

TUESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER 2013

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.00am pursuant to the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2013.

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MESSAGE FROM THE LE AO O LE MALO

Mr Speaker announced the Message from His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo.

“MEMORANDUM for:

Mr Speaker:

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

1. Family Court Bill 2013.
2. National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2013.
3. Fair Trading Amendment Bill 2013.
4. Plumbers Bill 2013.
5. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2013/2014.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Monday 16th December in the year 2013.

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

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OBITUARY NOTICES

1. *Mr Speaker announced the passing away of Tofa LEFUA Leaana, who was the member for territorial constituency of Vaisigano No.2. He was first elected as a Member of Parliament in the year 1982-1985.
He was again elected in the year 1985-1988
Tofa LEFUA Leaana was a member of the House Committee in 1982-1985.
He was a member for the United Party.*
2. *Mr Speaker also announced the passing away of Afioga LEOTA TOOMATA Siaki, who was the member for the territorial constituency Anoamaa Sisifo.
He was a member for Parliament in the year 1967-1970.
Afioga LEOTA TOOMATA Siaki was a member for the Standing Orders and Petition Committee.*
3. *Mr Speaker also announced the passing away of one of the most distinguished leaders of the world who was elected president for South Africa, honorable NELSON MANDELA.
He was a strong leader who fought for his people and country; he was resilient and was not afraid of what the government did to him.
He offered his life to serve his people through imprisonment. I hope he will find eternal life in heaven.*

The Legislative Assembly observed a minute silence to pay their last respects to the members and the former President of South Africa.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I believe the House and the public is well aware of the situation in which a newspaper illegally publicized Parliamentary Reports and proceedings. This report was withheld by the Chair and the Office of the Clerk from being published due to some issues which are currently being investigated by Parliament. In relation to the Parliament Code of Ethics provided under Standing Orders especially Parliament practices that signify the dignity of Parliament proceedings and orders of the House; this matter has shown disrespect to the importance of the Samoan Parliament through the actions taken by those publicizing these reports.

The Chair and the Office of the Clerk have received recommendations and clarifications from the Attorney General on the matter and it has been confirmed that governing policies of the House have been breached.

I sadly noted some of the views of members and their behavior in the House which has worsened the situation especially their disregard of the Speakers decision in protecting the dignity and respect of Parliament.

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Other Announcements by the Speaker

This matter is not taken lightly by the Speaker because I believe the dignity of the Chair is respectfully kept by members of the House. As you may have noted we are still carrying on with our orders being mindful of our relations and etiquettes. I believe we must be respective of one others actions.

To the dignity and respect of the House this is something I wish to remind everyone. There is no one who wants to be arrogant; there is only one objective and that is to uphold the dignity of this Parliament and the Chair. Your disrespect of the Orders of the House and the Speakers rulings are also indicative of your disrespect of the country and their support. I pray that this behavior is not repeated in the future.

I have referred the matter to the Attorney General to carry out the proper measures on the issue so that this issue will not reoccur and let it be a lesson for the future.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker a point of clarification with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon Leader of Opposition there will be an opportunity later because we are carrying on with our orders of the day.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. S.R.2013/8, General Price Order (No. 4) 2013.
2. S.R.2013/9, Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Regulations 2013.
3. S.R. 2013/10, Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2013.
4. P. P.2013/2014 No. 45, Annual Report of the Central Bank of Samoa for the Twelve Months July 2011 June 2012.
5. P. P 2013/2014 No .46, Samoa Housing Corporation Annual Report for the Year 2012.
6. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 47, Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the Financial Year 2010-2011.
7. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 48, Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the Financial Year 2011-2012.
8. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 49, Annual Report of the Fire and Emergency Services for the Year 2009-2010.
9. P. P.2013/2014 No. 50, Annual Report of the Fire and Emergency Services for the Year 2010-2011.
10. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 51, Annual Report of the Fire and Emergency Services for the Year 2011-2012.

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Presentation of Papers

11. P. P.2013/2014 No. 52, Annual Report of the Samoa Law Reform Commission July 2011- June 2012.
12. P. P.2013/2014 No. 53, Government Responses on P. P.2012/2013 No.35, Report of the Foreign Affairs, Trading and Revenue Committee on P. P. 2011/2012 No. 31 & P. P.2011/2012 No. 45, Annual Reports of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Years ending 30th June 2008 and 30th June 2009.
13. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 67, Report of the Parliament of Samoa Delegation to the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in South Africa.
14. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 68, the Parliamentary of Samoa Delegation Report on the Pacific Parliamentary Seminar held in Nukualofa, Tonga – November 7-8, 2013.
15. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 69, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour Annual Report July 2011-June 2012.
16. P. P.2013/2014 No. 70, Annual Report of the Ministry for Revenue for the Financial Year 2012-2013.

PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 55, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the National Payment System Bill 2013.
2. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 56, Report of the Officers of Parliament Committee on P.P. 2012/2013 No. 13, Report of the Controller and Chief Auditor for July 2009-June 2010 & P. P. 2013/2014 No. 12, Report of the Controller and Chief Auditor for July 2010- June 2011.
3. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 57, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P. P. 2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of the Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the Period 2012-2014 & P. P. 2011-2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Year 2010-2011.
4. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 58, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 65, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority for the Year 2008/2009 and P. P.2011/2012 No. 90, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority for the Year 2009/2010.
5. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 59, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P. P. 2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority for the Year 2009/2010.
6. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 60, Report of the Works Transport and Environment Committee on the Apprenticeship Bill 2013.

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Presentation of Select Committee Reports

7. P. P. 2013/2014, No. 61 Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on the Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012.
8. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 62, Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 34, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Year 2009/2010.
9. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 63, Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 55, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Year 2009/2010.
10. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 64, Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on P. P. 2011/2012 No. 56, Corporate Plan of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the period 2012-2014.
11. P. P. 2013/2014, No. 65, Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No.58, Corporate Plan of the Post Office for the Period 2012-2014 and P. P. 2011/2012 No.59, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Post Office for the Period 2012-2014.
12. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 66, Report of the Education, Science, Communications and Information Technology Committee on P. P. 2012/2013 No.6, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for the Year 2008/2009, P. P. 2012/2013 No.7, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for the Year 2009/2010 and P. P. 2012/2013 No. 8, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for the Year 2010/2011.
13. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 71, Report of the Works, Transport & Environment Committee on the Electric Power Corporation Amendment Bill 2012.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I pray for an opportunity please.

MR SPEAKER: What is the issue you wish to address Leader of the Opposition?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: There are two issues I wish clarified.

MR SPEAKER: It is not yet time for debate. I will give you the opportunity when we...Our procedures will be breached and we have just begun our orders of the morning.

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MOTION BY THE SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Committee.

Tofa LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Chairperson; Special Inquiry Committee): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I would firstly like to thank you Mr Speaker for the praises given unto the Holy Father for His love and protection upon us all. I humbly greet our Parliament this morning.

Before I continue, I would like to greet the respectable members of the House this morning; Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition and his party, Associate Ministers and all the respectable members.

I also humbly greet Samoa listening in support towards our Parliament. I humbly greet the CEOs of Government Ministries present this morning.

Also I would like to take this opportunity to greet my constituency of Satupaitea. Well done for the good work done this year, thank you for your support that has enabled me to represent you within the House.

Mr Speaker I rise in relation to a decision by the Assembly on the 24th June this year together and a motion approved on 6th of August that the Special Inquiry Committee must submit a report of the known matter.

Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, I declare with respect and honesty that this Special committee has been working hard in gathering information in order to fulfill the requirements such as findings on the matter to be submitted to the Assembly. Unfortunately the Committee has come upon a hurdle in carrying out its findings to acquire in depth information to provide a comprehensive report to be presented before Parliament. Mr Speaker as all members of the House are aware of the member under investigation has a case before the Court and it is still ongoing.

Therefore I humbly move a motion, *That three months is added to thoroughly conclude the work specified to the Special Inquiry Committee and report back in the March 2014 Parliament sitting. Parliament is well aware of the ongoing court case between the member and the Ministry for Revenue.* This is the motion with utmost respect.

Motion was not seconded.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoli (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Motion has been moved, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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MOTION OF AMENDMENT

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui: Whether there is an opportunity for me to move a motion of amendment. This is one Committee that thoroughly fulfills its duties this is why there is a delay in the submission of their report, therefore I move, *That not less than three months is given, if it takes ten years to complete then so be it but to clarify further it should not be less than three months.*

MR SPEAKER: Motion moved. I call upon the member. You may take the floor.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu (Gagaemauga No. 2): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Pardon me Mr Speaker as this is an issue that involves me. Therefore Mr Speaker, correct me if I am wrong concerning the procedure for committee reports. I believe that proceedings of Parliament should not involve court proceedings and I believe today was supposed to be the day for the report to be submitted with respect.

MR SPEAKER: The clarification given by Member is now understood, it is clearly stated under our Standing Orders. It is the code of this Parliament once a matter is deliberated by the court it cannot be debated within the House. This is the reason why the Member has requested a motion because the Court case between the Member and the Ministry is still ongoing and until the court decision is final the House will then be able to carry on with its proceedings.

An amended motion has been moved to be more than three months if need be. Is there anyone who seconds the motion?

Seconded by one of the members for Faasaleleaga No. 1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Gidlow and one of the members for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lenatai Victor Fafoi Tamapua.

Motion approved and a time of not less than three (3) months was given to the Special Inquiry Committee to carry out their investigation.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2013/2014 – first reading

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2013/2014 be read for the first time.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2013/2014
– first reading**

Seconded by Minister Communications and Information Technology and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved the bill was read for the first time.

**FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2013/2014, P. P.2013/2014
No. 54 – Tabling**

The Minister of Finance Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga tabled before the Assembly the First Supplementary Estimates 2013/2014 pursuant to Standing Order 131 (1).

