The same goes for the road leading to the airport. On similar note, the roads at Aleisa, Lefaga, Safata and Falealili also need improvement.

In accordance to improvement works we have so far, we have six for Savaii and six for Tumua that should be completed by March before the Ministry takes on further works as required. Hence all works will be considered in due time. As for the request put forward by the member for Safata East on electricity supply for the village of Nuusuatia hence that has been confirmed by the Electric Power Corporation and according to the process, some families have already submitted requests to the EPC and in consequent the EPC will have to conduct a survey.

As for the submission by the member for Salega West on water supply, I have confirmation from the Water Authority that until your request is being completed then they can move on to other villages. In response to the Member from Vaisigano No.2's request for trucks, there is presently an Act in force which provided the conditions that all vehicles must meet for road worthy. This will ensure that older cars do not contribute to pollution via excessive carbon emissions.

As for the raising matter on...

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I recognize the member for Vaisigano No.2, go ahead.

Afioga Tapulesatele Mauteni Tamasone Metuli II Esera (Vaisigano No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Minister for the clarification, the Minister is now up to the exact matter I discussed yesterday. In belief many families now rely on taxis for their livelihood. The request remains with respect.

SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I give the chance to the member for Falealili West followed by the Hon Minister.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko (Falealili West): Thank you I do not intend to interrupt the good speech of the Minister, the request I submitted was the access road at Saleilua School which needs urgent repairing and that school commences next week. By personal observation, the school is located roughly 800 meters from public road please Hon Minister.

SPEAKER: Go ahead Minister of Works.

Afioga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you member for interrupting my speech, nonetheless it is good to get your comments when my explanations are not good enough.

With imported vehicles for the years 2000 dating back, it's an issue considering the trouble of looking for spare parts and the high cost for maintenance. Whereas importing the latest vehicle that is eight years old is highly recommended to assist the livelihood of families and donations for the church and the village.

Your request has been noted hence I will pass it to Cabinet for their endorsement but if they disapprove of it otherwise, then I beg your pardon. But the aim is to import good vehicles for the security of our environment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you to the Hon Minister's clear response, we will now have our recess time I announce with respect that we will go to break for 15 minutes.

Proceedings were set aside for normal recess at 10:42am and resumed at 11:26am.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

Proceedings resumed over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe we have restored new health from our break as we resume with our work this morning.

Before recess the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure was speaking, I call upon the Hon Minister to resume his speech.

Afioga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance to resume my presentation. During our recess I was concluding a response to the member of Vaisigano No.2 in regards to imported vehicles and the latest amendment to the law from 12 years to eight years. But bear with me we shall make a submission to the Cabinet on this matter, including the matter on licensing taxi by the member for Salega East, we have received that submission however the Lands Transport Authority needs to relook into that before it is being approved.

On to the interjection of the member for Falealili, perhaps the member has forgotten that all submissions were covered in my presentation including the access roads of Poutasi, Saleilua, school buildings, all are noted down, but leave it to me I will come to them. Finally, the matter by the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West regarding the charges on confirmed booking for vehicles when a flight is cancelled. For the information of the House, this is not an additional fee but a penalty charge. The main reason for this undertaking is because majority of confirmed bookings do not turn up resulting in other passengers missing their chances to take the ferry to Savaii. I have already talked with the Shipping Company about this raising fee to be reduced as the charges for vehicles are also required to be made.

On to the matter by the member for Palauli le Falefa in regards to billions of funds from the Development Banks of the World Bank, ADB, EU and other countries like New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the Government of China. The statement has it that we have delayed the utilization of these grants for our proposed projects.

Mr Speaker and the dignified House, I thought that the member would have understood the processes and procedures of these public projects given his status as former Minister of Cabinet hence I wish to remind the member once again you only mentioned delays...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker is there a chance....

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will grant the opportunity. Pardon the Hon Minister I give the opportunity to the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you for the chance, I beg indulgence to the Hon Minister, my concern was not that funds were useless. I intended to mean that if the project is delayed the cost will rise. As mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister, we must carry out our projects more efficiently. The Hon Minister of Finance also stated that we must put up a central BMU to perform the overall supervision of individual projects. It took us five years since we had the funding to build the bridge in Vaisigano however, these funds were not used. The intention is that projects are getting costly due to the delay in its undertaking. That is the concern not a complaint. That is reason for commenting on the remaining funds we had as we are going on to three years since we had the accumulated funds of \$300 million. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go on Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you for the interjection. The delays stated by the respectable member is beyond our control given the proposals for these projects and the grants from our development partners, it involves processes as well as delays hence we cannot avoid these delays given the conditions of these foreign funds. In regards to designs, these are also prepared by foreign companies through the developments partners. Such designs are reviewed by the government to see if the can be applied to us, otherwise they are taken back and thus take up the delay process.

On to...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker is there a chance as the Hon Minister is moving away from this topic...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance Hon Minister, I give this one last chance to the notable member possibly there is another matter. Go on member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister for the clarification.

I have followed up with the Vice President of the World Bank to the release of these funds for these two projects at the end of 2013. The response I received was that a request was given to us that we must prepare a Terms of Reference (TOR). A person has to sketch a design. This is for the very first time.

