

28 JANUARY 2021

THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2021

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:25am.

Prayer.

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

Allow me this opportunity to respectfully greet the dignitaries of Parliament present this morning to carry on with our business. I recognise the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, also Associate Ministers and Chairpersons as well all distinguished members of the Legislative Assembly.

I also take this opportunity to accord my appreciations to the Deputy Speaker, my colleague for taking over the responsibilities yesterday. I commend you for your efforts.

I am of the view that the fau tree naturally connects with another of its kind when returning from the elections, the good thing is the constituency hears that we cooperate.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– continuation debate on second reading – Day 7**

MR SPEAKER: Our Proceedings adjourned yesterday while the distinguished member from Falealili West was addressing the Assembly. I respectfully call on the member to continue.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West): Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity given to me this morning. We praise God for having us meet here again today, despite the cruel weather, it is the reflection of Gods providence upon Samoa.

I convey greetings to the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as Associate Ministers.

I recognise Mr Speaker and distinguished members of the Parliament of Samoa. I also acknowledge the support of Le Ao o le Malo, the member of the Council of Deputies, the Chief Justice and Criminal Justice Courts, the President and the Land and Titles Court.

I convey greetings to every church minister throughout Samoa and also those serving abroad.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– continuation debate on second reading**

Continuing on where I left on from yesterday on the sub-village of Piu within Sapunaoa since there are areas which need be clarified. Last year there was a wooden road sign placed alongside the Government Road pointing to the sub-village of Piu. For the information of the Assembly, Mr Speaker the community of Piu is further inland and is a sub-village of Sapunaoa and is located exactly where the tar sealed road is going inland. When you reach the inland area where the two-way intersection is located, the two roads there are Lealasopo and Lealamutu. Lealasopo is where the sub-village of Piu is located that is what I wanted to clarify Mr Speaker. The fact is Mr Speaker there is a Government project right now implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as mentioned by the Leader of the Government yesterday called bio-gas renewable energy which is currently supplying the community of Piu with bio-gas energy which uses leaves from trees.

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to one of the organisations that is contributing at a very high degree to my constituency of Falealili not only the Western part but also the East and Samoa in general. The Adventist Development Relief Agency ADRA. This organisation was started by the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Lalovaea as part of a development sector of the church. Their objective is to assist low-income families with their livelihood, and they do not concentrate in a single area but their service ranges from building homes, market stalls and various other developments which has blessed many families and communities. I now come to the Manumalo Baptist Church at Leone. I convey my gratitude...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, but I will allow the interjection from the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I rise on a point of clarification. I applaud the member currently having the floor for the matters he raised.

I did say yesterday that with Government projects we cannot possibly cover every village and sub-villages when upgrading areas of the infrastructure such as access roads toward farming land since sub-villages are located within villages. I have indicated earlier that with my village, it is made up of 7 sub-villages. Within these sub-villages I guess more than 50 access roads needs to be done. That is not to say that it will all be met. If say one road can be done for my constituency well that would be appropriate enough for this term with the rest to follow during the next term.

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With the remaining projects such as the old road towards a school to be financed by overseas organisation committed to assisting us through the agreements they have signed with the Government. In other words, this is all part of the Government and that is essential. So even if it is a road that has perhaps a few yards left to be done as long as it is beneficial for the community. Other major projects like the airport, even though it is situated at Satapuala it does benefit the whole country. It is thus crucial to generally consider projects which will be profitable for the community.

What I am sharing aims to make everyone aware as with some people they are narrow minded. Their only desire is what they are demanding for themselves totally losing focus on the various developments gradually being implemented by the Government. Such as TV, electricity and having water supply which they drink from on the daily basis and completely forgetting about that very water which they are drinking. Their only focus is on access roads.

That is the situation which I talked about yesterday as there is only one village in Samoa that this is implemented. This pilot project involves the use of leaves to generate electricity. It is the reason this rather small community was chosen so they do not need to acquire the main power source which feeds other villages to concentrate on. So, I think there would be a time when the main electricity source stops whilst this sub-village of Piu is thriving. You all heard yesterday from the member stating that the matter was given the go ahead by Cabinet for this development specifically for Piu.

I also asked what makes Piu special. The response was this village is small, so it is the beginning of this development. I said very well the idea is wonderful as there are just three families within this community.

Mr Speaker that is the case. Another crucial matter is the sports field. Well, you all heard yesterday that there is a sports field in Saanapu. The other sub-village of the large community of Sapunaoa is Piu.

There is a big sports field there, where the constituency uses for rugby tournaments, and I usually stop over to watch and being the President of the Samoa Rugby Union I am keen on the progress of the game. This is where the member hails from. But as you have heard, Piu also wants their own sports field. Now I apologise to the member but if there is already a sports field for your constituency that should be enough. Particularly when it is only two yards to walk from Piu to this sports field. I am just shocked with this type of request, Piu wanting an international sports ground when I know there are less than 50 people of this community. Mr Speaker the allocation of resources must be done prudently but certainly not by simply agreeing to construct a sports field when asked, otherwise every family will end up with a sports field. We must look at what was done during the previous term by the member that held the seat then.

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To overlook what has been done. How can we construct several sports fields, when other constituencies are looking on?

My apologies to the member and I know his desire to develop every community within his constituency which is an aspiration of every member. But there is the common adage that Rome was not built in a day. What happened to Rome? They eventually ruled the world. With good roads hence making the mission of the apostle Paul more convenient. Why? The straight attractive roads were fitting for Paul's leisure. The nation of Rome built these roads to facilitate the invasions by its forces. Those roads were not constructed in a year but a great number of years, with the amount of gold from nations and Governments which the nation of Rome invaded. They then gradually developed itself.

Mr Speaker that is how it is done. You do one thing this year and something else the following year. Instead of one turning up and say, 'you will all get your request done within a year'. Even America, they cannot possibly implement all their projects within a year.

Yet their budget amounts to billions and billions of dollars. What is their situation? Even America is now in a lot of debt. Mr Speaker that is my brief clarification concerning the wonderful remarks from the member. I know you are eager but with everything in life it depends on money. We also measure it with the number of people that will benefit, whether many or few.

Mr Speaker that is the explanation.

MR SPEAKER: Well perhaps the clarification from the leader of Government was beneficial. Do not be impatient as every constituency yearns for the same. A piece of bread received this year, and a piece of bread obtained the following year that is how we appraise situations. I am of the view that the member should exercise discernment.

I see that the member for Palauli le Falefa wishes to speak, is there anything else...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Yes, Mr Speaker if you allow me.

MR SPEAKER: The member may proceed.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you. I just want to remind members of the project done at Apolima-tai. This was the first solar panel system done 15 years ago. So it is not just Piu but also Apolima-tai. With respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. Thank you for reminding us of our other developments.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker my clarification is directed to the member representing Piu. The speech of Aiga I le Tai is done. Although the Minister is correct and if I may recall he was the actual Minister responsible for this project. The Minister is reminding us of since I am getting old and forgetful.

MR SPEAKER: It is important as it is a reminder of his time as Minister. Thank you I call on the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to say something further on the statement, ‘benefits should not focus on just a group of people but should cover everyone that needs it right away’. If I may remind you all of the contribution from the Government of a million-tala handed to ADRA. They are the ones who look at which families have housing problems to live in and need water and they are the ones who fix it. We have got feedback that a lot of houses have been improved.

That is the situation, even now it seems that it has been singled out in a constituency, but the plan of Government is to help those who need assistance by using the large amount of money given to ADRA, and they go out and find families in need of help. The money from Government is then given to carry out improvement.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Leader of the House once again.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I applaud the Minister of Finance for his wisdom shown in the flexibility and consideration for those who have special needs but do not have enough strength. This is important because I heard that others criticized this aid, because of this situation. There are families that genuinely need the assistance. Some families only require maybe 5 iron roofing, others only need 10 iron roofing whilst another family only needs railings within their house. This is the type of assistance that is required, and this organisation have been around for a long time and have been in this business for a long time, therefore they have a lot of experience.

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There are other similar organisations like Caritas of the Catholic Faith which deals with major projects. This is the exact area that needs this assistance and as I have said already, some families only need a few items like iron roofing but when approaching the bank there is a lot of hassle.