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2013/2014
– motion for second reading**

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2013/2014 be read a second time.*

Seconded by Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

**BUDGET ADDRESS ON THE FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET
ESTIMATES 2013/2014**

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker and honorable members of Parliament, on behalf of the government, I would like to table the First Supplementary Budget for the financial year 2013/2014 for consideration of the House.

Mr Speaker, this supplementary budget has been carefully crafted to support macroeconomic stability, by ensuring that the Government delivers its priorities within the context of a prudent and responsible fiscal framework. As honorable members will note, this supplementary budget once again underscores Government's commitment to maintaining a sustainable budget deficit of 3.5% in the medium term despite the provision of appropriate budget outlays to support Ministries and SOEs service delivery. And I am pleased to announce that the budget deficit has been revised from 4.8% initially declared in the Main Budget Estimates 2013/2014 to 4.2% with the first supplementary budget estimates included.

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**Budget Address on the First Supplementary
Budget Estimates 2013/2014**

The Supplementary Budget.

I would like to provide you with details of the First Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year 2013/2014.

Summary of Additional Revenues

The Government does not propose to implement any new revenue measures through this supplementary budget. Rather, financing of additional government priorities and commitments for the last six months of the current financial year made possible through the following:

- External grants have increased substantially following confirmation of 100% grant financing from ADB towards budget support. In total, \$22.6 million tala initially appropriated as loans from the ADB will now be reflected as grants through this supplementary budget.
- Other revenues earmarked for appropriation in this supplementary budget include; additional rents and leases collected from government ministries occupying TATTE building; increase in VAGST for Government Ministries; and savings identified by two government ministries namely the Public Service Commission and the Legislative Assembly to finance additional works and initiatives for the next six months.

SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES

This supplementary budget is intended largely to accommodate a limited number of priority expenditures totaling \$14.42 million Tala (including VAGST) which are critical for the achievement of stated outcomes and delivery of services for the benefit of the community at large. These include: A provision of \$2.72 million tala has been made in the budget to cater for the 3% general salary increase for the whole public service and the civil list.

Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology

An additional provision of \$180,000 tala for the National Broadband Highway Project. Added to this is the \$500,000 from the main budget estimates 2013/2014.

Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

\$318,000 tala has been allocated towards teachers' salaries realignment. Additional personnel are provided to the Ministry of Education at the cost of \$230, 423 tala. A provision of \$190,000 tala is provided to assist the Samoa National Orchestra.

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**Budget Address on the First Supplementary
Budget Estimates 2013/2014**

Ministry of Finance

Additional \$285,000 tala to finance the \$5 tala monthly increase to the Senior Citizens Pension Scheme. An extra \$5 million tala is provided to assist with the SIDS Conference preparations. Additional provision of \$87,365 tala to cover audit fees for auditing of project accounts.

Ministry of Health

\$150,000 tala to cover shortfall of Government contribution towards OUM operations.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Additional \$653,515 for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to settle arrears on rents and leases at the TATTE Building. Also additional provision of \$1 million tala for the Ministry for land compensation.

Ministry of Police & Prisons

\$500,000 tala has been allocated for the payment of STEC lands used for the Olomanu Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre. \$120,000 tala is provided to construct new prison cells at Tafaigata.

Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

An additional \$200,000 tala to assist with Samoa's hosting of the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games.

Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development

A \$470,000 tala additional provision for the Samoa Independent Water Scheme to cover budget shortfalls.

Office of the Clerk and Legislative Assembly

\$40,000 tala in total has been provided to support Parliamentary Educational Programs for Primary and Secondary Schools. \$80,000 tala has been provided to the Legislative Assembly for hosting of the 45th Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference (POCC).

Public Service Commission

Additional provisions of \$76,620 tala and \$243 tala for PSC's Human Resource Module License and payment of CAPAM membership fees respectively.

Statistics Office

Additional provision of \$167,349 tala for the Household and Income Expenditure Survey (HIES)

National Health Service

Additional \$1 million tala for the Overseas Medical Treatment Scheme.

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**Budget Address on the First Supplementary
Budget Estimates 2013/2014**

Mr Speaker and Honorable members, I have outlined above the key features of the first supplementary budget for the financial year 2013/2014.

As you may have noted, the government has closely scrutinized additional expenditures that can be absorbed against expected revenues. And despite the favorable fiscal conditions and promising signs of economic growth that we have witnessed in recent months, the reality is that we live in a world of uncertainties. In this regard, the government must stay focused and continue to exercise great prudence in closely monitoring its budget and the economy overall to ensure macroeconomic stability is maintained.

Mr Speaker, Honorable members, on behalf of the government, I wish you Mr Speaker honorable members and every citizen of Samoa a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2014. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Finance for clarification of the estimates as tabled before the Assembly. Pursuant to Standing Order 132, debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2013/2014 be adjourned for not less than fourteen days and the bill then stand referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee for consideration to report back to the Assembly.

**ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS BILL 2013
– second reading**

MR SPEAKER: For clarification of Parliament the first reading of the Bill was the 8th October 2013. I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Allied Health Professions Bill 2013 be read for a second time and I wish to discuss the matter.*

Seconded by Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, the Bill seeks to establish the Allied Health Profession Council and to provide for the registration of allied health professionals. The aim is for this Council to manage allied health professions which are being carried out by individuals from different health professions. The country has also insisted on the services of traditional healers, midwives, rural elders and other kind of services that involve healing or physiotherapist and other services like it which are not endorsed under a bill.

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Allied Health Professions Bill 2013
 – second reading

Therefore this bill will rectify official standards whereby these services will be recognized and an administrative body will be able to monitor these services for health safety.

Mr Speaker that is a brief explanation on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification on the Bill. An opportunity is given to any member who wishes to speak on the matter. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I thank the Hon Minister for the bill proposed for I have noticed that it will officially establish an official council for allied health professionals within our hospital and health services. But I have a few questions.

I have noted from the page of Schedules that there are six allied health professions illustrated in this section. Therefore my question is, whether there are enough people to carry out the duties in the six categories presented within the bill?

Secondly Mr Speaker, there is justification given on each member in the Council. Hon Minister by way of the Chair, as stated in the Bill, only five of the six services are represented within the Council. If the Hon Minister is not aware, I see that the Traditional Health Practices are not part of the Council. Why is this? The clarification given by the Hon Minister is greatly respected in this regard however, is there a reason why these services are not included within the Council as stated in the bill?

If you look at the outstanding capabilities mentioned in the bill it clearly suggests that general knowledge is important. This is why I ask why these traditional services are not part of this Council.

Another question Hon Minister by way of the Chair, there are people who specialize in performing acupuncture. I personally do not understand what an acupuncturist is, whether they are Chinese specialists coming to inject us with needles. I humbly ask for an explanation of the term also so that the country will understand. With respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you. The Hon Minister will explain the term, acupuncturists but before he does..... Is there a member who wishes to address the bill before an explanation is given by the Hon Minister? I believe we have all agreed....Pardon Hon Minister the opportunity will be given to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank Mr Speaker for the opportunity, thank you Hon Minister for the bill. Firstly there are some important matters.....

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Allied Health Professions Bill 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the floor but I will allow the interjection by the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaai: Mr Speaker, there is a clear clarification if the members refer to the English translation of the Schedules which explains it further and will save time from continuously asking questions. The six sections are divided into subsections such as Massage therapists as questioned by the previous member. If the page of schedules is examined it will save members from making queries because the bill is clearly clarified.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West to continue his speech upon the bill.

I first give the opportunity to the member whose owns the query. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaio manu Taeu Masipau: Mr Speaker, when you look at Section 4 of the bill it clearly states that there are only five divisions. This is the reason why I questioned that part of the bill which is different from the Schedule elaborated upon by the Hon Prime Minister, but for these individual divisions there are only five represented.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the clarification made by the member is now clear. I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaai: If we look at the English translated section it clearly states the services. It states all of the services mentioned by the member also Acupuncturists which has been in Samoa for a long time now. The reason why I have mentioned it earlier is because I can see that most members are taking the floor to question this but they are not reading the part of the bill which clearly clarifies these issues.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I believe the Hon Minister of Health will elaborate further on the matter later. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I have read the National Health Services Act but we are considering the Allied Health Professions Bill right? Anyway I have already read the Bill, but I will put aside the Act.

The only query I wish to elaborate upon is the mention of traditional healers, because we constantly hear the promotion of their services on the radio.

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– second reading

Also they are promoting services which I did not think they could perform such as healing kidney stones, cancer and others. It is good because it is the individuals own free will to go there although what worries me is it looks as if the bill proposes that these services will be registered.

In my opinion I think these services are doing good as they are at the moment, there is no reason that it should be legalized by law. Because once they are registered at the hospital and given a certificate to carry out health services that is when I believe the Ministry will be affected by the law. The services provided by the Ministry of Health at the moment are good as it is, leave our traditional healers as they are, let them carry on with their practices without us meddling by giving approval certificates to carry out their work. The worry is that we see constantly day by day that once a person returns from the hospital and is not well with the treatment given they seek help from these people on their own free will. And if they seek assistance from these traditional healers and they end up unsatisfied, yet there is a certificate of approval from the Ministry to perform duties, this will result in disputes whereby the Ministry and the Government will also be affected. It is fine to leave our traditional healers to do their work with respect to their individual rights and the right of the person who seeks their assistance and has the belief that they will be blessed with it.