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I then queried the Ministry of Finance, LTA and the Ministry of Works on this and they replied that the TOR is prepared by the Building Maintenance Unit or BMU. And when I told them if they should do it and they responded that they do not know where the BMU is. Well how is this process like this? This is the cause of the delay? Hon Minister, have a look at the grants and where all this fall under as the delay was not caused by the design but the TOR requiring an appropriate person to perform what you have talked about. With due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister of Works.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, it has taken five years and nothing has been done to this project, yet the speaking member was also sitting here yet why didn't you do something about it, as you say you had a talk with the President of the World Bank, you should've addressed your concern then. You also gave a solution which I am unsure whether it is still applicable.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: I rise with respect should I get a chance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just to note everyone in accordance to Standing Orders, you are allocated 15 minutes during deliberations. However, I give the last chance to the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker this is the initial process in getting funds which is my duty. If it was my time, none of this would've been left undone. With all due respect.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, I beg tolerance as you no longer sit here, bear us your patience as we continue and prepare our work.

As I said earlier, the delay is beyond our control as the developments partners has conditions that we are required to meet before the funds are released. This is the same cost required by the state's counterpart based on the requirements of the World Bank to extend the roads at three meters however, based on the survey that was carried out, the length is 2 meters. As of now, we are putting up the tenders for the west coast road. I think the deadline is towards the end of the month.

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As for the statements regarding millions of unused funds, it is true, but these unused funds are also shown in our budget every year and will be committed to other government projects. That is the explanation as you are well aware that during your former time as Minister, the process takes time. So to advise the member, do not point fingers but think of your own self and what you have contributed during your time.

That is all from me, may God bless the Speaker and members of Parliament, let us seek pleasure today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Palauli le Falefa, I trust the explanation by the Hon Minister was well given, I grant you the final opportunity.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker I will heed the Hon Minister's statement as for the frangipani (sei), well we lay it before you not to us. Even if you drown in it pardon me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go on respectable member of Safata West.

Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): Mr Speaker, thank you. I wish to remind the Hon Minister about the drainage in the nuns' grounds in Savalalo leading to the sea. This problem has been a major concern for years and having a look at it recently, I noticed that pipelines are only changed but that does not solve anything. The intention for raising it again is in regards to cost savings as similarly said about our roads and so forth. With due respect.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you for the intervention. Mr Speaker, in regards to drainage, the undertaking involves two phases and so far, we are now on phase two. The problem stems from the uneven level and the monitoring process for repairs as maintenance work is also lacking. We shall check with the Lands Transport Authority in regards to the raising concern.

In wrapping up, the member now reaffirmed that the frangipani must be laid before us when some of them must be for you. With due respect. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Great job on your perseverance and your reponse with regards to the raising matters, may God's blessings be upon you and the Ministry.

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In resumption of today's Government Responses, I call the Hon Minister of Tourism to give your response with regards to the raising matters by the revered Members.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI (Minister of Tourism): Thank you for the chance. There's a song lyric that goes 'smile and be happy'. Thank you Hon Minister and the member for Palauli le Falefa, that is the spirit in the House, despite the different views we have but we are still one.

Greetings to everyone in the House and Church Ministers tuning in. I remember the day when the big nation of America was in search of its leader. Word has it that when Trump became their leader, Trump made a famous statement, "I will make America great again."

As for me, as the Minister of Tourism, foremost, uppermost we will make Samoa beautiful, we will make Samoa clean and we will make Samoa number one. This testimony involves the Hon Prime Minister and the entire government.

This job requires collective effort not just the Tourism office, to the dignity of Samoa and the chosen representatives of the country, this is our chosen time. That is the same question you ask and observe around your constituencies. Samoa is proud of its lands. We praise God for the wonderful Samoa we have, I will now tell a story lest you think I am being boastful, this is a true story about something that happened before and could occur within your villages as well.

Bear in mind that we must keep Samoa clean starting from the airport all the way to Apia. That is the plea from this Ministry let us work together to keep Samoa tidy.

In response to the two matters raised, the access roads to the beaches and attraction sites have vehicle entry fee/charge for majority of the villages that everyone is aware of. The fixing of roads is not under my jurisdiction that is the duty of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Regardless, this is the collective effort we must fix going forward.

Falealili and Saleaula, I beg tolerance, if I had offended you in any way, bear with me. I say that we strive together for Samoa and its future.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Minister I recognize the member for Falealili West.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: I do not intend to interrupt the wonderful speech of the Member, however, I have already investigated that this responsibility is not under the Ministry of Works but the Ministry of Tourism.

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The two roads I requested for Vaiula going further down to the Turtle, the entry fee is not collected by our village of Tafatafa, it is public road is always open. But as a request Hon Minister, what is your assistance to this please.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Thank you, this is the norm every Saturday, I cautiously turn on the new public vehicle that is not mine and normally I would use it, lest the members of the public think that if it wasn't for public vehicles, I would not have had anything to ride on.

In truth, I will visit you on Saturday and if you can cook us a chicken, I heed assistance to those who need it, that is the commitment and perseverance we must consider.

I thank my dearest constituency for your support upon me...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I give the chance to one of the members for Falealili East.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Thank you Mr Speaker, I wish to remind you about the inland roads of Salani from our normal inspections and a request I made about it last year, this downroad road is posing a great risk as it involves another site along this area.

During your next visit, please take note of this road in Falealili East, with respect. That is two chickens.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Thanks, so it is true, now you do size two and that old man can do the chicken because that is two constituencies. I heed my constituency and pray for God's blessings upon you, farewell and blessings.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done Hon Minister of Tourism, thank you for your effort in keeping Samoa clean, may God bless you and the Ministry and your endeavors throughout the year.

I heed the Hon Minister of Health for your statement in response to the raising matters.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): Thank you for the opportunity. I wish not to say anything more about your honorifics. I wish to respond to the raising concerns of Members in relation to the Supplementary Budget that we discussed.

Out of the 20 members that commented on the Budget, 13 raised issues pertaining to the Ministry of Health which is critical considering health as first priority. This is a collective effort by everyone and the staff to ensure that we serve the public through health services.