So this help is very important, because this organisation ADRA, they have been responsible for these situations for a long time, and their work is based on visiting the areas in need. One of the negligence of other organisations was simply approving applications without carrying out inspections. So if it is a job that requires \$1,000 only that amount is given this is the same case with a requirement of \$5,000 with only \$5,000 to be handed over. Those are minor projects in which they make the decisions without the involvement of Government.

The Government is very cautious of being criticized under such circumstances. Therefore, trust is given to this group with vast experience in this area and the Government have looked at the reports of their progress despite the fact it is under the name of the Seventh Day Church.

I am elated for this religious denomination has such an organisation which focuses on this type of area. What is at the heart of our religious beliefs? It is service, assistance and compassion. That is what this organisation is offering to people who have nothing. With some people they just simply criticize and complain towards other religious groups, yet they do not contribute.

Mr Speaker that is the necessity of the service of this Church and the Government continues to give its blessings and well wishes that the people administering this service are blessed with good health so they may continue being the good Samaritans that they are.

Mr Speaker that is a statement made in addition to the one voiced by the Minister of Finance.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member and may I remind you that all the interruptions are included in your time given. Nevertheless, I believe the matter has been clarified.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity and I appreciate the clarification from the Hon Prime Minister and also Faumuina, with the Government projects.

The fact is Mr Speaker, the national sports field at Sapunaoa was constructed in 2004 when the school was relocated inland from near the coast where it stood. The national sports field contains the full required measurements of 120 meters long and 70 meters wide.

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I had already urged my colleague Fuimaono that there is a sports fields for their games. Also, there are two other fields which I mentioned yesterday at Vaovai and Saleilua. My apologies to the leader of the Government in light of the request from my village of Piu and this very sports ground can be shared by everyone. With respect. I now come to the assistance....

MR SPEAKER: It is the same with my village of Fasitoo-uta using the sports field of Fasitoo-tai. It is very simple, and I remind the member that such issues are also seen in other constituencies. You may continue.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: I extend my appreciations to the Manumalo Baptist Church at Leone and the Mormon Church for contributing chairs and tables for the Primary Schools of my constituency. I know that the Government are short in terms of such assets so thank you for your generosity. God bless you for your donation.

I will now address the assets from the Pacific Games which were given to Primary schools, and also the colleges at Falealili. It is much appreciated. Mr Speaker my statement yesterday ended with the Minister of Works who is present, and I think I will repeat the requests voiced. In case my community might say that I am not doing my job. Most of the existing roads were tar sealed by the Government in the past. Since the priority has changed due to COVID-19. It is the reason I am making the request for the access road located inland of Tafatafa, which needs a drainage system...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order. It has not changed, and it is continuing according to our capability. In other words, we are engaged in the services required for Covid-19 and at the same time continue to implement roads that the Ministry have approved after inspections and have witness that these roads must be done. You should not be concerned as the allocation will come to you, particularly when there is a river within your constituency.

That huge river is supplying the whole of Falealili yet the Water Authority that regularly do check-ups on the reservoir did not mention any damages to the road. Therefore, there is nothing to worry about, as the repair works are carried out step by step. As you can see all the Ministers are taking notes including the senior Minister next to me, Tialavea is also taking notes. We all take notes as well as the Chief Executive Officers.

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What I will correct is a Minister speaking and a senior member who has been in the House for a long time picking on a single Minister with the claim of not taking notes. Yet he is looking at me taking notes. It may not be noted by a Minister, but the Leader of the Government never misses a thing, and such are the traits of a leader. So if you want to be a leader, prepare to work even if you do not sleep, work and come at 9 o'clock when Parliament starts, it is almost 10 yet the leader of that group is still not here. Back in the day when we were with Tofilau when a member arrives at 11am. Tofilau would say, this is an act of dishonesty towards your constituency, from drinking alcohol all night then attending Parliament intoxicated. Olo walked in stumbling. Despite those claims they will continue to say they have not had alcohol in the morning. Tofilau is a champion at that and had given it up long before. So Tofilau understands the behaviour of those people who spent the whole night drinking, who then comes late and stumbling in the House. Now you have heard that I have never said anything like that, but the words I said this morning are from those days, which I see, will soon be spoken again. Stop it until the elections are concluded. But doing it now while we near elections, well, welcome Afioga Laauli.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker I seek an opportunity...

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member for Falealili West, steer away from the subject.

I call on Olo the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker since my name was mentioned. I do take notes and I know that if I do not share it with a Minister it will pass. Let me respond to the matter raised by members concerning our return from the elections.

As for the matter raised by the Hon Prime Minister regarding our Party, well if both are not here, then I will lead. That is how our group works. Unlike HRPP, there is only one Leader. That is the beauty of doing things this way. It is why I take the floor the correct such statement with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, since my name was mentioned. My apologies your honour and thank you for allowing me to speak. To my village if you are hearing my voice, when you have had your breakfast do come down to the Assembly House I will be waiting. Mr Speaker, I am late since my constituents are at my residence and they came to ask as to the reason for the delay in our regular ongoing discussion. I told them that it cannot happen until Parliament adjourns. My apologies Hon Prime Minister, but in my absence Olo will take over. With respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I totally accept it. We never did withhold our recommendation as it is our nature to offer assistance to those who are weak. My advice is to officially select 4 leaders for your group. Maybe that is the reason the Sao Faapito is also late.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I recommend the Prime Minister to give the opportunity to Tuitama to become leader instead of holding on to it for himself.

MR SPEAKER: Have some consideration Olo, why not accord the respect to Laauli as he is older. You are taking turns amongst yourselves and what about Faumuina. When will Faumuina take over?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: He is my secretary.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban West): Mr Speaker I am filled with joy to see you joining us again today. You do seem rejuvenated, and I appreciate your kind thoughts. There will come a time when the actual leader is revealed. When you consider age, Fiame is older, then me, Olo would be next and Laauli. So that is the order of our group. With respect if you do desire to know more...

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hope Faumuina will become leader. I ask Falealili to continue with his remarks and to refrain from that issue as it has been clarified by the Government and Olo has made note of everything you said.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Last year we made a request for the upgrade of roads going towards the tourist attraction sites at Tafatafa where the Moega Beach and Brenda's resort are located.

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As well as the tourist attractions at Vaiula and Maota o Maa. With the road that we made the request on, the Minister of Tourism actually paid a visit. However, at the end of our visit he apologised to say that the Ministry making the visit is not the actual one. We were also of the view that the actual Ministry that deals with this area is the Ministry of Works and also the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. We did request the Tourism Authority since there is a programme under the UNDP for the upgrading of seawalls along the coast at Vaiula and Maota o Maa.

MR SPEAKER: The time of the member is up, you may conclude.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker we have quite a number of roads that were planned and we have submitted our request officially. One of these roads is in the village of Vaovai. Our community did some work to it by covering it with soil so as to make travelling more convenient. Now we have left it to the Hon Minister.

Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement on the strategic plans of the HRPP. In belief, in 2003, there was consultation on one of the strategic plans called Pacer Plus. It was a Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations. Furthermore, there were 3 Ministries that were engaged with this trade namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

This consultation was conducted with the countries of the Pacific including New Zealand and Australia in order to gain assistance for the developments of countries, to make possible our trading and products done for the business operators. Similarly, the development for climate change.

In 2006 there was...

MR SPEAKER: You do realize honourable member that I have recommended that you conclude your statement now...

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker,

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thanks for the opportunity, I observe the member is about to conclude, just want to make aware the works that were appealed.

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There were roads that were implemented like the road to the school in Saleilua, the additional roads under request, LTA has already done its inspection, and has now made note of the road in Vaovai. The member's statement is correct that these roads are very problematic. It has been recorded and works of the Government are in progress for the roads visited by the LTA for priority. But since works are still ongoing as they are plentiful. Depending on the budget available under the LTA perhaps some of the highest revenue earning developments have been omitted, the vehicle licensing is now being transferred under the Ministry of Police and Prisons. Therefore, it all depends on the annual budget allocated although some of this appropriations have supported the additional requests which are not stated in the annual budget of the LTA.

But do bear perseverance, the Hon Prime Minister has already spoken, Rome was not built in one day. To all the villages that submitted requests, do bear patience as the Government is achieving these works one by one, and in accordance with the earning revenue from LTA and the works that will be given priority. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure has already spoken, and that is how their assistance is done for the development of the districts such as the concern of the member.