I thank the Hon Minister and Government for the new hospital. The only problem is the electricity which was previously mentioned by the Ministry, which is too expensive, because it seems it is being paid for by the division at.....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the floor but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, it seems the comments are heading towards electricity. Let us focus on the bill. The issue considered is the services of our traditional healers but now there is a sudden mention of electricity issues. There is no mention of electricity within the bill. And as for the issue concerning traditional healers most of the illnesses taken to the hospital cannot be cured by their medicine so they seek help from this group of which I am the father figure and they provide a hundred percent assistance. There are some illnesses that can be cured using overseas medicine. And as for traditional healers they have kept us alive for the past 3,000 years. There are particular illnesses that these practices can cure. There are people who are greatly affected and cannot be cured by the hospital therefore they seek the help of these traditional healers and are cured.

Mr Speaker there is a difference between these services. The most important aspect as elaborated by the Hon Minister is making it official. If there is no bill they will be ridiculed for their work and for not being an official organization. The main thing is to be official.

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– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I believe we understand. Pardon the member but now you are mentioning electricity, you must elaborate on the bill.

Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker with great respect I will. We really need the mile-a-minute weed to rub on our skin to give us strength; it is a very important remedy. I do not wish to satirize these people and their work because their work is important. We do acknowledge them but the concern is the service will be legally official because they will be given a certificate for their services. That is the reason why members are worried. So not only that but whether there is a fee to register or is it for free because this will be one aspect where individuals will avoid registering.

Mr Speaker those are some opinions on the matter, bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The opinion given by the member is now clearly understood. The members who gave opinions have concluded. I call upon the Hon Minister to clarify the questions put forward and to elaborate further on the matter.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Thank you Mr Speaker for administering our sitting. In relation to the query put forward by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, whether there are enough people to carry out services. The truth is there are a lot of traditional healers within the country; I am guessing there are more than 2,000. And this is also the same as traditional birth attendants. Perhaps we are looking at other services that have not yet been seen in the country which does not mean that we will just sit and wait, because we all know that these services are now starting to be brought into the country, therefore there must be provisions within the law that will be able to safeguard these services carried out in the country, just like acupuncturists. A practice carried out by Chinese professionals although at the moment there are more than ten students on scholarship in China undertaking medical school. And in the future some of these students will return with the knowledge to perform acupuncture and continue the practice within the country, and now it is being made official by the bill for such practices to be carried out by our own people.

Although at the moment it is still under the health sector, which is the reason why they are still carrying out their work at the hospital. As for Allied Health professionals like physiotherapists, we have had this service for a while now up at the hospital and other services listed under the Schedules which at the moment are not safeguarded or officially recognized under law. It is why the government is implementing such provisions so such services will be officially recognized and safely considered for the treatment of our people.

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– second reading

That is the clarification concerning acupuncturists. Also the Hon Prime Minister has already explained the position of Council members. Refer to the Applied Health Science Services; bio-medical engineers, bio-medical technicians, audiologists and pharmacologists; for the services under d, e, f, g, there are currently no professionals under these practices but there are individuals who are being educated in these professions for the future. Therefore we cannot choose a member from these professions because there is no qualified individual that has graduated in these fields which is being currently being carried out by overseas assistance.

In relation to the question put forward by the member for Faleata West on the matter of registration of these people, the goal of the bill is to emphasize the allied health professionals so that the country will be able to acknowledge their work. Most of the patients occupying our hospitals and private clinics are those who went to traditional healers for treatment and when they return back to work, their Manager asks, “bring your medical certificate.” The medical certificates provided by traditional healers are not accepted at the workplace only certificates from a licensed doctor and this is the purpose why these services need to be officially recognized so they can be trained and given certificates to be fully acknowledged.

Perhaps there will be a time when training will be implemented for our traditional healers whereby they will be able to graduate with high achievement as an allied health professional, therefore it is important to give them certificates and degrees for performance on services, and be acknowledged under the law.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: We are nearly done...pardon the member but the clarification made by the Hon Minister will have to continue before I grant you an opportunity. What matter do you wish to address? *(to the member for Faleata Sisifo).*

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: This is exactly the point I have been trying to clarify. We have all heard the explanation given by the Hon Minister not only for the administration of services but to educate them. These are the various activities the Ministry is prepared to do. We do not have to educate these people because it is knowledge passed down from family members and other means, but now they are going to be educated again. Also I do not know who is going to present these individuals with certificates. The Hon Minister cannot present them with certificates because he does not have the knowledge and understanding about the profession. The only thing he can do is to inject patients but as for traditional healings the Hon Minister has no knowledge about it.

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Allied Health Professions Bill 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member but a doctor is a doctor. Whether European or Samoan, a doctor is doctor. They understand every health related matter.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, only the Hon Prime Minister can present certificates to traditional healers because he is the father figure and they are under his supervision, as for the Hon Minister...that is what he does.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister you may continue with your clarification without mentioning the matter prompted by the member.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I do not know whether you are aware that the Hon Prime Minister is one of the best traditional healers there is at the moment. He should be given a certificate as well for he has passed remarkably.

The Ministry is also concerned about the matter also mentioned. There are misleading advertisements by traditional healers announcing “I treat diabetes and high blood pressure.” This is unsafe for our people because it will mislead those who have diabetes and high blood pressure and there is no proof. Fortunately this bill will allow such services to be part of the allied health profession division whereby they will be known for their own work and not to perform services that are not part of their practice, because it is unsafe for our people.

Those are some of the important issues of the bill. Mr Speaker, these are some of the clarifications for those who use these services and do not understand.

Tofa TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA (Aana Alofi No. 3): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: The member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Tofa TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker, perhaps there is not much emphasis on the bill....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Aana Alofi No. 3, the Hon Minister has already given his explanation. I believe he has given a clear explanation, but you are given the opportunity to state your opinion on the matter during the consideration in detail of bill.

I call upon the member for Siumu.

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Allied Health Professions Bill 2013
– second reading

Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu): A point of clarification Mr Speaker. I just want to ask the Hon Minister, what traditional healing does the Hon Prime Minister specialize in? With respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi: I must answer because I am a traditional healer. If the member is ill then come to my office and I will massage you. It is done using the hands to massage aching parts of the body resulting from uncirculated blood. You have to feel and massage the body to loosen up the fat and when it gets to the part where the fat is thick then you really have to punch it. The reason why some people are greatly affected is based on the fact they are not well educated. Also for these kinds of practices there should always be trainings. The mother teaches her children how to perform the massage. The explanation given by the Hon Minister is very true. Also the bill produces a Regulation that implements provisions of presentation of certificates and licenses to legalize these professions. We should remember that this is done not only to make traditional healers official but also to guarantee the safety of our people from fraud. There was a time when I went to seek help for my aching back and the person said, “You are possessed by your late wife. Your late wife who is buried outside is unhappy because you have another wife.” This is very useful for the member of Siumu. This is the reason why people need protecting because when you go there with uncirculated blood you will be asked, “Were you dishonest last night, you are possessed by your deceased spouse?”

Mr Speaker that is the answer on the question asked but I am also another traditional healer that is why these old women have selected me to be their father figure because I understand exactly what they are doing.

And that Mr Speaker is the clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Tofa Tuuu Anasii Leota: There are a lot of members who are affected by the illness mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister. I have been searching in circles for a doctor but now I have found one. We shall meet tonight Hon Prime Minister.

Motion approved and the Allied Health Professions Bill 2013 was read a second time.

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Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the bill will be referred to the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee for consideration to report back to the Assembly in an ensuing sitting.

HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION BILL 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For clarification of Parliament this bill was first read on 8th October 2013. I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013 be read a second time and I wish to elaborate on it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister for his clarification on the bill.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, the establishment of the Samoa Health Promotion Foundation is one of the major Government reforms in the health sector, separating the delivery of health services from the regulatory and monitoring of these services. Upon establishment of the Foundation, the Ministry of Healths functions will then focus primarily on its regulatory and monitoring roles in the health sector while the Foundation focuses on the promotion of health, and delivery and implementing of activities which promote the health of the Samoan people. The Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013 establishes the Samoa Health Promotion Foundation, and provides for the Foundation's objectives, functions and powers. The strategic direction of the Foundation will be governed and controlled by a Board of Directors comprising of seven (7) members. The daily operations of the Foundation will be carried out by the Chief Executive Officer and the staff of the Foundation to be appointed in accordance with the legislation.

The Foundation will be initially funded from the Government of Samoa grants, grants from other organizations, both local and international, donations, bequests and other funds received by the Foundation. The Bill also establishes a Health Promotion Fund in which all monies received by the Foundation will be paid, and funds for the Foundation's operations will be paid out. It is proposed that the sources of funding for the Foundation be reviewed within five (5) years of the legislation establishing the Foundation being enforced. That Mr Speaker is a brief explanation on the Bill, with utmost respect.

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Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I believe the floor is now open to anyone who wishes to elaborate on the bill. I call upon the member.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Hon Minister for his clarification of the bill.

I will be brief Mr Speaker. I have noticed nowadays that there seems to be a lot of bills especially amendments. And now this new division is being proposed although it has the same goal as the others to promote health awareness. Therefore in my opinion if most of these bills implemented have the same goal with this bill, I believe these services have poor results and performances.

Mr Speaker I will elaborate using the reports of the National Kidney Foundation as an example. It has now reached a situation whereby there are three stages of this illness. The first stage is the assumed cases and second is the proven cases. The third stage is when there is an assumption of whether it is proven or assumed case. Mr Speaker if we look at the reports presented by the National Kidney Foundation it seems there is an increasing number of patients, about 80 patients with kidney problems. There are other patients, approximately 100 to 200 who are beginning to have health problems. Also we are aware of the budget voiced by the Hon Minister of Finance that another \$1 million will be given to the Foundation. This means Mr Speaker that there is a problem with the services, but if the Hon Minister is trying to implement this new initiative for improved services and to save Government resources, I convey my blessings to you. I advise the Hon Minister to revise the services. It is noted in past Appropriations that there is less expenditure given to prevention measures as opposed to the expenditure on local and overseas treatment.