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As such, it is appreciating to note that everyone here is prioritizing good health for Samoa. In regards to sick patients and services, sometimes the responses and complaints received by the Ministry is quite alarming.

Otherwise it is gratifying to note that we are getting a lot of positive feedback on improved services.

In regards to district hospitals, well this is not new. We have received a lot of requests on this and the Ministry is working on sorting out these tasks to be in line with the work plan of the Ministry. Such requests include Falelatai, Lefaga, Faleseela and Manono Tai. The fact of the matter is that all undertakings rely on the funding we have available and projects plans built at high quality. The good news is we have met with the World Bank and they have agreed to assist us in upgrading our district hospitals. With non communicable diseases like cancer, heart disease, etc the Ministry will work together with the World Bank in sorting out its priorities. The main objective of the Ministry for constructing district hospital and clinics is to try and ease the pain and seriousness of illnesses before proper treatment is received at the hospital. The same application is practiced in the Pacific and the entire world. As such, the aim of the World Bank is to provide assistance for the district hospitals upon conditions like quality standards, permanent doctors, improved services, etc. We submitted a repair work request for our hospital at Leulumoega. I must make note that the new health clinic was similar to the old one built through a grant from Japan and is now relocated inland of Sataua. As for the Leulumoega request, we have received aid from America for this huge project to be undertaken on a 10 acre land at Faleolo. We picked Faleolo due to reasons like airport proximity to avoid contagious diseases like Ebola and to cater for settlers in the western areas like Falelatai, Lefaga, Manono and Apolima. Additional district hospital and clinics are in the pipeline within and around the country. The Health Service at Leulumoega is quite small despite; services are continuously undertaken. It is important to heed natural events like tsunami and relocation of all health services away from the sea for districts like Poutasi and Fusi, Lefaga and Faleseela.

To date, the Poutasi Health Service is still situated on the same location on the belief that no Tsunami will hit the country again. The relocation of the health clinic from Tapaga to Lalomanu due to rusty health supplies from seawater was the experience I had back in 1972 to 1973. Thus all these relocations of district health services and clinics are currently in line with the government's strategic plans. As for requests for district health services and clinics, that is the Government's plan to ensure easier and accessible services around the country upon the availability of funds and workers to carry out this job. This is talk regarding our district health services.

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In regards to the issue of Women Groups or Komiti Tumama, these are integral and vital part of village life and furthermore provide greater assistance and community participation on health services delivery passed down from our descendants in the past through these Komiti Tumama. As such these committees should be reviewed to assist with primary first aid care. The Ministry will offer hands-on training for women who reside in the villages for first-aid care. This first-aid care will be revived for all women including the young age groups to assist and to minimize diseases from happening all around the country.

The Ministry now has its Advisory Committees for both Upolu and Savaii with the aim to teach the women in the villages about first-aid care. Sometimes in the future, we will put in place a new system for new health programs. In assistance to this matter, I ask the House to assist and support our Health Advisory Committees by extending this awareness to encourage and revive the Komiti Tumama or Women Groups within your districts. This will be a huge contributing factor towards promoting our health services.

In regards to nurses and doctor salaries, in Samoa all doctors have no choice but to work for the Government or set up a private practice. I speak specifically of our country as there is no other option, as soon as a doctor graduates, they all come and work for the Government as there is no other hospital. And if they dislike the State, they can always set up their own Private Practice to earn a living. A request was submitted for additional days for doctors to work in the district hospitals. This is high requirement that the State is trying to achieve by taking their work back to the district hospitals. A career pathway will be set out to achieve this undertaking as there is no standard procedure for the doctors to guide their profession in order for them to focus directly on the Primary Health Care that was mentioned by some who were going to carry out this task including the many benefits that the doctors will acquire to attract them to work in the rural district areas. This undertaking is the main objective of the Ministry to find harmony for all other sectors to achieve best, quality proposals for the Ministry of Health. There is a salaries tribunal that deals with setting appropriate salaries according to the nature and requirements of the job; furthermore, the Ministry will look at other incentives for doctors to work in the rural areas.

There was a mention of a representative for the Community Based Services. 70% of the people in Samoa have died of Non-Communicable Diseases or NCD's. And we are looking at living the "FaaSamoa" way as there are talks in place for an outreach program to identify these Non-Communicable Diseases NCD's. Because according to past events, we had free screening for those who contracted Tuberculosis.

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) is putting emphasis to the work of the Packages of Essential Services (PEN) to combat Non-Communicable Diseases so that the FaaSamoa way is in line with this WHO requirement. This current awareness program is currently undertaken around the country particularly for young women who have graduated from University but are staying home, they are taught by the Women Groups or Komiti Tumama on how to measure blood pressure and diabetes and then these statistics are taken to the nearby district health services and clinics for these patients to be followed up to ensure that their medications are monitored regularly and consistently.

On to X-ray, in the past we had free screening for those who contracted Tuberculosis. The awareness campaign we undertook was regular and we had to bring in those who were contracted this disease for a cure. This was known as the neglected disease given that almost no one was contracted of it. Today, it is now called re-emerging diseases as we are beginning to see more people contracting it again, in advise if a patient cough frequently and the patient has lung cancer, this is the same symptoms we have for Tuberculosis, it is recommended that this patient see a doctor immediately. As for the x-ray during a doctor's visit to the district hospitals, they take with them the Mobile X-Ray and Pharmacy so that after a patient is screened, the medicinal supply is also available on the spot for the patient whilst for x-ray, they can practice on the spot using the mobile unit.

