

THURSDAY, 27TH MARCH 2014

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: In the spirit of thanksgiving I give thanks to our Lord and Father for His unconditional love upon us, for guiding us here safely today to continue with our schedules. Therefore, I like to extend warm greetings to each Member present here today. Regardless of our own personal problems and difficulties, illnesses and other dilemmas we are here now healthy and well.

I also like to greet the Deputy Prime Minister and members of Cabinet and also the Leader of Opposition and respective Members of the Parliament.

Without further ado let us now commence with our program as discussed yesterday in the spirit of following through with our proposed plans set for today. Any changes the Chair may have imposed, they are all in the spirit of ensuring our work is completed. We make changes to ensure progress and development with our work. At times your opinions will be requested and I firmly believe that whatever changes we undergo we can do it if we all work together.

PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk read out the list of Select Committee Reports pursuant to Standing Order 51(5).

1. P.P.2013/2014 No.136, The Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee Report on the P.P. 2012/2013 No. 55, Samoa National Provident Fund Annual Report for Financial Year 2012, & P.P. 2013/2014 No.74, Samoa National Provident Fund Annual Report for Financial Year 2013.
2. P.P.2013/2014 No. 137, the Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Committee Report on P.P.2013/2014 No.47, Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the Financial Year 2010-2011 and P.P.2013/2014 No. 48, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Health for the Financial Year 2011-2012

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CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

P.P.2013/2014 NO. 62, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2011/2012 NO. 34, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OF
SAMOA FOR THE FIANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014
- CONSIDERATION

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of Opposition): Mr Speaker a matter that needs clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition you may stand.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I stand with all due respect because we the Opposition put forth queries as is our right as clearly stated in Standing Orders 58 and 59 but we have been denied this right. This is the third year of the Parliamentary Term and our Parliamentary sessions rarely last till Thursdays. So I ask where the transparency and accountability is as we are denied such important opportunities to question Government on matters concerning the country. We hosted Seminars and overseas delegates preached to us about the importance of questions. Mr Speaker, the Opposition is very disappointed with regards to the Standing Orders and Democracy where regulations are clearly neglected.

Mr Speaker I urge you to let me ask these questions in accordance to the Standing Orders.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition I will now answer your concerns.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: We the Opposition are very disappointed.

MR SPEAKER: Please be seated as the Chair will try and clarify the reason for this change. I was certain after my request was relayed after our meeting yesterday that it was well understood and accepted by all as it is crucial with regards to the procedure of our proceedings.

Leader of Opposition I clearly explained the urgency of the changes and apologized for the inconvenience as well. It is our job and responsibility to alter what we can when the need calls for it. And as of now, the need is very urgent. I mentioned that there are 70 reports and we cannot rest until they are complete. That is the program laid out. We all heard the remarks by the Hon Prime Minister that this session will continue until this business is complete. What is the situation now? We have to adjust our program accordingly. What would you prioritize first? Furthermore changes we have made are important because the number of members taking a leave of absence due to the disease running a mock our nation at the moment has increased. Three members from the Opposition are taking a leave of absence due to sickness and the number of our quorum has decreased.

Secondly the Leader of our country is sick.

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P.P.2013/2014 No. 62, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2011/2012 No. 34, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2014 - Consideration

Thirdly, observe carefully and notice the empty seats of the members of the Cabinet. The changes are placed to ensure balance and stability. Moreover, I understand your worries over your right as stated in Clause 44 and 45, but if you observe carefully clause 44 clearly states that the Speaker has authority to alternate changes in accordance to the Orders of the day. I am well aware of your concerns and that Thursday is often set aside for private members business. But I am also aware of your words to discuss reports, so let us discuss reports. The clarification and discussion of Reports will ensure all your questions put forth will be answered.

I am trying to explain that the changes we are making are for the better and as I also explained yesterday, this will not be the last Thursday. There are more opportunities to come, more Thursdays to come. Take for instance the previous meetings on Thursday when you called for an opportunity for questions and then we continued with the consideration of reports. Why? Because you are eager to consider the report against the Government.

That is why Leader of Opposition you persist with this issue and I stand firm because it is very important. Your rights are not being ignored. Time has also been set aside for further concerns and even though you interrupt speeches of other members, even though it goes against the Standing Orders I still give you chance out of respect and patience.

Therefore do not question my decision because I am trying to do my job in ensuring our work is complete.

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

MR SPEAKER: Be patient I have not finished my explanation.

If we are to refer to your statements with regards to the Standing Orders, there is only one person with every right to make the final decision and that is the Speaker. However since I am patient and willing to give the opportunity, it is given. So please have some consideration for what I believe important. The questions you have brought forth will all be answered and some have already been answered.

Seminars are made so that your persistence and eagerness to question the Government can be addressed, instead of dragging on meetings and wasting time. Leader of Opposition I apologize if I have caused you frustration and disappointment but it is not exactly the end of the world. There will be other Thursdays for your queries. Notice not only the Members of the Parliament but also the staff of the Office of the Clerk are wearing sunglasses. If everyone goes on sick leave who would be here to serve the Legislative Assembly of Samoa?

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That is why I think it is important to simplify this matter however it is not my intention to belittle or neglect your notions or rights. We have three more years for this Parliamentary Term and so I urge you to diminish the thought that you may never get the opportunity of any other Thursday to convey queries. I have sent an urgent request to the Hon Prime Minister for this matter and the reason why our work has reached this day is because of the importance of our work and not completing our orders of the day after Government business is complete. And as some of you may notice there is a backlog because there is not much time for to consider this business. The Government has sympathized and we now have time to proceed with our work. This is the second week since our proceedings have continued to a Thursday and we will continue vigilantly now that we have the opportunity. On that note I prioritize the Cabinet and Hon Prime Minister because their work is urgent and important and I hope and pray that this interruption does not occur again.

As you may have heard, I have instructed the Chairpersons of Committees and Deputy Chairpersons to have their work within a three month period so that this does not occur again.

The Chair has been blamed for delaying the proceedings. However, I believe that is not the case because you all know that we meet at the Tofilau Building to try and complete our work. Why? It is because I value the importance of having the entire quorum present in completing our work.

That is why Leader of the Opposition I give you the opportunity because I too know your intention is so that our work may be complete. However, I pray heed that you may consider and respect my efforts in making changes to our schedules in the spirit of completing and targeting the vitality of our work.

Deputy Prime Minister you may stand.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I would firstly like to say greetings to the Members of Parliament here today and also to your good self. You have given thanks to our Lord on our behalf for all he has done for us. Furthermore, the Government has heard intently of your decision with its reasons with regards to Clause 44(2) of our Standing Orders. We too have come to the conclusion of supporting this decision. Thank you.

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

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition you may.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Deputy Prime Minister do not hide corruption.

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Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: What corruption are you referring to since I am stating the clause in the Standing Orders?

MR SPEAKER: What wrong doing are you talking about Leader for the Opposition? What wrong doing when it is clearly stated in the Standing Orders?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The wrong I am talking about is stopping the Opposition from pursuing its questions suitable for the Government at this moment.

MR SPEAKER: Take your seat member.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: We are going home.

MR SPEAKER: Take your seat. The choice is yours if you want to leave, that right is up to you.

I am trying to calm everything down and explain the situation. Study Clause 44.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: So what do you think, this is the first Thursday our meetings have come to but our queries were brought forth before that.

MR SPEKAER: Last Thursday you raised concern about your queries and whether they are addressed or not. However, we must prioritize what is important. Please take a seat.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: So the only thing important is the Financial Report? That is the only thing that is to be prioritized?

MR SPEAKER: Take a seat. I had hoped that you would be considerate of the decisions made and the reason behind it. You are proceeding to wage war without any thought for our work. There is only one person with full authority to direct our proceedings and I am trying to do that. Your notions and concerns are not being ignored and I suggest you have some respect because I respect you. Many of the times you disrupt and disrespect our proceedings but I let it slide and give you the opportunity.

I have requested and pleaded that the times we are in are difficult and please read the Standing Orders carefully because you persist that my decision is wrong. Clause 44 states, By leave of the Speaker, the Order of Business set out in the Order Paper may be altered.

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Besides, the Hon Prime Minister is absent so your queries will not be answered due to his absence. We are having our meeting out of respect for you. Or would you suppose to still ask questions to the other Ministers while the responsible Minister is not present? How is that arranged? And suppose you ask your questions and the responses of the Government are not complete, what is the use of that at all?

I had really hoped you the Leader of Opposition would have some form of respect for our efforts, instead of standing up and stating that what I am doing is wrong. The decision has not been made easily, it has been well thought through.

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

MR SPEAKER: You may stand.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: I stand to apologize for my late arrival caused by traffic. However it was pleasant listening in to the words of thanksgiving to the Lord and I believe all is well in the spirit of things for the day.

I believe your pride and honor Mr Speaker has somewhat been wounded by the assumptions made by the Leader of Opposition. However, Parliament notes the accuracy of your decision. The authority lies in your capable hands as stated in accordance to the Standing Orders. It is very important because regardless of feeling under the weather we strive to be present to finish our work as per the motion made by the Hon Prime Minister to progress with the consideration of 70+ Committee Reports. The only intention of the Chairpersons, as I am also one, is that we complete our lapsed business as we have been accused for the delay in the tabling of Reports. Hence I would like to ask forgiveness and Leader of Opposition, all of Samoa is our audience, this is not a trait of a Leader of Opposition but rather he should have patience and sound judgment. The Hon Prime Minister is absent due to illness and only the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet members are here to continue our work. I do not believe it is my place to order a respectable member such as yourself but let it be a reminder of the urgency of our work. In all truthfulness, we did not come to the meeting prepared for the queries of the Opposition but mainly to finish our reports. That is all Mr Speaker, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Deputy Leader for the Opposition you may stand.

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Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta (Falealupo): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I would like to set aside the issue at hand, there will come a time. However I stand to remind the member that I was once a Speaker and so I offer a little piece of advice.

Mr Speaker it is really simple. Our main concern was so that the Parliament may have the opportunity to listen to our questions because we rarely get the opportunity. And if they are answered later on, they would appear in the form of writing which leaves no room for debate. However, since you have made up your mind it is not a problem because you have the authority.

To the member for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi thank you but we all know the Standing Orders. Everybody can read and understand it. We just have to put it in to action. That is all Mr Speaker; the Leader for the Opposition will now make his speech.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I stand with all due respect. I have now read the Standing Order 44 and I will not make things difficult anymore. I just wanted to clarify that these questions are important because they are what is happening at the moment to the nation. So if we leave it till later, they will no longer be applicable or important. That is why I was very persistent Mr Speaker. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition I hear your concern loud and clear.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: These questions have not been answered because they are new questions.