My advice on the matter, as we are all aware of financial grants given for such programs. I am very pleased with the outreach services of our doctors sponsored by Digicel and this is just a recommendation to consider Hon Minister. Funds should be appropriated for private doctors. We have many doctors who have the time and we can implement a program for daily medical checkups for every constituency as a solution to this issue.

Those are a few recommendations on the matter but the discretion is with the Hon Minister. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech. I will firstly give the opportunity to the member for Faleata East, before an opportunity is given to the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

I call upon the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon Minister especially the Ministry for such an important bill.

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Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013
– second reading

I am concerned about the Bill Mr Speaker. The public is aware that nearly every health issue; diabetes, aids and cancer has a promotion and health awareness program. All the health divisions have their own awareness program. Therefore I ask the Hon Minister whether the bill will promote all the health services. Because as mentioned by one of the members, this is one sector where a lot of government money is being spent but it is an important sector and a country cannot thrive without a healthy population.

If we watch the advertisements of products that are harmful to our health screened on television, who is responsible for preventing these advertisements? As mentioned by the Hon Minister in previous proceeding, diabetes is one of the most deadly diseases there is today. If we look at the television and the promotions of cheap soft drinks and beer, it seems it is not stopping people from buying these products thus contributing to their health problems which is what the bill should be emphasizing. Therefore I ask the Hon Minister if the bill will provide for such matters?

There are only four main objectives of the bill. Also when you look at the bill it seems the administration of services is very dependent on the CEO, and most of the activities are carried out by one person. The bill also provides for a Board to appoint the CEO. I had an expectation that the bill should have provided for an administration staff and an administration structure because when the Bill is implemented it will not be a minor task to promote healthy living for the country as a whole. Those are the queries put forward for the Hon Minister, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification. I call upon one of the members for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also wish to comment on such an important bill as presented; perhaps today is the day for the Minister of Health.

I note that this proposed foundation presented in the bill will be added to the current administration structure of which there are services for health prevention and health care. It is clear from our consultations that the bills main idea is health promotion. In relation to the main objectives and services provided for in the bill as mentioned by some members the bill greatly emphasizes promotion of health so that it will signify the health slogan, 'prevention is better than cure' and honestly that is what I perceive as the main aim of the bill. If we look at the main office it implements health protection to which I ask myself what is the difference between promotion and protection, because both terms are emphasizing protection from diseases. As for the duties of Health Care they have their own safety measures. Thus I wish to convey that there is no need to spend more money on such a division, but as for the bill it is well drafted.

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– second reading

This is just a recommendation because I do not know how many people will be employed except for the Board which is made up of seven people; there is an Advisory Board which is more money to be spent. There could be one or even more, maybe ten, twenty or more, but this is just a justification based on the money that will be spent.

I have noticed nowadays that the most serious diseases affecting our people are diabetes and high blood pressure. I believe with all the promotions going on at the moment, it is really good and with these ongoing promotions there will be less money spent. The public are all aware of these awareness programs especially for the two serious diseases and promotions and awareness programs are progressing smoothly.

A recommendation to the Hon Minister; the Ministry can have one CEO and this service can be provided for under a new division with a single funding stream. If a new Chief Executive Office position is to be implemented surely it will have a separate remuneration package similar to the current CEO, assistant CEOs will be appointed and a car will be provided, and in addition petrol and the concern is the expenses.

Furthermore, there is the Board of Directors of which the Hon Prime Minister is Chairperson. I want to question why the Hon Prime Minister is Chairperson when there is a Minister. This is the issue I merely am pointing out whether there is a problem or is it because the Hon Minister is not trusted by the Hon Prime Minister. If we look at the final process of the annual reports submitted by the Board of which the Hon Prime Minister is Chairperson, it is submitted to the Minister. This sort of arrangement is unsuitable in my perspective.

There are also humorous aspects to the bill with respect Mr Speaker before it is referred to Committee. In the Bill, power is given to the Chairperson of the Board to remove a qualified member from the Board acting on the advice of the Cabinet. The Hon Prime Minister is the Chairperson, the Hon Minister is deputy Chairperson and advice is given by Cabinet. I submit this matter for review Hon Minister whether it is appropriate.

In addition, I query the relevance of the Board of Directors appointing the CEO as well as the staff.

Also, if we look at the way the decisions of the Board are being carried out it seems the majority decides, although it also states that the Chairperson has the power to choose and decide. Thus I will let you decide Hon Minister to look into the matter yourself, our recommendations are also really important before we reach a situation where we....

Finally I wish to ask the Hon Minister who is also a doctor, can physical exercise take away mental stress? Can exercise cure the worries of the high cost of living we are facing today? This is my question with respect, thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

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MR SPEAKER: Well done. I will still give the opportunity to the members because of the importance of bill that we are discussing this morning. I call upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA (Falealupo): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I stand with utmost respect this morning to elaborate on a minor issue in relation to such an important bill.

Mr Speaker, the title of the bill is, Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013 and the reason for taking the floor concerns promotion of health; has it just been implemented? This is why we...

Mr Speaker I believe the Health Sector was sub-divided into the Ministry of Health and National Health Services with the objective for it to be properly established. At the moment, the matter should be considered quickly because the services at the hospital are very poor. This bill as you may perceive Mr Speaker suggests the promotion of the improvement of health.

The main aim of the bill is to establish another new division that does promotion, but it has already been promoted. The matter I am trying to address Hon Minister is the importance of services because the services of the Health Ministry are very poor yet you are trying to implement another new initiative of promotion as if we are not aware, it is what we are all used to. The main intention is to improve what needs to be improved instead of what the bill is trying to implement. The objective though of the bill is really to establish another new Ministry whereby more money will be spent but it is the service that needs to be looked at because it is lacking. The matter that needs to be considered Hon Minister is that we have sufficient doctors and that they are highly paid. However I can see that there will be a Board of Directors which is completely unnecessary especially with the Prime Minister being Chairperson. Hon Prime Minister you are faced with a lot of responsibilities; reviewing reports, maintaining your portfolio and dealing with the Ministers and their issues. These are far more important matters than to be Chairperson of this Board. This will be another new entity which will be expensive and yet the services are poor. I would rather the entities combine to improve services. For three to four hours patients wait although the service is being improved, so what are the names of the services that are being improved because they are still poor. An advice on the bill; we must improve the current services instead of wasting money on additional projects. We are bankrupt, we are in debt, let me correct my statement, we have insufficient finances. What are we doing and promoting? Is this not the reason why the Sector was sub divided for them to monitor these sectors of health? So no matter how long four, five hours they have to wait and now another new Ministry is going to be implemented with more money to be spent....

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– second reading

MR SPEAKER: The opinion of the respectable member is clearly understood and I believe the opinion given is of great importance. I humbly announce that it is now time for our normal recess hour. I will give the opportunity to members who wish to comment on the Bill when we return from our morning recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10.40 am until 11.22 am.

MR SPEAKER: I believe everyone has found strength and had our fill to our hearts content from the food provided. We have just had our morning tea and there will be lunch served this afternoon as our House is aware, we will be provided by one of our members who has left his seat in order to prepare afternoon lunch for the House. I want to thank all the respectable members of the House for your patience and determination to carry out our orders for today.

Before we took recess the House was deliberating on the bill put forward by the Ministry of Health on the promotion of various health services. I call upon the member for Vaisigano No. 2 to be followed by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo and the member for Faleata West.

Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI (Vaisigano No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I wish to comment on the bill. Because there is not much time I will just be brief on the matter. I believe most of the opinions given this morning have covered most of the concerns on the matter. But I personally believe Mr Speaker that the bill is proposing to establish another new Ministry which will have its own CEO as mentioned by some of the previous members. In relation to what I have seen today, it seems that the administration of the Ministry of Health has expanded yet there is less importance laid upon the services. If we look at the Ministry of Health separate from the National Health Services, there are 130 employees and 9 ACEOs and their only task is to regulate and monitor and now this additional administration. So what did the National Health Services and others do in the past? This is why I support the notion of one of my colleagues and fellow doctor and member for Falealupo; the administration of these services is inefficient. The state of diabetes and high blood pressure is really poor, and it is not decreasing which saddens me because most of diabetics and high blood pressure patients are... I strongly believe that funds should be appropriated to strengthen Health Education which is an existing department. The Government must create radical policies on health promotion rather than implementing another new entity with a CEO and staff. That is my opinion on the bill proposed this morning.

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The administration is inefficient. We see now that there are jazzercises again where people had to pay and now it is being carried out again. We should do something that is permanent, we should implement something that has a good purpose, but not a bill...especially to make people feel good, do something that will be very effective. And that Mr Speaker is an opinion on the matter and I place it before Government to act on it. Our country consists of 180,000 people but I believe the work done is not done efficiently. They must evaluate the matter properly and plan strategically in order to counter the spread of diabetes and high blood pressure because it is an epidemic and it seems to be continuously increasing and not decreasing.

Mr Speaker that is a brief explanation in relation to the Bill. Bless today's proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the reminder and your comments on the bill. I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker and also to members of the House. I take the floor to elaborate on a small matter. There are many remarks that the hospital has very poor service. Mr Speaker I was at the hospital last night taking a sick relative to the Emergency Unit at Motootua, I guess it was some time in the evening when it was dark. The patient was about to be carried in to the hospital when suddenly it rained then he was taken to the A & E. I feel comfort when services are done well and now I am hearing the speeches made by some of the members especially from some members who worked at the hospital criticizing the Ministry for the poor state of the services.

Therefore I am saddened by these accusations because I personally observed the work of the medical staff of the hospital. I want to balance out the accusations with positive remarks.