On to poultry (eggs), the Agriculture Minister has already spoken about it on their part whereas in relation to Health, we are more concerned about health security and sufficiency of eggs supplies for the entire country. When I was young, I would hear the old women calling us to take the eggs to the Chinese people who were selling items in biscuit containers containing thread, needle, comb, hairpin, napkin pins etc. these things were exchanged for eggs, nowadays we no longer exchange eggs but we buy eggs. This is a reminder that we too can produce our own eggs if we feed the chickens all the time. Sala has brought before the Cabinet so many gifts, which means that he has plenty of eggs in his chicken farm. Your honor...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I call the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I was given instructions by the Hon Minister of Health that if the subject matter of eggs is reached, then I can rise to remind him that his speech is finished.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: I give the chance to the member of Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker, I too had raised this matter and the response by the Minister of Agriculture seems to relay on health and security for those holding developments in the country. As for egg farming, this development takes a whole year to carry out and mind you, this means that for one whole year, we will have limited eggs available, and note the Government's objective is to prioritize our country. Rather, my speech was referred to the Minister of Health for a month or two...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go ahead Hon Minister. I beg tolerance to the member for Faleata East, you may speak Hon Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: We are still getting eggs from overseas other than the eggs we produce locally; we are importing eggs from Fiji and New Zealand in compliance with the 30 days requirement. So we do not have to wait for a whole year for these produce, we can still get some from abroad for our purchase at a cheaper price...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter with eggs is precisely given, the House...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I am almost finished.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go ahead.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I am directing my statement to the Hon Minister of Health who is the respective Minister for this legislation that the expiry date for local eggs is now 30 days from 60. I mean to say that for us in Pago, the expiry date is also 60 days. There is no official verification from a doctor (scientific evidence) in regards to the expiry dates i.e. 60 days or 30. I am not lying because if we were to visit all of Vaitele with the Hon Minister after today's meeting, then this will verify my explanation, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Your interjection was too early when I was about to give the specifics on the 30 days complaint.

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Under the Foods Bill 2015 and the Food Security Regulation 2017, I will explain the reason behind this 30 days expiry date, the specified 30 days indicates that the eggs are good enough for consumption, over the expiry date will be unsafe for consumption. The eggs also carries a virus if they are not stored well...the storage temperature has to be 4 or 7 degrees Celsius. The eggs are then placed outside of the refrigerator at an ambient temperature for five days. Our local standard is the same as New Zealand's. New Zealand is a cold country and under their law, the eggs are also stored at 7 degrees and if they are placed in the air temperature of 15 degree centigrade, the eggs should be consumed at a minimum of 5 days. On to the 60 days....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Member for Faleata East, the matter has been well defined, it is with belief....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I will leave it at this point; it is almost an hour since we had this explanation never mind thank you. Note that the refrigerators are below zero degrees for the eggs, anyway, thank you for the explanation although I am still confused.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Of the 60 days, it takes 25 days to import eggs from America with the remaining five days used for consumption. The importation from America requires 60 days in a stored constant temperature of 4 to 7 degrees direct air in the refrigerator and upon reaching our wharf they are distributed amongst local stores and by that time it will exceed 30 days. How many days has the eggs been outside the refrigerator? This is unsafe. The importation of eggs from America requires 60 days and their law stipulates 30 days expiry date. So we are in line with American standards, our eggs are also put outside in the warm temperature for five days and must be used within five days.

On to turkey tails, the 2011 Act was passed to prohibit the importing of turkey tails for business purposes (resale), however in 2013, Samoa became a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which prohibited Samoa from discriminating goods between countries provided under its Non-discrimination principles. The turkey tails were only allowed back into Samoa for personal consumption rather than commercial purposes on conditions that a duty payment of 300% is required for three years, after that, the duty will be dropped to 100%. As of now unless the prohibition order by the Customs is amended, then the 100% is under control and you can use your turkey tail for whatever purpose you want. This is the clarification on turkey tails...

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appease the wonderful speech by the Hon Minister of Health. I will recognize the Member for Faleata East.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you for the opportunity. The main reason why I raised this issue on turkey tails yesterday was for the Parliament to make a firm decision on the matter. Note that under the duty fee there is approval that you can import turkey tails at a minimum price of \$500 tala. If you have five boxes of turkey tail, that is free for this price of \$500. But if a decision is made to allow the import of turkey tails for purposes such as cooking awareness program for the public, then that is fine, we can use that too based on appropriate conditions. With due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I permit the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Thank you for the interjection. According to investigations by the Health it is confirmed that we have fatty food like beef and lamb in the country that contains 70% fat content. The only reminder is that we do not have permission to lift that ban or prohibition order that is the jurisdiction of another Ministry. As for turkey tail I do not see why it is prohibited because they are again available around the country. That is all the raising matters by the Members.

I extend gratitude to my constituency for your prayers and support. Have a blessed one Mr Speaker and everyone this sitting day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done Hon Minister of Health for your speech. Do not forget that the Hon Minister is also a certified doctor himself for the Independent State of Samoa. He's gotten to the point where he has used medical terms to clear all matter pertaining to health for the insight of Members. May the good Lord bless your remaining endeavors this year.

I respectfully recognize the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker, as I said before during your sitting there, "you very much suit that position".

I greet the dignity of the House, honorable Speaker, Hon Ministers of the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the dignity members of Parliament. Greetings also to Samoa from paramount heads to young ones. I greet my dearest constituency of Satupaitea, well done on your prayers.

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Mr Speaker, only very few raised queries regarding the Ministry under my portfolio. I wish to present a summary for all submissions although we had Members who gave individual submission regarding their own constituencies.

