

**THURSDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

*The Legislative Assembly met at 9.00am.*

*The Speaker took the Chair at 9.00.*

Prayers.

**MESSAGE FROM THE O LE AO O LE MALO**

*Mr Speaker read the message from his Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo.*

**MEMORANDUM for:**

**Mr Speaker:**

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa and Parliament Standing Order 95, consent is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to proceed upon consideration of the following Bills:

1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014.
2. Appropriation Bill 2014/2015.

**GIVEN UNDER my Hand** this 28<sup>th</sup> May in the year 2014.

**(Signed): Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi**  
**O LE AO O LE MALO.**

**OBITUARIES**

*The Speaker announced the passing of one of the members of Parliament, Afioga Hon TOOMATA Alapati Poese Toomata on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 he was a member for the constituency of Salega.*

*He was first elected into Parliament in the year 1999-2001 since the passing of Afioga LUAGALAU Levaula Kamu in the 13<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary term.*

*Afioga Hon TOOMATA Alapati Poese Toomata was again elected in the 14<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary term in the year 2001-2006.*

29 MAY 2014

### Obituaries

*Afioga Hon TOOMATA Alapati Poese Toomata was elected on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2005 as the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

*In 2006 Afioga Hon TOOMATA Alapati Poese Toomata was elected as the Minister for Education, Sports and Culture including the National University of Samoa, Vocational Studies and Early Childhood education.*

*Afioga Hon TOOMATA Alapati Poese Toomata was a Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in the years 1999-2001.*

*In 2002-2004 he was a Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labor.*

*In 1999-2001 he was one of the Members for the Education Committee and the Primary Production Committee.*

*In 2001-2004 he was elected Vice Chairman for the Standing Orders Committee.*

*The Members of the House stood for one minute silence to show their respects to the passing of the Member.*

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*Clerk read out the list of Papers pursuant to Standing Order 48.*

1. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 3, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa for the Year 2013.
2. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 4, Parliamentary Pension Annual Report for the Year 2013.
3. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 5, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Year 2012.
4. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 6, Law Reform Commission Report on the District Courts Act 1969, Report 12/13.
5. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 7, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority for the Year 2011/2012.
6. P.P. 2014/2015 No.8, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation for the Year 2013.
7. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 9, Annual Report of the National Kidney Foundation of Samoa 1 July 2011- 30 June 2012.
8. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 10, Annual Report of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Year ending 30 June 2013.
9. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 11, Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration for the Year 2011-2012.
10. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 12, Report of the Law Reform Commission on the National Heritage Board, Report 13/13.
11. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 13, Annual Report of the Police and Prisons Ministry for the Year 2010/2011.
12. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 14, Annual Report of the Police and Prisons Ministry for the Year 2009-2010.

29 MAY 2014

### Presentation of Papers

13. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 15, Commission of Inquiry Report on Electoral Matters 2012.
14. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 16, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority for the Year 2012.
15. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 17, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Year 2012-2013.
16. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 18, Statement of Accounts of the Totalisator Agency Board for the Year ending 30 June 2013.
17. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 19, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 31, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2012/2013 No. 41, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2011.
18. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 20, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 32, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2011/2012 No. 95, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation for the Financial Year Ending 2010/2011.
19. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 21, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 83, Report of the Government Administration Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No.3, Annual Report of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Year ending 30 June 2012.
20. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 22, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 84, Report of the Government Administration Committee on P.P. 2012/2013 No. 44, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Years 2013-2015.
21. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 23, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 1 July 2012-30 June 2013.
22. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 24, Annual Report of the Ministry of Police and Prisons for the Financial Years 2011-2013.
23. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 25, Annual Report of the Samoa Water Authority for the Year 2012-2013.
24. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 26, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 106, Report of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 5, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2012.
25. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 27, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 95, Report of the Government Administration Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No.77, Annual Report of the Office of the Attorney General for the Financial Year Ending 30 June 2012.
26. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 28, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 92, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2012/2013 No. 61 & P.P. 2013/2014 No. 75, Annual Reports of the Polynesian Airlines Company for the Financial Years ending 30 June 2012 and 30 June 2013.

