

**TUESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014**

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

Prayer.

**MESSAGE FROM LE AO O LE MALO**

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

**1. “MEMORANDUM for:**

Mr Speaker:

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

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

**GIVEN UNDER my Hand** this Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January in the year 2014.

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

**2. CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY**

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

17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013

MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

*Motion approved.*

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

Prayers.

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

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**Message From Le Ao o le Malo**

1. Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014.

**GIVEN UNDER my Hand** this Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January in the year 2014.

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

**GREETINGS BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe that we have gathered here this morning in the spirit of respect and I wish to greet the House in the highest esteem in all its dignified salutations for your overall health and wellbeing. I believe that this is our first Meeting for this year and I would like to extend my Christmas and a New Year wishes to you all. I feel that we had a rewarding and happy rest. Although we went through the cyclone season, but all thanks be given to the love of God who has ensured your welfare and we did not witness any serious disasters. This is evidence that our Lord is watching over us. I greet the dignity of the House; Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, especially the other side of the House; Leader of Opposition and all the esteemed Members of Parliament.

There is the hope that our first Sitting of this year will progress with our planned orders. I convey my deepest appreciation as I note the full attendance today as your calling is noteworthy.

I also wish to use this opportunity to convey my sincerest appreciation to the support of Samoa. There can never be success if there is no support. Thank you for your prayers and support in the work of the Parliament. I extend my spirit of gratitude and well wishes to the country from the elderly to the young. I congratulate your efforts, patience and public service. I am convinced that no one would prosper or improve if we do not work together.

I also extend gratitude to the clergy in all the various denominations throughout our country. There is always comfort with your spiritual guidance and prayers that seek the Lords grace upon our lives.

I also wish to extend my dearest well wishes to the support of Tutuila and Manua. I feel that our Meeting shall progress for today. We will proceed to our order of the day which is the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2013/2014.

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### Greetings By Mr Speaker

I believe that the Supplementary Appropriation has been clarified for the information of the House. The Chair wishes to make a suggestion, regarding the general comments. All your comments are important however I beseech that they be brief so that the Supplementary Appropriation can be passed and referred to the Government to implement. I do not instruct however I ask for your consideration in the debate on our Supplementary Appropriation.

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*The Clerk read out the list of Papers pursuant to Standing Order 48.*

1. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 72, Annual Report of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology for the Year 2010-2011.
2. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 73, Report of the Operation and Statement of Accounts of the Samoa Senior Citizens Benefit Fund for the Year 2012-2013.
3. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 74, Annual Report of the Samoa National Provident Fund for the Year 2013.
4. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 75, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines Company for the Year 2013.

### PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

*The Clerk read out the Select Committee Report pursuant to the Standing Order 51 (5).*

1. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 76, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the First Supplementary Estimates 2013/2014 of the Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Year Ending 30 June 2014.

### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2013/2014 – debate on second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders, deliberations will commence on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2013/2014.

This is the opportunity for members to comment on the financial and economic state of Samoa as well as the financial policies governing the Budget.

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I wish to remind the members that the Bill will not be discussed in detail as this will be done during the consideration in detail of the Bill.

The floor is open to any Member that wishes to comment.

I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 this your chance to comment.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

God has heard your thanks and praise today; the God of Samoa and the God of this Parliament. It was the grace of God that led to the good health of the Speaker from the previous year to this year and I greet you this morning. I wish to thank God for the attendance of that side of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Members of that side.

I also greet this side of the House; Leader of Opposition and Deputy Leader of Opposition and this side who assist in attaining prosperity for our country.

I also wish to thank the support of His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady especially that of the country from its highest to lowest peaks, holy workers of God, thank you for your prayers and encouragement. The Parliament was able to begin its meeting for this year due to your prayers and support.

I also cannot forget my constituency of Faasaleleaga No. 2, thank you for your support; from Vaeluaga of Matagi to Feagaimaleata. Your dignified honorific salutations I will not address as it cannot be taken away and will be eternal.

I wish to thank the holy workers of God in the various denominations in our constituency for your support and prayers. I ask for the engagement of my constituency as I attempt on your interests regarding the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2013/2014 to begin this year.

I convey my spirit of appreciation to the Hon Minister especially the Ministry for preparing this Supplementary Appropriation. I am certain that the work and distribution of funds is not easy. I believe that this preparation is done with assurance that it is appropriate to our economy, especially in implementing our allocations in developing sectors of our country – my congratulations on your endeavor.

This given opportunity will also allow us to assist in contributing as I am convinced that it is our role to undertake together, not only to give a good contribution for a healthy economy that would benefit the whole country. The reason behind your position and our presence within the House is to ensure the prosperity of our country which is why I am appreciative of the Hon Minister and the esteemed Ministry.

On the Supplementary Appropriation totaling of \$14.4million, I note that 25% is used to increase public servants salaries. It is likely that this increase has long been awaited by the employees especially to assist their families and serving the village and church. It is also important to note as it is clear that there is \$2.72million to be distributed amongst the 32 Ministries.

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The House is aware that there are Ministries allotted to receive this appropriation and there are others that have been appropriated a separate individual fund. I do not need to go into detail as the Hon Prime Minister and that side of the House are well aware. We should also be helping these Ministries as I note from our Supplementary that they also receive an appropriation for their increments. It is essential that we assist in these matters as we progress forward especially in regards to revenue and funds used for the operation of a few Ministries and any proposed increments for the future.

I personally believe that the 3% increment is appropriate for ACEOs. However there is a wide salary gap between this level and the Principal level and this is not a new issue to the House. For instance the Ministry of Police; the Superintendent has a wide salary gap compared to the next officer level. When considered in percentages, the gap widens and I sympathize with the officers that are below this level who are a big part of the operations of the Office and it would be appropriate if the lower officer levels were given a 6% increment....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the commenting Member, as the opportunity will be given to the Hon Prime Minister for his point of order.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, I should rise to correct the errors made before it gets out of hand. There is a scale that the Government has been following since 2004 to 2005 when increments would reach 42%. There was not enough funds to implement it at that time and so it was spread over a period of three years. When we consider increments we do not only look at how high it would go, we must also look at where the money comes from as well.

The reason why I mentioned this as there are many of us who comment on salaries, salaries, salaries and salaries but once funds are given to implement it, then the voices of opposition protest against it but how else are we to implement this? We cannot implement anything with air, money is needed. That is the first point of order which needs to be corrected before it gets more confusing.

The second point Mr Speaker, salaries of the Chief Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the labour cannot be the same. I mention this as there are views that propose raising salaries of lower officer levels to be the same as the higher positions. It cannot be done, everyone cannot administrate. There must be a difference between labour and the people who occupy higher positions. That is how the world works; you do not find it anywhere else other than in Paradise where the pay of the Executive Officer and labour is the same.

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Mr Speaker, I must quickly correct this as we all know how to interject but comments should be made so that all understand the model that was set out by our Government in following its decisions.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you for your correction and clarification Hon Prime Minister. I call on the esteemed member to continue.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. The intention is understood and I believe that this is also our stance in regards to the distribution of funds.

It is merely a recommendation for the future. For example, an ACEO currently earns \$80,000 and a Principal earns \$40,000, note the difference. This is the basis of my comments for consideration in the future. I am not saying that it be implemented now.

Mr Speaker, this is very important as this is one avenue of generating revenue. In my observations, income tax contributes approximately more than \$50million to our annual revenue. Therefore if there is even a minor increment, the revenue will benefit from taxes. The fact of the matter is, increments may be done every few years but taxes are paid annually and it assists our economy. That is one of the issues I wished to comment on....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member, as I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the comments are only now beginning to be accurate. We receive more taxes from the employees holding high positions than those with less salary. This is why we have the salary range and no matter how high the salary, the returns in taxes are great to fund our Appropriations. This is why you should listen to your fellow member for Faleata West because he once handled these types of matters.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the esteemed member to continue with his comments.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. *The most important thing is that the Hon Prime Minister has heeded the comments as the intention was that the advice would be mentioned after my position on the issue was presented. However if you will recall that if salaries were to increase so does taxes, but thank you for taking note of the position presented which is intended to inform the House as to my intentions.*

I now come to the salary adjustments for the teachers. I express gratitude for there has been a slight increase.

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This service is perhaps one of the most important in the country because I believe if it were not for them, there would not be a variety of specialists and there would be no expansion of knowledge which assists in every aspect of life.

I note that there is \$318,000 appropriated for teachers salary adjustments and this is appreciated but perhaps a million would be great. It is important to mention this service because teachers are the only public services that live and serve in the rural areas. They contribute to the economy of the village through buying at the retail stores. Most public servants work in the urban centre and they contribute to the economy within this area unlike the teachers. However, I am appreciative of this adjustment and I recommend that in addition to this 3% there should be an added million. In spite of this thank you, for the addition to the salaries. Teachers listening in, continue to do a good job because it is nice to see increases.

I now come to the Senior Citizens Pension as it cannot be overlooked. We comment appreciatively as we continue to offer recommendations in this regard. They are important for our success is the manifestation of their prayers. The additional \$285,000 will insure only \$5tala to the pension. Why can we not put in \$2million instead to lift the spirits of our senior citizens. I see that there is a \$5million appropriation to the meeting...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, as I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Minister of Finance):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. I wish to thank the esteemed member who commented. Point of clarification. In addition to this \$5 there are other benefits such as free inter-island travel between Upolu and Savaii, free medication which will add up to approximately \$200 per person on a monthly basis, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I call on the esteemed member to comment.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Very well thank you, the matter is understood. If bus and taxi fares were also included that would make our senior citizens happy to travel. However, I wish to pose a question to the Hon Minister by way of the Chair. There is a deduction of \$2 incurred, what is this deduction? Can the government not subsidize this bank fee? For senior citizens every cent counts? Also, travel to Tutuila for the senior citizens is no longer free. This is another matter Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as I call on the Hon Minister of Finance once again.



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**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, travelling to Tutuila is similar to travelling outside Samoa. If this is allowed, travel will also open up for New Zealand, Australia and America. We have no funds to pay for these tickets as you are commenting on international travel. This benefit is only valid domestically. The basis of this is upon the view that our senior citizens are grounded by medical issues therefore the assistance is only for domestic travel. As for the \$2 deduction, leave that with me and I will find what it is for.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call on the esteemed member to continue.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Very well thank you. Well if we had not shifted the dateline between us and Tutuila...but they are our brothers and sisters and senior citizens also have families there. Remember that this is ferry travel not air travel. The matter will be left for your consideration.