When we arrived at the hospital last night, an orderly came and assisted us by carrying our patient who was big and heavy. He was laid on a bed and the nurses occupied themselves by providing oxygen and taking the usual measures undertaken when there is an emergency at the hospital. At that same time I took a chair and I had a talk with the doctor which I believe was in charge of the night shift. I do not know whether he knew me but his manners were very respectable. I also noticed a woman doctor who was also busy and it looked as if she was holding an x ray which I believe she was examining. I also came to observe the room behind me where another nurse was holding a big white envelope, which seemed like an x ray, on my left I noticed an old man being carried by his children with assistance from hospital staff which looked as if he was being taken to be bathed while some of his children were preparing his bed for him to sleep in upon his return from his bath.

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On the other side a young man was calling the people to get their numbers so they can be called in to see the doctor. This means that there were about three doctors working at the same time. The way the hospital operates as I observed, not only is it busy but there are many patients and also there are many services done. Compared to the services of hospitals overseas, they were true professionals not only for their performance but also the way they were dressed because they had different uniforms. Others wore a blue uniform with a white material inside and others wore plain clothes perhaps these are the doctors. I am proud of how well they perform their duties especially the specialized staff from the doctors to the security guards. I saw last night that there was a young man who came to the hospital who seemed angry maybe because he was beaten by some family members. He was brought in a wheelchair and was followed by a security who escorted him to the back because it seemed as if he wanted to fight with someone.

All of the occurrences that I have mentioned Mr Speaker are to rebut the comments by previous members saying that the services of the hospital are poor. Perhaps we all have different views based on our experiences.

Tofa Motuopuaa Uifasaga Aisoli Vaai: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the floor but I will give the opportunity to the interjection made by the member.

Tofa Motuopuaa Uifasaga Aisoli Vaai: Thank you, I do not think the member understands the explanation given. We are talking about the administration. The performance of the doctors at the hospital is a hundred percent. We are not talking about the services of the doctors but we are talking about the administration and the Health Promotion Board.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The notion put forward by the member is now understood. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is the reason why we barely take the floor because we are talking about service delivery. The member is talking about the services at the moment but it seems the time when these two doctors were working at the hospital in the past, the service was really poor. This means they are talking about their time, thus the member has elaborated about last night and the current service delivery. The Bill is trying to further improve the state of the services to be far better than the services seen last night.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well.

Tofa Motuopuaa Uifasaga Aisoli Vaai: Mr Speaker, the matter is now more confusing with the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister. We are currently talking about the Health Promotion Bill and the comments were made towards the Health Promotion Bill. As for the time me and the member for Falealupo were there it was outstanding; it was not 100% but 150%.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. It is not a contest doctor; your clinic seems to be full all the time nowadays because of your good service. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaai: Mr Speaker, this is also the reason why these two have moved away from the hospital because they are not needed anymore.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Vaisigano No. 2.

Tofa Motuopuaa Uifasaga Aisoli Vaai: Mr Speaker the reason why we left the hospital is because our pay was not good; the nurses had better pay than us.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. You must be satisfied because you are now fortunate with the remunerations today because of the pleas of some doctors. I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo to conclude your explanation. I thank you for embracing the Ministry.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I also want to thank the respectable doctor who gave his service to serve the Ministry. What I meant was, I was trying to relate the incident that occurred last night to illustrate the current improved services, but I am well aware of the bill. This does not mean I have taken the floor because I do not understand the bill, no I do understand. But it is also important to level out our Parliament, if you talk about matters that are not good then we will talk about what is good. Perhaps there will come a time where improvements can be made. As of now I am satisfied and happy with the services provided.

Mr Speaker I wish to conclude by saying that despite the incompleteness of phase 2 of the Hospital for the Outpatient to be built with overseas assistance, the current service delivery provided as I observed last night is efficient.

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I conclude by saying that I support the bill. The bill clearly states that this is a Foundation for Health Promotion. I do not know if the Samoan translation is accurate but the main idea here is promotion which is the main objective. I will read out part of the bill because members are saying I do not understand. “The objectives of the Foundation are: (a) to promote and encourage health promotion in the population of all ages in accordance with national health policies; (b) to fund activities related to the promotion of good health, safety or the prevention and early detection of disease; (c) to increase awareness of programs for promoting good health in the community through the sponsorship of sports, the arts and culture; (d) to encourage healthy lifestyles in the community and support activities involving participation in healthy pursuits;” and...

I greatly support this because this new division is also important. It is true that there are already many other divisions like this of the hospital but they have different responsibilities, duties and obligations. But let us be grateful for this bill, perhaps it will be of great importance.

Mr Speaker that is the clarification based on a previous notion given and I support the matter debated. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification. I now call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also wish to give thanks to the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the bill. The obligation of being a doctor is very hard. We try to accept positive changes and modifications but when you go to the hospital to be checked at 8am but the doctor sees you at 3pm, you get upset. What I am trying to say is their performance can be easily measured because we observe it every day.

Therefore I wish to congratulate them because it not something easy. As for emergency cases which I have seen myself the service is really good. With the exception of the outpatient which there is much debate upon, it seems this service should be looked into. I asked the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Services to calculate and evaluate the matter whether it is fair. If there are 100,000 patients going to the hospital each year and the subsidy is \$10, there are more private doctors and patients will still see them therefore the number will quickly decline...say about a million or less than what will be spent in a year, which will save a lot. As of the moment the hospital is employing private doctors whom are paid by the government. This is a reason why there have been a few disputes with the doctors who are working at the hospital because it seems the private doctors are paid \$250 an hour but the rate for the doctors at the hospital does not reach that amount. And that is one issue that we must look into.

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Then I come to the foundation; a foundation in my interpretation is a private organization that relies on donations and grants from overseas for its operations like the Bill Gates Foundation. These kinds of people who own millions, they help various people. That is my understanding of the term foundation lest I am wrong. It is not another new Ministry. There was also a Health Foundation and I have no idea what the status is, but this is one very important sector because it is linked to the diseases that we are currently debating. Now the Ministry proposes another new division.

When I look at the budget most of government finances are been spent on ISP, which is the improvement of government ministries service delivery. It was also mentioned by the Hon Minister of Finance at the beginning of the budget address, ‘the government will provide financial support for the improvement of duties and services to the country.’ My question is, is this the answer, establish an additional government ministry? I believe wages have increased and also the services have improved....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, I do not wish to interrupt the member but a point of order has to be made. There is no new Ministry. The bill does not propose to establish a new Ministry. There is only one Ministry at the moment and once this bill is passed there will still be one Ministry, this is the correction.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification because the issue has been constantly mentioned by other members I call upon the member for Faleata West. I believe your notion has been acknowledged but do carry on with your remarks.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I believe we understand Mr Speaker that it is a new Ministry. There is a new Board and a new CEO which means a new Ministry. So what I am trying to say is, the initiative is important but does it justify the establishment of a new Ministry?

Growing up, the Ministry of Health emphasized two issues; protection and cure. There is also prevention. I have tried looking through the bill for the [Samoan translation for promotion but there is only a general phrase within the bill](#). So what will the Ministry of Health do?

The most important thing to consider as you are aware Mr Speaker, you have just returned from a meeting with the Hon Minister of Health, we have emphasized and put great importance upon SPAGHL.

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The world has greatly acknowledged this which was founded by the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and us in the beginning which has now been continued by your honor. You are now travelling without taking us but it is alright, the year has come to an end, and....

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to elaborate on the bill and not to discuss the matters of SPAGHL. I apologize to the member but the trips are only for the chairperson and not everyone. Address the bill.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Alright, thank you. I apologize Mr Speaker. Do not worry you are the Chairperson, you go all the time. It has been a year since SPAGHL Committee was founded Mr Speaker, which also has Members of Parliament, and it has been very effective. This is because when we go back to the villages they follow their leaders. So why do we have to establish this new division where a lot of money will be spent but we still have a lot of time to promote this important matter.

On another matter, when we watch television and read the newspapers it advertises alcohol day and night. This issue was also raised in the Committee whether a legislation should provide for the advertisement to run from 10pm when the children are asleep but it was unsuccessful. It is true that there are counter-Ads, but the advertisements are too aggressive and it is very difficult.

Mr Speaker, I personally believe that there is no need for a new Ministry to be implemented, but the duties of the Ministry need to be adjusted accordingly. The Ministry is divided into three sub divisions and now it will be four but whether the services will improve is questionable. We all want it to improve. There are only two things that need to be included in the promotion, “what you eat, is what you are.” It is only food and exercise. Those are the only two things. What else do we need to be informed about? There is nothing new, as for the Samoan healings leave it to our traditional healers. There is nothing new that the country is not already aware of. The Hon Minister cannot restructure these services by implementing a new Ministry. There are enough employees at the moment. If half of the employees or three quarters of the employees are taken to carry out these duties and only about ten employees are left, perhaps this is suitable in my belief. But if....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the floor, because your comment is very important. The Hon Minister of Health has taken the liberty to adhere to your queries.

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, the member for Faleata West always seems to mention a new Ministry, but he himself has mentioned the answer. I rise to point out that the member understands the intention of the bill which is to reorganize the services. I was waiting to elaborate on the matter later but it seems the member has mentioned it and I wanted to use this opportunity to clarify the intention of the bill which is to reorganize the services of the Sector but there is only one Ministry.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the member to conclude his remarks for the House now clearly understands the opinion given.

Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Hon Minister. We cannot try and change the color of the Samoan flag which is behind you Mr Speaker; it will remain blue and red. It should be reorganized like NUS and Polytech; both of which are educational institutions. They have implemented sub divisions, which is really effective and it does not mean that... Nonetheless Mr Speaker, the phrase new Ministry will be removed and replaced by new administration perhaps this will help you...

