

*TUESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013*

*The Legislative Assembly resumed at 9.00am pursuant to the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2013*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am*

**Prayer.**

**MR SPEAKER:** I greet the dignity of the House this morning in all its honorific salutations. I believe that all the members are present to fulfill their calling. I acknowledge the prayers and support of the leaders from the various denominations. Samoa is founded on God and He is the beginning and the ending of all things.

I welcome the Leader of the Government and the Cabinet Ministers, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament. We cannot forget the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations present here today as the right arm of the government. Thank you for your patience and participation.

We cannot forget the support of Samoa in all its dignity as it is because of your support that we are in these positions today. We are not perfect but it is with your support that we are able to succeed in carrying out this calling.

Praise God for his blessing and protection upon us this new day. Without further ado, I believe we are all present and we can now proceed to deliberate on the orders of the day. We have a lot to consider during this sitting as per usual.

**MESSAGE FROM LE AO O LE MALO**

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

**“MEMORANDUM for:**

Mr Speaker:

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

1. Agriculture Store Corporation Repeal Bill 2013.

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**Message from Le Ao o le Malo**

**GIVEN UNDER my Hand** this Monday 17<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 2013.

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

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** For the information of the members we are present here today with students from various colleges in Savaii and the rural areas Upolu. This is the beginning of a series of Parliament Open Weeks spearheaded by the Office of the Clerk with the support of the United Nations Development Program, the governments of Australia and Tasmania, AUSAid and the Government of Samoa.

The focus is to increase awareness amongst the younger generation on Parliamentary processes and what Parliament is because they are the future. The aim is to inform the students as well as the public that they are able to contribute to the work of Parliament through submissions to the Committees during consideration of bills and other ways.

I therefore thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Ministry for supporting this program. I greet the students and teachers in attendance and this is a good opportunity for you to observe the parliamentary debate. God bless you all in your studies and in the acquiring of knowledge during this Parliament Open Week.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

1. *Mr Speaker laid on the table P.P. 2013/2014 No. 12 Report of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for July 2010-June 2011(Pursuant to Article 99 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa).*
2. *Clerk read out the Papers tabled (Pursuant to S.O. 48).*
  1. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 13, Annual Report of the Samoa Housing Corporation for the year 2012.
  2. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 14, Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board Financial Statements for the Year 30 June 2012.
  3. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 15, Annual Report of the Electoral Power Corporation for the Year 2011/2012.

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## PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEES REPORTS

*Clerk read out the Select Committee Reports tabled pursuant to S.O.51(5)*

1. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 16, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Second Supplementary Estimates 2012/2013 of the Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, P.P. 2013/2014 No.8.
2. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 17, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Main Estimates 2012/2013 of the Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, P.P. 2013/2014 No.9.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister):** I greet you Mr Speaker and the members of the Legislative Assembly this new morning. I also acknowledge the presence of the students with us today. I advise you all to pursue the science disciplines because they result in scholarships or choose a sport to excel in because these are areas in which Samoa needs development.

I use simple language to address you all because 99% of the Speakers comments were too complicated as he used oratory language but these terms you will understand. As a result you can pursue the disciplines I mentioned because in the long run, it will benefit our country.

I greet the dignity of Samoa in all its honorific salutations and this is a wonderful morning indeed. The reason being that our national rugby team; Manu Samoa has been victorious against Italy and Scotland and we will await the final match between South Africa to be played this Saturday. Let us pray for strength to be upon them and that the Lord may turn their weaknesses into strength as evidence of His greatness on which Samoa is founded.

We witnessed last week on television the victorious bout of one of our own in the boxing ring; Joseph Parker and the end of this month we will watch the Rugby Sevens Series. Wherever in the world one of our own are involved in sports they need your encouragement and support. It is because of this that the Manu Samoa was victorious and as a result there were no reports of [domestic violence at the Ministry of Police](#), [expectant mothers gave birth happily](#) and I believe our proceedings will progress without any contradiction and conflict.

In six months we will move from being a least developed country to a middle income level country and this is an indication of success. Since independence 51 years ago, our previous leaders contributed to this success. We are now striving and working for the development of our country to be in line with the current trends for the benefit of our people.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister**

It is a continuous task for those in the position that we are in now to strive but like all other countries we are affected by the lack of resources.

Prioritizing is the only solution that is available when considering the needs of the people and the increase in population. This is done across all the sectors of the country from families to business to governments. Common sense is then used to decide on what to prioritize first and then funds are either requested by way of grants or loaned to implement these priorities.

If we do not do this, we will be relying solely on our own resources and we will fall into a state of national poverty. Overseas countries and organizations are always keen to assist and loan funds to us at low interest rates because they know that we are utilizing these funds wisely

We were the first Pacific Island to loan four years after Independence with the Asia Development Bank in 1966. Millions was loaned from the ADB to construct the Faleolo Airport in 1971 with the repayment of \$31,000 annually and this is appropriated in the budget. This is not a concern and we should stop persistently broadcasting on TV that our country is in debt because of these loans.

For the next Financial Year, revenue inclusive of grants amounts to \$760million and \$45million will be used to repay our loans leaving \$715million for other purposes. These loans are spread out through a period of 4-5years to fund developments such as the hospital. You can see in the Budget that these loans are not new ones; they are old ones that are still being used for these developments. This is why I was surprised to see one of the members on television stating that if these loans are added our national debt would amount to billions. These appropriations have been delivered to you beforehand and still you do not understand but you have the opportunity to call the Ministry of Finance or the CEO for clarification. I have become uncertain whether I should use the English language or Chinese to explain these matters.

Mr Speaker, would you please advise the member that is upstanding that an interjection is not permitted at this time.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition):** Point of clarification Mr Speaker.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition. This is the Hon Prime Minister's Ministerial Speech. Please have patience. The opportunity will be given to you after. There is no debate during a Ministerial Speech as per our Standing Orders. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Understand there is no interruption during a Ministerial Speech.

In the Congregational Christian Church book of worship there is a verse that states if you overstep your boundaries you may end up in a ditch. When you make loans for a cabbage patch, in time, that cabbage patch will repay that loan and the same goes for our loans for infrastructural developments. The amount of the loan is not important. What is important is the ability of the government to repay these loans annually.

The private sector is also important in providing other services the government cannot provide and at times they may take over developments the government initiates. This is why the government provides assistance to the private sector.

There are wharves in Savaii and Upolu that the government constructs and the private shipping companies can dock their ships there. This is the same for the roads. The government constructs them and the people use it.

The government has increased its appropriation from 5 to 6million to mission and private schools.

Billions have also been poured into the Hotel Industry which employs many of our locals and the owners need to do their part and set cheaper rates than Fiji. However, that is not the case. They want the government to also carry out their part.

Mr Speaker, it is our duty to motivate our people to work and be self-reliant. We should not make speeches that encourage dependency and free services. If everything was free, what will we then use to fund our developments? Do not be compelled to be interviewed by the young media personnel as I am unsure if they have completed Form 2.

We should not forget that our country is educated and they know enticement when they see it. I am sympathetic of the Opposition and their enticing comments which should be stopped because it is not healthy for the country. A persistent government uses connections and good relations with the outside world to attract investors to invest and establish companies within the country for the employment of the young graduates and assist with the national revenue.

This is the system used by New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan, Germany, the United States of America as well as Arab Countries. These countries have resources and yet they also try to persuade investors to invest in their countries. There are thousands of Toyota companies from Japan in America and vice versa for American companies in Japan. Samoa only has one Japanese company which is Yazaki. American based Car Company Ford is also in Germany and I observed this during my employment in Europe. Yazaki is the only company that we could lure into the country and although they have longed to relocate, we have an agreement that is too attractive to pass up.

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### Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister

The truth is, this is the only big company that will ever invest in Samoa and the next best option is to target the overseas hoteliers to invest in Samoa to provide employment opportunities for the youth.

Any member that is against foreign investors has doomed the youth to a future of unemployment. We should always be mindful of the benefits to our country. During our debate of this Appropriation I will monitor carefully your speeches and with the country listening in, the member that is against foreign investors in Samoa should not return in the next elections.

Mr Speaker, the countries that I mentioned before do not care about the appearance of the investor. What matters is the appearance of the money that will be used to fund economic developments. Enticement should only be used to attract foreign investors but instead we protest when we see a Chinese businessman; assuming that Samoa will be overtaken by Chinese. These assumptions are preposterous and to think that they originate from within this Chamber.

China has a population exceeding a billion and they are currently the biggest export market and governments are flocking to have an opportunity to trade with them. No one ever thought that Communist China would ever be in this situation and there are rumors that next year they will be the leading trading market. New Zealand has had a long trading relationship with China exporting dairy products and meat.

The Deputy Prime Minister explained our policies regarding foreign companies the night before. A thorough background check which can take 4-5 years is done by experts before a decision is made. It is not a rushed process. Investors do not invest instantly, they analyze the pros and cons of investing in Samoa and negotiations can take up to 4 years.

Do you recall the Taumeasina issue which resulted in a Legislation being passed in 1970? It has been 43 years and we have only just found an investor to develop this project. Perhaps some of you were still in kindergarten when this issue was discussed therefore you must leave Moses and his prophets to do their work. In the words of a wise man; it is better to be silent for it is when you speak that your ignorance is known. The government policies were not drafted yesterday. Like a building engineer, the layout is first considered before a building is erected. A new government building is being proposed.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta (Falealupo):** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** It is with all due respect that I rise to pursue the issue of dignity within the House.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister**

**MR SPEAKER:** I have made my initial ruling. When the Hon Prime Minister has completed his Ministerial Speech then a motion can be moved afterwards. Our proceedings are guided by our Standing Orders. I call on the Hon Prime Minister to please continue.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I am grateful Mr Speaker that I had the opportunity to be amongst some of our great leaders before they passed on and if the member checks the Hansards during those times the deliberations were ruthless and is nothing compared to now.

In case you think that you are knowledgeable you only need to read through the past Hansards to know that debates in this House are not sugar-coated. When it is the future prosperity of the country that is being considered, debate will become heated. That is my advice to the member that attempted to interrupt.

As I was saying, the government policies were not drafted yesterday. There are procedures when buildings are proposed....

**MR SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, there will be a future time for you to make comments. However for now there is no debate during a Ministerial Statement as per our Standing Orders.

I apologize to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; please continue Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I am disappointed especially since the interrupting member was a former Speaker of the House and this continuous interruption is an indication that throughout his term from 1988 – 1990 he did not understand the procedures and it is an offence.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Mr Speaker, I will not allow these comments to go unanswered. I only have a sentence in response.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** If the member interrupts again I will move a motion to remove him from the House.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** This is ludicrous.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker as the Hon Prime Minister is addressing this side.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask for your tolerance and patience Leader of the Opposition. Our procedures are clear regarding Ministerial Speeches.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister**

There is no deliberation but comments can be made afterwards. Please understand that we are trying to organize our proceedings.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister to resume with the speech.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** There is no building that is constructed without an architectural blueprint from a qualified architecture and they are also paid. This profession is costly. After the blueprint is made, it must then be checked for any other modifications and then it is redone because it is never done right the first time. A million dollar project is never rushed. If a building was being built with the guest tree (fu'afu'a) and the erythrina species (gatae) then it would only take a day to build but this is not the case with projects costing million dollars.

Rushed work Mr Speaker is never done thoroughly. The Fugalei market road is being planned thoroughly and there is no need to be concerned about when it will be completed. There are many markets in the Apia area and within a 4-5 mile radius of town. Since the establishment of this Political Party in 1982, we resolved to use everyday Samoan to make our proceedings understandable and save time in trying to clarify issues that are raised.

The importance of this resolution is so that when serious accusations are made against a member it must be clarified and corrected because the listening public will assume these accusations are fact if they are not corrected instantaneously.

Issues that are being raised on this budget cannot be brushed aside. Our primary policy is to make our responsibility clear and it is not a crime to do so for the comprehension of the country.

Mr Speaker, that is a brief statement as the Leader of the Government and that is an introduction to this Budget. Thank you and God bless this House.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker...

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communication and Information Technology):** Mr Speaker I would like to move a motion.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition; a motion is to be moved. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand with all due respect to move a motion, *That the Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister be printed and laid on the table as a Paper of Consideration.*



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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister**

*Seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I second the motion Mr Speaker and I also would like to raise a point of clarification. This is the Hon Prime Ministers fifth parliamentary term and the Ministerial Statements do not make any mention of the order of business for the House as is the norm.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Leader of the Opposition. The Hon Minister has moved the motion and you have seconded it. The Ministerial Statement will be considered at a future sitting.

I give the floor to the honorable member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I do not mean any disrespect but I want to raise a point of clarification on our procedures per our Standing Orders. The Ministerial Statement is a privilege appointed only to the Ministers and as per our Standing Orders a statement must be made on behalf of the Government relating to a decision of the Government on any matter. However, the Hon Prime Minister made a general statement but this is not proper.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted. As an attempt to clarify the issue honorable member for Falealupo; this opportunity is given to the government to answer to the issues that were raised.

I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaoi:** I can assist in this matter. This is the third time this member has been disrespectful and from the sound of it, he seems to be under the influence of alcohol. If you are, wait until you are sober because I notice that when you are drunk, you lose all sense of comprehension.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Do not be rude. There is no humor in your remarks because I do not smoke illegal substances.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, there is nothing in the Standing Orders that puts a time limit on the Ministerial Statements. What Standing Orders are you quoting from? Do not be hasty.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the Hon Prime Minister has clarified the issue. I respect that side of the House and I beg leniency of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Prime Minister**

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, these are serious accusations against the honorable member for Falealupo and they must be omitted from the official record. No one takes alcohol this early in the morning and the country is listening in.

**MR SPEAKER:** The remarks were humor and the country listening in knows that no one gets drunk in the early morning. Please be patient. We have not deliberated yet on the Appropriation and yet there is disorder. I ask that you entrust me with the discretion to guide our proceedings to be in line with our Standing Orders on the matter of Ministerial Statements which has no limit to the time or number of statements.

The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology has moved the motion and it was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. The Ministerial Statement will be deliberated at a future sitting.

*Motion approved.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2012/2013 AND  
THE APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014 – second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** There is an intention to second read the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 together as is provided for in the Order Paper.

Pursuant to Standing Order 132 the second reading debate will resume and it shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Samoa and the Governments financial policy.

This is now the opportunity for the members to comment on the two bills. The Hon Prime Minister has made his statement on the government decisions and now the floor is open for any member who wishes to speak.

The floor will be opened by the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2; the constituency which makes wise and thought provoking remarks.

I call on the honorable member to take the floor for your speech.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity and for directing our proceedings. I also thank the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and that side of the House as well as the Leader of the Opposition and this side of the House for your patience and hard work in being present during this important sitting where we are to comment on the economic state of our country.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and the  
Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – second reading**

I acknowledge the support of O Le Ao o le Malo, the member of the Council of Deputies, the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary, Leaders of the various denominations and the dignity of our country listening in.

I cannot forget the support of my beloved constituency of Faasaleleaga No. 2 in all your honorific salutations. Thank you for your support and encouragement. I also greet the various religious leaders within my constituency. Thank you for your continuous prayers.