Do conclude your statement. It is pleasing to speak generally of the matters related to the districts than stating the details. Because we would bear the difficulty of trying to give each item in detail and in doing that, you will be the only one to speak from now on until break. Do take heed of your statements. Please conclude your remark.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker perhaps the member is now concluding his speech. The only thing I mentioned Pacer Plus honourable Speaker, is seasonal workers. The advice to the Government, perhaps in the future the allocation of seasonal workers will be planned and divided for our people.

Before I conclude, I beseech that if I have offended you Samoa and our constituency of Falealili No.1, I am just a weak servant, and do bear forgiveness. Falealili No.1 or Falealili West, this is your inheritance, I received it in 2016 and I have been your representative. I will give it back to our constituency for your vote in the general election 2021.

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To our constituency of Sapunaoa, and your chief titles Leavasa and Aumua, and our villages of Iiliili and Saleilua, and chief title Siiliili, especially our district of Falealili, the plea with me, what is your will upon me, true is the words of the bible, before I say one thing, do grant me your authority, lest it make it seem that I have persuaded your goodness, but do according to your will. The works you appealed for; you have heard it. The name I go by in our general elections this year, is Aumua siiliili Leavasa Isaia Lameko. The calling of a person is from God, He who holds all authority and strength for the Nation's policymaking. May Jesus be the navigator for our country.

Mr Speaker may faults withdraw from you, and may you find new strength for God and His works. Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers, I give you blessings. To the honourable Chairperson and the Parliamentary Committee on this side especially the members of the House, may you find strength to implement your callings.

To my retired victorious veteran politicians...Mr Speaker, the Hon Leapepetele Taimaiono Toleafoa Faafisi, the Hon Minister Tuitama Leao Dr. Talalelei Tuitama, the orator of Saleaula, Tofa Faasootauloa Taulapapa Pati, and the Hon Aeau Peniamina, Afioga Mulipola Laki, may God bless you and your services with dignity, may the goodness of God be upon you all.

Mr Speaker, this constituency wholly supports the Supplementary Budget (No.1) 2020/2021. Bless our constituency, bless Samoa as a whole. Soifua.

Parliament showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of the member for Falealili West.

MR SPEAKER: Well done the constituency has heard your remarks, the member has the urge to speak to clarify the various developments for this sub-village and that sub-village, for the purpose to share the benefits from the Government given our limited time as you have heard. Not only that, but the recommendation will also not be avoided, and the communication of your Hon Minister so as to progress and record areas that are required to develop the districts. I heed appreciation to the respectable member. Given our time shortage it is reason I am giving assistance. But I thank you for your thoughts upon me, I feel at ease because of you members.

It is now my turn, and I see the orange light for the member of Gagaifomauga No.2. I call upon the member to speak.

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Tofa SOOALO UMI FEO MENE (Gagaifomauga No 2): Thank you for the chance, I wish to acknowledge the support of the country as well as this constituency. What about the engagement of this Government for this 5-year term.

Mr Speaker and the revered House, a successful fishing expedition is more important than the navigator. Those are the feelings this morning, as it is not an oar washed in the waves or debris in the sea.

The honourable Speaker has rouse to resume his calling by saying a prayer first to support the works of the Sitting of Samoa and this House and Samoa in all its honorific salutations, thank you for the sacrificial offering. Let us dwell in the house of the Lord.

It is the house where peace is found instead of disharmony. It is where joy and goodness derive from instead of conflict, it is where compassion is created which is reason, we are joyful this morning given His abiding love and goodness. May God hold all authority *ae nuufaatini o tausala i ana auauna tofofi, aua lo latou faiva tu'i lea*. May sanctifications and glory remain unto Him who holds all Authority, this morning and future generations. It is also the spear of Samoa that was thrown to the heavens to acquire our ancestry from God, as the lands of Tiafau are consecrated and sanctified.

Mr Speaker, no warrior can choose Samoa, as Tonga stories (traditions) are those of war whereas those of Samoa are about divisions, *e tau Toga ae tofi Samoa*. The grounds of Tiafau here no longer have tidal waves nor one bird to contest victory as this is the fields of faautugatagi where all honorific salutations of Samoa are complete. *E afua mai i Matia Matia Ituau, Finao ma Vaituutuu, tootoo o Fuifatu, Vailoa ma Faletoi aua Puleono i Salavai. O Maauga ma Nuuausala o Malie ma Vaitoelau seia paia Lalogafuafua, e tausi vaatele e Lufilufi aua Tumua*.

Then there is the thought within me, *o le a tau faafofofo tuagalua faatautai a le gataifale sua o palupaluga a lenei itumalo, se i tau asaasa ai le oootutu o le tai. Aua o lea ua faalepa sa folau o sui usufono mamalu uma o lo faavaotutui i le Maota o tupu ma ee o le atunuu, na fa'ia mai i le fuifui e sufi upufai o Malo. Ae leitioa foi see lilia Saveasiuleo, ae popole mulimaalao pe a tua ma ni a. Ioe, se ta te musu ne i utupisia lau tautala, ona teva lea o le nuu o imoa ae le i malu le fale na lau i le ula ae poupou i le toa. A o taeao foi faapenei, e ao lava ina silafia le lala tafue o ponati o laau, aua la tatou fesagaiga mamalu. O lea foi na saafi ai le tautai ma faatusa le soifua ma le ola, ua le ese ma le inafu fai mai sa ave e manu. A tuli ona sue lea i le foe ae apoapo i le tata, ae a oo ina taaalii, ua taotoga i'asa lo tatou taeao fesilasilafai, tulou tulou tulouna lava.*

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I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet, also the honourable Speaker, the distinguished members of the Parliament of Samoa. I further greet the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations. In addition, greetings to Samoa and your support upon the callings of our Parliament and its political affairs and strive for success, our beloved country of Samoa.

I acknowledge his Highness the Head of State of our Independent State, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and his Good Lady. The Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. The Chief Justice, President, the Judiciary and the revered Ministry of Justice.

I further greet the support of religious denominations, Leaders and priests of the Church, who are members of the Gospel. And their task of pleading in various parts of the country. Your works and service has brought blessings and peace upon Samoa.

I pay tribute to Samoa and your intercessor, *aua le paia i Tama ma Aiga o Aiga ma Tama, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Papa, Aiga o Ee ma Aiga na Tafaiifa. Le mamalu ia Tumua Lufilufi ma Leulumoega, Tuisamau Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti, aemaise Tootoouli o le taupulega a Puleono i Salafai.*

Those are your sanctities Samoa, originated from the yellow tide of Tuimanua to Fili and Puletuu which stood success for Samoa. It is said that this is where a beautiful lightning in Mataniu Feagaimaleata, Faleu ma Utuagiagi, Malaeola ma Gafoaga. And it brightened up Samoa through the strong rays of the Gospel, which has now become our solid Constitution for our Independent nation. It is covered and protected by our tradition and custom. It is no longer in the cover but is central in the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa. That is the paramount mornings for this Parliamentary Term XVI of the Parliament of Samoa. Appreciation to the Government and this Parliament for your courage and bravery for making good change for the betterment of Samoa. Mr Speaker, the words of the Hebrew composer, “Praise the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all his benefits.”

Amouta and Amotai have passed, but there is still the Last day at Moamoa. *Ua tuanai atu le Amouta ma le Amotai, ae tali le Toeaso-nai-Moamoa.* Sooalo now returns to Safune and Samauga, to return all glory back to God given the support of the constituency. The sacrifice of the poor woman, it is only the strength she can offer. The normal saying of Fale Safune, your words are not important, rather it is your waiting that does. The spear and horn are not significant, nor the words said, rather what is vital are those who are carrying the altar of worship. Support and prayers are offered so that the works of the village are not cursed.

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I express appreciation to our spiritual parents within our constituency in various altars. You have offered your support and have prayed to the heavens for blessings upon me especially our local players who are finding success and wealth for their districts overseas. It is through your prayers which has brought joy and strength especially courage to continue my calling which you had chosen.

Thank you to the kings of our constituency for their foresight which I am proud of, and the orators of Safune and Samauga for their farsightedness.

