

**TUESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayer.

### **OPENING STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I now declare that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly commenced.

I take this opportunity to respectively greet the esteemed Members of the Parliament to the Afioga Leader of Government the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. I also greet distinguished Associate Ministers and Chairpersons and respective Members of the Parliament. Welcome and greetings this morning.

I take this opportunity to humbly greet the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations present here today to witness the Proceedings of the Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

I am very happy on behalf of the Parliament to greet and acknowledge the presence of the students and teachers in the Chamber.

For the information of the House, the public sitting area in the Chamber is currently being occupied by the members for the Primary School Parliamentary Programme 2018. I believe I do not need to explain the purpose of this program for the kids as I assume you should all be aware by now.

The aim of this initiative is to educate the students on the duties and procedures of the Parliament and the roles of their Members and purposes of Parliamentary Committee. The presence of the students here is a part of an awareness program in order to be exposed and witness the business of the Samoa Parliament in terms of the orders this morning.

Therefore, on behalf of the Members of Parliament I greet the respective teachers and most especially the students present with us today. I pray the Lord blesses you all abundantly in your programs today.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES**

*The Speaker read the Message from the Council of Deputies.*

**“MEMORANDUM to:**

**Mr Speaker:**

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, consent is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to consider the following Bill:

1. Money Laundering Amendment Bill 2018.

**GIVEN UNDER** my Hand this Wednesday 13 of June 2018.

**(Signed):**     **Le Mamea Ropati Mualia**  
                  **COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES.”**

**NOTICES FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

*The Speaker announced the Notice from the Leader of the House.*

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of the Parliament, consent is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the following Bill:

1. Education Amendment Bill 2018.

**GIVEN UNDER** my Hand this day 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2018.

**(Signed):**     Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai  
                  Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele  
                  Malielegaoi.  
                  **LEADER OF THE HOUSE.**

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### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*Clerk read out the list of Papers pursuant to Standing Orders 49.*

1. P.P. 2018/2019 No.31, Annual Report of the Samoan Qualifications Authority 2013-2014.
2. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 32, Annual Report of the Samoan Qualifications Authority 2014-2015.
3. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 33, Annual Report of the Samoa Qualifications Authority 2015-2016.
4. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 34, Annual Report of the Samoan Qualifications Authority 2016-2017.
5. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 35, Ministry of Police Annual Report 2016/2017.
6. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 36, Samoa Law Reform Commission Review of the Narcotics Act 1967 (Drugs Reform), Final Report 21/17, December 2017.
7. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 37, Ministry of Public Enterprises Annual Report 2016/2017.

### PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES REPORTS

*Clerk read out the Parliamentary Committees Reports pursuant to Standing Order 52(2).*

1. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 38 Reports of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Second Supplementary Estimates 2017/2018.
2. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 39, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Main Estimates Financial Year 2018/2019.

### MONEY LAUNDERING AMENDMENT BILL 2018 - first reading

**Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance):** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Money Laundering Amendment Bill 2018 be read for the first time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture; Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister of Justice Courts and Administration.*

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

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**EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018**  
- first reading

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior. I acknowledge and second the words of thanksgiving voiced by the Speaker in acknowledging our God for blessing us all this morning; greetings.

I stand now with the utmost respect Mr Speaker to move a motion, *That the Education Amendment Bill 2018 be read for the first time.*

Thank you.

*Seconded by the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administrations and Minister of Finance.*

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2017/2018**  
**& APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019 - second reading debates**

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 132, debate will continue on the Bill. I urge the Members to direct statements on the Economy of Samoa and also the Monetary of the Nation.

For the information of the Chamber, there are changes to the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 issued by the Government yesterday, and is now included in the Supplementary Order Paper No.2. This is the opportunity for Members who wish to speak and share their thoughts on the Bill.

I recognize the Member for Lefaga and Faleseela. I call the Member for Lefaga and Faleseela to speak, followed by the Member for Falelatai and Samatau. I beg pardon of the Member I did not notice you first, nonetheless debate will start with the Member for Lefaga and Faleseela.

**Afioga TOLEAFOA KEN VAAFUSUAGA POUTOA (Lefaga & Faleseela):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity granted to the constituency of Lefaga and Faleseela to share your views on the Bill.

I acknowledge and greet my beloved constituency of Lefaga and Faleseela in all its honorary salutations. Lest I forget to greet the respective servant of the Lord in our constituency, I greet you all and acknowledge the support for the Member.

Mr Speaker, I wish to voice acknowledgements with regards to the thanksgiving and Praise given to the Lord for his blessings upon Samoa and its people. I respectfully greet all of Samoa in all its honorary salutations.

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I also take this opportunity to voice my acknowledgements to His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady. I also greet the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary.

I also acknowledge the Leader of the Government of Samoa, Afioga Hon Prime Minister, Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi. I also greet the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, distinguished Associate Ministers, the Speaker of the House and the deliberation of the Parliament. I further acknowledge the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Organizations. I also acknowledge our business partners in collaboration with our government in assisting our economy in its economic endeavors.

I do not forget the constant prayers of the servants of the Lord for the future of our nation. I also welcome and greet the students of the nation present with us in the Chamber. I greet and acknowledge the support of all of Samoa in all its honorary salutations.

I greet my constituency for their continuous support and prayers upon me. Before I share my thoughts on the Budget I wish to first express gratitude to the Leader of the Nation and the Cabinet for the developments accomplished for Samoa. I acknowledge the Cabinet, this constituency recommends that the Cabinet should not heed words of those that do not matter. But instead to remain focused on the mission for a better Samoa in the future. Best not to forget the responsibility of the Cabinet in its discretion for the good and the unsuccessful things in life; may wise counsel be till perpetuity.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Finance and Ministry for all the hard work and efforts made for the proper planning and budgeting of our funds for our country's development. Any business that thrives to succeed and grow must do so by borrowing from the bank as no business can make it on its own taking into consideration good repayments to the bank. We are now moving forward and therefore we should not pay attention to negative statements as Samoa is now taking on 56 years of its independence that comes with so many changes. This means that we must move on with the rest of the world.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, your duty is not easy. Nonetheless you have our proposal for construction of access roads for your consideration. The road to Matareva beach requires improvement as you have witnessed during the launching program where we met. It is important for these roads to be improved especially for the tourists as well as for the business owner himself, Afioga Togia.

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The plantation road at Matautu also requires improvement. I also address the road at Gagaifo-uta towards the coast needs completion. In addition, the roads of Savaia-uta, Tafagamanu, Safaatoa-uta, Faleaseela and Matafaa all require improvement works. I acknowledge the Associate Minister for the site visit to our constituency and pray for your endeavors. I also thank you for your assistance upon the connecting roads for Falelatai and Samatau and also Faleaseela.

Furthermore, I ask the Ministry to consider the unlicensed taxi vehicles operated along these areas and if they are in good condition then perhaps the Lands and Transport Authority could look into this matter in assistance to these families' earnings and development moving forward.

I move on to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Hon Minister I acknowledge the seasonal workers employed in New Zealand and Australia provided these employment opportunities for our people. I wish to voice my gratitude to the Government for these great opportunities for the benefit of the nation.

I hope to recommend to the Ministry one of the Regulations required of gas stations to have a forklift. I urge the Hon Minister to consider that these small businesses earn a small percentage of the economic development. Therefore, I hope to recommend to the Hon Minister to kindly reconsider this Regulation. It is also the prayer of this Member to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour to consider the Private Sector. It is my firm belief that if the Private Sector and Government work closely together the Private Sector would contribute into the economy. If we were to compare the percentage of employees of the nation it would round up to 60% of the Private Sector to 40% for Government. Therefore, I humbly recommend to the Hon Minister to consider this matter.

Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour I acknowledge the efforts and the success of our airline. Therefore, I request the Hon Minister to consider delaying the landing fees imposed on our aircraft. It is best to grant the aircraft time to generate profit first for the first five years and that is the humble request.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I firstly acknowledge the works on the Shipping Corporation in regards to the wharf at Salelologa and Mulifanua, a job well done. I admire this corporation as it does not need financial assistance from the Government in operations, but rather contributes to the budget of the nation. It would be great if all other organizations operated like the Shipping Corporation.

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I come now to the Deputy Prime Minister or *Sao Faapito* in regards to the seawall at Gagaifolevao and Faleseela Hon Minister and the bush in the inner parts of these villages which requires further assistance.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment I wish to address the building permits processed by the PUMA division required to lawfully build homes. Perhaps it is better if this undertaking was transferred back to the Ministry of Works where the public find it more convenient and efficient.

I come now to the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the fine mats or *ie sae* program for the villages which has lifted its value. These fine mats have reached a total of 500 given Government initiative for its success. My only request Hon Minister and the Ministry is to re-look at the process and consider the monetary cheques received by the women committees. I hear that the process has to go through the Ministry of Finance for their signature before they are withdrawn in the banks. Perhaps it would be more effective if the members of the Ministry are present during the event to get their signature and not have to go through their Ministry as it is a time consuming process. For the records, and respectfully requesting the Hon Minister, these ladies wake up at 4.00am in the morning to prepare for this showcasing event

Before I conclude with respect...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member for Lefaga and Faleseela, but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker this has been a long standing and raising concern by the Government for the women to create a savings account to save their money. It is good to have a savings account otherwise their money is used up and they will fall back to the Government. This also goes for the alii and faipule of the village, this is the norm they want money to be distributed and when they have *faalavelave* they think otherwise that this money should have been saved. Such is Government's intention to protect and ensure that this money reaches the exact person or people that deserves this award, hence saving up is good initiative for all. The same is being encouraged to the village mayors as we all know that most villages would spend all their money once they receive it.

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However, once they are fraught with *faalavelaves* then they remember that they should have saved money for the rainy days. We should not be led astray with the constant mindset of immediate unnecessary spending and giving away. It should be a lesson to our people. The other matter is that others are sent to retrieve the money instead of the women therefore by the time it gets to the women there is no money left. It is not a bad thing that the Government has been trying to accomplish as people will consider it a norm eventually.

Most villages now have bank accounts, thanks to the initiative of the Government. Foremost, the aim of this initiative is to protect the monies of those who rightfully own the money. It takes a full year to weave these fine mats so it is very important that the ladies each have their own bank accounts for the safekeeping of their earnings. Up until now we have messy situations in regards to the misuse of funds in organizations, even with the rugby organizations. These are one of the major organizations with major issues with misusing of funds and are also against bank accounts. Therefore, we must not give in to the persuasions of what comes from.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is good that the Member has voiced concern for now we have heard the Governments response. It is the problem that is constantly happening. Nonetheless I urge the Member to exercise consideration. Opportunity is granted to the Member to continue.

**Afioga TOLEAFOA KEN VAAFUSUAGA POUTOA:** I acknowledge the assistance of the Hon Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, that concludes the thoughts of this Member in regards to the Appropriation. However, with matters concerning the much needed upgrades in my constituency, I have leave the matter to the capable hands of Government for consideration. Our constituency shall work and wait patiently for the discretion of the Ministry in accordance with the developments.

I pray for the blessings upon the Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Parliament and all of Samoa. To my respective constituency, that is our contribution to the Appropriation. Bless this Meeting. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I acknowledge the statements of the Member for Lefaga and Faleseela in accordance with the statements voiced. Thank you for the contributions voiced Honorable Member.

I now call on the Hon Member for Falelatai and Samatau.



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**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I graciously greet the distinguished Members of the Parliament of Samoa.

I greet the Speaker of the House, Honorable Members of Parliament, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I greet His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, the Council of Deputies, the Council of Churches in its task of prayer for the wellbeing of Samoa. I greet my constituency in all its honorary salutations. I also acknowledge the support of Samoa in all its honorary salutations.

Furthermore, I greet the Chief Executive Officers of the Government Ministries and Organizations and also the school Principals and students present here with us today.

Mr Speaker I thank you for the opportunity given for me to share my thoughts on the Appropriation Bill. Before I proceed I wish to express gratitude and thanks on behalf of the 18 member graduates from the University of the South Pacific that took place last Thursday. Regardless of our small endeavor, this was a very humbling experience and achievement by the Parliament of Samoa and a huge milestone in the Pacific. Such achievement is an evident to the UNDP or the United Nations Development Project that the Members of the Parliament of Samoa have set a record for this capacity building initiative for all local Parliamentarians who are the leaders of the country to bring fruitful contribution for Samoa and its developments.

I express my gratitude to the Speaker of the House, and also the Deputy Prime Minister for consideration and gifts portrayed in honor of the graduating class. I acknowledge and thank for the gifts and preparations provided for the graduates. Once again I express heartfelt gratitude for the all the accomplishments achieved.

On to the Appropriation Bill I have observed positive statements with the improving and increasing amounts that we almost attained for our economy at \$1000million given the financial distribution by the Hon Minister of Finance. It is why I acknowledge the vast developments achieved so far around Samoa. The national Airport is nearing its completion stage which is another great achievement of Government. Furthermore, I humbly request the assistance of the Hon Minister of Finance and Hon Minister of Works with our town area infrastructural development in response to the set guidelines that should have taken on a long time. This is to say that for any new construction development in the town area, the foundations require elevation before and building works takes place. This is to secure and fixed foundation base from rainy and cyclone seasons as well as flooding.

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The program I stated earlier was very fruitful in terms of Parliamentary processes and procedures. On this note, this House is where all laws are passed and that no one can change only or unless the necessary amendments is required given Government discretion. Otherwise, once these legislations become law then that is it.

I acknowledge and thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. We recently opened the newly constructed access road for our village of Samatau. It is an access road to the coastal area of the village that has been habituated for over 20 years and plus. I acknowledge the Hon Minister for accepting our long standing request put forth. Nonetheless I request that if enough funds are available, this constituency still has several inaccessible roads to the plantation that requires assistance. The connecting roads for Falelatai, Samatau, Lefaga and Faleseela also needs upgrading. I leave that to the Hon Minister.

In the previous Parliamentary term, the Ministry of Education was responsible for the roads improvement for Aana College given the insufficient funds by the Ministry of Works. This road is quite remote from the College and since our school was not fortunate to get a shuttle bus, nevertheless I wish to get your assistance on this matter.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Bless this Meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Member for Urban West.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I acknowledge the grace of the Lord for guiding the Speaker of the House, and also the distinguished Members of the House, praise and glory be to the Lord.

I greet the Hon Prime Minister and that of the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and most especially the Associate Ministers and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. I trust the Member for Lefaga and Faleseela has addressed the nation listening in. I will therefore move on to address my views in support of the constituency and the public.

First of all I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Finance for the completed Financial Statement. Although I am a bit disappointed that it is not enough but I firmly believe that the public service will sacrifice its services particularly the general public in the allocation of the budget, however I do know that the sun will rise again the following year. Perhaps it will be better in the next round. Nonetheless, I express gratitude to the allocation of funds albeit insufficiency.

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A slight concern surfaced last year when we were preparing our trip with the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela. We had everything prepared including our umu to take to our families, while we were about to hop on the plane and leave, unfortunately we received a last minute call that there was no money. We calmly took it all in with disappointment. The main thing received today is that we now have sufficient funds. If all money were to go towards the Ministry of Works, then it is good as this is one Ministry that has major plans and development projects for the betterment of our economy. The most important projects as proposed is to reach the Government dream in building a wharf at Vaiusu. However, it is vital to consult the nearby villages of Vaigaga, Vailoa and Vaiusu that will be involved before this project takes place. But I trust that the villagers are behind this project. We need a...

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon PapaliiteleNiko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Mr Speaker I dare not disturb the deliberation of the Honorable Member. I stand however in regards to the comments voiced in relation to the preparations for the project. I believe the consultation phase of the project will be conducted and thus the villages will have consultations of this Vaiusu wharf. The Government has not concluded any decision on the matter. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Honorable Member.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe I have already made a mention of this project yet this is still under the process of discussions and once this is completed, then we will consult the involved parties. The village impacted by this will surely be consulted once the negotiations and arrangements are set as well as funding of this project.

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I have also issued that we can undertake this project through lending. However, caution must be taken as we also need to be mindful of our current debt amount. This is why we are seeking grants to implement this project which is a huge and costly undertaking.

This project was envisioned in the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 after the conclusion of the scientific research that was conducted. The recommendations by the engineers at the time stated that the wharf should no longer be situated at Matautu but Vaiusu which will incur a huge cost on us. Relocating to the Vaiusu area will benefit the nation greatly in terms of vast extension and also the increasing problematic concern of the pressured waves at Matautu causing damage to the ships and this port.

It is the reason why the ships tend to dock away from the Matautu wharf. Furthermore, the Matautu wharf is situated right next to the end point of the river flow from Lelata. The river flows with enormous amounts of debris that settle on the shoreline of Matautu and this is the reason why the wharf continues to grow shallow over the years. Notice the pile of sand situated in front of the shoreline of the Aggie Grey. That is the residue carried by the heavy flow of sand to the river. Mr Speaker I hope to remind the Chamber of our Forum Samoa ship that got caught ashore. The Forum Samoa that the PFL depended heavily on but what happened? It was caught ashore for 3 to 4 months. The special divers that came to inspect the ship could not do a thing. Their conclusion was that the ship could not be salvaged because it got caught on to the lagoon which therefore continues to be a problem for the docking ships at the Matautu port. Miraculously at some point and through our prayers the ship was released. The divers were puzzled on the belief that nothing could be done to save the ship. This is the main reason why the Pacific Forum Line or PFL went bankrupt and later on had its shares put up for sale through advertisement and the very reason why we took over the Pacific Forum Line albeit the many complaints and assumption received that government is now taking over the bankrupt PFL.

What do we have now? The PFL has profits. This is the only Shipping Company owned by the State that has no vessel. But based on knowledge and the use of Government assets and facilities, the Pacific Forum Line now receives profits which now connect us to other larger shipping vessels that we hold partnership with.

The reason why I have gone to lengths to explain this is because the Government has several projects to undertake. Request has already been sent to China and we are awaiting reports on their investigations. The four investigations aim to see whether the Matautu port should carry on and/or whether the Vaiusu wharf is a go.

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Based on a special engineer assessment and reports, the Vaiusu wharf is more viable to press through. This can be made possible through the availability of funding. Negotiations are still ongoing even though I have already mentioned it.

Government has two current ongoing proposals for both Vaiusu and Asau. Perhaps we have 50% to 60% of the project completed of our approved partnership but if we were to say yet to the soft loan for this project, the approval would have been made a long time. But we need to consider our financial debts and other matters. This is the very reason why we push for grants to be released through these partnerships to drive our nation.

Mr Speaker, I apologize if we have side tracked a bit but that is the full response on the matter. I hope to address the wrong and misleading information given out in newspapers rather I urge all to heed the Government programs that provides the information of all Government plans. If you were to listen carefully to the words I use, they are words carried under discussion. So until discussions and negotiations are through, then projects are carried out. It is terrifying to note other Government projects could not be implemented when talks have been carried out about them, this includes the Maliolio and the Vaisigano cemented bridge. It has taken over two years for this Vaisigano project to carry through. I call it the concrete bridge because it is made out of cement and steel. Therefore, the new term of reference to this bridge is the concrete bridge as we also have what we call an underground bridge.

It is why I am putting these announcements into an everyday language so that when reports are posted every detail is accurate. The Samoa Observer does not have all the details so it is best not to read into that but rather trust the 2AP which delivers the truth.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe the response heard will serve as a reliable answer for all Members who wish to comment on these matters. The Government has clearly addressed the concerns raised. I acknowledge the graduating class that graduated in the previous week, well done thank you. I assume you are all now easily comprehensive with the new knowledge acquired.

I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you Mr Speaker but I have not completed my statement. Before I voiced my concern I now fully understand the contents of which the Hon Prime Minister is referring to.

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The only aspect I wished to emphasize is reiterating that when the wharf is a success, the village also succeeds. Hon Prime Minister we are not suggesting that we stop the work progress of the wharf, the constituency fully supports this decision.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Chair notes your concern.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, from interpretation, the Member's point of view seems to implicate why these projects went ahead without consulting the village? Why would we consult with the villagers when discussions have not yet been finalized? It would only be an embarrassment afterwards and the constituents will turn on you, their electoral candidate successor.

Mr Speaker, that is the truth because the Member has now begun to change his stance with his statement.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the honorable Member. The response of the Government is very clear.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you. I dare not argue with the Hon Prime Minister because he is the Master, and the number one decision maker. Personally, it is best to discuss these matters so that when the implementation process is carried out, we have already being made aware of.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I am not a Master, I am a servant of the Party and the nation. The Lord says, 'if you want to be first, you need to serve. In order to lead you first need to follow. That is the main concern with the majority of companies nowadays, most people aim to become masters (sifi).

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I reiterate that the Government and Leader of the Government are the ones working.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I will now move away from the Vaiusu wharf. I am still on the Minister of Works in regards to roads. Mr Speaker I refer to inaccessible roads (auala galue) not access roads that the constituents use.

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The well-built roads starts from Tafaigata going in to the Taula Factory, Robert Louis Stevenson, Tafaigata Prison towards the rubbish dumping area where as the turn in to the Falelauniu area is where the problem lies Honorable Minister. I remember the words of one of the retired pastor who conducted the service for the late Member of the Council of Deputies. He said, 'do not run away from your work, do not leave your work unfinished. I ask the Hon Minister to consider this area for improvement for the residents living alongside these areas. The road for Siusega has one side looking well whilst the other is not. Nonetheless I acknowledge the wonderful work so far.

Hon Minister of Revenue I applaud and take my hat off to you Afioga Tialavea. No one else is capable of what you are responsible for at the moment. I acknowledge your courage and commitment.

There once was a pastor in Vaigaga who has now passed away and his name was Poasa and during Bible studies, this pastor would scold me and discipline me all the time. He would always say, 'look here son, you are the most disobedient child in the parish. There are two types of stubbornness; solid stubborn and stupid stubbornness. So I asked him to differentiate the two. He said, 'solid stubbornness is to remain solid in what you believe is right for you and the nation. The other is when you are easily swayed in your convictions and beliefs.

Hon Minister of Revenue I hope you remain stubbornly solid in your duties and for the Law to remain solid so that the Pastors may contribute to our economy. However, I recommend considering the service that is being provided by the Customs Office. Hon Minister it takes 4 hours for the airplane to fly from New Zealand to Samoa but it takes 12 hours for the freight to be cleared by the Customs. How can a plane fly with a package for only 4 hours and the travelers get 12 hours to receive it? I sought assistance by asking the officials what the waiting was for and how much duty is awaited? We are sitting with the money needing to go in yet they just walk around aimlessly. The citizens are sitting waiting to give in millions to the Office and to the bank and of course into our government.

Perhaps Hon Minister the work can be delegated to others if the current officers are unable or unavailable to swiftly process the work in order for income to generate inwardly to the Ministry and the banks despite the process. But I will leave that to you Hon Minister and your Associate Minister who is silent but has fruitful thoughts.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture we are about to host the next Pacific Games and I challenge you to ensure that this time would be far better than the previous events. I was entrusted with the task of presenting the medals to the winners.

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Therefore, I ask the Hon Minister to ensure that profits are generated and not to repeat the same mistakes from the past. The last time we did not gain much from the games. Nonetheless I will leave that to the Hon Minister for the discretion and smooth sailing of this upcoming event.

To the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries who is my friend and lawyer to our previous class and I can see proof of that now. I acknowledge the Bill yet to be tabled and in time it will come to pass. Therefore, I request to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to consider our constituency. We are in need of chainsaws to cut down large overgrowing trees on the side of our roads as we do lack land to develop our plantations.

Hon Minister of Public Enterprises, well done. Just an advice, do note how the Ministry is generating its revenue lest revenue incurred by other Ministries is mixed up with this Ministry.

Now on to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, although you have a lot on your hands but I can only say, you have the assistance of the Associate Minister who is the Member for Faleata West in finding the best solution to our discussing matter.

Mr Speaker I conclude my thoughts on the matter. I thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member. opportunity is open to Members of the House who wish to speak.

I call on the Honorable Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Thank you. I greet the Speaker of the House and also the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and distinguished Members of the Cabinet and also the Honorable Associate Ministers. I further greet all the esteemed Members of the Parliament.

I greet the Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations present with us today. I acknowledge the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the office of the Legislative Assembly. I also greet all of Samoa listening in and most especially my dear constituency of Gagaifomauga No.3. I greet and acknowledge the Servants of the Lord in my village of Aopo in all its honorary salutations. I shall now address my thoughts on the Financial Statement currently tabled.

First of all Mr Speaker I wish to convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry for the job well done. I acknowledge the effort to compile the different Ministries and Corporations in service to the nation. I acknowledge the compliance of the different sectors of the Government.



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I also acknowledge other sectors failing to collect the funds needed to achieve our Budget Statement. Nonetheless I convey my gratitude for the work done.

I acknowledge the Ministry of Revenue as I note the improved efforts of the Ministry to collect the revenues. It is also very important for the Chamber to fully acknowledge and give thanks to the Government Ministries and Sectors for they are the hands that do most of the work. The work carried out by these employees will enable our nation to develop.

I come now to some requests that I wish to lay before the Leader of Government. I merely wish to leave the matter by your side and pray for the consideration of the Hon Prime Minister. I address my concerns in regards to the Ministry of Education. I acknowledge the monetary gifts for the Mission Schools and I firmly believe that these schools have gone a long way in paving the way for many students. Therefore, it is the reason why I ask the Government to perhaps consider the income of Government school teachers to be consistent with that of the Mission School teachers. It is my understanding that the Missions find it difficult to hold on to their teachers due to the attracting wages of the Government schools. I strongly feel that it will not have a dent on the provisions that we have allocated for our education sector. I am grateful and acknowledge the sums that have been generously given to the Missions Schools over these years. It has been 56 years since we became independent hence it is about time for the Government to accept the integrating of payroll for all teachers under both the Church schools and Government schools. The church schools are suffering from lack of teachers so perhaps the Government can consider this recommendation. Take into consideration the service that these Church Schools have contributed to the children of Samoa.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure...

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Leader of Government.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the recommendation being voiced. I acknowledge the Honorable Members recommendation for which the policy of our nation is founded upon. The Mission schools have had their share of contribution to the nation by educating the children. Therefore, I wish to support the request put forward by the Honorable Member. The suggestion has been discussed amongst the Cabinet Members unofficially and it has long been the hope of the government to provide equal opportunity for all the children of the nation.

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In truth, Church schools are very important to the leaders of each ecclesia. The said schools cannot be closed down due to lack of teachers because the Church leaders value the importance of education that teaches the values and beliefs of different religions. Whether it is the Seventh Day or the Mormon, Catholic or Methodist or CCCS; there are slight difference with these Religious Schools, otherwise the assistance is still provided by the Government for these Religious schools. It is important to make these recommendations for the Hon Minister for Revenue to seek ways to earn revenue to implement all these.