The hard work of the CEO's of the various Ministries and Corporations cannot be forgotten. Thank you also to the Clerk and the Office for the preparation beforehand of our documents for our sittings. I especially thank the Hon Prime Minister for the Ministerial Statement and courage is a trait from our Heavenly Father to any leader and I am grateful that we have had an introduction to guide us through our deliberation of the Appropriations. I believe that our views will be brief but before I comment on the Appropriations I would like to voice some of the past requests and needs of my constituency.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure by way of the Chair, our written and oral requests have been made for the reconstruction of the road between Vaiaata and Fatausi. A number of elderly residents are in this area and if there was an emergency they would use these roads which are in need of improvement. The same goes for the road in Fuifatu and Eleele.

Government programs state that when the road is constructed the connection of water and electricity is done at the same time. However, Sapapalii has the road and water supply but no electricity as was requested. Fatausi needs improvement in water and electricity. There are two more Appropriations before the end of this Parliamentary term and this is why I am persistent on these requests.

I have recorded with gratitude that a bridge will be constructed for Samalaeulu after Sapapalii. We will eagerly await the erection of this bridge as it will assist with crossing over to the Tuasivi Hospital during emergencies through floods.

Now to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** A question to the honorable member for Faasaleleaga please Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member I must give the opportunity.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** Do you want a bridge constructed for your constituency?

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Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member. The question is if you want a bridge constructed.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIONAMU TAEU MASIPAU:** Has been constructed or want to be constructed?

**MR SPEAKER:** Want to be constructed.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIONAMU TAEU MASIPAU:** Yes. There is a bridge near Lalomalava and Hon Gatoloaifaana also spoke in a previous sitting for Sapapalii.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** But there is a ford there.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIONAMU TAEU MASIPAU:** There is a ford but cars are unable to cross over to the Tuasivi Hospital during flooding. This is also a problem for those travelling to catch the ferry. They can only cross when the river is ankle deep. The reason there are no accidents at this road is because the village has a sacred taboo protecting travelers.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is clear. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I thought you would make it simple for the government and leave the construction for a future year as there is a taboo to protect the travelers.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIONAMU TAEU MASIPAU:** The request is being left by your sides.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please continue with your speech.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIONAMU TAEU MASIPAU:** I thank the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment for the sea walls as per our requests. Fogapoa is complete and only Fatausi to Fusi and Sapapalii are left. Thank you for answering our request. I have here with me your written reply accepting the request so even if it is not implemented straight away, your approval has been received and it will be recorded in Faasaleleaga No. 2 records.

I am not boasting of our constituency's service and importance. But in recollection; Tuasivi is the location of the Hospital, the Dialysis Unit, the morgue, the Justice and Courts buildings, the Police Station, Red Cross and the Samoa Victim Support Headquarters.

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The Prison is located at Vaiaata which is in our constituency as well as the funeral services of Pa'u Leota Sefo Pa'u. If you refer to the first issue of the Parliament newspaper, in the front with his whip and staff is the great orator from Safotulafai who led the Mau a Pule for Samoa. I am not praising our service to the government and country but it is simply to point out that we offer our sincere services in any way possible.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the honorable member to please name the great orator as our country has many.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Lauaki Mamoe Namulauulu who was exiled to Saipan with his wife and children and other men and women of our constituency. Why? In service to Samoa and as I said it is not a boast.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I hear that Lauaki is the first name which means he was a great man indeed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please continue. We know now the service of your constituency.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** On another matter Hon Prime Minister; we have constantly mentioned our land located inland that was taken during the German Administration. The amendment to the Lands and Titles Court Act in 2008 clearly states that the Government can resolve to return these lands as customary lands. That is the request Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet and in saying that I ask my constituency for your patience and support. Just as the apostle Cornelius was patient in prayer to our Heavenly Father he was able to deliver the Gospel to the gentiles. This is why we should also be patient and pray that the Hon Prime Minister will assist us on this issue. Support and encourage the work of the government.

I now come to the Appropriations before us. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance, the CEO and the Ministry for the preparation of the appropriations. I notice that Ministry has generated quite a bit of funds and I am grateful for this. I also express my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Revenue, the CEO and the Ministry for your work in collecting the revenue to finance government developments. I see that you utilize a small amount of funds but generate a lot. I also acknowledge the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology as I see that revenue is also being generated from your respective Ministries.

Thank you for contribution.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and the  
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It is good that the Budget Strategy does not intend to raise any taxes or tariffs but instead the fees and charges for the service provided by a selected number of Ministries and SOE's will be adjusted. Our only recommendation is to take heed that the intended strategy would have a worse effect than raising the taxes and tariffs. I notice that the petroleum price has increased by 200% but for us car owners, \$100 cannot even fill the tank half way. There has also been an increase in the number of vehicles and cars that may end up being idle and rusted because they cannot afford to be refueled.

Thank you Hon Minister for the Budget Summary which portrays what I tried to explain during a previous sitting on the cash surplus, expenditure and revenue after calculations and deductions. Grants can be used to finance other areas. I only have one question that does not have to be answered now but I see that the Soft Term Financing will fund the Deficit. When will we stop relying on loans to finance this? This is a question for future consideration for when....

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Minister of Finance):**  
Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the honorable member. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** I did not intend to interrupt Mr Speaker. As was mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister in his Ministerial Statement, these loans were made long ago and programs are implemented within an approximate time period of 5 years. These programs have long been in the pipeline and this is the same with the projects that are gifted which can take 3-5 years to be implemented which means that the developments are still progressing but the Government intends to decrease our reliance on loans.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification Hon Minister.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** As I said, it is something to think about for the future. You have spoken but come the New Year we will no longer be a LDC so will this Soft Term Financing still remain the same or will it increase.

I will now comment on the External Grants totaling at \$222million.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member while the floor is given to the interjection from the Hon Minister. You may rise Hon Minister of Finance.

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**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The classification you are mentioning is the classifications of the member countries of the United Nations but for now, our partnership with international financial institutions will still continue temporarily. We will still have the opportunity to have soft term financing without interest and grants with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. It is now clear that we will still have the opportunity to have loans without interest. As for the external grants, I believe that this \$222million will help us greatly and we are lucky to have these funds in the Appropriation.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance once again of the honorable member while the opportunity is given to the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, it is not luck, it is because our partners such as the World Bank, the European Union, Australia and New Zealand trust us to utilize these funds wisely and within the terms and conditions that they provide with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please continue honorable member.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. I am grateful for the assistance but I only again advise to distribute it wisely. We are fortunate to still have this assistance for the next year but when we move away from being a LDC we will no longer receive grants such as the \$222million. Let us hope that we will still obtain this assistance.

I believe when our statutory expenditure, expenditure programs and development expenditure increases so will our unforeseen expenditure. During the last financial year our unforeseen expenditure was \$13million but now it is \$16million. I therefore question whether the previous \$33million has been used or is there a balance.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member; the floor will be given to the Hon Prime Minister for an explanation.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker.

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What we are looking at are estimates. If overseas countries are in a dire economic situation, our revenue will be affected as well as our financial situation. If the overseas funding is not received then the government will have to use the unforeseen expenditures.

These are not funds being used; it is being deducted based on what we receive. The Ministries have only provided estimates and we cannot predict future events and if there is an unforeseen emergency then our revenue will be affected as well as the unforeseen expenditure that you mentioned. What is important is that this is what the Cabinet has approved to cover the unforeseen expenses. You must remember that these are estimations and as the years progress funds are adjusted and transferred.

On another matter Mr Speaker, our Budget has been passed however when watching television the Opposition broadcasts that we should change this and that but what other changes can be made when everything has been appropriated for in the budget and has been passed. There are no more funds to make any other changes. Be aware of the young children in the media tricking you because there will be no changes or anything new as all the funds have been allocated for the next 12 months and the figures will be reviewed in December. This is where common sense comes into play Mr Speaker so that the Government is not at fault for any mishap.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the explanation.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** A point that needs clarification Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** What is there to be clarified?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** The Hon Prime Minister continues to refer to the media personnel as young children belittling them. I would also like to point out that they do not trick or mislead us. We are broadcasting what is happening. For instance you mention that everything is in the budget but \$67,000 of the Ministry of Finances funds was utilized for the renovation of the Ministers office and it is not shown. We questioned this and whether it was passed within this Parliament.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Leader of the Opposition. You began your remarks on the belittling of the media personnel and now you are commenting on the office of the Hon Minister of Finance.

Raise Hon Prime Minister.



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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Point of order Mr Speaker. The \$600,000 as I mentioned before was not used for one office but about seven different offices and this was only made known to you by a reporter. The reporters end up telling me this and this should be a lesson to you. Investigate first and find proof and evidence. You should lay importance in your leadership role because you might end up without a party. I advise you that you should not be led by the issues raised by these children but look into it first.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker. Point of order on the continuous mention of the children.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your concern is noted Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Remember that this issue we are arguing was not raised by us or the media. It was raised by the HRPP members themselves.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. The Hon Prime Minister has explained and clarified the issue raised by the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 but you are sidetracking our proceedings. Wait for your turn to take the floor and then you may raise other issues later. This is the request by the Chair. This issue is continuously being raised and our proceedings are getting off track and this issue has already been broadcast before it was brought into the House.

Therefore I ask all the members for your patience. The speech of the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No.2 was pleasant and appropriate but we are beginning to conflict on issues that are being debated outside the House. I humbly request that we heed this appeal by the Chair. We debate issues that are before Parliament as per our approved procedures and processes.

With that being said, the issue has been clarified and the path has been set for our proceedings.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** There is one point that must be corrected Mr Speaker. Everything that involves the government Ministries is mentioned within the budget but the SOE's matters are not. They have Boards and Committees and that is a correction for the Leader of the Opposition because he is wrong again. For instance the issue that was raised on the building financed by NPF; this decision is made by the Board and it is not made within the House Mr Speaker.

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That is just a correction because SOE's decisions are not made in Parliament through the Budget. They have their own Acts that provides for their functions and operations.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Prime Minister.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Point of order with all due respect Mr Speaker. I understand the operations of the SOE's but the issue also involves the Ministry of Finance and that is why I raised this issue.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Point of order. Everything that involves the new NPF Plaza building involves only NPF and that is the final correction.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the issue is clear. I beg tolerance of the honorable member that took the floor but you may continue when we return back from our usual morning recess. When we return you have five minutes remaining.

I announce that our proceedings will be set aside for its normal morning recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 10.45am*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 11.20am*

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank all the honorable members for your patience during the first part of our proceedings this morning. Thank God we have made it to the second session of the morning.

I believe that the refreshments provided you all with strength. I apologize if the meal provided was not to your satisfaction as this was all the Clerk and the Office could provide. I express my gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition for making time available during the recess to speak to the visiting students from Savaii and the rural areas in Upolu as part of our Parliament Open Week. This indicates your eagerness to nurture and educate our students who are enthusiastic about learning about the Parliament. This has been a memorable morning because of your advice and words of encouragement to our students.

As for now, we will continue with our orders of the day but before that I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister for a motion.

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### MOTION FOR CHANGING OF SITTING HOURS

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I thank all the honorable members for your patience and participation as we return from our refreshments provided by the Office of the Clerk.

With all due respect, I move a motion, *That our normal sitting time be 9.00am - 1.00pm and continue again at 3.00pm – 7.00pm.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.*

*Motion approved.*

*Second reading debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 resumed.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Before we adjourned for recess the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 was addressing the House. I call on the honorable member to continue as you have 5 minutes left.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the refreshments provided. Our constituency will resume speech.

I will now comment on the Cash Surplus after Borrowing of \$39million in the budget. When translated in Samoan it is only Cash Surplus (Tupe Faasili) but it should be accurate and it should be Tupe Faasili Aitalafu to indicate that it is a cash surplus after the deficit of \$80million has been paid off from the soft term loan of \$120million therefore it is a surplus after borrowing.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** It seems the honorable member is complaining about the Translators but I ask the honorable member if he is a qualified translator because this is the standardized translation but you are more than welcome to leave your current occupation and translate.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 to continue.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** It is clear but it is only a recommendation for future improvement but for now we understand the origin of the \$39million.

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Now to the Expenditure Priorities; I am pleased to see that the appropriation for the Education and Health Sector has increased from the last fiscal year. I ask that you consider the increase in the salaries for the Primary School teachers especially in the rural areas.

Now to the Health Sector and the \$12million increase from....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize honorable member. I give the floor to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for a response.

Please rise Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiu Magele (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Point of order Mr Speaker. The Hon Prime Minister has already mentioned a program that has been in progress for 3 months that involves the Public Service Commission and the Ministry in this regard. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the query has been answered.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Our role is to merely remind you and I am grateful that it is being considered.

Now to the Health Sector; I am pleased to see that there is an increase in the appropriation. I raised this issue before on a pathologist. We are all aware of the death of a male from Salelavalu in the beginning of the month. It was stated that the pathologist would be available on July 1<sup>st</sup> and this is a lengthy time for local and overseas family to grieve while waiting to bury the deceased. This is a reminder for future plans.

I thank the Ministry of Agriculture....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member while the opportunity is given to the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health):** Post mortems are not approved from the doctor but the coroner after alerting the Ministry of Police. The coroner requests the assistance of the pathologist from overseas because it may be a criminal investigation but it is not the responsibility of the hospital.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I advise the honorable member that you have two minutes remaining.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** I do not contradict the explanation of the Hon Minister but mind you, the Ministry of Police or the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration have no power in this.

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It is the doctor that states the cause of death and depending on that, it will become a matter for the police and courts. This is why we should have our own permanent pathologist because a police officer does not have the skill to do a post mortem. If we had a pathologist, there would not be any arguments.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 while the floor is given to the Hon Minister of Health for his explanation.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I understand the concern of the member because I understand that the deceased was from the member's constituency; is this correct?

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** The deceased was a chief from Salaevalu in the Faasaleleaga No. 1 district by the name of Suafoa. His children and sister came for his funeral but he could not be buried because they had to wait.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister of Health has noted the issue. Leave that matter as you have now mentioned the name of the deceased and I recommend that you proceed to complete your comments.

I call on the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu (Gagaemauga No. 2):** I rise Mr Speaker with all due respect, *That the honorable member be given an extension of 5 minutes.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Are you moving a motion?

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Indeed Mr Speaker.

*Seconded by the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 and the member for Faleata West.*

*Consensus of the House was not reached.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 the motion was not carried. You can again comment during the consideration in detail. Please proceed to conclude your speech.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. I will try to complete my speech by offering assistance on some issues.

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I am thankful that \$500,000 has been allocated for the pack house at the Matautu wharf.

I am content with the appropriation for the Tourism Sector but I only ask that you visit Savaii and look at the Salelologa wharf because as soon as you step off the ferry you are faced with boulders. My concern is the first impression tourists will have of Savaii and the beautification of the wharf should be prioritized.

Now I would like to comment on the Senior Citizens Pension Scheme. An increase is being considered and I am grateful for this. The only other issue is the ferry travel of the senior citizens to Tutuila. It would be nice if free travel was continued.