These are some thoughts that are laid before you in case some might think that this side has not submitted an opinion. We have observed that government services are very important and we are not trying to criticize a Ministry but we must do what is best for the country. This does not mean that Samoa will have to follow other countries of the world but if there is something that is suitable to Samoa, there should be consideration of our budget. When we went on a trip with the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development to Thailand where this idea of promotion originated, the taxes gained from cigarettes and alcohol levies are used to fund this foundation. We must remember that this is a lot of money, which is very difficult for us to carry out.

Therefore I wish to conclude that health is really important. I also take this opportunity to humbly convey my condolences to the wife, children and family also to the friends and the class of CEOs for the passing of CEO Taulealeausumai. Be courageous for it is not easy. Let us not lose sight of the importance of our health because of our work... but may the spirit of the Lord give comfort to you all because of the loss of one very important servant of the country. Bless our sitting for today. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I now call upon the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga TOEOLLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I wish to comment on the bill laid before the House today.

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Mr Speaker in my belief the Foundation should not be administered by the Government. As an example Mr Speaker, if there is a need for a Health Promotion Foundation it is much better to let it be independent. If the government wishes to contribute to it then they are free to do so but do not let them run it like a SOE.

Mr Speaker, I have come to observe that it seems that the Ministry seeks to gain access to overseas grants. I believe if the Foundation is run by the Government, there will be no independence but this is what overseas donors want. Therefore it must be independent and if the Government has shares in it this is also important. I also believe Mr Speaker, as mentioned earlier by other members; there are other divisions such as the National Kidney Foundation and National Health Services who carry out health promotion and health awareness programs specific to their own divisions. I believe it is very important to strengthen these divisions with their specific issues rather than implementing a Health Promotion Foundation separate from them. Public health officials should communicate on how to raise public health awareness through advertisements and other strategies

As for the patients at the hospitals, I believe the hospital is also implementing their own programs. Also private doctors are taking part in these programs. I believe Mr Speaker that the Administration must revise the need for a Health Promotion Foundation; are those currently carrying out their programs unable to continue? In the past there were Women Committees who were very influential in implementing these services in the rural villages and this initiative should be strengthened. As previous members have mentioned the expenses in the preparation of this new entity, funds for such a Foundation can be accumulated from a cigarette levy at the same time decreasing the amount of public funds for such a development. It is not only health that is affected by issues that have taxes and levy.

This is an opinion on the matter Mr Speaker. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you for the speech. I will give this last opportunity to... Well I will give the floor first to the Leader of the the Opposition and the last opportunity to the Associate Minister.

I call upon the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Thank you for the recognition given to us because that side should not comment because it is their bill. But I take the floor with respect Mr Speaker and the dignity of this House first of all to comment on a matter I raised previously regarding the report of the Chief Auditor which the Chair has ruled on.

Firstly Mr Speaker, I humbly apologize, the intention of this side of the Chamber is to keep the dignity of the Chair and we support you and your duties.

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However as for your decision, the fact of the matter is that Audit Reports are nothing new. It was done during the time of the former Speaker and member for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, also by the Minister of Women, we could always....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the report mentioned by the Leader of Opposition has already been discussed.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the stand. I beg tolerance Leader of the Opposition this is the reason why I gave you the opportunity in respect of our policies but move away from the matter....

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: But it must be thoroughly clarified because the decision you have made is not pursuant to Standing Orders. Therefore we must discuss it thoroughly because it affects our order of business. This is the reason for taking the floor.

MR SPEAKER: There is no need for you to discuss the issue. I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition because we cannot debate on Announcements by the Speaker. And that is an order. The announcements made by the Speaker are neutral and the Chair has authority to decide on what is said in his announcements, without question. And that is my announcement. I call upon the member to take the stand to elaborate on the bill that we are currently discussing.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: The country is listening in to our proceedings but I will abide by your decision. But the processes regarding our order of business and reports tabled before the Chamber is the reason for taking the floor. As for the Bill Mr Speaker this side of the Chamber has already given its opinion, therefore I will just be brief for this new body should not be established. Why? The government has a limited budget. This is seen by the three percent salary increase. There is only a \$2 million raise but now a new Ministry is going to be established? Be considerate of the salaries of the people; salaries which will assist with the improvement of the services of our doctors and nurses. Also consider some of the nurses who are resigning. Why is this?

MR SPEAKER: Pardon to the Leader of Opposition. I will give the opportunity for the interjection by the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order. The Hon Minister has already discussed what is included within the bill. There is still time when the bill is passed when the Ministry can review their divisions.

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There is a lot of time to review the Bill. It will be referred to a Committee for thorough consideration and those ignorant of the intentions of the Bill can also use this opportunity. Persisting on irrelevant matters does not equal a positive. The Hon Minister has already emphasized protection and that there are strategies for restructuring. The problem is that the Bill has long been available but no one bothers to read it. If the bill had been read the Hon Ministers constant clarifications would be understood. There will only be a restructuring not a new Ministry as is believed by many.

Mr Speaker I have taken the floor to correct the Leader of the Opposition. If you have not prepared anything on the matter then let it be, but the Hon Minister has already elaborated on the matter; there will only be restructuring of responsibilities to improve the health services. I have also clarified but still the remarks that the services are poor still reverberate. Also one member shared his observations from last night. The reason for many of these bills is to allow private doctors to assist the National Health Services.

Do you recall the strike in 2005 or was it 2006; it did not cause a shortage in the services. Why? The Government had prepared legislations enabling many private doctors to assist with the National Health Services. Also private doctors with their private clinics are employed by the Government to carry out mobile clinics.

Mr Speaker, whatever they wish to argue to gain points they will not gain any for actions speak louder than words. Mr Speaker it is similar overseas. I have been overseas many times and I have noted the criticism of services, even in New Zealand. There are complaints about the long waiting hours even for those awaiting surgery. It takes months for people to wait. Compared to our surgery; once a person is submitted for surgery it is done instantly.

Mr Speaker, there is a lot of nonsense without much thought. One thing that ought to be remembered is that actions speak louder than words. Mr Speaker that is the clarification to assist the Leader of the Opposition.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon the member to continue with his comments.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I am thankful the interruption is over. Whether the services are restructured, funding is needed. Consider thoroughly the clarification made by the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the services are restructured, and so funding is readjusted. If services and staff are to be reorganized, money is also realigned. This is the clarification.

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member to continue with his comments.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I will not touch on the matter further. Consider this, the Hon Prime Minister is Chairperson and the Hon Minister is Deputy Chairperson but Government policies were just reviewed and no Minister is to be part of a Board. It seems there is contradictions in these decisions.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order. The mentioned policy is related to commercial Government entities. The Health Services is not a commercial Government entity. As for the issue that they are currently trying to convey, it is sufficient that the Prime Minister is part of the decision making, especially with the increased number of those affected by the 8 or 9 deadly diseases which includes high blood pressure. And why is this? Every country that experiences a developing economy is affected by these diseases. Why? For with the high standards of living, there is better food and the issue will recur. The responsibility of the Health Sector is to implement rural visits, also for schools. This is why the comment by the member for Faleata West is incorrect that there are only two things to consider; exercise and food. How silly is this? There are more than two. I believe when the Hon Minister takes the floor to clarify the matter we will hear how outrageous these thoughts are that undermine the health services work in minimizing these diseases. Standard of living is improving and the food products that are a health risk are more affordable. Importation of turkey tails was banned but there is still demand but this is one contributing factor to these diseases.

Mr Speaker, it is not only food but also drinks. The member only mentioned food and exercise, but it also includes drinks. I will now sit Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The member was mentioned although there was no offence I allow the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: No matter where in the world we travel, the doctor will always ask; what is your diet? Are you exercising? If we control our diet, it is alright. If we look at the advertised promotions it only mentions diet and exercise. I know there are other factors but these are the main factors that contribute to these diseases. It is the food we eat; what you put in, you bring out. I am big, I am fat, but I am very healthy.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. We are taking up the time of the Leader of the Opposition, please continue.

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Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: This is exactly what I mentioned earlier, there is inconsistency in decision making and this is the same with the decision by the Chair on the Audit report.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition, this is my final warning.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: The reason for taking the floor is to compare these policies, for if they are true, then this side will abide to the policies of Parliament, Cabinet and the Government. I rise so that these are not questioned. The policy is to remove the Minister whether it is commercial or not, it is a Government entity.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking; I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order. When I first came into Parliament, if Mr Speaker ordered a member to sit and it was not adhered to, the member would be removed from the House. I take the floor to salute you for your patience in allowing opportunities for if it was the former Speaker he would have ordered disobedient members removed.

MR SPEAKER: Well Leader of the Opposition, as I have just said....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Are you obeying the Hon Prime Minister?

MR SPEAKER: Sit down! We are heading where I do not want to go. You have never seen me mad so do not take advantage of my hospitality. I have to warn you now. If we investigate the issue you are pursuing, there is no truth in any of your comments. In respect of the Orders and provisions, I did not make my decision on a whim. The advice of the Attorney General found it to be an offence. Who then do you believe? You spoke of your respect of this Chair, so stay true to your word. I did not mention your name because of our relationship but this indicates that you leaked the report. I prayed to the Lord to show me the culprit for cursed is he who betrays the decision of the Lord, the Chair and this House. Leader of the Opposition, be cautious because I am also being cautious so that our work will proceed as planned. Reflect on your relationship with Leulumoega. I am capable of my duties but those days are different from today, you are a Deacon Elder, therefore you should behave like one and not ignite conflict which may result in a distasteful occurrence.

You may continue to elaborate on the bill, and do not comment on the matters I mentioned.

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Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: No, I respect you.

MR SPEAKER: Then show your respect.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: It is because of my respect that I will conclude my remarks.

MR SPEAKER: If that is to be...thank you.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I have respect Mr Speaker, but I am saddened by the Hon Prime Ministers comments. To point out, I am very familiar with being removed from the House and from this seat. I humbly apologize Mr Speaker, but a point of order, I did not leak the Audit report; it was perhaps someone from that side of the chamber.