29 MAY 2014

### Presentation of Papers

27. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 29, Government Responses on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 59, Report of the Works, Transport & Environment Committee on P.P. 2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2010.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is with great respect that I humbly greet all members of the House this morning in all its honorary provisions. I thank God for His protection that has enabled us reconvene today as per schedule. Thank you also for your patience and perseverance. I know we have parted a few weeks and months ago but thankfully we have gathered back in good health and strength. We shall commence with our scheduled agenda with hope that God is with us given our prayer this morning.

I also wish to touch on Samoa in all its honorary salutations; it is your support that wills us to fulfill our duties and its set schedule today. Hence we shall set forward as we only have one sitting schedule pursuant to our Standing Orders and our Budget Estimates.

### MOTION OF THE BUSINESS, STANDING ORDERS, HOUSE AND ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the member for the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee for the motion of the Committee.

**Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA (Member of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I connect to the prayer offered this morning. What's in it this morning? We are indebted to the good health received, praise and thanks to God for His merciful kindness and knowledge.

Mr Speaker I move with respect to move a motion that in accordance with Standing Orders 46, *“Lapsed Business from the 2013/2014 sessions be carried forward as printed in the Supplementary Order Paper 2014/2015 No.1.*

With respect.

*Seconded by the member for Alataua West.*

*Motion approved.*

### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2013/2014 – first reading

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

29 MAY 2014

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014  
– first reading**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance):** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 be read for the first time.*"

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

*Motion approved and the Bill was read for the first time.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (NO.2) 2013/2014  
– tabling**

*The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi tabled before the Legislative Assembly the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2013/2014  
– motion for second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 be read a second time which will include the Fiscal Strategy Budget Statement 2014/2015.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Revenue, Minister of Work, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 132, debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 shall be adjourned for not less than fourteen days and stand referred to the Finance & Expenditure Committee for consideration and be reported back to the Legislative Assembly.

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015 – first reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Prime Minister and the Minister for Finance.

29 MAY 2014

**Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 – first reading**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move, *That the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 be read for the first time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Revenue, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and the Minister of Women Community and Social Development.*

*Motion approved and the Bill was read for the first time.*

**MAIN ESTIMATES 2014/2015 – tabling**

*The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi tabled before the Assembly the Budget Estimates 2014/2015.*

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015 – motion for second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move, *That the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 be read a second time.*

*Seconded by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Revenue, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and the Minister of Women Community and Social Development.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for his Address.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker just a question are we going to follow through with the official address?

**MR SPEAKER:** This is true.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Alright.

29 MAY 2014

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014/2015  
“CONSOLIDATING GROWTH”**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, we all thank the Heavenly Father for his guidance and protection that has enabled us to all present here this morning. This is the Parliament of Samoa for all parts of the country are gathered here this morning, it all its honorary salutations, Aiga ma latou Tama also Usoga a Tumua ma Puleono i Salafai. Therefore we give praise to our Heavenly Father because without him nothing is possible.

Mr Speaker I stand with great respect under Standing Order 124 that it is with great pleasure that I present on behalf of the Government, the Statement on the Estimates for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

**I. BUDGET SETTING**

Mr Speaker and members of the House the 2014/15 budget aims to consolidate economic growth. Recovery following the reconstruction over the last sixteen months forms the setting to the 2014/15 budget year. We are now seeing recovery taking hold and we expect economic growth to stabilize at around 2.5% over the medium term. This is a pleasing outcome following the slowdown post cyclone. There is also optimism that global activity is expected to improve further in 2014/15, with much of the impetus for growth coming from advanced economies.

A look at the world's economy it has been noted that the economy of countries such as U.S and Europe are fairly stable. Why is it important to mention these countries? The answer, the more improvement seen in overseas markets means more improvement in our economic growth as well in relation to the remittances and tourism in country together with financial assistance from our partners.

