

16 FEBRUARY 2021

TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2021

The Speaker took the chair at 9:19am.

Prayer.

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

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: For the information of Parliament I have the Amended State of Emergency Orders from His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo.

Respectfully I call upon the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to read out the Amendments.

The Clerk read out the Amended State of Emergency Orders.

MENDED STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS FOR COVID -19

Pursuant to Article 107 of the Independent State of Samoa, I hereby submit the Emergency as approved and discussed by Cabinet in its Meeting on Wednesday, 10th of February 2021 in accordance to CD (21/110) as follows:

1. Extension of Proclamation for Covid-19 from the 15th February until 14th March 2021.
2. Extension of State of Emergency Order for Covid-19 from the 15th of February to the 14th of March 2021

The commencement of the new order and extension of proclamation with new amendments will be in force on the 15th February 2021 until 14th March 2021 and will be reviewed by Cabinet. The rest of the State of Emergency Orders is still in force.

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This decision was approved by His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo in accordance with Section 38(1) of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa.

Signed:

Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II
O LE AO O LE MALO.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– debate resumed on the second reading – Day 20**

MR SPEAKER: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday when the member for the constituency of Faleata West was speaking. This is a good opportunity for the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to speak, the member for Alataua West, Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa.

I call upon the lady Chairperson with respect. Pardon me as I allow first the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, respectfully I wish to convey gratitude to your honorable Mr Speaker and this Parliament and the ongoing attempts to continue our debates on the Supplementary Budget.

I wish to extend great appreciation to our ongoing efforts to reach our targets. The resumption of these Sittings is vital since our Orders were read out in relation to the immense endeavors engaged by the Government with regards to protecting our people. We are still observing the high number of infected cases, which does not avoid the continuous monitoring processes by our doctors, especially the Committee who is involved with implementing of their duties, who are the hands and feet of the Government. This is no light work faced by the Government at this time.

The truth is the virus has not yet reached Samoa. Those affected are from overseas. The main thing observed with appreciation is the attentiveness of our doctors who are engaged with nursing the treatment and checkups of inbound travelers.

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There is compassion upon the constant pleadings of our relatives who wants to return home to be with their families especially those who are being affected whilst living overseas. Such matters honorable Speaker will continue to be faced by the Committee and the Government through bold debates. Firm deliberations will encourage our love upon our dear families living abroad which will be the same love shared upon our families living here. The balance of all this is to make sure that common sense on love is shared and reached out to all our people living overseas including our own people in Samoa. It takes into account thorough understanding not only with the Committee but also their advice submitted to the Cabinet, including dialogs on profound farsightedness within the Cabinet.

Mr Speaker, the importance of all this is to report back to this Parliament for the awareness of everyone regarding the significance of the works we are implementing. For the sake of those who are not paying attention to the works of this Parliament, as we continue to debate and reveal our thoughts. Such is the essence of my upstanding so that Samoa is aware of the process and the final works implemented by the Government, implemented by the Cabinet as the final process ends up in this Parliament. So for the interest of this Parliament, such is the process of our Government works.

It starts from there and then to me and the Cabinet, then we can move on to our Parliament so that all representatives of Samoa and our overseas listeners are aware of our Parliamentary Proceedings which is the sacred Sitting of the country that is currently in progress.

Mr Speaker, another important aspect is that everything ends up here in Parliament, so that the decisions are not given biasedly to one pillar of the Government, thus, they all end up here in Parliament and before your honour. It is the reason for appreciating the Government services and their vigilance and those heeding our support, as you have also received reports on the boy who came with his mother who are currently being monitored by the Doctors so they do not oversee anything that could result in the change in the decisions of the Government. If comes tomorrow and the day after tomorrow and there is the cancellation of traveling schedules, then, at least the country is well aware of the talks conducted here this morning, given the offset of matters which the mind cannot control.

This is why the world is in turmoil today, there is no balance with regards to environment, and people's choices are way ahead and are inconsistent with the will of God who created the world, there must be a balance with everything so that we and our children can live happily.

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Mr Speaker, this is the assistance this morning, before the statement by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the responses from the Cabinet Ministers in accordance with the raising matters especially the in depth works implemented by each Minister.

Mr Speaker, bless our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. Parliament and Samoa have heard the support of the honorable Leader of the Government to publicize and promote the importance of our current Parliament Sitting with regards to the strategic plans and the protection of the country through Cabinet Meetings and its decisions for the sake of our security.

Because despite our love upon the families and children who are pleading to come home, we must also take precautions lest we are infected with this deadly disease. But well done. Since it is here in Parliament where firm decisions and facts are brought for the sake of our listening Samoa. As such, it is vital to make known the decisions of the Government through the statement from the Hon Prime Minister for the sake of this listening public. Well done to your endeavors just like the word said to our God.

We will progress to the statement of the lady Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the member from Alataua West, Afioga Aliimalemanu. Bless your statement.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): Thank you. We concur the prayer delivered and our reconvening this fresh morning. Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, to Samoa gathered here and those tuning in. Respectfully I wish to give a final statement on behalf of Alataua West to this Parliament XVI. The House of Samoa owns the selection especially the support of Samoa who are the reason we are part of this politics inside this House and Parliament. I trust, we do not remain permanently in this House, taking into account the honorific salutations of Samoa which have been laid out by the respectable members during today's Sitting. So even if I make a repetition of your honorifics, it will not change anything. Your honorifics and dignity Samoa will remain forever with your divisional boundaries and respects already implemented which I wish to leave aside and not to repeat it as it is impossible for me to change your divisions already been laid out.

To the revered support of our dear constituency of Alataua West, allow me your support and blessings as I make our statement in this final Term of Parliament. We are nearing the end of this year and works end well because of your prayers and support.

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Mr Speaker, Alataua West only had 3 requests voiced during this Term, which I had clarified in relation to budgeting so as to provide consistency for all 40 constituencies. Some of the requests pertains to one subvillage and I had followed up with the Hon Minister and the Chiefs of the Ministries and Public Bodies. And I will read out some of the works that were achieved and have been implemented on some of the requests.

The Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology as well as your Associate Minister and staff, all constituencies have received the service on TV and Radio because our village could not receive the events that were happening here in Apia, the country and the entire world, most particularly the Sitting of Parliament. So, I am unaware of what to say for the sake of those listening from abroad. That was one of the requests voiced in this House.

The Hon Minister of Works and the Executive of the Lands Transport Authority, it has produced a roadway for travelers accessing Tufutafoe and Falelima, the entire road to Neiafu Tai costs \$1.2million. Neiafu is pleased with the water supply by the Samoa Water Authority that has reached the entire village, including streetlights for Tufutafoe by the EPC and the Hon Minister of Works.

The Hon Minister and staff of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, new facility developments are now abundant including cars, businesses and private family developments given the 35 opportunities granted to the villages of Neiafu and Tufutafoe. It also covers employment opportunities for international sailors. Hon Minister and the Chief of the Samoa Shipping Services, this is the contribution for these young men to developing their constituencies and the country.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and staff, it is aware and there is our contribution to developing the economy due to opportunities and aid from overseas markets on the ava, especially through the Samoa Agribusiness Programme, on the power from our constituency on the agricultural side, the cultivation of the ava particularly in Neiafu. Similarly, the perspective on our agricultural improvement given the strong push and support of the Ministry.

The Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and staff, the selection of Alataua West to initiate the program on preparing the policies for the development of constituencies, this was no light feat to this constituency, because the women have talked loudly about acquiring sewing machines and upskill trainings for them for the sake of the constituencies. Including gardening development projects, priority have been selected for some of the developments in regard to policies for the development of constituencies.

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The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and staff, not only does it capture and improve the natural resources for the bathing pool and lakes in Neiafu, which is now known as one of the attraction sites in this part of Savaii. In addition, the works of the Samoa Tourism Authority are now in progress for the implementation of setting up fitting facilities or garden toilets for this tourism site.

The Hon Lady Minister of Health and staff, our constituents are no longer taking the road from the Itu Asau area towards Tuasivi to get medicine. Medicine supply is now available in our district health clinic in Sataua, and other members have also raised similar concern for a medical doctor who is now available at our district medical center.

The honorable Mr Speaker, there are further projects that are currently ongoing, and I also wish to read them out. There are the access roads of Falelima, the Land Transport Authority is undergoing the selection of a road works contract from the tender that was publicized somewhere in March. Thus, this was part of the requests that was voiced in this House. The priority of this constituency to the demands already voiced, is the college in the Itu Asau area No2 approved by the Cabinet in 2017 to rename this college as Alataua West College including our constituency from Falealupo, and part of Vaisigano No.2. And this College will be set up in Neiafu. This is confirmed in the Supplementary Budget 2020/2021. I know it can cover Vaigaga plus another school building to begin this major project with by digging and leveling the land for a sports field. There is the collaboration of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education in the progress of this project in accordance with policies in place.

The 3rd continuing job, is plans by the Samoa Water Authority to provide water pipelines for 12 households in Tufutafoe before the end of the year.

These are scheduled works. Mr Speaker, these were some of the developments which we are focusing on and will be followed up if our constituency agrees to...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the Chairperson as I allow the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I beg the pardon of the member due to the college he had mentioned, it is an issue that has longed been addressed by the member. However, there were some issues that were faced by the State, the Ministry of Education in the urge of the member and all these other constituencies, although such are the plans of the Government.

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We must have enough teachers to teach our children in colleges. Henceforth, there must be more teachers available.