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I just wish to further emphasize my gratitude for if it were another Speaker being challenged a swift decision would have been made.

MR SPEAKER: I beg leniency of the Leader of the country, continue Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Thank you for the opportunity. If I elaborate on other matters the Hon Prime Minister will again interject so for today, thank you for the opportunity, God bless our sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well Associate Minister this is the last opportunity before the clarification by the Hon Minister of Health is made.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No. 1): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I salute you for your prudence and consideration in guiding our proceedings.

I rise in relation to the very important bill or this new division proposed by the Ministry of Health to promote public health.

Firstly I would like to thank the Hon Minister especially the Ministry for the foresight. For health alone, we are all aware of the health issues currently affecting our people. Mr Speaker if we consider the substantial appropriation for treatment, I believe it is about time that we consider counter strategies to decrease expenses and redirect the funds elsewhere. However this cannot be done if we do not propose a framework to create awareness of risk factors that result in unhealthy living.

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Therefore I thank the Hon Minister for his foresight and deep consideration of strategies to minimize expenditure on treatments. I heard, as previously mentioned this morning that \$1 million has been allocated for overseas treatment, for patients who cannot be treated locally. These are some of the measures taken by government in order to assist patients who cannot be treated locally.

Mr Speaker, I believe that any new initiative is met with suspicion and objection. But if we look at some new changes within the country for instance the road switch which was met with a lot of opposition with the view that many will be killed. As of now, nearly every family owns a car but before no one could afford to buy a car in Samoa, because it was expensive at that time....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: What is the matter you wish to correct?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Regarding the comment that no one will be killed after the road switch.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition, no matter....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: If we consider the number of traffic deaths, we question the reasons.

MR SPEAKER: I understand the interjection.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The point of order is that there are many deaths.

MR SPEAKER: Those are common accidents unrelated to the road switch. I call upon the member.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW: Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the interjection, but if we investigate the reasons for these deaths it is not a result of the road switch, it is the carelessness of the driver.

Continuing on; these are some of the changes that are not easily accepted, but for a vigilant leader, the future is first and foremost regardless and in hindsight it will be said that our lives are blessed. This is how we should view our daily challenges.

Therefore Mr Speaker I salute the decision to appoint the Hon Prime Minister as Chairperson because if we are to prioritize the health of our people so must the leaders of the country.

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I am thankful for the vision and foresight which indicates the commitment of the Government to national health.

Mr Speaker, to conclude, perhaps the Samoan translation ‘uunaia’ is inaccurate to describe promote rather ‘faalauiloa’ is preferable for general understanding of the intention of this Foundation.

Those are some thoughts on the issue Mr Speaker and I give my utmost thanks and support on behalf of Faasaleleaga No. 1 to these new changes for the betterment of Samoas health. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the Hon Minister of Health who is responsible for the bill. I believe all will be clarified with the Ministers explanation.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, I am thankful for the comments, recommendations and discussions made during our proceedings. I am not surprised by some of the comments although there were matters that were poles apart from the matter discussed but the Bills intention is very clear which should be the case because each Member has a copy. Some matters have been clarified during the debates but I will comment generally to emphasize the gist of the health sector.

Beginning with the bill; there is confusion on this matter for the bill is on Health Promotion but most commented on the national health services. The National Health Services bill will be tabled later but it has already been discussed therefore when the health services bill is tabled no one will have to elaborate on it because you have already commented through this bill. That bill will now be clarified so thank you. As for the bill tabled it is transparent; Health Promotion Foundation Bill.

I will first answer to the persistent belief that this will be a new Ministry. Despite the constant clarifications that there is no new body still there is constant contradictions. There is still one Ministry but there will only be a restructuring of responsibilities. If this were a new initiative, there would be new staff and it would seem that health promotion was a new concept. For your information, there are currently a few experienced staff already. This task began years ago.

That Mr Speaker is the clarification because the member has been upstanding four times and now it seems he is taking the floor again.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon Hon Minister, I will give the opportunity. What is the matter you wish to address member for Faleata West?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, it must be clarified that myself and some of the Members are not disagreeing with the proposed change but no matter how it is reorganized a new Ministry will be established with its own Board and CEO. If it were a division then it would be appropriate.

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MR SPEAKER: The member for Faleata West is understood. In the interest of time, I call upon the member.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker, a point of order on the clarification made by the Hon Minister. Promotion cannot be carried out by ghosts, with all due respect; it is carried out by employees through the service. The Hon Minister has mentioned reorganization. My question is Hon Minister is whether this reorganization includes the Hon Prime Minister being Chairperson? Why is this? Does this reflect uncertainty with the previous structure?

MR SPEAKER: The opinion of the member is understood. I call upon the Hon Minister to continue.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: If you wish Mr Speaker, one more opportunity can be awarded to the Members. I can be patient until they voice any overlooked questions then I will respond.

MR SPEAKER: You may continue Hon Minister with your clarification.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Regarding the matter mentioned by the member for Gagaemauga No. 1, stating that this is a new administration with new employees. For the Members information, the responsibilities are restructured, there are no new employees. This activity has been carried out during the past years up until now by the Ministry of Health (MOH). It is nothing new, there is staff currently implementing this but there will only be a reorganization of duties. There will be no recruited staff, the current staff also staff in the dietary section will be utilized. As the member for Faleata West stated; food and exercise. That is the reorganization. On another matter, only those who are experts in this regard will be considered for the position of CEO. There is currently approximately 16 staff within the Ministry implementing this work.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusaluc Faapo II: Mr Speaker, a point that needs clarification. The clarification by the Hon Minister is very thorough although I am uncertain on the position of CEO. Is there a Ministry with two CEOs; the current CEO and this proposed CEO? Do not confuse the matter. Why not just have a new Manager. There is already a CEO. As per your clarification, there will be two CEOs for one Ministry.

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MR SPEAKER: The comment made by the member is understood. I call upon the Hon Minister; it is up to you if you wish to answer this new query. Continue on the matter elaborated.....

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I will not waste my time on such reckless comments but I will continue with my clarification, most of the people want to hear what I have to say.

I will now explain the purpose of the Bill which is promotion. There are two parts; health services and health promotion. It was mentioned that millions should not be appropriated for promotion but should be used to improve the services. Since working in this Ministry, no matter how many treatments are done, there will always be patients. There is a common saying ‘do not treat the symptom, treat the cause.’ You must treat the cause then the spread will be prevented. So the idea is, once these diseases which has cost millions are eradicated there is no need for treatments. The causes of these diseases generate funds; causes from unhealthy living before being diagnosed. The aim of the bill is protection from illness; prevention is better than cure. This is reliant on diet, minimal smoking and alcohol intake and regular exercise. This is the road taken by the international community and the World Trade Organization; changing of lifestyle. Change in lifestyle, behavior and priorities. Utmost importance should be given to your health and do not wait until you get diabetes then you seek medication yet you could have prevented it. It is just a waste of time Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Was it something you mentioned earlier in you speech member for Gagaemauga No .2?

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Yes Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member, this is your final opportunity.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: It seems the Hon Minister is again discussing the recommendations made. For three years now the Hon Minister has been explaining the same issues. As for the performance it is very poor. We can see it in the reports of the National Kidney Foundation as well as the Supplementary Appropriations which was previously tabled with \$1 million added to treatments. What I am saying is, the information provided is lavish but there has been no physical outcome.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I call on the member.

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Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister has touched on the issue I questioned. Each service carried out at the moment has been elaborated and I questioned whether these services will be incorporated under the Foundation because we are all aware that these services are already being actioned so there is no need for a new foundation.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the Hon Minister to continue with the clarification.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: It is like water off a ducks back. I try and try to explain but still they do not understand.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me but I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati (Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries): Mr Speaker, I am sympathetic for my brother beside me for the constant explanations. I recall a village meeting in which the elders tried to explain a matter but the younger chiefs continued to question. The elder said, ‘Oooh! Fool one, fool two, fool always.’

MR SPEAKER: No more fool. I call upon the Hon Minister.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker, the young man then told the old man, oh fool! Well there is no fool on this side of the chamber.

MR SPEAKER: Let us be patient, it seems we will only get the flu from all these interjections. I call upon the Hon Minister to conclude your clarification.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, I wish to elaborate on the meeting we attended with my Associate Minister on the issue of diabetes as mentioned by one of the members. This is the reason why the Hon Prime Minister is a member of the Board. In September 2011, the issue of deadly diseases was discussed in the United Nations Assembly. This is why the country focuses on these diseases, because it is internationally recognized. No matter how much is appropriated for treatments, it will not decrease unless the causes of these diseases are treated. If a person was diagnosed with diabetes yesterday and treated today it will not be cured. It takes time but you have to make a change and effect the change. If you do not do it now, when it is time to effect the change it will be hopeless. In that 2011 meeting, countries from around the world signed the United Nation Political Declaration on NCDs. This is why it is important to have the support of the leaders of the country because without political will you will never be successful.

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This is the reason why the Ministry seeks support from SPAGHL because it is composed of the leaders of the country because it cannot be done solely by the Ministry unless there is political will to eradicate the problem.

I will elaborate on the seriousness of the problem. It was learned at the meeting we attended with Mr Speaker that every 6 seconds a person dies from diabetes. As for the incidents of diabetes worldwide; a person is diagnosed with diabetes every 3 seconds, which means for every two people who is diagnosed, one person dies. If the number of diagnosed patients is not minimized, many will die from this disease. It is through the enforcement of this Bill that the number of patients will be reduced because there cannot be change...there will be no solution to increasing limb amputations, heart operations, kidney dialysis resulting from diabetes. Unless the cause is treated, then there will be change. We will be safe from dialysis treatment, heart operations, limb amputation, and wheelchairs. This is not spelt out in the title of the bill but all these intentions are implied.