**II. BUDGET STRATEGY**

The expected recovery and the winding down of cyclone related reconstruction works form the basis for a less expansionary 2014/15 budget compared to 2013/14. The fiscal deficit is expected to be around 4.2% of GDP relative to 4.8% in 2013/14. This reflects government's commitment to gradually claw back to its medium term goal of 3.5% of GDP.

On the revenue side, there is no intention to adjust taxes or tariff. Instead the rebasing of fees and charges will be extended to include the remaining Ministries and State Owned Enterprises. This exercise is expected to raise the standard of public service delivery as it will reflect the true cost of providing that service.

As well, Government will continue to closely monitor the debt situation so that any new loans are in line with the medium term debt management strategy and the loan funded projects will contribute positively to economic growth.

29 MAY 2014

**Financial Statement 2014/2015**  
**“Consolidating Growth”**

**III. BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mr Speaker I would like to highlight the key components of the 2014/2015 budget as follows:

<b><u>Revenue</u></b>		<b>\$722,962,208.</b>
Ordinary Revenues	\$544,910,258	
External Grants	\$178,051,950	
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>		<b>\$792,089,820</b>
Statutory Expenditures	\$ 88,339,342	
Expenditure Programs	\$492,542,095	
Development Expenditures	\$196,432,120	
Unforeseen Expenditures	\$14,776,263	
<b><u>Overall Budget Deficit</u></b>		<b>(\$ 69,127,613)</b>
Financed by:		
Soft Term Financing	\$73,613,155	
<b><u>Cash Surplus after Borrowing</u></b>		<b>\$4,485,542</b>

The 2014/15 budget is expected to record a deficit of \$69.1 million tala which is equivalent to 4.2% of GDP. This reflects the commitment to national priorities stated in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa as well as the preparations for the SIDS conference later this year and the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2015.

The reduction in the budget deficit from 4.8% in 2013/2014 to 4.2% next year is a reflection of the government’s commitment to meeting its medium term fiscal deficit of 3.5% of GDP.

The 2014/15 budget deficit is expected to be fully funded by highly concessional borrowings from our multilateral development partners.

**IV. REVENUE MEASURES**

Mr Speaker, this is a look at our Revenue Measures;

Total Ordinary Receipts is expected to increase marginally by less than 1% in 2014/15. On the other hand External Grants will drop by 27% reflecting the winding down of cyclone related works.

The rebasing of fees and charges for Ministries and SOEs is a key policy initiative intended to ensure that public service delivery is made efficient and effective.



29 MAY 2014

## Financial Statement 2014/2015 “Consolidating Growth”

The public demands the best possible service from government agencies and that cannot be achieved if the true cost of delivering that service is not taken into account. This exercise was implemented with due consideration to the impact on the public and businesses and that access to essential services is not restricted.

### V. EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES

Mr Speaker and Honorable members, the proposed total expenditure budget amounts to \$792 million tala which is \$49 million tala lower than the previous year. This is largely the result of the one off cyclone Evan in December 2012, related expenditures are now completed.

I will now highlight the key expenditure priorities the Government will implement during 2014/2015.

#### 1. Education Sector.

The total budget for the sector is \$84 million tala (representing 17.1% of the total expenditure program) and the following provisions reflect the Government’s commitment to this priority sector:

- \$52.3 million to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for normal operations
- \$6.0 million grant for Private and Mission Schools.
- \$11.9m is being allocated to support the NUS. Of that amount, \$1.4 million is earmarked for the Oceania University of Medicine management of which is now under NUS control. The change from the previous arrangement means the government now takes full control of OUM and therefore the full benefits of the university will be enjoyed by Samoa without any more outside interference.
- \$1.5 million to fund stationeries for all Government Schools
- \$3.8 million government contribution towards the School Fee Relief Scheme which is jointly funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments with funds to be channeled through budget support.