The normal request by the member for Vaimauga East regarding land had the same government response. The Samoa Land Corporation is currently working on sealing an applicable contract agreement of public land allocation for your constituency in specific Letogo, Vaialele, and Fagalii. Land resolutions for these sub-villages have already been laid out according to their agreement. The government is trying its best to meet the thousand requests from the public every day. Such is priority for the current settlers whereas the remaining land portion will be allocated to the rest of the public. Government has also approved of the land price. Some have accorded the land price as \$8000 when that is not right, such price is no longer applicable today. The asking price for public land is \$35,000 for ¼ acre. That is the starting price which has not changed. The Ministry therefore is conducting awareness on this public lands for these constituencies and see if they are interested in buying otherwise they can lease it as these are public lands they are settling on. About two weeks ago, the Ministry and another constituency have approved of a lease agreement for people wishing to reside on these lands. That is the assistance from the government. As for the Member, as an advice to your request, come see me about your case so we could discuss it further as we do not have enough time here.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the Salelologa township development, well that is the best location for this development in Savaii to meet another one of government aims to boost job creation for the people in Savaii to avoid traveling all the way to Upolu as employment is also available in Savaii. Instructions have been relayed to the Samoa Land to undertake this market development and Salelologa township project this year. We also have plans for tenants to swiftly take on market lease to fill up the empty space. The main problem is the emptiness of the market whereby the Ministry is trying its best to find ways for tenants to start business directly to fill up this space. Advertisements for a special town planner will soon be underway to be based in Savaii to provide recommendations on land allocation from Savaii.

Mr Speaker, the raising concern on minimum wages is not an easy review to make as all nations worldwide must be aware of its minimum wage. We may all want high rate but there is also disadvantage, I too had an experience on this, for \$2 minimum wage I may firstly like to cut down the number of employees so that a budget is maintained to meet their pay, raise the workers' rate by reducing the number.

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Although in reality we have to heed jobs for everyone that regardless of small pay at least everyone is getting a share. As for a review on this matter, the government will look into it and provide a recommendation if appropriate to change it. The private sector will mainly be affected on this raise, particularly the casual workers who will be directly affected by this minimum wage. Otherwise the Ministry will look into it.

The last matter that had the most thoughts was about our aircraft. True is the saying, a dream come true is a dream by the government that was not build yesterday. It started every since we had no aircraft. Such is the appreciation for all the good recommendations to assisting this development which has taken two months. We have our criteria for executing these funds as government has its own reporting period on a quarterly basis for these project developments. The Cabinet has also decided to set up a Special Committee to assist with the management of these funding to assist the Board Committee for transparency and accountability purposes.

This development is very technical even during my time otherwise, our target is now achieved. We can now fly to New Zealand and Australia. This time last year, we only talked about it. The maintenance of this development all depend on funding.

It is also stated that if this was the Government's dream to assist our people by lowering our airfares, the same happened for Air New Zealand and Virgin. You see the light burden for our country? Not only for travelers but it will also make it easier for tourists to visit our shores given the cheaper airfares to Samoa whether through Air New Zealand or our aircraft.

This is why we went to Fiji because Fiji had their own aircrafts that is vying with these airlines including the Cook Islands. This is why competition is good as it will benefit the travelers. That is the benefit of our local aircraft thus we need the country's support. Why else do we go on Air New Zealand when we now have our own aircraft, thus the funding will depend on the airfares you pay in New Zealand when you return to...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to interrupt the Hon Minister's wonderful speech as we have a motion to move by the Leader of the House.

Hence with respect I ask the Hon Prime Minister to move the motion.

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MOTION TO SET ASIDE SITTING HOURS

Afioga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I rise to move a motion, *That Proceedings be resumed until Government Responses are through, perhaps we have five more minutes left for the raising concerns before the Budget is a wrap and then we can adjourn and recommence our works tomorrow.*

Seconded by the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture.

Motion approved.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the Hon Minister to resume with your speech.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Mr Speaker as I said, my explanation will not take any longer. For any new project, there will always be mistakes and no new project is perfect like the comments by the Members. The immigration system is also new to me and such undertaking has serious effects. Such is the system in Auckland whereby passports uses a different system from that of a boarding pass. This is because we are trying to go through the same system through a request so that we are in the same system as them to make our traveling much easier. We have good news, by the end of next week; the systems in Auckland will be established. Samoa and Australia are ok except for Auckland airport which had me stuck when I transited there. But we need one more aircraft. Hence we are in competition with other airlines at entering this system when you bring your passport the attendant takes it whilst the Immigration and Customs are looking. Such process takes a week to improve. Another improvement is online booking which we must be up to date with, whenever we receive bookings we must receive them all by the month of April like international standards. For this new development, we must heed mistakes and patience by giving full support to our aircraft.

Others have queried the leasing of our aircraft and that is true because we have no power to purchase one due to its high cost. The price of aircrafts can reach up to \$300million. And it's a sure thing that all Pacific Islands are leasing their aircrafts to special companies whom they work closely with. Ours is a 12 months lease. The first lease which is 6months is called a wet lease which consists of the pilot, aircraft, flight attendant and civil aviation engineers. It's not the same as buying a car here such that you only show your license.

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This is different as it comes with special and professional crew. The first six months had pilots and stewardesses by which majority of them are Samoans. Some of these international flight attendants have already returned but not the pilots. In the next three months, some of these special pilots will return and our local pilots will take over. Plans are in the pipeline suggesting for another local aircraft to expand this industry all depending on our revenue. As I said earlier, we cannot afford to purchase an aircraft, they are all leased.

Moving forward, the dream is to increase more aircrafts in the country and hopefully by then we will be able to purchase our own aircraft and the size we want. If we have the second aircraft, we will propose routes like Wellington, Brisbane, Melbourne which will further expand this service for our people and visitors from abroad.