In addition, not everyone is ill simultaneously. If there is treatment, only half of the population will be affected and we cannot treat 200,000 patients simultaneously. However, this bill can advise the country concurrently preventing them from being affected by these diseases.

Mr Speaker I still wish to elaborate on the matter. In 1978, a diabetes specialist from an Australia Clinic, Paul Zimmet did a survey in Samoa. It found that at the time only 7% of the population had diabetes. A recent survey found that 23% or 40,000 of the population are diabetic and have high blood pressure.

Therefore Mr Speaker we should prioritize this initiative to reduce the number of patients and reduce funds wasted on treatment which can be done through prevention.

Perhaps this is an important message conveyed through the clarification made on the matters that were raised. I believe that the matters are clearly understood therefore we must collaborate to save our people from such deadly diseases.

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification on the bill. I believe everyone has come to understand the importance of the bill. I am also thankful for the opportunities given to me as Chairperson of SPGHL to travel to such meetings.

A further explanation on our trip to Finland in which the United Nations signified the importance of the political world and health in all policies, meaning that every new policy implemented by the government must include health provisions. I am thankful the Hon Minister has heeded this recommendation and the Hon Prime Minister is part of this effort. Everything is now in order with this Promotional Bill which is prioritized by our leaders because it is not a matter to be taken lightly.

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We have heard the reports; every 3 seconds someone is diagnosed and every 6 seconds someone dies from diabetes. That is how rapid the spread is but I am thankful that we have not reached such a serious situation and this bill will emphasize the importance of this issue which in turn might decrease the number of people affected.

Motion approved and the Health Promotion Foundation Bill 2013 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the bill will be referred to the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee for consideration and to report back to the Assembly at an ensuing sitting.

LANDS, SURVEY AND ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2013

– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For the clarification of this Parliament, the Bill was first read on 8th October 2013. I call upon the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Mr Speaker and respectable members of the Assembly. Before a motion is moved, I as Minister of Natural Resources and Environment would like to give my sincere condolences to Peseta Makerita Malua, children and the family of Taulealea Laavasa Malua. I also extend my condolences to the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources on the sad passing of Taulealeausumai Laavasa who held the position of Chief Executive Officer for five years. My prayer is that one hero falls and another will rise to carry out the duties of Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Lands, Survey and Environment Amendment Bill 2013 be read a second time and I wish to comment on it.*

Seconded by Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Mr Speaker, this is a bill to amend the Lands, Survey and Environment Act 1989, the Principal Act. The bill aims to amend the application of valuation for calculation of renewal rent under the Principal Act.

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Lands, Survey and Environment Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

This is the only amendment for profits needed to be reviewed for developments such as hotels. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I believe the clarification given by the Hon Minister is now understood. I give the opportunity to any member who wishes to take the floor, if not the question will be put.

I call upon the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also thank the Hon Minister for the bill tabled.

Mr Speaker I would like to add to the condolences offered by the Hon Minister and convey my deepest sympathy for the sad passing of CEO Tofa Taulealeausumai Tuifuisaa Laavasa; a friend, colleague and a very important man. I believe he has done a lot for the Ministry especially for our country during his term heading the Ministry and other divisions of the Ministry; therefore I give my sincere condolences to his wife Peseta especially his children.

In relation to the bill which I believe is very important, the Principal Act only mentions leases for hotels but what of other developments such as agriculture? These are some of the developments that the Government must look into because most of Government owned lands could be used for big agricultural developments. So not only will our lands be developed but....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking; I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: It is clearly stated under section 3 in the new provision 75A(1)(b) 'any other lease in accordance with regulations under this Act'. The Hon Minister is conveying is for us to think and reconsider so that our work will be carried out much easier. A wise man thinks twice. The main objective is to make leases easier so that it can encourage developments important to Samoa and other developments the Government deems significant under the given regulations. This includes the matter suggested by the member.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the issue mentioned by the member is now understood. I call upon the Hon Minister; is there any further clarification on the matter before the question is put.

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Lands, Survey and Environment Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAAALE TUMAALII: There is no further explanation because it is clearly stated under 75A(1)(b) as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister. There are other types of leases included.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Motion approved and the Lands, Survey and Environment Bill was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the bill will be referred to the Works, Transport & Environment Committee for examination and to report back to the Legislative Assembly at an ensuing sitting.

POLICE OFFENCES AMENDMENT BILL 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For the clarification of this Parliament the bill was first read on October 8th 2013. I call upon the Hon Minister of Police & Prisons.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI (Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire Services): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Offences Amendment Bill 2013 be read a second time and there are matters I wish to discuss.*

Seconded by Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and Minister of Health.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: Mr Speaker this bill has only one amendment which is to repeal section 18 of the Police Offences Ordinance 1961. When enacted the bill will be cited as the Police Offences Amendment Act 2013. It is also clarified within the bill that the Commissioner of Police and Prison Services no longer issues a pedlars license. This will avoid the duplication of functions relating to the issuing of business licenses. With respect.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, for further clarification the English version should be consulted. The Police will no longer deal with business licenses but it will be handled solely by the relevant Ministry.

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Police Offences Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, why will these people have no licenses anymore?

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition, the matter will be clarified.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Refer to the English version of the Bill, ‘avoid duplication of funds’. The task in question is being carried out by the Inland Revenue and there is no reason that the Police should be involved.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the matter is now understood.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: The duties of the police are very important because they regulate the movements of these people. It is true that business licenses are paid but the police enforce the law.

MR SPEAKER: The opinion of the member is understood. Also an answer has been acquired.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, when any Ministry seeks the assistance of the Police for any criminal offence, they are available. This means that their services are not eluded. The only issue is that the Police and the Inland Revenue are handling pedlars licenses which is a task that should be left to the Inland Revenue to avoid confusion.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you... I believe the clarification given by the Hon Prime Minister on pedlars is clearly understood. I recall a previous amendment bill only allowing Samoan handicrafts to be peddled and not the many products now seen being sold. So what I am trying to say is thank you for including other goods also *there is now an office to get a license but does this also include the goods being sold by our...because there are people who are reliant on selling products of other companies. I do not know whether their licenses include peddling because these people who live in Apia are really reliant on selling these goods for financial support. Thank you.*

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Any business venture must be licensed and there is only one place to get a license, it is at the Inland Revenue.

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Police Offences Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you. Is there an additional clarification Hon Minister? The question will be put.

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Lisati Pinati: There is no further clarification, thank you.

Motion approved and the Police Offences Amendment Bill 2013 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 132, the bill will be referred to the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee for consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly at an ensuing sitting. I believe we have arrived at our adjournment hour. There is a belief that we should take a break for today and our sitting tomorrow should not be long as we are nearing the holiday season. Also there is an intention that our Supplementary Appropriation will be read. An announcement, the village of Satapuala has prepared our lunch, therefore I believe it is time for recess....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker just a reminder, there is no intention for a sitting tomorrow, because we are expected to finish our orders today. There are other duties the Government must attend to this week especially as it is a short week.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe we are all aware of the tasks of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. Therefore I believe we will set aside our sitting until our next Parliament sitting in which we will carry out our usual orders. This sitting was to be reserved for the reading of the Supplementary Appropriation but priority was given to lapsed businesses.

Before we adjourn I would like to thank all the members of the House for your patience since the early hours of the morning during our prayer breakfast. I am thankful for your attendance for God has given us good health to arrive at the conclusion of our work for the year. May the Word of the Lord spoken by the clergy this morning forever praise the Lord and glorify Him who has enabled us to proceed in good health and serve continuously through to the New Year. The Chair wishes to express his heart felt gratitude to all the dignified members of the House, and a blessed holiday season to all. May the Lord shine his love and kindness and guide you all in good health to a prosperous, peaceful and blessed holiday celebrations. Let us recommence proceedings on the sitting day allocated in order to carry out orders for the New Year. As to the earlier announcement by the Chair, today the village for the member of Aana Alofi No. 3 will offer their respects. Therefore I humbly request the members of Parliament that after our proceedings, we will gather in front of the House to receive the dignity of the constituency; Saoalii ma le afifio o Satuala, le paia i le Vaili aua le tootoo of Maauga, le Vainalepa ma le Lauti na Laulelei ma upu ia te oe Faleaana. Let us witness the respects and preparations provided by the member and his constituency. I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister for a motion.

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MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAIPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move with respect, *That proceedings be adjourned until the 21st January 2014 pursuant to our Parliamentary Sitting program 2013/2014.*

Before the question is put I also convey my sincere thanks to you. Today was a short day but we have second read five bills. It is a huge task but there are still many bills to be considered in our next sitting on the 21st as planned. Therefore recognition is given to Mr Speaker and the Members present for your attendance to carry out our work before the festive season. That is the Governments best wishes also to everyone; Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Farewell and be blessed.

Seconded by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of Women, Social Development and Community.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: Before we adjourn I humbly ask the Deputy Speaker to conclude our proceedings with a prayer.

Prayers.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1.05pm until 9.00 am Tuesday, 21st January 2014.

TUESDAY, 21ST JANUARY 2014

The Legislative Assembly met at 9:00am pursuant to the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2013/2014.

Prayer.

MESSAGE FROM LE AO O LE MALO

Mr Speaker read the Message from Le Ao o le Malo.

1. “MEMORANDUM for:

Mr Speaker:

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

1. Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014.
2. Scientific Research Organization of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014.
3. Statistics Bill 2014
4. Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Monday 20th January in the year 2014.

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

2. CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Pursuant to Standing Order 99 (2) **I, TUI ATUA TUPUA TAMASESE EFI, O LE AO O LE MALO,** hereby issue the Certificate of Urgency to the Legislative Assembly to consider the Bill listed hereunder in the Meeting commencing on Tuesday, 21st January 2014: