

17 DECEMBER 2019

TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2019

The Legislative Assembly met at 9:07am pursuant to the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2019/2020.

Prayer.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to pay my respects to the Hon Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister as well as the Cabinet especially the Chairpersons, honourable members of Parliament who are able to continue our Work today, adjourning from last month.

I also acknowledge the Chief Executive Officers and CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations as well as the support of the country listening in.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF STATE

Mr Speaker delivered the Message from His Excellency the Head of State.

“MEMORANDUM to:

Mr Speaker:

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, I hereby give consent to the Legislative Assembly to consider the Bills as follows:

1. [Supplementary Appropriation Bill \(No.1\) 2019/2020.](#)
2. Public Finance Management Amendment Bill 2019.
3. Tax Administration (Electronic Program) Amendment Bill 2019

8 OCTOBER 2019

Motion for Adjournment

I wish you well in your deliberations and may God guide your wisdom and arm you in consideration of Legislations, which will dictate our people in the areas discussed.

Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned until Tuesday 17th December 2019.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, and the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Prime Minister has given his statement and I too am obliged to express apologies to the public tuning in. The nature of our deliberations is such that we do share moments of laughter now and then. For it does maintain good relationship amongst members for the sake of the public support which is the source of a successful forum.

I will speak on behalf of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and respectable Members. Whilst the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Organisations are present to say this, since the upcoming Sunday will commemorate White Sunday for the children of our country. May the grace of our good Lord grant us the wellbeing to see us through to that day. Make sure your preparations are well prepared so it will please the audience of parents while you take the centre stage on your special day.

Before we adjourn, I will conclude this meeting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned at 12.44pm until Tuesday, the 17th December 2019 at 9.00am in accordance with Parliamentary Sitting Program 2019/2020.

*17 DECEMBER 2019***Notice from the Leader of the House**

GIVEN UNDER my own Hand on this day 16th of December 2019.

(Signed): Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II
HEAD OF STATE

NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament, the Notice is now tabled in the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of Bills as follows:

1. Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019.
2. Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2019.
3. Police Powers Amendment Bill 2019.
4. Miscellaneous (Boards of Public Bodies) Amendment Bill 2019.
5. Intellectual Property Amendment Bill 2019.
6. Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019

GIVEN on the 16th December 2019.

Hon TUILAEPa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE.

CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Pursuant to Standing Order 100 (2), Notice is hereby, referred to the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the following Bills under a Certificate of Urgency.

1. Tax Administration (Electronic Program) Amendment Bill 2019.
2. Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2019.
3. Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2019.
4. Intellectual Property Amendment Bill 2019.

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OBITUARY SPEECHES

5. Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019

GIVEN on the 16th December 2019.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

The Speaker announced in Parliament the passing away of some of the former Parliament members from previous Parliamentary terms.

1. *Hon UNASA Mesi Galo, was the Member of Parliament for Faasaleleaga No.3, in the 11th Parliamentary Term, 1991-1996, the 13th Parliamentary term, 2001-2006 and the 14th Parliamentary term, 2006-2011.*
Hon UNASA Mesi Galo was the Minister of Justice and Courts Administration in the 2006-2011 Parliamentary term.
During the 1991-1996 Parliamentary term, Hon UNASA Mesi Galo was a member of the Finance Committee.
During the 2001-2006 Parliamentary term, Hon UNASA Mesi Galo was the Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Samoa Water Authority, Electric Power Corporation, Transport and Shipping Corporation, Airport Authority, and South Pacific Stadium and Sports Venue in 2007.
He also served as a member of the Judiciary, Police & Prisons and Land and Titles Select Committee. He was also the Deputy Chairman of the Trade, Commerce and Industry Committee.

2. *The honourable PATU Ativalu Togi II, who was a Member of Parliament for Vaimauga West on the 13th Parliamentary term 2001-2006.*
The honourable PATU Ativalu Togi II was the Deputy Chairman of the Select Committee of the Parliament for Justice, Police & Prisons, Land and Titles. He was also a member of the Standards and Ethics Committee.

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Presentation of the Parliamentary Committees Reports

Let me take this opportunity to represent this Parliament to convey my condolences and comfort to the Constituencies, respectable wives and children and families.

Let me serve as a spokesperson for this Parliament, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet to convey our condolences to the people and families who have suffered with the loss of children and loved ones because of the severity of the disease we are faced with today, which is the measles epidemic. Only God can comfort the spirits of those who are grieving.

Let me take this opportunity to respectfully call on our Parliament so that we may stand for one minute to express our respects, not only to the members who have passed, but also to the families and parents of those whose lives have been affected by the devastation of the disease as faced by our country. Respectable Parliament let us stand for one minute.

The House stood up for one minute to pay their respects to the members who have passed.

PRESENTATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES REPORTS

The Clerk read out the Reports of the Parliamentary Committees tabled in accordance with T.T.52 (5).

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.114, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.69, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour Assessment of Instrument to the Competent Authority of Samoa Legislative Assembly.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.115, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.92, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2017/2018.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.116, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.93, P.P.2019/2020 No.94, P.P.2019/2020 No.95, P.P.2019/2020 No.96, & P.P.2019/2020 No.97, Accident Compensation Annual Reports for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016.
4. P.P.2019/2020 No.117, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.2, Annual Report of the Samoa Water Authority 2017/2018.

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**Ministerial Statement of the Prime Minister and the Tabling of
Notice on the Orders for the State of Emergency**

5. P.P.2019/2020 No.118, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.5, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation 2017/2018.
6. P.P.2019/2020 No.119, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.13, Annual Report of the Samoa Shipping Services Limited 2017/2018.
7. P.P.2019/2020 No.120, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.17, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority 30 June 2018.
8. P.P.2019/2020 No. 121, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.18, Annual Report of the Samoa Prots Authority 2017/2018.
9. P.P.2019/2020 No.122, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.20, Annual Report of the Samoa Shipping Corporation 2017/2018.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND
THE TABLING OF NOTICE ON THE ORDERS FOR THE
STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, and the honourable members of the House, as well as Samoa listening and all its honorific salutations.

I respectfully rise pursuant to Article 105 and 106 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, in realltion to the Emergency Orders. It provides for the Head of State to give Orders from time to time. Starting today, the Orders will be called the Emergency Orders. If he sees it fitting, it will make the protection of the health and safety of all the people of our country. The intentions of our Government on the commencement of this Emergency Order has been publicly declared and understood from the 15th November of this year. This will remain in effect for a period of 30 days, and will be reviewed whether to resume or not.

In a special Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019, the amendment to the provisions of the Order was discussed and approved as effective on the 15th November 2019, that includes the following.

*17 DECEMBER 2019***Ministerial Statement of the Prime Minister and the Tabling of
Notice on the Orders for the State of Emergency**

The closure of all State Ministries and Public Enterprises including the Government, the Private Sector and any other business that is usually open for the general public from 7.00am to 5.00pm on Thursday 5th to the 6th of December 2019. This Order includes additional restrictions received by the country on Television and Radio broadcasts and various other means of modern communications. This Order is in accordance with the provisions of Article 106 of the Constitution for the Independent State of Samoa that is appropriately required for the safety of our people.

The Member of the Council of Deputies, the Hon Le Mamea Lemalu Suá Tuiletufuga Leatuvao Ropati signed this Order on Tuesday 3rd December 2019. He is representing His Excellency the Head of State who was absent, due to scheduled medical check-up with his Good Lady, upon the advice of the Cabinet.

At a special Cabinet meeting held on Saturday 14th December 2019, the Cabinet discussed and approved the issuance of the Emergency Orders, for the State of Emergency under Article 105 and Article 106 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa as listed below.

1. The resumption of the Emergency Orders issued on 15th November 2019 under Articles 105 and 106 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, until 29th December 2019.
2. Prohibition of children participation for the 14 years and below at any public gatherings, due to the fact that they themselves are the most vulnerable to catching the measles.
3. Prohibition of travel for children 14 years and under between Upolu and Savaii until proof of measles vaccination has been given.
4. Resumption of examinations for students in Year 13 and above including the National University of Samoa, effective on the 16th December 2019, which was yesterday.

Pursuant to the provision of article 107 of the Constitution of Samoa, it states that if the Legislative Assembly is in session during the Emergency Order, pursuant to provisions of article 106, the Order is therefore, tabled before the Assembly at that time.

Mr Speaker, that is why this is tabled, as this provision is provided under the Constitution. It should be tabled before the House who is closest to the proclamation of the Order. This is reason for upstanding this morning, to table this Order before Parliament as effective on the 15th November to the 29th December of this same year as publicly announced by the State this morning.

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The Legislative Assembly has also tabled the Infants Amendment Bill No.2 2019, which is to enforce vaccination for all the children of Samoa, as a way for the Government to capture those that do not prioritise vaccination for the protection of the State and the country.

With the effect of the measles outbreak faced by the country, I extend gratitude to the support and response of the country on anything essential. The doctors and nurses, and all those who are conducting treatment for those affected by this disease, and the loss of the some of our dearest children who are vulnerable. We also convey condolences to the bereaved families for the unexpected loss of a loved ones.

Mr Speaker, warnings on the measles epidemic as advertised in many of our Government media outlets, on television and radio and various other means of communication, has severely weakened our normal natural defences against all forms of disease or virus, the immunity system. Other common infections for babies include blindness, inflammation of the brain, and other related illnesses like pneumonia. The measles vaccine kills the measles virus, as known, the vaccine we currently use, contains three doses inside it. Measles, and rubella, the current measles that is now known as the German measles also includes the mumps. The measles vaccine scheduled for Samoa during the calm period, is to vaccinate the 12 months old and the 15 months old baby. When it comes to an epidemic outbreak, the first vaccine should be conducted within less than 6 months, the second vaccine at 11 or 12 months, before the vaccination for the baby is complete. This means, a baby should have two vaccinations according to normal procedure for the 12 months old and 15 months old, or the current period given the spread of the measles that is rescheduled as I mentioned, before the measles vaccinations were available, it was available in 1963, 1964, and 1965 until today. Statistically, it is indicated that the death toll per annum of the global population is 2 million. Majority of this 2 million population falls on Europe

All of us in this House were born before 1963, we are aware; all of us were treated with the traditional leaves, 'fuefuesina', launonu, lauti and other remedial plants by our traditional healers.