MR SPEAKER: I hear your notions Leader for the Opposition and I shall respond because you are still adamant. If we study the Standing Orders carefully there is a vast difference in interpretation with what I am trying to convey. It is not about winning or power or authority, but about maintaining stability and focus on what is truly important with the work within the Legislative Assemble. This is the first time our meeting has reached a Thursday. It has only been two weeks since Parliamentary Sittings have reached a Thursday. Why is that? I had requested to the Government to give the opportunity for Parliament to discuss its business. But if we look at it now, it has only been two weeks and you have stated that your questions are not being acknowledged. How are they not being addressed, when the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is listening? All your questions are here and they are not being overlooked. However, it is about the most appropriate timing to address these queries. The Standing Orders are accurate and clear regarding the powers of the Speaker. Let us put our differences aside and not let it cause disagreements. There is an opportunity for your queries.

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The 70 reports that are to be discussed I believe will relieve all your queries. They were from the year 2009-2010 and the present ones from 2012-2013 which has all the records needed. Therefore, do not worry as these reports will answer your questions and I believe the House has heard my announcement with the assistance of the....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I promise I will not linger any longer on the subject. But the nation is listening in and they may assume I am disrespectful. That is why Mr Speaker I apologize. The intentions and duties of the Opposition are clear in the Standing Orders. If I have erred with my remarks it is because we strive for honesty and transparency. The important fact is that that side of the House is listening as well as the country and they can be the judge of the occurrences this morning because we seldom get such an opportunity. But I sincerely apologize to the House the members and all of Samoa for my behavior. My intentions were purely to seek what is true and just.

That is all I wished to say Mr Speaker. Thank you and bless our meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, your stance is clear. However, I firmly believe that as the Speaker I must emphasize and dwell more on the topic of what is right and transparent as you so mentioned. I have begged endurance and patience from you with regards to the changes I have decided to make because we cannot avoid any issue nor bury your views. Furthermore, since I have been Speaker, has there ever been a single situation when your rights were belittled? There are those that orate but others observe. I am mindful of your side as the opposing party to the Government and also because you are the minority within Parliament. Whatever programs implemented by the Office of the Clerk, it is for your benefit and nothing else. Being the Chair, you have to trust the decisions made in steering our work. But if you continue to be difficult and unappreciative then we are heading to a different path entirely.

Member for Aana No.1, Afioga Hon Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi you may stand.

Afioga Hon Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi: Mr Speaker out of respect I wish not to challenge or be disrespectful to the Leader of Opposition. But I would like to salute you on your tolerance and patience with the heavy responsibility you carry out. I respect your endurance and wise judgment during these times. However, if we were to strictly implement the law, then some members would have already been banned from the House for more than one breach. I applaud your unyielding respect and patience, which is the Lords will and is also an aspect of our culture, that of love and respect.

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Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker with all due respect....

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the assistance. I beg your pardon member for Faleata West but I must ask you to have patience because we are still trying to calm things down. Therefore, I trust everything is crystal clear and everyone is in full understanding of what was raised. I must apologize to the member and also to this side of the House for the disruption but I believe the matter has been resolved.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Chairperson, Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee):

“RECOMMENDATION:

Based on its findings the Committee recommends that the Government:-

1. Approved Proficiency Results of research projects should be launched at earlier stage for the public to be aware of, especially the Business People whom they can afford future operations of these projects in terms of local goods production. The Corporation should also look at possible ways to work closely with some local private business for market expansion.
2. Considers appropriate conditions in establishing a life insurance benefit scheme for the staff especially those who involve in conducting scientific research work.
3. Encourages the Organization to work in partnership with Samoa Water Authority and the Ministry of Health in testing drinking water and canned food products imported to Samoa.
4. Supports funding a new electric generator for SROS for the reason that most of the laboratory machines need to run within 24hour.

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P.P.2013/2014 No. 62, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2011/2012 No. 34, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2014 - Consideration

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly approves the P.P.2011/2012 No. 34, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2010.”

Report approved without debate.

P.P.2013/2014 NO. 64, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2011/2012 NO. 56, CORPORATE PLAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION OF SAMOA FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2014 - CONSIDERATION

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA:

“RECOMMEDATION:

Based on its findings the Committee recommends that the Government:-

1. Encourages collaborative strategic research work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in order to ensure the availability of raw materials such as breadfruit, avocado, cassava etc, for its future research projects.
2. Promotes Awareness Programmes on Approved Proficiency Results of research projects conducted, for the Private Sector and Individuals who can afford to proceed with the operation and management of businesses through applying these results.
3. Develops partnership with the Samoan Healers Association at its Medicinal Herbs Projects and to recognize and consider such natural medicine pursuant to International Accreditation Standards.
4. Promotes Technical Service Program and Local Research Development through working closely with Government Ministries and Corporations, in terms of revenue.

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P.P.2013/2014 No. 64, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2011/2012 No. 56, Corporate Plan of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa for the Period 2012-2014 - Consideration

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly approves the P.P.2011/2012 No. 56, Corporate Plan of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Period 2012-2014.”

Report approved without debate.

P.P.2013/2014 NO. 123, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO. 11, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OF SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010 – 2011, & P.P.2013/2014, NO. 39, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OF SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2011-2012 - CONSIDERATION

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA:

“RECOMMENDATION:

After consideration by the Committee of the reports given, the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee recommends the following to the government:

1. That the Scientific, Research Organization of Samoa establish programs that will promote goods that have already been researched and produced by the Organization out of the public for awareness. As well as to notify the public on resources that the Organization would need the public’s assistance so as to ensure that we continue to have an immense supply of natural resources to be able to produce goods for exports which in turn minimizes the flow of imports into the country;
2. The Organization to work with Governmental Ministries such as the Samoa Water Authority, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries offering its scientific research services to ensure clean water and improved health of the public.

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P.P.2013/2014 No. 123, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 11, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2010 – 2011, & P.P.2013/2014, No. 39, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2011-2012 - Consideration

3. The Organization to seek avenues in which they can form partnership ties with other countries to be able to enhance scientific expertise to further develop the services of the Organization;
4. The Organization is encouraged to establish and host conferences and gatherings for the Pacific to focus on enhancing scientific research skills. This will not only improve and develop its services but is another source of revenue for the Organization.
5. That the Organization review its processes regarding its advice given to Government Ministries and Corporation as well as the private sector in order to increase its income to assist in providing its services and support annual Government Grant.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of findings by the Committee, it is recommended that the Legislative Assembly approves:-

P.P.2012/2013 No. 11, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2010-2011 & P.P. 2012/2013 No. 39, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the financial year 2011-2012.”

MR SPEAKER: The Chairperson already talked about matters regarding education before our meeting was adjourned yesterday.

Report approved without debate.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a select committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

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**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 63, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.20122/2012 NO. 55, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010 - CONSIDERATION**

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to greet the Chair, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet members. Also, greetings to the Leader of Opposition and all the respective members of Parliament. Greetings also to CEOs and Management of all the Ministries and Corporations as well as those present here today.

I would like to send my regards to my dear constituency Vaimauga West and also to all of Samoa. I trust everyone is well and safe thanks to our Lord in Heaven.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly take note of the Committee report presenting its Findings, Recommendations, and Resolution.*

Seconded by member for Palauli, member for Falelatai ma Samatau, member for Sagaga le Falefa and Member for Aiga i le Tai.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker:

“RECOMMENDATION:

At the conclusion of its findings, the Committee recommends that the Government:

1. Prioritizes suitable activities as solutions for difficulties the University faced in supporting of its developments such as:
 - ◆ The need of special labs with effective computer collection including programmers to help students in their researches such as the Distance Flexible Learning mechanism. It noted that most of the students seek assistance for computers to type their assignments and conducting their researches.
 - ◆ The need of extension of existing computer labs for the increased number of registered students especially the **compulsory usage of computer for each and every courses.**
 - ◆ The need for an extra room or area for the students to relax and do their studies to avoid nomadic of students to look for a peaceful are for such purpose.
2. Supports the installation of supported generator or other energy sources such as solar energy to assist the University in its total fees and savings fund for some of its developments.

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**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 63, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2012 NO. 55, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010- CONSIDERATION**

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly approves the P.P.2011/2012 No. 5, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2010.”

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 96, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2013/2014 NO. 20, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011 - CONSIDERATION**

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA:

“RECOMMENDATION:

After consideration by the Committee of the reports given, the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee recommends the following to the government:

1. To seek out ways to improve the National University’s services to be able to accommodate the increasing number of students attending the National University at Papaigalagala. This includes:
 - ◆ The need to expand the Library resources, Computer labs, classrooms to be able to develop the educational and research services of the University;
 - ◆ The need to improve internet services (wireless) for research purposes for the students of the University;
 - ◆ The need to recruit a counselor who has the suitable qualifications to hear and accommodate the needs of male and female students of the University.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of finding by the Committee, it is recommended that the Legislative Assembly approves:-

P.P. 2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the financial year 1st July 2010 – 30th June 2011.”

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**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 96, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2013/2014 NO. 20, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011 - CONSIDERATION**

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Chairperson. I now declare the floor is now open for debate. Member for Faleata West you may stand.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Greetings to the honorable Members of Parliament and also the whole of Samoa. I would like to address the comment made by one of the veteran Members of Parliament regarding the removal from the House...which I am greatly saddened by. Mr Speaker the Opposition is not easily scared by such remarks. That is not how things should be done. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the member to refrain from dwelling on this topic. We have moved on. As the Speaker I am trying to maintain harmony within the Assembly and I cannot do so without your support. So let us move on as it is in the past now.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. Mr Speaker if I may I have some thoughts about the report. The National University of Samoa has been a long term dream and I am thankful that it has flourished and is a symbol of our development.

Firstly, if you travel to the National University at night, there are no street lights and it is very dark beginning from the main road to the compound. Even in the compound it is unsafe for students. There are not enough street lights to lighten the way for the students. That should be a priority considered by the Committee.

The Committee recommended in the 2012/2011 Report a back up generator for the University to protect equipment. I was under the impression that this should not be questioned rather implemented with the University which should have been done long ago. So I ask whether this has been acquired in relation to the report for the following year.

Another recommendation was for a Counselor. I assumed that these positions are required for any University and there should already be one. *Is there no Counselor at the moment or is there one but with irrelevant qualifications thus the recommendation.* The position is a required need for the University to assist the students.

Furthermore, there is a recommendation regarding the need to improve classroom facilities due to the increase in number of students each year which is an advantage when considering the entry rate. But there is also a matter that should be considered. Is there a survey to determine where the bulk of the students end up?