Our village of Fatuvalu, Faletagaloa and Matavai, in your honorifics *aua le afifio o Tapaau ma Saausi, afio le Toa-fa o alii ma Tuumatavai faapea le susu o lau susuga i le alii o le nuu, lau susuga Leota. Alalatai foi le Toafia o Tama Tulafale ma lau Fetalaiga i le Tuua Tugaga ma lo lua toalua.*

To our village of Lefagaoalii Samauga and Paia in your honorific salutations *le paia aua le afifio o Sao e fa, lau afioga i le nofo matua, lau afioga Tuu, lau afioga Fuimaono, lau afioga Malaitai ma lau Susuga i le Tuailmafua. Le nofo a usoalii ma le Aiga Sa Peseta, faapea Pagamalie, Mauaimaleuta ma le la itu o le tatou nuu. Laupue ma lau fetalaiga le tuua Soolo ma lau tamatane, ma lo outou faleupolu Samauga, faapea le mamalu o le Aiga Sa Peseta.*

To the sanctity of my constituency, thank you for your support and prayers, your respect is not light to us. Your exaltation and authority granted, is what I have journeyed with me this past 5 years. I bow with a humbling heart before God for who I am for you to give thought to? You have put your trust and faith upon me. And that is your authority, thank you for your motherly love upon me. The deer pants for streams of water pleasingly, so as much water consumed at our Fale Gagaifoolemauga, the heart and soul are fully contented with the truthful senior love shown through your care and abundant blessings conveyed for these past 5 years. My purpose is now over and will return home. Still, what is our response upon your high respect shown?

I bid your forgiveness, whatever service I strived to do, and the limited service I provided this past 5 years, may it settle in the will of God. Although I still had the drive to commit given the love rendered through your support.

I further beg the pardon of my constituency, *e leai lava se faiva e asa ma se maumau*, whatever action or word that was offensive in carrying out our constituency, *e poto le tautai ae pisi le sami*. And no sportsman knows its mistake, then I rely on you, as you are the senior parent that can forgive a son's sin.

To our treasured district, the remaining words of your servant, I am pleased with your respect and so as the view and hearing.

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To my beloved constituency, the remaining words of your servant, thank you for your respect, the view has been satisfied, and so as the hearing. Satisfaction has been met, your love and goodness have been shown. It reminds me of the past, it is said, before the arrival of Christianity in Samoa, the support had long existed here years ago. I guess this is the reason the Gospel was easily recognized in Samoa. It is said that when a fishing voyage is carried out or hunting trip in the wild, the support of Samoa always follows, there is the house of support. And whenever there is a game, there is also the supporting group. and when the fishing expedition is successful or a blessing, then there is a song sung by the supporters, *Ua faafetai, ua faafetai, ua malie mata e vaai. Ua tasi lava oe, ua tasi lava oe, i lou nei faamoemoe* “I am thankful, the eyes are pleasing to see. It is just you in my purpose.

Such is the small appreciation from this constituency, and my cry to God, may the heavens open up and may his blessings be upon the sacred kings of the constituency and the orators of the two houses, the women and the strength of the constituency. May the prayer and sermon of the priests be powerful to find blessings for the constituency and Samoa. And may living in harmony be maintained upon Falelua Safune and Samauga.

Mr Speaker, reflecting back to our long journey this past 5 years, it is no different with the nation of God and the 40 years in the wilderness. It is said that they walked in a pillar of cloud that blows in the night. And a pillar of fire to give them light, which is sole authority of the Creator. It is like a wind that blows and does not sleep, the Authority of God, calamity and suffering were far away, but Samoa to be covered in His Loving Arms, without any mixed-up feelings.

Even though the world is covered with this high-risk pandemic where a lot of lives were taken by it, but what of Samoa? We are now gathered here due to benedictions and not condemnation. It is the tide of Atoa and not the tide of Fagaloa, we also have witnessed fuitition and productivity and not failure.

Thank you to the Government for being experienced and vigilant, especially to everyone that have contributed and sacrificed everything for our protection from this deadly virus. You await your blessings from heaven.

Thank you, Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet, for the good works implemented for this 5 year term that is about to finish, not only for this district but to Samoa in various parts. That was my testament since, it was a very loud speech, the works done for the welfare of Samoa and its people.

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The old man Oka used to say, “How can you love God without seeing him with your own eyes and the person you see but do not love?” Thank you greatly to our Government for implementing some of the developments for this constituency during this Term, through its road access, water supply improvement and electricity. Our House Gagaifoolemauga there is more time to water cut than water supply. But thank you to the Government as some of the villages of this constituency now have water supply 24 hours.

Thank you for prioritizing education sector and health sector. Still I observe and hear the construction of school buildings and the improvement of district hospitals in the rural areas for a better environment, particularly the interior so as to further push the upgrading and lifting of education and health service delivery for both this district and the country as a whole. These are very good plans that any Government centralizes, because if intelligent and suitable people live in a country, undoubtedly living standards will rise for families, village especially the works of God. Such is their huge contribution towards the economy of the country. Furthermore that is also the only development that no serious nor threats can destroy through natural disasters. I guess only or unless there is the authority from God. Our island of Salafai have witnessed the importance of the concrete bridge in Samalaeulu implemented many years back and many generations ago. This long-sunk bridge has now been reconstructed and so thank you to your authority and respect granted upon Salafai.

Thank you for the roads of Patamea to Vaiaata and Fusi, travelling is made easier towards that side, the Itu a Tane area and the Itu Asau area, and to avail the villages in the coastal areas in the atu Amoa for other developments suitable for tourism to push our economy for the country.

Mr Speaker, I convey great gratitude to the Leader of the Government for these huge works implemented. Even with God’s nation, they have seen and witnessed the Highest in person and these were the huge miracles performed by God in the wilderness in 40 years time and their faith was still not firm. Many people used to journey with confusion as sometimes, there was trust in them and other times they were confused. It is the same with our journey, despite the many works implemented, although we receive pitchy voice, other times there is the cool breeze, and storms in other times. But that is the nature of life, although Tutuila and Ape view differently, but the plea of this district, bear patience and courage and do not give up on love in order to manage the voyage for Samoa forward, as you are the navigator of this House. These are the good things; they are average good and very excellent ones presented before your honor. May God bless your calling.

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I extend special appreciation to the village council for your assistance and invaluable contribution to our Government, in searching peace and finding harmonious living within our village. Thank you to the Government, your vital contribution has been recognized particularly in your election and decisionmaking for the general benefit of the village communities especially the country.

Thank you to all the members of the House, well done to you, thank you for your farsightedness that our votes were based on given your decision making in creating and passing of Laws. We have thought differently on many occasions, but it all comes down to one thing, it is bear love upon our dearest beloved Samoa. Legacy has been implemented in this Term after the approval of this important Legislation to raise our economy in order to protect our environment from the strong effects of climate change due to social severe pressure. It will protect the safe and harmonious living of the country and will lift the value of our culture and tradition, which is our inheritance from God. Thank you for your true love upon Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: The member has 5 more minutes.

Tofa SOOALO UMI FEO MENE: The word given to the water of our house Gagaifomauga, if you taste it, it becomes saline, if you drink too much it turns out to be sweet and it pleases the heart.

Mr Speaker, Samoa have hugely and pleasingly received your respect, thank you for your seniority wisdom that this House had relied on. Whenever there is disorder in the House, we iron it out through respect and love, and you had never removed any member during this Term. That is the foresight you possess in order to protect the integrity of the House and to bear success for Samoa and its support. Praise God for all the good works you have done for Samoa.

The spirit of appreciation is immense upon the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations especially the public servants. Paul said to his spiritual son Timothy, “Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God.” Because God will reward in accordance with that goodness, well done to your service to the country and your sacrifices for Samoa. Therefore give your service with joy for Samoa, do not do so because you want that chief title, and do not do it for reward. Because Apostle Paul has clearly said it, “A time and day will come for God to reward your goodness and kindness, through your honesty in your calling.

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Hon Minister of Finance and your Ministry, this Budget need not change given our explanation. 5 years we have travelled through hardship and agony but well done to your service, no tautai matapalapala is famous in calm times it is known when a reef explodes. We have witnessed the forward move of our economy for these 5 years in comparison to the difficulty and struggle the economies of the world are facing.

Mr Speaker, these are the policies and procedures to guide our Budget which this district fully supports.

Mr Speaker, these are some of the tributes and hopes of this district, but I beg tolerance to the House and Samoa, no one is perfect, *leai se tautai atoatu e atoa ni i'a o lona faiva*, with speaking it is as with hauling in the fish line, *o le faiva o lima tautala*, when by my own hand I harm myself, *o si ota lima foi e paia ai si ota mata*. I beg forbearance if I have erred you in my speech, cast it to Vala as the saying said about our village of Paia but do bear forgiveness as you are tautai matapalapala. Do not abandon. Forgive the voice of Safune and Samauga.