According to recorded statistics, the largest measles outbreak in Samoa was at the end of 1891 until January 1893. Records also has it that it was no less than 1,200 deaths according to the total population of 34,500 at that time. By percentage, the total death toll we had was 29%, which was more devastating than the death toll of about 23% we had from the Spanish Epidemic in 1918.

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According to the progressed program from our hospital, the year 1980, a sum of 376 patients was reported to have suffered from the measles, in 1985, a total of 1,095 cases contracted the measles. In 1998, only 8 cases, 2010 only 8 were also affected from the measles, in 2012 only one case, in 2017 only 3. Until yesterday, 5,267 people in total were infected with the measles.

Our vaccinations programs progressed in 1998, 2003, 2008, 2009 and 2017. Therefore, our vaccination program was still undertaken before we were affected by this epidemic.

Since the start of this outbreak your honour which resulted in the death of 2 babies in Savaii in 2018, the vaccines were postponed for some time, while the causes of death of these babies were investigated. There was great suspicion, that perhaps it was the drugs, which caused it. Although farsighted consciousness should be prioritized. A test should have first taken for this vaccine for during that time, the nurses that carried out the vaccination still objected; they only gave their approval when the matter reached the Court.

Mr Speaker, the month of September was when we were infected, and in November we had the decision of our Government on the Order which is reason for my upstanding. It was not until September that we were affected with the disease, when we received a report from New Zealand about the woman who had arrived here with an infected rash. She came to attend the Methodist Forum here. The contagious woman has returned, however, the other local woman who had made constant contact with this overseas woman was later confirmed, after she was taken to the hospital. According to reports received from the Health Department in New Zealand about this infectious disease, Samoa is now infected from this contagious disease.

The local woman was treated and had her blood test taken to a contagious laboratory in Australia, and it was not until October that this case was confirmed of the measles that is now affecting us.

As aware your honour, following the month of November on the 15th where the Order came into effect, which I am now declaring before the House and the entire country.

Mr Speaker, I mentioned in the first part of my statement, that all of us in this House, perhaps all of us have experienced the treatments using Samoan remedies for normal illnesses. This goes for mothers who love their children; they are willing for their babies to live.

They aim to care for their young ones by taking them to have their massage on the ila and other forms of diseases that is affecting us in Samoa.

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I also stated that maybe all Samoans have gone through a traditional massage including the doctors who were forcefully taken by their mothers. Even myself, I too have been taken to the traditional healers several times back up until today as there are cases whereby after being taken to the hospital, they end up coming to the Samoan healers.

This further includes diseases like cancer, where others have taken the liquified papaya or esi and the sasalapa as remedy for this disease. Our traditional healers or the taulasea are talented with these types of traditional medicine, hence is the reason for bringing forth the Act by the State to officiate all the local healers in the country which has our insight but not the foreigners.

Mr Speaker, those overseas do not fully understand the situation of our country. However, the advices from the Samoan healers are important, as it raises ideas. They say that, “even with us, we take our children to the hospital to get the vaccinations, before we go the Samoan healers for treatments, because we are unsure whether there are other types of diseases that comes with the measles, like the ila”.

Mr Speaker, that is the situation the whole world lacks understanding about. Although this should not discourage us, we are the Leaders of this country, we must stand together during these difficult times and continue to give advice; they must first seek help from the hospital before using the Samoan traditional treatments. That is the purpose until this morning; 28 sites have been in place for ongoing treatments on free measles dose conducted by male and female doctors.

The Government will not wait, announcements on measles injections have been ongoing to the public this year, although this is the constant challenges faced, the Cabinet and the State of Emergency crew through its Special Meeting has decided that the Government should close all its workplaces and take the injections to the families. There are families that have seven kids that are yet to receive this dose and are without transportation. Others who live near the hospitals could have easily gone to the hospital to take their injections; nonetheless, the workers have assisted on this part, why? They strongly rely and believe in the power of the traditional Samoan healers.

Mr Speaker, all these traditional treatments are from God. The Western treatments came later on, while we grew up using traditional Samoan remedy. Although, according to the history of the Israel State, there are times that we are tested by God whether or not our faith is still firm and steadfast. There are times that the faith of the God’s nation becomes weak, then He brings in various forms of feats to test the faith of His people, however, it is now provided in the New Testament that Faith is idle and utterly hopeless.

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**Motion to Table the Hon Prime Minister's
Ministerial Ministerial**

That say, God has given us wisdom so that we are aware of what to do. Doctors are the servants of God that He has blessed with the talent and knowledge to treat the measles. What else are we waiting for? We must make good use of the vaccine we are given.

An incident occurred in a village, it was rainwater flowing which resulted in a village flooding. The water level rose and submerged the entire top floor of the house, and then a life boat arrived and called to the servant of God to jump on the boat, but the servant of God answered, 'you go, I have faith in God, as he will not let me perish'. Then the rain began to fall heavily, it submerged the entire two-story house and the balcony, leaving the Minister floating. When the lifeboat returned, what is the servant of God's response? 'Go, I will still wait for God as he will save me'. God will never have me perished." Therefore, it rained even more and the servant of God drowned, and when he went to heaven, he told the Lord, "I am a little disappointed because I had been praying desperately". However, the Lord replied, "Whom do you wait for? I sent two life boats to save you, but you did not accept their help".

Mr Speaker, there are many messengers or servants of God around that are sending messages, but most of the time we just sit idly doing no work and just complain. This is the announcement made this morning, and this House and our country will once again hear a decision from our Government when the day is set for the commencement of this Order at the end of this month.

Soifua and bless our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The House has heard the Ministerial Statement of the Hon Prime Minister. With respect, I ask for a motion to table the Ministerial Statement of the Hon Prime Minister before the Legislative Assembly.

The opportunity to present the Emergency Notice has now been given, but a motion for the Ministerial Statement.

I call on the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

**MOTION TO TABLE THE HON PRIME MINISTER'S
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Deputy Prime Minister): Speaker I stand to move the motion, *that the Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister be laid on the Legislative Table.*

Seconded by the Cabinet.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading

Motion approved and the Ministerial Statement was tabled.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2019/2020
– second reading

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker I stand to move the motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

Motion approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020 was read a first time.

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (NO.1) 2019/2020
– tabling

The First Supplementary Estimates 2019/2020 was tabled by Hon Sili Epa Tuioti pursuant with the Standing Orders.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2019/2020
– motion for the second reading

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020 be read a second time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ON THE FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 2019/2020

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker and the Honourable Members:

I have the honour and dignity to represent the Government in presenting the First Supplementary Budget 2019/2020 to the Legislative Assembly.

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**Financial Statement on the First Supplementary Estimate
2019/2020**

Mr Speaker, I present this First Supplementary Budget while Samoa is covered with the clouds of grief over the measles outbreak that has affected the country and claimed the lives of the young children. It is now certain that the security policy of the country needs to be carefully reviewed to ensure that Samoa is safe from further diseases and calamities that may arise in the future.

Mr Speaker, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government for its generosity, through the gifts and financial assistance that the Samoan people around the world have donated, as well as the countries and various International Organizations that are in partnerships with our Government and especially our Government with the assistance and efforts to save the lives of our people from the devastating effects of the measles epidemic.

Not to be forgotten is the important contribution and service of the people of the country who work closely with the Emergency Management Committee in efforts to save the lives of those affected as well as the distribution of vaccinations for the protection against measles all over the country. Thank you very much. Only God can repay your services.

I must continue to inform Mr Speaker, the members of Parliament and Samoans tuning in, on the assistance of our Government, as \$6 million tala from the Provident Fund was released in November when the National Disaster Management Committee first announced the urgent need for funds to carry out the rescue work for our country. The service is currently underway to ensure the eradication of measles from our country.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to point out that the surplus expenditure of our Government or the Budget Deficit still remains high at 1.2% of the economy. Despite the increase in expenditure through this First Supplementary Budget, the Government continues to adhere to its long-term policies and strategies for a strong economy, by closely monitoring its programs in pursuant with the structural strength of the economy.

It has now been 2 months since our country was infected by the measles epidemic, and we are now aware of the vulnerability of the economy of our country, with some of the signs that our Government needs to prepare for in order to quickly restore our economic strength to its former condition. The Government has finished conducting a preliminary Economic Impact Assessment and estimated that up to 1% of the economy, or \$22 million tala in total costs of the impacts in different parts of the economy due to the disease.

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**Financial Statement on the First Supplementary Estimate
2019/2020**

Mr Speaker, two weeks ago the National Provident Fund provided \$7.8 million tala to fund 1.1% of the cash grant dividends for its contributors. This relief not only helps the people of the country but is a much needed activity this season to revitalize and boost the economy. That is also the intention of the Government through this First Supplementary Budget, to play its part in continuing the work and development to support the economy when needed.

There are a number of key areas that the Government is currently prioritizing including; saving the lives of the people and strengthening the protection against infectious diseases; efforts to reintroduce Samoa to tourists; scholarship opportunities for students; improve and strengthen infrastructure to respond to climate change; and the continuation of activities funded under the Main Estimate for the current year.

First Supplementary Budget:

The Honourable Speaker,

First, Additional Income was \$13,620,404

- 1. Ministry of Public Enterprises: \$3,801,186**
\$3,801,186 Interest Benefit from Dividends

This amount was only part of the total amount received when the agreement between Samoa and Virgin Australia was terminated.

- 2. Ministry of Finance: \$9,280,098**

- i. Pacific Games Revenue - \$5,628,695*

As you know, the Pacific Games are over and the balance of \$5.6 million tala has been set aside from the sponsorships, including the payment of accommodation and food supplies to participating countries, which was reimbursed by our Government;

- ii. Fuel, Diesel and Gasoline Tax - \$1,100,000*

It is hoped that this 2cent per litre tax will be effective in January 2020 and that this fund will help improve and strengthen the development of roads, drainage, footpaths and cement trails within the country;

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**Financial Statement on the First Supplementary Estimate
2019/2020**

iii. Proceeds from the Sale of Buses Provided by JICA to the Government - \$1,844,897

This allocation came for the sale of vehicles or buses donated by the Government of Japan for the Small Islands Forum (SIDS) hosted by Samoa in 2014. The terms of this assistance are that, the Government of Samoa announces a development that uses these funds, and the new Tanumalala Prison which was agreed upon by the two Governments to be built using these funds.

iv. Donations from Partners, Organizations and Individuals to the Government for Measles Relief Services - \$706,506

These funds, as donations that were recorded in the special funds established for measles, pursuant to the data as of December 11, 2019. Some donations that have not been announced at this time are expected to be re-introduced in the Second Supplementary Budget in June of the New Year.