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P.P.2013/2014 No. 96, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2011 - Consideration

If there are up to 600-700 students eligible and successful in the entry requirement, 50-100 are rewarded with overseas scholarships and 50+ students are also rewarded locally so the question is where the 300-400 students are? We have asked the Government this question many times before. That is because if we evaluate the entry requirement; the mark for the UPY is from 1-15, 16-18 for the FOE or so I am not sure and the remaining eligible for the Nursing program. The tuition fees are a bit too much because they almost reach 2000 per semester. But as you may know Mr Speaker, students are being educated free of cost until they get to year 12 and 13. It is not the fees but it is part of the reason some students are not able to continue. Especially with the Governments concern with the teachers and nurses that may drift away from these needed professions.

Furthermore, a notice issued by the PSC and the National University stated that only Degrees would be offered to teachers. This notice is very disappointing. So it makes one wonder how a student with a grade of 16 begins in the degree program? Is the Diploma no longer applicable or useful? I ask because I do not think Primary and Early Childhood Schools need Degree qualifications. That is where there needs to be alterations because the grade requirement should be placed a little higher so that students with good results are able to become teachers. Realistically there are 200-300 students who enter the FOE program and only about 50-60 students graduate. So the question is where are the rest of them? Are there surveys or researches that distinguish exactly where they end up because there are constant reports of shortage of teaching staff? A few years back the University of Samoa carried out a program that enabled teachers to be fast tracked without results and now it is no longer available. So the question is how we can look at acquiring more teachers and nurses when the focus should be on the entry requirement. Also, are there enough resources to educate the students because there is no use of the large numbers when both reports reflect the need for new infrastructure which should be implemented for forward progress.

Mr Speaker I again would like to apologize for my actions in the past. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Report, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for that speech. However, I would like to ensure the member for Faleata West that the Chair intends to cater also to your side of the Parliament, and whatever was said in the past is in the past. We need to move forward.

I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3 to please stand.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No. 3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you to the Chairperson and the Committee that deliberated on these matters.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 96, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2011 - Consideration

The matter I am concerned about is directed towards the Committee whether they have carried out a survey that defines the difference in students that make it to the Foundation year and are successful and continue on to the Degree level.

What I mean is, most students make it to the National University after College years and passing the UE but by the end of the year many students do not complete the program and drop out due to non-payment of fees and also they are unable to see their marks. This brings me to a suggestion Mr Speaker, which I hope the University considers. I recommend that the University allow students that fail from UPY to continue in other Faculties with high entry grades to continue with a degree. For instance instead of a student failing the BA or BSc, they may be allowed to take up Nursing or Education so their opportunity is not lost.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for his assistance. I call on one of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele you may stand.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I extend warm greetings to all of Samoa listening in on this beautiful day. The calm and serenity reminds us all of our Lords unconditional love for us as well as His protection upon this Parliament and its Meetings.

However, I will now move to talk about this very important report and I am grateful to the Committee for its complete findings and recommendations now before the House. Listening to the recommendations, perhaps the two I will offer will refer to the opportunities lacking for the students because there is an increased number enrolling at the University.

I wish to thank the Government for this target because the University is a silent achiever and it serves various sectors of our economy from the Government to ecclesia and the private sector to the village councils. This is the backbone of the country in seeking knowledge. There may be students studying overseas but it is the National University of Samoa where they begin.

In addition I am also thankful that the OUM is now part of the University. There are many Universities without this privilege but now the institution is complete not only offering various other courses but also this important profession that is highly important to cater to the health services. It is not easy for the University because it is dependent on the economy but it is proceeding to answer to the needs of the country in all areas as well as health. Just recently, the School of Maritime was opened with much gratitude to the Chinese government.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 96, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2011 - Consideration

All these factors are evident of growth which ensures the secure development of our country. It is true that education is the heart of a country and its economic growth because this knowledge will return to the villages, congregations especially the development of our country in various Governmental posts.

Regarding the recommendations in the report concerning the need to upgrade the Library facilities and the need to establish a Culture Centre has caused me to suggest that there should be some priorities set here. The library is an important part of any University as it is the core foundation of learning. A library should offer a variety of information and knowledge for all students and make it comfortable. However, the library at the NUS if you have visited it, it is very crowded for the students. Students cram in there with the little space. Therefore, I urge the Committee to first prioritize the library.

There are two recommendations in the report concerning the need for more computers and it is a fact. From the Foundation year to the other diploma and degree programs, as well as the Masters and PhD programs that will be offered, they cannot prepare for these courses without these skills. The computer lab should be upgraded and fully equipped to also attract staff which will cater to the students need. In addition the OUM uses internet for its flexible learning. At the moment the medical school is operating well, however there should have been a recommendation that each student have access to a computer.

The last part I wanted to touch on which was not mentioned in the reports is the fact that the tuition fees for the university are too costly. I am thankful to the Government for providing assistance via scholarships however there should be other alternative options for the majority. The fact is, many have sought assistance from many of us Members but we do not own banks. But we must offer solutions for the future. There is no other future other than in education for our families, villages and communities. We should consider policies not only the Government scholarships but other options to assist the students especially those without the capacity because the fact of the matter is, there is no harm in the increased numbers. But that one student that makes it is the hope of the family and if this student can make it, the benefits are reaped by the entire family. I have also observed this within my constituency and we try to work with the College and Primary school Committees to ensure that this benefit is available for everyone. We cannot make laws to develop our economy when we do not develop our education to meet the target of our Government for us all.

That is the assistance to the Committee, thank you for the work and thank you Mr Speaker. God bless this meeting. Thank you.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 96, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2011 - Consideration

MR SPEAKER: I will now give the last opportunity to the member for Falelatai and Samatau then the Chairperson will respond. Member for Falelatai and Samatau you may stand.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): I would like to say thank you Mr Speaker. I am also thankful for this beautiful morning due to the unending love of our Lord and God. I just wanted to thank Mr Speaker for calming the tension. Thank you Leader of Opposition and the Deputy Prime Minister and all the elder Members of Parliament for the progress in our work.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Government for this great achievement and thank you for the report. Our country has been blessed with many developments and I am thankful to our ancestors who have parted for all their hard work and efforts in making sure our lives are stable and bright. I thank the Government for providing a University that allows our people, our children to educate themselves and obtain degrees easily within our country. Most of us were unable to go through this process and so I am grateful that our people are able to.

I would like to record a word of thanks to the Chairperson and Committee for the University has now reached 30years. Mr Speaker 30 years is a long time. It has not been easy and I believe there are still struggles; however it has not limited their efforts in striving for stability in the future of all Samoan students. Therefore, I thank the University and Management for all their countless efforts in developing, sustaining and striving for a stable foundation for all the Samoan students.

The year 2006 was the year the University merged with the IOT and I was hoping to hear reports of this progress within the report. The nature of these two institutions varies greatly in the sense of a more hands on approach in the IOT. Students learn by engaging with experience because they are learning to fix cars, air conditions and so forth. So the need for learning materials for them is very much needed, which is why this part of the University is also very expensive.

Perhaps the recommendation in the Committees report relating to the Library, the Sciences and the internet includes all these needs. I make a recommendation concerning the library and the internet. At the moment we are trying to reduce the internet costs for the students but the library is similar to the internet. However a library is only as good as the collection it contains. Nowadays the internet or the World Wide Web has many resources to be used by the students educational purposes.

Mr Speaker I would like to acknowledge the Universitys efforts to increase savings by observing a Black Friday every week by turning out the lights and using the sunlight instead. So for that I thank the University for playing a part in cutting the expenses.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 96, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2011 - Consideration

The University is an important institution in our country because it educates those who will serve our country. The University must therefore prioritize the programs in order of need as some have stated the nursing and education courses.

What I mean to say Mr Speaker is that priority areas that should be developed should be prioritized as per the Human Resource Development Plan administered by PSC. Currently, there is indication that PSC and the University are not consulting in regards to teachers. PSC has enforced the retirement age for the teachers but the University is now calling on all those who have completed their diplomas to enroll for their bachelors. As a result, there are no additional teachers to fill the void left by the retired teachers. That is why Mr Speaker I am concerned with the lack of communication between the University and the PSC which has caused a lack of teachers in the rural primary schools. If they work together, it can ensure that there is a consistent flow of teachers and PSC can enforce their policies intermittently Mr Speaker.

Furthermore, the University of the South Pacific is centered here in Samoa but it is mostly occupied by Fijian students, the Law School in the South Pacific is situated in Vanuatu but is dominated by Samoan students. Therefore priority should also be set by the Government and the University with regards to the priorities that should take precedence to ensure consistency in PSC policies and the Universitys efforts to fill the areas that are lacking.

That is the assistance Mr Speaker, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for his speech. I will now call upon the Chairperson of the Committee to make his response to the members.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Thank you for all the thoughtful speeches made with regards to the report. Thank you also for the recommendations.

As mentioned before, this report is from the year 2011 and up until now there are some projects that have been completed. The Committee has also prepared the report for 2012 and the Committee will consider the recommendations made by the members. Firstly the University now has a generator achieved via their fundraiser in the previous year.

The information submitted to the Committee stated that the current Counselor is also teaching, thus the recommendation by the Committee for a second Counselor.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 96, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2013/2014 No. 20, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2011 - Consideration

Regarding the matter of FOE as mentioned by one of the Members. The Committee consulted with the University and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture is looking at the areas needing teachers, whether it is in the Sciences or other subjects, and then the Faculty tries to ensure this is filled with students that meet the criterias set by the University.

In addition, the merge with the OUM will be detailed in a follow up report especially because the merge was very recent. However, I would like to thank the Members for their recommendation, thank you to the Member for Falelatai Samatau for his input. I can assure the Committee will follow up with these matters when considering the reports just referred. With all due respect.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi : Mr Speaker...

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

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Chairperson for your response. Regarding the matter I raised concerning the teachers degrees.

My query, if Diplomas are obsolete, how then will it be done? Also, if the degree takes three to four years, it will result in little to no teachers graduating in this period. How then will this be resolved? What is being done now that the Diploma program has been ceased? Are there any changes for the future?

Furthermore, you have referred to the changes implemented. The street lights within the school really need to be fixed because it is dark and dangerous in the night. These lights will benefit both students and parents. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Is there an additional response honorable Chairperson?

Tofa LEANATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Thank you Mr Speaker. The Committee will look in the matter towards street lights. The member is very accurate in his observation especially because we are nearing the end of our daylight savings. Also because I see most of the students walking past at night so therefore, the Committee will look into the matter. In addition, the Committee will also acknowledge the topic of the FOE. I trust members of the Committee are listening and observing and hopefully we will have everything settled in the next report. Thank you.