#### 2. Health Sector

The total budget allocation for the health sector is \$81.9 million tala (16.6% of total expenditure program) indicating a decrease relative to the current financial year. The drop is the result of post cyclone recovery works that have been fully implemented. The following provisions are provided to support the ongoing initiatives of this priority sector:

- \$7 million is provided towards the Ministry of Health’s operations.
- \$67.1 million is earmarked for the National Health Services.
- \$5.6 million grant is earmarked for the National Kidney Foundation.

29 MAY 2014

**Financial Statement 2014/2015**  
**“Consolidating Growth”**

- \$11 million has been provided to cover the cost of the overseas medical treatment scheme.
- the Diabetes Association Clinic will receive \$50,000 grant for its operations.
- the Samoa Aids Foundation will get \$30,000; and
- the Samoa Cancer Society will receive a grant of \$40,000.

**3. Agriculture Sector**

The appropriation for Agriculture is \$13.8 million tala.

- \$11.32 million is provided to support the Ministry’s daily operations.
- \$150,000 is provided for the continuation of the Agriculture stimulus program.
- \$550,000 is earmarked for the Agriculture Show.

**4. Infrastructure**

***Electricity:***

A total of \$11.25 million is allocated to EPC to support ongoing developments. Of this amount, \$7 million is provided to compensate EPC for VAGST payments on fuel with the balance of \$4.25 million earmarked for community service obligations (CSO).

O le lima ua ave i ai le faamuamua o le Pulega o le Suavai:

***Water:***

The Samoa Water Authority will receive a budget allocation of \$20.11 million. Of this amount, \$5.11 million will go towards community service obligations (CSO) with \$15 million financing for key water investment priorities under the EU budget support.

O le ono o atinae tetele lea o lo o ave i ai le faamuamua o auala tetele ma auala laupapa sima.

***Roads and Bridges:***

Total Government grant to the Land Transport Authority (LTA) in the 2013/2014 budget is \$23.9 million representing a decrease compared to the previous year’s allocation, because of Cyclone Evan one off costs.

O le fitu o galuega tetele o lo o ave i ai le faamuamua o Fesootaiga Televavave tau uaealesi ma tekonolosi.

***Telecommunications:***

Telecommunication is another key priority sector to Government. To reinforce this commitment to the telecommunication sector, the following budget allocations have been confirmed for 2014/2015.

29 MAY 2014

**Financial Statement 2014/2015**  
**“Consolidating Growth”**

- A \$2.1 million budget is allocated to meet the Ministry of Communication’s operations.
- \$1.56 million is allocated to fund the operations of the Office of the Regulator.
- \$1.2 million has been earmarked as government contribution to the National Broadband Highway (NBH) annual fees. The NBH is a major investment which is expected to significantly increase the speed of internal internet communications. It has the capacity to facilitate tele-medicine and education that will benefit the rural communities around the country.

**5. Small Island Developing States Conference (SIDS 2014)**

\$10 million tala is provided to finalize Samoa’s preparation for hosting the Small Island Developing States meeting later this year. This is a major investment which will place Samoa on the world map and expose our country to global opportunities. The meeting is expected to attract more than 3,000 visitors to our shores bringing unlimited opportunities to our business community. At the global level, this is an important meeting as its outcomes will form the basis for sustainable development post 2015.

The conference preparations are well underway and Ministers of Cabinet have been allocated to lead various Committees to ensure that everything goes as planned. Those in charge of aviation service the arrival and departure schedules of delegates. Also commuting between the place of stay and the venue where the conference takes place.

There is also a Committee lead by an Associate Minister that ensures that accommodation for delegates is available and enough. This is the reason for hiring the cruise liner which is quite expensive together with the assistance of the New Zealand government. Also other venues have been set up in case there is still a need for more accommodation.

There is also a group involved with safety and security of delegates as we all know most of the people will be high officials and the need to safeguard them is important. Therefore assistance in this field from overseas is significant in carrying out this measure. There is a Minister also in control of the grounds and facilities for the conference, they make sure that buildings are safe and are well maintained.