To the Ministry of Police and Prisons, thank you for your work Hon Minister and the Ministry. I note from the Supplementary that \$500,000 is paid for STEC land. I thought that Government lands can be negotiated instead of the Ministry spending \$500,000 since the Government has full authority over its lands. They can come to a compromise in helping the Ministry of Police and Prisons as this location is important for....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, as I call on the Hon Prime Minister for his clarification.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is one member who often questions why some Corporations do not pay their debts with other Corporations. This is how it should be done because Ministries have their own assets. These are not transferred for free because they operate like business. Remember those reports from the Ministries which you consider in Committees and then comment on the unpaid debts. This is also one of the transactions between Ministries. It would be better not to comment on this matter but comment on the issue at hand. If you recall, some of the comments that you made slandered some Corporations because of their unpaid debts.

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

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you for the opportunity. I raised this issue as the Hon Minister is listening. The Ministry was to implement a promotion last year but it was postponed.

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I am not sure whether this postponement was due to no funds or for another reason. The police officers are complaining because of the postponement of this promotion. It is important that this matter is put forward for your consideration Hon Minister especially for the progress of your Ministry....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Government.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, a point of order. At least we have now heard from the former Deputy Commissioner of Police. All you police officers that are complaining to the Opposition, you will not profit out of it. The only answer to your issue is to approach the Hon Minister that you see sitting at that end of the table. All you do is complain and you will get nothing out of it. If there is an issue, approach the Hon Minister for assistance but do not go to a former Deputy Commissioner because nothing will come of it.

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

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** The Hon Minister is well aware that we are cooperating. I understand the entire operations of the Ministry. I am the only shadow Minister who is constantly working closely with the Ministry. Why? Because I care for the success and forward progress of the service.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Government.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is the Christian way. If you have talked with the Hon Minister it ends there. That is how it is done. This means, something has happened. You have disregarded the Hon Minister and discredited the police officer that came to you with this complaint. You did not even consider these consequences. You are a Deacon. If you receive such information outside of the service then you should approach the Hon Minister. You do not present that information to the House.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. I ask the pardon of the Hon Prime Minister. I converse with the Hon Minister as adults and offer recommendations. However this information was not from the Hon Minister, it was information from posters and notices pinned up in the Police Headquarters which is how I know of these things. I apologize but the information was not from the Hon Minister. That is a recommendation for the Hon Minister to consider.

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I now come before goods produced within the country. Taking note of the revenue, I notice that the industrial sector contributes greatly to national income. It is not new for this House to hear my requests to increase the number of industries within our country as there has been an increase in expenditure for various projects. I believe that consideration should be given to the industrial sector not only to assist in the employees wages but also for our national revenue. I believe that we have many exports which results in an increase in revenue. I have paid close attention to this and I am grateful to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry. The fact is that the work of the Ministry has resulted in an increase in taro but the intention is that there also be another industry to process the abundant local taro crops which would also benefit the local farmers whose taro cannot be exported. The request is for any assistance for the farmers to receive income for their family commitments and village obligations.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** I wish to greet the dignity of the House especially that of Mr Speaker. The Ministry is not being idle on the matter raised by the member. They are very much working not only in transporting taro in containers but also planning to export frozen taro to easily obtain another opportunity. Consultations have also concluded with a major Australian company to produce taro chips. There are different techniques adopted locally. Until next month when this company reassesses this initiative, all we can do is pray to God for help. However, you are correct as there is currently a large supply of taro in the country and I thank you for your support.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of time I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Deputy Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, forgive me as the matter commented on by the Hon Minister of Agriculture is related to the topic raised by the esteemed member on industrial goods, which is why there is a program currently in progress with the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture on manufacturing goods from plantations that can be exported. It was not long ago probably in November that there was a Trade show held in New Zealand and our products were well received by the business community in Auckland and other parts of New Zealand.

Many of our new products were displayed, I would say approximately 25+ but at the time there was a deadline and set amount because of the shipping schedules. Other new products did not have the opportunity to be displayed but perhaps at the end of this year or the beginning of the new year there will be another trade show and we will attend.

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That is the response for now but many of the Government plans laid out are in progress to assist the primary industry.

That is my response Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank for your clarification Deputy Prime Minister. I call on the esteemed member; you have two more minutes.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. This topic is very important and I extend my appreciation to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister. See how significant discussions are in pursuance of prosperity and I will leave the matter with you. The farmers rely on both of you to export their produce overseas. As the Deputy Prime Minister has stated that many of our products have not been exported but thank you for mentioning your attendance at the trade show. I shall leave this matter with you and the Hon Minister of Agriculture as much of your help is needed by the taro farmers in utilizing their strengths as there are probably 60% to 70% of the country working in taro plantations not only as a source of food but to earn money for their families and in service to their village and the work of God. I believe I have completed my comments and I convey my appreciation Mr Speaker. Any matters that are put forward I am convinced it is our work to carry it together, not only to make your load successful including that of the Government but that it benefits our country in moving forward.

May our Meeting, Mr Speaker and the House be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you for your comments esteemed member for Faasaleleaga No. 2. The Chair is aware of the short, clear and on point speeches made during our Appropriations and that is why the opportunity is given. All members should follow suit and not beat around the bush.

Are there other members who wish to comment before the House? I call on the member for Aana Alofi No. 3, the floor is open for your comments on our Supplementary Appropriation.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No. 3):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to also concur with Mr Speaker for the prayer this morning and that we are able to attend the sitting for this year.

I also wish to greet the dignity of Parliament; Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, and members of that side of the House, I also turn to this side; Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader as well as this party.

I also wish to greet the Heads of Ministries and State Owned Enterprises who have gathered with us today. I also greet the support of our country and the dignified trilogy of the State, the Church and the Government.

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Mr Speaker, I will now attempt on the Supplementary Appropriation as presented before the House. I first wish to convey my congratulations to the Hon Minister of Finance especially the Ministry in putting this Appropriation together, including Ministries and Public Organizations who have assisted in this compilation.

I begin by offering an opinion on the additional revenues gained in implementing the work of our Government. My congratulations as I see an addition from the Asian Development Bank. I request as I wish to understand whether this additional grant is only for this period or will it continue onto the next few years because these grants are important especially for our economic growth.

I now come to other additional revenues and I am thankful that the rental of the Tuiatua building is now showing revenue.

Mr Speaker, I note that VAGST also contributes to additional revenue. However, it is noticed from the Annual reports presented from various Government entities that they cannot pay VAGST.

I request our Ministry of Finance to prioritize outstanding debts as I am certain that payment of these debts can add to our national revenue. Also Hon Minister, I believe the SOEs should be encouraged to generate dividends as stated by the Finance and Expenditure Committee in their findings. I am convinced that much of our pecuniary can assist in funding the work of our country if the Corporations are well prepared to seek financial avenues for our Government.

I now come to the expenditure Mr Speaker. I note that \$5 million is appropriated for the upcoming conference this year. I believe that most of this appropriation will be used to upgrade and construct new buildings with regards to the conference. I request that this project be done well as it is known that these buildings were built for the South Pacific Games and if they had been built well we would not need to spend so much on these facilities. I advise those who are implementing this work to follow the architectural designs and ensure wise spending so that we will not have to use funds again next year to upgrade the facilities for the Commonwealth Youth Games.

Mr Speaker, with regards to this Conference, I congratulate the Hon Prime Minister and Hon Minister of Environment for declaring that there will be zero carbon emission during this conference. What is the status of the preparations and the intention to reduce not only expenses but.....

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaali (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment):** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

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**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaali:** Mr Speaker, I express my greetings to the dignity of the House, but I rise to comment on this matter. There is no such thing as zero emission.

The pledge that was made, if this is what the Member is referring to, it was to be carbon neutral. We have achieved the target pledged for carbon emission which is different from the filtering of carbon emissions as was the project under this Ministry. For instance, the reforestation project where millions of trees are planted, there is presently 1,600,000 plants grown by the Ministry and the carbon zinc is calculated using the emission rate of .006%.

I rise to correct the matter, there is no zero carbon emission, only carbon neutrality.

With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you Hon Minister. In the interest of time I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, to save the Members time and any other member, I wish to comment on the topic regarding the upgrade of the Gym. These buildings were built for sporting events and not conferences. This project is to upgrade the facilities to host international conferences, not only SIDS, but other international events with more than a thousand participants.

With all due respect.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of Opposition):** Mr Speaker, a matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I wish to understand the Hon Minister of Finances comments that the upgrades are to cater to conferences. The roofing of the current buildings are only 7 years old but the changes propose to have beams built into the roofing as a solution to the leaky roofs. As a result, the whole roofing that is only 7 years old will be replaced entirely. This will be a costly exercise. This side is only offering its recommendations because if the entire design was not being changed, the Hon Ministers comments would be correct.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have been fully understood Leader of Opposition, as the opportunity shall be given for the Governments response.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** I do not know as to what exactly the member is commenting on.

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The project is to upgrade the facilities and that is exactly what it is. If there were problems this is the opportunity to fix them. This is common with many buildings like this building for instance. Look at this house? Have you seen the top of this house? The ceiling is falling apart. It was not long after the rear building was built and there were also issues.

I recall the many buildings overseas, in Britain, America, which caused deaths. There was a stadium that collapsed during a soccer game and killed 60,000 including some players. It was a sudden collapse but it was a new infrastructure built by expert contractors and engineers.

The Government is responsible to perform regular checks on its infrastructure like the Government building. After disasters such as the tsunami and cyclones, we acquired the assistance of overseas engineers to check the buildings and the report presented stated that the buildings were in good condition. This is how vigilant Governments operate. These buildings can be inspected after another 20 years. If we perform checks there is complaints and if we do not, there are still complaints and I have no clue what is happening.

Mr Speaker what disappoints me is that the Member did not even comment on the Supplementary Appropriation. Pursuant to Standing Orders, you cannot interject if you did not comment. The freedom is given but you did not comment (*to the Leader of Opposition*) therefore you cannot stand to clarify or comment; that is the rule. If you were posing a point of order then it would be accurate but you do not interject to correct a statement. How can you pose a matter to be clarified when you did not comment?

This is why we have errors. If you are the leader, read the rules.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** The Hon Prime Minister is venting.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Leader of Opposition, I will address the House.

The subject has been clarified, but the opportunity was given Leader of Opposition as the member for Aana Alofi No.3 questioned the upgrade work.