As for the Justice and Courts at Tausivi; the reality is that this is not big enough to cater to the district court cases. Many of the locals that go there have to sit under the trees.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time is finished.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** I will now withdraw by commenting on the Public Finance Management Reform Plan reviewing the past 10 years. This is a very important plan and I fully support it. The government has reorganized the major infrastructures and if there are enough finances, it should be implemented and if not, the Lord will provide the time for it to be done.

I will now conclude my speech but Heavenly Father knows that I am still keen to contribute more to the budget.

God bless you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet and that side of the House. May His blessings also be upon the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader as well as the members of this side and the country. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member of Faasaleleaga No. 2 for the speech. You are the first to comment on this budget and now the floor is available for any other member that wishes to comment on the Appropriations.

I call on the honorable member for Vaisigano No. 2.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI (Vaisigano No. 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I humbly greet the dignity of the House gathered here today in the love and grace of our Lord. I acknowledge the presence of all the honorable members as well as the CEOs of the various government Ministries.

I will try and keep my comments short. This morning we have had chaos on both sides so I will speak as a lay preacher. There are two of us on this side; myself and one of the members for Salega; Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam. This is our speech.

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The theme of my speech Mr Speaker is ‘walk with caution’. I thank my dear friend the Hon Minister of Finance for this fantastic Budget and I can see that we are developing rapidly. I only advise that we try not to imitate other countries like Fiji. Fiji has minerals, land and resources to rely on. Singapore also may be small but they are surrounded on all sides by Asia unlike our country which is isolated and surrounded by the ocean. This is why I recommend that we take it easy and not be too hasty.

I see there is an increase in allocated budgets for instance the Health Sector has increased from \$66million in the previous fiscal year to \$77million this year. The same is for other Ministries and the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Emergency Services but the efficiency of the services should be looked at first because I notice that some Ministries are slack. The Ministry of Police in specific Hon Minister should improve its service delivery and strategies as we see that there are disputes amongst the youth, between the youth and police, amongst villages and between villages and the government. Other means of improving the service should be considered. Australia and New Zealand for instance were hesitant in arming their officers. New Zealanders in 1960 were against this but now officers carry firearms. This should be considered also for our officers and I mention the case which happened in the Apia vicinity when the police could not intervene because there was rock throwing and only a fool would go into a violent attack unarmed. I would not if I were a police officer. Gear and training should be provided for efficient service delivery. To again stress the point of efficiency; before Cyclone Evan I went to the police station to register my firearm. I also wrote to the Police Commissioner and up to now my firearm has not been returned. When I ask they joke that Evan has rusted the firearm in the office and I am still waiting. I thank the Hon Minister for trying to assist after I visited you about this issue of efficiency.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member, I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Police to answer to the issue raised.  
Please rise Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Sala Fata Lisati Pinati (Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire Emergency Services):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the honorable member for the advice and recommendations and we accept them but as for the concern that is raised the Ministry is exploring the idea of protective gear during a crisis situation. This will only be used during serious criminal activity and there are procedures to protect the misuse of these gears and firearms as the supervisor must first sign off on the clearance of this gear.

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It is true that the honorable member did come with a firearm to the station. It was a Winchester worth USD\$7,000 which the honorable member purchased for SAT\$2,000 or \$3,000 and as of now we do not know who has it and the latest is that it is misplaced but confirmation is being sought. As I told the honorable member, the investigation is still underway and I ask that you put your trust in me and if there is fault it will be mine to bear.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister for the response. I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Thank you Hon Minister for taking heed of my issue. However during the Police Parade during the Independence celebrations I saw a police officer carrying what I thought was my firearm and I returned home upset.

I now come to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I am grateful for the requests that were implemented in our constituency however there is one request that was made during the last Parliamentary Term and I also made a written request in this regard. I saw the list of tenders for access roads and there were 14; 13 for the HRPP members and only 1 for my fellow Faasaleleaga member. This request has been made for almost 8 years now and I humbly ask the Hon Minister to look into this access road which leads to our school building and water source....

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the honorable member to be seated while the opportunity is given to the Hon Minister for a reply.  
Please rise Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** It seems the honorable member is concerned about the allocation of assistance on the basis of political parties but be mindful of the 49 members as well as requests which were made personally by the village council. As I mentioned before there are more than 100 to 150 access roads that have been requested for improvement and some villages have at least 10 access roads that need to be developed. This is all taken into consideration and is not done on the basis of party affiliations with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. You may continue honorable member.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** I also thank the Hon Minister. You mentioned that the village councils make the requests but I tell my village council that they should not have to come because that is why I am here.



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I only ask the Hon Minister that you look into it because it is a request that has been made for almost 8 years now. You have also received a written request with all due respect.

I also appeal to the Ministers to please respond after my speech in the best interest of my allotted time.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I remember attending two road opening ceremonies in your constituency but I do not know this third road you are requesting. The honorable member is mindful that there are 37 members of this side which makes up 76% of the House and the allocations are done not by majority but rather the need. Requests are not only done by writing but you must also show up personally. That written request will go into a pile of requests and if there are 15 in the pile your request will be the 16<sup>th</sup> but you cannot stop the Ministers from responding to the issues when they arise.

Also, the government is not only developing access roads, there are also other infrastructures that are being implemented.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. The government has responded, you may now continue.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Point of order Mr Speaker. We do not have 3 access roads. We only have one which was done before I became a member with respect. At the moment, it seems every year I write a letter and see the Hon Minister as I mentioned in a past sitting but never mind I will leave that at the Hon Minister's discretion.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I believe your concern has been heard so I will give the floor to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure again for a clarification.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister has spoken on the issue of allocation. If the water supply has been improved then the road is done at another time and that is the order of assistance. Sataua has now received the assistance in their water supply as they requested but the families are scattered thus the delay. Leave the allocation to me.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Chair is satisfied with the response to the honorable member for Vaisigano No. 2. Your previous requests have been implemented and other requests will be done at another future date. Please rise to continue your speech.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** It is alright. Our water supply has long been implemented.

Now to the Ministry of Health; I notice that there has also been an increase in the allocated Appropriation. The new hospital is exquisite and I liken it to the Taj Mahal. However there is an issue that I will leave at your side regarding the Oceania University of Medicine which uses our hospital as a teaching hospital which is not at University level.

All the resources must be made available. We need a radiologist because a doctor needs two things when diagnosing a patient; first a laboratory for blood tests and an x-ray. If these two aspects are not available, the service is incomplete. Many times a patient will bring their x-rays and the doctor has to read it themselves which is fine but a professional opinion is always needed. Not only do we need a radiologist, we also need an anthropological specialist for the laboratory. As one of the honorable members mentioned a specialist is also needed to do post mortems for the Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration. The increase in high blood pressure and diabetic patients is obvious. In overseas countries, the government cooperates with private practitioners in this regard as they receive the brunt of these illnesses....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:**

I do not take lightly to the comments being made by the Doctor (*points to the member for Vaisigano No. 2*) because it is not ethical that a patient or doctor read the x-rays. I understand this issue and I know that there is a doctor that reads the x-ray for you then you go to see your doctor. I believe the Hon Minister of Health should comment on this issue.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of time honorable member I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Health for a response.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker, I intended to answer all the issues that are being mentioned at one time as the honorable member's time is almost finished.

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However the Hon Prime Minister has spoken and I will make an explanation on the issues raised. On the issue of the x-ray; there is currently a student studying in this field at the moment. However you must remember that every doctor attending medical school is taught how to read x-rays. They are taught to identify the signs of pneumonia, TB, cancer or how to notice the effects of smoking on the lungs by recognizing burst areolae which form bubbles in the lungs blocking off the section of the lungs which converts oxygen to carbon dioxide.

Every doctor is versed in this area. We also have technicians that can read ultra sounds. We also have one CT scan but the only problem is that it only scans one slice of the lungs meaning that it can only pick up surface lesions within the lungs. New Zealand has a 64 slicers CT scan and that is the case Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize Hon Minister – is there an issue that needs clarification?

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister is using up the honorable members time. The speech is lengthy but the response is going on to 10 minutes; if the response can be put off till the time for responding is given.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your concern is noted Leader of the Opposition but leave the time limits to me for I am the time keeper. The opportunity for a response is given because of the importance of the remarks by the Doctor (*points to the member for Vaisigano No. 2*). The honorable member for Vaisigano No.2 is listening intently to the response because it must be explained as the new hospital will be opened next month. The Hon Minister must explain thoroughly because the x-ray is one of....

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** I beg tolerance of the Chair; may I continue with my speech?

**MR SPEAKER:** If you are satisfied with the response, the Hon Minister is listening.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I rose Mr Speaker because of the honorable members comments that ‘at this time you take your own x-ray then you read it yourself’. This is a serious statement. How can I read my own x-ray when I do not know? These comments are derogatory. This is why I suggested that the Hon Minister of Health explain to enlighten the country listening. Just because you are in the Opposition does not give you the right to confuse the country.

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The Hon Minister is attempting to clarify the issue but he has been interrupted but we need to listen to the explanation. If the Hon Minister had not explained the issue I would say that we should go do our own x-rays but how? This would indicate to this Parliament that there is no worthy specialist at the hospital. See how serious these comments are? Let the Hon Minister finish his explanation and then you can continue.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I will give the floor to the honorable member to expand on his issue raised and then the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister.

You may rise honorable member.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Perhaps Mr Speaker the Hon Prime Minister is hard of hearing or he is misunderstood. Hon Minister, after the proceedings then you can explain my remarks to the Hon Prime Minister. The doctor at the hospital does the x-ray but if there is something complicated, a radiologist opinion is needed. The Hon Prime Minister needs to see an ear specialist because his hearing has faded.

**MR SPEAKER:** The opportunity will be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** It is better if the honorable member be seated because he needs help as he has forgotten his own remarks that ‘you have to do your own x-ray and read it to’. These are defamatory remarks made towards the hospital.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Mr Speaker what I said....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member please be patient till the Hon Prime Minister has completed his...you may continue then.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Mr Speaker, when did I say that you take your own x-ray and go to the doctor and read it to him? If you understood the issue; my time is being taken up....

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor now to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I am persisting on this issue because some of us are reckless with our remarks.

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I am taking note of your every comment and after the Hon Minister has commented you may continue. What is becoming obvious is that you are one of the phony doctors.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe there is no other explanation primary to yours Hon Minister. The honorable member is standing to try to clarify his comments but the Chair has also noted the comments the Hon Prime Minister is referring to.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I will try to keep it brief perhaps 30 minutes.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please be considerate as the honorable member has other important issues to raise.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** The hospital is currently waiting for a 16 slice CT scan to improve this service. The honorable member has referred to the hospital as a Teaching Hospital and he is correct. The hospital will be utilized to train the students from the Oceania University of Medicine.

It has now been 2 years since the hospital and the OUM have received equipment for tele-conferences and it is being used for lectures telecast from Utah, USA for our doctors and the students.

In the previous year, a course on radiology was telecast for a period of one week for the doctors to upskill their ability in reading scans and x-rays that may be complicated. The doctors have gained an expansive knowledge in this area and the same goes for the Medical students.

Presently, we do not have a radiologist, but this service can be used to telecast the x-rays live to the experts overseas for reading. We can also send the x-rays to New Zealand for a second opinion.

Mr Speaker, we are not neglecting to improve this service even though we do not have a specialist. Many of our specialists have moved overseas for better economical opportunities and some have passed on such as Afioga Afamasaga Sila; a renowned doctor in this field which our hospital.

For the time being that is the explanation but when the opportunity is again warranted I will go further into detail. I am thankful for this time to also clear any other issue that may arise.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Health. The response on health issues never falters. I believe that there will be no more issues raised on the health sector which cannot be interrupted because of the intention that it is thoroughly clarified and understood.

I call on the honorable member to continue.

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**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister for the lengthy speech which has taken up my time but it is alright.

I constantly raise this issue for an x-ray specialist because it is important as this is what doctors diagnoses are based upon. They are also specialist in other procedures different from x-rays and this is why I am persistent on this issue. I heard that there was a student that was being educated in this field but I hear rumors that this student has changed his field of study. For now Hon Minister, is it possible to have someone assist us in this area as some of us doctors have problems at times finding causes of some illnesses.

However, before I was interjected earlier Mr Speaker, I was about to comment on the increase in diabetic and hypertension patients. The number could increase by 25% or 30% in the next 10 years within our country. Every day in my Clinic I treat patients with these diseases even those under the age of 21 which leads me to my recommendation earlier that the government and the private practitioners should cooperate to target this issue by referring the patients at the outpatient with these diseases to the private practitioners. They are the backbone of the health services in any country and this is my request to the Hon Minister and the government to consider this....

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask tolerance of the honorable member while the floor is given to the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** There was no intention to interrupt the honorable member's speech but this is exactly what the Government is doing.

I have already signed contracts for private doctors to follow up with village health care which was funded by the Government of Australia. Presently, these doctors are working at \$200 an hour to do this work.

This is an initiative by the Ministry to decrease non-communicable diseases or NCD's as per the decision of the United Nations Assembly in September 2011 after we signed the Political Declaration. Since then this has been a continuous program carried out by the private practitioners to follow up with these NCD's. The Samoa Parliamentary Advocacy Group for Healthy Living or SPAGHL is working on this target by visiting schools and banning soft drinks and junk food from the tuck shops and the Parliament is supporting the awareness of these NCD's.

I stand to save the honorable member from further addressing this issue that the government has laid much stress upon. We have agreed on the Political Declaration on addressing hypertension and diabetes with due respect.

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**MR SPEAKER:** We are appreciative Hon Minister for the explanation. I ask the honorable member to continue.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Thank you Hon Minister. I also raised in the previous proceedings the issue of free medication from the hospital pharmacy for pensioners. This free service should also be allowed for infants up to 3 or 5 years old because this is when their immune system is weak and mothers may not always be able to afford the medication needed for their infants.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** This issue was also raised by the honorable member in the past sitting Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Take the floor Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** The Ministry is currently in the consultation stage on this issue the honorable member is raising regarding free medical checkups and medication for children. It is refreshing to have valuable feedback and recommendation for the good health of our people. It is accepted with gratitude.

Adjustments to the Ministry's budget from one output to another is being looked at to implement this service

That is the explanation with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to conclude your speech as your time is up.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** There are many important issues Mr Speaker I wished to raise but my time has been prolonged and I now do not feel the need to continue. My speech is done. All the best for our session.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable member for Vaisigano No. 2 for your speech. I also thank the Hon Minister for the responses provided on the issues and the intention is to clarify issues so that there is no ambiguity throughout our proceedings. This is the reason for the floor being open to the Minister's but I ask that you be considerate of the honorable member's speeches and their time and keeping your responses precise.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, a point of clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** It is clearly stated in our Standing Orders that there is an opportunity reserved for the Ministers responses. Whenever this side stands, our time is expended by all the interjections. The Hon Prime Minister replies that they cannot sit by so the Standing Orders should be amended to mention that interjections can be made frequently. However, the Standing Orders for now provide for a set time for the Ministers responses. Our proceedings are being prolonged and our speeches shortened because it is being taken up....