No doubt about this situation given what had happened in the last Parliament, there was a huge problem that occurred not just for Samoa, but it affected the entire Pacific, regarding the shortage of teachers in the subject of Science, and Mathematics. I was shocked when the Minister had told me during that time that this was due to failed plannings done in the former years. Because this is what the former Minister and the former CEOs should have looked into, they should have put in place a strategic plan for teachers to ensure that all colleges in the rural areas have a teacher. I would guess the Hon Minister had spoken about the estimated 40 colleges that highly needed qualified teachers on the subject of science so that our local children can become knowledgeable. So, I was stunned to hear about this at that time. All the students that have passed, the management was able to change the system by putting up their marks so as to reflect the good reputation of the schools. So, it was not just Samoa that was affected here, it affected the entire Pacific, given this subject in which the Ministers of the Pacific were meeting on, despite the various thoughts made publicly which consequently reflected that children of the Pacific were weak in these subjects. Which was reason why the teachers had artificially remarked the students' marks higher. Therefore, if a student scored 70% for Mathematics or Physics, and is now remarked to 90%, then the scholarship committee will pick it up from their side. Ending up with a failure mark due to this problem.

I had written to the University and the Ministry of Education on a solution for this matter. You have longed been sitting on these issues. Do something about this, you are responsible for this concern, this is your responsibility, do a proper arrangement for our teachers, and make sure that we have enough teachers.

Then Minister Magele has put forth the remedy to the former CEO. The solution was very expensive, with the selection of only 60 Science teachers for them to redo capacity building on upskill development in order to attain certificates from Alafua. So that Samoa can promote this doing which is reason why other Pacific countries were aware of what was happening. This was also the decision of the Pacific Minister of Education, it was not a solution, it only worsened the situation for our children. It is reason for the decisions made. What was the solution? When the University of the South Pacific told them to go and carry out the practice done in Samoa so that the standard of education was raised. It was reason why the entire 60 had managed to graduate, and another 60 on board, that was the process we had undertaken which was followed by the other Pacific Island States, but we took the leadership.

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Mr Speaker, that is it, such is the reason the submitted request was delayed. These are the reasons the parents are not aware of, even the College in Lepa, they are pleading for teachers for their college. This is also why I am discussing with the current Head of the Ministry. For them to review their policies, and look at the retiree, if short, then bring them back.

Mr Speaker, such is the clarification lest this constituency is being blamed. But I am telling you the problem we had, which was reason for the delay in this decision. I trust this matter is now understood. As for the school put forth by the member, I have clarified it, the warrior we had. I hope the Ministry of Education through the Minister and the Chief continues this doing to improve our teachers. The teachers must be well educated so that our children can become wise.

Mr Speaker that is the explanation so as to provide clarity on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon the lady member or the Chairperson of the Committee. The clarification by the Prime Minister is now well received which was reason for the delay in fulfilling and our disbursement.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Thank you Prime Minister for the clarification upon the matter of this constituency. Mr Speaker, then I come to scheduled works. Some of these developments will be followed up if our constituency decides for me to come back.

Firstly the road for Tufutafoe, the engineers have done their findings. And there is the need to rebuild this entire road all the way to Falealupo. Secondly, the need to improve access roads for Neiafu, given the plentiful ava farmers. This village is also number one in growing of the ava. And therefore, it is necessary that the access road be improved. And thirdly, other attraction sites and myths are found within this Alataua West constituency. There is requirement to develop this constituency in parts so as to bring benefit to our economy. Rome was not built in one day. But the long-term vision, if the Asau wharf can be made possible, then there will be various the establishment of various new businesses in this part of the island. It will not only benefit the youth of this constituency but also the entire constituency of the Itu Asau area including villages located nearby like Aopo and Letui. They will all benefit from these developments.

Honorable Leader of the Government and the Cabinet, you are the servants of the country, pardon your respects. We are here to serve the will of the country and there is belief that we must not seize the praises of God.

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I also believe that that this is not your will, to give back praise and gratitude. Because true are the words of the Bible as countlessly said inside this House, when you have done everything you were ordered to do, say, ‘we are worthless servants.’ In spite of this, Mr Speaker the dignity of this House, I have read out the works achieved from our constituency. It is not because of anything else, but it is important to make known the responses of the State and its stakeholders, with regards to the requests of this constituency.

Mr Speaker, I wish to make a brief summary of our economy.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I must upstand on a point of clarification.

The member has spoken about the wharf and the township area in Asau. This is true, it is the main key to the development of the Asau area and that entire part of the island. Mr Speaker, when the huge project came from America the Pokalaki who went around the country and carried out their observation. For a way to remove the iron wood that is available in Samoa. These are called iron wood which are very expensive. These woods are very much needed by many countries because they are very solid and strong and last a long time. They are also available in America, perhaps they are eaten by microbes, and they are very difficult.

That is reason the Europeans travelled around the Pacific and found out about the enormous ifilele tree growing there. Then they tried to find a way to take this tree overseas by overcutting them. The main focus during that time was to earn money. But we did not think more of that. But if this plant was stopped and cut here and be exported overseas anyway, it was just the branches that were exported. Little revenue was earned from high expenditure utilized from the exportation of these products, which is reason why there is very few ifilele tree available here. They are only found in the innermost areas, in addition, this ifilele tree must be highly protected by any local village. Because it is necessary that there is the availability of a company to produce these costly items. They must not be used as building materials as it will not earn us huge revenue for over cutting them down to build houses. Although what must be done is to properly build small items in order to make more money by exporting them. The aim of the white people is to quickly cut down these trees and take them overseas.

This allowed them to make a submission about the overcutting down of this ifilele tree in the Itu Asau area and towards that side of the island. So, what the Government did was that they went to Asau and discovered that there was no natural channel.

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Do note that channels cover the entire marine rocks right from the other side of the ocean to the other side, so the channel produces a gap in between. The reason for this gap is due to the river flow there. There is the growth of small insects which forms the development of the coral reef rock. Thus, the channel is where the cold water and freshwater flows and it is impossible for small insects to live on it which forms the coral reef.

This is why the Government attempted to destroy the coral in order to form a channel. There was a channel but only the small ships could fit in it which allowed the delivery of the ifilele abroad. During the time of business growth there was the setting up of house buildings, many houses, and increase employment.

It lowered that part of Savaii. There was the establishment of the airport there, and the rock and sand were dug, and were used to cover the coastal area, building an airport there, our airport were improved and was set up there, and the tides flowing on the coral reef. There was the development of rock fence toward the coastal side area to counter the tidal waves. Which resulted in the continuing works in Savaii. They also came to Upolu and went around the island and pleaded that they wanted to plant the sugar. That was a huge deceit, because the plans should be cut down first. Which the Government had ceased in 1988. This is where the proposing of a Bill had all begun for the country to take importance of our environment. This ceased the overcutting down of trees for exportation.

So, this has arose today and has affected the entire world. The Government should visit whether possible to continue the overcutting down of trees at this time. The Government should revisit this area for the protection of our environment moving forward. Knowing the climate change conditions we are seeing today, even the waterfalls are beginning to die down. Even drought that is now witnessed today due to the dry season. Plants that were not on burnt easily are now on fire like the aulama. Which caused the huge bushfire that broke out and had lasted from 3 months to 6 months in 1983. Despite the attempts to contain the fire, that was the first ever bushfire here in Samoa. Mr Speaker, it was in 1983. We are unsure, that we are beginning to be affected, the same with our environment due the strong heat. Now that we have today, the hotness we are seeing today on TV and the extreme rainfall seen in countries overseas that is affecting us. The small island states, the tides have been washed over to where taro plantation is grown especially countries like Tuvalu and Kiribati. We therefore are not talking about movies, our country is severely affected from these situations, and we therefore must have a long-term vision.

The long-term vision spoken by the member, it is necessary to have long term vision. It is reason that it is stated in the Bible.

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God needs the guidance of Nations, to have long term vision, for the protection of the environment created by God for us to live happily in it. Mr Speaker, such is the importance of this area, let us turn to smash this channel, it is limited. Then we can bring, I have stated first this matter, and now that we have come exactly to it, we must clarify it further.

At that time, the Hon Tupuola Efi was the Minister of Works, and at the same time I was also working in the Office of Works when this happened. In the short time that I was appointed, I took on two jobs. The Investigating Officer at the Treasury, and the Acting Director at the Ministry of Works, as I took over the duties that were carried out by the Deputy Director of Jetwood during my time there for a few months. And I was able to look at the implementation of the port in Asau and the efforts for its excavation. Engineers were brought in through the United Nations from Holland, which I explained earlier.

But now it is the time to further explain this matter. The engineers dived under the port to test the bedrock. And in the report, it was stated that they had used up all the spear guns but they were unable to scatter this bedrock. So, spear guns were no longer effective, but at that time there were a lot of spear guns being brought in, and when it got leaked to the public, many people started using these spear guns to fish back in those days. The important thing is that as the efforts were underway, cyclone Ofa struck. The storm blew, and everything that was dug up from underwater was all blown back into the channel again. The airport was also destroyed, and the cyclone even forcefully uprooted the seawalls. Now the old airport is no longer there. Thus, another airport was constructed to be used in times of emergencies. Mr Speaker, the Government then made its decision to shut down this project as it should no longer be continued. But it is set aside for another day, and then it will be re-evaluated. This is why the timber mill in Asau was shut down, but what has happened? It closed in 1984 but there are a few buildings remaining making it seem like a ghost town. It was abandoned, and with no jobs available which resulted in the foreclosure of the mill by the Government at the time. It became useless, but the small boats could still be used.