Report was approved.

27 MARCH 2016

**P.P. 2013/2014 NO. 65, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2011/2012 NO. 58,
CORPORATE PLAN OF THE SAMOA POST FOR THE PERIOD
2012-2014 AND P.P.2011/2012 NO. 59, STATEMENT OF
CORPORATE OBJECTIVES OF THE SAMOA POST FOR THE
PERIOD 2012-2014 – CONSIDERATION**

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That this Legislative Assembly approve the Committee Report with its FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATION AND RESOLUTION.*

Seconded by member for Sagaga le Falefa, member for Aiga i le Tai and member for Palauli.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker.

“RECOMMENDATION:

At the conclusion of its Findings, the Committee recommends the following:-

1. To support the program for the Post Office with an intention to improve its revenue and operations.
2. Recommends the Post Office to prioritize its legal Obligations in order to achieve its objectives and improve its services.
3. Consider methods to resolve problems encountered through vast communication technologies such as mobile phones and emails and others.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly approves:-

The P.P.2011 No. 58 Corporate Plan of the Samoa Post for the period 2012-2014 and the P.P.2011/2012 No.59, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Samoa Post for the Period 2012-2014.”

27 MARCH 2016

**P.P. 2013/2014 NO. 100, REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON P.P.2012/2013 NO. 57, SAMOA POST
CORPORATE PLAN 2013-2015 & P.P.2012/2013 NO.58, SAMOA
POST STATEMENT OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES 2013-2015
- CONSIDERATION**

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker.

“RECOMMENDATION:

Based on its Findings, the Committee recommends the Government:-

1. That the Corporation reviews alternatives marketing strategies to attract customers to address the current decline in customers using their services.
2. That the Company prioritizes its Postal Code Project in order to solve the current problem of Mail not delivered to the correct destination.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration the Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly to approve:

1. P.P.2012/2013 No. 57, Samoa Post Corporate Plan 2013-2015
2. P.P.2012/2013 No. 58, Samoa Post Statement of Corporate Objectives 2013-2015

MR SPEAKER: The floor is now open for discussion. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you also to the Chairperson for the report.

I wish to talk about the Corporate Plan 2013-2015. As stated in the report there is a reduction in the services offered by the Office. However noted also in the report is the number of employees which is 22 and plus the part time employees there is 26 altogether. So my question is what exactly are the workers doing compared to the services now offered? Furthermore, is the building being used still under Samoa Post? Are the leases being paid to Samoa Post and presented to the Government? Personally, renovations should be made to this building because it is in the middle of the township.

In addition Mr Speaker the matter concerning the mail boxes as I am unsure what the price is of this service and the extent of the population utilizing this service.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P. 2013/2014 No. 100, Report of the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee on P.P.2012/2013 No. 57, Samoa Post Corporate Plan 2013-2015 & P.P.2012/2013 No. 58, Samoa Post Statement of Corporate Objectives 2013-2015 - Consideration

There is still use for these things. Honorable Chairperson I would like to recommend you and your Committee to look into these matters further; especially the conditions of the building.

With all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the helpful input. You may stand Chairperson.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Thank you to the member for the question. The concerns raised are very important. The Samoa Post Office is divided into three divisions; the Mailing Services, Marketing and Trade and Finance Division.

The building in question is not under the Office but it is good you have mentioned this. The Corporate Plan is for the years 2013-2015 and we are only in the year 2014. Perhaps in the year 2015, clarifications will be made on some of the areas queried with all due respect.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker I would like to state my input.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon one of the members for the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee to take the stand.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata West): If the dignity of Parliament refers to the Budgets of the previous years, this is one Office that has contributed dividends because of the good operations. So regardless of the small number of workers, the work they do is very important and appreciation should be regarded to the Management and staff. As the Hon Minister mentioned in a previous time, this SOE has contributed dividends to the Government.

With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member for Vaisigano No. 1, I call upon the Hon Minister to make his speech first

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII (Minister for Natural Resources and Environment): I simply wish to state that the building housing the Samoa Post Office is under the MNRE and it is currently undergoing renovations with respect.

27 MARCH 2016

P.P. 2013/2014 No. 100, Report of the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee on P.P.2012/2013 No. 57, Samoa Post Corporate Plan 2013-2015 & P.P.2012/2013 No. 58, Samoa Post Statement of Corporate Objectives 2013-2015 - Consideration

MR SPEAKER: As you have just heard, the building is under the MNRE and it is progressing to renovations. I call upon the member for Vaisigano No. 1.

Afioga TUFUGA GAFOALEATA FAITUA (Vaisigano No. 1): Mr Speaker I was about the mention the matter just clarified by the Hon Minister. As for the queries of the Member for Faleata West, other services offered at Samoa Post is the payment of electricity and water bills and the mailboxes are still being used for parcels with all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you all for the good input. I thank the Committee because this Office contributes quite a lot to the Government revenue. Therefore gratitude should be relayed to the Samoa Post Office for all its hard work.

Report was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a Select Committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

P.P.2013/2014 NO. 66, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO. 6, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE, JULY 2008 – JUNE 2009, P.P. 2012/2013 NO. 7, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE, JULY 2009-JUNE 2010, & P.P.2012/2013 NO. 8, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE, JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011 - CONSIDERATION

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative of Samoa approve the Committees report presenting its Findings, Recommendations and Resolution.*

Seconded by the member for Alataua West, member for Sagaga le Falefa, member for Falelatai and Samatau, a member for the Independent Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him, and a member for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola.

27 MARCH 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No. 66, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 6, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, July 2008 – June 2009, P.P. 2012/2013 No. 7, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, July 2009-June 2010, & P.P.2012/2013 No. 8, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, July 2010 – June 2011 - Consideration

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker, these are the recommendations.

“RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on its findings, the Committee recommends that the Government:-

1. Enforces requirements of Law which provides for students to attend school during school hours. There should also be in place legal conditions for students who are selling goods and products after school hours.
2. Investigates the problems associated with the appalling examination results. Supports visitations to monitor and assess progress of teaching services throughout the Nation especially to Primary Level.
3. Recognizes its role in developing schools in rural areas, with regards to building a strong relationship between School Committees and Teachers in order to sustain areas to improve the services for future benefits of students as well as the safety of the school buildings for the students.
4. Considers the problem of Lack of teachers, in order to improve the Curriculum to go hand with the availability of qualified Teachers.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration the Committee resolved to recommend the Assembly:

To approve P.P. 2012/2013 No. 6, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, July 2008-June2009, P.P. 2012/2013 No.7, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, July 2009-June 2010 & P.P. 2012/2013 No. 8, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, July 2010-June 2011.”

27 MARCH 2014

**P.P. 2013/2014 NO. 122, REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2013/2014, NO. 26, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE 1 JULY
2011-2012 - CONSIDERATION**

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker, these are the recommendations.

“RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the Findings the Committee recommends to the Government:

1. To closely examine the problem of dwindling Teachers, so that the Curriculum can be improved together with this standard with relevant teachers in implementing the work.
2. Advise the Ministry to include additional years in the School Net Program to ascertain effective results from this Project.
3. Recommends the Ministry to program additional subjects in the School Net Program.
4. The Ministry to thoroughly seek methods that would effectively pay the students school fees to schools it has yet to reach.
5. For the Ministry as well as Private Offices that specifically offer technological services in further improving the SchoolNet project.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend the Assembly:

That the P.P.2013/2014 No.26, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for Year 30th June 2011-30th June 2012 be approved.”

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Chairperson for your speech. I will give the first opportunity to the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga, followed by one of the members for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga you may stand.

Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU (Aleipata Itupa i Luga): Thank Mr Speaker for the opportunity so that this constituency may have a say on the Report of the Ministry.

27 MARCH 2014

**P.P. 2013/2014 No. 122, Report of the Education, Science,
Communication & Information Technology Committee on
P.P. 2013/2014, No. 26, Annual Report of the Ministry of
Education, Sports & Culture 1st July 2011-2012
- Consideration**

My question by way of the Chairperson and Committee whether it is wise to just a recommendation to the Ministry with regards to the partnership with China who are Aiding us in constructing of School buildings. I thank the Chinese Government for their tremendous assistance. However I would like to recommend the Ministry in carefully allocating the assistance to areas of the country that is in more need of this assistance; because some of the school buildings being built have less than 100 students attending. And while I know there are some members here processing their requests for assistance, I simply urge the Committee to consider this recommendation in prioritizing the schools with a higher roll.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the member for Faleata West who stood up first, followed by member for Palauli.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, thank you honorable Chairperson for the first recommendations concerning the children not attending schools. I mentioned in the previous week the extent of the growing problem within our country. These people have become a nuisance in the town areas and it is not an attractive view of our nation. This was not the norm in Samoa in those days and maybe there were but it seldom occurred. However the problem has increased and I am not sure which Ministry is responsible but I know the Police administers this legislation. In the village, it is the responsibility of the School Committees and the matai council. However, Parliament has passed the law to ensure education for all children and with the advantage of free education there is no reason why this problem should still continue. If the Ministry of Police or Committee does not follow up and enforce the law, than the problem will still exist. Furthermore, how can the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor allow this to continue? I have seen these children and they are the same ones everywhere which means that the Police is aware of them but it also not the childs fault but the parents that encourage this.

I am grateful for the recommendation but these should be enforced because no matter how we try to lift the reputation of Samoa, it will be sullied by these problems that persist. We should seek a resolution and there is a legislation but it is not being implemented.

The state with the shortage of teachers as mentioned in both reports has outlined the constant concern amongst us and the whole country. The lack of teachers and the lack of instructors for teacher training with reference to the Curriculum. It was not long ago that a notice was advertised by the Ministry of Education regarding Colleges offering Science; there are seven or so in Upolu and two in Savaii.