Queries on the lease value, I apologize as one of the criteria under this signed agreement is that we cannot publicize the lease for these transactions. These are commercially sensitive information for the sake of the civil aviation industry such that this information must be kept confidential lest other aviation companies are aware of this lease. Mind you we have terms and conditions to comply with and if such is so given that we want a second aircraft, then perhaps we have a better chance of getting another one.

That is the aim so that... what is important is that we now have an aircraft that is affordable for now. And we do have annual reports that are submitted to the House whereby we cannot avoid these terms and conditions we signed and agreed to.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker, I was the one who queried this lease together with one other member. I am now aware that such information has a confidentiality agreement.

Now that we have comprehensively heard, 12 months and another 6 months wet lease and possibly by the next 6 months, a new crew will take over. Do you mean to say that after three months, we will change from wet lease to dry lease? And if this is so, will the lease drop?

That is the basis to the question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Go ahead Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you for the question, most of the female flight attendants came under the wet lease...and by the end of the six months, these foreign pilots will return and be replaced by our local pilots and together we will have a full local staff including the engineers. That is the clarification on this matter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Go on Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the returning pilots are those who took on these aircrafts in the beginning. These pilots were trained in Singapore and have returned. The same with our engineers who now have license to manage our aircrafts as they now have experience in looking after them. So it has not been long, our whole crew will return to work for our aircraft.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Hon Prime Minister, that is correct, that is the whole purpose for these well trained personnel to be employed at our aircraft for the success of our industry. And as I said earlier your patience is a requirement.

Mr Speaker, that is all the matter I wanted to speak about.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Alataua West): Mr Speaker can I get a chance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow the member of Alataua West.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau: Thank you for the opportunity and thank you Hon Minister for the explanation. Due to commercialization, the question for an insight, what is the timeframe for this lease because you said 12 months? Is there a time period before this lease is renewed? How long is this lease as you mention that the price value for this aircraft is 300 thousand million, because if the timespan is known then the query is satisfied? Thank you for the opportunity.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you for the question. I think the reviewing period is three years taking into account whether possible to negotiate another leasing agreement.

I conclude by greeting my constituency of Satupaitea in all your honorific salutations. Thank you for your prayers, work is going well with plans that we will meet in the coming week to discuss our new project. May God bless our journey this year, God bless Samoa and this Sitting. Soifua.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true as you state Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor. Everything is well delivered in your statement. I heed God's blessings upon you and the Ministry especially for the success of our aircraft to go well this year. I call the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, heads of various Government Ministries and Public Enterprises, Samoa in all your significant status, Church Ministers, greetings all this hour of the day in good health and spirit.

Mr Speaker, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee made a statement that I do not earn any money from this Supplementary Budget otherwise, I must respond to the raising matters from the respectable members because the Supplementary Budget is related to the Main Estimate.

I start off with the raising concern by the member for Gagaemauga No.3 on land boundaries. Mr Speaker some of the districts have carried out cases on land boundary to determine the lay out for these huge boundaries. It is no doubt that such include the constituency of Gagaemauga No.3 as well as Atua as the Hon Prime Minister and Tafua are listening. If such was the case, then we have proof and evidence. As a reminder to the public, I guess this is a good initiative to provide clarity to the Alii and Faipule of the land that rightfully belongs to which village and so forth.

We have initiated a program in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice to provide accurate boundaries for the large constituencies. The Government will be funding 75% whilst constituencies contribute 25% of the total costing of the land survey project.

In regards to sand mining without permits, this would require a collective effort to ensure policies are followed by companies, villages and individuals. The law which makes bio plastic bags compulsory has resurfaced. These non-biodegradable bags are an environment threat.

Plans for the seawall areas are underway by the community integrated plans for the next ten years which we negotiate together with the World Bank and the United Nations to ensure that we have set strategic plans relative to worldwide issues such as climate change and so forth.

The PUMA, LTA and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure have different functions and therefore cannot be merged as suggested by one member, a merge therefore could not be justified based on convenience and easier access for the public.

I think that is all. But overall the Hon Prime Minister has stated his satisfaction on this Sitting and...

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the lady Hon Minister, I give the chance to the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker. The works and functions of these Ministries namely the Land Transport Authority, Ministry of Works and the Planning of the Urban Management Agency seem to overlap or duplicate each other responsibilities. For instance, the Ministry of Works will say that they design roads, approve house designs and structure etc. PUMA on the other hand according to the law looks after the environment and its security for the people.

Personally I think we need a legal opinion on this so that all duties are in line with government plans and to save funds. It is important that we put in place a regulation to consolidate who is responsible and to protect the overlapping of responsibilities.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. Go ahead.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: These Ministries have different roles to play. The LTA deal with road traffic issues, the Ministry of Environment deal with environmental issues and the PUMA deal with building related permits. But I will look into that concern.

So coming to the overall statement I made regarding the Hon Prime Minister and his contentment of this Sitting due to the great comments by the members, equality of the dialogue if we could put it that way.

But that is the spirit as the Hon Prime Minister have clarified, what we do involves processes. I wish to remind all that this is one condition to good governance, we live by the laws. But do not forget, we all work collectively in the process. Everyone has equal rights in this process for the benefit of Samoa in a timely manner.

There is a word in English, the end justifies the means. It doesn't matter how we came out with the results and such is inapplicable in this case because we go by law. This does not apply to us but the Government of Samoa. And if duties and responsibilities are carried out legally, we will be successful. But do not forget, we go by laws. In conclusion, Samoa is a small country, it is a developing country, we are not the only ones in this world, we work according to the changes we see globally. What happens to these global changes? As said by the Finance Committee Chairperson, all these revolve around our traditions and culture. Some agree that culture is old and outdated. Our culture revolves around change. And what we do is our culture. We too have our own Samoan way and values such as respect. That is why Samoa is unique from other countries as seen in our developments.