3. Ministry of Customs and Revenue - \$539,120

Value Added Goods and Services Tax have increased due to the increase in operations pursuant of the applications submitted:

A total of \$539,120 tax will be collected from the Ministries in pursuant of the applications and activities provided in this First Supplementary Estimates.

Second, Additional Development Partnership Grant – Grant Receipts (\$9,338,813)

1. World Bank – SAT \$8,820,00

Emergency Reserves;

The World Bank has released a grant of approximately \$3.5 million US dollars, or \$8.82 million Samoan tala to assist our Government in responding to emergencies, especially actions needed to quickly restore the economy of the country. This assistance is made in accordance with the agreements signed by our Government and the World Bank, and it is an important reminder that we must be prepared in advance for any disasters that may arise in the future.

2. United Nations Agencies implementing Measles Response Program – SAT \$518,813

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**Financial Statement on the First Supplementary Estimate
2019/2020**

Third, Adjustment of Expenses - \$1,156,549

1. Ministry of Justice:

*Establishment of Legal Aid Centre – Community Law Centre (-
\$350,000):*

The Ministry for Justice have confirmed that due to delays in preparatory works they will not be able to action this initiative within the current financial year.

1. Ministry of Prisons and Corrections Services:

Retention (-\$806,549);

Following the inclusion of this provision within the Main Estimates, the Ministry reviewed the construction contracts and ascertained that the Retention had to be paid out within the last fiscal year 2018/19. Payment for retention was therefore made with savings in the previous fiscal year while the current provision will be reshuffled for other priorities of the prison.

Mr. Speaker, I will now highlight the key Additional Expenditures, inclusive of taxes, being requested under this First Supplementary Budget:

Expenditure Programs:

1. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour –\$64,055:

*Expenses for the Regional Seasonal Employment Scheme
Australia Liaison office.*

A liaison officer for the scheme has been established in Sydney Australia. The provision here is to facilitate the operations of the liaison office to include remuneration and office equipment.

2. Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration - \$504,455:

*i. Preparatory works for Court House in Salelologa,
Savaii - (\$92,000)*

Works have begun towards the development of a court house and offices for the Ministry for Justice in the Salelologa Township. The provision is to assist in preparatory and tender works for the construction which will be financed in the fiscal year 2020/21.

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**Financial Statement on the First Supplementary Estimate
2019/2020**

ii. Conference on the Right of Child (\$300,000)

Samoa will be hosting this Conference in March and is a great opportunity to promote Samoa's support for this initiative given that this will be the first time this conference will be hosted in the Pacific.

iii. Salaries for 3 New Judges for the Lands and Titles Courts (\$112,455);

The Ministry for Justice intends to add to the number of existing judges which will contribute to the overall achievement of deliverables for the Lands and Titles Courts given their current workload.

3. Office of the Legislative Assembly - \$210,000

Electricity Bill for the New Parliament House.

The grand opening and use of the new Parliament House occurred while the Main Estimates was being finalized and at the time, an estimate on electricity usage was not available to justify insertion into the budget. This estimate is now available following months of meetings and this estimate is now being proposed under the First Supplementary budget.

4. Ministry for Prisons and Corrections Services - \$4,350,729:

i. Staff Quarters (\$1,150,000)

The Prison at Tanumalala is now near completion and fully operational. It is noted that a staff quarter is required to alleviate transportation costs to the staff as well as to minimise loss of staff due to the distance of the new prison. It is intended that the staff quarters will ensure a fully staffed prison.

ii. Additional Staff (\$330,683)

15 new corrections officers are being requested under this First Supplementary Budget. The Ministry for Prisons has reported that they still have insufficient number of staff to fully monitor the prison at Tanumalala particularly given the increase in the number of prisoners.

iii. Perimeter and Anti-Climb fence (\$1,300,000)

This fund will be allocated to complete the perimeter fence and antifence for the Tanumalala Prison to minimize the number of escapees.

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**Financial Statement on the First Supplementary Estimate
2019/2020**

iv. Miscellaneous Remaining Works for the Tanugamalala prison (\$1,351,446)

A list of remaining works has been submitted by the Ministry for Prisons to fully complete the development within the current financial year. Additional funding is required to ensure completion of the road, water tank, standby generator and others. It is anticipated that once completed, no other funding will be required in the New Year 2020/21.

v. Assets for Town Cleaning (\$34,500)

As noted prisoners are recruited to mow the lawn and carry out maintenance work on Legislative Assembly and Court grounds also the cleaning of the town area from Vaiala to Mulinuu, towards Mootootua, Malifa and Vaimoso. This means most of the work that was carried out by MNRE and the Samoa Tourism will be looked into and deduction will be made on funds since the Ministry of Prisons are now doing this work. We have noted the beauty of their work in our capital.

It is good for them because once they get out of prison they can set up such business. Cleaning by prisoners is still ongoing within the town area and there is a need for equipment to do this weekly.

vi. On Call Allowances (\$138,600)

The allowance will ensure that the prison is fully staffed at any given time or shift in a 24hour day so that on-call corrections officers can be called in to replace anyone that does not show up.

vii. Prison Doctor (\$45,500)

One of the biggest issues faced by the Ministry is securing a prisoner to be transported to the hospital should he/she require medical attention. Further, transportation of the prisoner will mean taking corrections officers away from their posts at the prisons. Having a prison doctor on call will address these issues.

5. Ministry of Customs and Revenue - \$211,706:

i. Project Unit for the Tax Information Management System - TIMS (\$86,706)

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This technology is intended to raise tax payer compliance through the use of technology to monitor taxation at the cashier and should minimize the occurrence of cash economics within the country. The provision is the finance a Project Manager, a Project Officer and required office equipment.

ii. Electronic tax system (\$10,000)

This machine is needed for the quick and efficient transfer of data used by the TIMS.

iii. Standby Generators (\$115,000)

A backup generator is required to ensure that this service is uninterrupted at all times once this technology is used to monitor taxes paid by businesses to the Government.

6. Samoa Bureau of Statistics - \$829,988:

i. Stats of Agricultural Development(\$763,788)

FAO is assisting with the collection of Argicultural stats, also funds have been requested from Government to assist some areas not funded under this assistance. This project takes two years to complete and is done every ten years. The importance of this project allows us to obtain data that can assist in planning and implementing our investment within the Ministry of Agriculture.

ii. Household Income and Expenditure Survey (\$66,200)

It is indicated that there has been a decrease in the number of donations from stakeholders including the SPC Association for this research and that a fund has been required to compile, publish as well as promote this survey and data to the country.

7. Ministry of Health - \$3,933,000:

i. Payment for Staff Overtime (\$3,600,000)

The provision is to supplement existing resources for the overtime of staff. The health services continue to be Government's key priority sector and resources will consistently be diverted to ensure uninterrupted services to the nation. Our Government is prepared to increase the number of staff and funds needed to satisfy services given to the country.

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ii. Pharmaceutical Warehouse Division (\$48,000)

A new division to oversee the Hospital's Pharmaceutical Warehouse will be established under this First Supplementary Budget and the provision is to cover salaries and operating expenditures.

iii. Accident Compensation Corporation Arrears - (\$285,000)

The Ministry has outstanding debts to the Accident Compensation Corporation from 2017/2018 which have not been paid in accordance with the legal provisions for all public servants. This means ACC does not appear to have been paid. A provision of \$285,000 is provided to settle this debt and serves as a reminder to Management not to repeat this issue in future.

8. Ministry of Finance - \$10,743,251:

i. Scholarships for the National University of Samoa - (\$250,000)

Perhaps Mr Speaker and the members recall in the Main Budget address that assistance be given to those who have good grades at NUS, funds are given for scholarships overseas and when they return they can contribute to the growth of the economy and families. The main priorities of Government is education and health. The free education program for children from primary to tertiary level is still ongoing. As for the National University Government intends to provide scholarships with a total cost of \$250,000 for the current year, it will be monitored in accordance with the terms of agreement.

ii. Samoa Shipping Services Final Installment for the sale of the Forum Samoa vessel - (\$357,458)

This provision is to complete the agreement between the Government of Samoa and the SSS on the sale of the MV Forum Samoa II. This arrangement began in 2016/17 however due to discrepancies in figures a provision was not made in the Main Estimates, this instalment will complete the arrangement.

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iii. Tax Information Management System - (\$1,393,286)

As mentioned before this initiative is being implemented under the Ministry for Customs and Revenue. A provision of \$1million was allocated in the Main Estimates however the actual cost of the technology requires \$2.393million therefore requiring the supplementary budget.

iv. Disaster and Emergency Facility (\$8,462,507)

This provision will be used to facilitate any and all expenses incurred in the national emergency operations towards eradication of the measles within the country. It has been two months since the emergency operations had begun and a lot of resources have been required to source medical supplies, medical equipment as well as furniture, fittings and many refurbishments to all hospitals; costs to personnel; hire and fueling of vehicles; awareness and promotion and other related works. The Government is also committed in continuing its vaccination program and awareness programs on an annual basis and will continue to require resources.

v. Street Address Project- (\$30,000)

The Street Address Project is an initiative of Government already underway currently being led by an oversight Committee that was selected in June 2019. There is an intention that the project will begin within the Apia Urban Area in the beginning of 2020 and the provision is to facilitate any printing costs associated with the street naming and numbering.

vi. Samoa Economic Recovery Campaign - (\$250,000)

The current intention of the Samoa Tourism Authority is to promote Samoa as a country that is still open to foreign visitors. It is imperative that these initiatives are pushed and continue rigorously over the course of the next few months to ensure that the Tourism Industry quickly recovers to stimulate the rest of the economy. The Ministry of Finance together with the Samoa Tourism Authority work on a plan to promote it to overseas market with a total funding of \$250,000.