27 MARCH 2014

**P.P. 2013/2014 No. 122, Report of the Education, Science,
Communication & Information Technology Committee on
P.P. 2013/2014, No. 26, Annual Report of the Ministry of
Education, Sports & Culture 1st July 2011-2012
- Consideration**

So the question is how are some schools still Colleges when they do not meet this requirement especially Science? This means there are teachers, no lab, no resources then how is it still operating as a College? How is it possible when these needs are not satisfied not only in regards to resources but also teacher capacity? It is clear in the Report, in 2010 and before that, they have been working on improving the teaching services and it is still changing. This is new as well with the ceasing of diplomas and continuation of degrees which just indicates that there is no intention to stabilize one proposal and implement it. However there are always changes to decisions and policies when it has been prepared for a while and yet it is not implemented well and then another change is made which means a lot of funds are being wasted on unsuccessful attempts. Since the beginning, Education is a priority annually for the future of Samoa but there is a continuous issue. It is not that the work is not implemented well, it just seems that it is incomplete of started then changed. On another note honorable Chairperson what is your view for the future of these time changes to school hours and whether these additional hours are being used wisely. The noon time is when these additional subjects should be done and then there would be no need for extra tutorials especially in consideration of travelling back and forth. If for example my daughter finishes school at 4pm than goes to her tutorial classes at 5-7pm while every morning the kids leave for school at 7am which means she will be back home at 7pm Honorable Chairperson, I am respectful towards your attempts to respond therefore I will not ask any more questions. But those are some concerns for the time being.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your assistance. I will now call upon the member for Palauli for his speech followed by the member for Alataua West.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS (Palauli): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I also thank the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and of course the whole Committee with regards to the outlined report we have read out and are discussing. I admit I had no intention of making a statement but it was the concern raised by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga that has prompted me to stand. It is the assistance from foreign countries into the construction of school buildings in Samoa. From nations like Japan to the China aid which leads me to my point.

From the beginning of this Parliamentary Term since I came into Parliament I have been requesting a school for our district. It has been almost 4 years since we have not had a school building. In the previous year the number of students recorded within our district was 514 but sadly there is no school. It is disappointing for our district because the waters of this district are currently being used for the survival of the Faasaleleaga district.

27 MARCH 2014

**P.P. 2013/2014 No. 122, Report of the Education, Science,
Communication & Information Technology Committee on
P.P. 2013/2014, No. 26, Annual Report of the Ministry of
Education, Sports & Culture 1st July 2011-2012
- Consideration**

Therefore I ask why there is a delay in processing this humble request for our district when there is a large input of this district to other parts of the country.

MR SPEAKER: I must apologize to the interruption but we have now come to our interval however you may continue when we return. I now declare that the Parliamentary Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned for its usual morning recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 10.46 am and resumed at 11.42am.

MR SPEAKER: I would like to extend a spirit of gratitude for today. I believe we have renewed strength from the refreshments and have gained energy for our bodies, mind and spirits pertaining to proceedings.

I thank the Deputy Prime Minister and fellow Ministers in your patience and tolerance of today's meetings. I also acknowledge the Leader of this side of the House and even though some of the elder members are not present but let them be, the quorum is complete. Therefore I would like to say thank you to all those present here today and without further ado I now declare....

I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you for the fine refreshments prepared by the Clerk for the attendees of the House. However I would just like to clarify some matters because the Deputy Leader of Opposition has just got back but the Leader however is detained due to the pink eye. He has informed me that he will arrive soon however if he does not make it then I should recommend the Hon Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to come back to your seat here (*points to the seat of the Leader of the Opposition*). Come back to our side.

Leader of Opposition if you are listening I urge you to make haste before you return and there is someone else sitting in your seat. Either way the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is the only person I want here on this seat and the Leader has stated he will humbly leave with happiness if that happens because the disagreement is in the past and everything has been clarified. He will be present some time but as you can see Mr Speaker our true Leader has just returned, the honorable member for Falealupo.

MR SPEAKER: As the name of the Satuala Family has been called I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to take the stand.

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Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries): Thank you Mr Speaker. Listening to the debates earlier, I wanted to respond and the Member for Faleata West is right, I have been wanting to sit in that seat so I can advise him not to debate with Mr Speaker because he will always win. At least the offer has been made and I would gladly accept any time.

MR SPEAKER: I assumed honorable Whip that with the absence of the Leader, it would shift to the Deputy Leader however you have offered it to the other side. The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fishers does not wish to return to where he came from. However that is in the past and I do not believe that any man can acquire the pink eye just because of a disagreement that happened. Either way the nature of this house and our presence here is like that; when we joke and mock each other it should not affect anyone personally or negatively. And with that we should move on with our proceedings. We adjourned when the member for Palauli was in the middle of his speech. Therefore I call upon the representative of Palauli to continue his speech.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS: Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank our Heavenly Father we have once again gathered here to continue our meeting for the day. I pray that his spirit continues to watch over us so that we may make just and wise decisions.

Mr Speaker I humbly beseech the Chairperson and Committee for a recommendation to the Ministry regarding their report regarding the constituencys concern because there is no integrity reflected. However it is not just our constituency. In the number I mentioned, it includes students from neighboring constituencies who were also enrolled in our school however now they are utilizing buildings in our constituency for instance the village of Vaitoomuli. Health safety is a concern as the students and the families use the same ablution facilities because there is no school building.

I raise this because there is a large percentage of students and yet it is of no importance to the Ministry or the Government. I am aware that there are different projects but I note that assistance to the Ministry of Education from China is often to Secondary schools because students from various constituencies attend one school. This is the same situation with the Palauli Primary School I am mentioning. Mr Speaker, I have approached the Ministry according to the proper procedures and they made recommendations which I attempted. I also approached the Office of the Minister of Finance and the recommendation was the same. In case my electorate assumes I am being idle, I am still knocking. There is also a request that was made to Japan and I am still awaiting a reply.

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That is why it is very disappointing because it has been three to four years since our request was put through and yet it is still pending.

Mr Speaker I trust the Lord will bless you with the responsibility you uphold and I pray the Lord blesses each and every Member present today.

MR SPSEAKER: Thank you member for Palauli. I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker the speeches and concerns raised by the previous members are very important and crucial to the reports. However I would like to clarify that the Ministry and Government have numerous policies pertaining to schools as well as teachers. Many of these policies have been decided on by Government and they are in progress and the advice is to just be patient. The school building projects are being organized dependent on factors as mentioned. There are other ventures the University is working on like the Ocean Campus for maritime training. Final arrangements have been made on the location here in Mulinuu.

Other ventures include plans to establish a sports institute to train our sportsmen and women in various sports to compete locally and internationally. In addition, there is the Medical School and other projects in progress which is why I recommend a bit of patience from each concerned member as projects are in course.

MR SPEAKER: I give the last opportunity to the member for Alataua West.

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES (Alataua West): Mr Speaker I stand with all due respect to state some concerns with regards to the report this morning. The Deputy Prime Ministers speech has just clarified the plans and projects being processed and I completely agree. However I need clarification from the Chairperson on the matter that has been bothering me. As observed in today's meeting and the speeches made by some of the members; there are 49 members and also 49 requests for schools. So our question is, where is the balanced distribution?

Mr Speaker and the respectable Members of Parliament there are other constituencies that have a student roll less than 100 and their schools are being built, while other constituencies have more students in need but do not have the luxury of a school have noted that the Siumu has just completed their building but we have a higher student roll. This constituency has two projects pending; one is the Primary School in my village of Falelima and the College. Consultations on the proposal with Ministry completed two or three years ago and now the land has overgrown with grass. With all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: We are trying to clarify as with the Deputy Prime Ministers statement, every one of us are affected and we should exercise patience. Rome was not built in a day. The difficulty at the moment is the absence of the Hon Minister however the Hon Minister of Finance tried to respond and the Deputy Prime Minister has explained the reasons and the existence of policies and requirements that need to be made. Therefore let us leave them to do their work.

Member for Siumu is there a matter....

Tofa HON TUUU ANASII LEOTA (Siumu): Mr Speaker since the member for Alataua West has mentioned my constituency and I am the Associate Minister for Education Sports and Culture, I would like to elucidate to the member that he should base his accusations on age. I entered this Parliament in 1996 and from there I made requests for a school, better roads and so forth for my constituency.

The matter with the school is that there are over 500 students in Siumu. Therefore I relay to the member that our school building is more than appropriate for the number of students in need. That is why I say to the member that the end of this Parliamentary Term marks 20 years of my service to the Parliament. So I am old and wise but perhaps your turn will come because you too are growing old. But the problem is you are an Individual Member and if you consider coming with me on my side a school for your constituency will be built.

Thank you.

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALESA: Mr Speaker I had no intention of putting the blame on the member for Siumu however I mentioned it for comparison.

As you made reference Mr Speaker to the Deputy Prime Ministers statement, we are being patient. The question to the Chairperson is, where the balanced distribution in all this is, with utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister to take the floor.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker I have noted that this member talks about factions and today he again mentions a faction with the Member for Alataua West. My question Mr Speaker is whether this Member is in breach of the Electoral Act?

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Alataua West that the statements of the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture were clear. I believe the House will continue to have patience. I call on the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa (Minister for Courts and Justice Administration): Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand to assist and shed light on the concerns we are discussing.

The current policy is that villages are responsible for the school buildings. However the issue being discussed is assistance, especially overseas assistance with the support of the village. I believe these issues raised are important because the policy is clear for the Ministry that the responsibility of the village is the construction of the school building.

On the other hand, we understand that the Government gladly accepts overseas assistance as this is a costly exercise for the villages. Listening to the comments this morning, there is truth in all these concerns being raised. The member for Siumu has mentioned that it depends on your age so it involves persistent knocking. The Hon Minister is absent as he is travelling but the Deputy Prime Minister has mentioned the policies which should be reconsidered by the Government in terms of overseas assistance and satisfying requests made. Especially in regards to equal opportunities provided to the villages because there are different assistances received from China, Japan and other partners.

Overall, the remarks are to consider the overseas assistance and that the policies ensure the ability to answer to the needs. That is the assistance Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the assistance. I call upon the member for Aana Alofi No. 3, followed by the Deputy Speaker.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I wish to record my thanks to the Chairperson and Committee members for the report and also the Ministry for the hard work. I believe many important aspects have been implemented despite the limited funds. The progress of the Ministry has been substantial in moving forward.

Mr Speaker there are two matters I wish to comment on. The matter of Education has been exhausted by other speeches but I wish to remark on the other two sections of the Ministry.

Mr Speaker I would like to query the Chairperson and Committee as to why there are no recommendations towards Sports and Culture. In P.P.2013/2014 No. 66, it states that there are some difficulties with culture and so I would like clarification as to what exactly this difficulty is.

Furthermore, I would like to know what the Committee and Ministry are doing with regards to Culture to develop and sustain it for the better.

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Mr Speaker the same applies to Sports. There are some sports development programs mentioned however there are only a few schools involved. There is also a mention of expansion. My intention Mr Speaker is to query the Committee whether they investigated when the program would include the whole country because this is a very important aspect. There are many sportspersons that have received sports contracts and have attained a better future. If they are not successful in educations, they have an opportunity to improve their family through sports.