The member for Aana Alofi did not comment on errors or complain. He posed that repairs be done well and be stable. The Hon Minister of Finance clarified that these buildings are open and need to be enclosed and it needs furnishing and equipment. The buildings are being upgraded for the SIDS conference and I believe the matter is clear.

I call on the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 to continue with his comments.

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

Mr Speaker, the gist of my comments are in regards to this conference as I believe that the aim of the conference is to address environmental issues and renewable energy and energy products.

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I put forward a request that this conference use renewable energy such as solar or wind removing the use of diesel generated energy during the conference. I also note that there are many air conditions used in the big buildings and perhaps they can be modified to minimize the use of electricity. In addition, I remind the Hon Minister and the Government on the use of CFL lights. If this is considered, I believe it would be a great advantage for our country and the hosting of this conference as our commitment to sustainable development will be witnessed.

I now wish to make a reminder or suggestion with regards to the conference preparations. I am certain as confirmed in documents that more than 3,000 to 5,000 people will be participating. If we were to improve our tourism sites it would encourage our visitors to spend more and contribute to national revenue.

For example Mr Speaker the path leading to Robert Louis Stevensons grave is not safe. Palolo Deep and Lake Lonatoo needs upgrading. Such attractions I believe will be visited by many when they are free for an hour or two. Furthermore, there are other conservation areas like Togitogiga, the Mangrove area in Sataoa, behind the Parliament House and other areas in the country that tourists and guests from the conference can visit and buy handicrafts, which not only earns revenue but I believe would also benefit rural villages.

Mr Speaker, I now come to the appropriations for the Health and Education Sector. I see that the Government plans to establish the Oceania University of Medicine. I believe it is very important to have a teaching hospital as was mentioned in previous meetings. My only suggestion Mr Speaker and perhaps a request for the Government to consider not only saving funds if we have committed a lot to the project, but also to raise work ethic and to utilize the new facilities at the new hospital.

I will not talk long on increasing teachers salaries as it has been mentioned and I believe it is a goal in future, but I request a reassessment of their salaries especially for Principals. I am convinced that this is one of the ways to dissuade teachers from changing careers. Instead of waiting years and they will find higher paying employment elsewhere which will affect the education services negatively.

Mr Speaker I also wish to convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister for the proposed upgrade of the sports field for Aana Alofi. It was a request put forward in providing an opportunity for children to play various sports made possible by the field.

Mr Speaker, I wish to make additional comments as I note from records that more than 80% of students who start Year 1 to Year 13 do not reach University level, and we presently do not have a program to cater to these school leavers. This request is for our future that vocational training is available for those who could not afford school fees from Year 8 and Year 9 or it has been four to five years since they left school and wish to enter the workforce with this opportunity for further training.



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It was noted and mentioned by the Hon Minister that vocational training will be included in High Schools and Colleges. This is an important request Mr Speaker in giving our population a chance to return to school.

Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I rise to express my congratulations to the Member.

You have stated that there are many advanced plans set by the Ministry but they have also pursued their own activities. The reason why I am commenting on this new matter is in case the Leader of Opposition would then state that your side was the reason for this initiative. As I have reiterated, I congratulate your further encouragement but that initiative has long been in the pipelines and would probably be carried out next year. Nonetheless, I shall state that if any of you stand and comment that these are your recommendations being implemented, I wish to declare and remind, that the Government has long made plans. Thank you for knocking once more but as soon as it is implemented do not complain, since it is unfortunate that your Leader complains whether or not projects are executed.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** As my name was mentioned Mr Speaker with all due respect. The issue we constantly request is for teachers salaries. The Hon Prime Minister has clearly commented, thank you for acknowledging our suggestions.

Thank very much.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is exactly why I mentioned this because the Leader of Opposition was coached here, he is a student of the HRPP. Now he is restating what the teacher taught him.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for knocking member for Aana Alofi No. 3. Be upstanding to continue with your comments.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I now broach a topic for the future – since my entry into the House.

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I have seen the development of my constituency and other constituencies and I feel that the Government should prepare a district sustainable development plan with prospective work plans and needs of the constituency within a period of 5 – 10 years. I am convinced Mr Speaker that many Ministries formulate plans on individual developments within a village and constituency, but if these plans can be merged into one constituency or village plan, it would be easy to know when the Government would provide assistance.

It is also important that through such a plan Mr Speaker, villages, organizations and constituencies will be able to seek funds not only from international organizations but from overseas Governments as well, so that we do not financially rely on our Government to finance our work.

This is my humble request, if the Government can have a pilot program in one or two constituencies for such a plan with the input of the villagers. There are matters that are exclusive to the Ministry, but there are other needs of villages that cannot be voiced to the Ministry.

I conclude Mr Speaker with a thought. It is request to the Hon Prime Minister especially the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. It has been 7 months since the appointing of the Committee to work with the village of Satapuala to negotiate on the land issues and the intention is that this matter is resolved.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumalii:** Mr Speaker, a point of order also a matter to clarify. The Government had to postpone its meeting with the constituency representatives due to court proceedings. Now that it is finished, I have already instructed the Committee to meet with the representatives. I am also aware that the member knows as per instruction that the Chairperson is the Chief Executive Officer of STEC. I queried this matter when I returned yesterday from Abudabi and the Committee has been notified for a meeting. The Government has plans to address this matter with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. The members query has been answered. Conclude your comments you have five minutes remaining.

**Afioga TOEOLUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you. The Hon Minister has responded and I shall await a letter. It is the intention that this is resolved for the future of this village and the country.

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

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**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Thank you for your comment member for Aana Alofi No.3. You have contributed greatly to our proceedings today.

The floor is open to any member who wishes to comment.

**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa (Alataua West):** Mr Speaker, if there is no other who wishes to comment, it would be appropriate to pass the Supplementary Appropriation.

With the essence of respect.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** We are still deliberating Mr Speaker, unless the Hon Prime Minister wishes to comment as it is enough for us to comment and allow them to rest.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Chair is assessing the situation accordingly. This is a Government Supplementary Appropriation. The opportunity is given to your side with much encouragement as your side should first give its views. Also recall that not many would comment on their own Appropriation but the opportunity is given to....

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, during a Meeting on the Supplementary Appropriation in 1986, 18 years ago, only one member from the Opposition commented and the decision was made because of this exact situation; despite being told to comment and yet they continue to sit. Mr Speaker became impatient at the time instructed the Government to respond and the Government did so even though there was only one Member who commented.

This is why Mr Speaker, I request that you continue to have patience. Continue to give the opportunity for all of us to sit, for us to watch one another, when it was nearly a month since the Appropriation was given for these senior statesmen to read. If we feel that we are too tired to comment, let us rest today and recommence at 13 o'clock.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Faleata East, I have noticed that you are eager to comment.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I wish to use this morning to convey my congratulations and appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister, especially the dignity of the Cabinet and the esteemed Government for work achieved in the previous year. I also wish to congratulate the Chief Executive Officers, Assistant Chief Executive Officers and their individual Ministries in carrying out their work in the past year.

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However, I greet the dignity and esteem of Samoa and the House as I make my thoughts known on the Supplementary Appropriation but before I comment on this Bill I wish to firstly convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Finance for the preparation of the Supplementary Appropriation. According to the Finance and Expenditure Committees Report on the Appropriation, the Ministry does not have enough revenue to allocate accordingly. Nonetheless, I know that it was because of efficient distribution especially the diligence of Ministries in carrying out their work that Samoa has been able to swiftly develop, and it is how we are able to have this Supplementary.

I first wish to offer recommendations to the Cabinet and our Ministries. There is a recommendation within the Report to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. As I recall overseas aid was given to assist post-cyclone Evan recovery, even to this day this assistance could not be distributed. The Finance and Expenditure Committee noted under their findings that the Ministry stated there were many requirements in taking these grants, much to the disagreement by the Ministry of Finance. This is why I advice the Hon Minister and his Ministry that plans should be implemented as it has been a year since Cyclone Evan and there is still no money given to assist the agricultural sector.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister.

I call on the Minister of Agriculture.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to assist with the Members comments. I also sympathize in this regard but the Ministry is not being idle on the matter. Perhaps you have already met with those involved in this matter and you have answered your own query.

This grant from the World Bank is not just given to the Ministry to distribute. There are conditions and the Ministry also has to notify those affected to come forward. It is now complete probably in the month of February this year, which is next month there will be progress regarding this issue. However, I ask your pardon as your concern is similar to mine on its delay; the Ministry must also be tired of constant queries when they are not at fault. There are complications as we assume that once we receive the grant we are able to distribute. If only that were possible but we have good news that we will progress next month.

That is my input with the essence of respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for your clarification. I call on the esteemed member as the subject has been understood.

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**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Thank you Hon Minister, as I stated from the beginning that I recommended to you and your esteemed Ministry to speed the process as it has been a year.

Secondly, as one of the members mentioned that there is a big supply of taro in the country. I am also certain that the Ministry as well as the farmers are not idle in seeking a market for taro.

However, in a previous meeting, I mentioned that only Samoans consume taro, no matter the country in the world. Perhaps Fijians as well but not as much as Samoans. As a result, the Samoans are also buying the Fijian taro which benefits the Fijians and not us.

I think that our Government should beseech the Samoan communities in New Zealand and Australia to purchase Samoan taro so that our farmers, our country and our economy would improve and prosper.

The reason behind this statement as I have talked with the farmers....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, as the opportunity is given for the Government to respond. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the esteemed members recommendations are important but we should not complain as we have much work to complete. We have done a lot of work in this regard. We have already approached the overseas community many times. Every EFKS pastor attended the celebration of 50 years of the EFKS in Auckland, New Zealand, to which I conducted the opening speech. At the conclusion of my speech I also snuck in a comment that our taro is the number one variety. I was preparing to return when Cyclone Evan struck. After my speech, I met a senior citizen who shared that, "Compared to our taro, the Fijian taro sells more." There is a difference between what is said and what is done. When there are events, they are always buying the Fijian taro. However reports coming in have shown that our taro is slowly being accepted.

Secondly, it is noteworthy that Chinese also eat a lot of taro as I have seen it. The farms in southern China with banana and coconut crops are far larger than ours. They also have larger taro. Another race that consumes taro are the Chinese, but the only difference is that they eat and use all parts of the taro, including ripe taro used to make chopsuey and soup, its also not itchy.

This is the difference between our taro even imported taro, by the time they reach our shores they are itchy. I have had taro in China and a full course meal uses the entire taro, even dessert. If China was close to us, we would export to China and the supply would not even satisfy the whole of China. Our current circumstances would be a repeat of a case in 1962. We had hand-made canoes and an overseas entrepreneur asked the price which was \$USD10.