Then I come to say that this district will now conclude. *Ou te tafao ma matatoaga*, grant me peace and love of the Highest to complete our sacred morning. To the dignity of Parliament may your support be blessed. *Ua faapopo nei ni aso ua a ua le tuua* and our works and duties are about to come to finish for today. There is also comfort and sympathy to the passing of our dear ones who are now gone, then as we head towards the end of our works today, there is a thought, a time will come for us to part ways, but let us receive the famous fellowship of the Bible, which had Jonathan say to David, “David, tomorrow is the new moon feast, you will be missed, because your seat will be empty, I will shoot arrows to the side of it, as though aiming at a target. But if I say to the boy, ‘Look the arrows are beyond you, then you must go, for you are safe. As the Lord lives, there will be nothing to fear. However, if I say to the boy, Look the arrows are beyond you, then you must go, for the Lord sends you away, and may the Lord be between me and thee.” Such is what I am feeling.

To the dignity of the House, there will be members that will retire successfully and will not return. Once the general elections is over, and whoever comes back, may you continue your journey with blessings from God, as He is present in all callings when you are chosen. But if I return, whoever comes back, I support you, and I wish you all the best and may you gain foresight to make decisions based on dignity and integrity thus avoiding impartiality.

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Let us have unity and strength, do not be afraid and be brave to make good changes for the benefit of Samoa, and may Samoa live in your compassion, and may Jehovah stand between us, now until eternity. Goodbye and bless the Assembly of Samoa.

The Parliament showed their appreciation by applause after the speech of the member for Gagaifomauga No.2.

MR SPEAKER: Well, there is no need for flattery as the member for Gagaifomauga No.2 has spoken, there is no need for the Speaker to say anything more as a way of enticing, but I would only like to say, bless you Gagaifomauga No.2 for you have given advise to a member that will emerge. Well, now you have heard, just like the request made by Sheeba to Solomon. Yes, I have heard little of what I have seen this morning and today.

Therefore, it is our prayer that with the grace of God, whatever the outcome of decision-making of the district, well, I believe that it is not hidden in the eyes of God your emergence to represent the district in the politics of the Government. Well, I pray to God it is so.

Well, the audience of the Parliament is satisfied, I think that it is the same with the observation of Samoa, especially your constituency with the wonderful speech that was presented before the Parliament Sitting this morning. Thank you, may you always have strength, depend on God for everything. Well, I believe that since we have reached our usual recess hour, orders of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its usual recess at 10:40am and resumed at 11:30am.

Debates resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

Congratulations for your patience and your perseverance in the performance of our work. Well, there is now an opportunity in Parliament for a member who wants to stand up to speak.

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Well, I ask the member to stand, and the opportunity is also given for the Finance Committee except the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson. Well, I ask the Hon Leader of the Government to stand.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, since today is a short day, there is another wonderful new situation that has arisen in our House, we will be singing songs periodically. So if the preparations of the speeches are not complete, then try singing a song.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. Well, maybe sing a song first and then make your speech.

I call upon the member for Vaisigano No.2, Afioga Tapulesatele Mauteni.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No.2): I believe our strength has been renewed today in the Parliament of Samoa. The statement made by the Hon Prime Minister was quite amusing, but unfortunately, I do not have enough skill for such a situation, because if I were to sing, I only know one song, it is the song that I mentioned before, thank you God, that is the only song.

I convey greetings to Mr Speaker, greetings to that side of the Assembly of Samoa to the Hon Prime Minister, Hon Ministers as well as the Associate Ministers. Also, I acknowledge this Side with the respectable Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees as well as men and women members.

Also, I acknowledge the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff.

I offer greetings to the Chief Justice, the President, the Deputy Chief Justice, men and women Judges as well as the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry of Justice.

I also acknowledge the support of Samoa, from the highest peak to the lowest valleys. I convey salutations to His Excellency the Head of State and your Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady. The respects of *Tama ma o latou Aiga, o Aiga foi ma latou Tama, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Papa, Aiga na Tafaiifa.*

Le paia ia Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

I also want to acknowledge the devotion of the big island in the East to Mr Speaker. It is the spirit of gratitude that I greet the Holy Servants of God who are worshipping at the altars for the prosperity of Samoa.

Greetings also to the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Corporations as well as the people who have gathered here today.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of my constituency of Vaisigano No.2 to my villages of Papa, Vaivaimuli and Fagasa, as well as the families here in Samoa and overseas.

Mr Speaker, I am thankful we have made it to this New Year. It is true that this first month is nearing its end, but we continue to witness the love of our Father in Heaven, since we are still safe from the virus, especially the serious change in the environment, as it has affected the world. And even though he has called upon a few members of our families, especially some of the dignitaries who served in this House, we still are living in His kindness.

Mr Speaker, before any opinion is shown regarding this Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021, I would like to take this opportunity to convey congratulations and thanks to the Government, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for the excellent work that has been done by the Minister of Finance, the Administration and the Ministry in the proper distribution of the wealth for the development of our country, by working together with other Government Ministries and Organizations, and all those who supported and helped in the preparations as implemented in the previous 5 years. We are also grateful for the joint work of all the Government Ministries and Organizations. But as a representative of our constituency, I would like to express thanks for the few projects that have been implemented for our district, especially for the developments that were implemented for our whole country.

Mr Speaker, first of all, I would like to once again thank the Government through the Minister of Works and the Water Authority for the development or extraction of drinking water and its distribution, like it is in Sataua. This blessing is now being used by many of the families in Sataua and Fagasa, as well as the other villages of our Itu Asau district.

I kindly appeal to the Hon Minister, or the Chief Executive Officer of the Water Authority, as I recall there were a few letters that were sent at the beginning of this month, so that the Hon Minister could look at it, because the families that live on the West side of this water pump, there are not that many families, but I put forward this request again, since it seems that the end of this Parliamentary Term would also end the work that has been conducted, I ask that these plans be implemented, because if it does, it will be very useful, since we will be able to use this fresh water for consumption and for the district hospital because of the current situation it is in. There have been many problems recently, but it is in this spirit that I again implore the Hon Minister to look into this situation.

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I take this opportunity to make another appeal to the Minister and Chief Executive Officer of the Water Authority as well as the Land Transport Authority, regarding our...it is not just our village, as the Government uses the East side of this water pump. The road needs to be tarsealed again. If you look at it, this road is defective, but I ask that you consider it.

Furthermore Hon Minister, I make a request for the other road in Sataua, it is better to inform you. This is also the road that we have tried to fix for many years, well, because it is a road that is mostly used by the families of my village of Sataua, for the implementation of farming. This road starts from the main public road leading towards the companies have their utility poles and continues inland to where many of the people of my village work. Thus, why I am making an appeal again, to consider it, because it is useful since there are many families residing there, starting from the coast, but there are a lot of plantations going inland on the road.

I want to take this opportunity again to thank the Government for the fact that our village in Fagasa has benefitted from the road that was built and paved, our constituency that uses this road believes that it is very important since it is also the entry to plantations inland.

We are also grateful for the assistance of our Government, in regards to our street lights, and so I request the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Electric Power Corporation, for more street lights. It is true that the lights are useful in the village, but unfortunately, many of the families of this district have started to move inland. And they are staying and residing there, so this request is not new. We also made a decision...at our Office in Savaii, and this is the situation. It is quite dark, because whenever our Government make discussions about these lights, it seems that they focus more on the village and the main road. There are a lot of families who have moved inland, these lights are needed during the night and for the safety of families. This is the reason for making this request again. Take a look at it...

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member of Vaisigano No.2, as I call upon the Hon Minister of Works.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker; this is one matter that is often brought up by respectable members of Parliament, the street lights. And I would always respond that the Government has policies. A written request from the village is submitted, signed by the village council of the villages that are in need of streetlights.