As we observe the statement states the increase from \$6million tala to \$13million for the education sector covering the assistance of church schools. Initially this money was meant for Church schools alone, but the Private Schools have also asked for assistance however the problem now is that some are rejecting to pay tax. Legally that is why have these laws to enforce people to pay tax in order for these funds to be distributed to the necessary requests put forward. Such is my intention and wish upon all Members to support this tax in essence to generating more income through the Ministry for Revenue in order to assist these schools. I made a mention of this in one of the church services where I said, do not worry, because given the process we undertook starting from 1983 we had only 50,000 yet we are now talking 6million to 13million therefore, it would not be long now perhaps in the next 50years we will not have any more rejections from the people.

That is the request hence we need your support on all this. I beseech once more the importance of supporting the work of the Hon Minister for Revenue. It is not me but the Hon Minister.

Bless this Meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I call on the Honorable Member to continue.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you very much for that clear explanation in regards to the concern voiced. I just wish to add something I missed in my earlier statement. The percentage of teachers in Mission Schools is 24%, 6% for private schools and the Government 70%. Therefore, I request the Hon Minister of Finance to consider 24% raise for Mission Schools in addition to your budget to cover all the Mission Schools.

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I continue now to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure in regards to the Land Transport Authority. I note the continuous increase of road accidents with the bus drivers and especially considering the accident that occurred last month. The cause of the accident was trivial. I ask the Hon Minister to consider perhaps now is a time for bus drivers to take a course that ensure that they are eligible to drive. A driving training course must be taken so that drivers are well equipped with the skills and knowledge so that the safety of people particularly bus drivers will make note of simple things or use common sense and heed things like poor car breaks that could cause accidents on the road. The incident that occurred in Saipipi Savaii was very tragic and could have been avoided. To my observation, the lack of knowledge for this particular bus driver was the result to this accident. I am not speaking ill of all drivers, but only a few. Hon Minister please consider this matter that only or unless a certificate is issued to a driver, then he or she is eligible to drive in public. While I am still on this matter I wish to note that some buses are in no condition to travel on the road.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the concern voiced by the Member is very important and the reason why I stand, is to comment on the Members reference to the car brakes. The problem is not the breaks yet we have received so many cases for the same reason. I believe the vehicles are in good condition hence this matter is very important and possibly the police are also lacking enforcement of this matter, take the drivers up to the mountain and explain to them clearly that the gear was made to control the vehicle. But sliding down using gear four is not right considering the wrong gear used. Therefore Hon Minister, tell the respective officers who are inspecting the vehicles that if this is all they do, teach the drivers how to use/apply the gears from one to four, hopefully this will not produce any more road accidents. The reason why I am making this point is for everyone tuning in motor brakes rather it is the stupidity and the carelessness of drivers when it comes to gears. Therefore, for the raising matter, I urge all bus drivers and taxi drivers to take heed of your gears.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, thank you I merely wish to add on to the statement of the Hon Prime Minister. Furthermore, I acknowledge the concern voiced by the Member in regards to the vehicle breaks and that the cause is on bus drivers alone. I believe the LTA are in the audience I recommend that upon the approval of the Financial Statement there should be works to inform bus drivers and all drivers. Moreover, the education programs should emphasize most especially on the bus drivers and truck drivers as they are most commonly involved in road accidents.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister. I call on the Honorable Member to continue.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister for considering the raising concerns. Furthermore, I wish to add that the bus drivers need to dress up properly. Moreover, Hon Minister, I believe the buses from overseas have already been regulated appropriately in regards to their horns however the drivers are making it as a competition using these horns which is very dangerous, if an elderly woman is sitting beside the driver, this old lady will suddenly faint because of the loud noise from the horn. The horns of some of these buses would hoot so terribly loud causing heart attacks and anxiety shocks to the elderly in the neighboring cars. Such is the plea to the Hon Minister on these matters because as a Samoan citizen I am very concerned because if I am affected by these things then of course it will also affect the other person. On the other matter the Hon Prime Minister is right regarding the vehicle brakes. We had an incident in Savaii that got me affected when a bus had overtaken our car from the left side and ultimately caused damages to the side of our vehicle. The officers got involved and the driver claimed that the brakes were the cause of the accident. So we went to the bus owner and the owner out of devastation got the driver beaten up due to the lack of common sense knowing that the brakes were still in good condition.

Mr Speaker that concludes my thoughts and concerns on the matter, but I voice my support of the Appropriation Bill. I pray that the Lord blesses Samoa's Legislative Assembly.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now give the opportunity for another Member to comment. I reiterate the difference in this meeting and other meetings. I believe we are all aware of the subjects of this meeting for which we are meeting for. Therefore, I offer suggestion to proceed now to the recommendations of the government.

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I recognize the Honorable Member for Vaisigano No.2.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II (Vaisigano No.2):** Thank you for the opportunity I notice the reluctance of Members of the Chamber to stand. Nonetheless I greet the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. I acknowledge and greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and distinguished Cabinet Members and also the Associate Ministers. To this side of the House I greet and acknowledge the respective Members of Parliament. I greet and acknowledge the Chief Justice and Judiciary. I also greet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff. Furthermore, I greet the Chief Executive Officers of the Government Ministries and Organizations present here today. Moreover, I greet the guests with us today the teachers and students.

I greet also the audience of His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo o Samoa and His Good Lady, the Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good ladies and all of Samoa listening in.

I greet our brothers in the East and also all the Servants of the Lord and most especially my dear constituency of Vaisigano No.2.

Mr Speaker I will now proceed to voice my comments in regards to the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 and I shall be brief. First of all I wish to voice my gratitude and appreciation towards the Hon Minister of Finance and also the support of the Chief Executive Officer, the Ministry and the respective people involved in compiling the necessary requirements for this Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.

Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the sound and brave decision and support of the Hon Minister of Finance based on the difficulty and the many needs necessary. The wise decision comes from prioritizing things especially in the development of our country for our people and most significantly catering for their needs. The future of Samoa depends on it.

Mr Speaker, in regards to education I fully support the initiative to establish pre-schools. I acknowledge and thank the Hon Minister of Education, the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry for this great initiative. I truly believe and strongly support the importance of having pre-schools. Mr Speaker I have a son who attended the pre-school in Porirua and they taught the CCCS hymn "*Faafetai i le Atua*". What happened was he never wanted to sing any hymns other than *Faafetai i le Atua*. The initiative put forward in establishing pre-schools to better our young kids, eventually they will find it easier to develop well and get better as they build up into higher level education.

Mr Speaker, in regards to the pre-school...

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**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the speech of the Honorable Member for Vaisigano No.2 as we have now reached the hour of our normal recess. I apologize to the Member but the opportunity still stands for you to continue once we return. I announce that the Legislative Assembly has set aside its proceedings for its normal recess hour. Thank you.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its normal recess at 10.44am and resumed at 11.25am.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly continued on to the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.*

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

I believe we have regained strength, thanks to the refreshments received and so we may continue with our work.

We went on our break while the Honorable Member for Vaisigano No.2 was speaking. I call on the Honorable Member to continue.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to voice my acknowledgement for the refreshments prepared in rejuvenating of strength for the Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I continue my speech in regards to education. The age emphasized for the starting age of pre-schools is 4. However, I believe that there should be an opportunity granted to allow those at the age of 3 and younger. It is not a punishment but for the betterment of the children.

**MR SPEAKER:** Honorable Member I hope to reiterate that the Bill with which the Member is addressing is tabled but will be discussed once we have concluded with the Supplementary Appropriation and the Appropriation Bill. To save the Honorable Member's time, I hope you would direct your comments to the appropriate Bill. The Member may continue.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker I will now move away from this topic.

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The Hon Minister of Health I wish to acknowledge the service provided especially for the district hospitals although it still needs a lot of improvement. I acknowledge the work for the processing of tablets and medicine but I recommend more improvement also on the ambulance vehicles used to transport the emergency patients. I acknowledge the decision of the Government with regards to the merging of these two services, the National Health Services and the Ministry of Health which I suppose will take some time otherwise, this will not keep the patients waiting and the necessary health standards and requirements still needs to be maintained. Therefore, I hope to recommend for the very best from the service of the Ministry.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister for the plans to have a permanent doctor for the district hospital at Sataua for easiness and good quality of service delivery as you suggested.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable Member but I recognize the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health):** Mr Speaker, I thank the fellow Member for vigilantly following through these plans for the constituency. Therefore, to save the time for the Member I wish to voice that the Ministry is indeed planning for these arrangements.

It is best to notify the Member that the delay in the Ministry's decision is that we are still searching for a resident doctor. The beginning of this year we had discussions with Afioga Vaai through partnership with the German doctors in regards to getting an ambulance. Instead due to unclear terms and conditions with this ambulance, therefore this vehicle was then brought through to the Ministry of Fire and Emergency Services with statements to leave the ambulance with this Ministry given its convenient location in the town area to render assistance to the public living nearby. Furthermore, with the given partnership with the German doctors, they promised that another ambulance and a doctor will be made available to serve the Sataua district hospital.

The Ministry is indeed progressing through with these plans as we have discussed with the Afioga Vaai. Therefore, I wish to heed your patience as the Ministry is looking into all these necessary requirements.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity granted to clarify the concerns of the Member.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I call on the Honorable Member for Vaisigano No.2 to continue.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you also to the Hon Minister for consideration of the concerns voiced.

I now move on to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I voice my acknowledgement to the Hon Minister for consideration of some of the requests voiced like the buoy supplied for anchorage signals in the sea. We have also discussed with the Assistant Chief Executive Officer responsible for these buoys that we would not have to wait long for a supply for the other villages. It is important to the work of the fishermen in our constituency. I further acknowledge the Hon Minister for the contribution as it impacts the livelihood of our people and nation. I note that the coconut plants allocation was not much but nonetheless it is understandable due to the rhinoceros beetle disease.

Mr Speaker I come now to the many plantation roads in our constituency. In truth the aforementioned roads are filled with constituents as they reside and live there. Therefore, it is very important for the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to carry out this work. Earlier, we used to have a budget allocation for developing inaccessible roads (aualagalue) hence it is different now and by request is it possible to get two or four machines to assist in developing these roads? The same for our main roads and the condition to the resealing that is done every now and then, hence road improvement and maintenance is a requirement.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the matter raised by the Member is important in regards to the maintenance of the plantation roads. There was a time after the construction of plantation roads that was left unattended. Weeds started growing causing destruction to these roads. The Member is right, there was money allocated for villages to maintain their plantation roads. The money was meant only for the villagers whose roads were being maintained. One particular village council gave me a report about their village mayor stating that they would no longer maintain the plantation roads if money was not provided.



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So I sent for this mayor and asked what he had meant by his statement? Government assistance was to encourage the villagers to do the work themselves whilst the village mayors oversees the work of the village in maintaining these roads. The only reason why the Government stepped in with this initiative is because the village authorities cannot do it themselves. However, it seems now they are absolutely refusing to do the work by relying on money in order to do the job. Yet you are the ones using these roads. This is why I will give my recommendation to stop putting forth any more money because what's happening now is that this money is distributed for you to drink alcohol.

Mr Speaker it is very important that we as Members of Parliament are present for the council meetings of our villages. This is so that we can counsel the youth, the village and the constituents to do their job. Another alternative is to have the families that own the lands which the plantation road is on to maintain the road. And also to have the village council carry out inspections and issue fines for failing to maintain and ensure the road is kept accessible. The village council has the authority to issue instructions to the youth so that they can do the work themselves. However, if we continue to give them money then it means we are spoon feeding our people. Why must everything be dependent on the Government? It is their job to do this work instead of just waiting for their allowances.

Moreover, we went to Savaii for the road opening which gave us a chance to inspect the village development given the requests you put forward for these new access roads. To the Cabinet, we walk the talk, do our inspections and see whether these requests are worthy according to the submission of the constituents and without have to rely on issued statements. Such is the posing question, what do we see now? The Savaii market is much bigger than the one in Upolu however it is filled with pool tables and bingo sellers. Where are the fresh produce that we heard about? During inspections we find only the *fuafua* tree or wild trees but where are the crops?. This is why it is best to give the necessary advice to the Sui o Malo or Government Representatives to relay the message to the villagers to replace the aged and weak *pulenuu* with young strong *matais*. Because this is what is happening, they are only good at collecting the fortnightly allowance of \$250 and when the Government officials pay a visit, they run to the plantations to pretend that they are working.

Mr Speaker I once again reiterate the importance of attending Monday village councils every now and then. It is so that our voices and concerns and wise counsel can be voiced to our constituents. Thank you.

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### Motion to amend Sitting Hours

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe the statement by the Hon Prime Minister is well noted. It is also important that our villages and constituents take in our words and statements as this is what is happening in real life. Furthermore, it is also important that Members have raised these concerns to avoid any more repetitions of the same comments in the House.

I beg pardon of the Honorable Member but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister for the mention regarding our sitting hours.

### MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOIFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I stand with utmost respect to move a motion, *That the sitting hours for today's proceedings be amended as follows, we commenced at 9.00am until 1.00pm where sitting will be suspended until 3.00 to 7.00pm. The reason why we have these few hours so that the Members can carry out other duties. The speedy approval of the Appropriation Bill will ensure that funds are released for their use.*

Thank you Mr Speaker.

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.*

*Motion approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, I call on the Member for Vaisigano No.2 to conclude his speech.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

I will comment no further given the Hon Prime Minister's response to the raising concerns. I do however wish to be allowed to speak on the imported vehicles and the permitted years considering the gears. This is in consideration to family working in the plantations. Although it is viewed that there are alleged families obliged under the LTA Act given the permitted years for their imported vehicles, however I also believe there are Laws and provisions that should assist matters of this sort in response to the environmental effect which is the main issue behind this concern. It would be easier to consult the family on the appropriate vehicles to import to assist their plantations.

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Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure together with the collaboration with the Chief Executive of the Samoa Water Authority and the successful findings carried out in our village of Sataua. I ask the Hon Minister to continue with these plans and installing of a pump house as well as the digging and secreting of pipelines for health purposes and before the upcoming White Sunday.