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9. Ministry of Police - \$158,073:

Police Academy

The Government and the Ministry have begun work on the construction of the Police Academy at Tafaigata. This project is funded by the Government of China but under the terms of this project the Government of Samoa will employ a special unit responsible for overseeing this project. Allocation is given to those who have been appointed to carry out this work.

10. Ministry of Public Enterprises - \$38,696:

Office Relocation

There are plans in place to relocate the Ministry for Public Enterprises from the top floor of the Central Bank Building to the NPF Plaza in the beginning of 2020. The relocation will satisfy need for additional space of both the Ministry for Public Enterprises and the Ministry of Finance to ensure better and more efficient service provision to the public.

11. Samoa Tourism Authority - \$253,000:

Argo Tourism Park – Atele

One of the current challenges in Tourism for the country is the development of new tourist attraction scenic areas. The new development at Atele, is a long term plan of the Government to showcase its local fauna and flora both medicinal and for consumption and will be an opportunity to promote our own local produce.

12. Land Transport Authority - \$2,300,000:

Taufusi Drainage and footpath rehabilitation– Vaea Street

This area is one of the most affected areas by flooding during Samoa's rainy seasons. The provisions is meant to improve drainages and footpaths for the area to raise road safety during the rainy and cyclone season. It is also the opportunity to raise the resilience of this particular stretch of road in the face of the effects of Climate Change.

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**United Nations Organisation combined assistance for the
Community Sector, Measles Outbreak Response (\$518,813):**

13. **World Health Organisation (WHO) –(\$300,000)**
14. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) -
(\$106,213)**
15. **United Nations (RCCO) - (\$52,600)**
16. **United Nations UNFPA - (\$60,000)**

As mentioned we would like to express sincere gratitude to our partners for their help, also for funds from the World Bank, as well as our country, businesses, churches, families here and abroad who have travelled here to assist with relief efforts. There are papers perhaps it has already been distributed that states information on this and a list of people involved with funding, as mentioned before the list seen here is dated up to the 11th December. As for other assistance submitted in later than that will be noted in the Second Supplementary Estimates next year.

Conclusion:

Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, the Supplementary Budget before the House is a product of careful consideration to ensure macroeconomic stability is maintained at the same time Government is in a position to deliver the services demanded by the public. Government will continue to ensure quality spending and prudent allocation of resources so we can deliver on an improved quality of life for everyone. Mr. Speaker, members of Parliament on behalf of the Government, I take the opportunity to wish you Mr Speaker and members especially the people of Samoa a joyful Christmas and a Productive 2020.
Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: The work is not easy, well done, thank you.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 133, debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020 adjourned in no less than 14 days, while the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1)2019/2020 be referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee for consideration and report back to the Assembly in a future Sitting.

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INFANTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2019
– first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved and the Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019 was read a first time.

INFANTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2019
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Since the Bill already has the signed certificate of urgency, we will now proceed with its second and third reading. With respect, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion *that the Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019 be read a second time and I wish to clarify it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

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

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker the Government has considered that this Bill be brought into the House for approval on a matter of urgency given the seriousness of this disease and status in our country. It seems that some mothers are unaware of the criticality of the measles given our normal practice to take them to the traditional healers.

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Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019
– second reading

The Government has therefore decided to draft a Bill to enforce vaccination for all children, as we continue to move into the future and the birth of future generations of the country each year.

This will enable the search of those who are left including unborn ones, the enforcement of vaccinations in schools, although there could be those who oppose and the negligent, parents should be vigilant in taking their children to school. Not only mothers but also fathers.

The duty of children vaccination falls on the mothers, the father never cares, perhaps since we are affected by the measles, all fathers in the country are aware of the reason why the mothers are busy. They go to give the shots for rubella, measles and mumps as these three vaccinations are in place, although we speak of immunizations however, the men are unaware of why the mothers are engaged.

There is negligence on the fathers part since majority are accustomed to leave the work to mothers, like taking care of babies they only show care when they get sick..

The significance of this disease has been a wake up call for Cabinet to implement such Bill to enforce the vaccination on children. No matter how high the percentage may be 92% but the other percent makes up about 16,000 to 20,000 people who have not been vaccinated. This is not small it is a lot, therefore Mr Speaker for a small country like us, this figure is a lot. The Government and Parliament should lead in implementing the guidelines to enforce the vaccination of children immediately. We are currently discussing shots which should hopefully conclude on the 29th of December, what about unborn babies after the 29th? We are not stopping people from making babies. People are still having babies with spouses and with other people. This is the importance of the Bill implemented to ensure people are not negligent.

There are some beliefs that children are prohibited from taking vaccination. It would not be a problem if they can stay permanently where they are and not have to go to school. Once they go to school it will affect those who have not received the shots or go to school if there was no Law.

This is why this Bill is important and I call this Bill a Bill of Love. Mr Speaker it is a Bill of Love that will save the lives of unvaccinated children due to the belief of parents and those born in the future. All this will capture everything, nonetheless Samoa has become famous with the measles outbreak. It has become popular when we had the State shutdown for the mass vaccination to be carried out. Rarely any country in the world can do this, it is a sign that the Government is valuing the lives of our people, especially our children who are very dear to us.

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The orators are still saying it, ‘o au o matua fanau’, ‘children are the precious offsprings of parents’. Vaccination is one way for parents to portray their affection upon their children. This is a challenge for many countries, when a Samoan travels abroad, they will look into this injection seriously that could most likely ban our people from traveling overseas.

Last Saturday, American Samoa banned the traveling of our people to their country due to enforcement of precautionary measures. Even if you tell them you have a vaccination card, it might not be believable since cases on false documents are still surfacing. Even now, it is very difficult for our people to travel there unless there is solid proof that we completely have no case around. I applaud the Governor of Tutuila for the efforts undertaken in prioritizing the safety of their people, American Samoa has not forgotten that some of our people have died from this outbreak. Fortunately not a single citizen of American Samoa was affected due to very strict measures they implemented in banning anyone traveling from here to Tutuila. Therefore, American Samoa is following normal procedures and events that took place in the past.

Such is the warning for our people, to get vaccinated, we never know when a request is made to attend a funeral in New Zealand or Australia will have you drill before you receive your permit. This is thought provoking for our country, for other countries to implement the same Laws for their protection. We have initiated something here for our children, if they are safe here, our elders will also be safe when travelling overseas as the Law is now firm. The people will also ask, which Parliament implemented this Bill? The answer will be that it is this Parliamentary term that holds farsighted knowledge and wisdom in implementing a Law for our protection and future generations to come.

This is the response on this disease, a Bill has been drafted and is put forth before the House for our deliberations. If we look at the Bill it amends all other Acts from Ministries such as the Ministry of Education, the Village Fono Act, the Internal Affairs Act the Education Amendment Act, Women Affairs Act, to provide and include anything related to children, our children.

All these Acts have been consolidated with the Principal Act to assist and in relation to infants. Mr Speaker this is the brief clarification nonetheless the goal of Government remains which is to combat this disease from the lands of Samoa.

Mr Speaker this is the Bill and clarification.

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Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you I believe the Bill has been well understood. There are serious aspects that affects this Bill however the Hon Prime Minister has clarified most of it. We will set aside Proceedings for our normal recess and reconvene when we return. I trust we have a few more speakers left as we have already discussed this matter in our seminar yesterday.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 10:49 am and resumed at 11:37 am.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. Before recess the Hon Prime Minister or the respective Minister for this Bill was making his clarification. I call upon members of the House who wish to speak on the Bill, which has taken much of our time and deliberations on it yesterday, I will not force anyone to take the floor, that is the reminder.

I call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Afioga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker of the House thank you, I acknowledge the dignity of Parliament in all its honorific salutations in upholding the protection of its paramount meeting. I am grateful upon this fine morning for we have gathered in our Sitting this month in good health, even though our country is still strong from events that occur that affect us including Parliament. I commend the Chair for his administration especially all the members of Parliament and the support of our country.

This constituency regards the Ministerial statement by the Leader of Government, Hon Prime Minister, for a Bill under a state of urgency, in relation to the misfortunes faced by our country today. A Bill coined as the Bill of Love.

Mr Speaker, Samoa and its Parliament has heard and experienced the agony and heartbreaking outcry from this outbreak that has affected this country. We slept without knowing that an unexpected tragedy would hit us, *momoe i manu ae sau mala e atia'e*.

My heart has accepted the vitality of the speech Government Leader's speech this morning. The tabling Bill is for us to review, evaluate, assess and analyse why such calamity has befallen on our country.

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– second reading

The word love honorable Speaker has several meanings. My mother once said to me, “Laauli, love endures all things, love is the fate of all things for a human being and this is the greatest Law of all.” It is baseless to talk about the economy and strength. Without love, there is no good ending. Then I ask, what does the word love means. She replied metaphorically, love is round; it is four sided, it rows here looking there, it looks at both sides, it is the foundation of mutual respect for the State.

I would like to thank the Hon Prime Minister this morning for initiating this important Bill for us to consider. Why? What caused this to happen? What is the reason for reaching this tragedy? I recall Mr Speaker the views I raised in previous Sittings. Samoa is a country already chosen with set measures; the center is where Samoa sets sail into the future. Through the participation of the Church, the Council of Alii and Faipule, village chiefs, village communities, spouses, and children, even the Government.

This Bill is difficult your honour, and is not an easy one to take.

The initial vaccination took the life of an infant from Savaii, who came from this village and was family of mine. This man had three children who died. Majority of the sufferers had more than ten. I wish to take this opportunity to officially convey sincerest condolences to the country as expressed by Parliament who had risen to show their respect through a minute of silence in recognition of those who have passed. I sympathize with the constituency. The question poses, the Bill tabled is the full purpose upon this delinquent to put an end to it from ever happening again. The remedy we aim to build is for Samoa to put a stop to this calamity or any other disease or natural disaster that arises in the future.

Mr Speaker I am not questioning nor putting the blame on anyone. We should all consider collectively with the country, church ministers, village councils and Parliament. My personal take on this, is that we must review what other vital steps to take. We have to reconcile and redecide what other steps to take in the future.

The main point I aim to bring is the word love. The duty of a mother and father towards a child is the first responsibility, look after this child in all that they do. Support the child throughout its wellbeing, education and health until death, which is the entire purpose.