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– debate on the second reading resumed**

That is all from me, have a blessed meeting. Soifua.

Susuga HON TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, Government Responses have been given by the Cabinet and it is belief that all matters have been well clarified for the sake of the House and the public. I will speak briefly on a few things before we move on to the consideration of our Budget.

It has been noted in the Main Budget that there would be no supplementary which appears to be why this statement is being questioned by Members. However, that statement was on the effort that all relevant parties prepared the necessary funds. The government has had this objective since we became Independent similar to recommendations from overseas that we should not include anymore supplementary.

That is why up until now the government is urging all Ministries and Corporations to submit everything that needs to be achieved in a year. It is no secret; we are living in a world of changes. That is reason why we still prepare/include supplementary to cater for emergency cases like cyclones as only God is aware of the events occurring in the future. We currently have a supplementary of \$23million in the Main Budget that is continuously appropriated until the end of the year.

29 years ago back in 1989 when I was former Minister of Finance, I advised Tofilau and the Parliament that our financial year needs to be amended. The rationale behind this change from January – December to July – June was to ensure ample time for reports to be prepared as Samoa usually receives its aid at the end of the calendar year. In specific the reason for changing was so that we are in line with other countries like Australia and New Zealand where the outpour of aid is from for us to prepare our Financial Years statements on time. It was not a good image for Members of Parliament to argue over the budget close to and during the festive season. Hence it's been 29 years since we had this change for our Financial Years from June – July in our Main Budget. Meanwhile, the remaining appropriation will take us forward as we still have a lot of unused funds available.

This is a very critical Sitting as discussions draw exclusively on the Budget and loans. What we need to do first is to clear out our statutory expenditure including international and local loans as it is vital to pay a portion of these loans to ensure Samoa's continuous good reputation. Salary payments are of the utmost importance, \$199 million was set aside for Samoa's development.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
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The Government was seeking other ways to lower expenses. \$279million was used to implement development projects. Samoa is fortunate to have special conditions from the international financial institutions. Interest rates offered by the World Bank, ADB and IMF were below 1%, these interest rates were accorded to countries with the least development. The task of the Finance CEO was crucial as his responsibility was to ensure the following; there is sufficient cash flow; foreign reserves are stable; and continued growth in the GDP. The government aims to avoid consumption expenditure to save funds for our developments and projects including employment opportunities for our children.

The reason why we expand our projects is to create employment for our children. This is reason for this \$199million that is otherwise gone up to \$279million. How is this possible? It came from our borrowing incurring low interest rate. What do soft interest rates mean? This is called grace period which means resting period for countries not to make any loan payments but still pay the interest rate of 1% specifically assigned for low income level countries.

In 1991 three European gentlemen from the Development Fund in Italy approached me to provide financial assistance to set up an infrastructural development like a hotel for 8% interest rate, I did not approve it and told them we wanted borrowings instead below 1% or lower interest rate for our developments, I ended up kicking them out. They then went to the Cook Islands to set up a hotel development which had Jeffery Henrick's approval and unfortunately to date, this hotel still remains incomplete but was funded by this Italian Funding institution.

This is what the Minister of Finance should look into when it comes to budget, interest rates and timeframe that normally takes 10 to 30 years repayment. Samoa is now omitted from the list of low economic development countries since the month of January 2014 and is now categorized under the Medium Income Level Country. Why? Because we now make \$10,000 per capita income a year.

This is what the Minister of Finance and I look into every day, how much is our GDP, \$2 billion, \$100million etc. That is the total income per capita accumulated to form the constant flow of cash in the economy every year.

Other things we look into are the status of our cash flow and our savings taking into account that we must have sufficient cash in our accounts for the sake of our developments and projects.

Thirdly, our reserves. Cash flow is rolled over from our reserves and these two go hand in hand together. Because once money goes out or when a person is holding a large amount of money, that is what happens, it will spill over and then money is drawn down from our reserves.

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– debate on the second reading resumed**

If these are not considered thoroughly, we will go bankrupt such as in the case from the two previous Parliamentary terms. That is reason why the public voted for this government to try and resolve this bankruptcy. This not only affected the cash flow, savings but most especially our reserves. That is how the business sector came to afford and supply only chicken backbones at the time. That is why an expert is appointed to hold the post of the Finance Minister to advise the Cabinet on these things to avoid any mistakes that can affect our economic flow and ensure to maintain sufficient cash flow and continued growth in the GDP.

Just to note all continued projects that takes 2, 3, 4 years were funded from international funding institutions soft loans and therefore, a surplus must be gained. Such is our main hospital which took 4 to 5 years of construction. This is reason why the government would turn to these major funding institutions for loans and borrowings to fund our many projects.

By international standards, we are to comply with principles of good governance such as accountability, transparency as well as consultations. Consult with a foreign country to meet in either Upolu or Savaii to discuss issues like customary land lease etc. That consultation process took almost 3 years and was led by Oka Fauolo who was an expert in this field who then recommended the public to lease their lands to earn income. As for the lease we now have, it is on a contractual basis, customary land will go back to the owner once the lease agreement expires. This is why I watch psychology about these types of people who know exactly what they are up to but they still do it.

There was a book written by Hitler called *Mein Kampf* that had these words, “when you make up a lie, it will eventually turn out to be true” that is what these people are doing which is called Hitler’s psychology.