I acknowledge the works of the Electric Power Corporation within my constituency. I further wish to request more street posts for the safety of traveling citizens at night.

I conclude Mr Speaker by acknowledging the Hon Minister of Finance and directly speaking of our children taking the opportunities at the apprenticeship employment level to be able to work in the business industry. I note there is fund allocation for these apprenticeship programs under the MCIL however for schools like Don Bosco, I ask if it's possible to give funding assistance to prepare these students for these apprenticeship programs because in comparison to other countries, we have similar concern with the lack of plumbers and carpentry. That is the plea to the Hon Minister of Finance for consideration.

**MR SPEAER:** Thank you. I acknowledge the speech of the Honorable Member. I recognize the rise of one of the Members.

I call on the Afioga Gafatasi, Honorable Member for Falealili East.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO (Falealili Sasae):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I firstly acknowledge the distinguished Members of the Parliament. I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and also the Speaker of the House. I thank the Lord for his favors for we have received added strength. I give thanks and acknowledgements where it is due. I further greet His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, the Members of the Council of Deputies; the Afioga Tuiaana Sagate and Afioga Tapusatele of the Tupu Tafaifa of Salamasina.

I greet and acknowledge the [Three Pillars of Government](#) and most especially the Speaker of the House. I greet all of Samoa in all its honorific salutations.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Finance for the Financial Statement. Furthermore, I greet and acknowledge the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry and the Management for their efforts and hard work ensure the stability of our economy.

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On behalf of the Chamber and the distinguished Members of Parliament, I wish to express my support for the Financial Statement. However, I also have a few recommendations and reminders for the Hon Minister.

There is a belief that we have had enough submissions already received from the 49 to 50 Members of Parliament vying to get assistance for improved roads including government projects hence I will leave it to the Minister of Works for its wise budgeting distribution and what needs to be prioritized first.

This constituency is one of the main supporters behind our agricultural products. Hon Minister of Works, we are in need of assistance for the roads at Sapoe and Utulaelae. Furthermore, may I also request the completion of the roads at the villages of Salani and also inland of Siuniu. The bus transports find it very difficult to travel inland Hon Minister due to the problems with the roads.

Hon Minister I also request the assistance with the escape routes which are also the plantation routes to be upgraded. It is so that our constituents and people are continuously encouraged to plant taro, yams and other produce for overseas markets.

Hon Minister if you have not noticed lately our market produce yield very little taro supplies. It is the honest truth because now we have such a stable market yet not enough agricultural produce due to poor roads access to the plantation which in turn reduces our farming products which unfortunately decrease reduce our taro supply exported overseas.

I wish to assist in the raising matter by previous members in regards to the services of the Ministry of Works and the Planning and Urban Management Agency or PUMA. It seems that their services are duplicated and the lengthy waiting process is becoming a concern. Therefore, a merge between these services is recommended.

On to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, briefly in receipt to the list for those with land lease that have not been developed, in assistance, put in those that are more capable/reliable to develop these lands for the State's development. Because we have several of them in need of land in the urban areas to settle in and commute to work. There are also agricultural farmers and business people in need of lands to develop and settle on using these government lands.

The other matter Hon Minister is the increase on the prices of chicken meat and other frozen goods and by this Hon Minister isn't it time to increase the minimum wage given the income level we have now otherwise others would find it easier to work in the plantation.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. SaileleMalielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, we have the respective officials tasked with this salary scale arrangement for the daily workers and public servants taking into account appropriate and consistent salary scales.

This is no easy job as there are certain factors to consider such as the overall capacity of the public including the Government and the entire community. I will never forget the period when the government decided to increase the minimum wage to 40% specifically the periods 2006, 2007 and 2008. We used the spread out process at the time given that the public servants wages remained low for a long time and the reason for this significant raise is in order to set a balance for the Government and the Private Sector. If you may recall, this was the exact period the government had the nurses strike and the so many criticisms from the public. Our intention was to set a balance to avoid the movement of employees from the public to the private sector. However, the respective officials will have a look into this before making the necessary arrangements in regards to salary scale increase.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the clarification. I come now to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in acknowledgement of the inspections that were carried out in the villages. It would consist of a thousand *tiapula* per person. It would be best to increase a few more to push our farmers to plant the taro. There is also attempt by the Ministry to thwart the growing of the rhinoceros beetle and other pesticides regardless of this doing the village is also considering a reward in return.

The best solution is giving out chainsaws for these villagers to destroy these pests in order for these plantations to be developed with respect.

The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology just a slight issue on the blurry televisions channels we have in my district and other broadcasting stations. If problem is fixed, despite the *troublesome team we have, our constituents still watches their games.*

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture perhaps you could talk to the Chancellor of our University regarding our students receiving different statements here and Japan. What is happening is that most students fail overseas and in turn look for airfares to return home due to not knowing exactly what is going on in Japan.

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Majority of them are now funding their own education because at first they say they must pass the Japanese language otherwise, they will lose their scholarships in the first term and this is without the knowledge of their parents here. I plead the Hon Minister to please look into this matter considerably.

I acknowledge the Minister of Tourism and your promising statement to have our roads fixed. However, six months later you suggest that I speak to the Minister of Works on this matter. That was a total waste and a waste to the petrol carrying the wrong Minister for the then inspection and now for the Minister of Works, these roads needs improvement for the tourists and visitors to getting additional income for our economy.

I notice the absence of the Minister of Environment but I will voice my request nonetheless. The sub-village of Salesatele in its eastern side requires a seawall area possibly the length of 30 meters.

I conclude my statements with the best wishes to the Speaker of the House. I pray the Lord continues to bless you in your duties in the Chamber. I also acknowledge the Leader of Government, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet as a whole. I further bless the Opposition and pray for the strength of our leader in Jesus name. Amen.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable Member for Falealili East. I acknowledge the concerns voiced for the betterment of the constituency. I note the audience of the constituency listening in. I now call on the Member for Siumu for opportunity to speak.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI (Siumu):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I greet and acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and that side of the House. I greet also the presence of the Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations.

I take this great opportunity to greet His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and that of the Council of Deputies listening in.

I also wish to take this opportunity to greet my constituency listening in. I greet the respective Servants of the Lord in constant prayer for the future of our constituency. I further greet the constituency in all its honorific salutations. Therefore, I bid you all wish me well as I will voice our concerns on your behalf in regards to the Financial Statement 2018/2019.

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First of I wish to thank the Hon Minister of Finance, Chief Executive Officer and the staff for the completion of the Budget Statement. I have a different interpretation of the Financial Statement from the recent Member from Savaii. My interpretation of it is Filifiliga To'a or Wise Decision whilst he means Filifiliga To'a or Calm Decision. I wish to speak on two things in regards to this Financial Statement, firstly, the foreign that is below 50%. By record, this 50% still remains at it is for the past four years. Furthermore, I am grateful there is no tax increase this financial year such is the appreciation Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture in regards to the state of our school being burned down by a fire. The school has been granted funding to start the rebuilding process. Although it is not yet completed, I beseech further assistance for a new school building on the other hand, since the school building is now gone, is it alright to proceed with a grounds field. I come now to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and wish to first acknowledge the fish ramp for our constituency. I note that our constituency has many fishermen in the area and perhaps in the near future others will be blessed with this too. Well I hope to recommend strict enforcements of the rhinoceros beetle through a national campaign so that people are made aware of the impacts of the rhinoceros. I further acknowledge the buoy made available for the constituency.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure thank you for the visitation which covered some of the issues of the irrigation system in our constituency. Moreover, I wish to recommend consideration of the implementation of a plantation road for our constituency specifically the roads of Vailima and Siumu that are in terrible state providing poor access for pedestrians and the traveling public.

Hon Minister of Health I acknowledge the hard work and effort provided for the merging of the two Health Services that is not easy to accomplish.

Mr Speaker I thank you for the opportunity. It is the only concerns I have so far. Bless this Meeting.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable Member for Siumu. I now call on the honorable Member for Safata West. I call on the honorable Member.

**Afioga LEANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West):** Mr Speaker thank you for this opportunity. I wish to greet Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and also the respective Associate Ministers.

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I also greet the support of all of Samoa listening in and most especially my constituency the family of Satunumafono. I will now take this time to share my thoughts on the legislation tabled. I wish to firstly voice the requests and concerns of the constituency before my general thoughts of what constituency needs. Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Authority I believe you have received our proposals in regards to the roads at Vaiee and Salamumu. I merely wish to remind the Hon Minister of these proposals for your considerations also for the roads at Lotofaga and also the road going to Mt Fiamoe. I truly believe that this road would be another short cut access road for our constituency if it is completed. Furthermore, the lands on these areas are really great for plantation and I believe that if these are accessibly then they would be beneficial to the nation in terms of agriculture and also accessibility for our constituency.

Hon Minister I urge your assistance to getting new street lights for our constituents and the traveling public in the night.

Hon Minister of Education in light of the long request put forward for the lack of teachers for the primary level education which is very crucial for all children and the need for improve school facilities.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for the pushing the nonu supply to interested markets for our economy.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment I heed a reminder for the seawall for Sataoa and Saanapu. To the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, I wish to ask whether we have any awareness programs for our mangrove areas as Safata area has one of the most widely grown mangroves in the country. In addition, these mangrove areas could be turned in to a sightseeing area for tourists given its massive grown development.

Moreover, Hon Minister, our constituency also has the fugafuga or sea cucumber that is collected by one company however the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has stopped this undertaking. In plea, why not give opportunity for this sea cucumber to harvest as it can generate a lot of money.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker I acknowledge the raising concern by the honorable Member. There was a year back that sea cucumbers were allowed harvesting but I was soon told that sea cucumbers could no longer be found in other villages. Reports had it that Samoa was the only Pacific country where the sea cucumber was found.



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The seafood is highly demanded by overseas restaurants and therefore the recommendation provided by the Fisheries states that our sea waters is too small in size. Thus it is best to hold on to the means available in our marine life areas for our wellbeing. This is similar intention of the State to stopping coconut drawing as this is the norm of our people, they become selfish whilst the State envisions ahead of time to protect the means we have available in our environment. We have had interested companies demanding to turn our coconut water into business however if that was allowed we would not be able to see any more coconuts in the future. This doing was seen during the Malua conference where coconuts were sold at \$5 tala given this typical nature of our people that they think only for today and not ahead. Up to today some people are telling me that the Manono waters are crystal clear those days compared to today, the water is become foul and dirty.

Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the Ministry of Fisheries for their duty of reporting back the state of affairs about our waters and the results with companies from Japan and China clear up all these and end up getting more money and we end up with nothing.

Mr Speaker, I remind the honorable Members the importance of these restrictions imposed by the Ministers. Therefore, I reiterate understanding and consideration rather than judging the conclusions made by the Ministries as they carry out duties.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I trust this aspect has been acknowledged in terms of looking ahead to the future of the nation.

I call on the honorable Member.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you also to the Hon Prime Minister for the clarification. I wish to note that I merely suggested an option whereby the sea cucumbers are safely minimized.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Health perhaps there will be a time when the implementation of the district hospital at Saanapu would become a reality.

I come now to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I refer my comments to the University tuition and the fact that nearly 3,200 students enrolled at the university. The new policy of the university is that students who fail to pay their tuition on time are expelled from education until their payment is fully paid. The latest number of students expelled from school was nearly 80 students.

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Of the 80 students some have almost paid their fees in full. Intentionally if two weeks expel notice was given to this student for not meeting his/her school fee, this is too much time missed and wasted and more reason to fail for this student. Not only are students allowed back into school once they have paid their tuition but they are also fined with a 10% penalty for failing to pay the tuition. Bear in mind Hon Minister that not all families are stable. I speak from experience in relation to my constituents. Some of these families rely on this one student to build up these families that have made it to University level. Perhaps the Hon Minister may consider another alternative for this process.

Secondly Hon Minister I have mentioned before my thoughts on the division of the Institute and the University in the previous meetings...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker before the honorable Member moves on I wish to point out a similar incident that took place a few years back when students were being stopped from attending schools due to outstanding fees. We had a meeting with the University Board and received reasons why this doing was enforced. In receipt of the concerned parents that offered their grievances, ultimately the Cabinet met with the University board who affirmed that these students were already given two chances and two exams to pay up their fees unfortunately they could not. It took us a long time to reach a decision until the Cabinet decided by recommendation to carry out a third examination by the end of December/January when we have our break. By then the parents should be able to meet these payments instead of prioritizing other things like faalavelave etc which is the norm for our people who do not prioritize their children's school fees.

During my years in school, I was also expelled for two weeks for not paying my school fee. When I was suspended from school for two weeks I came back and I had amiss a lot of lessons. So the same thing happened during our time too. The deadline for school fees falls exactly on the period the faalavelave takes place where all the money go to such as in a case of a funeral leaving no money for the children's school fee. This is why I beseech the parents to use your commonsense when it comes to matters like this. A funeral happens in a matter of urgency whilst school fee takes three to four months for you to pay up.

Mr Speaker it is a problem with us here, we set the wrong priority over our children.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the hon Member to continue.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Mr Speaker I acknowledge the clarification of the Hon Prime Minister in regards to the priorities we set in life and so forth. However, we merely wished to suggest putting the fee at week 12 instead of the 5<sup>th</sup> week fifth of the term and that way there will be no more students missing out on their studies. I believe that perhaps all the student s would have paid their tuition fees by then. I merely wish to state my thoughts on the matter Hon Minister.

Secondly Hon Minister...

**MR SPEAKER:** I will assist the honorable Member. The address of the Hon Prime Minister was clearly stated. However, the problem is that our people can be quite difficult at times. We are all equal in the eyes of the Lord with the only difference being the lack of vision. Therefore, we need to look at the bigger picture and to make sure that we do not spoon feed our people because that will lead them astray. Nevertheless, I urge the Member to make haste with your speech. I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Mr Speaker I now come to the matter of the Institute within the University; it is our prayer Hon Minister that based on the research findings and academic recommendations. It is the state of the Institute of Technology.

Secondly Hon Minister is the state also of the Faculty of Medicine and whether it is appropriate. I have discovered in my investigations that there are many complications in this school of Medicine. Therefore, I hope to recommend the Hon Minister to look in to it.

I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister for the efforts of the Samoa Qualification Authority in their research and surveys carried out. It is thanks to the Samoa Qualifications Authority and their surveys that have enlightened the aspect that our Institute of Technology at the University has the lowest rate in terms of Institutional learning. It is due to the lack of learning equipments available for students to carry out this academic process. It is why I acknowledge the Samoa Qualification Authority for this work.

Thirdly, the Super Nine Hon Minister are mostly players that are under 20 years old. However, I have discovered there are many schools that forge the birthdates of their players in order to qualify for these games. Therefore, I urge the Hon Minister to consider reviewing these schools who are forging the documents because the Birth Certificate Office have verification of the actual dates of birth.

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I come now to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I firstly acknowledge the work and the effort of the Hon Minister and Ministry. I believe this Ministry is at the core of the economy of the nation in developing and building the many infrastructures that are needed by the nation.

Hon Minister I acknowledge the efforts and the work of the Electric Power Corporation during the cyclone Gita and how the Corporation managed to have the power back on quickly.

Hon Minister I have observed the reluctance of some families to cut down their trees that overlay with street light wires. It is as should be that the Law should be enforced especially in regards to natural disasters and its impacts on the lives of the public. The uprooting of trees is a common aspect of cyclones and so proper precautions should be exercised beforehand. Furthermore, I observed one time a group of Electric Power Corporation works trying to restore a street post in the rural village. I noted that the man climbing the ladder seemed afraid of heights. Therefore, I strongly suggest for the Ministry to consider having safety trainings for the employees so that the workers are safe because it only takes two minutes or less for a person to die from an accident.

Well, I acknowledge and thank the Samoa Shipping Services for the opportunities provided to many of our sons to be employed overseas on the cruise ships. It is an important aspect in providing ample work opportunities to provide for our families and economy.

I also thank the Samoa Shipping Services for the sinking of the ship that I talked about before. I hope to recommend having buoys to signal this area because these waters have had many shelters for the fish in this part of the island.

Hon Minister in regards to the maritime, I hope to recommend that our stand remains on the white list of the IMO. I heard of the audit of the international maritime administration carried out and I believe we are in the clear. Nevertheless, I hope to reiterate the importance of this aspect so that our children are continuously granted opportunities overseas as seamen.

I come now to the Hon Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor in regards to the state or lack thereof of apprenticeship in our country. There is an increase in departments and Ministries and also Corporations within the nation, yet there are only 7 apprenticeships since 1972. It is the duty of the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labor to oversee this by inspecting the Ministries that require capacity building for the development of workers.

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I acknowledge the Samoa Airways Company for their work. I observe that our plane is no different from other international aircrafts. I firmly believe that the growth of our airline is all up to our people as we are the ones mainly using the Samoa airline for traveling to New Zealand and also Australia. Bear in mind that the Samoa Airways is not one family it belongs to all of Samoa.

I come now to the Ministry of Justice Courts and Administration and I acknowledge the Ministry for all the work done so far. I merely wish to recommend reconsidering the process by which mediation letters are received by families regarding a hearing/court case. Some families have received letters mediation a day earlier before they appear in court.

As a request, is it possible for families to get opportunity to share their thoughts before the day of the hearing? I leave the matter to the Hon Minister for consideration.

I come now to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and wish to convey acknowledgements of the work carried out.

I especially express thanks to the program where the focus is on the revival of our i.e. Samoa ietoga or the fine mat. I query the Hon Minister in regards to the Committee Members or the Village Representatives given their growing number. Therefore, I wish to ask when and whether our constituency is included. Otherwise, I notice the huge contribution of these committees by way of developments for the community and the constituency which is also huge assistance to the village councils.

I come now to the Ministry of Police and express thanks to the Ministry for all their work carried out. I recommend the Police branches in the outer districts to perhaps consider carrying out road blocks every once in a while for the speeding vehicles. The orange cones also serve as a reminder to drivers that we need to slow down a bit, even if there are no policemen. I acknowledge the hard work of the Police Office.

I conclude Mr Speaker by once again voicing my acknowledgements to the Hon Minister of Finance for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill.

I bless the Speaker of the House and also I bless this meeting. Soifua.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable Member for Safata West. We have come now to the hour that ends the first half of our day. We will reconvene at 3:00pm until 7:00pm in accordance to the motion moved by the Hon Prime Minister.

I now declare that the Parliamentary Proceedings be suspended until 3:00pm.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:53pm and was resumed at 3:00pm.*

*The debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has resumed. I acknowledge the perseverance of the Members.

We suspended our meeting after the conclusion of the speech by the Member for Safata West. Therefore, the Table and Chamber is available for a Member to voice opinions. I recognize the Honorable Member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No.4):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity granted to our constituency to share thoughts on the Financial Statement.

I take this opportunity to greet the distinguished Members of the Chamber this afternoon. I greet the Speaker of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. I also greet the presence of the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations and the support of His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo and all of Samoa. I further greet and acknowledge my constituency for their support and prayers.

Hon Minister of Finance, I thank you for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill. It has been clearly presented and this constituency acknowledges your familiarity in dealing with public monies. Thank you for the Financial Statement this year, have a blessed new year.

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First of all, I wish to convey special acknowledgement to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I thank the Hon Minister and acknowledge the plans to separate the Apprenticeship from the University. I acknowledge the huge assistance of the Australian Government to our Apprenticeship program.

There are numerous graduating students but they still lack the proper skills and experience. Therefore, by way of assistance from the Government of Australia we need to get a well-trained specialist to teach our people about safety skills that which is a major priority of any country. One of the Members mentioned that the majority of the incidents that happened is due to the lack of safety skills of employees. This goes to the majority of graduates who are now public servants who lacks these basic skills other than the experience. Therefore, I wish to reiterate the importance of having an apprenticeship program so that the workers are able to carry out their work more efficiently. Furthermore, I believe it is also important to have a separate Safety Department so that these people can maintain and monitor the safety of everyone in every parts of the country. The department would be authorized with the power to hold jobs they deem unsafe and also assess whether a job can be safely carried out with the right safety equipments. For instance, the safety boots, hard hatch, safety line and so forth are used to ensure the safety of individuals in their working environment. Therefore, I hope the Hon Minister considers this very important matter.

I applaud the Hon Minister of Revenue. I take my hat off to you for taking note of the saying that comes to mind, 'you have done it well and have succeeded the race'. The many criticisms and comments from the public in newspapers and reports on this legislation have been well taken hence is the word of thanks on the intention to make things easier for the general public.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, on behalf of my village of Asaga I thank you. I acknowledge the works on the roads for the villages of Savaii as witnessed by your presence the previous week.

I acknowledge the consideration of the Hon Minister to carry out the work in my village as we requested assistance. I note the travesty of the tsunami that struck the village while the village was having its council upon the coastal area. I give acknowledgements of the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the works done so far.

In Asaga, 90% of the village has a river that surrounds it which runs all the way to the village of Lano. From the sea it is perhaps 15metres away from the people's houses and thus I thank the Hon Minister on behalf of my village for safety exit provided for the village during harsh times.

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There is just one more road Hon Minister that needs assistance. It is the cement road at Lano that I suppose the Members noted upon during site visits. The problem of degrading has been existed over the years and so the sea comes inland whenever the tide comes in. The impact of the high level sea rise has caused further damage. It is not a road mainly pertaining to my village but also the access road for the whole country. I asked for the help of the Ministry because when the water floods our children are unable to access the roads to their schools. Therefore, I humbly acknowledge the consideration of proposals thus far.

Lastly Hon Minister, I wish to comment on the access road starting from Saina going to the Airport or the wharf. I asked the road contractors how many lanes for that side of the road and they said only two. Bear in mind Hon Minister that this is the main road of travel towards the Airport when people want to go overseas and also the island of Savaii. Therefore, if it is blocked due to the long queue of cars and it will take a long time to clear up. We need to also consider the flush of incoming vehicles in to the nation which has raised the number of vehicles in the country. I urge the Hon Minister to consider the possibility of constructing an emergency lane for funeral coaches from Savaii or overseas. Perhaps we can consider it in the current Financial Statement.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity granted so that our constituency may share thoughts on the Financial Statement. It is our prayer that the Speaker of the House continues to be granted health so that duties in the Chamber may continue. I acknowledge the Members of the Parliament and all of Samoa in their support. Bless this Meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 for the well said speech. The Chamber is available for a Member to speak.

I believe it is best to reshuffle in the Chamber. Bear in mind we have added our business hours as moved by the Leader of the Government and Cabinet so that the Bill can be approved swiftly. The sooner we approve the sooner it can be distributed so that we may continue our work. I recognize the Honorable Member for Aana Alofi No.2. I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.2 to take the stand.

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for even though I am not yet ready, I believe my calling is very important. I stand with utmost respect to voice opinions on behalf of my constituency in regards to the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 currently tabled.



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I first greet the distinguished Members of the Parliament, the Speaker of the House and respective accord. I greet and acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. To this side of the House, I greet the Honorable Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees, Deputy Chairpersons and all the distinguished Members. I also greet the Clerk of the Assembly and the staff of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. I further greet the Chief Executive Officers of the Government Ministries and Corporations and lest I forget the contribution of the media in the Chamber; Talofa lava.

I greet all of Samoa in all its honorific salutations. I greet His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady and also the Council of Deputies. I greet the nation in all its honorary salutations. Furthermore, I greet and acknowledge the Servants of the Lord in all the four corners of the nation in constant prayer for the future of Samoa and its people.

I dare not forget the support of my constituency of Aana No.2 of the villages of Leulumoega and Nofolii. I acknowledge their supporting prayers for the Member. I greet the constituency in all its honorific salutations not forgetting my dear village of Nofolii in all its honorific salutations.

Mr Speaker before I will share my thoughts on the Financial Statement I believe this is a good time to acknowledge the works of the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I acknowledge the great works word of the inland water supply being made available now for the inland parts of the village of the Speaker. I trust soon the same benefits can be provided to our village and also assistance to the roads which we discussed Hon Minister.

Hon Minister of Health I acknowledge the vision of the Health Department for the Leulumoega district hospital. The Leulumoega will not remain a hospital for much longer but will be a hospital centre due to its limited space. I also requested an ambulance for the hospital at Leulumoega and was told it will be made available soon. Therefore, I hope to recommend to the Hon Minister to consider repair and upgrade works to be carried out in the Leulumoega hospital. It is a busy Health Service Centre and it is always full of patients day and night.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, I believe we have already requested for a seawall to be built in the sub village of Vaialua, perhaps the previous Minister has lost our proposal or maybe it is still sitting in the office but we did make our request known officially. I also reiterate that there is much assistance for the project as there is a surplus of boulders inland of our village and all we need is a proper vehicle to transport them to the project area.

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Mr Speaker there is much that we wish to convey and propose but they have all been formally written through the right channels. Therefore, they will be delivered to the appropriate Ministers responsible. It is our belief that the discretion for the best of the nation is with the Government to decide.

I conclude thoughts on the matter and wish to state the support of the constituency of Aana Alofi No.2 for the Financial Statement. Hon Minister of Finance it is known that the task is not simple and I acknowledge the efforts for the economy of our Nation. I acknowledge the work and the preparations of the Ministry and staff in making this possible. Once more, I voice support of the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019. Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to share thoughts on the Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I acknowledge the simplicity of the speech of the Honorable Member for Aana Alofi No.2. The Member voiced support for the Financial Statement and also raised concerns and matters for the benefit of the constituency. I believe it is not an easy matter for the Ministers to acknowledge the requests of the constituencies and their Members. I thank the Member for the speech voiced.

I recognize the Member for Falealili West.

**Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Before I voice my views on the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017/2018, I first greet the Parliament and all of Samoa listening in via 540AM. I greet and acknowledge all of Samoa in all its honorific salutations.

I also take this opportunity to greet my constituency of Falealili. I greet the Servants of the Lord in service to the constituency. I greet the villages and voice my thanks for the support to the Member.

I compare this Financial Statement to the life of our Lord and Savior whom came down to save the people. It is why He was born in a manger in Bethlehem right up to Golgotha. Jesus said that *“the Son of Man did not come down so that the people may serve Him, but so that He can be of service to the people”*. Therefore, it is the same with our interpretation of the Bill; we came to serve our people and not for the people to serve us. The human resource specialists believe that there are two things one must muster in the initial interview. Firstly, is the result; what would be the outcome be for the people when the results are yielded.

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In my view of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I wish to acknowledge the Government for the discretion in regards to the funding made priority for the health sector. The priority has been made for the health sector to ensure that medical supplies and health equipments are sufficient and available for the sick patients in the main and the district hospitals. I acknowledge the statement of the Hon Minister of Finance in prioritizing the Health and Education sectors in the appropriation.

I come now to the Ministry of Education and acknowledge the increase of the funding allocated for the Ministry of Education by 2.63%. It is admirable for this discretion as I believe the prioritizing of education for the nation will ensure that the future of our country is bright and stable. Furthermore, I acknowledge the likely increase of economic benefits for our country with the upcoming Pacific Games which we will be hosting.

I take this time to voice thanks to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, the Chief Executive Officer, the School Inspectors, Principals and also the distinguished members of the school committees of my constituency. I applaud all the work done so far. Thank you for all the hard work as Rome was not built in a day. There are plans for the merging of the Oceania University of Medicine with the National University. Before that, I wish to note the accreditation process for the Faculty of Medicine must be taken as priority. It is so that the National University is licensed for strategic training. The Oceania University of Medicine already has accreditation for the United States of America which allows the graduates to apply for further studies in New Zealand, Australia, Canada or America. Fiji is also included. The priority of this school of Medicine allows the successful graduates of medicine students to become qualified doctors in the nation. This will also ensure the saving of funds for overseas treatment that the Government funds every year. This funding is close to \$6million. The appropriation for the National University of Samoa has now been decreased by 8.1% and I wish to ask the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture about the motive behind this. What is the reason for the decrease in the appropriation for the National University that is \$1million less from its appropriated budget? Whether programs have not been successful or their service has failed to be maintained. The appropriation of 10% allowed for the provision of disabled students and also scholarships for those with below average income earning families.

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Ministry of Health and the National Health Services, perhaps we are all aware of the vision of the Government in regards to the merging of these Ministries. The Appropriation Bill provides 15.6% appropriated for the Ministry of Health and the National Health Service. I am glad that the priority has been granted to the National Health Service. It is because this service allows the nurses and doctors and also the health committees and district hospitals to serve the nation. I fully support the increase appropriation for these services that is carried out 24/7.

I request the Hon Minister of Health for a resident Doctor for the district hospital at Poutasi. The Doctor only manages to make visits for just one day but perhaps two days is good to reduce the number of constituents visiting other district hospitals. I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Health and Chief Executive Officer for the health service delivery provided for the public.

I note the increase in expenses for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure by 13.2%. I believe I have addressed and proposed the need for a road tar in our district in previous meetings. Therefore, I humbly urge the Hon Minister to consider upgrading of roads that lead to the primary schools of Saleilua and Poutasi. I humbly request the Hon Minister to consider the implementation of these roads.

The plantation road at Poutasi next to the car repair between Saleilua and Poutasi also needs upgrading. Our village of Vaovai recently had its road tarred the previous year and the respective company needs further assistance in completing these roads constantly used by the public.

The village of Matautu has been fortunate in being involved in the planters program gifted with 1,000 taro shoots per matai. The village was also lucky to have investors like the Ah Liki Investment to invest in taro to be exported to New Zealand. The Ah Liki Investment managed to plow the road to which business people and also plantation farmers have been able to access their plantations more efficiently.

Our village of Tafatafa, has four tourist sites at the moment. The first is the Maota o Maa, the second is Vaiula, the third is Brenda and the fourth is Taito Galu. I would hope that the Hon Minister of Works decides to have the roads tarred so that the public and tourists visiting this side of the country can access these sites more efficiently. Our village of Malaemalu is also in need of assistance especially with the tourist site of Punaotala at Malaemalu. At present our road was buried with sand by the village but there are still pot holes that need fixing. Furthermore, I wish to reiterate that the plantation road next to our Methodist Parish at Malaemalu has yet to be upgraded.

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In our village of Satalo we have a road that has been recently tarred and painted by the Ah Liki Investment. It was constructed when the Tsunami struck in 2009 and is in huge need for upgrading and improvement for the travelling public accessing this road.

To the honorary Toafa, Tuiloma and Taituuga and the respective others I have voiced your concerns.

In terms of electricity and water, I wish to address the Ministry of these necessities to consider our constituency. The inland inhabitants of the village of Saleilua and Sapunaoa are in need of water and electricity. Furthermore, there is a bridge between the village of Saleilua and Togitogiga that perhaps the Ministry can oversee the works for this bridge. The constant flooding has eroded the bridge over the years. One side of the bridge was also damaged from a car accident. Therefore, I fear that one day a more severe accident may cause the bridge to break thus causing traffic jam due to the lack of consideration and constant maintenance works on the bridge. In this regard, I humbly recommend to the Hon Minister and Ministry to consider this area.

I acknowledge the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the works done so far in protecting the mangroves. I requested last year for consideration of the temporary wharf at Poutasi. It is currently being used by tourists to travel to the island of Nuusaafee. I therefore urge the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to consider this temporary wharf.

I acknowledge the works of the Hon Minister and also the Ministry in not only in our constituency but also our nation in encouraging the increase of food supply for our people.

I now acknowledge the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor for the RSE program which has benefited many families in Samoa. I acknowledge the opportunities provided for our constituency and also other neighboring villages like Lepa, Lotofaga and also Siumu who have all been fortunate and successful with the opportunity to be employed under the seasonal workers scheme. The youths from the villages have been able to work overseas and send their earnings to their families in Samoa.

I recall the mention of the Apprenticeship program by the Member for Safata West and we too also wish to propose looking into this aspect. Apprenticeship is crucial in Samoa because majority of the domestic work done in Samoa employs overseas workers in these areas.

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The specialized local people in these areas of domestic work ensure we employ our own people instead of hiring foreign workers to do the work. I believe it will help our people and also the Private Sector. I recommend the Hon Minister for considering this matter so that assistance can be made available for the harvesting of the bananas from Israel and Samoan cocoa for export.

The Hon Minister of Revenue, I acknowledge the expenditure priority for the Ministry to construct a building for the new container scanner machine to ensure the strict customs border compliance at the Apia Port. Therefore, I recommend the Hon Minister for a container scanner machine for the international airport to also ensure there are no illegal exits of our money.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, I recommend the Hon Minister to consider the seawall for our villages of Saleilua and Iliili and also the villages of Sapunaoa and Salesatele. There is a dire need for seawall construction to counter the level of sea rise that is beginning to cover our lands.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity given to speak. I also want to thank the Clerk of the Assembly and staff in service to the Parliament. I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and of course the Parliament of Samoa, soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the speech of the Honorable Member on behalf of their constituency. I believe the Government has taken notes of the requests by the Member and will consider them carefully.

The Chamber is available for any Member who wishes to share their thoughts. I recognize the Honorable Member for Gagaemauga No.2 an elder senior of the Chamber. I grant the opportunity to the Member for Gagaemauga No.2.

**Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA (Gagaemauga No.2):** First and foremost, I give thanks to our Almighty God for His everlasting love and protection upon us this entire morning. I also thank the Speaker of the House, Deputy Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I believe I am a firm believer of the notion that blessed is he that has not seen yet still believes. It is the reason why this Member believes that no matter what we voice in terms of proposals and requests the Government cannot provide. Nonetheless the sun will shine again and God will pour His blessings. I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister for I believe that the callings are from God. Therefore, we give God praise for bringing us safely to the end of this financial year journey.

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I acknowledge the efforts and works of the people given equal opportunities for all. It is not whether the amount is big or small rather it is the work that goes along with it. It is why I thank the Cabinet for its discretion. Our constituency acknowledges and notes the rumors but it will not dampen our belief that light will come again. We continue to rely on the blessing of the Lords Holy Spirit upon this Government for a better change. I firmly believe that there is nothing that cannot be changed.

I cannot read out all the demands and wishes of this constituency rather I wish to note the constituency of Saleaula and Salamumu that the requests have already been passed to the Hon Minister of Works and Infrastructure. I believe they have received our requests and that the spirit is also working to remind them of our requests. The Hon Minister has paid visit to the constituency and noted the state of our infrastructure especially with the roads at Salamumu. The roads are important as there are many visitors to the resorts located there. I dare not beg the Hon Minister but I merely pray that we all work together.

Hon Minister of Health, I pray you consider the state of our district hospital as the patients come to the hospital yet there are no resident nurses or doctors there. The doctor lives quite far away from the district hospital. The same can be said for the state of education. Therefore, Hon Minister of Education I hope to voice our need for teachers. I think our own villagers are teaching in our own school due to the lack of teachers. I acknowledge all the Ministers for their work and especially the Hon Minister of Finance in refrain of the use of government funds. However are we to fund our work that is needed if the money is not to be used? I highly recommend the consideration of a school building for the village of Saleaula as it is in terrible state. I pray to the Cabinet to consider the future of the villages that are in need of assistance. Plans for Salamumu and Saleaula may seem laughable but it is not funny. The village of Saleaula is the one with the utmost Authority. It is why Mr Speaker that I wish to reiterate my disappointment in regards to these matters.

The other matter I wish to discuss Mr Speaker is the fact that water reservoirs were planned to be constructed in the areas where cattle farms are situated. It has been 20 years now since this promise was made and yet there is still no water available. I ask the Hon Minister of Prisons to firstly consider an irrigation system for our cattle farms. Mr Speaker that is all, bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member for Saleaula. Well the floor is available for a Member who wishes to speak.

I recognize the Afioga Aliimalemanu.

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**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West):** Mr Speaker, I would suggest with the discretion of the Chair perhaps that I would now voice our take from the Finance Committee since there are no Members who wish to speak.

**MR SPEAKER:** I note the suggestion of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. If the Members of the Chamber are reluctant to speak then I will pass the opportunity to the Finance Committee.

Nonetheless I recognize the Honorable Member for Faasaleleaga No.2. I call on the Member to stand.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU (Faasaleleaga No.2):** I greet the Speaker of the House, and also the Hon Prime Minister, Ministers of the Cabinet and also their Associate Ministers. I also greet and acknowledge the support of Samoa listening in and most especially my constituency of Faasaleleaga No.2 and all its honorific salutations. I acknowledge the support of my constituency in regards to the Supplementary Appropriation.

First off, I wish to share a personal story about a 70 year old man whom I used to take out for drinks. After a few drinks he would say, I am growing fond. Several years later, eventually I asked the old guy what he meant by this statement. He ultimately clarified that when you do something, do it with passion and dedication because in the end, you will bear lots of fruits that comes in plenty.

I now refer acknowledgement and comments to the Financial Statement. By observation I notice no big difference with the previous statements of 2016/2017, 2017/2018, and 2018/2019 in terms of profit and grants. It is merely a small percentage from one period to another. It is why I figured that this must only be the amount accumulated from one period to another. I therefore acknowledge and note the statement of the Hon Minister with regards to the importance of utilizing funds properly and wisely. It is due to the fact that despite the funds we accumulate over the years and the grants gifted to us, our needs and wants will continue to rise. Therefore, we need to be wise in our spending. Like my old friend said, when you do something make sure you check to see that it is properly done because if the funds we get does not increase, then that means we are not improving. This is no different from the water connection and the cost you share with your neighbor. Therefore, we must take heed of these things on a collective level noting the funding assistance we receive from abroad.



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On how these funds are used and spent, our wants are endless and this country has a long list of demands for family development which I am sure every family would agree. The distribution of these funds is the Government's duty whilst we give our demand by requests, however we must take note of wise spending given the reduction in appropriation. In addition we must prioritize proper implementation of project developments to avoid repairing services and money waste. For instance, the road fix today requires upgrading after 10 or 20 years. The contractors taking this job should be stringently looked into for proper and better roads that can last long. Too much is wasted on these roads that are not properly maintained by availing suitable materials like aggregate rocks to maintain them.

I now come to the Hon Minister of Finance, I acknowledge the hard work. I also note the smooth road near your house which I believe is an example for all of us. I pray for the strength to the Hon Minister in search of earning more income for our nation and its developments.

I come to the needs of my constituency for the Hon Minister of Communication Information and Technology. I kindly ask the Hon Minister on behalf of the sub-village of Tapueleele and the poor communication lines and the long distance whereby at one point in time, it failed to reach the emergency line for an ambulance from Tuasivi to Tapueleele that is the same from the town clock to Afega.

Hon Minister of Justice Courts and Administration, I acknowledge the Government plans to remove the Court house from Tuasivi. I hope things will go smoothly as there are other set plans in place.

Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture, I plead your approval of the school building of Fatausi.

Hon Minister of Finance, I acknowledge the grants we received for our developments.

Hon Minister of Women Community and Social Development, please take note of the two Village Representatives and their request.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister for Revenue with regards to the church minister's taxes. I ask the Pastors to consider this matter as the Hon Minister of Finance assures us that it will go a long way in to financing the developments for the whole nation.

Hon Minister of Agriculture, I remember in 2001 when I was the Associate Minister of the Ministry and I remember visiting the Nuubanana plantation with him to which I told him to stop this development. However, a new practice was adopted when the Chinese took over with their concept for this development and vegetable growing.

Hon Minister of Agriculture, I plead your consideration of the conservation area for our constituency.

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I like to share something with the Hon Minister of Agriculture about a technique that I acquired from my Chinese friends. I am a huge fan of the Chinese and I enjoy making friends with them. They told me not to share this secret with anyone but I truly believe that it is very useful for the Hon Minister. As the Chamber may have known, I have been involved in many developments of the nation. The demolishing of the Estate that has now been replaced by the TATTE building; the building and opening of the many developments like that of the funeral parlor in Savaii and many more in Upolu.

Nevertheless, the norm of the Chinese is that every morning at 7:00am they walk up to their plantations with their bottle of waters. They do not come back until 4:00pm. I am not sure what exactly they do with the bottles after they have used it as they are not allowed to come back for refills until 4:00pm. I told the Chinese friend that I could not go up. The machine took me up and noticed the hard working Chinese planters. The Chinese planters would plant for six hours straight without any rest. It is why I recommend considering the efforts of the Chinese in matters of vegetable planting. The key is adapting the methods of the Chinese so that we too can benefit from them. Or conduct a training starting from Asau to see whether this is beneficial for us.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I acknowledge your works on road repairs. Shift your focus on the monitoring process rather than repairing as I too have previous experience with road fix that I was involved back in 1984 when we had the road seal at the airport.

An expatriate used to drive around with a tire pressure gauge to measure the mass of the aircraft tires. I asked why the fixed road had been re-drilled and he said that the landing area needs to be well-secured to support the weight of the aircraft. After absorbing this insight, I relayed the company to get a lorry to measure the airport runway.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has two more minutes.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATAU PAU:** Yes, the works of the Government should be done. I trust that none of us here and neither the road contractors has any truck like that to gauge the roads mass before the tar is executed all the way up to my constituency. I begin my statement with the story in 2001 when the Minister had just been appointed and gave his statement in front of the entire Sapapalii constituency that our roads will be fixed however, this Minister was gone and I too had to leave.

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The road I am referring does not have a sign to indicate the concrete bridge, which means that this road is in dire need as it involves road blockage and heavy flooding from the rain and therefore avoids the travelling vehicles and emergency cases including the services of the Ministry of Police. The hotels and tourists are also affected.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Honorable Member, but I ask the Member to conclude your speech.

**Afioga Hon Gatoloai Amataga Alesana Gidlow (Faasaleleaga No.1):** Mr Speaker I ask the Chair to please grant 10 more minutes to my dear colleague.

**MR SPEAKER:** Motion has been moved to grant another 10 minute to the current Member speaking.

*Motion not approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Conclude your speech.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATAU PAU:** Thank you. I now come to the road at Sapapalii to please consider. There are settlers on the inland requiring water and street lights for easier access to the shops in this area.

I now come to my village which I sincerely hope a site visit can be made available for its consideration. The village of Tapueleele has 700 citizens residing there together with residents of Vaiola. It becomes very difficult when rain is heavy in these areas making it difficult to access. I believe the last time works was done on these cement roads was in 1997.

Hon Minister of Tourism I acknowledge you and your good health. I acknowledge your strength and independency.

Hon Minister of Health everything with the hospital is 100%. I wish to consider putting up a fence in the south side of the hospital for public smokers. Furthermore, the parking area upfront is troubling and disturbing for the public looking for parking space.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Members time is up.

**Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATAU PAU:** I am about to finish. Hon Minister I hope you remember the words you voiced in your speech regarding the establishment of the market. Nonetheless I acknowledge the establishment of the market.

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Hon Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, our seawall request is now before you.

Hon Minister of Police I wish to note that the lack of patrolling policemen in the market. Isn't it suitable to transfer the lady Deputy Commissioner to oversee this area?

Hon Minister of Finance, I acknowledge the Financial Statement. I acknowledge once again the opportunity granted and bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member for Faasaleleaga No.2. I trust your duties are being heavily supported by the constituents. We now have an opportunity for another Member to speak.

I recognize the Member for Salega East. I grant this opportunity to the Honorable Member.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East):** Mr Speaker our Committee is waiting for the opportunity to voice our response but I suppose we are wondering when that time will come. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity if no one is willing to speak.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I shall grant the opportunity to that side of the House.

I recognize the Member for Aiga i le Tai.

**Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI (Aiga i le Tai):** I thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I note that the Members of the House are quite reluctant to stand up as we have had a long day. Nevertheless, I acknowledge the commitment for the today's work.

I will now take this opportunity to voice my views for the betterment of our nation and also in acknowledgement of our accomplishments so far. First of all I acknowledge the support of Samoa listening in and the support of the Servants of the Lord in constant prayer for our nation.

I take this opportunity to voice my gratitude to the Government for the grand accomplishments achieved so far from the beginning of this Term. We have now reached the middle of our journey and congratulate everyone. May the Lord be praised for all our efforts and works and pray for His Blessings upon Samoa.

First of all Mr Speaker, I wish to convey my word of thanks to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the allocation of funds as I know it is not easy. I have noted in the previous week we have celebrated the opening of ten access roads completed by the Government.

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I further thank the century or the Hon Minister of Works for finally adhering to our request and prayers for the past ten years to have access to fresh drinking water. We have acknowledged this blessing as we believe there are yet more to come.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member. I apologize to the Honorable Member for Aiga i le Tai but we have now come to the recess hour. Therefore, the Honorable Member's speech will continue when we return from our break. I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have been set aside for its normal recess hour.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 4:43pm and resumed at 5:21pm.*

*Proceedings continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. During our break the Honorable Member for Aiga i le Tai was presenting. I call the Member to continue his speech.

**Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I acknowledge the receipt of refreshment for good health for everyone.

I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the completion of the sub wharfs on one of the islands. I truly believe that the Lords Spirit has filled the heart of the Hon Minister so that he may acknowledge the struggles for the islands of Apolima and Manono every day. It is because unlike Savaii and Upolu everything is based on time whist Apolima and Manono islands take note of the tide. It is why I thank the Hon Minister of Works for this sub wharf completion and also the Government for the water connection. However, Mr Speaker there is still the problem of insufficient supply of water. However, given the ration distribution of water supply, I suggest a water tank installation in the middle of the island to cater for everyone in the island.

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Furthermore, I wish to voice the need for road upgrade for the villages of Lalovi, Apolima, Faleu, Salua and also Lepuiai and the road to our College in Aana which is the only College in the district. Students have found it difficult to commute to the school due to the uncommon weather and heavy rainfall and road damage.

I now come Mr Speaker to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry and the Minister working towards minimizing the rhinoceros beetle and its existence in the coconut trees. The demand for coconuts has increased and thus the coconut plantation owners need to increase the growth of coconut trees. I further acknowledge the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the efforts in trying to exterminate the threat of coconuts. I also thank the SROS for the assessment taken on the various products like the taro whisky and sasalapa whisky that was recently launched. I acknowledge every other products and the increasing knowledge and skills of the staff and the Hon Minister.

Mr Speaker I have much to say but I am conscious of the time. But before that I wish to request to the Hon Minister of Education for improvement works for the Primary School sports field that is located on swampy area. I further wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister for the standards and level of education since he became Minister.

Hon Minister of Finance I applaud and acknowledge the preparation of the Ministry and the staff and I voice my support of the Financial Statement. I only hope for its speedy approval so that the Ministers may work in completing the works for the end of this financial year.

I pray the Lord continues to bless the Speaker of the House so that he is blessed with health in his duties in the Parliament. I acknowledge the support of my constituency in all its honorary salutations. Bless the Fono.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member. I now call on a Member to take the floor.

I recognize the Honorable Member for Safata East. I call on the Member to stand.

**Tofa NONU LOSE NIUMATA (Safata East):** I humbly greet the Speaker of the House and most especially the Hon Prime Minister and colleagues. I also greet the Associate Ministers and Members of Parliament. I further greet my constituency of Safata East in all its honorific salutations.

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Mr Speaker, we have here the Budget Address and the Financial Statement of the Hon Minister of Finance. Mr Speaker, the main objective is that the Government continues to grow in economy and finance wise. The limitation was in 2018/2019 it was 2.6% and 23.7% so the limitation was 35% to 38%. The wages of public servants was 48.4% in 2018/2019 and 2017/2018 it was 47.5% and the limit was 40% to 45%. The contribution of the Government to the economy was 44.1% in the year 2018 and 47.4% to below 50% was the limit. The total percentage of wages from the year 2017/20018 was 1.8% and 2018/2019 was 3.3%. Mr Speaker it is the very same with the percentage overseas countries like New Zealand and Australia and Fiji. It ranges from 3.1%, 2.9% and 3.5%. It means that it is the same with our economy and thus means I fully support our Financial Statement. The only point I wish to stress to the Hon Minister is the importance of wise decision making. We need to make the right decisions carrying on from the past.

Mr Speaker, with the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I note that 100% of the Members have voiced their recommendations for their access roads to be fixed. All the Members wish for their roads to be fixed first. Perhaps in these 5 years we are now half way through the Term and to do something that will perhaps make things easier for the Hon Minister in the decision making. It is best if we start work from my constituency of Safata East moving on to Safata West and so on as some constituencies are getting assistance whilst others are not.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Honorable Member, but I recognize the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, I do not wish to interrupt the speech of the Honorable Member but I hope to correct the statement of the Member, this is not how we carry our job. We grant requests based on those that needs first priority especially school roads not the statement which implies that we are being biased. Bear in mind that your constituency was mostly the recipients of road reconstructions in the past Term. Therefore, we must now prioritize other constituencies that are also in need of improvement. Furthermore, most plantations have been developed because of the improved roads given your requests and our visits. That is the correction to the statement of the Member. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Honorable Member to continue.

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**Tofa NONU LOSE NIUMATA:** Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture the villages of Mulivai, Tafitoala and Fusi are in need of school teachers. The Member for Safata West also voiced this need.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister of Agriculture our constituency has an abundance of taro and agricultural produce. However, the problem is that there is no market to export these commodities. I ask the Hon Minister the best cause of action to take at this moment...whether we should export our produce to New Zealand or something.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** Mr Speaker may I have a moment.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua:** I also wish not to interrupt the Honorable Member's speech so I will be brief. I do not think that Upolu or Savaii is able to meet the demand of Ah Liki by way of taro supply to overseas markets. Nevertheless, I will contact them again at the end of today's Sitting. If however, the taro from your constituency are not being exported then that means something is wrong with your taro perhaps the taro is not matured enough but we can seek the assistance of the Company. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I suppose that concludes the issue.

**Tofa NONU LOSE NIUMATA:** Mr Speaker I wish to note the road at Vailima Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. This road is very wavy given the new tar on top of the old seal. Taking a few trips to Vailima brought to my attention that this road is in fact wavy.

Mr Speaker I thank you for this opportunity and also to the Hon Prime Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the honorable Member for Safata East but I recognize the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker I wish to correct the statements voiced by the Honorable Member. Perhaps the concern of the Honorable Member is the wavy condition of the road however this road has already been upgraded by resealing the old tar. Given high costs to fix works, the reseal is the best solution for this main road that can last up to five years.



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Perhaps this is the only person that is criticizing this road where as most of the feedback received from the public is positive. We need to be considerate of the road construction companies and their efforts. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Perhaps it is not the road but the tyres of the car that is the problem. The issue we must remember is that the businesses and contractors are listening in.

**Tofa NONU LOSE NIUMATA:** Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I am right; the road is indeed bumpy. Nonetheless I pray for the Lords blessings upon this Meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Well the floor is now available for a Member who wishes to speak. I note the Member rising to make his speech.

I call on the Honorable Member for Vaimauga West No.1.

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also thank the Honorable Members for granting this opportunity for me to go first. Thank you.

Well Samoa I greet everyone on behalf of Vaimauga West No.1 constituency in all its honorary salutations. I further greet and acknowledge the support of my constituency for their never ending support which has enabled me to voice our support on the Financial Statement 2018/2019. I thank the Ministry and the Hon Minister for the preparation. I acknowledge the Finance and Expenditure Parliamentary Committee for their Report which has given us further understanding of the Statement for the Ministries to carry out its work.

Mr Speaker, I will now call out the list of needs for my constituency. One of the whisperings by the Ministers says that written proposals must be prioritized. I will submit some of the requests that could be included in that list. As the saying goes, what is good for Apia should also apply for Savaii and the rural areas. From this angle, most likely priority is being stressed in the rural areas neglecting the villages close to Apia.

Mr Speaker I wish to convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the Chief Executive Officer and most especially the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the GEF or small grants programme. I also acknowledge the UNDP and their assistance to erecting a walkway for the Mangrove area in Moataa.

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In the future the constituency hopes for further road upgrade for vehicles to travel through to this site. Thank you very much.

Secondly I thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. Thank you for making time available to visit our Primary School so that you may observe the state of the school building and its location near the road. The school needs proper building and more open space considering the increasing number of students. We have over 400 students enrolled at the school at the moment.

Mr Speaker I take this opportunity to convey congratulations to Reverend Enefatu and faletua of the CCCS at Tanoaleia who have just been given the Elder bestowment for the Church. May God bless you and the works you carry for the Lord.

Mr Speaker I wish you all the very best and good health in your duties to our Parliament. I pray for the Lords blessings upon our Meeting. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member for the recommendations for the constituency. Well, I grant this opportunity to any other Member who wishes to speak.

I recognize the Honorable Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West.

**Afioga GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity granted to the constituency of Faasaleleaga No.1 West. First of all I greet and acknowledge the distinguished Members of the Parliament, Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, respective Members of the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I greet also the Members of the Opposition Side. I acknowledge the presence of the Chief Executive Officers of the Government Ministries and Departments who are hands and feet of the Government. I further greet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff who are in service for the Parliament of Samoa. I greet all of Samoa listening in and most especially the support of His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies. I acknowledge the Chief Justice and Good Lady and Members of the Judiciary. I greet and acknowledge Samoa listening in and all its honorific salutations.

Mr Speaker I take this opportunity to greet and acknowledge the tremendous support and prayers of my constituency for their Member. I greet and acknowledge the constituency of Faasaleleaga No.1 West and all its honorific salutations. I acknowledge your support and trust in your representative.

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I dare not forget the prayers of the Servants of the Lord in our constituency for the Members and most especially for all of Samoa. Thank you for your prayers. It is the powerful of your prayers that have enabled and paved success upon this island state. Mr Speaker, I have been sitting here listening to all the Members and their list of needs and wants for their own constituency most especially the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure which had me thought of China. Mr Speaker I thank you for the granted opportunity that has allowed me to lead the nine Member group to China. I have visited this grand nation many times before but this was the first time that I have ever truly observed the utilization of not only the natural resources but also the manpower of this great nation. The methods and systems used by China to develop themselves are not easy to implement considering its large population in the entire world.

We have heard of the Communist form of Government they practice. It is admirable and effective as listening to one voice that aims to develop the nation is better than listening to numerous voices that also come with negating thoughts that tarnish the great ideals for the nation as a whole. I am grateful and very fortunate to receive the opportunity to travel to China which has allowed me to observe the creative methods used by the Chinese people in developing their infrastructures. Therefore, I beg patience of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure in our wants and proposals being read out every so often. The importance of these road upgrades is to ensure that our people are able to access the plantations and harvest the crops on a daily basis. Samoa is not like other island nations that are separated by hundreds of miles a day from the point of Government. The gap between Upolu and Savaii is only 14miles. Therefore, the smooth pathways to the peoples plantations and peoples farms allows for people to consistently harvest and work their lands as this is our only asset; our lands. Samoa is a blessed island that can grow anything in its soil. It would only take a week to put taro in the soil and within a week crops are ready given God's blessings. Why then do we cry when God is blessing us with the available resources we have in abundance including our land.

It is why Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure bear with us and our recommendations for our road upgrades. The roads require improvement to work the plantations and for the constituents living inland. As we are all aware of the current weather conditions and living near the coast is no longer safe. The natural disasters and sea level rising is the reason for relocation to higher grounds.

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The other matter Mr Speaker I wish to direct to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. Hon Minister I hope you would consider the possibility of constructing a gym for Savaii to develop the talents of the constituents in Savaii. The sports like netball and squash are in need of developing and who knows maybe there are future champions in Savaii. The intention is to build up and develop the talents for these youngsters.

We have rugby fields and other facilities for the rugby talent but we must also consider other sports. Furthermore, we need to consider the firm nourishing of these talents to the best that we can provide Hon Minister. It is my humble request.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment I bid the construction of seawalls for our constituency given the problem of sea level rising.

Hon Minister of Tourism, I acknowledge your discretion upon the location of the Miss Samoa this year to be held in Savaii. Although the matter has been outsourced to the Samoa Events but the final decision came from your office through the Chief Executive Officer. The reason for my vote of thanks is because of the opportunity for the people of Savaii to witness the Miss Samoa live and the magnificent chance to showcase the beauty of Savaii. I acknowledge your decision and intention which is a dream for Savaii and perhaps in the near future the Miss Pacific can also be brought to Savaii. This is a vital opportunity as Savaii can also achieve and accomplish great things.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Public Enterprises and the support provided to the Minister of Works, well done because Samoa can be interpreted as a country that can achieve anything. Foreigners may consider us as a Third World Country but when they come to Samoa, they will realize that we too can meet what Auckland and Sydney are achieving.

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister for leading all these accomplishments. Well done on your ability and hard work to make our dream a reality.

Mr Speaker I present the needs of the constituency for roads access, seawall area and a sports field given your wise funding distribution.

As given in the previous Budget Statements, Faasaleleaga No.1 West did not make any request before as Faasaleleaga No.1 East did it on our behalf hence I trust the Hon Minister will do his best for the entire Faasaleleaga constituency. Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. Bless this Meeting.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I acknowledge the statements of the Honorable Member. Well I believe our Debate process is best if we take turns from each side of the House. However, if that is all then it is best if we consider now the response of the Government in regards to the Appropriation Bill.

Well I grant this opportunity to the Honorable Member for Salega West, Afioga Toomata.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA (Salega West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity granted to this constituency to voice our opinions on the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019. I greet all of Samoa in all its honorary salutations.

I take this opportunity to voice our thanks to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and most especially the Hon Minister of Finance and that of the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance. The constituency wishes to voice support of the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 and also the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

The Appropriation Bill states that our revenue is \$932, 000, 000. The Appropriation Bill further states 67% of the Appropriation is acquired internally. It means that we are not really dependent on money borrowing because only 24% is from overseas grants. Therefore, I acknowledge and thank the Hon Prime Minister for the incredible efforts for without it we would be heavily dependent on loans.

As a Member, I thank and acknowledge the Government for all its efforts. The amount \$932, 000, 000 is not nearly enough to provide for everyone's needs but thankfully we are not too dependent on loans. I am further grateful that we are steadily repaying our loans to the international banks. It is also the reason why international banks easily grant our proposals for money; due to the consistency of repayment.

I acknowledge the allocation of the appropriation funds for the loans. I note the huge possibility that the amount acquired internally is more than able to provide and pay the loan repayments. I am grateful for this arrangement.

I acknowledge the works and the effort of the Hon Minister of Agriculture and the Ministry. Lest I forget the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry and staff for all the works of 2017 and 2018; I acknowledge the assistance and efforts for our farmers and fishermen. This truly reflects the Government intention towards these developments and the working of our lands and sea for our economic welfare.

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I also acknowledge the ongoing programs by the Ministry to push our people to work their lands. The only request is equal opportunities for our village communities for both Savaii and Upolu. Furthermore, I acknowledge improving efforts of the Ministry through site visits in the village communities and others including employment opportunities for students who are unable to meet the passing mark for the National University of Samoa. I ask that these students be given practical training of or farming and agricultural developments and compensate them with some funding assistance. I further acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry towards exterminating the rhinoceros beetle noting that the allocated fund towards this undertaking is insufficient. The Ministry was queried on this matter and also whether there was any foreign assistance to the Government to assist in this process so that this job is done well. Furthermore, I acknowledge the initiative to improving the banana plantations. The banana plantation was a flourishing venture in the past but due to diseases the bananas were impacted drastically. It is why I am grateful to acknowledge the developments made by some of the local farmers towards improving and obtaining this income source. It is important as it is not only for consumption but also export to earn profit.

In regards to cattle, I note this excellent undertaking for slaughtering mobile in the rural areas. The only assistance is the available cattle in Savaii. I note that the Ministry is developing cattle farming in Togitogiga and Avele however the problem is the need for transportation in order to transport and deliver these cattle. That is the request Hon Minister.

I further acknowledge the ongoing programs to promoting our cocoa. Although this is precisely given in the Budget that most of our revenue comes from the collection of tax and duty fees instead of our agricultural products, otherwise I admire the ongoing programs for cocoa.

Moving on to the Health sector, I convey acknowledgement to the district hospitals. I am not sure about the hospitals in Upolu but a visitation was carried out in Savaii and the Finance and Expenditure Committee noted the good supply of medicine available in Savaii district hospitals. I distinctly remember the request made our constituency and other Members from Savaii stating that if the Upolu constituent wishes to live longer, then the Savaii constituent too must have the opportunity to live longer given the proper medical supplies available. The only problem is the lack of doctors but we are aware of the arrangement made for a doctor to visit every week for the district patients and their medical check-ups.

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The other matter I hope to address is the outstanding services provided by the nurses in Sataua and also Safotu. Most of the time the hospital cars are not available for the nurse visits and the nurses often resort to use their personal vehicles so that efficient service is provided to the public. The compassion and commitment of these nurses to their patients is very endearing as most people barely afford medical check-ups. Furthermore, it reminds me of the hospital at Sataua and Salega as they only have one ambulance car. The mentioned district hospital was given strict orders to fill its tank at Salelologa gas station whenever required. The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries also has a closer gas station in Asau which is more convenient. I urge the Ministry to consider this arrangement which involves no conflict of interest considering the convenient location. Arrangements should be made according to the availability and convenience of the healthstaff.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua:** Mr Speaker I do not wish to interrupt the speech of the honorable Member. However, I wish to clarify that the gas station is now owned by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is important that we clarify this in case one mistakes this matter.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Thank you. It is not a complaint but a recommendation towards the one behind the decision making to have the hospital vehicle travel so far to Salelologa for petrol. The gas station at Asau is only a few miles away and it would be efficient to save petrol. This is important because the Budget is covering for all these unnecessary expenditures. Therefore, I recommend you use common sense to counter these problems.

Well, Hon Minister of Health there are faults in the hospital administration that the Committee picked up. It seems that there are a lot of patients that often pack up and leave without paying discharge fees. So therefore, if three hundred people do not pay their discharge fees this would cost the wages of doctors and nurses and no contribution to our Budget. This is not a complain Hon Minister but a recommendation.

I come now to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I trust the requests of the Members have become burdensome on the Hon Minister.

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I know the Hon Minister does not a bank in response to the many requests by the Members but for us we are only voicing our concerns for the things that requires improvement particularly access roads. Therefore, I recommend the Hon Minister to bear with us. I acknowledge your statement which I wrote down in my diary that our roads will be upgraded soon. Thank you for this privilege. I ask that advise me when you will be going to Savaii so that I will come too as most of the constituents now have reached their works towards the inner areas. People have been working these lands on the coastal side given the state of the road in the inner areas. However, I remind the Hon Minister of the statements voiced in the previous Sitting about the Water Authority services where he insisted that the machines will not move until water access is fixed for all covering the inner settlements. It is why I reiterate that the cyclone Gita was the cause of the machine's shift before the roads for the villages of Fagafau, Samataiuta, Fogatuli and Faiaaai were completed. I hope the Hon Minister considers this request lest I am being criticized for being biased by the villagers. The constituency only wishes for its access roads, water and a few other things.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has two more minutes.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Therefore, I leave the requests of our constituency on your table for your discretion.

I wish to acknowledge my colleague the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I thank the Ministry for all the accomplishments but most of all the discretion to employ a pool of teachers to assist in the lack of teachers. I take it that we have initiatives in place to cater for the students when other teachers go on maternity leave, well done Hon Minister.

Hon Deputy Prime Minister or the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment I hope to address the state of the waterfall at Sinamoga. The heavy water flows often causes damages to the roads and residents nearby. I paid a visit to your office and had a conversation with the Chief Executive Officer in regards to the matter I mentioned. The Chief Executive Officer informed me that the survey was undertaken noting the negative impacts of this river bank. I reviewed the report and found that the reconstruction commences from the coast and not the residential areas. Therefore, I ask the Hon Minister to consider the inland areas so that perhaps large boulders can be provided to minimize the landslides on the river banks and for the security of families living nearby.



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Mr Speaker I now acknowledge my dear constituency of Salega West in all its honorific salutations. I hope for many blessings upon the Speaker of the House and God's blessings so that abundant days is granted to you to serve this country. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honorable Member. I believe the constituency has paid audience to the statements voiced on their behalf. I acknowledge the honorable for that.

The Chamber is available for another Member who wishes to speak and conclude our work for the day. It is a good time as the nation observes with the evening services being concluded at this time.

I recognize the Deputy Speaker of the House. I call on the honorable Member for Gagaemauga No.3 to stand.

**Afioga NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** I honor and acknowledge the Speaker of the House for the proceedings of the Assembly. I believe the duty and responsibility is not easy and therefore I salute the Speaker of the House for the patience and tolerance as Members voice their requests on behalf of their constituencies.

Regardless of the limited time I take this opportunity on behalf of my constituency of Matautu of Gagaemauga No. 3.

Mr Speaker I wish to address the importance of my preparation for moments like this. It is the Budget Address and it is our duty as Members of the constituencies to represent their voices in Parliament.

I acknowledge the Speaker of the House for the prayers voiced earlier today in thanksgiving and acknowledgement to our Lord for the gift of life. May all the service we do praise and glorify God.

I acknowledge the Leader of the House, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I acknowledge the accomplishments and works of the Government completed so far. May it all be in praise of the Lords blessings upon our nation.

I acknowledge this side of the House, the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees and most especially the Chairperson for the [Finance and Expenditure Committee](#). I acknowledge the [Report on the Financial Statement 2018/2019](#) and also the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017/2018. I have observed the comings and goings of the Ministry representatives to have their say and now we have the final product. Therefore, we give thanks to the Lord for granting us the wisdom to carry out our duties in the various Parliamentary Committees and such. Thank you for the efforts and commitments.

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I turn now to acknowledge the support of all of Samoa that is founded on God. I greet His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo and Good Lady, the Council of Deputies and Good lady, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary. We are in session with the Speaker of the House and Members of Parliament and most especially the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. I greet all of Samoa in all its honorific salutations.

I further greet the Heads of Government Ministries and Departments who are the hands and feet of the Government. I acknowledge your presence and commitment to the duties and responsibilities to the nation.

I come now to my constituency of Gagaemauga No.3. I greet my constituency in all its honorary salutations. I thank you for your support and constant prayers voiced for the Member. I also greet and acknowledge the Servants of Lord for their support and prayers voiced daily for the constituency and the nation. I truly believe that your prayers have given your Member speech in reference to the Chamber of Parliament and in representing our voices to the House. We are but humble servants in some form to the Lords calling.

Mr Speaker I will now move on to addressing the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019. However before that I believe it is very important that I address first the meeting of the Leaders of the CCCS with the Government. I believe that the occurrences that occur in Upolu and Apia can all be heard in Savaii. The good news that I heard reflect that all is well with the Government. It is why I express my thanks to the Chairperson of the Congregational Church. Mr Speaker the reason why I voice my concern is because Avao was the village that translated the Bible and noted the translation of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to which we are founded upon. It is the reason for my address Mr Speaker. I apologize for that.

I wish to state our thanks before proceeding to constituency matters. Therefore, the Member for Gagaemauga No.3 acknowledges the Afioga Chairperson of the Congregational Church, the Reverend Elders and respective members of the Congregation. Thank you for your caregiving heart and most especially for service to the Lord. Those who do great things are considered the children of God, as they maintain peace in a nation. Therefore, I convey my gratitude for this.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe I have struck the ending of the Deputy Speaker's acknowledgements and final words of thanks to the Servants of the Lord for the Congregational Church this evening. I acknowledge the Deputy Speaker for that reminder in acknowledgement of that aspect of our nation.

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Nevertheless, I interrupt the speech of the Deputy Speaker and may I ask that you conclude our night session with a prayer.

*Debates was interrupted as Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 7:00pm until 9:00am on Wednesday, 20 June 2018.*