To conclude Mr Speaker, still on sports I believe there our sports facilities are of great importance. The Deputy Prime Minister has spoken about plans for a high performance facility for all sports within the country. However I believe that we should try our best to improve standards in the rural area first. So that by the end of the day when the proper facilities are completed the ones in the rural areas are well prepared for them. At the moment the only sports facilities in the outer areas are some fields here and there, but with proper facilities more improvements can be expected and beneficial to the country. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: This is the final opportunity. I call upon the Deputy Speaker followed by the Chairperson.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA (Palauli West): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity and thank you for your patience and tolerance of today's work. Furthermore I would like to greet the distinguished members of Cabinet and Members of Parliament. I also thank the Chairperson and his Committee for this report.

I would firstly like to touch on the Samoan Language or the Samoan course in the Foundation Year at the University. The first assignment for the course is to first, find out the students village salutation and second, describe reasons for four parts of the salutations and third, describe your relation to the salutations. I have a son who completed this year more than 10 years ago and now my daughter has begun her Foundation year and it is the same assignment. I am surprised that the University is still requiring the information because it has been established for thirty years. I am sure that there is not one village in all of Samoa that has not had a student in the Foundation program. So therefore all this information should be complete by now. I recommend the Chairperson that they consult with the University whether this is still appropriate in this day and age.

Secondly, Mr Speaker regarding the new school hours. The Associate Minister and Ministry representative is present and since the end of the year will mark a year since the change, I recommend the Committee review the advantages and disadvantages of these new hours on the students and also the teachers and also the families.

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When I travel to Savaii, I have observed the Palauli West College students who live in Taga to Foailalo walking home late in the evening after school at 6pm. So basically it takes the kids 2hours to get home, and with daylight saving coming up soon it will eventually mean that students are going to be walking in the dark. Therefore I urge the Committee to consider analyzing the outcomes of these imposed hours to the schools schedule and whether there is more benefitting factors or less and then present those conclusions to the Cabinet for a decision to continue or readjust.

Thirdly Mr Speaker, we have heard and read the Report stating the lack of teachers. However, the PSC Chairperson has stated on television and radio that the teacher student ratio is 1:20 and that there is enough teachers. Which are the facts? Those from the Committee, PSC or the Ministry because the Samoa Teachers Association has also responded that there are not enough teachers. Perhaps the efforts to increase the number of teachers are un-concerted because of the difference in opinions.

Mr Speaker, Palauli West is one of the schools chosen to offer Science on island and so I asked how this was carried out and how teachers travel to and fro. The Science teacher in Savaii west travels to Palauli West to teach. I do not see the advantage in this and I am uncertain whether these claims are true.

Mr Speaker and the respective Members of Parliament, the Hon Minister of Educaiton, Sports and Culture mentioned in a previous Meeting that five teachers including principals were discharged because of misuse of the Education Scheme Grant money. Now classes up to Year 11 are included and I request that a thorough assessment be made on the use of these funds because if it happened for the Primary school teachers, the same misuse can happen again.

Mr Speaker, finally, the Committee visits on March 20 to Letogo, Moataa, Falefitu, and Vaimoso and the Vocational Shools at Fagaloa, Falefa, Falevao, Anoamaa and the Seventh Day Adventist College. My question is whether the Committee visit is only for Upolu not including Savaii?

God bless our Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Speaker for your speech. There was no intention to interrupt but the matters raised are similar to those mentioned by previous members. I beg tolerance as the policies are already effective in regards to school hours and the Government cannot recede. Standing Orders also dictate that we cannot readdress a matter already decided upon by Parliament. Your concern is important and can be reviewed at a later date. Furthermore, I urge the Member not to worry because SPAGHIL visits are still being carried out. Perhaps there are matters unaddressed because the Chairperson is also a Member of SPAGHL. Honorable Chairperson, consider visitation to Savaii when the chance arises.

I call on the Member for Faleata West.

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Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I will be very brief on the Report.

First of my concerns is the age of the students. There are two or maybe three students who were awarded scholarships to Australia this year but were not eligible because they are 17 years old. It shows intelligence thus the fast tracking but the ages are not accepted. The other matter Mr Speaker is the year 11 which was removed at one time. New Zealand and Australia have Year 9, 10, 12 but our students can skip the class or still follow through. The Ministry should consider its relevance.

Furthermore, the Ministry should review its internal operations. The youth and sports section was added which has caused disarray in the Ministry responsibilities. The Ministry's core function is Education and perhaps consideration can be made to restructure the Ministry as it is already large and now other sections have been added.

Lastly Mr Speaker, if the Ministry has a regulatory function. I strongly believe the Ministry should focus on the teachers and education, separate the Curriculum Division and the regulatory function which can be handled by SQA. They should focus mainly on teachers and their development with all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Palauli is there anything else you would like to discuss?

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS: Mr Speaker I would like to briefly respond to the comments by the Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration regarding aid.

MR SPEAKER: You may stand.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS: I completely agree with the statements made by the Hon Minister however our situation differs from others as our school was burnt down. Investigations are being conducted and *there is speculation that it was one of the school staff.* So Mr Speaker if it was caused by a public servant then of course the damages must be compensated by the Government. For your information our school was built by our own village with the assistance from Japan along with other funds. Therefore since the Fire Department investigations suspect a public servant it is only sensible and just that the Government repair what was destroyed. That is the difference Mr Speaker with the state of our school building with all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Rest your concerns. SPAGHL visited your school and support was given to the requests made by the school and Principal. The Deputy Prime Minister has responded but you should continue to knock. The new Japanese Ambassador looks like an agreeable man and you should try again with him. What happened was an unforeseen event. I call on the Chairperson.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you also for the issues raised and queries put forth. I will now explain some of the concerns and clarify some things that were questioned.

It is true that the Ministry is huge as mentioned by a Member. In 2003 the Government proposed to minimize the Ministry and workers which resulted in the combination of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and the legislation was drafted to provide for this merge. As for one of the queries, this Report incorporates recommendations for the entire Ministry.

The Committee is proposing a Savaii visit depending on finances as there is also a program, the SchoolNet program that we want to visit.

The concerns with regards to the lack of teachers; I must clarify that this report was prepared towards the end of 2011. However the Committee stands firm on its stance in the Report. I believe the University and the Ministry are consulting on the matter. As some have mentioned the degrees, perhaps the Diploma holders can continue teaching for the time being and I believe the consultations are in progress.

Moreover, I will not take long in discussing the issue with school hours as raised by the Deputy Speaker. The reports submitted to our Committee stated that the extra hours have been put to good use as it is being used to complete extracurricular activities and Ministry awareness programs. As for the matter on the assignments at the University for honorific salutations, this Report being discussed is the Report on the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. Perhaps soon we will consider the National University of Samoa Report.

The query about the balance in school buildings constructed. The response will not be long as the Deputy Prime Minister and Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration have responded. However because the report was directed to the Chairperson, if the Committee had the power, the Primary School for Vaimauga West would have been completed long ago, that is the response.

Moreover, regarding the school hours and students attendance, there is a Committee collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, the Ministry of Police and the village mayors. That is the clarification with all due respect.

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

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would just like to assist on clarifying this issue. Thank you to the Chairperson for the opportunity to clarify some of the questions. The matter on the shortage of teachers should be clarified. The Deputy Speaker mentioned the ratio 1:20 which has been calculated using the total number of students and teachers in Samoa. However if you calculate the numbers in each individual village, there is a shortage. For example there are schools with only 6 teachers but 8 levels, Year 1-8 but only 6 teachers which means there is not enough. Moreover, there are other schools which have more than one class in each level and It is not near enough. The statements made by the PSC are incorrect because they have calculated the ratio using the total overall number of students and teachers in the whole country. To illustrate, they have calculated the number of the population in Samoa and the number of Members and totaled how many citizens per Member. That is not how things are done. As for the question about the University and the Samoan Course, remember that the curriculum is not changed annually. If a science topic covers the plant, it is taught for that 10 years. But the reason why the Member is so affected is because both his children are taking Samoan but it does not mean that it should change it every year. I am sure the Deputy Speaker is well aware of this.

I believe the other questions have been covered by the Chairperson. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Speaker.

Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa: Mr Speaker a point of order. For the Foundation program, Samoan is compulsory whether you want to take it or not. If that were not the case my children would not have taken it because their Samoan is excellent. However that is the case with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Vaisigano No. 1.

Afioga Tufuga Gafaoaleata Faitua: Mr Speaker, also a point of order. The Deputy Speaker mentioned the Samoan course and the first question for this course is to consider your identity and this is found in your village salutations and the student will know their genealogy. There are other complex topics but this is the first topic taught at the University. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: I believe we will not debate further on this issue because I trust the University is more than capable of compiling the suitable curriculum for students from time to time. I trust each Member of Parliament is in full understanding of this. In case there is friction between the Committee statement and the PSC records, the Chair must be cautious as the PSC is not present to respond and I believe that there will not be any conflict. The clarifications are important especially on the matter of teachers but there is always there is always that bad spirit stirring.

We should exercise caution incase the Committee is of the view that PSC is wrong which may cause unwanted consequences. A general overlook would support the PSC claims and the recommendations by the Committee are supported by their visits. There is only one target and that is to improve the teaching services and the Ministry.

Report was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a Select Committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 83, GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATON
COMMITTEE ON P.P.2013/2014 NO. 3, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
UNIT TRUST OF SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
30TH JUNE 2012 - CONSIDERATION**

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA (Chairperson, Government Administration Committee): Thank you Mr Speaker for managing our Meeting. Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly take note of the Committee report presenting its FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.*

Seconded by the member for Alataua West, member for Sagaga le Falefa and a member for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioiga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

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**P.P.2013/2014 No. 83, Government Administration Committee on
P.P.2013/2014 No. 3, Annual Report of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the
Financial Year Ended 30th June 2012 - Consideration**

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA: Mr Speaker:

“RECOMMENDATION:

At the conclusion of its findings, the Committee recommends that the Government-

1. Search for an appropriate location to relocate the UTOS Office. The Committee advises that priority must be given to this relocation as the accessibility and availability of this service is essential for the country.
2. Continue the Company's marketing and promotion programs to attract potential local and overseas investors.
3. Consider together with the Management and Board of Directors stable partnerships between UTOS and other companies. The Committee strongly recommends this as it is aware of partnerships between Government Corporations and other companies being unsuccessful and resulting in a loss to the Government and the general public.

RESOLUTION:-

At the conclusion of its considerations, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly:-

Approve P.P. 2013/2014 No.3, Annual Report of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2012.