You see how smart the German people are, the scientists who later fell into Hitler’s trick talked about his entire philosophy, ‘how to make people believe you, even a very stupid lie, they will believe you. If you keep on repeating and repeating and repeating,’ that is what these people are doing, but they are well educated people who are lawyers and even though they do it in secret, I know all about them. The only concern is their safety because we all have mental people in our households. So for security reasons, that is our major concern because even in the words spoken they are too brutal and dirty.

It is critical that we are actually discussing these significant issues for our developments. We had a bus station; airport which was strongly encouraged by our Cabinet unfortunately the ADB, New Zealand, Australia, World Bank rejected it.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– debate on the second reading resumed**

The reason for their rejection is because funding will come from China through a soft loan at a grant element of 27% which I agree. They said that it is inappropriate for us to apply for a soft loan through the Board at a grant element of 35% and end up traveling to China to get it.

We did not approve it considering the revival of our visitor number as most of our hotels were problematic then, why? Because Air New Zealand and Virgin Blue have taken up our passengers creating a very bad image for our country saying that we have a low number of visitors.

But when we said that our aircraft will now fly, they automatically say they will also use their airlines as the number of travelers is growing which was a total lie. This is reason why the Cabinet had planned the setting up of a new waiting room at the airport which is the most beautiful room in the entire Pacific to cater for the rising number of visitors, provide success to our businesses and create job opportunities for our children, to avoid assistance and budget support and grants from Australia and New Zealand.

This was reason for preparation of justifications on the standards we wrote to the World Bank prepared by the Central Bank which thereby reopened doors to us given the fact that they did not want us to build our terminals.

The reason for explaining this is because there was a fight back in 1950 before the majority of you were born, there was a house called the Tivoli that was burned down. At that time, when Tivoli was packed, everyone would scream to the rooftop. The last match was between a contender from Saleimoa and Apia for the heavyweight champions. When we came to round 10 the contenders' points were equal. Round 11 gave the Saleimoa contender more points. Despite the many fans calling the Apia competitor to stand up and fight, the Apia contender ended up saying 'don't you see that my face is covered with blood, touch your asses'. The moral of the story if you sit in Cabinet, it is different from the perspective of those outside Cabinet. The workload engaged by the Cabinet and Ministers as Fiame clarified is different considering good governance. Terms and conditions must be met for these grants to come in such as good governance, up to date reports and sufficient insight of sensitive issues.

By comparison in terms of good governance, Samoa is ranked highest in the Pacific which is reason why more grants are received particularly from Australia.

The main factor we must consider is the capacity to pay international borrowings. And by international standards in term of staff capacity, we are also there. Even with the delay experienced through this process, it is vital that all requirements and terms are satisfied including wise distribution.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– consideration in detail**

Mr Speaker that is all from me thus I now recommend that we now consider the Budget.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe we have received all clarifications on government responses through the Ministers as well as comments and submissions from all Members. Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your statement for the sake of the public tuning in.

Government responses have already been given on all raising matters and general comments by Member regarding the Budget and the economic level of Samoa given its financial procedures and principles.

The motion has been moved for the second reading of this Bill on the 19th December 2017 and has been seconded.

The motion was approved as moved on the 19th December 2017 and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018 was read a second time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2017/2018
– consideration in detail**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Assembly will now take consideration of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill (No.1) for the Financial Year ending on the 30th June 2018 and consider the Report of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee on the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2018.

I remind all that you have 15 minutes for each speaker for anything that you wish to bring forth to the table hence let us proceed with our work.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 134(1), consideration in detail of the Bill commences with Schedule:

**FIRST SCHEDULE
ADDITION IN APPROPRIATIONS**

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & LABOR:		\$102, 915.

Approved.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– consideration in detail**

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE:	\$700,000.
<i>Approved.</i>	
FINANCE:	\$5,660,000.
<i>Approved.</i>	
JUSTICE & COURT ADMINISTRATION:	\$60,270.
<i>Approved.</i>	
PRISON & CORRECTIONS:	\$5,200,000.
<i>Approved.</i>	
PRIME MINISTER & CABINET:	\$112, 7587.
<i>Approved.</i>	
FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES:	\$131,000.
<i>Approved.</i>	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2017-2018:	\$11,966,943.
<i>Approved.</i>	

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– consideration in detail**

**SECOND SCHEDULE
REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS**

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATION:
FORESTRY & FISHERIES:		(\$100,000).
	<i>Approved.</i>	
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & LABOR:		(696,024).
	<i>Approved.</i>	
PRIME MINISTER & CABINET:		(120,304).
	<i>Approved.</i>	
TOTAL REDUCTIONS OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2017–2018:		(916,328).
	<i>Approved.</i>	
CLAUSE 2:	Grant and Appropriation of \$11,966,943 out of Treasury Fund.	
	<i>Approved.</i>	
CLAUSE 3:	Reduction of amounts earlier appropriated and re- allocation to other outputs and sub-outputs.	
	<i>Approved.</i>	

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– third reading**

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title & commencement.

TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2017/2018.

Approved.

The Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) Act 2017/2018 progressed without Amendments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL
(NO.1) 2017/2018 – third reading**

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2017/2018 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

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

The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands when the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018 was passed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I trust we have come to the conclusion of our business pursuant to the motion. It is with pleasure that I extend great thanks to everyone for your efforts and patience for our business today. It has been a very long day and all of you have grown weary due to your calling. As such, I render sincere appreciation to you all for your commitment and perseverance, the fruit of the spirit we sought from God now ends with great benefit.

Before we adjourn, I ask the member for Faasaleleaga No.3 to end us with a prayer to close our business today.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 2.34pm until Friday, 26 January 2018 at 9.00am.