The situation in the town of Asau, this is the only massive town that exists, or in Samoa as a whole, that does not need to be excavated in order for ships to pivot. They still have the old port that was built before. The only thing that is needed is for the bedrock to be scattered, before this channel is allowed to open again. Negotiations are already underway with one of the Governments abroad and their companies. One of the companies stated that if they were to implement this work, it will not take long for them to complete.

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They will not be using rotenone since that equipment is old fashion. But they have machinery, which can grind at these sediments and eventually fully destroy it to widen the channel. They could probably finish it in less than 6 months.

When it is complete, a large channel will be available in Asau to accommodate to fishing boats and especially large ferries. And then all of Itu Asau will become lively again. Now there are many Government plantations which were cultivated in that area. And as of now, the crops have grown large, and there are various flowers and plants that bear fruits. And now the Ministry of Agriculture are working to restore these Government plantations inland of Itu Asau.

Mr Speaker, my concern is that many of the people are ridiculing the construction of this port, which goes hand in hand with the port in Vaiusu. They go together, but the port in Asau is smaller and it would not take them long to complete construction. But the Vaiusu port will take a long time. Mr Speaker, these are the long-term plans of our government. This is not a draft; it is a matter that has already been discussed by the Cabinet. This is one method that is constructed by the Government for the development of a country, which is known in English as decentralization. What is the meaning of this term? There is a part of the country that is the main focus, the capital like Apia, but the activities are decentralized to the rural areas. The Government moves to develop all these major areas in the rural. Just like in Asau, Salelologa is the central area where capital is situated. Because Salelologa is the exit and entry gate that is close to Apia. This is how nature works, as islands are connected via the closest points to make it cheaper.

Mr Speaker, as we move towards the future, there is a lot of trade between the two Samoan Islands, but where is the closest point? Travelling between Aleipata and Tutuila is easy and cheap. I talked to both the Governors, if they are able to build a port on the outskirts of Leone, then the boat trip will be shortened by an hour. Since the ship has to take a detour around the island before it sails straight to Pago Pago. But if a wharf were to be constructed at the port in Leone, as it is directly facing Aleipata, this will shorten the travel time substantially, and if the ship is fast, it takes 1 and ½ hours, sailing to Leone from Aleipata. I also talked with the current Governor. And even during visitations by the American representatives to Samoa, I would also discuss this matter with them. It is helpful for the Government of American Samoa, to build a port in Leone so that our ships can anchor, as it will make trade easier. There are plenty of agricultural products in Samoa, since Tutuila does not have enough lands. These are the things that will help the two Governments in moving forward into the future.

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Mr Speaker, returning from Asau, this is how long-term planning is done; it is designed with foresight. Where does the foresight come from? It comes from God, as well as the support from those who have been specially trained. They are our professions, the engineers.

This is why engineering should be prioritized by our children, so they can obtain this type of skill. Since for the development of Samoa, these types of people with professions are important, especially engineers and architects who are artists. They design the pictures of buildings, harbors and large infrastructures. That is why we value our children's education and scholarships, Mr Speaker these two things correlate. That is the vision of the HRPP and all the politicians of this Party, we have the foresight. Let us not only prepare all these things, and it becomes useless tomorrow. But these are the things that are prepared for us who are still alive and for the children of the future. That is the vision of the Government, but we depend on the whispers of inspiration from the Holy Spirit, which is given to us with a heart filled with humility and courage to implement these plans.

Mr Speaker, that is my assistance, these are the things that have been laid down and must be implemented, as we move towards the next 5 years. Our plans have been delayed due to Covid-19, which has disrupted the communications between those who want to give their support for Samoa. But I have also noticed a lot of complaints in the Observer newspaper, and these criticisms are from people who are short-sighted. They oppose these plans for the children of Samoa for the future. But when you look at the people who are making these claims, most of them have good jobs for their children. They are people who own a lot of cars, and they have their own car business. But we are trying to produce these types of developments to get jobs for our children. And many of our children have graduated, but they are still looking for jobs. So, this is the priority of the Government, to make developments that will provide jobs for our children now and in the future.

Mr Speaker, this is further clarification, on the issue raised by the member especially the importance of this aspect, which is the development of the port and the town in Asau as well as Salelologa, and also the town of Aleipata at a later time. All of these are major developments that are beneficial to our country and the generation to come.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. The member for Alataua West is very lucky, as a response was given instantly... You have mentioned the developments and the plans that have been set out.

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You are the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and you have addressed the terms and conditions that have been noted, the long-term plans of the Government, which has been made clear. You raised the issues, and it was clarified by the Government, as the country listened to the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister. Blessed also because that is how we plan ahead, if today is prosperous, then tomorrow will also be prosperous.

That is the essence of the Government, as there will always be those who complain, since they have been complaining their whole lives. They are quick to disapprove but they do not know how to make decisions, such as the usual remarks of our country. The person who complains the most is that one person who does not know how to make decisions but only complains. Because if they were asked to give a plan of action, they are unable to come up with a plan, they just complain.

I call on the member to continue your speech.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to further clarify the proposals of this constituency. But I would like to make a brief statement regarding the overview of the economy.

Upon entering Parliament in 2016, I doubt that anyone would remember but I carried out my Maiden Speech and I stated that Samoa is a country blessed by God. And that belief has not changed, but it has been further strengthened by the situation that we have observed in our world and the environment, with the many countries that have enthralling economies, but are unable to deal with the disease that is affecting the world. What about Samoa? We do not have the means to deal with the severity of this disease. So, God is the only answer and the one who can save Samoa. Although there are challenges from time to time, but one thing is for certain, is that Samoa is a country blessed by God. It is not necessary to identify the serious impact of the Covid-19 on all the economies of the world, but it will also affect our local economy, because the economy of Samoa is connected to the economy of the world, as we depend a lot on the trading of goods and services and people through Trade and tourism. And we are fully aware that Samoa is not the only country whose economy is affected, for not a single country in the world is unaffected by this problem. So whatever restrictions and policies that were created to ensure the highest level of protection for Samoa, which has affected our economy, but not to mention the vulnerability of Samoa to climate change and natural disasters.

The spirit of gratitude, as the contribution of foreign remittances is still valid and increasing, even though the economies of New Zealand, Australia and the United States are in turmoil, which may affect our people who are working overseas and sending money to their families here.

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But it is noted that the foreign remittances is still increasing. Although there are economic difficulties due to effects beyond our control, but the Government is still able to respond through aid, stimulus package and ongoing infrastructure developments, as well as policies to respond to these challenges.

These policies have increased our reserve funds at the end of December 2020 to \$751.3 million. This means that if our country were to be affected by a serious situation, it is still possible to buy imported goods from overseas countries for a period of about 11.9 months, which was also stated by the representative for Faleata in his speech yesterday. Hence why I am thankful to God for whom Samoa is founded on.

Mr Speaker, now I move to address the Budget. We often hear a rumour, which was recently broadcasted by some channels on TV, saying that the Government has plenty of funds so there is nothing to worry about, we only need to take action immediately and continue the work. It was a belief that stimulated the desire of this constituency to further understand, and I ended up asking the same question that some of the members asked in this Assembly. The question was, how was Samoa built? How did our late ancestors who have passed implement the work that they created, saying that it was created through suffering? Since we are discussing the Appropriation Bill, I will rephrase the question as follows; how was Samoa built financially? How was the journey of this Parliament in terms of finance? And then I recalled the journey of the children of Israel when they left Egypt where they were enslaved, which is said that they have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. They encountered hardships, but God's loving guidance was always there to navigate His people. Perhaps we are experiencing a similar journey. And I remind this House of the past 40 years in the records from the beginning of the work of the current Government.

In the Budget 40 years ago in 1980, statutory and program expenditures were \$25.7 million. I want to clarify this matter. The Legal expenses are the funds used to first pay our debts abroad and within the country, which also includes the salaries for His Highness the Head of State, the Member of the Council of Deputies, and also the salaries for the Three Arms of the Government which includes the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the Parliament, Judiciary and the Audit Office. These are some of those financial feats that are recorded under the term legal expenses. As for the work initiative, these are the routine services, which is the payment given to all Government employees, who are carrying out everyday services. Such as schools, hospitals, electricity corporations, water authorities, communications, road workers, farmers, the Courts and other various services that are available to us every day.

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Therefore, the Legal expenditures and work programs in 1980 was \$25.7 million. The funds spent on developments were \$7.7 million. The total estimated expenditure this year is \$33.4 million. The revenue received in the country projected to be collected, is \$31.3 million. Our loans are \$2 million. The funds donated by our partners was only \$210,000. After 10 years we arrive at 1991. Legal expenses and work programs have increased to \$44.6 million. The amount spent on development was \$53.3 million. The amount of money that was spent is \$97.9 million, has tripled compared to the past 10 years. However, from this \$97.9 million, the revenue utilized in the country was only \$67.8 million. Grants from partners was \$18.8 million and loans \$11.4 million. After 10 years we have come to 2001.

The legal expenditures and programs were \$243.7 million. Development expenditure was almost doubled, it was \$93.9 million and total estimated expenditure was \$337.6 million. However, the only funds that could be collected and received from within the country was estimated to be \$232.2 million. Grants from partners totalled at \$74 million. Loans estimated at \$31.8 million. That is another 10 years done, now we come to 2011. The Legal expenditures and work initiatives is doubled at \$522.1 million. Development expenses were \$224.8 million. The total amount of expenses for the development of the country and works and services in the same period was \$746.9 million. However, the amount of revenue received from within our country, obtained from duties and taxes and various services, was only \$472.4 million. For grants, \$123.8 million and loans, \$149 million.