There is also a special committee in charge of communications; they provide technical support for translators within each building. Also in events that there might be power outage generators have been made available. This includes the water supply and drinking water. There are about 2,000 people that are going to be staying on the cruise that will be anchored in Apia. The representatives of the United Nations have already visited and observed preparations and are satisfied with what we have accomplished.

29 MAY 2014

**Financial Statement 2014/2015**  
**“Consolidating Growth”**

The reason why I have mentioned this matter is based on the fact that I foresee the Leader of Opposition is worried. Do not worry for fear that you might get a stroke then there will be no one leading that side. All the preparations are running smoothly.

The matter concerning our Commonwealth Youth Games 2015.

**6. Commonwealth Youth Games 2015**

An allocation of \$5 million is provided to fund the preparations for hosting the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2015. These games will provide a unique opportunity for many of our youth to get exposed to international competition and therefore lift their performance. The Games is also expected to generate numerous opportunities for the business community.

**VI. SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2013/2014**

A Second Supplementary Budget for the financial year 2013/2014 is being tabled as well. It does not involve any additional expenditure but reallocation of existing resources to the tune of \$1.9 million tala.

**VII. CONCLUSION**

Mr Speaker and Honorable members, this budget is framed with the theme “Consolidating Growth” in mind. The positive signs of economic recovery provides the platform to consolidate the fiscal space to support a stronger and more resilient economy going forward.

Looking back, I am pleased to inform you Mr Speaker and Honorable members that a lot has been achieved over the past 12 months. I would like to mention a few key milestones.

In January this year, Samoa graduated from the Least Developed country category. This is a major achievement and it demonstrates the degree to which Samoa’s development has progressed over the years. It is a product of hard work and commitment to put in place appropriate policies to cement positive development.

The government has invested heavily in developing education and health. We now have improved school buildings around the country. As well, there are a number of health centers with improved facilities around the country. Phase I of the national hospital has been completed and I am pleased to say the quality of these facilities is comparable to any hospital overseas.

On agriculture, I am pleased to inform you Mr Speaker and Honorable members that Samoa has been awarded the award for being one of the first countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goal 1 which is eradication of poverty. This is a major achievement as most countries around the world are struggling to deal with the problem of poverty.

29 MAY 2014

**Financial Statement 2014/2015  
“Consolidating Growth”**

Moreover, discussions are underway with American Samoa concerning the setting up of a fish loining process here in Apia which is expected to provide additional employment as well as boosting export receipts.

On tourism, Samoa has scored a first winning the prestigious award; the Gourmand Cook Book Award for the “*Best TV Chef Cook Book*” for the cook book that promotes “Meaai Samoa” and Samoan recipes that incorporates the right mix of nutritious and high quality local produce. Completion of this book is timely as Samoa prepares to host the SIDS meeting later in the year. The cookbook will become a valuable reference document for training of caterers as they prepare to cater for those attending the SIDS meeting.

A few weeks ago, we signed the agreement formalizing the joint venture partnership between the government and the Neptune shipping group. This is a major step forward in our shipping engagement and a continuation of the move by the government to acquire the Pacific Forum Line. The joint venture will significantly improve shipping links to Samoa facilitating trade with the outside world as well as guaranteeing employment opportunities for our sailors graduating from the national Marine School.

The National Broadband Highway project is complete and will be launched soon. This is a major infrastructure development which will have a catalytic effect on other sectors such as education and health. It will eliminate the digital divide between Apia and the rural areas. As well, the government will soon finalize the option for the submarine cable that is expected to significantly elevate internet connection with the outside world. The project is expected to realize low internet connection costs as well as top quality service.

On the energy front, the government will continue to examine the renewable options that will generate the least cost electricity. Going forward, the government is committed to being self sufficient in renewable energy by 2017.

On Judiciary, we have now established a Family Court dedicated to dealing with all family related cases. This is a huge step forward in recognizing the importance of family matters and the need to be handled in a special manner. Having the Family Court is expected to ease the pressure on the judiciary to deal with other court cases lending itself to a speedier timeframe to settle court cases overall.

Going forward the government will continue to look at implementing major developments to generate economic activity, create employment and improve service delivery. These include the Vaiusu port and the Faleolo airport upgrade.

As you will note Mr Speaker, we have achieved a lot in the past. As a responsible government, we are committed to implementing appropriate policies in the course of 2014/15 to ensure macroeconomic stability is maintained for the benefit of our people.

29 MAY 2014

**Financial Statement 2014/2015  
“Consolidating Growth”**

Mr Speaker, in closing, I would like on behalf of the Government and the people of Samoa, to express our sincere gratitude to our development partners for their continuous support towards our development. I would also like to acknowledge everyone’s support to the development of our country. We thank you and may God continue to bless you all as we prepare to celebrate our 52nd Independence Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the 2014/2015 Budget to the House. Soifua.

*Members of Parliament showed their gratitude with applause after the Budget Address 2014/2015.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 132, debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 shall be adjourned for not less than fourteen days and be referred to the Finance & Expenditure Committee for consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly.

**APPRECIATION STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance. I believe you have clearly made your statement this morning. The purpose of the tabling Budget 2014/2015 is for the sake of the House and Samoa. Thank you sincerely Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry of Finance for the full and well prepared Budget Statement. I trust the House is well notified of your statement together with Samoa’s support.

We shall proceed with our normal orders of the day pursuant to Standing Orders and Parliamentary procedures and the 14 days referral of the Budget Statement Report to the Committee before reporting back to the House for its consideration.

We hope to reassemble on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 to debate and review this Budget Statement. I am sure that everyone now has a copy so that you are fully set for our Budget deliberations including Parliamentary Committee work. I refer to the Chairperson and the Committee to report back the official report to the House for further process to be conducted.

I express the utmost gratitude to all members of the House for your presence particularly the informative program before us this morning. I salute the support of Samoa as we arrive at the conclusion of today’s session. For your understanding, when we speak of financial matters, we prioritize it according to our Standing Orders.

We now wrap up with a motion to adjourn proceedings with an official time; before we have our morning tea prepared by the Office of the Legislative Assembly together with lunch as per usual practice.

I pray God to guide us safely to the next ensuing sitting as scheduled to progress our Budget Statement debate.

29 MAY 2014

**Appreciation Statement by the Speaker**

Before we adjourn, I call upon the Associate Minister one of the members for Faasaleleaga No.1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow to finish us with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 10.22am until Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in accordance to Parliament Sitting Schedule Program 2014.*

**TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

*The Legislative Assembly met at 9.00am.*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayers.

### **OBITUARIES**

*The Speaker announced the passing of **Tofa TAUA Falaimo** who was a member for Palauli West in the 14th Parliamentary term.*

*He was elected into Parliament in the year 2006-2011. He was a member for the Health, Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee also The Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee.*

*The Speaker also announced the passing of **Afioga TAULAPAPA LEAUPEPE Faimaala** who was a member for the constituencies of Palauli West and Aana Alofi No.1.*

*She was first elected into Parliament as the member for Palauli West in the year 1970-1972. In that Parliamentary term she was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House.*

*She was again re-elected as a member for the constituency of Aana Alofi No.1 in year 1973-1975 using her title Leaupepe.*

*She was the first woman to be elected in Parliament.*

*The members of the House showed their respects by taking a minute of silence.*

### **OPENING SPEECH BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe we are all blessed to be here this morning to fulfill our duties as scheduled in our Order Paper. I acknowledge the dignified members of the House this morning. I want to acknowledge the various divisions of Samoa in all its honorary salutations and the support this morning. This was the day chosen for us to commence Parliament proceedings in Tiafau.

It is with utmost respect that I welcome you all here this morning, at the grounds of Faautugatagi for the commencement of our duties. I give praise to thy Heavenly Father for his protection and guidance upon each one of us because without his love we will not be here.