What do we see in the country? What do we see? The word love is gradually slipping away. A total of 120 abandoned babies is with the Samoa Victim Support plus another hundred orphaned children there are finding refuge, the homes are no longer safe. Why? The bond in the families and homes are insecure and broken which is the life we lived.

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With a blink of an eye, a man would automatically turn and kill his wife, hang and beat her up intensely, and even use weapons like kitchen knives and guns, pardon the House. The point I aim to make is that this crime includes the servants of God. As aware, they too commit such acts consequently. It is moving to the extent whereby the spiritual side is becoming unfixed thus causing uncertainty within the country.

Mr Speaker then I come to the Government; I do not mean to say it. Why did this calamity happened? Despite the attempts, it was due to being negligence. There was no implementation of duties and responsibilities. There were several Laws in place from yesterday, today and tomorrow, although it seems we are only making them yet we do not implement. This is the reason Mr Speaker; I gather that we too must share the blame for this problem. We see it too, we have longed sorted the Ministry of Health. If not the hospital, the doctors are objecting, the nurses are opposing. We have now reached the fate we did not expect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I allow the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: We are in the process of enacting this legislation to enforce the immunisation of children. The reason behind the legislation is due to the difficulty of convincing the huge amount of mothers in Samoa, particularly the ones that have not had their children immunized, given the other normal practice on traditional healers that we resort to first. I have also addressed that factor. I will not criticise them for the trust we place on them after all they are the only type of healers we depended on before we had the medicine and vaccinations prior to 1963. There is still a great number of people living that went through this and followed this practise.

My advice to the member is to speak cautiously. We are in the early stages of enacting our law to enforce immunization. I say this since the member is saying our law has been passed when nothing is being done. I must correct this hence my taking the floor. Thank you and your speech this morning is very good. That is the only area I am advising you on in case it will be on the headlines of newspapers consequently removing the dignity of the country.

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Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I appreciate the suggestion from the Hon Prime Minister. Thank you for the advice. Here I am voicing my modest thoughts and opinion. You have full power to exercise whatever intention the State intends to do.

Mr Speaker my recommendations need not be accepted. We could never be able to build this today even tomorrow, the day after. Unless we get to the heart of the matter and plug out the dead tissue. What will become of the country? The authority of village councils, the church and government are not in tune.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr, Sailele Malielegaoi: Let me say this.

MR SPEAKER: Will the member be patient and allow the Prime Minister to take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The point about dead tissue is exactly where we are right now.

The suggestion to those making accurate advice is that you have missed the fact that there is no enforcement. When you miss that point, it is noted from this end. Mr Speaker the power to implement this has just been done. Village communities differ and it is the same with management and people implementing things. Some clergies are only human like us. Who can walk freely whilst other church Ministers can only manage to stand at the pulpit talking to you. Without physical strength to walk and observe these things. Mr Speaker that is the point which I am nudging the current speaker as he tends to be using a general noun. However, do continue in that naive manner on that exact point about the legislation. Power has just introduced here, for all those who hold authority. Your actions will be in vain, as there is no law to support you, for it is like a clanging cymbal or resounding gong

MR SPEAKER: Will the member be patient while I make this suggestion to avoid friction. Since point of orders and clarifications will just cause the government to take the floor. Although I observe with appreciations the member's enthusiasm in speech to seek a solution. Nevertheless, if I may just remind you, what solution will we adopt? Since everyone created by God, are the same. With one difference. God instilled a conscious to be used. With some people, they do not use their minds.

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That is the difference; everyone was created equal with a conscious mind. Once deciding not to take the kids to be immunised, they will not do so. That is my assistance, for you have been speaking tirelessly on that point but that is a reminder. Where ever we go to plug out the dead tissue and to look at the cause. If the old lady's daughter refuses to take the kids to be immunised, that is it.

A Law is now in place to enforce this so let us pursue this Law and see where it takes us. I call on the member.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I do not intend to argue with you. You are correct and so as the Prime Minister. The only point I am pursuing is the fact that the Law is now enforcing this doing. Whilst growing up there were no such laws and no one died. Here we are, saying that it is only when we enforce the law to avoid anyone from dying. This is the point I am pursuing. I am saying to enforce the three arms of government, which is beyond this.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I must raise this point of order. I cannot sit by and allow such stupid comment to pass. He is saying that before this legislation was implemeted, there was no death. Mr Speaker I am shock with this type of statement. We are presenting this law to contain this. I advise the member to remain calm.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you I ask the member for Gagaifomauga Nu 3 to have some regard.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: My apologies, metaphorically speaking I hereby sprinkle cool water, as a gesture of apologising to the Prime Minister. My thoughts are to assist and to strengthen your conviction. I am not done. The main pillar of the Samoan Government is this place.

MR SPEAKER: There is a statement made by the elders to an orator preparing to distribute the ava for the first time. "Keep it simple, as there are people who speak and there are the listeners and observers" because the thing is, it is not just yourself hurting by we all do feel the pain of this disaster. Yes, we do and we rely on God. We seek remedy and solutions so we may prepare but we do depend on Him. The same with this situation, we do not have the answers to the problem we seek and depend on God.

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We have heard the statement from the Prime Minister on which year was it. Over thousands casualties from that event. This time it is only 71 or 73. I am shocked myself but that is confirmation from the report according to records on diseases within our country beginning with the 1918 epidemic virus. Therefore, I beg tolerance of the member but you are not the only one hurt and sympathetic, we all feel that empathy and pain. Conclude your remarks.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you your honour. Mr Speaker my objective is to respect. I will not do anything that may jeopardise our mutual relationship. However, such are my thoughts and so I apologise if I do not come across well, but sounding off and irritating to you. That is my opinion as I have said, I am connected in bones and flesh to the people affected and their children. That is the reason behind my attempts here. To convey the message on how can we be here to strengthen our bond as the government to avoid this from happening. You have heard my pleas to the church and village councils the chiefs and orators.

E le tau aoaia e Laupua Tamafaiga, Laupua does need to counsel Tamafaiga. The wisdom and intellect in which Samoa has possessed from the beginning of time is with them. If we are to speak in a blunt manner, we do not need to enact this law to enforce this. There is wisdom in the royal families and the orators. They are the ones, who dictate and direct this and that. The problem is our priorities are different. The old women are engaged in the weaving of fine mats and other things neglecting immunisation. That is the reason sir, but I am thankful for the enforcement of the Fono Act to to encourage the chiefs and orators to go out and do these things. We do not need to tell our people what to do, as they know their role.

This is why I said to the Government do not be irritable in mind as we all understand what is happening at the Health Sector which is the cause of my suggestion.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, no one gets irritable with such things. However, he must avoid the aggressive tone. The wisdom of royal families will not be instructed. Our role is to advise and arm them with the force of the law to dictate these things, as what is happening nowadays is very powerful. What is happening now? When villages make their rules, it is countered by stupid remarks from outside. The sons of the villages are spoiling the villages.

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That is what we should be protective of as the village councils are confronted with numerous challenges at this period in time namely the internet where the ill expression of opinions affecting the proud rule of chiefs and orators. The truth is this is the stronghold of government. The proud rule of chiefs and orators that creates peace and order for the youths of the country in the future. Our only job is to advise and give them the power of the law.

Mr Speaker that is how it should be instead of the strong voice to instruct the dignitaries of the royal families and the oratory group of Tumua and Puleono in Salafai. They have it, all we need to do is to encourage and offer our recommendations through this Assembly.
Mr Speaker that is my advice to the member speaking

MR SPEAKER: I will remind the member again.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I thank the Prime Minister, I will conclude Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: When you were presiding in this Chair, we were all supportive and whatever you said we stood by it. In saying that I feel that the dignity of the Speaker is on the members of Parliament particularly a member who was up here. I advise you to have compassion as the Government will not sit by but will rise on points of order and clarifications on points made in statements.

That is my advice and I ask you to conclude your remarks and be brief, as you have covered everything.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you I will conclude Mr Speaker. I was simply trying to enlighten you on this matter as the country is listening in. I have no intention to instruct the wisdom and intellect of our people. Who am I to break the taboo mat, which signifies the integrity of the country at large?

That is just not so but as I was trying to say, the close relationship between the respected rule of chiefs and orators right down to families and children and the church and Government is what I was getting at. To strengthen this bond, because this is not the only thing coming our way. There are other worse illnesses looming. My prayer is to begin with the spring of the water, family values that we must adopt to avoid this. If we do not avoid this, we would be shouting in vain.

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This is why sir I am saying that we must get to the root of the problem so it does not happen again tomorrow. The same goes to the Government, my apologies to the Ministry, it is not that I am speaking ill of your role but there are shortcomings in life. If I may have erred and our sail has come down so to speak then put up the sail again and make sure this does not happen again. The 70 plus children that lost their lives is not easy to accept.

In saying that Mr Speaker, the public tuning in, if I may have offended anyone with my remarks, I will take it back. To my constituency, that is our contribution to our Maker for death is not an easy pill to swallow, the lives of these children were Gods gifts to us to nurture.

Mr Prime Minister, if I may have sound disrespectful, my compassion is honest for you and Cabinet will remain until death. Mr Speaker I will take back my shortcomings. However, our objectives for being here to pursue cannot be denied and we do not mince words as the country is doom. May God bless the Sitting of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, congratulations. Looking at this side there is not much members left to speak on this matter.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker I only have two matters with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Two is too much, I will let that side speak first...

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: One and a half will do thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Since you have slash your number I call upon the Matua.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you. *E lele a le tavae ae iloa i ona fulu.* There is also another adage, *e alu le paa ae iloa lona mua.* Mr Speaker there are only two things, which prompted my upstanding. To wish you a merry Christmas for you have been ill for some time and are now well. Also to wish my constituency tuning in a merry Christmas.

Although Samoa is in a state of despair due to the curse, but we must applaud the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I also congratulate the former Minister of Health and the current one, as well as the associate Minister Salausa and the team.

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My view of this Bill has caused me to rise to clarify with respect. I had raised this yesterday and even the Attorney General talked about it and so as Teleiai and her Law Reform Commission team. Before I get to that, I want to clarify this point and I think they got the figures wrong yesterday with \$10,000, the second schedule of the legislation showed \$10,000. Looking at it again today it is \$5,000. I have been so excited about this Bill Mr Speaker as it shows our compassion towards our people. It also proves our recognition as fathers, the desire of the Government to avoid the problem now. My interpretation of the legislation is such that, it is long overdue. It is true that it already exists but it has not been very effective. I am of the belief that the directive we are taking through is a reminder to parents, particularly the young parents. Majority of young parents are negligent, and I think with our village there were a few that missed. A doctor and nurse came around and went around the whole village and the constituency to get every child immunised.