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 84, THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO. 44,
STATEMENT OF CORPORATION OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIT
TRUST OF SAMOA FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2015
- CONSIDERATION**

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly take note of the Committee report presenting its FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.*

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**P.P.2013/2014 No. 84, The Government Administration Committee
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 44, Statement of Corporation
Objectives of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Period 2013-2015
- Consideration**

Seconded by the member for Alataua West, member for Sagaga le Falefa and a member for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA: Mr Speaker:

“RECOMMENDATIONS:-

Based on its Findings the Committee recommends to the Government:

1. That the Management Company of the Unit Trust of Samoa continues to implement its plan and programs as publicized to the whole of the country, to ensure that Primary Goals as outlined in the Corporation Objectives of the Unit Trust of Samoa are achieved.
2. To achieve strategies in marketing and promoting the Primary Goals of the Unit Trust so that performance measures can be accomplished by the set deadline beginning from 2013 to 2015.

RESOLUTION:-

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend the Assembly:

That the P.P.2012/2013 No. 44, Statement of Corporation Objectives of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Period 2013-2015 be approved.”

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Chairperson. I now declare that the report is open for debate. I call upon one of the members for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER: (Vaimauga West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I take this opportunity to greet all the members of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. Warm Greetings to the Clerk of Assembly and your presiding officers and also the respective CEOs of the various Government entities. I would also like to greet all of Samoa listening in, and my constituency of Vaimauga West.

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**P.P.2013/2014 No. 84, The Government Administration Committee
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 44, Statement of Corporation
Objectives of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Period 2013-2015
- Consideration**

Firstly I would like to thank the Chairperson and Committee through the Chair for their hard work in preparing the Report on UTOS. I also thank the Hon Minister and CEO and staff for their efforts and hard work. This is one of the important and fast growing developments in Samoa. I fully support this development, its administration and purpose however there are a few concerns.

I note that this is a new enterprise and its functions are mandated by legislations already passed. However, it seems that the future prospect of this Organization is to become a stock exchange center and it is a concern. The role of the Government is to propose legislations to protect shareholders involved in the stock exchange but it does not implement the venture nor is the stock exchange market State Owned.

My concern is that the Government will compete with other financial institutions. Some people will find it hard to compete with the Government. However the Government is responsible for proposing legislations so they will act as both referee and player.

If the Act stated that there would be a time when the Organization would be privatized and the Government would have no right in its operations then my concern would be eased. I would like to see honorable Chairperson that there be a transition period but it is difficult at the moment with the competition between UTOS and other banks like ANZ, Westpac, Samoa Commercial Bank, Samoa National Bank and other financial institutions. Competition with the Government will be very hard to beat.

Secondly Mr Speaker, money invested in UTOS by individuals and Organizations is being used for Government developments. This a constitutional concern as all public monies used for developments must be considered and passed by Parliament whether a large or small amount. I congratulate the CEO and staff for all the work they have done because the Organization began with \$1million and correct me if I am wrong, it is now \$100,000,000. However I am concerned because this is a way to evade Constitutional requirements that monies for developments must be presented to Parliament instead it is being routed through UTOS. There is a report tabled, however Parliament will not have a contribution in the use of funds and it will be managed by the UTOS Board.

Mr Speaker that is my humble recommendation towards the report presented by the Chairperson and Committee, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech. I now give the opportunity for one of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

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Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 44, Statement of Corporation
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Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity and thank you for the Report. I will comment directly on the Report on this development which has really stepped up. UTOS has contributed to the national development especially in the investments by individuals and Government entities. There have been many preparations and plans to ensure stable establishment of the Organization because the truth is that it was within a short time.

An infant begins with baby steps and progresses but this is the first infant to be born standing. There were proposals passed seemingly without an opportunity for a level playing field in consideration of the private sector. It would seem that the Government showing favoritism by removing capital gains tax from the money profited from there.

I support it for now because it is still in its initial stages but the Chairperson, the Hon Minister and the CEO should consider whether this should be continued because there is a no opportunity for a level playing field with other businesses and state owned enterprises

Lastly, I would just like to ask the Chairperson how many contributors have invested because the churches are also included. There should be fairly a large amount of money considering the removal of the capital gains tax and the investments from the Ecclesias, Organizations and Businesses. That is the query.

Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity and that is all.

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

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker thank you for this opportunity. Thank you to the Chairperson and his Committee for the report.

I believe this development is one of the most important establishments in Samoa. It is important because we Samoan, myself included, spend because we do not know what to save with so many obligations. This Trust enables our people to save their money for their family and future.

Perhaps this is the only establishment which tries its best to spread wealth to the majority of the population. The general problem not only in Samoa but the whole world is that wealth of a nation is held but an elite 5% or less of the population which leaves the remaining percent suffering without this great opportunity. This opportunity has been made possible by the Government for people with a weak economic state to buy shares in large companies locally and internationally. Recall when the Government advertised its Enterprises to be privatized, there was little no interest. However this is the chance to utilize the Trust to invest in the Companies like what was done with SamoaTel. Even if you have a \$100 in there you have shares in SamoaTel. This is the aspect that I am happy with and UTOS should be able to purchase Blue Sky considering its strength at the moment.

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Furthermore, due to the successful establishments of the UTOS I thank the employees and Management behind this success and I also acknowledge the supervising hand of the Government since this is just in its early stages of development. The Committee has not mentioned in their reports the vision of the Organization that by 2015 the number of unit holders would reach 1000. The report although states that there are 1,800 + nearing 1,900 unit holders.

There was a meeting I attended because I have also invested. I bought a unit at \$1.00 and at the moment it is now \$1.46, nearly \$2.00. I have observed various public servants also attending these meetings being satisfied with the progress of the Unit Trust. Moreover, an investment portfolio showed figures of \$39million and now it is over \$70million. It is a positive achievement. Some Members are concerned with the competition with the commercial banks and the private sector. In truth Mr Speaker and members of Parliament, if UTOS did not exist the interest rates for most commercial banks would not have decreased. Living in Samoa and doing loans, there has not been an interest rate lower than 10% but thankfully at the moment it has come down to 8% which is a huge impact of this new development.

The Development Bank of Samoa is trying to do this but their interest rates are a bit high. I am thankful that the Government is overseeing this but it may not always be that way because at some point it will be independent. So the challenge would be how to maintain the high percentage of returns which is 20%.

Another challenge is those big investors and there should be provisions to cater to them. For instance, if they deposit \$1million tala but by the end of the year it is withdrawn. These should be carefully considered by the Government because it can affect the Government programs. As of now there is no opportunity for the general public to loan but it is allowed to the Government SOEs and I pray that we may be given the same opportunity so as to decrease the amount of interest rates which is what we continuously strive for to assist in the development of Samoa. If this is the answer to lowering interest rates because this involves regulating commercial banks that operate in an open market. For how many years the interest rate has not decreased because they are negotiating and keep the rates high. We should have regulated this long ago but we cannot and this is one strategy.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the and those managing this Trust and my only advice to the people is to utilize this opportunity wisely for the sake of you future and families. With respect, thank you.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

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Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo: I stand to offer a word of thanks and offer my sincere gratitude to the previous member because he has touched upon some of the main goals of the Government which is to increase competition amongst the Business elites so that interest rates would decrease. So listening to the statements by the Opposition on how to lower the interest rates I say this is the solution; competition. The Governments works and plans are progressing well. UTOS is one of the many organizations that have relieved the burden for many people and businesses. But we must remember who benefits from decreasing of interest rates; it is the general public of Samoa. That is the main intention and priority of the Government; to ensure the benefits is reaped by all the people of Samoa. In response to the query about Government entities loaning from the UTOS, we must bear in mind that SOEs also have their legislations and some are registered under the Companies Act 2001, which means this is permitted by statutory powers.

Mr Speaker that is my response.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I now give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West East and then to the member for Individual Voters.

I call upon the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will be brief. My query is to the Committee as they mention EZY Money Transfer stated as being in partnership with UTOS in New Zealand. What provisions allow for such a partnership? My other question is whether there are plans for any other Company in Australia and American Samoa to partner with UTOS if this has been allowed. Also, are there conditions to apply or is the service tendered? Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. This is the last opportunity, I call upon... I see there are still other members seeking an opportunity. I call upon the member for Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

Susuga HON PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Individual Voters): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I firstly like to record my full support with regards to this very important Organization. I have some understanding in regards to the matter regarding loans by the Government entities which poses my question to the Chairperson whether they queried the Management on the eligibility of the unit trust holders to loan from the Trust with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I give this last opportunity to the member for Falelatai and Samatau and then the response from the Chairperson.

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Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I would like to comment briefly on the report. Firstly I like to acknowledge and thank the Chairperson and Committee for the preparation of the Report. I also acknowledge the UTOS, the CEO and Management for managing this Organization. Mr Speaker there are two aspects of UTOS that I wish to signify. Firstly, as mentioned by other Members, the decrease in the interest rates. Other Government entities submit their conditions regarding the interest rates when borrowing but if it were left to UTOS to decide, the interest rates would decrease slowly as well as those of the commercial banks.

The second and most great achievement is that UTOS has meetings with its unit holders. A farmer will finish growing his taro crop and rush to a meeting because he is a unit holder with his invested \$50. Mr Speaker the plantation and livestock farmers of Samoa strives in their fields because of these shares and they are now a part of this Organization because of their shares in UTOS.

MR SPEAKER: I beg leniency honorable member. I give opportunity to...What is this?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker I dare not interrupt the Members speech however I wish to clarify a matter because people are listening in. Mr Speaker the correction is that the minimum amount a unit holder can invest is \$50 at \$1 or more a unit. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Member to continue.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you to the member for that. The minimum is \$50 and then a person can start buying his or her units at UTOS which is a very good aspect Mr Speaker. Furthermore I applaud the chosen structure of the Organization with the Board of Directors, the Chairperson, the CEO and Management that will enable the smooth flow of operations and will ensure there is no room for corruption or unaccountable transactions taking place. That is why I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson and Committee and also to the Management for all their hard work. Bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech. I call upon the member for Sagaga le Falefa if you wish to stand?

Tofa TUISA TASI PATEA (Sagaga le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity...

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member to stand and assist in the concerns raised since the Hon Minister of Finance is not here.