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, members are not restricted from interjecting under the point of order provision.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is the reason Leader of the Opposition....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I am not talking about the point of orders Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Be patient while I speak. You have heard me request to this side of the House that they keep their responses to raised issues brief but also know that the Cabinets responses cannot be restricted. Whenever a point of order or point of clarification is needed, the floor is open to these interruptions. I have given my request to the Cabinet to be mindful of the member's time.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I spoke earlier Mr Speaker on this issue. If the issues are accurate and the recommendations relevant, we will not interject, however, if the statements insult the government and its developments we must intrude. Take for example the speech of the member for Vaisigano No. 2. As I said before, do not attempt to make inducing statements because it is nothing compared to ours and we are disgusted when inaccurate remarks are made and we must therefore rise to correct them.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the issue has been clarified and I beg tolerance of the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. This side of the House is merely concerned about the allotted time for their speeches. Therefore Leader of the Opposition, I ask for your patience as I am keeping time. Another opportunity will be available during the consideration in detail.



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I call on the member for Sagaga le Usoga.

**Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM (Sagaga le Usoga):** I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity awarded to me.

I humbly greet you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and all the Members of Parliament. Greetings also to the dignity of Samoa listening in support; His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and your Good Lady, the member for the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady, the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary not forgetting the Lords servants praying endlessly for blessings upon Samoa.

I also use this opportunity Mr Speaker to acknowledge my constituency of Sagaga le Usoga, the residing place of Malietoa in all your honorific salutations.

I first express my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry for the difficult task they were faced with and I would like to voice my support for the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2013/2104 and the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

The needs of our constituency are not many. Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure by way of the Chair; access roads are a concern. The residents in the Tuanai access road are in need of electricity supply. The road to Afega has potholes and needs to be re-tarred and the same goes for the access road there and the electricity supply. The village of Malie expresses its gratitude for the nearly completed road and the day of the opening is your choice. This would leave the road at Vailoa and Vaifoa to be done and I leave that request with you.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for your patience in regards to the Sagaga Secondary School while we searched for a location for its rebuilding. We would like to happily make mention of our appreciation to the family of Ga Gaufaleai for your consideration enabling us to relocate the Sagaga Secondary School on your family land in Afega. May the good Lord smile down upon the work when it begins and whatever past conflicts there had been, may they be cast unto the uninhabited island and may we row our boat as one.

There is a minor issue I wished to raise on the registration of vehicles with the Land and Transport Authority. It is said that if you miss the due date of registration by one day you will be penalized \$100. It is our own negligence that we have been penalized this way for 2 years but we have four cars and if we miss that one day, it will add to \$400. Sometimes we forget but I ask that consideration be made in this regard to extend the time to a week or 7 days which can be done by amending the regulations.

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This can be reviewed or adjusted by the Board or the Hon Minister or whoever is responsible for this because if a person has 5 vehicles and they only remember on the evening of the due date to register, they will come the following day and be fined \$500.

Mr Speaker, I have heard complaints being made by those who have been successful with the New Zealand Quota Scheme. After they have been accepted, they have to find employment themselves and sometimes they receive the paper work and the due date is past or the papers are not valid. Why are the successful applicants finding employment themselves? Locals in New Zealand might assume us to be refugees the way we search for these papers. It is New Zealand's quota system, why do they not find employment as well to make it easier for us? The complaints are broadcast constantly on the radio and these successful applicants do not know where to go and find employment papers.

One woman shared that she had spent \$6000 to get her employment papers but they were invalid, and by the second time, the due date had past. When visiting the New Zealand Immigration Office, the staff were not helpful and it discourages people from asking them for assistance and so this quota scheme has become a waste of time.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member; I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The honorable member's speech is important but I remind you that there are also millions of New Zealand citizens looking for employment in their own country. If we did not have this agreement for 1100 of our people to be allowed employment in New Zealand, they would have said that it was enough. There is no employment in New Zealand and they have even immigrated to Australia to seek employment. I did however mention to the New Zealand Premier that when an application is successful, only the breadwinner should travel to New Zealand for a set period to find employment and when successful in this endeavor they can return with the family because at the moment only when everything is approved then the family may leave.

Also, some of the employment papers are made by non-existent companies. The issue is important but that is the case. New Zealand is keeping our Protocol signed in 1982 but there are no more employment opportunities there. Many of their citizens queue up to receive their benefits to live on. They are also being cautious with our unemployed visiting relatives because they are also experiencing the same problem and in the end they are deported back to Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** The issue on immigration is clear. I ask the honorable member to please continue.

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**Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM:** I mention with pride the triumph of our Manu Samoa rugby team with a special mention of the players from my constituency; you have done our country proud. It is great to stay home from church to watch a victorious game than to see a losing battle. We have a reason to be joyous this week. Whatever the result of our upcoming game with South Africa, we should be happy no matter what because our country is known throughout the world now with this victory. Even the players making tries for the All Blacks are Samoan and that is a reason for delight.

I will now comment on the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration and the issuing of Interim Orders to discontinue establishment of a building. I request if the Ministry of Justice could cooperate with the PUMA Division of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and the Police. The reality is even when a family receives an interim order from the Courts, unless someone notifies PUMA then they become involved but by that time, the family would have completed and occupied the newly built house. It is not recognized as a law but it is and should be adhered to by everyone.

The Hon Prime Minister mentioned the importance of investors in Samoa but legitimacy is more important. Some of them want to build hotels in Samoa but there should be an investigation on whether they know how to operate such a business. Many investors invest with the intention of using our people to assist them and as a result they break the law through insider trading. This has been the cause of many being imprisoned in New Zealand and Australia. Those looking to have businesses in Samoa should have a background in that area but not have those who want to establish businesses but they have no knowledge of the area and therefore leading to the law being breached.

Mr Speaker, those are some of the views of Sagaga le Usoga.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister):** The honorable member is now concluding his speech and has just mentioned the issue of businesses. I recommend that if anyone is aware of any such businesses operating in such a way then they should be reported to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor which is responsible for foreign investors. You should report it because I assume from your speech that you may be aware of such a business.

**MR SPEAKER:** The issue raised is clear. The honorable member may continue to conclude his speech.

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**Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM:** Thank you. The opportunity has been afforded to me to be a whistleblower. That is the end of our speech Mr Speaker, God speed in guiding our proceedings. Farewell.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable member for Sagaga Le Usoga for your wonderful speech. The floor is open to any member wishing to speak for the last 20 minutes of this session.

One of the members for Falealili has risen, Tofa Tusa; this is your opportunity for your speech.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Falealili):** I rise with all due respect Mr Speaker to express my gratitude for the opportunity given to our constituency of Falealili to comment on the Appropriations before the House. The dignity and honor of the House I will not address because they are the same from the beginning and there is no one who can add or remove an iota of it. The same is for the traditional setup and dignity of Samoa and in saying that I acknowledge the support of His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the member for the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady, Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary. Thank you for your support and silent prayers for the continuous blessings to be upon Samoa during this time of the year.

Mr Speaker, I also acknowledge and greet my dear constituency of Falealili and its traditional setup. Your dignity from the west of Iliili to the east of Tapulolou I will not address but I can only express my gratitude and appreciation for your continuous support and patience upon myself and the Hon Tuiloma Lameko as we serve you as members in this Parliament. I am aware that there is still restoration work that needs to be done since Cyclone Evan also in respect of those whose homes were destroyed. The government is also aware of this and there will be a time when the assistance will be provided to our constituency.

I recognize the support of the servants of our Lord within our constituency. The Reverend Elder Susuga Tunumoso and your good lady, Susuga Amosa Vaetoe and your good lady Susuga Anoa'i Faletulutulu and leaders of the various denominations within the electorate. I ask for your support as I contribute on your behalf on the economic state of our country and the developments in place.

Our constituency is grateful to the Hon Minister of Finance for the simple appropriation but as the Budget Address mentioned we will experience a slowdown in economic activity because of the fragile economic state we are in at the moment because of the natural disaster we experienced. I was very pleased with the Hon Minister's budget address and we are happy to support the allocations as mentioned for future developments and that our citizens may continue to be a healthy democracy for the benefit of our people.

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We fully accept the strategies mentioned as financial stimulus will generate economic activity after the effects of the natural disaster as all our Pacific Island nations are feeling the effects of climate change.

We should prioritize this issue of Climate Change. I am thrilled with the government's involvement in Climate Change talks together with other Pacific Island Countries to contribute in lessening the effects of climate change. We should also as a Parliament look at methods or provisions we can make to prepare for any future natural disasters as we realize now that we are affected annually. This is my view so that we can all contribute as members of our respective constituencies through participating in awareness programs. I believe if everyone understands this issue of climate change and its effects we will not be concerned when a natural disaster occurs.

As I mentioned before, we support this Appropriation for this fiscal year but there are some areas which the Hon Minister and the CEO's of the Ministry of Finance should review.

I raised this same issue of government revenue during the last budget sitting. The various Ministries and Corporations still have not reached the required benchmark for revenue they generate for the funding to assist the government especially the Ministry of Finance in financing the developments. Some employees regard this as an insignificant task and do not lay importance on collecting revenue. No matter how hard the CEO tries, this can never be done without the integrity of the staff. I beseech Mr Speaker that another means of improving the connection between the Finance and Expenditure Committee and those that are involved in the collection of revenue. They need to be made aware that their work is appreciated and important and the government relies on their work. Receipts also should be recorded and kept to avoid court cases as we hear of these occurrences which have wasted our government revenue because of negligence.

Looking at this Appropriation, I recall the comments of a former member of the House who has passed on; Afioga Gafatasi. He stated that we should work together in developing our agriculture and livestock and I believe that this is what the Hon Minister and the government is aiming towards which is to develop our agricultural sector for export to overseas markets to boost economic. Many parts of the appropriations have been mentioned and clarified in regards to the individual allocations. However, we have requests for the repair work to our roads Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I believe the contractors are not maintaining these roads adequately. Despite that I am grateful for the developments implemented within our constituency in regards to the access roads and I notice that there are more works to be carried out during this term.

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God bless you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Land and Transport Authority for dealing with the difficult task you were faced with during the repair work since the devastation of Cyclone Evan.

Hon Minister of Health, I believe you are aware with the state of the medical assistance in the Falealili hospital. Last week I visited the hospital during the heavy rain and the patients and soldiers of the American army docked at the wharf were rushing around as the power supply had been interrupted and yet the hospital was fully occupied. I asked at the office and I was told that the backup generator had failed and they did not know what the Ministry was doing about it. I recommend that a heavy duty generator be used for the hospital as it is far and it is in the best interest of the patients and to avoid future mishaps during power outages. Also Hon Minister I request that the accommodation of the nurses be looked into as it is certain now that the hospital will not be relocated inland. In addition, there are two wards that are in desperate need of repair work as it is not safe for the patients.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the speech of the honorable member with all due respect as we have come to the time of our recess as per the motion that was moved.

You may resume when we return from our recess at 3:00pm. I thank all the members for your patience thus far. The Office of the Clerk has prepared lunch for us all. The compound has run out of breadfruit but there was fish in the sea and it was caught and prepared for lunch. The stone oven baked meal is also ready.

I announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be adjourned for its normal recess and will reconvene at 3:00pm.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1.00pm until 3:00pm.*

*Proceedings resumed at 3:00pm.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2012/2013 AND  
THE APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014 – second reading debate**

*Debate resumed.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I convey my gratitude to the members for your participation in this session. Thank you for your patience as per the motion for the change in the sitting hours.

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The intention is to continue our proceedings for now until 7:00pm. The Office of the Clerk has also prepared a meal for us for when we reach our normal recess hour to rejuvenate our strength to continue through to the evening.

I witnessed during the sessions earlier that there was some uneasiness because of the government interjections. The intention of the Chair for giving the opportunity to the Ministers is to ensure that these issues are clarified for not only the members but also the general public listening.

In saying that I humbly request that the honorable members who have not commented on the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 be mindful of the intention of the Chair which is to quickly pass the appropriations to enable the various sectors to implement their developments as proposed. I believe that as is the norm with our proceedings, we will deliberate and debate with respect and consideration of our relationship with one another. Your constituencies are supporting you as they chose you to be their representatives in contributing to the progress of our nation. The Chair is therefore of the opinion that our work has proceeded on the right course and will continue in this way until we end tonight.

Before our recess one of the members for Falealili was addressing the House; Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola. Please take the floor to continue with your speech.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I would first like to express my gratitude for the meal that was provided. At this point I do not have many more matters to convey.

Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment, I understand that you are laden with work in improving our developments. However this request was made after my maiden speech in 2011 for the sea wall for Matautu Falealili. The sea current has eroded the land and has made its way into our drinking well which is our source of drinking water when the water supply is interrupted. I reiterate this request Hon Minister as our village is constantly questioning me about this matter with due respect.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture; I salute the development within the education sector implemented within my constituency especially in regards to our Primary School. I also acknowledge the assistance of the CEO with our many requests and I am pleased to see that there are funds allocated within this Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 for our primary school which was destroyed during the cyclone as it is no longer safe for the students and teachers.

To the Deputy Prime Minister also the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor. I mentioned this issue last year and now we have joined the WTO. The cartons of herring which I mentioned are still being imported but they are no longer suitable for consumption.

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I am grateful to the SROS and Ministry of Health for being alert concerning these imports which are unacceptable for our people to consume. There needs to be plans to crackdown on these unwanted products making its way into Samoa. Fines can be placed on companies which continue to allow these products into the country.

On another matter, there are still school leavers, even some who have completed college level education that are unemployed but fortitude has prevailed after listening to the Hon Prime Minister's Ministerial Speech. I sincerely hope that the Minister and the Ministry will consider options for these youth perhaps in the vocational area such as plumbing or carpentry.

With that I conclude my speech Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member, there is an interruption from the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I waited till the honorable member had concluded his speech but at the same time I am mindful of the Chair's request and I will try to keep my interjection precise.

First, this is not the only hospital that has a standby generator incase another member questions this matter and this is now the matter for the EPC. I only wish to know when this interruption in the electricity began and whether the CEO of the Ministry was consulted to notify the EPC and if so, when?

Second, I visited the hospitals in the rural areas including the Poutasi Hospital as there are approved plans to repair the hospital because of the effects of the tsunami and 2 or 4 beds will be added as there is a current need. The needs of the staff in carrying out the service will also be catered to. That is the assistance on that issue raised by the honorable member with due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to take the floor and whether the query has been satisfied.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Thank you Hon Minister of Health for the explanation and for the approved plans by the Ministry for our hospital.

As for the question of when? On the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month I went to Falealili in the morning and there was a power outage everywhere including the hospital.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is it June or July?



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**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** It was the 6<sup>th</sup> of June Mr Speaker. I queried the staff and they replied that the generator broke down and there was a part that needed replacement and we are still waiting.

I now conclude my speech Mr Speaker. God bless the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations in carrying out their support work to the Government and the honorable Ministers in carrying out duties for the forward progress of our country.

God bless our country listening in and my dear constituency. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank one of the members for Falealili for the remarks made. The floor is still open to whoever wishes to comment.

I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER  
(Aana Alofi No. 3):** I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity to contribute on behalf of my constituency on the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

Before I greet the dignity of the House I first acknowledge the support of the servants of our Lord nurturing the spiritual lives of our people. God is the foundation of our nation.