I suspect that there may be families that missed out so the village pulenuu and the women's representative have been advised, as it is their duty to check every family to ensure everyone is immunised. The importance of this law is such that even if 99% of the country have been immunised with the other 1% that have not, it would make useless the whole effort. Our endeavours and the tens of millions of dollars gone into our campaign for immunisation would be a waste. As long as the whole country are willing to be immunised then that would be so much easier and there will be no more illnesses spreading as Laauli is concerned about. However, the discomfort of the old man is understood as he has children in Safotu that were injected with the wrong vaccine, and a judgement has been sorted for the nurses. I will not go into the past rather; I aim to ensure the safety and health of our people as prioritized by the Government. I applaud the Cabinet for their recommendations and patience. If our people have vented too many criticisms, then I applaud your tolerance. The wise fisherman stands out in times like this. Your patience is admired and your ability to be unfazed which is why God chose you in those positions, for you have wisdom, calmness and collected in controlling the country.

At the same time, I convey my condolences and well wishes to the families affected particularly the immediate families who have lost their loved ones. Mr Speaker that is my statement expressing my appreciations and commendations to the government also acknowledging the support from the public.

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Sir If I may say a few words to my constituency of Aleipata East and West, I extend to you my warm regards and we praise the Lord for no one here has been taken by this disease. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this Sitting be blessed.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I do not need to praise the speech of the senior member. Congratulations to the Tuiatua Faanofonofu. After the member for Palauli le Falefa the member for Vaimauga East who has been upstanding for some time then Olo.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you. My remarks will be brief and I support the Bill, which is concise.

Mr Prime Minister, I suggest the information regarding the number of vaccinations and certified proof to allow the kids to attend school is clear and understood. This can easily determine fake certificates that may lead to criminality.

The Bill does not only indicate measles as a contagious disease in addition, 16 other contagious diseases in the amendment had a clear clarification. The only recommendation from the Ministry and I know they are present, is that funding the vaccinations should be inclusive here. If not, it should then be stipulated in a Regulation as the public is unaware that it is free, no cost. It must be aware that the explanation from the Chief Executive Officer is that a child is entitled to free immunisation right up to the age of 15. This is also the concerns of most families, how are they expected to cover for this, it is actually free. Mr Prime Minister, the country must be informed that immunisations for children is free. The testimony by a Psalmist says, “Children are our heritage from God, they are our gifts from God. Children are the arrows in the hands of a warrior.” Our children are our blessings in the future. Thank you to the Law and service. Tuilaepa and the dignity of Cabinet and that Side and the appointed servants of Government, well done on your service. May God bless your roles and callings and may this Sitting be blessed. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Well done to Palauli le Falefa, I do not need to praise you; after all, you were a former senior member in Cabinet. You do understand the difficulty of the task on the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I call upon the member for Vaimauga East.

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Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity granted to this constituency. Our morning refreshments have been served and it was then that I said to Laauli Leuatea, you should speak on behalf of Puleono on this legislation. I Tuisamau will speak on behalf of Tumua. There shall only be two speeches as this is a Principal Act. There shall be no other addresses from the country. However, out of respect to Tuiatua, I will sit down...

This legislation is wonderful to the hearing as it is one that the country is eager to hear. Draft a law to counter the disease and situation that Samoa is facing now. My thoughts are if the legislation is good and well presented the member for Vaimauga East will gladly support it.

I am grateful to the Lord for this Government and its leadership through Gods will. Although young children have died through Gods holy calling, but Samoa is back at where we were from the beginning starting from 5, 6 and continuing down. I really thank God for this term we are in with leaders that are fearful to God. Having courage to fight for God. We all worked hard for this particularly the two special days we declared as break.

That is my word of appreciations to you Mr Prime Minister and Cabinet and to us all Parliamentarians. The Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations and all Samoans supporting our roles. That also includes the Clergy, for God has answered. The burden has been lifted and we must not be weary and despair, as it is all God's plan. If you would read Deuteronomy 28 where it says that God will bring upon us disease, if we divert from His plans.

I am saddened with the criticisms this morning, thank you. Listening to the members that prayed, they were blaming this Parliament, blaming us. It is as if we are erred, no. That is what happens when you want to pray when that should be the role of the Clergy. It is the Prayer Meeting of the country.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Alataua West): A point of order Mr Speaker.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: That is why I support the legislation Mr Speaker for this is why it makes it good. The only concern...

MR SPEAKER: Since the Chairperson of the Finance Committee is upstanding. I am not certain whether your statement was directed at the member, I allow the member to upstand.

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Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau: Mr Speaker, I rise to correct the member for Vaimauga. Whether or not we do not have church titles but once we are called, you feel a sense of calling from God, and one suddenly becomes articulate with words to say.

Forgiveness is not the member's domain. The member for Alataua West had prayed to God for forgiveness, but not towards the member, with respect.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Mr Speaker, the member is referring to us who were in prayer.

MR SPEAKER: Oh you prayed too? You may take the floor.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai: A point of order, I was invited to pray this morning. My advice to the member is to cite the New Testament instead of constantly referring to the Old Testament as Jesus died in the New Testament changing our story altogether. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu (Gagaemauga No.3): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I ask that we move on to the Legislation, go ahead.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu: Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker, I was just pondering the statement referred to Salemuliaga whether to steer the boat forward or backwards. Since the member is speaking of the programme that was officially prepared by this Assembly. It also applies to you Mr Speaker, the one speaking pardon me, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

I will say this as the member for Vaimauga has undermined the independent authority of this House and its programme. The respected members were not called randomly for invocation at the Prayer Meeting of this Assembly held recently.

God is listening for he is the All Knowing. I rise to say that the words of the member should be removed from our Hansard and move on with your speech. As for the official Parliamentary programme, the member should respect it.

That is my advice, as you do not participate in the debate your honour. I must remind you that this is your role and duty. Have a good speech.

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Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: It seems like you are all taking this seriously. I beg tolerance of the member but do not take the statement of Vaimauga gravely.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: No your honour, I am directing my statement to the Deputy Speaker. I gather that he had just returned from New Zealand after undergoing heart surgery. We may be too loud and who knows after the measles we could be busy with him.

MR SPEAKER: This is what you call a member with compassion he is reminding us that the Deputy Speaker was ill.

I beg tolerance of the member for Vaimauga but do not say any more. Conclude your remarks as your time is up.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: I will abide the ruling of the Speaker. With the legislation, this constituency do support it. The only thing is....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister who did not pray but is taking the floor again.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: With the Bible, as some of us who do not read it but do listen to the sermons of others, then we take the short cut, we listen and shape up our thoughts.

The Scripture you cited only came with the chapter, what was the verse? This is important to me. You have claimed that God brought the disease yet I was trying to ask Laauli, who caused the spread of the disease. Invocation is very important as you are conversing with God. We should acquire enthusiasm to talk with God at all times. Why? He instructed us so.

All you have to is ask, then assistance will be rendered, this is the way to go about asking.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, wrap up your remarks.

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Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker when my church Minister friend arrived from New Zealand, this man is an evangelist from South Africa.

MR SPEAKER: That is not in the contents of the legislation.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: This gentleman arrived and came by my house. He wanted to arrange an appointment to meet the Prime Minister. All I said to this man was...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker my question has not been answered, stop talking about those things. Do not mention your conversation with the church Minister because if the minister had spoken to you, then keep your conversation with God's servant that was sent to you. Keep it to yourself. That is your own view that almost got you ambushed by the House.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: I will respond to the Prime Minister on the Book Deuteronomy 28 verses 1-15, which states, "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth." Your children will be blessed whilst verses 15 towards the end speaks about curse and disease, even when...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, that is why I asked for the exact verse of the chapter. I was only after the verse and yet he has given us the whole chapter. That will do and I will go blind as it is.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Ok, I will talk about the legislation which is... even the Prime Minister has not read the Bible. Nevertheless, with the legislation, my only concern is the involvement of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Women. My constituency feels that the legislation should concentrate on the Ministry where the problem occurred. I applaud the new Minister for the hospital. It is not him and his associate. It is unfortunate that their appointment has coincided with the curse that has now hit our country. This is a curse that was brewed during your time, it is the curse of those before you that is now struck you during your tenure.

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I thank the Lord for He has challenged you, they are not doctors but the former were doctors and then you arrived just in time for this to happen. I appreciate your courage...

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker...

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

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: The member's remarks although it comes across in a light manner but it is disappointing. Mr Speaker I rise to say that this statement should be removed from Hansard because this claim cannot be substantiated with respect.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: The speech of Vaimauga will now conclude. Salausa I applaud you for being the Associate Minister of Women. My constituency have just become aware of your radio programme with a senior officer of the Ministry of Women clarifying this situation.

My concern is that I wanted a legislation to be drafted since it is being done regarding the hospital yet we are concentrating on the Ministry of Women. It means that the workload will increase. Not only the women representatives, as well as Pulenuu, although we should also be considering a pay rise since they will be...

That is the feeling Hon Prime Minister, this constituency support this, I have thought that another Legislation would be in place for the hospital since the authority of Chiefs and Orators is considered and so as the Education sector with Loau. What is the situation with the legislation for the hospital? It is still under control and that is my view Mr Speaker, this constituency supports the Legislation.

MR SPEAKER: What did you want to share your thoughts on? When you become the Minister of Health, you may implement that.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: The speech of Vaimauga is done. May bless this Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and thank you. The country is following our proceedings so it is not very wise to beat around with our statements because if we were to seek controversies here, then we are tempted to befriend conflict, which is the devil's tool.

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That is the way of Samoans, we talk and jovial around things which ends remarkably in the name of God. Therefore, I congratulate you on your participation.

I call upon the member for Salega East.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to be the final speaker on this legislation.

Mr Speaker our remarks will not be long. I will take this opportunity to convey my appreciations on behalf of my constituency to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and everyone who have been out there in the sun and rain handling this epidemic before us.