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When the appeal is submitted the Electric Power Corporation will come and conduct a survey and then it is presented to the Committee that oversees the work of the CDC, which assists the communities of each district. That is the Policy, which must be followed and satisfied, so that written requests are submitted, and it should be stated in the request the part of the village that needs the lights, and it must be signed by the village council of village, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call the member to continue his speech as you do not have enough time left.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Hon Minister, this is the situation. Perhaps if you recall the letter that was given in the beginning, it was unfavourable for our constituency, because a list was given like the census lists on the number of lights that were needed. But that is the reason why it is being requested again because there was no response. Please be understanding and provide more lights.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate our Government and the work of the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Land Transport Authority. Thank you for burying and levelling of our road in Papa. As you are aware, there is a Government plan for this road to be tarsealed, but thank you for this opportunity to make it easier since many people live there and use it to travel inland to the farms. I commend you for the good work that has been implemented for our people.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to express gratitude to the Minister and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education. As I voice the blessings that our village of Papa received for our Primary School with the help of one of our partners from the Government of Japan. This development is valued by our village, so that we can guarantee the educational life of our children. But

I take this opportunity to make a request to the Hon Minister and Chief Executive regarding the situation with the teachers. I know that there are many other teachers as we are trying to find teachers for our school because that is the case for the past years as we only had 3 teachers but there are 8 classes.

It is like the case with the man in the village of Papa who was quite elderly, but he continued to be persuasive and requested that his skills should be utilized again to help. Well, that is why we have become reliant on him but hopefully we can get a few teachers. Our schools have started for this year.

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Mr Speaker, I would also like to voice my appreciation to our Government through the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries as well as the Chief Executive Officer and Administration. Thank you as your good work regarding the nurturing of our crops has been noticed. Because there is always the belief that there will be times when we are in a pandemic, in such a situation it would be easier if we focus on our farms and crops.

Thank you in this regard for your actions, but I would like to remind the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive Officer just like the letter that we gave asking for some crops, a few cocoa beans and coconuts and other crops because we have some developments planned. So now we are still waiting...

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):
Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Agriculture...

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: First of all, I would like to give a suggestion to the member that you should speak louder as Lealuga and Falefa o Taua is trying to hear your beautiful voice. But I just want to remind you that the list of requested crop products has already been distributed. We have a lot of crops at the station in Asau such as... cocoa, avocado and also the taro shoots have already been distributed.

That village was the first due to the constant vexation caused by the member asking for taro shoots for their constituency, whereby I was heavily accused by the members of the FAST party saying that I am prioritising your district.

But that is not the case, furthermore, as your constituency is listening in regards to the appeal for a ramp, it has already been measured, and it will be implemented, but they wanted to implement it last week but I stopped it until after the election when I return, but the plans have been made and funds have already been approved as heard in the meeting of the Development Committee of the Government, which announced these conditions.

Even the ice machine for the constituency is included, especially for your village that has many fishing boats, well, those conditions have been implemented at the request of the member and your Committee, in case you might state this matter again but now I have stated it for you. As I have said, you should be a bit louder since your constituency is listening and they cannot hear your voice, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well...

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Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minisita of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I implore the member for Vaisigano No.2 to be patient, I call upon the Hon Minister of Education

Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio: Well, Mr Speaker I am upstanding because our Ministry was mentioned but I did not want to interrupt the wonderful speech by the member. I just thought I would respond in summary, nevertheless now that I have this opportunity in case it is mentioned again by another member talking about the lack of teachers and the adjustment of teachers.

As of now, posting is underway and when our children graduate from University they will then be distributed evenly to each school. Also note, it does not go under the Primary level itself, it goes by 1 to 8. So, it does not mean that if there are 70 students and only 1 to 8 teachers. It is adjusted by means of ratio to the number of students.

The member is correct; he often comes and makes discussions with my Office and shares about the teachers. The member would always talk about the teachers, I remember that he came the other day and said to me, 'Loau there is a woman in our school, could you not transfer her to another school,' I said, Oh really?

The woman is capable, and she should remain at our school. I want to say that there is nothing wrong with it, if she is capable then she will remain, but you should try and visit the schools and check up on the teachers working.

I remember visiting the school in this district, and there were elderly women talking outside. So I said to them, are you waiting for your children to finish school? But they replied no we are teachers. Yes, they were standing outside talking. I said, oh... these are the retired teachers. It is possible to apply as there are conditions that must be considered in order to be able to resume school in case another member asks about this matter. But we are able to have retired teachers, even though they are older in years, but they are still able to continue. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The issue has been made clear; I call upon the member...is your mic turned on? I kindly ask Aliimalemanu and Afoa to turn on the mic for the member, so...

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Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker, it has been noted that the statement of the Hon Minister of Agriculture is true, but they are still busy trying to implement our developments and our agriculture, but I ask that you give us a few coconuts and cocoa beans. We already have a lot of crops but these two are the ones we need the most.

In relation to the requested ramp that you mentioned, thank you but hopefully it will be implemented quickly. It is true that it is not that big....

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Mr Speaker an opportunity please...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you, for your information, under the aids program number 2 of our Government which has been shared, first it includes the taro shoots which has started...it has been distributed throughout the country except for the villages that have an abundance of taro shoots. Because there is no use giving taro shoots to villages that already have a lot of it.

But there are also coconuts and cocoa beans under this program, there are also.... I know for a fact that 10,000 cocoa beans are at our plantation in Asau as of now, and it is almost time for it to be distributed, so the time when it is dispersed is appropriate with the good condition of the land for which it will be planted at a fixed time. For your information, the cocoa bean does not need to be planted during the good season especially propagated cocoa. If the root is not hardened...if the root does not harden quickly enough it will die, excuse the sanctity of the House. That is why it is being withheld for a bit, let us wait until the cocoa beans grow about this high from where it is...and then it will be distributed. That is the type of cocoa that we have at the moment.

It was stated yesterday as your village is included in the distribution of cocoa and coconuts. The coconut is a bit scarce so there is a program that has already been broadcasted...which has been given to the Ministry in charge of it the Ministry of Finance as there are a lot of coconuts laying under the coconut trees, what if an announcement or a program was made so that the Ministry can go around and promote the replanting of coconut trees, since we are trying to ensure that our coconut does not run out.

And that is the clarification of this issue with the utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the thought provoking issue raised by the member is important. I visited your district during the road inauguration, and I believe that this is another constituency with good roads. And the request made for cocoa and coconuts, the cocoa we grow are brought from Germany, these are the cocoa that is needed by these countries to produce chocolate because it is not bitter. But we made some mistakes in the past years by cutting down these cocoas and planting the Solomon cocoa beans instead, which is very bitter. Well, it was a problem during the colonial period that should not have been done. But now the replanting of this cocoa is underway again, but the issue is that they are becoming too reliant on the Ministry of Agriculture for cocoa beans.

For us from the rural areas when the Government did not have an assistance program, these are the things we did. You would go and pick your own cocoa, and then you have to plant the cocoa bean. There are times when the taro shoots are planted together with the cocoa beans. Thus, there will be months where we will see the fruiting of the cocoa while you work on the taro shoots.

I do not understand why this is not being done now. It seems that they are reliant on the propagation implemented by Government, taking the already grown cocoa beans but they already have cocoa trees that bear fruit. You can just plant your own cocoa seeds and then the matter stated by the Minister will not occur, whereby they would bring a small cocoa tree and plant it instead. There is always a possibility of a mistake. But the cocoa that grew from your cocoa seed is the cocoa that you chose, and you can tell, if the cocoa blooms yellow, and it is almost a foot long, that is the cocoa that you have harvested. But the cocoas that you get from the grafting, you do not know how long or what colour they are or maybe it is only 3 inches long.

Therefore Mr Speaker, this is the problem with other farmers, they are dependent on the cocoa grown by the Ministry, but if you have a cocoa plantation, then you have an abundance of cocoa to choose from and to grow yourself. Secondly, there are many coconuts that fall down and are regrowing under the tree, you just have to take a look on the coconut tree, if you notice that the coconut bears good fruits, then you take the coconuts that are regrowing under the tree and plant them and it will also bear good coconuts.

These are the things that we did, we did not plant using fertilizer, but we used the gatae. The gatae provides nitrogen and it slips through the ground and fertilizes the soil as that is the nature process. This type of fertilizer made the taro and bananas grow better in those days, back in those days when we worked our plantations.

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But nowadays, they would just go to Lopao to get these things and then the farmer would just sit back and relax. You will also get taro shoots from the abundance of taro in your plantation. But these days are different, as they are relying on Lopao to give them taro shoots even though they have plantations with plenty of taro tops.

The Government is trying to promote self-help, but not to live dependently. This is the case for all of our constituencies and not just a specific constituency. There is also a person, who would come to the Ministry to get taro shoots when there is an abundance of taro shoots at the plantation of another man who lives only 300 yards away, where he can get it instead of coming to the Government.