I humbly greet you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament present. You are elected leaders chosen to play a part in the benefit of our people and its environment.

I also greet the support of our people; His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and your Good Lady, the member for the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady, honorable Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary and not forgetting the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations.

I acknowledge the dignity of Samoa and its traditional setup. Recognition is also given to the women committees who are the hands and feet of their families and the country.

The support of our cousins in Tutuila and Manua cannot be forgotten. I greet you in all your honorific salutations.

As for my constituency from Fogalefatu to Lepapa; I thank you for your encouragement and I ask for your support as I comment on your behalf on the bill before the House.

First and foremost I convey my congratulations to the Hon Minister of Finance and the various Ministries and Corporate that assisted. I also acknowledge the hard work done by the Finance and Expenditure Committee in the consideration and investigation of the Bill.

My general perspective on the Bill Mr Speaker is that it does not lay much importance on the revenue but rather the need to expend and make loans. It is noted that for the past 3 years of the parliamentary term the expenditure continues to increase.

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There is approximately a \$120million increase in the expenditure and only \$57million in revenue increase since the first Appropriation of the term. Therefore the expenditure is twice the amount of the revenue generated and in comparison to the figures for the 10 years in 1991-2001, it was more than \$100million in revenue and only \$60million in expenses. I believe the Hon Minister is not carrying out his duty with vigilance in regards to prioritizing revenue instead of expending on developments that bear no benefits.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the honorable member. I give the floor to the Hon Minister of Finance for the explanation.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** There was no intention to intervene however the honorable member's figures in regards to the revenue and expenses are incorrect. Since independence, there has never been a time when the revenue generated exceeded that of the funds expended. That is the correction and I advise the honorable member to comment on the general aspects of the bill and a response will be made at a future time.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of the honorable members time I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** I do not know Mr Speaker if the member understands. Refer to the front page of the Budget. The figures state that in 2012-2013 revenue generated amounted to \$683million and in 2013-2014 it increases to \$760million. When you dig up past data you become confused but you should focus on the current years. The revenue is not decreasing as you see it has increased from \$683million to \$760million. Since you started on these figures you have been inaccurate. Mr Speaker, this is exactly what I was referring to in the beginning regarding foolish speeches. Focus on the figures before you and not on other matters. You have had the Budget for quite a while now so comment on it.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for that clarification. I ask the honorable member to continue.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I apologize if my comments have caused any offence Hon Prime Minister but I was referring to the ordinary receipts of the revenue and the expenditure exclusive of the grants and loans.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize I must give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Under the ordinary receipts you will notice in the previous financial year it was \$529million and estimation for this year is \$538million and this shows an increase. You are focusing on the current papers which show an increase and the important aspect is the revenue because this is where the expenditure is decided upon. Your comments were inaccurate from the beginning.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** I will comment on other matters now Mr Speaker. I notice that some Corporations such as the SPA, SLC, EPC, SWA and LTA have not met their community service obligations (CSO) as set out by the government in relation to their revenue generated. There was a proposal that these various Corporations need to generate \$17million but these Corporations for instance the EPC which has seen a decrease by 20million of unpaid units amounting to more than \$12million. Despite this there is a continuous increase in their funds requested and the same goes for the Samoa Water Authority....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. The floor will be given to the interjection by the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker. There are only two SOE's that are receiving CSO's; the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation. This financial assistance is to subsidize the VAGST and ease the burden on the people. The funds are not a supplement to pay for expenses but rather to help those with low standards of living with due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** The gist of my comments is that there are hardly any dividends received from these SOE's and yet the government has financially aided them not only through the CSO's but also by guaranteeing their loans. As illustrated previously, EPC has recorded more than 20million unpaid units which amounts to more than \$15million annually. For four years now, nothing has been done to improve this but our country's money is still being expended on them.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member. I give this opportunity to the Hon Minister responsible for the Electric Power Corporation.

Please rise Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** I believe the Hon Minister of Finance has clarified the matter on the CSO's. This assistance is very important as our street lights also need to have power supply. Many requests are made in regards to these lights and connections of electric lines. It seems the honorable member is opposing these developments and the assistance being given to those who need it through these CSO's.

As for the wasted units that were mentioned, it is very difficult to monitor this. There is a saying that you should not play with fire. The same goes for electricity; you cannot touch it and it is because of this fragility that we cannot monitor and control these occurrences. Electric units are lost as they travel on the power lines when cash power meters and connections are installed. The Corporation is not resting in trying to monitor these units. Overseas countries have a standard of 17% in total of unaccounted for electrical units.

At the moment we have kept it below 17% but the Corporation is still looking at ways to more thoroughly monitor these wasted units. These are normal issues experienced when trying to provide electricity to the whole of the country. We have just finished replacing the old power lines with the new type which lowers the amount of electricity wasted.

That is the current situation in regards to the CSO's and as mentioned before this is to assist specifically with those who need it especially in regards to the many requests for power supply with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for that clear explanation. I believe the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3 is clear on that matter.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Before I move away from the matter I only recommend that there be set targets or strict instructions to the Administration to improve their services to stop these situations from occurring.

A point of order on the figure stated by the Hon Minister, it is not 17% it is 7.5% but as of now the electric units wasted has reached 20%. The Management has shown that funds can be saved because of this assistance and the cost of electricity has also decreased.

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This is just a recommendation that the Hon Minister and the government advise the Management of the Samoa Ports Authority, Land Transport Authority, Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation to upgrade their services and as a result decrease the funds expended as well as the CSO.

On another issue Mr Speaker; it is evident in the Appropriation that Ministries request funds not only for internal developments but also for additional personnel but there is still no change in the revenue they submit. I also believe the government should instruct these Ministries to improve their services and income generation. I am of the view that these Ministries are not collecting all the dividends they can to contribute to the finances of the government.

With that Mr Speaker, I conclude my general remarks on this stage of the reading of the Appropriation. Perhaps during the consideration in detail of the bill we will look at the Ministries individually. However at this time I would like to offer assistance and advise to assist with the work of the Cabinet Ministers as members especially our side are rarely invited to give our input on the long term targets and plans of the government.

I begin Mr Speaker with the Samoa Tourism Authority. Most of the marketing and promotion of our country is done through Sang Sung and Culture. However many of our accommodations are located within the Apia vicinity and they are not being marketed overseas and perhaps this is one reason why there are not many tourists.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member I must give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** These statements Mr Speaker are incorrect. Every time I travel to New Zealand or Australia I see that we are being promoted in the newspaper and on television and the internet. There are still tourists visiting us but the problem is that the packages we offer cannot compete with those from Fiji. They are able to offer affordable prices. The member is making inaccurate comments. There has been a considerable amount of marketing been done but we cannot compete with packages offered by other countries. There are accommodations which are still competing on the market and they are doing well. However some have given up but the government is doing its job. That is the clarification on the incorrect statements that were made by the honorable member.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the honorable member to continue.

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**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. As was done in the past, packages were offered during our festivals and sports tournaments and we could continue these packages and cooperate in offering packages with additional special events perhaps once or twice a month.

**MR SPEAKER:** The opportunity will be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, we began having special events in 1991 and it was not done before that. This strategy has already been looked into. We also advertise a calendar of special events. This is for the consideration of those in the tourism industry as not all accommodations are involved in this competitive market and perhaps if they were then there could be additional events.

As for the recommendation, we have hosted conferences and tournaments; not only for international events but also regional events. We are able to host these events because we have the facilities and also due to the current situation in Fiji. The government is doing its responsibilities in regards to increasing our tourists but the industry should also do its duty and not rely constantly on the government.

Mr Speaker, the recommendation by the member has already been implemented.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the honorable member to please continue.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I have one more recommendation for the tourism sector. Our tourism sites are in need of upgrade work for instance the trail leading to Lake Lanotoo as well as other trails. I believe this will also assist with the tourist numbers as stated by the Hon Prime Minister in improving our tourism sector.

Now to the education sector Mr Speaker. I have noted that the current statistics state that 3% of our country's population aged 15 years and upwards have degrees. This indicates that more than 80% of our population are unable to complete their tertiary level education and receive degrees. I am also aware that there are no vocational programs available to 80% to 90% of our people. Therefore I recommend to the Hon Minister by way of the Chair that relevant programs be offered for talents in sports, song writing and sculpturing. As we have observed in overseas countries, these artists earn more than those with degrees.

Also Mr Speaker, it has been 20 years since the establishment of our National University at Le Papaigalagala which began with the University Preparatory Year (UPY) with approximately 20 students.

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Now the number has grown to more than 100 almost 1,000 and perhaps it is about time that the colleges include Form 7. An advantage of this change would also transfer these teachers teaching UPY to the high schools where they are greatly needed.

With the development in technology Mr Speaker I believe that the IT market is a major area we should look into. Trainings should also be offered so that we can also have programmers to improve our computer programs as this is one service that is greatly sought after.

I come now to the matter of our sports development. The Hon Prime Minister has often said that we have pride in our national team; Manu Samoa. I believe that if we have 50 international based players this can assist also with our revenue but the question remains, what can we do to increase the number of players with the talent? Upgrading of our sports grounds and facilities in the rural areas is recommended Mr Speaker.

It is pleasing that the sports facilities and grounds in the Apia area have been upgraded and they can only be used when we host international tournaments. But if the facilities in the rural areas and in Savaii are also upgraded and the certifications of the trainers are updated the future of some of these that cannot complete university level education can be better.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have 5 minutes remaining.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** I now come to the agricultural sector Mr Speaker. I believe that importance should be given to the import substitution program. Our eagerness to seek markets overseas for our produce has many procedures but if we look at our local markets and decrease the input, I believe we can generate revenue within our own country before we turn to the export market.

On the matter of energy units, I notice that two ministries have them; the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and the Ministry of Finance. I firmly believe that we should look at ways to have these two be inline with each other in order to improve the service especially in regards to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The government should look at drafting a bill that enables individuals to produce renewable energy or solar panels and they can sell it back to the group. It would not be costly and the country in turn will benefit.

Mr Speaker, I move on to matters regarding the environment. I see there are funds allocated for the PPCR to make more plans for certain parts of the island but there are already plans that are in place. This US\$12million, I think, can be used to implement the plans that are already in place and not have it wasted on making more plans.

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As for the upcoming preparations for the conference next year, the government can look at our targets. We can launch an environmental trust fund to deposit funds which can be used in agreements with the villages that conserve their lagoon and protect their shoreline from reclamation and other disastrous effects.

Finally Mr Speaker, I address the Office of the Clerk. The Budget format needs to be reviewed and preparations before sittings should be made available to the members and the member's offices should be maintained.

To conclude, I make known some of the requests of our constituency. Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, the majority of the residents residing in Satuimalufilufi live inland and the road leading inland is in poor condition especially during times of rainfall. I humbly beseech that it can be upgraded before the end of this 5 year term or before the next 10 years.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, you spoke during a previous sitting that the Aana Alofi No. 1 sports grounds was to be restored but this is not reflected within the Estimates. The constituency is looking forward to this upgrade for the school students.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time is up. Please proceed to conclude your speech.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** With that I conclude my remarks Mr Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity. I thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for your work and we are supportive of your efforts. Whatever good we were able to contribute, glory be to God and if there were faults we ask for your forgiveness.

Finally Mr Speaker, I am grateful that the negotiations are beginning on the issue of the land at Satapuala and I humbly request to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment and the Hon Prime Minister that we can end these negotiations peacefully so that there is no more conflict. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 1 for the contribution and recommendations made for the Cabinets consideration. Well done.

The floor is open to any other member that wishes to speak.

I call on the honorable member for Faleata East; Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East):** I thank the Chair for the opportunity and I greet the members of the House present.



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I will not address the traditional set up of those present as the dignity will never change. However I will first give praise to our Heavenly Father for enabling us to meet again today.

I greet the dignity of Samoa; His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and your Good Lady, the member for the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady, honorable Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary not forgetting the leaders of the various denominations within our country.

Before I comment on the Budget I wish to acknowledge my dear constituency of Faleata East and its traditional setup.

The comments made this morning were pleasant to hear. I begin by conveying my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Hon Prime Minister for the construction work beginning on our bridge, I intended to finish my speech after expressing my gratitude because of the satisfying progress. However I again request the upgrading of the Samalaga road at Alafua. This is the only road within Samoa where buses are unable to travel and the residents continue to walk from the main road to their residents. This is the road that leads to the quarry. I leave that beside the Hon Minister for consideration.

I will now make a brief speech on the Appropriation Bill and I begin by expressing my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry for the Estimates this year. This is the second Appropriation since I have been a member and since this term began, I have witnessed changes to the economic status as well as the implementation of work for the various Ministries.

As the Hon Minister stated, the Budget was formulated against a background of positive but slow economic growth. It is because of this I am sympathetic for the Hon Minister in trying to allocate and distribute these funds. It is unfortunate that not all the Ministries are able to contribute to the national revenue despite their expenses. The budget indicates that of the 14 Ministries, only 8 were able to stabilize their revenue generation. I assume that it is a difficult task to produce funds. However the economic and fiscal objectives in the Fiscal Strategy state that one of the targets is to improve performance of SOE's to avoid extra burden on Government budget through default loans. The next target is to promote greater efficiencies in revenue collection. Therefore the Ministry is aware of two things; one, that there are problems within the SOE's work performance and two; there is inefficiency in revenue collection. Therefore the government and the SOE's should assist the Hon Minister of Finance to reach these targets.

As the previous member mentioned in the ordinary receipts, there is only 1.7%. These figures are in the booklet incase one tries to interrupt. It states 'Economic growth...saw continued slow growth averaging 1.7% per annum and a projected pre-cyclone growth of 2.3% for 2012/2013.

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However, Cyclone Evan in December 2012 inflicted substantiative damage disrupting economic activities and therefore set back the projected growth for 2012/13 to only 1.3%'. I believe the SOE's should review their Corporate Plans set out for the forward 5 years.

With this budget, it seems as if the Ministries browsed the web and cut and paste the information because the current budget is similar to the previous one. This is why I think the Ministries should review and update their plans and objectives to cater to the changes in society.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The member referred to the 1.3% in revenue and then he sidetracks to comment on the Ministries but what he is actually trying to refer is the Gross Domestic Product. Do you know the total amount the country has received in revenue?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** I am referring to the figures that are in the booklet as well as the revenue generated from the Ministries and Corporations because that is also the revenue for the country.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** This is exactly why I interrupted Mr Speaker because I believe the member is clueless about the figures before him. The 1.3% is equivalent to \$1.575 billion in 2013 which was used to fund developments within the country and estimates for 2013/2014 are \$1.676billion and that is the 3.5% estimated. Perhaps what you are talking about is different from what the figures represent. You are talking about the GDP and not the revenue and that is what I am trying to explain Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please continue honorable member for Faleata East.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** I was commenting on the ordinary receipts and current payments but no matter, I will continue on other affairs.

The Hon Minister stated during the Budget Address that he was happy to announce that the government will not resort to raising any taxes and tariffs.