And now in the present after 40 years have passed. The Legal expenses including the First Appropriation that we are discussing now; it is \$851.2 million. Development expenses are \$125.3 million. A total of \$976.5 million, almost a billion in total estimated expenses. However, the only money planned to be collected by our Ministry of Customs and Revenue is \$593.1 million. It will never be enough. Grants, \$255.8 million. Loans, \$11.4 million.

Mr Speaker, the reason I am reading out these figures for every 10 year and counting, because this illustrates to this constituency that our government does not have enough funds, and we do not have enough income within our country every year to pay for basic services or work programs.

We rely on the grants from our partners, as well as loans with low interest rates in order to support the basic services and development of the country. Or to put it in a simpler phrase, it is to balance the budget.

Then I come to address the grants....

MR SPEAKER: Well, I call on the member for Falealili, the Afioga Fuimaono.

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Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker, the speech of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee is like a gentle wind that blows in the ears of this Parliament, as well as the members listening. The eagerness of this member, because this is one issue that was questioned by the members whose seats are vacant, in regard to our Budget Support, the way it is divided. But I am appalled since they sat in the Cabinet with those who.... this matter should have been clear to them, yet they are still asking, how and why. But I am grateful to the member for addressing this matter. Even though these members are not in attendance, but hopefully they are listening so that it is clear to them, because this is one of the issues that they are still questioning. Alas for Samoa, the generation that will be paying this debt are not yet born, which is \$2 billion, I wonder how it will be paid. Now the whole country has heard the division and the funding of our developments and income. Because there is a saying that if the Government changes it is not their money, when we move into office as the new Government, they will leave, and we just have to distribute. So, what do we distribute? But how will we get the funds to distribute?

Hence why I am thankful to the member, since my constituency is listening, and perhaps there are some members of my constituency that also have a similar feeling, as it has been made clear with the observation of the country. Thank you very much for the clarification. I still remember in 2018, we almost had a billion dollars in funds which were used for developments and expenses. But it means, if it is 2 billion, well. Now it is clear. Thank you. That is the reason for taking the floor, because I cannot sit still without voicing this essence of gratitude. All the aspects have been made clear, the revenues, the expenses, the savings, donated funds and grants from our partners with low interest rates, which has all been made clear. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech. Well, I call on the Prime Minister before Leala is given the opportunity to speak.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I stand to commend the Chairperson for the preparation, but it would be better if I clarify this matter broadly. I was also the Minister of Finance for some time. I was the Minister of Finance for 18 years, including the 2 years when I took over after Hon Faumuina resigned, due to the many complaints especially by the madam Deputy Prime Minister who was seated next to me, as this House has witnessed the resignation of Faumuina, due to many baseless accusations at that time.

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Then I took over the position of Finance, including a few years when I was the Prime Minister. If these 18 years were combined with the 22 years that I have been Prime Minister, it means that I have a moderate understanding of financial matters.

Mr Speaker, there was a time when I took office while the country was facing hardships, as it was bankrupt, that word cannot be avoided. The important point, since this matter was mentioned in the speech of the member. The question is; since these members are not in attendance and are telling the public that they do not understand the division of these positions. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee is the representative of Parliament as well as rest of the members of the Committee. What is their job? The Parliament is unique, the Government is different, me and the Cabinet and all the staff of the Government, but there is only one person who is important in this area, the Auditor General of the Government, and they do not report to the Government, they report directly to this Parliament, because they are also servants of this Parliament.

So the Madam Chairperson is your representative, she checks all our work and reports from the Ministry, and then the Auditor General prepares their report, as they conduct auditing and submits the report directly to the Madam Chairperson and the Committee, and they will immediately analyse the criticisms towards myself and the Cabinet and to all the Ministries, if there is a problem in their performance. This means that the entire submission given by the Chairperson, is the submission of all the members of this House against myself, and my Cabinet and all the staff, whether there is a problem in their performance.

When I first started working, the Auditor General came to inspect the work; this was in 1971 when I was reappointed as the Deputy Director at the Ministry for Development under the leadership of a senior Chief Executive Officer for Public Service at the time, Susuga Hans Kruse. Well, the report by the Auditor was serious. And then I prepared a response that will be presented to this Parliament. It was not long before our Ministry was invited, and then I came with my CEO and sat before the Committee and present our....at this time the Chairman was Vaai Kolone, but there were no Political Parties at the time. Vaai then said to me, “You the Government employees, work with honesty.” The Deputy Chairperson at that time was Laufofo Meti. Laufofo is someone that has been around since the time of the New Zealand administration. And majority of his time was spent understudying the operation of the Government at that time, he has a high level of understanding of Parliamentary procedures, as he also witnessed all the proceedings for our Independence.

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Laufofo Meti also wrote a significant book, that contained great knowledge regarding the changes in politics of the Government, and our rise to become an Independent Government. So he was the one that the Europeans upskilled with knowledge at the time. In other words, albeit our Independence this old man already had enough wisdom, and Feesago was also present, who was responsible for the management of.... here in the Parliament.

I have mentioned this matter, due to the proclamations being made which further reflects their lack of understanding for the work of the Chairperson. This is what I also heard yesterday, whereby they are questioning the position of the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House's position is something that is discussed by our Parliament as a whole. But the problem is the lack of understanding, with which we conduct clarifications of Standing Orders to the public, but they still cannot comprehend. I remember there were Authors that attended, as they would make jokes and banter, and when I spoke with one of them, he said, you should have some sympathy for them, because we are tired of the lies. Well, that is what is happening now, and it is being done with full understanding. But the important point that was raised from the scrutiny of the member, who is also one of the Stars of the Society of Accountants of Samoa, as he has resigned from various International Organizations to come and serve our country. I can never forget the words that were said by Professor Aiono during one of the gatherings when he made his speech, "I left my job in New Zealand, I was one of those who were sent abroad for scholarships, and I have attained a plethora of knowledge and prominent merits, and I was also a professor at the University of Dunedin, but I left all those things so that I can return to Samoa to use my abilities to serve the Government and to obtain more knowledge, as it is the Government that sent me abroad."

Therefore, all these members have returned to work for our government, as they have a full understanding of their responsibilities. Now he has made his statement, and it is a well-structured statement especially with the clarification of Government funds. The Government has two types of funds, and if the Government is careless, it will negatively affect the management of our economy. Our capital is our revenue received within our country from our taxes and duties to be paid, and the capital of other countries through the means of trading and assistance from overseas. So, when we move to conduct our trades, those are the only funds we can use, the funds of the foreign Governments. That is why it is so important, and it was established by the Government in the year 1984, with the official establishment of the Central Bank whose duty is to manage our capitals. That is the entire work; this is the whole purpose of the work of our Central Bank, as they carefully monitor the progress of our revenues and our funds sent abroad.

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Therefore, all the funds from overseas cannot be exchanged in Samoa, as they are all deposited in our Central Bank, so that we do not face the previous crisis whereby we did not have funds to order goods from abroad, because the country did not have sufficient capital for trade. But what is happening now? Those who have returned from abroad are well equipped to manage our capital for the smooth progression of our trades.

Mr Speaker, these two things go together, because if we were to excessively use our capitals from our own funds, the question will arise, what is it being used for? Well, it is used to buy corned beef, and that money goes overseas. You would also use it to buy clothes and that money also goes overseas. In other words, these two things are connected. Hence why we monitor the other aspect but also keeping an eye on the other, because the funds we possess are our own funds, but in the end, it will affect our own money, and our capital for trading.

Mr Speaker, this connection is very important, and we diligently monitor the reports from the Central Bank, the reports from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Finance's report to us, their reports on you the Parliamentary Committee, so that all the Government bodies are made aware of our financial situation and loans. The Main Budget is also presented, and it indicates all of our loans, so not a single matter is hidden, as it also includes all the levels of our capacity, and our ability to pay for our debts, debt service capacity.

This has made it possible for us to monitor our situation daily regarding our capability to pay the debts, and there have been no problems. How come? Because we have honest people managing these things, they are people that have been trained. Most of them have worked in the IMF for some time, and some have worked for the World Bank and the ADB. These are the principles of our Government, as our children are sent abroad to be educated and upon graduation, they are sent to work in these major Organizations, so that when they return to work for our Government, they have an extensive knowledge on the management process used by these Organizations. So, when these foreign Organizations come to Samoa the preparations by our people are done well and efficient. It is the same with the structuring of the Budget which is set out as part of the development, the strategy and the state of performance, current expenditure.

Mr Speaker, the first arrangement is important, statutory. What is the meaning of the word statutory? This is the legal procedure which includes our debts and other aspects that were mentioned by the member. What does it really mean? Its true meaning is that it is the legal dignity of this nation. The sanctity of this Government. So, what is the consequence, what is the meaning of those things?

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It is not dealt with by this Parliament, a decision that may reduce the sanctity because this is the reward for this country, the dignity of Samoa. Thus why, when it is addressed, the statements will eventually change the current and the development. But the statutory can never be changed, because this retains the dignity of our country, in terms of loan repayments. There is no problem, which is also the reason why other Governments are not careless about these things, whereby Organizations would give funds to a country, but they are being used excessively. And this is because the countries are handing out funds carelessly. This is the bigger picture for overreach Governments. They are excessive as they do not understand the principles of these assistances provided from overseas. It will result in a downturn, once this Government does such excessive things, the assistance will be cut off. Then what will we grasp onto? We will have nothing to rely on. Since we are no longer receiving assistance.

Mr Speaker, I believe it is now time for our recess. Have a blessed morning.

MR SPEAKER: Congratulations. It is very interesting to listen to a clarification of an issue. Thank you very much, as this is how our Assembly is conducted. The two sides should be clarified. It has also been made clear that the selection of the Chairperson, he/she is a member of the Parliament. Since they are the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee, the Finance and Expenditure Committee of the Parliament.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson, as she has sorted out each 10 years, the difference from one 10 years to another 10 years. It is very interesting to listen to and observe, but now even the Prime Minister has added on with his statement. The Prime Minister also has experience in monetary matters. Therefore, I commend you and offer gratitude. But if there are no more funds, then let us go and have our breakfast.

And I announce that the work of the Legislative Assembly is set aside for its usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:52am and reconvened at 11:35am.

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

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MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. I commend respectable members for your patience. I believe that we have regained extra strength to continue our work. I call on the Chairperson, but it was also noticed that the member for Faleata West was also upstanding. Tofa Lealailepule, is there something that...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Thank you very much for the opportunity. But no, there is a small matter that I want to address. But I would first like to thank Mr Speaker and the Office for the breakfast that was prepared for our Parliament. There have been a lot of changes from yesterday, thus why I express the utmost gratitude. The existence of Samoa is to continue moving forward and not backwards. But the matter that is being explained by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee is important. First of all, the Leader of the Government has already further clarified the Statutory Expenditure funds, as well as the Act which retains the dignity of the Parliament, because this is used to pay for our salaries, and the salaries for the honourable members. In other words, it is also pay for the salaries of the members who are not attending our Assembly, but instead they are doing whatever they want...

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the Tofa Lealailepule as I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of clarification. The dignity of the whole country, the Leaders of Samoa, is not only the Parliament. Because it also holds other positions of honor. But not only that, there is money set aside for paying debts. This means that this is the full glory of the Government in its positions, and the respect of the Leaders of Samoa men and women politicians. As well as the respects of clergy, all of them, they are in here, their honor has been rewarded. Because if these debts cannot be paid, everyone will be vilified. Starting with the Heads of Government, His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo, to the Parliamentarians, the admired people of Samoa appointed us. It is not hollow; this is why when you look at the arrangement. Number 1 it is statutory, meaning, these are funds protected by the law. It protects the honor of the entire country; this Parliament cannot touch or stop it. It is also not possible for the Committee to investigate or say that it should be cut. This is the reason why it is noted as number 1. When there is money left over, the Government can then operate. If there are funds left over from it, then the developments can commence.

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If you take note up to this time since the Human Rights Protection Party came into being, all these 3 things are being carried out. 1. Statutory. 2. Maintenance. 3. Development. Developments are still ongoing, and it is not a small development. Mr Speaker, this is further assistance, it is not only the Parliament, but it also includes the dignity of the people of Samoa and its leaders.

It is important to understand this arrangement, which is brought by the Minister of Finance and his Ministry. From the beginning, this has always been number 1. Anyone who says they cannot pay their debts, is someone weak. Because it is No.1, No.2 and No.3. That word is only correct when you see that there is no Government, and no people to pay, then that statement is correct. But this is done by people who do not understand, who have been sitting in the Cabinet for a long time, the Ministry and Minister of Finance has explained it many times and still they do not understand. However, there is preaching being done, word should not be mentioned on this, do not mention it at all, some people do not know that they are very pathetic. And how shameful it is for the time period, they sat in Cabinet, in Parliamentary Committees and as Speaker of the House. How will they come and lead the country, will they lead blindly, thus they are ignorant of the work and duties of this Parliament and the Government.

Mr Speaker, this is further clarification on the matter, to assist you. The member has mentioned this, and it is important to be reminded of this matter, after we finished the hot water.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: The matter has been clarified by the Hon Minister to members who do not understand. The members who are here but are paid with this money, which is why I intervened.

The reason for taking the floor Mr Speaker, these are the stories heard in public, if you read it. It states, when they return, they will investigate the money brought in for the measles. There will also be investigation on money brought in for Covid-19. The meaning of this statement that I want to raise, stated by the Chairperson. Is the sentence stating that when they come back. What does it mean until you come back? You are here. These people are in Parliament. It is here where you come and ask about it, then an explanation will be given by the Government, Leader of Government, Minister of Finance and the Chairperson of Finance and Expenditure. However, Mr Speaker, it is stated in the newspaper in front of me, when we come in, we will do it. I do not understand what this implies...

MR SPEAKER: Once again, I call upon the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is something I want to explain further. Because the statement of the member that spoke was, when they come in. But they were in here and have been given a clarification several times of that \$11 million. This is the \$11 million of our Main Estimates which is in progress. This is from the World Bank, yet there is still question. Where is the \$11 million from IDA? It has been explained many, many times in here. The IDA is the branch of the World Bank, but until now they are still doing it. There is no difference with a person, who has been charged in New Zealand with theft. They are charged, and then an announcement will be made, that the man is from Apia. Then some people would say, but he has gone over there, he is a man from Samoa. Then it is corrected, well Apia and Samoa are the same thing. It is like that, there are people who are not open-minded. You get tired of explaining, but they sat here and was given a clarification of the Budget, explaining it several times. The only important aspect for the constituency is to listen. People like this are brought in to represent the constituency, they are given many explanations, still, they do not understand.

Meaning, this is the significance of the matter raised, it is best that I take the floor, they were here, during most endeavors. But now I hear, none of them understand. But it has been explained many, many times. What is the solution to this? Well, we do not have the solution, it is with the constituency.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you Mr Speaker, I do not want to take up any more of the Chairperson's time, perhaps this is enough. Because now we are sure, we will tire of explaining, especially for them who were inside. I spoke yesterday of the literacy rate of 99.9%, which means that these few constituencies, have that percent. But there are some of Parliament that only have 9% literacy rate. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson, commendations to the member of Faleata.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Thank you for continuing the speech of Alataua West. But the question for the member of Faleata, perhaps until the time of the Minister of Finance, then I will give it to him. It is easy, it has already been... during consideration of the Appropriation. The Ministry of Finance and the Chief Executive is called on the status of the implementation of our stimulus package. This is the whole file, all measures are detailed, and unfortunately it will take me up to 2 days to read it out.

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The only thing I want to remind you all, is that the financial year is not over. This will end in June, and then the entire Budget will be presented. Because our stimulus package just started in July of last year. By June the financial arrangements should have been done and checked the Audit Office, so that report should be made available. As for now, when the Finance and Expenditure Committee has to do its work, it has overlooked everything. There is no need to worry, you only need to ask, and it will be delivered.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me respectable Chairperson, as I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: It is good to understand this aspect, because this aspect is very specific to the profession of Bookkeeping and Auditors.

There is a different group that prepares the Budget, and a different one that audits it. That is why the names are different. The Bookkeepers are different they prepare the Budget used. Remember there are 2 Estimates, the First Supplementary Estimates. This means the funds have not been used, and the Main Budget where funds are spent. The other Appropriation is planned and tabled in Parliament. This is called the Budget. This is the budget that is planned, which we think. That is the fund collected, but based on the findings, of the previous budget and their foresight on the increase or decrease of revenue and the state the economy is in. This means for the next Budget that will be prepared, there may be a difference due to the global impact of Covid-19. This means it may drop, this is useful for those who go around and speak. They came there was money, but this may decrease because of the impact of all the economies of the world. We are also affected as well because of Covid-19. That is the preparation of the Budget, it will only be activated after the 30th of June.

After that it is followed by the progress of the overall Budget put together, the time to do this is not short. After the Main Estimates is prepared, remember, there is a different fund estimated, but now the actual money spent is laid out. This is the time, it is given to those who do the audit on whether this information carried out by the Bookkeepers profession is true which is within the Ministry of Finance, together with others in other Ministries outside. Then it is given to the Auditor and their Office.

Back in those days, when I first started, only Tom Overhoff and the member Toomata were the ones. This is one official of the foreigner Tom Overhoff a man named Faimanu, who comes from the village of Afoa. There were only three of them, there was also another member from Moataa.

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There were only four of them back then. But now, there are a lot, maybe more than 25 Auditors, who are waiting, once it is given, they get to work. The reason why Government has increased this number, is at the request of the Auditor General, so their work is done thoroughly, and ensure completion. They needed a lot of Auditors, which was approved by Government. If the Government had not accepted, and was strict on it, it would have only accepted four. However now, it is more than enough, the number of Auditors who are in it to perform this work. But there is also the possibility that they will give other works, of Organizations and budgets of other Organizations, to Auditors outside of Government.

There is the famous Auditor Betham and others, there are a lot of other Auditors outside. The opportunity has been opened to them, to carry out our work quickly, so that the reports can arrive in the Parliament as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker, this is the goal of Cabinet, not to be late, because when it is submitted late, what is the use? What is the use of bringing it when it is done? Because if it is given fresh the Committee can look at it and report on it. If you are all listening, what is being done? The Chairperson has now stood up to raise issues related to the operation of Government. What is happening? Leala is upstanding, but he is the Associate Minister, the Associate to the Minister that is sitting in front of him, Afioga Afamasaga. That is why there is a response, it seems that the two are strong opposites. You are leading the Government and opposite to us who are on this side. If the Minister is tired, let the Associate Minister stand.