Mr Speaker the Prime Minister and members have all spoken on the heartbreak and condolences expressed towards the families and parents affected by the magnitude of the disease and Gods calling upon the children.

I will say that may we all have courage particularly parents and families. There is a view that goes blessed are these children for they will increase the number of angels in Gods kingdom in heaven and to this present world, we live.

Mr Speaker we have noted that there is quite a number of factors presented in this Bill. The first is the assurance for parents who are lawfully required the immunisation of children.

Secondly, the Ministry of Education has been given authority to accept only children who have been immunised.

Thirdly, power is granted to the village authority to develop policies to identify and be in line with the Ministry of Health.

This constituency wholly supports the legislation Mr Speaker and I am of the opinion that the legislation does seem perfect. Nevertheless, I suggest that the reconsideration upon wisdom and intellect applied whilst going through the process of enacting this law.

Mr Speaker, the first thing is the necessity to clarify clearly the role and power of the government within the legislation to ensure that everyone adheres to it. What I am trying say is Mr Speaker; my modest view of it is that it seems that we are giving the people the onus to enforce the law. Just refer to section, which stipulates, chiefs and orators of villages are required to develop policies to identify with the Health Ministry. It means Mr Speaker that we are giving them the freedom to either do it or not. However, this is exactly what we are looking at, it was left with the mothers to take their children for immunisation; however, they were not committed. Now that this authority was delegated to the chiefs and orators, however, the Government has no power to enforce the people to uphold....

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MR SPEAKER: I hear you; I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this member will never understand if he does not read the Bill entirely.

The point he is on regards children and it is the reason for this amendment. The culmination of all this is the schooling stage and that is the strength under enforcement. If there may have been anything that was missing during the process it will be picked up the moment a child is enrolled, and I do not need to say this out. The fact of the matter is, if parents realises the importance of schooling their children, which is the motto the parents are living by. Mr Speaker that is why the amendments of this legislation is applied as there is a right in looking after the children, also Women's Groups in the villages and the authority of the village councils. For us who attend village meetings regularly, we understand this well. Whereas the chiefs and Parliamentarians who do not go to the villages, this is the kind of speech, they have, because they do not attend the village meetings. That is my assistance to the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I would think that the clarification from the Prime Minister is understood.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: What a waste if the insertion of these factors is made to the Bill. It does not matter. My concern, if it is left to the chiefs and orators to come up with their own policies. Well, there is a possibility that each village will come up with different policies. Nevertheless, if the State sets out the policies to bring consistency, and to make the Ministry's role more efficient.

Another factor that has surfaced is school children not going to school if failed to be immunised. Mr Speaker and members, it has witnessed that a lot of kids still do not go to school, despite the enforcement of the compulsory law being in place, however we still see a lot of them not attending school. Now if we are to go with the scenario of taking immunization records as proof to allow these kids in schools, there are parents that just do not take this seriously. They would rather have the kids selling matches and the likes. Mr Speaker, those factors are...

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker we all understand these situations. The Government is trying to lay out different roles to enable us to implement these plans. Everyone understands what you are raising, as they are not novel. In case you think, it was not in the minds of those who drafted the Legislation.

Mr Speaker, these are not new, but if we are to consider these types of beliefs and criticisms, nothing will be achieved. Meaning the legislation will be a waste of time, and consequently nothing will be done.

MR SPEAKER: Well, be considerate as Tuivalea is not here in this Cabinet and those who were the initiators or drafters of this Legislation. As known, people have different intellects. Even if you ask an old woman and refuse, it is like an animal that fails to take a drink regardless of your several attempts. That is how it is. It is the same with everyone else created by God, only one thing distincts us all and that is our intellect, one woman would go and vaccinate her child because of her love whilst another woman does not do so because she has no love. That is the difference, rather get on the right track.

No, the reason for highlighting this area is because this is the role of the Speaker, to assist the members with regards to their comments and addresses. That is the reason for my response to save time as we have a lot of work to do. I beg tolerance to the member.

Go ahead.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you honorable Speaker and the respective honorable of this Legislation.

MR SPEAKER: I permit the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, since the Legislation of this Ministry is also affected, just a slight assistance to the member, the authority of the State is not extended towards the village council which has its recommendation under its village affairs, however, there is authority of the State through the village representatives which is the change to the Internal Affairs Act of the Ministry of Women and Community and Social Development to encourage the *sui tamaitai o nuu* and *sui o nuu* to monitor this doing in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to push them to undertake. So the Ministry is pushing through with the Legislation upon approval. With due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. You may take the floor.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you honorable Speaker, thank you also for the interjection of the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. In truth, the sui o nuu are under the authority of the village council. That is the follow up on powers and so forth in the authority of the village council to ensure the revival of our Komiti Tumama or Women's Groups which had us no deaths. That is why it is....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I think the member is not getting the clarification. It is true it is down, but that is the representative of the State. These village representatives are not performing their roles given by the Ministry, they are not complying with the State's orders hence is the need for change. The village would somehow approach us and tell us that they will comply and consult amongst themselves. Therefore, the village has authority however, the State also has a say in this for whenever problems arise, the representatives must be changed. That is the response as these matters all end up to me.

Mr Speaker, this is the picture because the member was never a Minister, so he does not understand what we are doing.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. There is thought...is there anything else left? Leave that aspect, it will be stated in the State's response please.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Just an advise, it would be best for the Ministry to initiate to ensure the support of the village council on the matters from the Ministry. In regards to matters like this, just a view your honorable Speaker, given time, the thoughts and views shared are not deep enough your honor on significant issues of this sort.

Pardon your view, as most of the time, you were sleepy resulting in your inadequate insight of other members's views. In regards to this matter pertaining to the Health, we too have our shortcoming in our part for not questioning all these matters during the time of our deliberation. On this note, I plead that chance be given so that we can render our views on this issue. With due respect. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Let me assist on that part. I beg the pardon of the member, given the progress of our proceedings and orders. Perhaps it was heard during our past proceedings. We are blessed to start off our Pre-Sitting yesterday at 10 and finished at 4, yes it took the entire day for the Head of the Ministry and staff to bring us an insight of this Legislation. In the past, when I was new in Parliament, as soon as the legislations were tabled, the speeches would start straight away whilst others would use the chance to read and gain understanding of the legislations. Nowadays, we would spend the whole day trying to gain awareness of the Legislations. Because of the nature of our work, we are politicians. We know very well, we play from behind the scene and we are heard. The word we say, bring your thoughts on the right track for the sake of the State's works. When will this happen, when it says it is dear to us. Is it dear to you what is happening thus dragging the works and this Legislation? Action speaks louder than words. And avoid talking blah bla bla from behind. We are politicians, I am saying this directly. We have our Standing Orders and whenever two, three or four disobey our orders, the Speaker does not waste a chance on them. Why? It is earaching. This is the direct statement, it is the same deliberation, it is prolonging our Sitting. No it is not like that, we must implement our works in time for the sake of Samoa. And so the current speaker is now done.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the word fast track pointed at me, is quite vicious. We are not fast tracking our works; this is the only thing I observed.

This is a huge opportunity we spent the entire day yesterday consulting with all the Ministries on Legislations. We also had the Attorney General and Government Heads who shed light on the details of the Legislation. In saying that, the absence of the member from yesterday's meeting should not have the responses again that have already been deliberated yesterday. This huge chance has eased deliberations on all matters.

Therefore, if a legislation is submitted and is queried again, it will prolong our Sittings on matters already raised or the fact that members want their views to be heard by the public. Perhaps this is the second Parliamentary term for this same doing which means that it has taken almost 10 years. That was not the case when we first came in Parliament. Whenever a legislation is tabled, it is deliberated straight away in the House. There is no time to read them, so we read it swiftly to gain understanding, and await the time for it to come back from the Committee after their review.

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Therefore, this is the chance for us to raise issues that have been overlooked by the Committee. This is a different intention shown here. Mr Speaker, the remarks made are quite punitive, saying that the Legislation is being fast-tracked. Mr Speaker, you now speak of that matter, I rise again to elaborate this concern.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, if I had made any offensive word, I beg your pardon I am just pointing out what I feel. Pardon the Hon Prime Minister, decisions cannot be made behind, this is the House where all decisions are being made. I too was present during our sitting yesterday, and did not get a chance to make a comment. This is where decisions are made it is not held under a breadfruit tree, pardon Samoa tuning in.

Susuga Hon Tuiulaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, these matters were not discussed in the back...do not...you are misleading the country. It was not done in the back, the official Sitting of Parliament comprises of the members of Parliament, which involves the huge time of public servants who came to explain part of the jobs to you.

Mr Speaker, that is the intention however, you do not seem to want to understand. We cannot brush these matters aside as we must clarify them. I see that you were present yesterday and if you did, and did not make any comment then it showed that you understood, what else is there? This is reckless and being rude.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister is being too much, I did not get a chance yesterday, I have only just received it here and there was no Parliament session yesterday. I beg tolerance your honor. This is the only place, which we call Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: I trust the statement of the Chair is offensive. The intention is to proceed our works. For the information, *e au i le tauola au fo'i i le figota*. There is a time that you come to me, and this is one of my duties in the order of our proceedings. Why? To swiftly implement. Look at the heads of the Ministries and Public bodies. They can never leave this Sitting unless it is finished then they can go and do their jobs for the wellbeing of Samoa. Such is my role. I plead that if I sound provocative, cast it in the deserted islands and search forgiveness from God for the sake of our works.

I call the member for Anoamaa West.

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Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West): Thank you honorable Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: This is the remaining member...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: I will be brief; there is only one matter I wish to speak upon taken that it was not raised in our meeting yesterday.

This Bill is well prepared and I congratulate the State for their effort. The legislation speaks of birth certificates, vaccinations booklets and other requirements when the student starts school. The Prime Minister has in further made clear clarification on this Bill.

I appreciate the Village Fono Act before hand. It is stipulated in the wording of the legislation that there must be village rules/policies in place within the country subject to vaccinations brought by the Ministry of Health. My request to the Ministry, can we obtain copies of these immunization requirements and other various diseases and disseminate them to village representatives for them to look at? I trust that whatever rules and procedures compiled and created for the sake of the villages, they must be subject to the demands of the Ministry of Health, and use policies to establish their Procedures.

Secondly, according to the Village Fono Act, it would be good to have the village the registration of rules here to warrant the Legislation and to gain constitutional power for the State. This is for the application of the Village Fono, if... regarding punishments and so forth before it reaches the Court for the State's penalties. I speak of these things as I relate to community-based programme, which is the initiation. That is the time for this effort to be in place whilst we have our children. Thankfully, this duty is now upon the village representatives to implement this programme within the villages.

In addition, monitoring is important, we must follow up on say monthly or twice a month and visit the villages. To ensure that all new children are being vaccinated including adults moving into the village. For your information, most of our people have migrated. Some have left for Savaii for employment, some have moved here, there is also the urban migration and rural migration, it is like that, and we must maintain a follow up plan on these migrations.

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I extend appreciation to the Ministry of Health especially the public servants who were able to be engaged with this assignment which was no easy task to take especially during the two-day holiday. On behalf of this district, I thank all of you for the job you were assigned to do. This district is safe. This is the explanation your honorable Speaker, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker there are a few matters which will take about half a minute to respond conclusively.

MR SPEAKER: Why not refer it to the State, the response of the State will cover everything that the member intends to bring. Lealailepule, we were all here yesterday.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: This is an unlike morning for Parliament, because of the rough seas. A person of prudent expertise qualities or Tautaimatopalapala is significant for days like this. Such is the short view I aim to bring should you allow it Mr Speaker. With days like this, the Leaders of Samoa must stand together, leave aside our feelings and thoughts, and stand together to prevent the measles outbreak. Samoa, make your contribution because this Bill is vital especially for the sake of my constituency listening in. I am not mocking around. If you intend that I make one comment, otherwise, I will rest.

MR SPEAKER: Respectfully, thank you for your support on this Bill. May God bless the member. I allow the State.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, let the women state one point. Briefly, the only thing accorded to the village council is responsibility. I trust that the district development plans chaired by the members is the main pathway for our contribution to be made on this Legislation. Because this is what I have been working on together with the village representatives in the previous week, we collected vaccination records whilst the member was collecting the records from Primary Schools or Pre Schools from each district clinics.

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This has made it easier to reconcile and become aware of the total number of villages left. I raise that we must make a contribution and bring significance and as Members, we must make good use of the District Development Plans to monitor the implementation of this Legislation. With due respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Pardon the member wanting to speak, leave it to the State.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I extend great thanks to members that have spoken on some of the raising matters. The first matter regards the Ministries working closely on this project, which is all specified under the Legislation. All of them are subject with the Procedures set out by the Ministry of Health. This is the procedure of the State; any health related matter must be adhered to the Health Policies and Health processes including various village rules for women, Village Groups and the rest of those who will work towards improving this Legislation.

Secondly, the point clarified earlier was specific to measles vaccination, there is no statement for children age 16 and other sicknesses in regards to vaccinations. As I said, there is only 3, including measles and rubella. Rubella is German measles which is reason for poor eye sight or blindness of a child, and mumps that we are all aware about and other various children diseases in regards to vaccinations. As such, this is particularly pertaining to measles, which includes all other 10 plus shots for children including another disease called the *makake* and pneumonia that is common amongst children. So the program is an ongoing process. So it does not mean that for one vaccination, then that is it. Immunization contains 16 doses and the main significant point here is that measles is the main disease that is affecting our children.

There are other sicknesses progressed under this program that should not be avoided. It is why I put emphasis on the concern of the members, these things are priceless, but if you take your child for a fofo, it comes with a price and there is a decision for everything, the *taulasea* or traditional healers must still be paid lest the child will end up getting sicker.

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– consideration in detail

Mr Speaker, this is my final matter lest it is overlooked by the women on the 3 vaccinations that should not exclude other shots. There is a need for these other vaccinations to be done and another thing, there are other vaccinations that may become useless due to a mistake on the angle taken or perhaps the shot may have gone too warm or is beyond the required temperature, especially for general immunizations.

Mr Speaker, that is for your awareness, as our Sitting is broadcasted publicly. To conclude your honor, lest you require another three minutes to end our remaining program, I move the motion, *To resume the remaining matters before adjourning the Proceedings of Parliament.*

That is the motion lest we go beyond 1.00pm as I see that it is almost 1:00pm by two minutes, it is all covered in the motion moved.

Motion approved.

Motion approved and the Infants Amemdment Bill (No2) 2019 be read a second time.

INFANTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2019
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the consideration begins with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: New Section 12A inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Education Act 2009 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Village Fono Act 1990 amended.

Approved.

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CLAUSE 5: Internal Affairs Act 1995 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Ministry of Women Act 1990 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE

CLAUSE 1: Short title and amendment.

TITLE: Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019.

Approved.

The Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019 progressed without Amendment.

INFANTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2019
 - third reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Infants Amendment (No.2) Bill 2019 be read a third time.*

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

Motion approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

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**PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT
BILL 2019 – first reading**

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Public Finance Management Amendment Bill 2019 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister for Revenue, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration.

Motion approved and the Public Finance Management Amendment Bill 2019 was now read a first time.

**AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR BILL 2019
– first reading**

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019 be now read a first time.*

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

Motion approved and the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019 was now read a first time.

**TAX ADMINISTRATION (ELECTRONIC SYSTEM)
AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading**

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Revenue): Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Tax Administration (Electronic System) Amendment Bill 2019 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motion approved and the Tax Administration (Electronic System) Amendment Bill 2019 was now read a first time.

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POLICE POWERS AMENDMENT BILL 2019
– first reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Police Powers Amendment Bill 2019 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved and the Police Powers Amendment Bill 2019 was read a first time.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2019
– first reading

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2019 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration and the Minister of Finance.

Motion approved and the Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2019 was read a first time.

MISCELLANEOUS (BOARD OF PUBLIC BODIES)
AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour): Thank you honorable Speaker. I upstand to move the motion, *That the Miscellaneous (Board Public Bodies) Amendment Bill 2019 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Minister of Tourism.

Motion approved and the Miscellaneous (Board Public Bodies) Amendment Bill 2019 was read a first time.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AMENDMENT BILL 2019
– first reading

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Mr Speaker, I move the motion, *That the Intellectual Property Amendment Bill 2019 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Minister of Tourism.

Motion approved and the Intellectual Property Amendment Bill 2019 was read a first time.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Leader of the Government for the motion to adjourn our business.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned until Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 9.00am.*

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

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: Well done everyone for your patience and perseverance.

I extend gratitude to the honorable Leader of the State and your Cabinet, honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Associate Ministers, Chairpersons of Committees on that Side of the Chamber, honorable Deputy Speaker and Senior Members of Parliament. Well done on your perseverance today.

I take this opportunity to convey sincere thanks and bid forbearance for anything that may have sound offensive, I trust in the spirit of forgiveness upon everyone as the Coming of the Newborn Baby is at our doors, a Baby to make a new atonement, so that we can all tolerate Forgiveness and become One according to the will of God, love one another.

This is our statement, I recognize the Hon Prime Minister for your statement for the sake of the listening public.

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STATEMENT OF THE HON PRIME MINISTER

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, well done to you for managing our sitting today. It is one which initiates discussion on our Appropriation Budget to resume ongoing works of the State as commenced in the Main Budget ending in June of the current Financial Year period.

Well done to members that also spoke today on the passed Legislations that will assist the undertakings of the State and the country to avoid the effect of this virus on us, it could cause more deaths especially the measles.

Although words made are quite serious this morning, the former Speaker also reminded us that words should not be minced in here. Whenever we deliberate, that indicates our integrity role we were sworn in to do. We cannot allow our fellowship to stop us from doing the right thing. It is the assistance to improve our Legislations and improve our living under these Laws. I heed appreciation and have observed the presence of the majority over a few that are engaged given unforeseen circumstances.

This is also the chance to voice our sympathetic words to the country due to the measles outbreak that we are affected by. A statement was made in relation to this outbreak and God's creation. Those are majority of the comments made by the Philosophers or Biblical doctrines, God's creation involves everything. There is a time that even with this new virus, it was long created by God from the start. However there is also time for some virus to regenerate at high temperature of 2000 degrees celcius whilst some revive in high cool temperature.

These are the various magnificence of God's creation, our thoughts are not that of God's. That is why we face challenges in life, laid out by the sin of our initial parents and the tribulations that everyone now encounters today.

Therefore I beg the pardon of the country especially the grieving families of those who have lost their children. Although it is too late, the State aims to protect everyone according to discussions in the House, as we move towards the future.

As we near the Commemoration of the birth of the Messiah, I must congratulate the support of Samoa, Usoga a Tumua ma Puleono i Salafai, the support of Aiga, High Highness Le Ao Mamalu, Member of the Council of Deputy, and the clergy who are in prayers for our prosperity, during Parliament's engagement with its duties. That is the entire spirit your honor, for Samoa as a whole to bear the spirit of Christmas and thanksgiving for the works we have achieved.

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Infants Amendment Bill (No.2) 2019
– consideration in detail

May we all find a Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. May we enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MR SPEAKER: I believe Samoa has heard the statement of the Hon Prime Minister and his challenging and sympathetic words in accordance to the outbreak in the country. Malo!

The feeling of couragousness is heard if we abide with the spirit of togetherness, starting with us and the Authority of the Village Councils and women in the village community especially the Sacred Leaders of the Gospel.

Let us work together to clear this virus engaged by the State through the Ministry of Health and the various Ministries and Corporations, we rely on the love of God and His strength to protect and remove this outbreak from our country.

Let the Hon Prime Minister's statement be tabled for the sake of Samoa tuning in *le paia o Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma Tama o le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*, which brings nobility to the Parliament given the safekeeping support of Samoa.

There is belief that since we were up early this morning for our Prayer Meeting, I trust this is also Samoa's support, I therefore decide that we take an early break.

The divisions of Samoa has been classified and is retained forever, O Samoa ua uma ona tofi, *e le tau atia se pa pe sii se matalalaga, e talatau Toga e talatofi le atunuu*, meaning, Tongan stories (traditions) are those of war whereas those of Samoa are about divisions, *i le Paia o Aiga o Tama ma Aiga faapea le faleupolu o tofiga ma le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule* then we say, let the statement of the Government Leader be tabled. I will end our Sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:20pm until 9.00am on Tuesday 21 January 2020 pursuant to Parliamentary Sitting Schedule 2019/2020.