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Instead the fees and charges for the service provided by a selected number of Ministries and SOE's will be readjusted to reflect the true cost of providing that service. I then asked myself what these services were because even if the fees for the services provided by the Ministries and SOE's are increased, the people will still be affected. No matter what fee is increased for instance the levy for petrol, EPC or the hospital the people will still have to pay. I ask that you again review this strategy as it may be better to increase taxes and tariffs instead.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. The opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister for an explanation.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** These fees and charges Mr Speaker will not apply to the entire population as not all women give birth at one time nor are all weddings held on the same day. Many of these services are subsidized by the government and to illustrate, if you go to the General Hospital you pay \$5 but if you go to a private doctor you pay \$20-\$25. If you take a taxi to the hospital and back from town it would amount to the same as seeing a private doctor. EPC and SWA have also set their fees and charges for the services but if you increase VAGST, the whole country will be affected with due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the honorable member to continue.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Point of order Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** What is there to correct?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** The Hon Minister stated that not all the country will be affected. However the Hon Minister should remember that it will affect the unemployed as they are the ones who are susceptible to illnesses. Those who have the finances are seldom ill but those who have nothing to rely on are the most vulnerable. The increase will have dire effects on the country. The country is listening in and there will be critical effects.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point in noted. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoui:** I am getting confused with the views that are being put forward. First the member that has the floor stated that the VAGST should be increased and now their Leader says not to increase the fees and charges.

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These are two different views and you should have had a meeting before you came into the House. Is that how you lead your party? You seem to contradict the recommendations that they make. After this sitting you should meet and agree on one view to put forward. You are the advisers for the government and it is not pleasant for the Cabinet and the country to listen to different views from your party.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Palusalue I am amazed at your impatience.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Our side is of the same view regarding the dire effects on the people. The Hon Prime Minister says that we should meet but it is that side that should meet because of the many problems occurring.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** For two weeks the Opposition protested against the VAGST and its impacts if increased but nothing happened. Before the road switch there were many that protested against it saying that 700 people would be involved in accidents especially children. This would mean that the cars would suddenly decide to run over a child and these views are ludicrous.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe that the explanations given by the Hon Minister of Finance in regards to the effects between the increases in the VAGST or the fees and charges has been clarified.

I ask that you proceed to comment on other matters as you have 5 more minutes left.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Perhaps I will come back to this issue later when there is enough time. Before I comment on the state of our imports and exports I would first like to convey my gratitude to our trading partners. If you look at our trade situation, overseas countries are benefitting from us. For instance we import 30% of goods from New Zealand and they only import 14% - 16% of our goods. I know that there are factors such as Regulations that makes it difficult but I advise that we should look at this thoroughly. Our imports total at \$792million however we are grateful to New Zealand as we also are receiving assistance from them.

Now to the Agriculture Sector in regards to the \$5million allocated for the Agriculture Cyclone Response Project. This project also includes programs under SACEP.

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Can SACEP be utilized like the Stimulus Package which is currently being used to revive the coconut, cocoa and coffee industry? A farmer has to apply for a loan using SACEP and then they can be accepted in the program. Therefore if I was to loan \$16,000, I would end up paying that loan myself but there can be bonuses for the farmers as what is done with the Stimulus Package with its appropriation of \$300,000.

Coming to the Ministry of Education, if I am correct, I see there is an appropriation for the free education scheme to be extended to students attending Year 9 to Year 11. However I would like to ask what the current situation is with the implementation of the SchoolNet Program that was launched 3-4months ago by the Hon Prime Minister. There are schools that are in this program of 'one laptop per child' and they are still waiting for its implementation.

In regards to the SPA, I ask what the current status of PFL is. We argued on this same issue so has it been purchased? Also, I see that the Satitua slipway will be repaired with separate funds but there is \$4million allocated for the cyclone Evan rehabilitation to cater to these repairs.

I would like to query the Office of the Prime Minister on the free 60 day visa which can be used to come to Samoa and apply for a working permit. Can this be reconsidered? If a person is coming to seek a business license they should return to their countries and process this from there. Also, if the person using this visa is an ex-convict, there are no conditions to look into the applicant's background or restrictions on the persons travel. I mention this because some applicants use these visas for such purposes.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have 5 remaining minutes.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** I now come to the Electric Power Corporation. First, a review should be carried out on the list of electricity usage as listed. Second, an audit needs to be carried out on the power lines and electric poles in case someone may use these for their own commercial purposes.

My query to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology concerns the broadband. The Hon Minister stated that this will only be made available specifically to the Ministry of Education but can it be accessible to the wider community: to students and religious sects for the progress of our country.

The Tourism Authority I believe generates much income. There was a time when Samoa did not want an influx in tourists because of the overseas influence on our culture and youth. During this time, Fiji and other countries benefited in the industry but now we want tourists to visit our islands.

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However there are issues such as not enough flights from New Zealand and Australia and we do not have a national aircraft to cater to the need. Records show that there are 34 flights from New Zealand and 12 to 16 from Australia. We do not have a direct flight from Asia and yet we are trying to persuade them to visit Samoa. This is the same situation with America. There is only one flight which reroutes from Hawaii and these are some reasons why there are hardly any tourists visiting our country.

Another factor is the costly airfares and perhaps the government can negotiate these fares. For tourists to travel to Fiji for a week is approximately \$300 but travelling to Samoa is unaffordable.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have 2 minutes remaining.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** I conclude my speech Mr Speaker by commenting on the SIDs Conference. I congratulate the Government for winning the bid to host this conference as I know it will benefit the country. I however wish to offer a recommendation as I hear that a cruise ship will be hired to accommodate the influx of visitors. Can these visitors be distributed to the villages and we should look at catering the conference using our goods in case it is all imported. This should be considered as soon as possible as there is only one year left.

I finally thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 before the House. I wish our meeting success.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for Faleata East for the advice and recommendations on behalf of your constituency. The floor is open for any other member.

I call on the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau):** Mr Speaker, I believe that the opportunity is now for the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee to be followed by the responses by the Government.

The House of Tui Aana watches as the House accommodates the leaders of our country. I humbly greet the members present; Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and the honored members. I acknowledge the dignity of Samoa; His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and your Good Lady, the member for the Council of Deputies; Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Lauvi II and your Good Lady, honorable Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary and the entire country in your traditional setup.

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To my dearest constituency, I greet you in all your honorific salutations. I also greet the residents within the Salogo, Falelatai and Vavau areas.

I greet the Falefa o le Usoalii and family, Fiame and royalty at the chair of Leulumoega. I humbly acknowledge the parish of Falevai, Siufaga and Samatau as well as the Deputy Chairman of the EFKS Council within Samoa; Reverend Elder Susuga Senara Tautiaga. Thank you for your patience and steadfastness in carrying out your role. I also acknowledge the leaders of the various denominations within my constituency. Thank you for the support and work.

Mr speaker, I will proceed with some of the needs of my constituency beginning with the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons. I gratefully note that the vehicle for the Oloamanu centre has been replaced but perhaps you can consult with the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure on repairing the road leading to the Oloamanu centre. Congratulations are in order for the work carried out by the officers during the Independence celebrations in raising our national flag and other duties as required. A sense of nationalism is conjured when plans run smoothly and there is unity. However the services rendered are tainted by some of the comments that I have heard this morning and the advice to the Hon Minister is to look into this.

My gratitude goes out to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the progress in the selection of a contractor to construct the seawall for a part of Samatau to Sualo and Salua Manono. I would also like to convey my thanks in regards to the work done at the Fiaga plant. The power supply to the whole country is now acceptable and the only reason we will experience power outages is if we are hit by natural disasters. We notice that the big generators are capable to supply the whole of the country.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I will give the floor to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker regarding the Fiaga plant. I believe the notices were clear in advising the country that a company from Japan was maintaining and fixing them. As a result the project was launched in April but only one generator and four new generators in Fiaga were operational. The contractors have completed work on the building and the connection of the generators, oil tanks, coolants and other aspects to the Fuluasou plant. However, there are allotted times when checks are carried out to test the commissioning on the four generators and there is no way that it can be rushed. If 3 weeks is needed then that is how much time will be given.

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This Friday will conclude the checks and then it will be in operation for the whole country. This was broadcast and the public was notified. If there is a time when there is a fault, there is an automatic switch which safeguards the lifespan of the generator and also family's electrical appliances. Before one generator had 5.7meter watts and the peak is 18watts therefore if the 4 generators are combined, there would 22meter watts. This means that the Corporation is able to offer a reliable supply of electricity for Upolu and Manono. The generators were not operational because they were being checked but by Friday they will be in working condition and future faults will be minimized. However this is not to say that there will not be power outages from fallen electric poles due to accidents that may occur. That is a clarification for the House and the country listening in, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification Hon Minister. I believe the country is now aware of the power outages recently. The generators are still operating on a trial basis but by the end of this week they will be running on a regular basis.

I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you. What I meant was when our generators at Fiaga are in working condition they have the capacity to supply the country. This is good news for our power supply and its continuous supply.

As for the water supply, our constituency still does have an adequate supply and I have relayed to the Authority that we have to fill gallons of water at night to use the next day when the water supply is interrupted. I ask that the Authority look into this. I am not sure if it is the Hon Minister of Works or the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment that is responsible for our aquifers but are the beverage companies and the citizens charged equally for the cost of the water? Are these companies that are pumping their water supply directly from the aquifers being charged accordingly? The general public is also using the same water so are the charges different and that is my query regarding the water supply.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. The opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii (Minister of Natural Resource and Environment):** Water that is pumped from the aquifers is under the Environment Sector and they issue permits and licenses to those businesses that use this water supply.



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The permits issued are based on the quantity of water within the aquifer after investigations have been carried out on how much of the water is appropriate for consumption and this also ensures that the aquifer is not entirely used thus giving the water a salty taste. That is the explanation.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to continue, I believe the clarification will suffice.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you Hon Minister. My only concern is that the water costs were being charged equally between the individuals and the businesses.

Regarding access roads Hon Minister, this constituency put forward requests but I hear that other member's requests have been met but our constituency is one of the largest. Falelatai and Samatau are not small villages but only one access road has been completed within each village. Pata and Siufaga are also big villages but no access road has been implemented. I ask Hon Minister that you look into this matter as the request was third on the list from last year's Budget but I hear that the works has moved to the fifth on the list which means the third has been overlooked. Also Hon Minister I understand that there is a standard length for the access roads however there are residents inland. If the tar seal cannot go further inland because of the set length, can the road be cleared instead for those that reside there? This will be a great assistance to those families. I recall in probably 1974 or 1975 there were machines that cleared the access roads and they were kept in our village. I raise this matter because these paths are still being used today but it would be nice to have a machine clear it for families that have pick-ups to reach their plantations. Hon Minister I also ask that you look into the road from Falelatai to Faleaseela. There are some areas where the water flow in the drains is a problem. I am sure you are aware of it as you travel this road often. The water flows onto the road and erodes its corners. That is our humble request.

Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment...

**MR SPEAKER:** You have 5 minutes remaining.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** I am grateful for the proposed seawall in the location where we are planning our Health Centre for our constituency as mentioned by the Hon Minister of Health. We will eagerly await the implementation of these infrastructures. There is a concern Hon Minister regarding conservation areas. Some of these areas are given to the SWA and the EPC for the purposes of providing water and electricity.

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However there are springs in these areas that we need to conserve and the SWA and EPC should use them sparingly as I notice our countries consumption of water and use of electricity is increasingly rapid.

On another matter Hon Minister, there are donkeys being kept on the lands beginning from near the airport. At night you have to be extra cautious when travelling in these parts in case a rogue ass steps onto the road. Also further inland where locals have their farms, goats are pulling up ripe pineapples and elephant taro as well as felling ripe bananas. I humbly ask Hon Minister if the Trust Estates Division look into this issue as they are the reason for these animals being in these places. The animal's safety should be considered as well as the residents plantations.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for the developments that are being implemented. I only lay emphasis on the issue of math and science teachers in the primary to secondary schools as I notice that there are not many. Perhaps we could continue a past program of fast tracking courses for diplomas. It is only a recommendation for the Hon Minister to consider.

Hon Minister of Health, I express my gratitude for the plan to have a Health Centre for our constituency. I have also met with the CEO of the National Health Services and I have been told that the location of the old centre will be used and a request to the Hon Minister of Finance has been made for the establishment of the centre.

Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology, I raise the matter of the radio and television transmissions that are distorted for our part of the island. Our religious denomination has a television and radio station but only the Apia congregations are able to receive the messages and we cannot. I believe that there should be provisions in issuing licenses for those who offer this service to make the transmissions clear for our rural areas.

I am deeply unhappy with the internet service Hon Minister. The service is satisfactory for now but the internet costs are a boundary especially for students. While I was at the Malua Bible Training School, this was one big expense that the school faced because it was expensive. I ask Hon Minister that you consider not only these students but other school students as well in this regard. Our country's development is evident everywhere in regards to technology and infrastructure and visiting relatives also are witness to this but our costly internet charges hinders our development. Perhaps the Office of the Regulator can look into this issue. I firmly believe that if our internet costs were similar to those in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia and made more accessible in the airport, hotels and the parliament complex, this would be a great improvement for our country.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I humbly interrupt the honorable member's speech as we have come to our recess time. You may continue when we return from the break. I announce our proceedings set aside for its normal recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 4.45pm*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 5.15pm*

**MR SPEAKER:** I now announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has resumed. With all due respect, I thank all the members for your patience this evening as the sun sets. I believe that we have all rejuvenated from the meal that was provided. I apologize if it was not to your satisfaction but we are pursuing the purpose of our SPAGHL committee regarding the health and prolonged life of our members and country. If it is a concern then the budget of this Office should be mentioned as it was only the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3 that commented on the Office. I will leave that at your discretion but the service to this Parliament is not an easy task.

Before our recess the honorable member from the Aiga Tauaana, also one of the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee was addressing the House. I call on the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau to please continue your speech.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I also believe that we have gained strength from the meal that was provided for us.

Continuing from my previous comments, Hon Minister, that is the request regarding the internet costs so that we may be inline with other countries that have similar economic status. Please consider this especially in regards to assisting students and schools. A library has limits to the books available to the students but the internet has unlimited resources and information that any student can access for studies.

I also have issue to raise with the Ministers that are not present; the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Hon Minister of Women and Community Development. I will leave these matters until they are present and I hope that they return soon.

Hon Minister of Finance, you have heard that there are plans for a new Health Centre for temporary relief for minor illnesses such as asthma. This centre will be a small building but the bigger building which has been there for more than 30 years needs renovations. It will suffice for now while we wait for funds to be approved for the new building.

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My gratitude goes out to the Hon Minister of Revenue for your patience and steadfastness in the collection of our revenue. There is a matter however of families coming to us members assuming that this would incur a free pass on vehicle duty.

I have noticed that you can have two similar looking vehicles that have the same passenger occupancy but they will have different duty tariffs. A lay person cannot know the difference between vehicles except for an engineer therefore there should be a better option for families. As of now if a car has a four cylinder burner its duty is \$3000 but if it has six cylinders then its \$7000 and that is a big difference in costs. The general public does not know the reasons behind these different costs and they might think we are being discriminatory. Perhaps there could be awareness programs and maybe our New Zealand and Australian based agents can clarify these differences to the car owners before the vehicles are shipped here explaining the reason behind the different costs.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member; I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Revenue to explain the issue of duty taxes.

**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko (Minister of Revenue):** Thank you Mr Speaker as well as the honorable member for raising this issue. This is a common issue now especially since there has been an increase in vehicles. However, the law is clear. The duty taxes are based on the place and year of manufacture. The Customs office has a list of all the car brands and their years and place of manufacture and the value of the car is also a factor in deciding its duty tax. The government also has a scheme to help vehicle owners that cannot pay the full tariff and they are allowed to pay half the tax. This is a sympathetic gesture for those who cannot afford to pay the full tariff.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I believe the clarification was sufficient and I ask the honorable member to please complete your speech.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** I am grateful Hon Minister for the clarification. I only ask that you consider awareness programs to be broadcast in New Zealand as mentioned.

Deputy Prime Minister, thank you for your service. There is a development that I was planning on establishing with the Small Business Enterprises. I see there are funds appropriated for this as a grant from New Zealand. However, I was notified that the maximum amount they can guarantee is \$50,000 but I requested for \$100,000. That is my humble request Deputy Prime Minister; can this amount be increased to \$100,000?

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With that I proceed to conclude my comments of the Appropriation. I address my final remarks to the Hon Prime Minister. Perhaps the 2AP radio station and the Savali Newspaper be governed under one umbrella together with the printing press at the Ministry of Women. This could improve the debt situation of the press and help generate more income. On the matter of scholarships, I do hope that students that are pursuing theological studies at Malua, Piula and Moamoa are also included in this scheme. I have visited some of the mission schools and their buildings are also in poor condition if the government would consider this.

Our Office of the Legislative Assembly Hon Prime Minister....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I think it appropriate I respond now while the schools committees are listening in. Assistance can be given to the schools but they cannot have assistance from both sources; their fundraising and the government. It is up to the mission school if they want a share of the funds but whatever mission school it is I am sure they have sufficient funds.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to continue. I believe the matter is clarified.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** I thank the government for this assistance and I believe that the amount is based on the student numbers. My request is that the theological students in the theological bible colleges also have this assistance.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** They are no longer children, they are adults.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please continue honorable member your time is finished.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Moving on Mr Speaker. Our recess that we just had was two hours. This is enough time to relax, check internet, maybe take a cool bath and return to the Chamber. The basis of these comments is that maybe these facilities can be available within our compound for the use of the members. The Office should look into reconsider having these services.

With that I thank all the Ministers and the members for your patience. I apologize if we had too many requests.

I especially thank the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Agriculture, Leader of the Opposition and the honorable members for Vaa o Fonoti and Aiga i le Tai.

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I convey to you my gratitude for your presence during the graduation ceremony for the Malua Theological College. The Head of the School and the committee also share in this gratitude as your presence made the day honorable and memorable. The theological college is for us all and that is why it is now available for anyone.

Thank you Mr Speaker. May we have a successful meeting.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** I would like to query the member Mr Speaker if the certificate he received can be used to preach from a pulpit or not.

**MR SPEAKER:** That is the member's intention. After his time within this Parliament then he will continue with his calling as a servant of God and that is a good lesson for all of us. The Leader of the Opposition will also do the same thing.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** I would like to respond to the query Mr Speaker. The Bible School is for any denomination and I can preach to any congregation whether it be EFKS, Methodist, Catholic or Assembly because I know the bible. A member must have a living after Parliament. Amen.

**MR SPEAKER:** To the honorable member for Faleata West, when you have time you should follow in the footsteps of the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau.

I thank the member that just addressed the House with his speech. Thank you for your advice and views on the Appropriation.

The floor is now available for any other member.

I call on one of the members for Vaimauga West to take the floor; Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (Vaimauga West):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. I humbly greet the dignity of the House; Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and that side of the House. I also greet the Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader and the members of this side of the House.

I acknowledge the support of our country listening in especially my dearest constituency of Vaimauga West. I also make mention of the Clerk and the Office as well as the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations. Thank you for your patience in assisting the development of our nation.

Gratitude also goes out to the Hon Minister of Finance, the CEO and the Ministry for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 before the House.

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We are all aware that any government prepares the budget amounts in the millions as the needs exceed the finances available and I congratulate you for the work done.

I support the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 in offering my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Revenue and the CEO as well as the Ministry for the collection of the revenue because these are the funds that fuel our economy. In the collection of revenue, there are companies that are hesitant in paying taxes to the government. When I was a lawyer, profitable companies would ask me to find ways to evade full tax payments and this makes the Ministry's task difficult. The Ministry are eager to collect revenue but some companies try to evade full payment and this is why I congratulate the Ministry for facing the task they are given.

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics has recorded the population of Apia alone at 36,735,00. This includes Vaimauga West and Faleata West and I believe this number is too high. Within this number, 10,419 are employed and only 264 are employed within the Apia Urban area. Most of them work for the government and the rest are divided amongst the Companies and small businesses. Also, students that reside around the Apia area allocate for 30% of Samoa's total student population attending Year 1 to Year 8 and 44% attending Year 9 to Year 13 and only 22% of the 44% make it to the University level. For the Vaimauga area, it is important that the school leavers have the opportunity to develop their own businesses. Only an elite few have the opportunity to use their degrees in the workforce. The students that do not attain tertiary level education should have other options available to them. This is important for our constituency as there are many people living in these parts. The government schemes concerning agriculture cannot be done in Vaimauga because most of the land is freehold and are mainly used to establish businesses.

This is a concern to be looked into Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture so that their education can help them establish businesses and develop their families. Many employment opportunities are within the government, Yazaki, private companies and sole trading. In the last fiscal year, \$100,000 is appropriated for Private Businesses and \$3.7million is appropriated for SROS, \$400,000 was appropriated for SBEC and this is an important assistance for small businesses. For the current Appropriation 2013/2014 it is not clear if an appropriation for SBEC is being made. I supported the last appropriation because there was assistance to these small businesses to develop....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. The floor will be given to the Deputy Prime Minister.

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**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** There was no intention to interrupt the honorable member's pleasant speech. As for the appropriations to the Private Sector in the Appropriation 2012/2013; note in the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 \$50,000 has been added to the Private Sector and it is now \$150,000. SBEC has a grant of \$600,000 from New Zealand plus the government's assistance of \$400,000 this sums to \$1million. For this fiscal year, the government has added \$50,000 to the \$400,000 now the assistance is \$450,000. As one of the previous members mentioned, for the first \$10,000, 100% of the loan from a bank for small businesses purposes can be guaranteed by the centre. If the loan is for \$100,000 as requested by the previous member, the \$1million will be exhausted before the end of the fiscal year. If you start a business with \$100,000 it will not be a small business but a big business. That is the clarification Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for that clarification. I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER:** Thank you Deputy Prime Minister for that explanation and this member for Vaimauga West supports the appropriation for the private sector. The aim is that the bulk of these funds will be used within the Vaimauga area but this is not a prejudice towards other small businesses being established in other parts of the country.

I express my gratitude to the Hon Minister for the appropriation to the law and justice sector. The Samoa Law Reform Commission has an appropriation of \$1.264million, the Ministry of Police is appropriated \$26million, the Attorney General Office is appropriated \$3.2million and the Ministry of Justice has \$9million. I lay emphasis on this because I value education and I also value the law and abiding by it. The country should adhere to and respect the law because if they do not, the country will not move forward with its developments in the future. This is why I fully support the appropriation to these Ministries.

I acknowledge the improving service delivery of the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration. There are however a few issues that are in the report that I wish to comment on Hon Minister. In the report last year, it reflected that 15 cases were heard in the Court of Appeal from the 1600 cases that were referred to the Supreme Court. Of that 1600, 1000 were criminal cases and the remaining were civil cases. This is a small number of cases being heard in the Court of Appeal and it indicates that the court decisions in the Supreme Courts are fair.



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However it is mentioned in the report that you can have a case heard in the Supreme Court within 6 months. In the past, it took 2 years to wait for a case to be heard in the Supreme Court and this was the same for the Court of Appeal but now cases can be heard twice a year. This means that cases within both courts can be heard within 6 months. In saying that I notice that we currently have Supreme Court Justice Slicer from our Australian partnership, Justice Ida Malosi; I am uncertain if she is employed under a New Zealand funded program, Chief Justice Afioga Patu Tiavasue, Judge Lesatele Rapi and Judge Vui Clarence Nelson. The concern is that Justice Slicer and Justice Ida will return to their respective countries and then we will again have a small number of Judges.

In the district courts it is recorded that there were 5,000 criminal cases and 1,500 civil cases that are heard but there is no record of how many cases were appealed and referred to the Supreme Court. If there were no cases, I acknowledge the two judges in their duty as there is only two of them but they have ruled on 6,500 cases fairly. The Hon Minister should consider the 50 youth cases, 150 domestic, 70 cases of accidental deaths, 8 PSC appeals and 1,200 adoption cases as there are only two judges in the District Courts; Judge Vaepule Vaai and Judge Mata Tuatagaloa. This is just a recommendation.

I now come to the Lands and Titles Court. It is recorded that there were 370 cases heard last year and 350 at Tuasivi but only 80 were appealed. When comparing the data of appealed cases in the Lands and Titles court and the Supreme Court this is a very high number but it does not indicate that the judge's ruling is incorrect. We notice that in the Lands and Titles court, it is common for the defeated side to appeal. The work is still progressing pleasantly as in the past cases had to wait 10 years but now it has decreased to 2 years. It is not an easy task and I am grateful to the Hon Minister, members of the Judiciary and the Ministry for this improvement. Just a point to consider Hon Minister; I note that judges from the District and Supreme Court assist Afioga Tagaloa in the appeals to the Lands and Titles Court. I am not saying that there should be promotions but the panel at the first hearing should be led by a lawyer that has practiced in court for 7 years aided by others knowledgeable in the culture of our country. This is just a recommendation to decrease the number of appeals from the Lands and Titles Court. I express my gratitude for these stats as this is one Ministry that is commonly criticized for the long waiting period but the only other concern is that the cases being heard within the District, Supreme and Lands and Titles Court are increasing and the number of judges should also increase.

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Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, our constituency was one of the devastated areas during Cyclone Evan. Just a query on what the proposed plans are for the Vaisigano bridge and solving the effects of the flooding? Homes have been rebuilt but there are businesses in Matautu that were affected and they have no other choice but to relocate for safety reasons. However these businesses were successful in this area and if they relocate development of the Vaisigano area will slow down.

On another issue Hon Minister, the bridge at Leone is important for access to that part of the constituency but there is often traffic congestion in the mornings because of this bridge.

A request for the village of Vaivase Uta; the roads in this area are easily damaged by heavy rainfall and we ask that you look into this issue. The same request goes for the access roads at Magiagi and the seawalls at Moataa and Vaiala. Moataa is not so bad but Vaiala is especially in poor condition as it is closer to the shore.

I was born and raised in the Malifa area and when we were younger, when the Vaisigano river flooded we would ride the river flow on banana stems. During that time, the river never overflowed onto the bridge. However now when the river floods and the tide is high, the river flows onto the bridge. I ask the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment to review this issue. This overflowing is caused by the blockage of 3 river paths because of the digging of sand at the estuary. There were 8 but now only 5 are free flowing. I believe that this is another reason for the river overflowing because when it flooded one of my relatives pointed out the 3 paths were blocked by sand. I humbly ask the Hon Minister and the Ministry to look into this issue please.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have 5 minutes remaining. For now I will allow the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment.

I call on the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Mr Speaker, on the issue of the Vaisigano bridge mentioned by the member, the government has made a decision to stop digging sand in this area.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the honorable member to continue.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER:** The request is for the 3 blocked river paths. The paths have been sealed off with the rock seawall and land reclamation where the Young family resides and where the rental is located formerly owned by Hans Kruse. In those days the road in front of the Kruse's and Young's was enough for cars to travel and now cars cannot travel in the area which has now been reclaimed.

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This reclaimed area has now blocked off the three river flow paths. The humble request is that these river paths can be unblocked so that the water can flow freely from the 3 river paths.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I ask that you look into the water reservoir behind the Bahai temple that was destroyed during Cyclone Evan. I believe that this will be a costly project because the reservoir has to be demolished and rebuilt as it is not just a minor fracture. The Samoa Water Authority has a plan for finding water supply but our village of Vaoala has resolved to turn off our water during a certain time of the day to enable the water to be available to the Apia area. This is done especially during August to October when water sources are depleting. We understand the current situation but our concern is that the temporary reservoir is not big enough to store the water needed. Also our village at Vaivase is also experiencing water woes and I am not sure if the issue stems from the destruction of the reservoir or there is just a scarcity in the water supply. The Vaivase residents have brought forward their water woes because there are times the water supply is interrupted and there are businesses in that area that rely on the water supply to survive. Some rental properties are losing tenants because the majority of the time there is no water supply.

Those are just a few recommendations and requests, thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for abiding by the set time allocated and heeding the Chairs requests. As an officer of the Judiciary may you be an example to those members who do not keep to the time limit.

I now call on the honorable member for Palauli; Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors.

**Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS (Palauli):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I humbly greet the dignity of Samoa listening in support; His Highness Le Ao o le Malo, the member for the Council of Deputies, Chief Justice and the Judiciary, Hon Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and the country as a whole.

I take this opportunity to also greet my dear constituency in all its honorific salutations.

Greetings also to the elderly and the young listening in while your Parliament deliberates on the issues at hand. Palauli's stance is not a complex one. We first thank our Heavenly Father for it is because of Him that we are gathered here today. Our gratitude also goes out to the government for the various developments implemented.

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I thank the honorable Ministers for answering our requests and taking the time to meet this humble servants appointments. I believe we have reached agreements and now I will leave our requests in your able hands.

As for the Appropriation before us, Palauli supports this budget and congratulates the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the work well done. I believe the allocation of funds is geared towards the development of our country. Gratitude also goes out to the Hon Minister of Revenue and the Ministry for the hard work you are faced with each day.

Mr Speaker, may God bless you with the wisdom to guide our proceedings this evening. God bless this meeting. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable member for Palauli.

The floor is now open to one of the members whose constituency ranges across the whole of Tumua and Pule and Aiga.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters):** I express my appreciation to the Chair for the opportunity that I have been given to comment on behalf of my constituency on the Appropriations.

First of all I greet the dignity of the House present; Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament.

I also acknowledge His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and your Good Lady, Leaders of the various denominations and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. We also make mention of the support of the honorable Chief Justice and the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations.

The Speaker has mentioned that our constituency is scattered across the whole of Samoa as the Individual Voters do not reside in one area. Before I comment on our needs, I thank all the members who commented on the Appropriation.

I will first make mention of areas within my constituency and our country that need improvements. First and foremost I thank the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire Emergency Services for the services carried out. The country relies on your services during times of accidents and emergencies as we see the increase in offences country-wide. Only a recommendation Hon Minister that training be compulsory for the Officers to prepare them to face any emergency that may arise in their line of duty. There are times that calls are made for assistance and we can only be grateful that the response is quick. That is our appreciation to the Hon Minister of Police and the Ministry.

My comments will now be directed to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I first of all thank you Hon Minister for the allocation of developments to be implemented within our country.

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We also express our gratitude for the implementation of our requests for the road at Nuū from Fogaa to Tafaigata as many are now residing in that area. Not only are the roads there but also the street lights are now lighting the road which assists greatly in safeguarding that area from breaking and entering and similar misdemeanors. However Hon Minister, there is about 400 yards left of the road that needs to be upgraded for the safe road travel of the residents. This is our humble request for this area.

In regards to the drains in the town area; I express my gratitude that they are now being covered for the safety of the travelling public. There are some roads in the Apia, Sinamoga, Alamagoto and Vailima area that need sidewalks for pedestrians. When vehicles are on the road, pedestrians do not have enough roadside to walk on. Also there are times when road works are carried out at night and there are no clear signs to alert the drivers of road works ahead. By way of the Chair, we make this known for the safety of those carrying out this service. Prevention is better than cure.

There are some areas in which road works have not been carried out on for instance at Moamoa where many of the former Sogi residents are now residing. The upgrading of this road is a need for the ease of travel especially now that they have plantations in this area. This is our humble request Hon Minister for this part of the country.

Now to the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment; I believe that this is one Ministry that has a heavy workload in regulating and managing developments within our country and ensuring that laws and policies are abided by for instance building codes. We are all aware of the fast growing businesses especially in the town area. Our only advice for future improvements is that the Government looks into land zoning. In the past, the spread was simultaneous but now we see that engineering businesses and tyre services are being established near accommodation businesses. Therefore I request by way of the Chair....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give this opportunity to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment for an explanation.

**Afioga Hon Faamoetaulua Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I did not intend to interrupt the honorable members speech. However to clarify this issue, the zoning of areas has now started and is beginning from Vaitele to be continued through to the town area with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe the explanation is clear. I ask the honorable member to continue your remarks.

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**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM:** This member is easily satisfied Mr Speaker and I will not comment further on this issue but there will be a time when I will mention this when addressing the Hon Minister responsible for the Samoa Tourism Authority.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture....

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the honorable member while the opportunity is given to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** This is an important issue Mr Speaker especially with the homes, businesses and churches being established near each other. The honorable member has mentioned this as there is still conflict with the tribunal decision on the matter concerning the hotel and church. This should be addressed while the Hon Minister is present.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** This is why I am interjecting because a clarification has to be made by the Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister has already clarified that zoning has begun from Vaitele. That is the explanation based on the issue that was raised. Urbanization was slow in the past however now there is a rapid spread and it is becoming an issue. The Hon Minister has stated that zoning is beginning from Vaitele and therefore the issue is clear.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM:** Thank you. As I mentioned before the issue is a broad one but these comments are enough for now. I thank the Hon Minister for responding to the issue raised. The most important thing is that the work has started.

**MR SPEAKER:** Do not be concerned about the Tribunals decision. If it is the will of the Lord then that is the answer. Have patience and continue with your remarks. The Hon Minister does not take your concerns lightly but the rights of others should also be considered. Please rise to continue.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM:** I believe Mr Speaker you have commented on what needs to be said in regards to the issue that was raised. The Chair and the Leader of the Opposition are correct in that this is important but I will cease commenting on this issue and I will not readdress it. Thank you.

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I will now address the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. I thank the Hon Minister that we have now seen a change now that there are hardly any youth and children peddling goods. This is evidence that the system works and the implementation of compulsory education has been successful. Parents and the government have supported this program. This is an important sector as the youth are the future of Samoa. This is my brief expression of gratitude to the Hon Minister responsible for this Ministry. The country has noted that the Ministry is toiling in carrying out your service.

Mr Speaker, I do not praise the Hon Minister of Health but the country must hear our conveyance of thanks to the Hon Minister, the CEO, the Ministry and the Medical Profession. This is proof of cooperation and team work. We see that the new hospital is almost completed and there are hardly any complaints from the general public on the efficiency of the service provided. I thank the Ministry for supporting the Hon Minister.

In the interest of time I will now address the Samoa Tourism Authority. As the Hon Minister commented there are many government programs currently underway to upgrade the tourism industry. The shareholders in the Tourism Industry should not lay blame elsewhere for the problems occurring but we should work together and consult with the government. The system is broken and they can assist with anything if we cooperate and we can help solve our problems. The only reason there are problems is because we do not treat it ourselves.

This is what I was trying to mention when I addressed the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment; the establishment of accommodation businesses near other developments. Location is a very important aspect in this industry. For instance beach fale should be located near the seashore because it is in high demand by the tourists for its cool breeze. This is one reason why I am persistent on preserving the water fronts. There are tourists that visit the hotels and they crave to dip their feet in the ocean and walk on the sand and I recommend that they go to Mulinuu because there is not jetty or I offer to bring sea water to them so they can dip in it. Every entrepreneur considers location before establishing a business because some businesses can be established anywhere. However some businesses need to be located in specific areas to be appealing and attractive thus increasing customers or clients. This is the reason I raised this issue but thankful the Hon Minister has answered clearly to this matter. I believe there are many government programs that will assist this.

Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Alataua West.

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**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa (Alataua West):** I did not intend Mr Speaker to interrupt the honorable members pleasant speech but I would like to move a motion, *That half an hour be added to the members time.*

*Motion not seconded.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I do not see a need for a half hour extension as the honorable member is concluding his speech. The honorable member of Alataua West respects the relationship because he usually has credit at the bar but the member addressing the floor can proceed to conclude.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM:** Thank you. I am rising on behalf of the whole of Samoa to contribute to our country.

I trust that the government has yet to implement its programs to reach the goal of upgrading the tourism industry and thus increasing the number of tourists visiting our shores. One way I believe would help is to further upgrade the Faleolo International Airport to allow for more aircrafts and more tourists.

We are aware that tourists usually travel by foot to see the beauty and tranquility of our islands. However canine attacks can send that tourist back on the plane to Auckland in a hurry. We should have a strategy to target this issue which affects the tourism industry. My final recommendation is to the Hon Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Agriculture Store. The accommodation operators have a difficult task faced with them regarding local produce which has become costly. Especially after Cyclone Evan, tourists requested Samoan local produce particularly the pawpaw but it was \$9 for one. The Ministry should look into these local fruits because they are starting to become costly. Gratefully our country is now consuming bananas, taro, breadfruit...

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time has come to an end. Please conclude your remarks.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM:** My speech was just beginning to flow because I thought the motion was approved. My final recommendation to the honorable Ministers, be sympathetic to our needs when we visit your Offices. We support the work of the Cabinet and try to offer constructive advice. Hon Prime Minister, thank you for the work of the government but there are still projects and developments that need to be implemented in improving our tourism industry. I do not have all the remedies to the issues as others may have a better remedy and this is a collaborative effort and the opportunity is open for any assistance. God bless our country for their support and this House with all due respect.



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**MR SPEAKER:** I convey my gratitude to one of the members for the Individual Voters for the remarks. Your constituency covers the whole of Samoa and this is a privilege.

You have also offered recommendations in regards to the tourism industry and the advice is not to lay blame but take responsibility.

I now give the floor to one of the veteran Members from Gagaifomauga No. 1.

**Tofa TUILOA ANITELEA (Gagaifomauga No. 1):** This will be brief and humorous as we are beginning to get cold. I thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Samoans of all ages are listening in to our proceedings as well as the servants of our Lord in all corners of the country praying for the success of our work.

I acknowledge the support of my constituency listening in eagerly awaiting if I would speak. We thank our Heavenly Father for all he has provided for us and there were times I could not be present because of illness but that is the Lords will then so be it. If it is the end then it will be but if I do survive, I will not return to Parliament but I am grateful for the support.

My condolences go out to the village of Manase, the residence of Taito and family and Tauasa for the sudden passing of the Reverend Elder Susuga Siueva Gogo. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Let us not be saddened for when a hero falls another rises. Sympathies go out to the family and the congregation for your loss.

Now to the honorable Ministers there are some reminders that I would like to place by your side but before I mention them I would first like to make known our full support for the Appropriations before the House.

I convey our gratitude for all the developments implemented within our constituency that we requested such as the hospital. It is like a second town. My only concern Hon Minister of Health is the needles that they use at the hospital. I often go into the Dialysis Unit to have my blood cleaned and the needles they use are not only painful they are rusty. This is not right because it is being inserted into a persons body. Perhaps we can request overseas assistance in this regard. This does not happen in America and this is just a recommendation to the Ministry that they should be mindful of the patients body. I personally am tired of going through this process but I go ahead with it anyways because I do not want to die yet. In any hospital in Samoa that I go to for this dialysis the needles are like crowbars. There was one time when I was injected and my blood spouted and I asked the attendant who was going to pay for that spilt blood. During an upcoming meeting of the Ministry this issue can be addressed. This is just a recommendation Hon Minister as I am trying to hurry because it is getting dark....

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. The Hon Minister of Health will respond to the issue on the injections.

I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** The honorable member has spoken clearly that he was to be comical this evening. I however feel that the service needs to be defended against these defamatory comments especially with the country listening in. We are all familiar with the types of remarks made by this member but to say that the needles used at the hospital are rusty is a severe accusation. We cannot use rusted needles at the hospital.

Also, be mindful that the needles used for dialysis are to transport blood out of the body through the machine and back into the body and little needles cannot be used for this transfusion. The injection needles that are used are thinner so that it is easier for the needle to inject the skin to the artery but the dialysis needles are thicker which pierces the thicker leg skin.

That is the clarification with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister. Your explanation is satisfactory and I now call on the honorable member to continue. The matter on the needles is clear. Was your eye sight clear?

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** It is humorous but there will be a time when I will punch you. This is just a request because it is not the doctor that is being injected. They have their own special treatments for themselves. They would not care if they used a coconut scrapping knife but I thank the Hon Minister. These are not comments to bring disrepute to you or the Ministry but it is a recommendation and I support anything.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture; I again reiterate a previous request that was made during the former Minister's term. This is my last term as I will not be returning but we did request a rugby field for our constituency. The youth come to me appealing for a rugby field and I tell them to support me as I come here to Apia to request for a field. I leave that request with the Hon Minister of Education as it is your instruction that will see the implementation of this together with the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Hon Minister of Works, there is a road that joins with the road from Paia that was upgraded before but now it is barely crossable. This road is used by buses transporting school students and the residents and travelling public humbly request the upgrading of this road. This road is also useful for travelling parties during traditional ceremonies between Paia and villages on our side.

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There was a time long ago when I met a member on the ferry who fooled me. I asked that member where they were going and they said they were coming to visit this road. The member said they were part of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee and I was told to await their arrival. I went and prepared a roasted pig and octopus cooked in coconut cream and to this day the road still has not been upgraded.

Hon Minister, establish the members of these committees because the next time they visit our village they will return headless. Members should not deceive other members and they should act in a manner that is befitting of their position within this House. I warn the members not to act in such a way because if it does occur again, a 17 HMR rifle will be used to chase you out of the village. Use respect and not deceit and dishonesty as it is not appealing. Those are a few comments for us today....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member while I give the opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** It must be clarified as the member is being general with his comments and the country is speculating on who these members are. Our constituencies are presuming but it is appropriate that the honorable member state the names of the members with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your interjection is noted. It is not a matter to...but the honorable member is now proceeding to conclude his comments. It is because we are nearing our adjournment time that I have given the opportunity to the member to complete his rants.

I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** Do you know the story of Popa? He fractured his skull because he was always impatient. His injury was his own fault.

Mr Speaker....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** These comments Mr Speaker are ridiculous and absurd. The truth must be brought forth and instead the member responds disrespectfully.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your first opportunity for an interjection has been given Leader of the Opposition.

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Instruct the member Mr Speaker. I was being respectful because he is an elderly member but he is being absurd and disrespectful.

**MR SPEAKER:** I have already explained to you Leader of the Opposition. I call the member to take the floor.

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** You do not instruct me, I instruct you. If I tell you to go outside then you go and wait for me out there. If you want a showdown outside it does not matter if you are larger than me.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. There are 3 minutes remaining of our proceedings. Please proceed to conclude your remarks.

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** There is no reason why I should mention the names of the members. If they were made known to be members from your side then what would you do?

**MR SPEAKER:** Complete your comments member for Gagaifomauga No. 1. Please be sympathetic of the Chairs request. We are nearing the end of our proceedings.

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** I humbly apologize Mr Speaker for any word that may have caused any offence. There is nothing that anyone should be insulted about. However the Leader of the Opposition should consider if the members are from that side of the House then you should be worried. I do not want to mention any names but the members know who they are and what they did.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, members of this side do not go on visits. These accusations are serious. Why do you not mention the names of the members that deceived you?

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** Okay. I will make it known. It was the member for Saleaula and Toelesulusulu. What now? Why should I keep it secret? They are not my children.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beseech the honorable member. The concern is.....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** With all due respect Mr Speaker. Proof of these accusations should be produced because the member for Saleaula is not present. However it is not a problem as the honorable member is ill.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition, I was attempting to soothe the situation.

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** I am not ill. How can I be ill when my arms are as quick as a trunk fish? As for the member for Saleaula, why should evidence be produced when the roasted pig has already been eaten? That is proof. Ask your members to wait outside. I apologize again.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please conclude your speech by conveying your gratitude to the government for the hospital and other developments within the country.

**Tofa TUILOA ANETELEA:** I express my gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers for the developments within our constituency. No one is perfect only the Lord is perfect. May the good Lord bless you as you are also the servants of our Heavenly Father carrying out your duties with love. Thank you for the improvements to the hospital and everything else that was implemented within our constituency. We have no gold to repay this work but we can only pray that our Heavenly Father blesses you with health and strength for the future. It has been said that I am ill but I am not because I am having my regular checks at the hospital.

For any insulting or offensive language this evening, I ask for your forgiveness as this is the norm with politics. I also ask forgiveness of the country listening in. Please be tolerant of this old member. This is my last term within Parliament and I have said this before but I will return even if I am ill. I thank our dear Heavenly Father for this day and this assembly. God bless you Mr Speaker and may you have the wisdom to guide this House. May we all have a good evening.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for Gagaifomauga No. 1 for the concluding comments this evening. Do not give up the member for Gagaifomauga No. 2 is still strong enough to carry you. In whatever work we have, may you have health and strength. That is the purpose of the health services to add more days to our lives and we ask the Lord to rejuvenate us with strength.

I believe we have now come to the end of our orders of the day. I convey my gratitude to all the honorable members for the speeches made. I believe that the House has noted and heard all the views and recommendations made. We have heard 9 members comment on the bill and tomorrow we will observe how the work proceeds and our normal time will be amended accordingly. I thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for your patience in responding to the issues raised by the members.

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I also ask forgiveness from all the members if our proceedings were conducted in a displeasing way. No one is perfect. The intention is to have our sinnets intertwined so that our debates progress smoothly and on course. We cannot disregard the support of our country. We appreciate your support and acknowledge the dignity of our country. Our hearts are gratified by your encouragement of our work as we toil night and day for the benefit of our country. We also express our appreciation to the members of the clergy praying endlessly for our success. It is our hope that we return to our work tomorrow in the best of health. God bless all the members and may this humble man prosper.

Before we adjourn, I call upon the only female Cabinet Minister; Hon Fiamé Naomi to close this sitting with a word of prayer.

Prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 7.03pm till 9.00am Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.*