Well Mr Speaker, these are the things that should be used with due discretion. But it is important to think about. My speech is to publicly explain to the farmers who are waiting for the Government, do not wait, because that solution is right next to you, things that you can live on.

Mr Speaker, this is the reason for my interruption.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much; the constituency is listening as well as the member. Well, these are the things that we grew up on, so the feeling is mutual but the advice by the Prime Minister is correct. Those are the practices that we have been using to this day. So, if the Ministry of Agriculture is out of propagated plants, come to me as I have a lot. It is not for sale; all you need is to bring a large truck and take it.

The time of the member is over, therefore conclude your speech.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker, first I would like to address the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister. I strongly support the speech of the Hon Prime Minister but just like I said in my introduction, it emphasised the cultivation of crops, because there is a belief, the situation that our Ministry of Agriculture is in, there are many.... this is the opinion of the Prime Minister. We have many farmers who are implementing these ways. But it seems that in order to emphasize the nurturing of the crops, we are all aware that the best method is being used here. That is the situation.

So thank you to the Hon Prime Minister for his opinion on this issue, and the Minister of Agriculture has also spoken, there is one more thing but we will talk about it when it is just the two of us, but your explanation on the planting of the cocoa and other crops is important... I believe that the Prime Minister is the only one that....it seems that the two of us grew up planting cocoa.

I just want to say...

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Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Since there is a constant query on the growing of cocoa. It is right our village does not use cultivated cocoa, but as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister, this is exactly what is called true to type. Just when the cocoa is ripe, we take the cocoa beans and put them in the ashes, then you go and plant those cocoa beans. When that cocoa grows the root will become strong, and it is easy to stick to the earth, the success rate of this practice, has long being perfected by the Itu Asau.

Most of the cocoa that we cultivate, is mostly given to other villages, as for the constituency of Asau, it is mostly like that. My cocoa plantation which I believe is 60 acres, it is planted that way. They do not have to go and find it, however there are some who are reluctant to explain our methods, incase it is known by everyone, but now I have told you all, the easiest way to plant cocoa. You just pick a ripe cocoa, put it in the ashes, the reason why it is put in ash, so the rats and ants do not eat it.

That is why it is so simple to do, and that is a brief explanation of our issue as queried by the member with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. That is it. The constituency of Vaisigano is known as a cocoa district. Vaisigano is number one with cocoa. Just a reminder but we both are from Vaisigano, I am only representing Fasitoota because of my title. I call upon the member to conclude his speech for your time is finished.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I will not speak on the subject of cocoa, but I commend the Minister for the fishing buoys which affects the reef and the deep. It is true that our fishing boats do not reach it, but I mentioned earlier a ramp for the constituency, please reconsider it. Also can you please check our buoys.

Hon Minister of Education, I will leave the matter since you have spoken on the subject regarding students. However I only ask that you look into the issue of our teachers.

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Another small matter, a suggestion to the Hon Minister of Agriculture. The matter regarding some of the problems mentioned with the dried leaves of the Israelian banana. I recall in the past during agricultural shows for crops and livestock. There was a matter that was used as an example by the Hon Prime Minister with the cocoa, for example the Solomon cocoa we tried not to use such methods because we found out with the cocoa that was brought in that it was....

MR SPEAKER: I..

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the member for your time is up, I kindly ask that you conclude your speech. I give the opportunity for the interruption by the Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: There are three types of cocoa, one that is called criollo, which is top quality, the other ones are forastero and trinitario. The Solomon cocoa is named almanado and the majority has been removed. It is mainly seen in constituencies, especially ours as well. Many villages and communities have passed on the cocoa called Solomon cocoa, namely almanado has been removed. Even in the developments inspected here in Upolu, I noticed that Solomon cocoa was no longer available. However, with the grafting of that cocoa, it has resulted to the affects of this cocoa. But there is a cocoa plantation at Masamasa.

It is the reason why I have been trying to push that we re-use it, because it is faraway from other areas. We are grafting the cocoa and will re-distribute cocoa plants, which produces all the top-quality chocolate, called criollo. This cocoa is the one that is red and smooth, and big. As for the one called forastero, it smooth and green but not big. As for the trinitaro, this cocoa is longer in shape, and it has a lumpy pot. When it ripens it turns red or yellow, but that is to clarify what it looks like and the differences, but do not worry majority of the Solomon cocoa have been removed, you do not see it anymore in the site visits carried out. But there may be some parts of the country where Solomon cocoa still grows. But I think it was during the grafting process at that time which has affected our cocoa.

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There is another type of cocoa, which is nearly similar to the trinitario. With respect that is a clarification to the member and the House.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the member your time is up. You may take the floor to conclude your remarks. As our work is done with mutual respect. I appease the member...

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker, perhaps I will only mention one thing, before I convey a brief word to our constituency.

I thank the Government, to the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, on the aspect of our people getting opportunities for the seasonal scheme. In addition, the view of Government, in trying to use our existing vocational schools, to seek such special skills or professions, such as carpentry or plumbing so that our people can acquire such knowledge. Because I note, if it is seasonal work like apple picking, where they go overseas, also gardeners and meat packer. Hon Minister if we look into these areas, it is mostly professional skills. These are the skills that are needed by any country, for its development. In that case, it would be advisable to look at that situation to establish these skills well, so they are able to go to New Zealand. Let us not go back and do hard labour but in these professions.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, then you may conclude.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker, for the understanding of the member, last week. There were 61 students that graduated from vocational studies. Last year there were 48 in different semesters. That is what our Government values under our Apprenticeship Program. There have also been changes with the inclusion of the Samoa Qualification Authority. In order for us to have this skill, so we will be able to find a job abroad. Therefore, Government is encouraging this development, Vocational Studies, Plumbing, Electric engineering, and automotive engineering.

All of these skills are combined in our program, so that many of our people will have this skill. Because the Government knows that these skills are needed for the development of the country. But those who went on this Seasonal Program, are those who did not finish school, they have not reached this level.

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As for those who are able to acquire this skill, are those who have finished college. They have come to be interested in these skills, so the Government is pushing it under this program. But also know that there is another part of the same seasonal work program that is being held in New Zealand, where we took our carpenters. They went to assist with the reconstruction work program in Christchurch. So, our people are working there for three years, and others have extended their time. Under the same Seasonal Workers Scheme. There is now a group of carpenters that have gone. A lot of our people have found benefits from it. The plan is to get their skills and their Certificates. Then they can return to Samoa to work, at the level at which other countries work.

For the clarification of the member, the Government emphasizes this matter.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the opinion of the member is significant, as his ideas are useful to better understand these issues. The Hon Minister in charge of this matter has given an explanation.

But since the start of this program during the time of Helen Clark, it was not easy. Because there are unemployed people in New Zealand which these jobs were distributed too. But there was a certainty, just as people are reluctant to be unemployed in New Zealand and have no jobs, are hesitant to go apple picking, because it is dirty and difficult, giving them scratches on their feet. This situation resulted in the New Zealand farmers being unable to contain their grievances against the Labor Party that stood at the helm of Government. This started these talks, conversing with our Government, and other Governments, which is a great pleasure for us. Because that is the spirit of this Government, to find work for our children. The result was having them work under a period of 3 months only.

The reason was, Government was afraid people would use this as an excuse to be an overstayer. Tonga is the first country that broke the rules of this program. Some went over and did not return, this is why we implemented our policies, in English translation the zero-tolerance policy. This means, once you make a mistake, you are out. They are no longer given work, which will affect the constituency. Once a person from a certain constituency breaks the rules the whole community is affected and are no longer given a chance. Because the important message given to New Zealand, now the Government is involved, therefore no trickery is tolerated, so that the Government of New Zealand will favour our people.

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Now that we have that policy, the Government of New Zealand has a lot of trust in our Government, in the thoroughness of those who go.

There were incidents that happened in the beginning, our families in New Zealand, led children astray. They have developed the idea that it is possible to live in New Zealand immediately by fleeing to the South to hide, in order to find permanent residence. These were problems in the beginning, but they were solved one by one. Furthermore, there were approaches used by the Government of New Zealand and ours, wherever you go, you will be found. It is also like what happened in the Government of Tonga to other people who went and did not return but fled to their families.