Tofa TUISA TASI PATEA: That is why I wanted to stand Mr Speaker; to assist with the queries put forth about UTOS. As mentioned by previous members this Organization was established quite quickly; it was born and it hit the floor running. Reason being, if you refer to the reports, UTOS was established in 2011 with only 150 unit holders. The Trust Portfolio was \$1.3million and Investment Portfolio was \$500,000. If we analyze the short period in which it was established the increase is very impressive. As of now the number of people invested in the UTOS is up to 1,188, the Trust Portfolio is up to \$29million, almost \$30 and the Investment Portfolio is now \$71.8million equating to the almost \$100million. Mr Speaker, that concludes my statement in helping to clarify the confusion and queries. The UTOS is no different from any other Government Corporation because they all aim to develop and sustain the general public's welfare. That is why I would like to express utmost gratitude to the management team and staff, to the CEO thank you for all the hard work. As some Members have mentioned the great thing about this establishment is that there is now a chance for people to become a unit holder in the UTOS through paying only \$50. UTOS has made two presentations of dividends as stated in the Report. UTOS has developed well and that Mr Speaker concludes my assistance to the Chairperson.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the Associate Minister of Finance. I now call upon the Chairperson to conclude his response and also address the concerns raised by other members.

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA: Mr Speaker the Government policy towards the Unit Trust of Samoa is to formulate ways for monetary supply to be made available to any citizen of Samoa. Whether they are farmers or fishermen, the main goal is to allow these people the opportunity to place their hard earned money in to investment shares. The nature of the Samoan is to spend because we are facing many responsibilities in family obligations and other commitments which deters people from saving their money in the Unit Trust, however we must think of the future. We must save for the future of our families and children.

The service offered by this Organization allows an investor to invest and if a *faalavelave* comes up unexpectedly then they may withdraw their funds without resisting conditions, or if one chooses to invest today and withdraw in the period of Elections those are some terms.

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I believe the Associate Minister for Finance and especially the member for Faleata West has addressed some of the queries put forth by some of the members. This member is one of the high advisors to the Hon Minister of Finance and his clear clarification of the issues proves just that.

The question towards the EZY Money: the Board carried this out on a trial basis to allow our citizens residing in New Zealand to send their money to invest here. This service is no longer available because New Zealand has many financial regulations which makes it difficult for our people to invest here in Samoa. However the Organization Corporation are still working towards making a way for citizens in Australia, New Zealand and America to invest their money here and when they travel back, they will not have to seek permits.

Furthermore, it is clear as we have seen in the reports that in the year 2012 the amount of investors in UTOS was 516 but now it is up to 2000. Additionally the amount of the Trust Portfolio and Investment Portfolio has also been clarified and I shall not comment further on this progress.

The question whether a person is allowed to loan...as explained before the Office and management do not offer this service due to the need to protect the funds of the people being invested in the UTOS. Lest we forget the low interest rates and I believe this Organization has the lowest in all of Samoa. Therefore I urge the Members of the House to invest in preparation for the upcoming Elections. Thank you and bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West to stand once again.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker there is just a small matter that is unclear Chairperson you have referred to me as the high advisor to the Hon Minister of Finance. I need to correct this because there are those who are paid by the Government to offer advice to the Hon Minister but I am the friend of the Hon Minister of Finance and also the member for Siumu. However I express my gratitude towards the member for Siumu for his clarification on the Report. If we observe carefully the work Afioaga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Liuga deals with, it is very hard, so I hope you would stop what you are doing and help him. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon one of the members for Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I would like to ask the Chairperson since he has finished his statements without addressing my question.

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I am confused about the Unit Trust holders of the Organization and whether they are able to loan and benefit from this advantage. As the Chairperson has mentioned the general public cannot loan from the Organization so I am asking whether the Unit Trust holders are able to loan. I only understand that Corporations can receive assistance from the Unit Trust to be repaid so therefore I am wondering whether the Unit Trust holders benefit from this service. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson to conclude his response.

Tofa HON TUUU ANASII LEOTA: Thank you. The answer to the question put forth by the member is no. Whether you are a share holder or not you cannot loan any funds from the Unit Trust. The Organization is trying to seek profitable developments to invest unit holders money so that there is a good return on investment with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I believe the Chairperson has clearly explained the matters that have been raised about this important Organization. And I would like to add my thanks to the Management team for the speedy progress of this new establishment. As we are well aware, Rome was not built in one day and so we must be patient and hope for all the best so that this organization can be and will continue to be a good aspect in assisting the country.

Report was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a Select Committee Report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

We have now come to a normal recess hour of the day. I would like to say thank you to the distinguished members of the House for all the support throughout our work right from the beginning of our sitting. I firmly believe that all our orders of the day are complete and addressed by Parliament. The Chair's insistence is to ensure that we carry out our tasks and our responsibilities as it is our calling. However the plans we may be planning may not always be what God has planned for us. Take for instance some of the unfortunate obstacles that befall us like the disease that is spreading throughout our country which has not only affected members of our Parliament but also employees of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

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Also, the absence of the Hon Prime Minister is due to medical reasons. There are Cabinet members also absent due to work commitments. That is why I have decided that we should adjourn and seek rejuvenation and reschedule until an appropriate time for all of us to be present. There is no use for us to strive for fish when our net is in need of repair, because I believe that if our health is stable then there is nothing that can stop our work from continuing. There is a concern because some of the works we have not touched upon are of the utmost importance but nothing can be done without all the Cabinet. Regardless of the Oppositions persistent reminder, I believe that in the interest of steady flow of business, we should understand the provisions of our Orders. The important aspect is that our Parliamentary Proceedings proceed without confusion.

I believe the Business Committee has already allocated our meeting days and there is no sitting in the next month. However the Chair has authority, upon the advice of the Hon Prime Minister that we must consider all our reports before May which is already set aside for our Appropriations. We should therefore continue with our reports until they have all finished because the coming week is the new month. However due to the eye disease and the absence of the Hon Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet, we will adjourn for now. The Parliament will now schedule to meet in the upcoming month to continue with its lapsed business and then we will start anew in June.

As you all have heard my strict instructions to the Chairs and Deputy Chairs. We considered 12 bills and 10 were referred to the Committees. One Bill was returned, and the reports of the Select Committee that have been considered by the Assembly are 31, which means there are 39 reports that are to be considered in the upcoming month. Therefore I would like to remind the Committee Chairs to be considerate and have all our Bills returned for the second reading within the three month period. Please be sure so that our work does backlog again.

As I have explained before to the Leader of the Opposition with the events earlier today, I have requested the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet to extend our sitting days for more time to discuss our reports and address questions brought up this morning. In addition I pray for patience because the Lords days are never ending; it is also not my intention to deny any member the right to speak but we must all work together in understanding and consideration of our Standing Orders. There were mishaps and offensive accusations let out however I pray for understanding and forgiveness for all of us. I must also ask for forgiveness if there was a time when you may have noticed that I raised my voice, I pray for understanding because my intention is mainly to calm and carry out our work smoothly. Like the English saying goes, 'only sticks and stones will break your bones.'

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The Chair only seeks to calm the House to serve as one and follow through with our work. There is no higher law than our respectful relationship with each other. Nevertheless we have come to the successful end of our meeting with the hope that the Government be present to discuss and consider lapsed matters; the Cabinet as well as the Hon Prime Minister and we pray for a fast recovery.

I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister to move a motion to adjourn our meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AND CONCLUDING SPEECH OF THE
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker before I move a motion I would like to greet and acknowledge the whole of Samoa and its distinguished honorific salutations, His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and his good Lady, the Council of Deputy and his good Lady.

Lest we forget our Leader who is at the moment overseas seeking treatment however we have received good news he is well. And I believe he will be with us soon with the guidance of our Lord above.

I also acknowledge our neighboring countries of American Samoa and Manua; to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and the distinguished members of both Houses. Furthermore I acknowledge the Clergy within the country and abroad for their prayers day and night; for their support for the future of Samoa in its developments.

Mr Speaker we have come to the end of our plans and schedules proposed for this week. The main purpose of the Government is to minimize lapsed work for all of us, such as Select Committee Reports and Bills that need to be discussed. As you have mentioned earlier we have debated and considered 12 Bills already and 31 Reports and perhaps this is a new record for this Parliamentary Term. Furthermore, I firmly believe that the Bills and Reports are clear and concise and that the Government has been very transparent with these works. The Government makes it a priority to illuminate and make clear any confusion or queries with regards to Bills and Reports so that people are in full understanding of the Governments work, so they are not blamed for any corrupt activities. The strength to govern is from the citizens by way of our General Election.

Our Government is founded on a democratic system as was decided by our ancestors in the past. our forefathers believed that an accountable and responsible Government is the heart of democracy. Our ancestors struggled and fought with their lives and spilt blood for this democratic system to be our foundation and it is those struggles that have blessed us abundantly today.

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Deputy Prime Minister**

Our ancestors came together as one, sought ways to achieve their goals and our freedom. All the efforts of our ancestors have enabled us to experience and bask in wonderful opportunities and in time we too will pass and a new generation will rise to the responsibility. The future generation will ask if we did our job well. Times change but the political system will not change nor will the Governments efforts to seek benefits for our people. Therefore we must always remember the words of our elders “Your calling is from God, do not waste it.” The question is how is it supposedly wasted; by being careless, by being boastful and conceited, by lack of integrity and faith. Take heed leaders of Samoa and not waste your responsibility.

Mr Speaker I believe the Lord has been very kind to the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader and all the distinguished Members of that side of the House. I pray that the Lord continues to bless the Cabinet Ministers and also the Associate Ministers, the CEOs of all Government Ministries and Corporations and everyone present here today.

Mr Speaker I congratulate you on your patience and forbearance and I thank you for the wise management of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. We pray and hope that the Lord Almighty will bless you abundantly with kind thoughts and wise words to continue your calling in the Legislative Assembly.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker I believe there are still unresolved issues that our Assembly needs to consider. As I have noticed there were queries of the Leader of Opposition perhaps this morning or in the previous meeting days. However due to the proceedings of our days work the Leader was not granted the opportunity to question these concerns and has led him to persuade his Party members to leave the House. Thankfully I noticed there was no member leaving. Therefore I believe that the Leader of Opposition should be given an opportunity to state his queries on the Reports and Bills.

Therefore I move a motion since there are still some Committee Reports that have not been tabled, *That the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned until Monday, April 14, 2014.*

Thank you.

Seconded by Minister for Justice and Courts Administration, Deputy Speaker, a member for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him and member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: Before we adjourn and finish our proceedings I would...

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Mr Speaker point of order. I stand to correct wrongful statements being recorded. I wish to clarify that the Leader did not ask us to leave but persuaded us to stay behind.

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It was out of respect for the Chair and our relationship in this House. It must be corrected and do not do it again.

MR SPEAKER: The absence of the Leader of Opposition was not known until you mentioned it. However it is not important because your presence makes everything complete. Perhaps the Leader is merely going to check on his lawnmowers and then he will be back for our next sitting. Before we end this sitting I call upon the Associate Minister for Courts and Justice to lead us in a prayer to finish off our meeting.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1:14pm until 9.00am Monday 14 April, 2014.