The country is listening, it seems as if there is disagreement, fighting within. Mr Speaker that is the process, the term given to the Opposition is, it is a Home-Grown Opposition of HRPP itself. People are listening, it is almost a fight. Why? If they are not present. Now they have taken their responsibility, while they go and have fun. That is the announcement, in order to better understand the situation that the Chairperson is trying to address. It will go until June. Now we are in February, our Main Budget is still in progress. But now we have passed other additional funds, to further improve work that need additional funding. After June then it will be closed, this is what you call close the books. As for other things that need be done, it is finished here, it is TKO as the time if up, as the new financial year starts in July. Then the Budget already prepared is tabled, these are the actual funds earned, and spent. Then it is audited, after, the Auditor will give it directly to the Chairperson for them to work on. It is not given to us, based on the laws of the Auditors Society, and these are the Laws by which Government operates. The impartiality of the Auditor, or the independence of this Ministry, you judge where the report is headed.

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This Law proclaims the independence, on where the report is directed. And second, is the appointment, or selection. Mr Speaker, like here, it is not under the Public Service Commission, and Parliament appoints the Speaker. He has the authority to overlook matters.

Mr Speaker, this is what you call the independence of the Auditor, where his report is headed. Once it is submitted here, no one will question it, but look at something else. It is brought directly into Parliament. That is why if we notice, the Associate Minister is distraught, this means, he is being provoked by the Minister, stand up and correct the matter. There are times when he stands up...well now the Minister is upstanding, and the Associate is resting. Such behaviors, in our House is seen as an act of respectable humor.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Mr Speaker, the Minister is upstanding, as the Associate Minister is taking a rest. Since my constituency is listening, in case they might think I have tire from carrying this position. But this is not true, I am giving opportunities, for the Associate Minister to warm up for the new Parliamentary term. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance, as I call upon the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): The Minister is upstanding. I just want to clarify a matter to the member of Faleata. Because the member of Faleata sometimes speaks in English, the term, literacy rate. Because the country is listening. I do not get what you mean with the statement you made. This means the constituencies where these members are from, the members. The literacy rate is only 9%. Can you explain this matter a bit please? There is a majority of the country, who want to understand the meaning of your statement. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Faleata the Associate Minister.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I apologize to the member because of the member of Faleata constantly speaking in English. I am sometimes forgetful, and seem to leave my mind at home, because it is too big, it does fit in my head. This is also why I am not corrected by the Minister; it is based on the literacy rate of a person.

The meaning of statement is with respect to Samoa listening, the knowledge of a child is based on reading, they have an understanding.

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Remember the word that I mentioned, anyone who knows how to read, can easily learn a lot in any subject. As for the constituencies where these members come from, I am sorry, their knowledge is 99.9%, so the constituencies are good. As for the members, it means that the rate of their thinking is quite low. With all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, the matter stated by the Minister of Cabinet is important. As for the matter of not conveying speeches clearly. If our speeches are said in Samoan, make sure the country will understand it well. It is best that we use our own language. This is also why I was strongly vocal, to the court and to all the lawyers in this country. The countries like Japan and China, in Japan all their lawyers speak Japanese. This is the same for China, as well as India. But when it comes to Samoa, I do not know why people want to speak in English. Ignoring our language, this is why when we make Laws our language is important. Then this Parliament is attacked, that the Law is flawed, but later, they read deliberations of Parliament, and the true spirit of the Leaders of the country was conveyed. So, what is the situation now? It is now completely silent, because of this weakness within our courts and our lawyers who practice. Use our language and go sit in village council meetings, to understand it well.

Mr Speaker our culture, that is the talent possessed by Samoan chiefs that is the talent because BA, MA and PhD degrees are awarded. It is calling Political Science, the Science of Politics. The center of Politics are the customs and traditions that regulate people, and the conditions in which they should live in harmony. And look at the psychology of our people, it is not possible to grasp this, for those who just came back with degrees, until you sit in village council meetings and listen to the knowledge that is conveyed through speech. Over the years, the council has been occupied by chiefs who do not know how to speak English.

But because of the debates and profound discussions of the management of people in the village. To find peace and psychology, or mental psychology, to create good spirit in communities, any matai that has been a matai for a long time, we do not know which degree they should obtain. Perhaps they should be 5 Doctors of Philosophy in Political Science on the administration of people, because the management of people in the village is the same as sitting in here and talk about the management of Government.

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Which is a government of people not animals. The Government of the people managing respectable behavior.

Mr Speaker, this is the important aspect of using our language. I recall the first time when this Government came into power. When Tofilau was speaking, the Leader of the Opposition stood up and said, your English is poor, but what was Tofilau's response. What was his response? Yes, he said English was learned under the cocoa tree and breadfruit tree, as for him, his English is fast like a sewing machine, creating problems to the economy of the country, bless our Sitting.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Well, pardon me, I call upon Tofa Lealailepule since he was...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: No, I know what the old man and Leader of Government is saying, it seems the member of Faleata West is being reprimanded.

MR SPEAKER: No you are not getting it...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Remember, when this member speaks in English, I always say it again in Samoa. I always try to clarify because Mr Speaker our constituency, are people of the town. I feel for them because the majority of the people do not understand Samoan, which is why I voice my speech as it is, also remember there are Chinese, and also Half-castes that vote for me. It should be clarified, but for a few other members, an explanation has already been given by the representative of Salafai...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Now I understand Mr Speaker, but I thought he would not stand up again, now he is arguing towards Galumalemana. Well that is enough Tofa Lealailepule.

MR SPEAKER: It seems that Faleata are arguing, especially considering these are your Elders...

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

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MR SPEAKER: Well Tofa Lealailepule, your opinion is commendable, considering that your constituency is part of the urban district. Where those who graduated from overseas reside, and their cultural understanding is not deep. But that is alright you speak English and later in Samoan eventhough the Samoan is wrong, I thank the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour for asking, to further understand this matter.

I call upon the member...pardon me I first call upon the Minister of Education.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: Thank you Mr Speaker, since the member that intervned mentioned this, the matter in regards to reading and writing. He mentioned that it has increased to 91.9%, which are plans, this is the report of the Ministry where the members data come from. It seems that I do not have to praise the progress...but those who passed this stage are old, so I apologize to the member.

All the plans implemented by the Ministry of Education, are for those who are being educated. But I apologize to the elders, if they do not understand the Budget and reading of the Budget, there is no other school for you to go to. You will still not understand when you are called upon by the Lord since it is too late.

Yes, if you had let me know about this sooner, we could have adjusted some rules for a special school for elders who do not understand, unfortunately the term is over. With respect.

Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you, the matter is now understood. I call upon the member of Anoamaa East, followed by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 please.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Thank you Mr Speaker the Minister has spoken on the matter, considering the it is related to the Ministry of Education the clarification of the increase of Literacy Rate mentioned by the member. When we came in, it was under 50%, now it is above 91%.

The expectation is, by next year, it will be 100% for all to understand, but this is a good opportunity to further understand the numbers mentioned by the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

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This is looking back at 40 years ago, I remember the year 1980, when our country was suffering, I am witness of that time, now we have seen the figures, it is only \$2 million in debt.

This is one matter the country is contesting saying there is too much debt, big debts. There was \$2 million, but when the development was done it was \$7 million. Right now, we are borrowing about a \$100 million, but our developments are about \$300 million. This is the rapid increase of the plans of our country.

Just like in the family, when you want to travel by car you go to borrow the money to develop your family. And you have the strength to pay in back for the rest of your life. This is the same thing the Government is doing. This reminds me of the elder who used to be the Chairperson of the Finance Committee back then, the Hon Tuiloma. This is the ratio he always talks about, the Debt Service Ratio. This is his own thing, in the view of Government, we have the power, to be able to pay back our debts for development. With all due respect, since I was given this opportunity, however all the best with our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you for the clarification. I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3, Afioga Faaulusau.

Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Stowers: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. But I just want to redirect the matter of literacy rate mentioned by Tofa Lealailepule.

I believe it is those who are not occupying their seats whom this literacy rate is directed based on their understanding and other things. It is my belief as a member, it is not the literacy rate that is the fault for this group. But it is the compliance rate that is the fault of this group. This is 99% of disobeying Standing Orders of the House, together with not wanting to understand the Laws already passed by this Assembly.

But I have to say, considering the situation and the purpose of this group is in, they are currently lobbying and doing other stuff, and not abiding by the Law already passed by the House, with respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, on literacy rate, on understanding, the main matter is to know how to read. This should be well understood. This is why the Pastors Alphabet Reading School was important. I am talking about this because it is where I started to know how to read.

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Our Pastors name is Taulealo. We all started going to it when we were 2 years. We learned how to read books, then we continued on to Samoan Alphabet, A, E, I, O, U, F, G all to the end H, K, R. There was a method used, the use of vowels, or letters, that was placed beside pictures. A ato, E Elefane, making it easier to develop the childs mind by looking at the image.

Science was first taught not more than 3 to 4,000 years ago starting in Greece. If a person starts learning literacy, or starts reading, that is the window where you starting gaining knowledge, read to know how to read. That is the knowledge from the time of the Government of Greece, where scholars came. The child quickly learns to read books if they are given letters that have pictures. A, ato, E, elefane, that is what makes them read books faster.

It is usually because of the picture, Mr Speaker this is the importance of this matter. There was something that happened, it was a big day for the chief of the village. It was about 2,000 years before the Messiah was born in Greece, his birthday was celebrated. This is where people who were experts in creating poems are from. This chief of the village had plans, then he called upon a poet. To create a poem to sing.

When the vicinity starts to fill with men and women, before the reception, you should go and be seated there, you start off with a song, a ballad in relation to the occasion.

It is time for the exceptional occasion, this was 2,000 years or so before our Messiah was born, the program starts, then the poet steps up and sings his poem. Before that, he mentions the song is dedicated. That means, he will be singing this song to show appreciation for the high chief of the village, and his 2 Gods, stating their names. He then proceeds to sing his song, also his payment has already been arranged.

People sat on the chairs according to how their names were organized. This person has a great memory the ability to remember things. After looking and observing he came and recited his poem and then went straight to the high chief to ask for his payment. The noble man replied, listen I told you to dedicate the song to myself only. However, I am not the only one, now there are 3 with your additional 2 Gods. In this case, your payment is to be divided into 3. I will only give you a part, but you go find your gods to give the other 2 parts. The old man was furious; thus, a message was delivered, that there were 2 men who wanted to see him. It will be quick, the man immediately ran outside, where are they? They were standing from a 100 yard below them and it was dark, he could still see them standing under some tree as they were quite further away.

He got there and they were gone, then an earthquake shook, and the building collapsed, people came to take out the others who were stranded and some were unrecognizable. Because they got crushed, and this was the person who knew.

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Since he recalled the arrangement of the chairs. Based on the skill of memory learning. This is the foundation of the Samoan Alphabet; this is where I first learned that the missionaries did not come ambiguous. They created the Samoan alphabet as an introduction to teaching of science. This great man is old, thousands of years. Mr Speaker, this is important as I am reminded of an old man Lange who came from New Zealand, we went to Savaii to bestow his Matai title. I believe it was either the Tagaloa title or so. No, the reason we went to Savaii, was to visit and we stopped at one village, they catered for us.

It was extremely fascinating the encounters they had, then there were two more orators that were debating. As it went along, we got to the part where the orator enunciated to the other, Sega, I was taught well, because I was taught the Samoan Alphabet by our Reverend A, E, I, O, U.

However, the other orator stated, what about your Samoan Alphabet, I was also taught on our Samoan Alphabet on fa, fe, fi lualua. Blessings upon our Council.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai: Mr Speaker, before we move on to the Chairperson, I would like to touch on the subject that was raised by Afioga Alaiasa, this is one false testimony that is being spread by some at the moment. This was stated by Afioga Alaiasa as to the matter of loans you do for your family, then you come and work hard to develop your family and repay these loans.

This is one testament spread by this group, there will be a change in retirement age from 65 years to below 65. A serious issue will arise from it. If you are to go, there and it is 65 to 60 years. When you request for a loan, it would be difficult, as there will a younger and earlier retirement age.

In addition, this is your big paycheck that you have been working on for the whole month, so now it will be received earlier. If the gap is 5 years, then that is the amount you will get when you go claim your pension 5 years in future. Another important aspect, if you are paying for life insurance then that will be an increase in premiums. It will be difficult to pay life insurance, due to early retirement age, as aligned by the Government, which is good for all of us.

Mr Speaker this is the reason for taking the floor, as for the Samoan alphabet stated by the Hon Prime Minister, a summary or the entirety in the English Language, is your information, plus your emotions equals long term memory. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: A Point of clarification, because mothers are often associated as the ones who teach the Samoan alphabet.

And to also mention the Lord's servants for they are at the forefront of teaching the Samoan alphabet to our youngsters, we have this relative a Pastor's wife who were serving in American Samoa.

They came back and talked about the literacy rate as witnessed on the Eastern Side of the island that they were serving at. This Samoan Alphabet as they had stated, the children would come, and they would begin to read the alphabet. The children however, some have never seen an elephant. They start reading out the alphabet, pointing to *Ato*, the children go *A* is for *Ato*, then points to the *elefane*, the children goes *E, E, E* and said that they do not know what that is, *E, E* is for *Puaa*. Maybe it is because of the resemblance of the pig to elephant.

For that, he advised the creators of the Samoan Alphabet, to replace some words say *E* for *Esi*, a Samoan word, which the children will be familiar with. This is what happens, when you point at *elefane* it ends up with an *E, E puaa*. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I suggest that we make our own Samoan Alphabet....

Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching (Faleata East): Mr Speaker an opportunity...

MR SPEAKER: Hon Salausa John Ah Ching you have anything to share or...

Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching: Mr Speaker I wish to speak.

MR SPEAKER: You may proceed with your statement.

Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching: No, thank you very much for the opportunity.

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I took the stand because the literacy rate has also been discussed, for this matter to be better understood, not only for literacy in being able to read and write, but for now, the literacy rate is categorized. There is literacy in computer, computer literacy, even with accounting literacy so that you are able to read budgets and understand how to manage accounts.

MR SPEAKER: Please be mindful of the bald-headed member seated at your side, you might hurt him... speak directly from in front your desk, but do not... you are imposing upon the bald head on the other side.

Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching: As stated by the Hon Minister of Education, the senior citizens it is a bit late for older people, such as us. That is to say, us who are of the older generation, if you did not take bookkeeping during your school days, and if you did but did not learn bookkeeping properly, you will not be able to understand accounting literacy.

As for future developments, we should all learn these things. So that as life changes occur, we are learning through the process. Back then, we did not have computers. But now, we have learned how to use computers and are steering towards learning new things. Every time we encounter something new, we learn, so that we are able to understand overtime, as well as things that we use.

Therefore, we should also divide literacy, not only to being able to read, which is important for incoming members of the Parliament, to be literate not only in writing and speech, but also be literate in computers, accounting, law and all others, in addition to foresight and knowledge, then there will be a complete understanding of where to make decisions. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the spirit of happiness never ends. I would like to congratulate the member who spoke because of the issues that he raised, this has encouraged the Cabinet and the Associate Minister to expand knowledge on certain areas to be made clear, and it is a bit difficult because the Government is the one that initiate Policies.

I apologize to the Chairperson, and those who are not sitting in the Cabinet, this is exactly why the Cabinet stands, to assist and notably I have learned something during this session. The country has become aware of some of the work we are doing, maybe they think we have endured the 5 years term, we have gained intensive knowledge.

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That is why, though that the others may come and minimize it by 3, but this is the length of the term, thus the members are well prepared, in terms of the operations of Government, especially the hope that our country has put upon us.

If we stand up, we stand up, it does not mean we are taking over the time of the Chairperson. No pain no gain. There is one important factor that has caught my attention, the same component that was elaborated by the Minister of Finance, the area of loans. There will be no loans permitted, when it is evaluated, according to Government policy, that this is the limit for a loan. It is based on the ability or Debt Service Ratio. It depends on the ability of the Government to withstand these loans. That is why Debt Service Ratio is important. That is the power of debt payment, because what is the use of having several assets, when you are lending to be locked up in prison here? That is an example, when you do not have enough money to pay your debts.

Mr Speaker, even those countries that have reached the moon, the reason why the economy is strong, and the young people getting employment opportunities, it is because, they are using their talent given to them by God, to make use of things that they can do with their hands. Most of these problems that we face, if you read properly, the Gospels of the Good word, you will find solutions to the problems we face.

I can look at it, in the parable of the 3 people who were given money easily. I will depart, however, I will give money to you and you and you, to invest. Returning back, the other one buried the money, unused. And the other? It was productively used, what was it used for? For commercial purposes, that meant lending it to others for productivity and compensate back to the lender and a lot of wealth was generated.

That is exactly why income vary differently, according to the Bible, we have different talents given to us. Because of what? One will be competent in using his talent properly, what about the other? He just waited, waited for what? Just to receive. That is why, one ends up being rich, while the other is poor. For the rich one, he properly uses his talent given by God.

We could ask as to why the Lord favors the rich rather than the man that is not so fortunate? The answer is, the other was too lazy while other was being productive. What do we get from this? The development of the economy is not the same, thus Samoa is using their talents, the talent of finding benefactors, like the World Bank, to assist the Government to show us favor, to get funds for developments, we cannot rely on ourselves alone.

This is why there are various talents, for the fortunate ones, they use those God given talents, we are used to hearing the expression from the word of God, there is a few of us that are going to make it to heaven, why?

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Then raises questions, why did it have to be the fortunate one? This wealthy man that they have obtained. The answer, the fortunate one has meticulously used their God given talents, bear in mind, if you are negligent in using these God given blessings, just by not sharing it to others this is when you are implicated in the word of the Lord. As for the person who is blessed, it is God's will, use the wealth you have to employ many people to support their families. This is why the Lord continues to bless those who are using their talent well, because others are getting employment from it as well.

With that, there are still some who curse the Chinese coming from abroad, but they are in the pursuit of fulfilling the commandments in Proverbs, they are working and providing employment for the majority of our country. In addition, the people have the opportunity to purchase goods from them. Why? They have all the necessities that we acquire, and they supply it in with a reasonable price suited to our income. Chinese stores are always full, because of this.

The important matter, Mr Speaker, is the 60 years, which is exactly what we talked about in 2002 or 2001 with the Chief Justice, Afioga Tiavaasue or the Hon Patu. He spoke to me, what if I talk to my Cabinet and amend the Constitution, so that the working years of a Judge set in 1962 be extended. Hence this was implemented back in 1960 when the Constitution was drafted, because most died at 50 or 60 years old. Our first Prime Minister passed away at about the age of 54 if my estimate is right. Most of our elders back then did not live long. Most people die before they reach 60. How about now? I turned 77 yesterday, and the Chief Justice told me that Judges live longer and therefore they are still needed to continue their work. It is not like there are many Judges.

Mr Speaker, I brought into Parliament the Amendment of the Constitution, now the years have been changed from 62 to 68. We are able to consider an addition for continuation of duties towards 69, as you all can see me, I am 77, heading towards 78. What about the President of America? He is 78 years old. What is the situation of most Presidents in overseas countries? See, Malaysia's Prime Minister is 93, I believe. If we compare myself to the Asian countries, I am just a young man.

The only predicament is my voice, because you keep asking these questions and I am required to stand up and explain some issues. That is the case Mr Speaker, the human life span process has been exceeding and the time is moving forward. As for turning back of time, we are way ahead, way ahead. As some are requesting to rewind it back, that is to say, it is the spirit of people being lazy, we tend to keep working, because there is nothing to turn too. If you are to instruct them to retire at 60 or 55 as when we started off as Public Servants, once you turn 55 that would be the retirement age.

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Now the life we live in is different, the standard of living is high, food is good, our economy is good, and there is no more famine. But the reason why there is a short life span of the person, is being addictive to drinking alcohol. If you want to live longer, avoid smoking and alcohol consumption. That is a very important warning for us.

Mr Speaker that is the case. Those who preach this message to drop down our pension, they continue to be lethargic, free loading, as well as being dependent and reliant which is damaging to the economy. This is a lesson from someone who wants to be a Leader of Government, this will only bring destruction on the progress of the current Government, a government that some nations are attempting to replicate because of its calmness. That is exactly why I have stated, the actions that causes disruptions, are acts of treason, act of rebellion, I have to look at it from this point of view to prevent these attitudes that may cause the Government to fight again in the future, especially the statements that will disturb the minds of our children overseas, who went overseas for the development of their families. This is why those who are residing overseas, leave this matter to us, you have fathers here who understand the customs and traditions of Samoa, keep calm on your side. The reason why you went overseas is for the education of your children, which is good for you, then us listening to disputes happening over there based on fraudulent information from here, and then some might end up being deported back because you do not have citizenship.

My advice to all of you, pay the money to do your citizenship, you do not know what might happen. These are just forms of great advice from our Party Mr Speaker, but not to mislead with false information, causing disruption to the Government, coming with intentions of trying to takeover Government. Mr Speaker that is the importance. Even those of you who are saying, support the HRPP, and keep the calm. This Government is not relying on promotional t-shirts and quarrelling over it. Even so with inquiring help from remittances, we are considerate of you, as most are not employed.

There is only one thing that this Party relies on, is the faith in God for whom calling, and appointments are conveyed. It does not rely on money; no it does not rely on money. We rely on God and His appointments.

This is why for all those living abroad please do not be like that, since it will only allow other delinquency, because the world is filled with calamities, also Satan. The wheat and the tares grow together.

Mr Speaker this is further clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. That was a wonderful clarification. But there is still opportunity for members to share their point of clarifications.

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As the Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the Parliament requested for your thoughts to be brought forth. As we have heard in the morning, the Chairperson has divided her response into 10 years' timeframe to differentiate funds gained from time to time, and funds that was reserved for priority.

This is why I express my gratitude. But a reminder from the Chair, everything, according to the Psalmist, "Everything God works for is for the good of his people". Yes. It is the same with the person who trusts and depends in God and work. But that does not mean we trust and depend in God and not do the work. What does God say if you do not love yourself? Love yourself first and do the work for yourself, and God will be kind to you in everything.

I call the esteemed member to continue....

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui (Palauli West): Mr Speaker, I humbly ask for an opportunity to speak please.

MR SPEAKER: Please take the floor, in case you might take this as being bias. What are your thoughts?

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to speak on the statement voiced by the Hon Leader of the House, since...

MR SPEAKER: Oh no, no. I beg tolerance of the member, a member cannot interfere with another member's intervention.

Nor can you ask for an explanation from an intervention. Yes, unless it was something mentioned by the Chairperson then...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Precisely, that includes everything as discussed by the Chairperson, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Please take the floor and please keep it short Afoa.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Thank you Mr Speaker. This is why I have blessed the Hon Prime Minister. In the next 5 years plus another 5 that is 10 years altogether, for the 77 years now add to it these 10 years, that is 87 years...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, I see that the member is like a God.

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We are leaving everything on God, for he appoints all authority, but your retort, I want to stress this out for our children and families abroad. Do not worry, just listen through this liberal altercation and fully understand about it. Just set those shirts aside, decline the idea of sending over money, some might bad mouth us. Our duties right now, it is how it is. The Government is founded in God, therefore give all our desires to Him. This is why it is stated in the Letter of Paul of the Church at Mount Vaea, “Give God everything you want, everything”. That is the Church of Phillip at Mount Vaea. It says that we should just cast all our desires, and the Lord will decide and sort it out.” That is none of our business.

Therefore, all of our families who are overseas who supports this Government, the only important thing prayer, nothing else. Pray.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I call upon the member...

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa I Lalo): Mr Speaker, I request for just a minute. A point of order Mr Speaker, as the Hon Prime Minister mentioned it is the Letter of Phillip to Mount Vaea, but Afoa does not have a Mount Vaea just the RSA. The Letter of Phillip to the RSA. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, but I will you end it there. The giving of opportunities hence that our time of work is over.

Well, I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau: Mr Speaker, I would like to go back to the subject of the Samoan alphabet as discussed by the House. I was also taught this Samoan alphabet back then by our Pastor in the village, that was where I had learned addition and subtraction, division and multiplication, as to why I know how to read the Budgets. Now that I have come here, I am able to read grants from overseas, as I have mentioned, of \$210,000 but now it is \$255.8 million.

There is an increase in donations from our partners, we know how incredible it is for the increase of funds from our partners, this are given as grants, by means of polite pleading that I heard mentioned one time in the House. The polite pleading to other leaders of Government. The release of these grants depends on the trust of the Government and its policies to guide good governance. I believe, this is the reason why we have done our reforms from time to time, which I noticed was the separation of the Public Works in 2001.

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This is also a reason why we prepare and review policies from time to time if it is consistent, or to assess procedures of the implementation of work, policies and processes. Because the stability of the conditions in the policies, in guiding good management, everything must be clear together with clear implementation of its work. Then we will be able to be trusted to be given this assistance for the development of the country, which is usually voiced in the House, good governance, transparency and accountability.

These are estimated Budgets that I have presented for developments, I mentioned in 10-year timeframes, this portrays the start of developing the future of Samoa, which was not easy, and up until now and where it stands. From the \$7.7 million that was specific for developments, 10 years ago it was \$53.3 million, in the following 10 years it was \$93.8 million, by 2011 it was \$224.8 million, and now it is \$125.3 million. We are aware of why this has dropped. It showcases the priority of the Government on implementing development of the country for the future generations. This is in line with the theme of the Hon Minister of Finance speech in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 entitled, “weaving a prosperous and secure future of Samoa together.”

Even though the topic is directed to the financial level, I think that it includes all areas of life, in order to establish a safe, peaceful and prosperous future for the youth of Samoa in whatever they require. There were many natural disasters that struck our passage in the past 40 years, as we have witnessed cyclones and floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, measles and Covid-19. It was quite difficult to develop when we encountered such difficulties, in the readjustment of the priorities of the Government, without stopping the implementation of vital regular services, while trying to recover damages. This is our calling as Leaders of Samoa, to examine methods to safeguard Samoa and prepare Samoa to be resilient for tomorrow.

Now a word in relation to the Budget of this Parliamentary term 2017 to 2021. Mr Speaker, the Budgets of the past 5 years of this Term, all the main addresses voiced by the Hon Minister of Finance are based on the emphasis, to readjust income and expenses to build a solid foundation for the economy in future. This is where the belief of this district of Alataua West lies in terms of finances in the preparations that have been completed and the ones that are still in progress, and the preparations that have been planned and arranged for the future of Samoa. What is important is the priority of everyday services for the public good of the country and the continued development of the country for tomorrow.

This Term, an estimated \$578 million was earned from revenue in 2016/2017 that we collect from duties and taxes and other services.

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In 2017/2018, it was \$625 million. The following year, it was \$626 million. Last year it was \$646 million and this year it is \$593 million. It was a big challenge faced by the Hon Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Customs and Revenue for the financing of the Budget. There was also great assistance and grants from our partners for financing of our Budgets every year, especially for development. Which was estimated in 2017 at \$242 million. For 2018 \$200 million was allocated for development. In 2019 it was \$223 million. By 2020 it was \$179 million. In 2020/2021 it was \$255 million, allocated specifically for development. These grants, as I mentioned, is very important for partnerships with foreign countries, to support our development, which is very important for the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as our Ambassadors and High Commissioners in foreign countries, because they are the representatives of our country, as well as agents for release of aid.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you. Wonderful speech, the Chair is indolent to interrupt the speech, however since we have arrived at the time to conclude our work for the day. I apologize to the member who is speaking, the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, let us hope for tomorrow for the conclusion of your speech.

Since we have arrived at the end of our work, before we adjourn, I call upon the member for Aiga I le Tai, Susuga Mulipola to close our Sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 12:59pm until Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 9:00am.