Mr Speaker these are the problems related to this program. This is also why I always emphasize this to our youth, to stay away from it. The Government of New Zealand does not want to hear from people who work in different fields. For at least 10 years, we have been persuading since the first year that the earthquake struck, and destroyed the big city of Christchurch, and the New Zealand Government went to rebuild the houses damaged.

It was a blessing for us, but it is not easy, it has been almost 10 years of trying to persuade them, because we have many carpenters building houses. But during the work of the reconstruction of Christchurch, New Zealand was not able to accommodate, there was a lot of work, and a lot of people was needed. As it went on, they could not resist wanting the support of our people. But there was only one thing why the Government of New Zealand tried to prohibit our people, because of a matter that was discussed between me and the Prime Minister as well as the Ministers.

They also had a ban, which started with 8,000, that was it, because of the spirit to hold employment for their people, especially when it is close to the election process. I ended up travelling to New Zealand and talked with the Minister, this ended in inviting them to come to Samoa, to watch how Samoa will win over the All Blacks here. All of these people only had one expectation for All Blacks to win. We concluded at the meeting I attended that the next meeting will be held in Samoa, the same day the All Blacks were playing. This meeting took place at TATTE, and I spoke strongly about lifting their ban. Look at the many farms now just added with more new acres to be planted when it is known that people from Samoa and other countries in the Pacific are still coming. I saw the addition of new farms, for apples and other fruits. According to the farmers, you were looking at these new farms, we could not do those things if there were no workers coming from Samoa, Fiji and Tonga. They are the largest. Why? It is a waste to see apples falling to the ground without anyone picking it.

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Mr Speaker, it is not easy. What happened? New Zealand still needs these people since their economy grew from these Pacific people, especially Samoa, because most of them are young men who are from rural areas and are used to the working life. Now it has resulted to adding another 3 months with the contract now 6 months. In addition, it included those with special skills and butchers. I visited Dunedin and saw our young men working hard in the slaughterhouses and they told me, now they can stay there for another year, after a year they will come and rest in Samoa and then go back again.

Now that Australia have seen the good progress of these New Zealand programs, now they are wanting to join. So, what has been done by Australia? The duration of labour contracts is now 3 years instead of one year. After a year, come and rest and then go back again. Others who have gone over found partners and have not come back and got their citizenship.

Mr Speaker, there are many ways that God will bless our children, but the members opinion is thought provoking, if not for this opinion, we would not know the history of how we acquired such benefits, it is not easy to argue and convince New Zealand to believe our Government, because it is our initiative to set guidelines for our children to behave.

The day before yesterday, I called a meeting with the Minister and the Chief Executive of the Ministry, because I received reports of a drinking spree between the 5 men who went, but they were all from Aai o Fiti.

Another one of them accused those who went and brought boxes of beer each while they were working on one of the farms. One of the young men pleaded that they should not be doing what they were warned about, but instead they beat him up since they were drunk. The Ministry was not aware of this situation. When one of the young men was not chosen to go, he talked about the incident. But the other 4 were already on the list, but this young man was not going to go, he was the one that told me the story, we then made a decision that day to stop these men from going, but it was almost time for them to go, they were all from Aai o Fiti. This is why anyone from that village has been banned from going, because these are the villages that do not have the authority of Alii and Faipule, therefore the youth residing there are hard to control.

Mr Speaker, this is my gratitude, because this program is not easy to administer by the Hon Minister, based on the behaviour of the youth, which may bring shame to the Government, because once they see beer, they forget about everything they were advised not to do. We find those people and ban them from ever going back under our Zero Tolerance Policy, the Government does not allow such behaviour which will affect opportunities for other people, and for those who have gone and returned several times, it is quite a site to see the development in parts of Falealili.

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I have seen the development of several families with their homes as well as cars, they do not own only one car but more. Then I ask, are these the people that were fortunate to go on this program by Government? The answer was, yes, they were.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the matter is well understood, well the member speaking has done one thing right, you have raised these issues, which has now been clarified as a source of income through the blessings of our young people. Therefore I ask that you conclude your speech, since the matter has already been clarified.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the Hon Prime Minister for his clarification, I have taken note of every aspect, and I feel glad and am gratified with the plans of Government. Thank you, Hon Minister.

This is an opinion on the matter because I am looking at those who are doing the work, it has developed for a long time and we and the world have noticed, that our country is developed differently. For this I thank you.

Well since my time is up, but I just have one more sentence Mr Speaker, I just want to let you know that I support the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1). But I just want to briefly speak on three areas, I am grateful that the Ministry and the Minister have agreed on a Deputy Commissioner for the prison in Savaii. Well I believe that is the situation, because it is very much needed for the safety of our people. I believe there are also plans for a Deputy Commissioner of the Prisons and Correction Services.

Secondly, is a matter mentioned by one of the members on the road situation at Vaiaata. I am in agreement with this notion, there are several lands between the villages of Faasaleleaga and Amoa, and there is a need to improve the roads so that these lands can be cultivated. There are lots of land, but the only difficulty is, the roads are not good. The road inland is now in good condition, the one between the main villages at Vaiaata. Also the plans for funding of a new road of the market at Sogi.

The main concern is to overlook the progress of the work, it has been noted that these are areas that are easily flooded also with seawater. Also that area is mostly topsoil with ground not stable enough. I humbly ask that it be planned well incase there might be...

MR SPEAKER: I allow the interruption.

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Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the member for raising this matter because this is one of the things I noted. Plans have already been carried out on elevating the land for the market in Sogi, also engineers have already compiled a report. Maybe by next month we will start elevating the area the market will be, together with the areas beside it after the market is built, to cover all areas already set up by those with special skills.

But do not worry the engineers have already examined this aspect, together with contracts also regarding seawater and others, plans have already been set, this is an explanation to the member.

MR SPEAKER: Very well...

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Hon Minister. I believe there will be no further comments Mr Speaker, as I will set other matter aside. However I just want to briefly convey a word of gratitude to my constituency.

I take this opportunity to thank my constituency of Vaisigano No.2 to my villages of Papa, Sataua and Fagasa, as well as to express our gratitude to a few families not only in Samoa but also overseas from our villages.

It is my hope that we have concluded successfully with this Parliamentary term for the Parliament of Samoa, through your prayers and support regarding the services of your member. I want to convey a heart of gratitude and congratulations for the support; thus we should always remember our voyage in the will of God and His calling upon our parents and children, and I hope we continue to receive His comfort for us.

I want to thank all the churches within the constituency, the holy servants of God who are not afraid to pour out the water of life for the benefit of our constituency.

I also want to thank our villages in all respects, *afioga i Aiga faapea le fetalaiga i le falefa o Sataua lau Fetalaiga Lealuga. O paia lava aua le afio o le alii o le nuu, Ufagalilo ma Luapitofanua ma le Maopu, e faapea foi Aumua ma Maninoa, Faitau ma Ututu.*

I also want to thank the support of the women, saobao and tamaitai, aualuma, the strength of the village especially our children. I am also grateful for the work for the development of our constituency, the continuous work of our village representatives especially Village women representatives as well as Government Committees. I tried with a humble spirit and a persistent heart to make a success for our constituency by being part of the Human Rights Protection Party.

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It is true that your prayers and blessings and my work to adhere my duties for this term, that has resulted in the success of our journey. My constituency, forgive any shortcomings of your member.

Mr Speaker, we are nearly at the end of our term, and you have persisted well therefore I commend and thank you for your services, in the administering of our Parliament this term. One of the proverbs states, ‘*e sua le ava ae to le ata,*’ to those who have been retired by the Father in heaven for their services, Vaafusuaga Toleafoa, may the peace of God be with your wife, children and family. This gentleman and friend will always be remembered.

Blessings upon members of Parliament of this term, all the best with the upcoming General elections of Parliament under the guidance of the Almighty God. Live and prosper.

Parliament expressed their appreciation with an applause after the speech of the member for Vaisigano No. 2.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I commend Aiga Mavaega Afioga Tapulesatele for your remarks. Our constituency have heard, I pray that God continues to equip you with knowledge to carry out remaining duties of this term. Also have hope in God during the upcoming General elections, may God keep you and continue to bless you especially for the support of the constituency. Therefore I want to thank you once again for your speech. Thank you for the hard work.

I believe we are nearing the time of our recess, the time where our orders are to finish, and I think this is enough work for today.

But before we adjourn for tomorrow, I call upon the member of Faleata East, Fetalaiga Salausa to conclude our meeting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:47pm until 9:00am, Friday, 29th January 2021.