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He then wanted to place an order of ten million canoes by January, and ten million by February, how can we supply that number of canoes? All the trees in Samoa would be gone and we would not reach the quota. This is why we do not enter certain markets we cannot handle. Our Women in Business has currently taken our cocoa and coconut oil to Britain where they earned a profit of more than a quarter million in the year before last. Most of these products are exported, which is utilized by Women in Business who has promoted local Organic Farming as it has become popular among international consumers who wish to use chemical free products.

I feel that this would be the next step for our taro; to have it organic without the use of chemicals. However, the taro we are currently exporting is loaded with chemicals.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your explanation. I call on the esteemed member for Faleata East.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your response. The reason why I mentioned taro is that there are regulations and standards on this produce, for instance regarding the size. The Fijian taro in New Zealand has no limitation on its size.

Secondly, some farmers have explained that Australia quarantine regulations makes our taro difficult to export and I am thankful as the Hon Minister has commented that this produce will be processed into chips. This initiative may be easier. However, I beseech WTO and the Ministry of Agriculture to focus on the restrictions placed by Australia on our taro as this is one reason why the state of our taro exports is in such a state....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture for his clarification on the subject, I call on the Minister.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Thank you esteemed member for your comments, but I wish to state to the member that the Ministry is not sitting idle on this matter if you would recall that our country underwent the taro leaf blight. It is the exact reason why it is very difficult to export our taro to Australia. There is a program between the Government of Australia and the Ministry known as PHAMA working on easing some of these restrictions. Australia is very cautious more so than New Zealand, as they also have plantations in the northern side of the country. They are wary because they do not want their taro and farms to be affected by the disease that struck our taro. However, I wish to declare that the Ministry is working very hard on plans to export our taro. Frozen taro can be exported but the problem is that we do not have facilities to undertake this initiative but the Ministry is looking into this matter.

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I have also mentioned the Australian company that has met with the Ministry to produce taro chips to be sold in Australia. I hope this initiative would be successful when they return next month to finalize negotiations and establish factories to produce taro chips.

There are no regulations pertaining to the size of taro that is exported to New Zealand if you will recall some of our taro that is left to grow for 12 months look like elephant taro. The problem is that it takes two to three days for our exports to reach New Zealand and these types of taros expire upon its arrival. There is a huge supply of this type of taro and the Ministry is looking for other options into this issue. We have containers that we are working on exporting this week to New Zealand, we have also prepared produce for America but Australia is more difficult as they have their own taro plantations, we will still strive regardless but thank you for your assistance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for your clarifying comments.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Thank you Hon Minister.

The Fijian taro is becoming substandard and proof of this is that the Fijians imported one of our containers. My question is whether we have provisions that would prevent Fiji from planting and using our taro varieties? If you will consider Mr Speaker, the Niuean taro taken by Fiji was originally from here and Fiji called it pink taro (tausala). We were then hit with the leaf blight and we do not lay blame but we do not know if someone brought it so that we would not have any taro. However, it has been many years since the Agricultural Office, USP in Alafua and SROS have searched for a better taro variety and it is developing well but are there provisions to prevent Fiji from planting our taro. Our taro can be taken in containers to Fiji cut and planted without using the taro shoot. I request our Ministry to consider and look into this matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** We were affected by this disease and searched everywhere in the Pacific for types of taro to breed for a good variety. If we were to compare with our regional neighbors we have the most taro varieties. These varieties were made possible by importing taro from other countries where our Ministry conducted experiments. You can choose any variety of taro for consumption, we have taro that is hard like a rock, we also have taro that has half that toughness, but if you want soggy or wet taro we have that too. These are the varieties that we have but it was possible because of studies conducted by other countries. This is the cooperation we have. Anyone can cut a piece of the taro and cultivate it for research to get other taro varieties. This is the nature of our cooperation.

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However, that Niue Taro that you raised is susceptible to the blight and cannot be grown with exception of the island of Taveuni in Fiji where this taro is mainly harvested. Our cooperation and sharing is not a bad thing. I ask that we move on with respect.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker, a question for the Hon Minister as he has mentioned numerous varieties of taro from hard, soft and wet, but the taro mentioned is one that yields ten taros. Has the Hon Ministers investigation come across this taro variety?

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the Hon Minister if you could respond to the member for Faleata West, as he mentions the taro variety but the member for Faleata East commented on protecting our varieties from theft, but we have understood your clarification.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** If I may comment on your statement, I have no idea whether my brother here owns a plantation since you are correct, however I wish to state that the durability of our taro was not affected by cyclone Evan, as you and other people claimed that our country would undergo famine. Have we experienced famine? Samoa has not experienced famine because we have many taro varieties.

However, we do have plans in place as the Ministry is not being idle to reduce these complications as I empathize with farmers who harvest numerous taro but are hindered by export regulations and restrictions. This situation is also beneficial for us who do not own plantations, where taro bundles cost \$30 but have dropped to \$20, \$10 and they now come down to \$5 for a bundle. Also consider the Central Bank report that attributed falling inflation rates to the affordability of agricultural goods. This is happy news that we should all celebrate, but the Ministry is not passive in seeking methods in exporting our produce overseas.

I ask we move away with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the esteemed member. I believe that the members concern is clear and has been understood, nonetheless continue with your comments.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** My opinions are different from the Hon Minister. The taro growing here was not imported from other countries. The varieties were used for breeding as conducted by the Ministry where we now have these varieties.

As stated by the Hon Prime Minister, many exported agricultural products have yielded profits....

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Minister of Communication and Information Technology):** Mr Speaker....



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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletau Sofara Aveau:** I do not wish for us to be lead astray by unsupported comments. The taro that we have is a result of various types of imported taro. The taro that we first used was from the Philippines called talo fili. Other taro varieties, if you want me to mention all of them, were imported and we bred them locally and that is how we got the varieties we have now.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done; I believe that the Government has responded to the query raised by the member for Faleata East. The response was also given by the Hon Minister who held this portfolio during the exact period that our country suffered by the taro leaf blight. Move on to another matter.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** I will move away from this matter. Perhaps the Ministry will clarify at a later time.

The Hon Prime Minister mentioned that much of our profits derive from the Ministry of Agriculture. Referring to the Ministry's ordinary revenue within the Main Appropriation, they only earn \$600,000 annually. Hon Minister, this is why the people are now saying that agriculture is not the backbone of our economy. Reason being that the Ministry cannot attain the full revenue on agricultural products but there is great contribution from our farmers to Samoas economy.

I now come to the Minister of.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Thank you. You are correct. The problem with calculating the country's GDP is that it only includes revenue from overseas un-accounting for revenue earned locally. If all the figures were used by the Ministry of Finance the agriculture sector would contribute approximately 30% to 40% GDP. The problem is that only revenue from exports such as fish and agricultural products are being calculated. However *the most important thing honorable member is that national consumption and that our citizens are not starving.* This is the Ministry's current priority; to ensure that we do not experience famine and that there is sufficient supply of agricultural produce. The rural residents are satisfied with breadfruit and coconut cream or taro and taro leaves baked in coconut cream, put aside beef and mutton as they are overseas products. The Ministry's aim is to ensure sustainable supply of food for Samoans.

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As I mentioned, the cost of taro bundles are now cheap, that is one positive outcome. Low income earners can now afford taro at \$5 instead of \$20.

That is my response with respect but thank you for your assistance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you; I call on the esteemed member you have five minutes remaining.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** I now come to the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

My query to the Ministry, specifically the Immigration Office, why are Australian visas unable to be done in Samoa? I noted that there is a company that processes the papers and sends it to Fiji for approval. I wish to ask the Ministry as to why this service is no longer available as it adds another financial burden on the public.

I note from the report regarding the upcoming conference that a ship will be used as accommodation by the delegates. My question is whether there are plans in providing vegetables and foodstuffs for this conference or would the ship have its own provisions? I am concerned that if it is the latter, our country would miss out on this opportunity.

I now come to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. I wish to convey my appreciation to the Hon Minister as I note the progress of programs and the wonderful completion of many schools to start this year. My only question Hon Minister, I note from the report regarding the additional school hours, it is not compulsory. A parent may request that his or her child not attend these hours. I was under the impression that it was compulsory for all schools. Is this how it is?

I will not touch on salaries, but my only recommendation is that the entry level for teachers to undertake teaching studies be increased and the salary also be slightly increased.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and maybe the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, perhaps you can look into the flooding issue at the market and in Taufusi as this is not how it was. I assumed it was caused by the overflow from our river but it is actually caused by the recent rainfall. There is no longer an overflow from our river thanks to the Hon Minister, therefore I query whether there is an investigation into the cause of this flooding and whether there is an intention to prevent such an issue from recurring?

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member. The opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

I call on the Hon Minister.

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**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Salutations to the dignity of the House today especially for this New Year. I also greet the three branches of the State listening in support, particularly that of Samoa.

Regarding the subject raised, investigations are still ongoing as these are some areas that are deeply affected by flooding due to heavy rainfall. The fact is that the sea levels are rising and they have an effect on all of us. Investigations are still being carried out and the only option is to elevate the roads for longevity. These are all the factors being considered by the Lands Transport Authority in regards to the affected roads.

There have been many changes in Faleata East especially its bridges. We were not hit by a cyclone but we were affected by the flooding and heavy rainfall and we are thankful that the weather has eased and it has become calm. However there is always ongoing work and investigations to prevent such issues from reoccurring.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for your explanation.

I beg tolerance to the esteemed member, as I note that we have reached our recess. Your comments (*to the member for Faleata East*) shall conclude after our normal recess.

Before we adjourn, I call upon the Business Committee, we will have a meeting to discuss our parliamentary sitting schedule for this year during recess.

I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are set aside for its usual recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for recess at 10:45am and resumed at 11:27am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. I wish to convey my appreciation as we have completed the first half of the day. I am also certain that you have regained some strength. Whatever God has provided for our meal let us continue to praise His name. We were discussing the allocation of funds within the Appropriation and the Office similarly has endeavoured to provide refreshments in continuance of our work.

However, before the opportunity is given to the member for Faleata East to continue and conclude with his comments, I turn to the Hon Prime Minister to move a motion for our orders of business this week.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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### MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the Office for the meal prepared for the dignity of the House. This Supplementary Appropriation only adds a minor \$14million to the Main Budget of \$784 million. This is just a little bit to add to the Main Budget to finish off this financial year. All speeches on the Appropriation are therefore very important.

Due to this, there will be a small number of comments on this Appropriation and there should not be many, I stand with the essence of respect to give the opportunity to those few and extend our Sitting hours. If tomorrow there is many, then we shall continue from 3pm but shall conclude at 1am. This is a common standard with all Parliaments around the world but I will move the motion that, *The sitting hours be from 9am to 1pm, 3pm to 7pm where we rest and recommence the following day.*

That is the motion with the essence of respect.

*Motion seconded by the Minister of Finance, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

*Motion approved.*

*Debate resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2013/2014.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Those are the sitting hours for today. We shall rest at 1pm, before resuming at 3pm until we conclude at 7pm in the evening.

I call on the esteemed member for Faleata East to continue with his comments.

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you also for the meal provided for the members. I shall continue with these small matters to conclude my opinion today.

I now come before the Hon Minister of Police. I wish to convey my appreciation to the Hon Minister not only for his work in the Ministry of Police but that of LTA, as the general public is aware of the safety that was maintained during the holiday season. It is very pleasing to see the work of the Government on the roads and there is a noticeable change with our youths who have begun to use taxis when partying. I convey gratitude to the Hon Minister.

My only question, what is the status of the investigations against the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner? If you will recall, it has been quite a long time now and yet they are still paid regularly. Is there any clarification on this subject? If not, why not re-employ them?

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Samoa Ports Authority, I believe they have leased the wharves to the Samoa Shipping Corporation. Perhaps this is a suitable initiative for revenue purposes. My only opinion is that the lease is not a burden for the Samoa Shipping Corporation so they are able to continue this operation.

Regarding the hospital, thank you Hon Minister of Health for all the work implemented including the medical school which was touched on by other members. This initiative is pleasing and wonderful in educating our children to become medical practitioners.

I also wish to thank the Committee overseeing the Fugalei Market project and it is expected to be complete by March. The reason I express gratitude is because of the vigilance of the project manager who is responsible for the supervision of this project. If all project managers were as vigilant, perhaps there would no longer be any issues with the implementation of projects within our country. Longevity would also be achieved if building standards and codes are followed. The market project has initiated such work ethic but my only recommendation is to thoroughly consider the contractors as the price they charge may not be in accordance with the work as per the terms and conditions of the project.

Before I conclude I request the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology on the cost of internet as it has become expensive. I query the progress of our broadband as it seems that it is not for the country but is a network within the Ministries.

Mr Speaker, I beg tolerance of all the Ministers, Ministries, CEOs and the honorable Members. If I have offended in any way, I ask your forgiveness. These are comments and views for the development of our country. May this House be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you esteemed member for Faleata East for your comments. I am certain that your opinions are important in providing recommendations to guide the Government's response and on the Supplementary Appropriation.

There is an opportunity for a member who wishes to comment. The opportunity is first given to the member for Falelatai and Samatau who rose first, and followed by the member for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola.

I call on the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau):** I wish to convey my appreciation Mr Speaker as you guide our Meeting today. I wish to greet the dignity of the House in all its honorific salutations; Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and particularly the Opposition.

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I wish to thank and greet the Leader of Opposition and especially his Party. To Samoa and its honorific salutations listening in, the support of His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady and the Servants of the Lord in all the various denominations praying for blessings upon this House and Samoa's progressive development.

I wish to greet the dignity of Samoa and your traditional setup; Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga ma Tama, o Tama foi ma Aiga, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

I wish to greet my constituency and your traditional setup; the family of Tauaana, the villages of Usoalii and Leulumoega, thank you for your support and I wish all the best for your journey into this new year.

Mr Speaker, I rise to comment on improvements needed within our constituency. Although this is the Supplementary Appropriation, we cannot stop knocking and pleading as per usual.

Mr Speaker, I first wish to convey my appreciation to the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons as I had the opportunity to visit the site at Tafaigata and Olomanu. I am elated by the number of services provided by the Ministry. However, my concern Hon Minister is that there are more prisoners than prison guards.

My suggestion Hon Minister, because I am protective of the staff, as our standard of living has improved, the crime rate has also increased. But I propose that you continue to maintain your stance Hon Minister, especially in steering your Ministry in that the Police Officers are well prepared, particularly the security personnel in Tafaigata and Olomanu.

There is much work that is needed to be completed in Olomanu. It is clear in the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee as there are many inmates but a small number of prison guards.

My concern Hon Minister is that security is not sufficient. Nothing can be done when there are four prison officers to 60 inmates. I ask that there be reconsideration Hon Minister in regards to the facilities and especially the officers who are working in the prison. Consideration should be given to the qualifications of these officers and the overall structure of the Ministry. I note that the officers are only inspectors but their responsibilities are meant to be for high ranking officers. That is the request Hon Minister in this regard.

I wish to record my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure on behalf of the constituency for the construction of the sea wall which began in the previous Parliamentary Term but was incomplete. I am happy to witness the work continuing on the constituency's seawall. Thank you Hon Minister for your consideration of this work for our constituency.

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In addition, as I have stated before, Falelatai and Samatau is a big constituency and they are not small villages. In both Falelatai and Samatau, they only have one tar sealed access road each. I beseech the Hon Minister to consider our roads in your allocation. I have also mentioned many times and sent a request to the Hon Minister regarding the access road at the sub-village of Pata, Falelatai. The previous list of projects showed this road at number three and I do not know where this list has gone but I again put forward a request for the access road in this sub-village. Not only is the sub-village far inland, there should be a good access road leading to the plantations. That is the humble request. If only the priorities were given to access roads leading to plantations which are being worked on and producing crops being sold at the markets and also exported. Priority should also be given to access roads inland within a residential area because these are all features of the sub-village of Pata, Falelatai. It is an inland residential area with many plantations.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the representative for Falelatai and Samatau as the opportunity shall be given for the Government's clarification. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Aiono Neiofi Tu'aeleloa** **Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Ministers program is progressing as there are access roads that have just been opened. Five roads were officially opened before Christmas, but most of our time was given to construct other roads, especially the ones that were damaged by the cyclone. The remainder is important but our program is slowly progressing to be completed in March 2016 and we are only in the year 2014. I wish to pose a question; after the construction of this new road you will have three roads? Am I correct? There will only be three or is there an additional road to make it four?

The reason why I ask is that there are 49 members in total. If 49 were multiplied by 4, each member would have 4 roads and that is acceptable and we should all return as members. I ask for your patience. The Hon Minister relies on his own two hands and your request is very important. Thank you for the reminder.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your reminder. I call on the esteemed member to continue.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Prime Minister. The intention was to continue to knock and I wish to record my gratitude for the implemented works as well as the clarification. This is not a small constituency as other projects from previous Parliamentary Terms are incomplete but it is the work of this Parliamentary Term that I continue to knock about.

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Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, thank you. I worked with the late Chief Executive Officer and there were planned projects for the construction of a seawall on the coast where there is land that has been put aside for the hospital. Before the Chief Executive Officer passed away, he mentioned that this project would be implemented this year. I pray that the plan for my constituency is not removed but prioritized for this year.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I wish to convey deepest appreciation as there have been changes within your Ministry. Just a minor recommendation to consider, we are all familiar with the everyday chores within our families and in service to the village and church such as cutting grass and picking up the rubbish. Such chores should also be compulsory within schools. There should be a balance within the learning environment of Samoan children.

In addition, we are strict to enforce the no corporal punishment policy on Samoan children. For the purpose of educating a Samoan child, we are all aware that learning can be done with a slap on the wrist or on the buttocks. There is a school in my constituency Hon Minister in the sub-village of Siufaga in Falelatai that has no Principal, but the former Principal was the reason that our school became well-known. For 37 years, we had not had a student that made it to Samoa College. When this Principal arrived, after the first year, we had students make it to Samoa College. This Principal resigned because of smacking. There are parents that do not agree with such methods and they complain to the Ministry and now there is no Principal. At the moment there is only a retired teacher and the infant supervisor currently at the school. I humbly request that your consideration be given to this matter so that the students from this constituency can be prepared and educated.

Hon Minister of Health, I present before you a request for a clinic as a first resort for this constituency for medication and oxygen tanks for the children.

Hon Minister of Finance, I wish to convey my gratitude for the Supplementary Appropriation presented before us. The report indicates revenue gained from renting the TATTE building, VAGST and the Asia Development Bank. We are appreciative that the loan was initially given with terms and conditions but now they have been removed and provided to assist with the Supplementary and for this we are truly grateful.

My only request Hon Minister is whether there is an initiative for the TATTE to be considered as a commercial entity as it earns revenue from rent which assists the Appropriation. Also, throughout the years, the building will have to be maintained and security staff as well as water and electricity suppliers must be paid. As a result there must be a separate account so this building can be run as a commercial entity and its nett revenue calculated after maintenance fees and such.....



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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the esteemed member as I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, this is not permitted under policy, with the exception of a corporations but the member is commenting on a policy that is currently not feasible.

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

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you for your clarification Hon Prime Minister I will leave it at that with the intention that we will reap benefits and revenue for our Government developments.

Hon Minister of Health I have already touched on our health centre but in regards to the new hospital. We conducted a visit to the new hospital in Motootua and I convey my gratitude for the facilities especially the surgery ward as the health services have definitely improved. However there are those that are still complaining about the increase in hospital fees. The advice to the country is to prevent illness and exercise and you will only pay for treatment if you become ill from carelessness and an unhealthy diet.

Regarding the Oceania University of Medicine, I note that this is one development that our country would benefit from if it is efficiently run. I wish to thank our local men and women for offering themselves to assist with Government initiatives.

I believe that the Polynesian region would use this University if it was firmly established. At the moment, the contract is a joint venture with the agreement that one kind sponsor from overseas is funding the University. It is my humble request Hon Minister especially the Government, that the foundation of the University become secure and stable and be a University to serve our country and the region. It is noted that when this becomes reality and the structure is clearly set out regarding the operations of the University, we will receive assistance from overseas countries.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as the opportunity is given to the Hon Minister of Health for his interjection.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health):** Mr Speaker, this is the third member who commented on the University from the start of the deliberation on the Supplementary Appropriation. In case another member mentions this same matter, the members before this member understood the situation and the future proposals for this University as outlined in the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. I wish to remind the member to read the Report containing the Committees investigations and findings regarding the University. At a later time, the House will understand further the future plans for this University with respect.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the esteemed member to continue with his speech.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Minister, I comment to add to our Committees report. Hon Minister, the initiative is beneficial however the location of the University is too close to the National Kidney Foundation building. The Government should consider this issue because the compound is vast and phase two of the new hospital project is completed. The location of the University should therefore be permanent but this will not remove the importance on the dialysis facilities.

I note from the Supplementary Appropriation that there is a portion being set aside for overseas treatment. I hope that it is spent wisely and I am not mentioning this because it has been misspent. There are noted doctors who are providing treatments in New Zealand such as Papaliitele. The Hon Minister should consider the many Samoan doctors in New Zealand that could assist in this regard.

Mr Speaker, these are my thoughts that I wish to present. I wish to convey my gratitude to the Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister for the parliamentary procedure where we have a voice through the Select Committees. We also understand the comments of the Leader of the Government regarding tenders, particularly when we attempt to change the work at the conclusion of the tender as this would incur additional charges resulting in excessive Government spending.

I express gratitude as the Chamber and Samoa has heard your comments on television and radio that these initiatives would further serve to push our country in minimizing the changes of our work as it would incur costs. My only request is changing the process of selecting our tenders due to the increasing number of applicants by having our Tender Committee choose the tender and is passed by Cabinet.

There is a current practice known as design and build that we have become accustomed to. I am not sure as the Government's stance on this but I believe this practice should be discontinued. If the design is approved, there may be a cheaper contractor to build. The gist of my comments Hon Prime Minister is that we avoid judging the book by its cover but investigate. The job of building a designed building should be tendered.

Mr Speaker, I just wish to record my gratitude for using us to serve this House through the Select Committees. The intention is that the reports are tabled and the orders of the day are organized accordingly by the Chair so that there is clarity and efficiency which is achieved with the support of Samoa and the members. God bless this sitting Mr Speaker and my constituency, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you esteemed member for Falelatai and Samatau for your important comments on our Appropriation.

The floor is open for comments from the member for Falealili, Afioga Tusa Misi Tupuola.

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**Afioga TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Falealili):** I wish to convey my appreciation Mr Speaker for this constituencies opportunity to impart its opinion on the 2013/2014 Supplementary Appropriation currently being considered before Parliament.

Mr Speaker I will not touch on the dignity of our country of Samoa for it will remain unchanged. Mr Speaker I wish to convey my appreciation for leading our Parliament from the previous year, particularly to the Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister and your esteemed Cabinet, my congratulations on the work and duties that you have carried out in the previous year. It is not easy as there were many obstacles, but I feel that our continued prayer meeting every Wednesday at the Prayer House has given you and your Cabinet the strength to evenly distribute throughout the economy of our country.

I also greet my constituency of Falealili from Tapulolou in the east to Iliili in the west. Thank you for your supporting your Members during the previous year; Hon Minister of Revenue, Tofa Tuiloma Lameko and myself. I wish to acknowledge your prayers, patience and encouragement that led to the success of our work last year. A new year begins and we once again rely on your support and prayers as well as those of the Reverend Elder and the Falealili parish. Thank you for all the great support from last year and we ask for your continuous cooperation throughout this year as it progresses.

I stand Mr Speaker to show the support of this constituency for our Supplementary Appropriation as discussed before Parliament. Thank you Hon Minister of Finance particularly the Chief Executive Officer and your Ministry, well done for all your work. As we have mentioned, due to the fact that there are many projects and works that must be implemented, this is why there is a need for the Supplementary Appropriation. This is an indicator that the works are being implemented in attaining peace and prosperity according to the Good Governance structure.

I believe we do not have much to say on the Supplementary Appropriation. It is my view and the view of my constituency that the Supplementary Appropriation is insufficient for many of our plans and developments needing improvement, especially as we prepare to host the conference. This should be the Governments priority, particularly in ensuring the safety of the foreign dignitaries visiting our shores for the conference. We pray, as was the prayer of the previous members who commented, that there is peace and harmony when we host the event.

Mr Speaker and the esteemed House, we note a change in the Supplementary Appropriations throughout the years. With each year, there is an increase in the revenue contributing to the Supplementary. I believe the public servants are endeavoring in their work to make the Supplementary possible to assist in our developments each year.

This is why I wish to greatly acknowledge the Cabinet Ministers and their Ministries for carrying out your duties. Despite the lack thereof, it was possible to achieve this successfully for the benefit of our country.

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I feel that Falealili is one of the largest constituencies in the country. Falealili probably has 16 or 14 villages and sub-villages but we do not wish to plead for anything. My only desire to the Cabinet Ministers is that you have empathy on the number of requests presented before you, we shall not comment on it as we have already done so previously and you are aware of these requests. For instance our roads, seawalls and other plans that we presented in previous meetings which were complimented with request letters and we believe that they cannot be overlooked.

Mr Speaker, these are the matters that I stand to impart. The support of this constituency does not dwindle for the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the Supplementary Appropriation. My only hope is that the Lord blesses us and the plans for our country for this New Year. Everything is made possible through the help of our Lord. Blessing upon you Mr Speaker, the esteemed Parliament and our country listening in support and last but not the least, my constituency of Falealili. May this Sitting be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you esteemed member for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola, for your significant comments and opinion on our Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

The floor is open for any member who wishes to comment. I call on the Deputy Chairperson. I believe that this is a response by the Committee.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Mr Speaker I stand to move a motion that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill be passed, if there is no other who wishes to comment. My Speech is very short with the essence of respect.

I first wish to humbly greet the dignity of the House, Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Leader of Opposition and esteemed members of Parliament. We sleep in peace, but tragedy is always lurking. Woe is this constituency where its blood was shed on January 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. It is not our will, it is the Lord who has sole authority.

I le paia o Alaalamalae faapea foi Laupola ma le Toalima, le afio o le Valasi faapea le Faauluuluga o le Valasi, Alii o le Fono faapea foi le alo o Fagasoiaia, Lesa ma Tauanuu, Siimoa ma le Afolau, that is the honorific salutations of the families affected by this tragedy. My condolences to the families affected and the village for this disastrous and unforeseen tragedy. At this moment Mr Speaker, I am saddened as I mentioned this very road where the accident occurred. I also wrote to the Ministry responsible for the work regarding this road and it was reconstructed. I noted that it was reconstructed three or four times last year. I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister and his Ministry in executing this work. However I am distressed as it seems that execution was supposed to be carried out with the mindset to do it once, do it right and do it properly. Perhaps such incidents are thought provoking for the Government, not only the responsible Ministry but other Ministries.

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I assume that this is one lapse in many of the developments, there are no monitoring systems. I am very saddened because if the Ministry had properly monitored the road contractors, the accident could have been avoided. Regardless, it was unavoidable because of the heavy flooding.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member speaking as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Works for his clarification on the matter raised. I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokai Posala:** With all due respect Mr Speaker, I feel that this matter as raised by the esteemed member is not one taken lightly by the Government. I believe the Member began with ‘We sleep in peace, but tragedy is always lurking.’ The work on this road known as the Richardson track began in 1990 and continued throughout the following years. Its construction was sound and the Ministry as well as the LTA carried out inspections and issues were noted. This road is now on the list of roads to be upgraded. Consider cyclone Evan in 2012 where we did not expect the bridge at Leone to be affected as it was strong and well-built but was weakened by heavy flooding and rainfall.

The similar situation occurred at the Tiavea road. This is a catchment area and many of the inland streams flow downward and meet at this junction. It was not affected during cyclone Evan however the heavy rainfall in the beginning of the year caused the erosion of this road. I am not sure whether it was blocked and caused the water to rise. If you were to calculate the damage to the vehicle affected in the disaster, you can tell how strong the currents were by how destroyed the vehicle was when it surfaced after being rolled underwater. However, Government plans to upgrade this road, through the Land Transport Authority, is on the list. This project is not only for this bridge but also other bridges and roads that were affected by cyclone Evan. I offer my condolences to the families affected by the incident, may the Lords warmth strengthen the families and villages.

I beg your leniency, the project is commencing. If there were issues, they occurred from heavy rainfall and flooding. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you Hon Minister for your clarifying comments.

I call on the Tuiatua Faanofonofu to continue with his comments.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA:** Thank you Hon Minister, I accept with gratitude any response from you. I did not wish to argue or debate this issue. The true essence is just to inform. As the Bible says “Knock and it shall be opened to you.” While on this topic, I query the amount of \$731,000 which was passed two Supplementary Appropriations ago for the road at Tiaveatai. The bridge has also collapsed in Samusuuta and Tiaveatai.

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Please look into it as the appropriation has been passed but there has been no implementation. With all due respect.

I now come to the Ministry of Police. I fully support the sum of \$120,000 for the Tafaigata prison and wish to convey my appreciation to the Hon Minister of Police. However there is a concern regarding the increasing number of inmates sent to Tafaigata. On the day that we visited, there were about 18 new inmates. With the additional inmates, the prison cells cannot fit all the inmates.

We should explore rehabilitation programs for our prisoners. This is an initiative the Hon Minister is preparing for. Thank you for your hard work and resourcefulness. This is a well prepared and pleasant initiative as houses will be constructed with the \$120,000 grant as clarified that Samoan houses will be built behind the prison complex similar to the layout in Lepea with respect to Lepea, where the layout is similar but the houses will be bigger and house prisoners with minor offences. This is a good rehabilitation plan to also prepare prisoners to reenter society. My understanding is that it will be a traditional setup based on the relationship between the chiefs and the untitled men. They will also be securely locked in the rooms. This would alleviate the burden on prisons. I am grateful for this initiative.

Other members have already commented on the Olomanu prison. The member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 recommended increased salaries for the prison staff, I disagree. I believe that the Hon Prime Minister has already responded but my only suggestion to the Hon Minister is that it would be pleasing to have similar salaries for both wardens at Tafaigata and Olomanu as there are no differences in their responsibilities.

I now come to the SIDS Conference. Only \$14million will be used as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister in his speech on the Supplementary Appropriation. There is \$5million appropriated here for the SIDS Conference. I wish to thank the esteemed Parliament and especially the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for approving this amount in preparation for this conference. My only suggestion Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development concerns the usual beautification project which was done for monetary reward. I am of the opinion that it is here where we know the patriotism of our people in planting yellow, red or colored plants all over Upolu to beautify our country for this conference. It is very important, it is here we know our peoples loyalty, to not look to gain financially but see it as their patriotic duty to beautify their homes, to show their pride for their village and constituencies.

I request with respect for your support on this matter, as we have 8 months left before our conference and that is enough time to plant these plants to beautify our homes. I assumed that there would be a meeting with the village mayors in the beginning of the year but it is almost February and no meeting has taken place. I request for your empathy on this matter to meet on this expectation with all due respect.

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I now come to the Ministry of Health. I fully support the \$1million that will be used to send our patients overseas. This is important for the members of the public whose illnesses cannot be treated at Motootua. For the information of the Parliament and the country listening in, the Dean of the University declared that 12 Samoan doctors will graduate in 2015 and it is significant in providing health care.

I now come to the \$180,000 grant in the Supplementary Appropriation used in support of the broadband project which I strongly support. My only concern is that our internet is presently very expensive. I do not know what the Regulator is doing. If only he could speak Samoan or should I speak in English so he can understand. He should consider this matter thoroughly because that is his duty. His salary is quite high and yet I do not exactly understand what his responsibility is. I thought that he calculated the costs of the internet in relation to the standard of living. Nonetheless, I shall leave it to you Hon Minister.

With all due respect.

On this note, I request to improve the connections with respect to telecommunications especially the television reception in Aleipata and Fagaloa. If you are available Hon Minister, I would like to arrange a trip for us to inspect the problem. It has been over eight to nine years since we have had poor communication reception, but before this period reception was good but since then there has been no connectivity. I am not sure if it is only the Hon Prime Ministers constituency that is benefitting but I ask for your consideration.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** Mr Speaker, firstly the Regulator is not present to respond to your allegations but the Ministry has worked greatly on the area concerning the internet. As you are aware we have access to only one cable with limited expertise, there is probably only one employee skilled enough to fix a number of occurring issues in this area and the Regulator is doing his job.

The matter as raised in notices especially for Televisions. My visits to rural areas are becoming close to regular as I have even reached a chiefs house and you are correct. As you are aware, there are issues and we cannot push the private television service providers but other avenues have been sought to solve this issue. You are also aware that we are monitoring the matter and there was an inspection in November. It was found that coverage is poor for certain villages including your constituency. We have notified the company who has responded with efforts to fix the problem but as you can see nothing has been done. This means that another option shall be considered as they have not done what was needed.

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However, you are correct. We do not need to go as I usually visit the rural areas and certify the Ministry's report according to their findings. They will conduct their last visit in February for this year before a new plan is made on the matter that you have raised.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you Hon Minister for your comments. Your time shall be saved member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga as the Hon Prime Minister shall respond.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I congratulate my Associate Minister for only mentioning his television reception and stating that mine is working. Just last Sunday our village had our Sunday feast and they asked me when transmission to our televisions would work. I thought he would comment for the two of us but he only commented for himself. This is why I wish to include the rest of us but I support that overseas television stations should come to Samoa. We are not getting anything from the local stations. My village also mentioned the Las Vegas Sevens this Saturday and again we will not have any television reception. My only response is that the Minister has notified me that there is a strategy to solve this issue for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, Aleipata Itupa i Luga, followed by myself, Lotofaga and other villages close by.

That is the fact of the matter in case the country assumes that the television reception within my constituency works, we are all the same.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe that you have understood the subject. I call on the Tuiatua Faanofonofu to continue.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Prime Minister. The most important thing is the request was put forward on behalf of the Hon Prime Minister, the member for Fagaloa and all our constituencies in Savaii that have problems with their television receptions. I ask the pardon of the Hon Minister, the complaint to the Regulator was because I assumed this was the duty of the Office. If the television station renews its license annually, if that is the condition of the license, the Regulators Office evaluates the application to renew if the service provided is efficient and there is national coverage. I hear the same speech being made in Parliament that what is good for Apia is also good for the rural areas and Savaii. The suggestions are based on this motto, but thank you Hon Minister for notifying your attempts, whether it is 2018 or 2020 we would happily accept but at least we have made our opinions known with respect.

I now conclude my speech Mr Speaker with all due respect to the dignity of our country. If it were not for our forefathers we would not have the matai system which is the basis of respect and the reason we are able to meet like this.



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Furthermore, police officers are acknowledged for executing their duties, also the whole country. Samoa is founded on God, and His sanctity is sacred through his servants the clergy who pray for the success of Samoa. However this member is saddened Mr Speaker as recently shown on Television a youth from this village insulted the Hon Prime Minister and the Ministry of Police. The officers on duty did not consider the member for Sagaga le Usoga and the Deputy Prime Minister who are now being charged. I am not saying that the Deputy Prime Minister or the member should evade the law. If one breaks the Law they should be convicted, but the Samoan culture as I note with sadness Mr Speaker is not being held with due respect. They seem to adopt western and foreign principles. The law goes hand in hand with our culture and our Christian values which Samoa is founded on. This member is certain on the dignity of the Parliament and the esteem of our Sitting as I hope that our country learns that it is respect that Samoa is known for as we approach the SIDS Conference and any other conference in future. I only beseech to love Members of Parliament because they are being dishonored like what is being done in other countries. They are the chiefly system and without the chiefly system the Police would not be honored. May this Sitting be blessed. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Thank you esteemed member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga, the Tuiatua Faanofonofu for your comments. I do not need to repeat the pleasing comments offered in the Chamber in regards to our Supplementary Appropriation, including the significant comments to encourage various areas of our country, not only in our Chamber but also to our public servants. Thank you for your recommendations and warnings.

There is an opportunity for a member as I am of the opinion that there are three more members before we are able to rest at 1pm. I call on the member for Satupaitea followed by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3.

**Afioga LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Satupaitea):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand to give my opinion on the Supplementary Appropriation before the House. Before Satupaitea voices its opinion, I wish to firstly greet the dignity of our Chamber today, Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister, and esteemed Associate Ministers. I turn to that Side in the presence of the Leader of Opposition, Deputy Leader and esteemed members of the Tautua Samoa Party.

I also wish to greet the representatives from the Ministries who are with us today. I greet Samoa listening in from the tallest to the lowest peak. I wish to congratulate your support Samoa while the Parliament of Samoa went about its work in the previous year, and we have reached a new year. Let us put our hopes unto God in steering the canoe of Samoa on smooth seas. I wish to greet my dear constituency of Satupaitea in all its honorific salutations.

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Thank you for encouraging your member last year and for your support this year. Thank you for the Meeting last Saturday in the dignity of the Samoeleo and Asiata family. Thank you for turning to God and His Will that we did what should have been done. The dispute between the two families have gone on for more than 30 years and this member is proud to announce that last Saturday they were able to sit and discuss improvements for the constituency. This is praising God as the phrase says, “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” I wish to congratulate the support of Satupaitea for your prayers that enabled our meeting to end with success. Let us welcome the new month in reaching a new merged church and officially announce the unity of our constituency.

At this hour Mr Speaker, I wish to make a brief comment on the Supplementary Appropriation. I wish to thank the Hon Minister and his Ministry for preparing this Appropriation; I am also appreciative of the mentioned Ministries who have received their funds to continue the work of the Government, well done on all your efforts if it was not for these funds we could not do any work. I am grateful as I look at the salary increment. Although it is only 3% this will not be the last raise as another will soon take place but at least there is one. Since my employment in New Zealand there has never been an increment of more than 10%. At the most it was 4%-2%, or as low as .5 %. Do not be discouraged at the 3%. The increment is also calculated on the persons work. I am also grateful for the teachers salary adjustments. It seems that in all countries nursing and teaching professions have low salaries but their work is very important and it is also the same in our country. However, the important thing is, thanks to our Government, we are able to increase government teachers’ salaries with an additional 3%, this shows the Governments emphasis on matters regarding work. I thank the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for their annual church service last week. Perhaps this is the beginning of a new start for the Ministrys work this year. I wish to convey my congratulations Hon Minister, Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry for this.

Also on efforts with our broadband as commented on by other members. I believe that Samoa will lead in development of technology and I hope that works as stated by the Hon Minister are forthcoming as we will reach a time when we no longer have to use dial up for our computers but instead have instant connection to email etcetera, as that is the standard that the world has reached in technology, let us strive to develop to an international standard.

Including the \$5 increase for pensioners, \$5 is a large sum that would make a senior citizen very happy, thank you for this addition. I now come to the approaching SIDS Conference. Mr Speaker, I only put forward a suggestion regarding the preparations. There have been many speeches regarding this matter and I only wish to make an addition. I am concerned that there may be a missed opportunity in the preparation of this Conference so that our country reaps all the benefits.

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Let us maximize the benefits from this event as it does not often happen. We have just received an opportunity to host such a conference that would propel Samoa to the forefront, not only in international coverage but from revenue to tourists, our local handicrafts and produce. All small businesses should keep a close eye so we can benefit from this conference. I am certain of the security not only from our Police Officers and the Ministry. To the general public who are involved with the conference, this member prays for us to host, as Samoa is known for its hospitality, let us welcome them with respect and not act in a way that would cause people to spread the word that Samoa is not safe.

I now wish to comment on the Ministry of Police and Prisons. Hon Minister, as I heard from your comments, a \$120,000 grant from the Appropriation will be used to construct Samoan houses. I am grateful as this is one of the Ministries that I strive to develop as I find prison welfare very important. Thank you if that is the reason behind this initiative, as there are many prisoners we do not need to worry about escaping like senior citizens and inmates that the commissioner knows do need to be behind bars and leave the cells for prisoners who need to be in them. My only question Hon Minister regards the progress of the Ministry? Since it was set to take place last year but I heard that vacancies will be released for a Commissioner, and I believe that he would be of huge assistance to you especially in moving the process of separating policing from the prison affairs. Because if we want to move forward as a nation, we should look into establishing a rehabilitation program to prevent convicts from reoffending and upon release are able to live quiet lives in their communities. I also heard of the new Act that would extend sentences but the downside to this is that it would increase the number of convicts that present facilities can no longer accommodate. Perhaps if this separation were to quickly take place it would be possible to bring back other people from the community to serve their sentences. My only query is whether this will take place soon?

A matter I noted at a conference I attended in the Caribbean is that countries have placed importance on organic farming. I spoke with the Director of the Women in Business and she stated that organic farming is not being prioritized at the level it should be in Samoa. I am certain that the world is becoming more conscious with more people wanting natural products. I beseech the country and the Ministry responsible for this area, let us work together in raising the standard of our organic products, or whether the country understands or is aware of this method. Samoa originally was organic and it is not new and not much is needed to be taught on organic farming. This is what we did before the introduction of fertilizer and chemicals. This is a recommendation that we should support and uphold as it is nourishing and minimizes common diseases.

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I now come before and wish to thank the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Hon Minister. Since the completion of the access road of Pitonuu, it has not opened officially but I continue to give my congratulations as my village is very happy to gain an access road and a village pool. Not only has it made it easier for farmers to travel inland and back but it has brought business for taxi drivers who are called inland to transport peoples produce. However you are also aware of other access roads as I have long written to you and the taxi business is also prepared once its work begins.

Hon Minister of Education, Sport and Culture, thank you for responding to my request for a rugby field for Pitonuu. I have seen the advertisements for tenders. The youth are ready to use the field but the machinery is slow to get there. The rugby team has also been training in anticipation to use this field every day after it is completed.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, you have the request of this constituency. I will not comment again on the seawall for Vaega. We held a meeting at a place in Vaega when it was high tide and we were surprised that the tide reached the cook house where our food was being prepared. That is the effect of the rising sea level and I will leave it at that for the Ministries consideration.

Hon Minister of Health, it is likely that your ears hurt from this member constantly bringing up the health centre in my constituency. I do not know its current status. The land and all other matters were settled but it seems to have come to a halt due to lack of funds. If assistance is needed from this constituency, a walkathon can be arranged to assist with the costs. I query its status, whether it will be complete next year or the year after next, or at the end of this Parliamentary Term, but I beseech Hon Minister to implement if it is suitable to your will.

Mr Speaker, that concludes the comments of Satupaitea. Thank you for the opportunity and I wish to congratulate all the members present in the House. May the Proceedings of this Meeting be blessed, farewell.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you esteemed member for Satupaitea on your comments. I believe that the House has heard the intent of your comments. Congratulations are in order for the successful outcome of the reconciliation between the families.

I call on the esteemed member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 as the House is open to your comments.

**Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI (Faasaleleaga No. 3):** Thank you for the opportunity...This is a joyous morning as we have gathered here in strength to continue our work for this year as per our calling.

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I wish to first ask your pardon Mr Speaker as well as the House, Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet, the esteem of this side in the presence of the Leader of Opposition and Deputy Leader, Associate Ministers and all the Members of Parliament. A bowl may be emptied but the word of the Lord is never for want.

Today I also wish to ask the pardon of Samoa listening in from the elders to the children, His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and the member of the Council of Deputies, and the dignified Office of the Chief Justice, as well as representatives of the various Ministries present here today. We also acknowledge the support of the servants of the Lord praying for the success of Samoa.

I wish to touch on the dignity of my constituency of Siufaga and Vaiiolealii to Ogevasa; afio lo outou afioga le Taulagi potopoto, faapea le nofo a Pule faapea foi le Matua fetalai, ia ma tootooau aua lo tatou itumalo le mamalu ia Salemuliaga ma Faleaana.

I stand to comment on behalf of my constituency. I concur with the support of the previous Members on the Supplementary Appropriation and we should believe that there is a time for everything and a year for every work. My comments will not take long based on what I know and have seen as stated by the Hon Prime Minister that what is done should be implemented and I wish to make my recommendations and opinions known to further develop our country.

I first wish to thank the Hon Minister. Since you became the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am pleased with the access road upgrade in our village of Saasaai. The road is pleasing in width and workmanship and this is exactly what you call a road contractor. In addition to this work, the roads turning in to familys homes will be cemented by the contractor owned by Cafarelli. It is good when you choose the right contractor. I am very grateful for the upgrade and I wish to request with respect that there are four other roads in Saipipi, Luua, Sapini and Malaesiliga. I beseech Hon Minister that there are only four more left. It may seem a lot but consider....the priority should go to good constituencies.

I now come to the increase in hospital fees. Hon Minister, do not be offended for we do not know and we cannot foresee what may happen. The new increase, in consideration of those not so well off, it is a bit heavy. If these are the new charges, especially for a patient who is being held overnight for \$30, there are families that may refuse to have a patient stay overnight for approximately 70% of our people are not well off. My only view, which no one else sees, and is intended to be thought provokeing, concerns the many years since the birth of our country that our Motootua hospital has been supported by the Government.

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Many have also donated to the Motoootua hospital and what about us? Why not go a step further and the Government can support the rural hospitals as well because the doctors recommend no salt in the soup and cutting down on certain foods, but patients are still being fed from their families in hospitals at Leulumoega, Lalomanu, Lufilufi and after Fusi as well as Savaii in Sataua, Foailalo, Palauli.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the pardon of the speaking member, I believe that we have reached our appointed time hence my intervention as I feel that you shall have your opportunity when we recommence at 3pm as it is unfortunate that we have reached our recess. I can see that the Hon Minister of Health will be glad to have his four hour response. I believe that it is beneficial to have our recess where we shall continue upon our return.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside and we shall resume at 3pm.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended at 1pm until 3pm.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 3pm.*

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*Debate resumed.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have recommenced. My congratulations for your patience at this part of the day. I believe we have gathered again in strength from our break to recommence with our work until 7pm. Before our recess the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3, Tofa Tuileutu Alavaa Voi was commenting on the Health Sector. You have the opportunity and I call on the member to continue with his comments.

**Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI:** Thank you Mr Speaker as the dignity of the Parliament has gained much strength to continue with our work. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment in the previous hours and my comments are made with a clear conscience. I ask the pardon of the Hon Minister, these are comments for the future progress and benefit of our country. We are also commenting so that we can be on the right track and offer recommendations regarding the increased fees and charges at the hospital especially for overnight patients.

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If that is the standard for our country to progress with the positive changes at Motootua, the same should be done for the rural health centers. My emphasis is on the dietary care at the Motootua hospital which is dictated by the doctors and there is a cook but for the rural areas, the patients are being fed by their families. However I believe that a patient is a patient and should be cared accordingly. These are recommendations for now but I am appreciative of the current implementation and work in place.

On another matter which I witnessed last week regarding the television broadcasts. Although the stations are privately owned to have mix ups in the broadcasts is not a nice thing to see. The week before, the Reverend for the Amoa parish passed away, but the notice came out and it mentioned the name of one man from Salega. Throughout the whole funeral notice for the Reverend, the name for the Afioga Matautia was being used. I am appalled, especially for those who monitor these broadcasts because it is a continuous issue and they are everyday problems. There was also another broadcast which was the same. If one person in the organization errs, that is also the error of the Chief Executive and the public will complain to the Head. These are just some recommendations to be vigilant and not just do it and be idle when the public are watching. I bear witness that this happened last week when the broadcast was about 5 minutes and the whole time, the name of Matautia Fialii was being said over the funeral notice with the pictures of Reverend Tupuse Tupuola. This also shows the carelessness of the employees. I leave that with you and maybe.....

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletau Sofara Aveau:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletau Sofara Aveau:** Thank you honorable member. We have four television stations, which station did this occur on?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member to respond.

**Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI:** It was TV1. That is what happened and this is not the only error. Sometimes the local news is followed by the weather report and then international news but instead, it is the weather report. This is currently happening, and I know because I do evening prayers and then I watch the news. The reporter says that followed is international news, but instead, it is the weather report. These are remarks for the employees to consider. The daily church services that were also broadcast have now ceased. Religion is what sets us apart from the past. If assistance is needed, the Council of Churches should be consulted.

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Whatever can be offered but at least the program is continued. If Samoans are believers of the Lord and He is first in everything, we should not remove this. There are different congregations that are given the opportunity to broadcast their services and if you do not go to church on Sunday, this is your church service where you can listen to the sweet word of the Lord to prepare your spiritual life. It is just a recommendation for I feel that our country is founded on God and He is the soul objective for a better Samoa.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** To the speaking member, the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology for his clarification.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** In case the country listening in has thought that I removed the church service segment from TV1, that is not the case if you were to change the channel to EFKS there is a service there for your convenience.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member as I believe...that it is not only TV1 that made this decision.

**Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI:** That is so.

**MR SPEAKER:** But there is Kingdom TV, EFKS TV and the Catholic one. I believe.....

**Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI:** That is because the TV has different brands like Sony. Other TV sets are so blurry and grey like you're looking at a brick wall. Perhaps when the receptions are clear for Aleipata and Asau then our problems would also be fixed.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, there is new emphasis on the land and environment but there are lumber companies still clearing forests. It is not for anything else but it does not give them a licence to cut at the heart of our country. I see and hear about workshops and commemorative days for the rainforest, the environment and the water but for one tree that is grown, it takes hundreds of years to grow and it is cut down only for the trunk and the roots and branches are all discarded. But this one tree has water for life. Many of the trees are hundreds of years old and they are cut down for paper or whatever but they were once a habitat for birds and also water catchment areas for a persons livelihood especially now that with climate change. Samoa is not big and these are just recommendations for the Hon Minister. Even if it is expensive, we should import the timber because those countries are large and we should avoid logging for the benefit of our country especially our rainforests.



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To the Ministry of Education, you are correct that we are in need of science teachers. Many of the colleges in Amoa have no science teachers. In my own personal view, why not appropriate some funds to hire overseas professors and allocate them to each college because this is one very important subject in everyday happenings and practices. That is my view on the matter and I beg leniency if I have said anything offensive for these are just recommendations.

That is our statement with all due respect. May the Lord look kindly on Samoas journey as it proceeds throughout this year. May the blessings flow for the Hon Prime Minister, Mr Speaker and may He be with you in your decisions so we may have a prosperous and happy country. God bless this meeting and God bless our proceedings and Samoa listening in support. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you esteemed member for Faasaleleaga No. 3, thank you for your advice, thoughts and opinions put before the Cabinet for consideration in the implementation of their work.

The Chamber is open to a member who wishes to comment on our Supplementary Appropriation. A member for the Individual Voters has stood, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him. I call on the member.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters):** Thank you, I previously thought to let the Opposition have their turn in commenting, however we should also pose our short comments towards the Supplementary Appropriation.

My greetings Mr Speaker as well as the dignity of the House; Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, including esteemed members of Parliament, the Leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition as well as other Members of Parliament.

I am happy that we are in attendance with our health intact and I also wish to thank the Lord for the support of Samoa listening to our sittings on our countrys development. I believe that other members who commented have the support of this constituency. This constituency which I share with Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

Mr Speaker, I stand with respect to convey my appreciation to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the water supply in Falelauniu. I am certain that this is a gift for the country. I heard notifications from Samoa Land Corporation that distributed water to this part of the country that the role has now been passed to the Samoa Water Authority. Perhaps it is probable that water pipes will be laid and installed to be used for water by the country. I am confident that there are still more people who need access to water, but the most important thing is that we can see the works progress and water is now accessible. Other requests have been put forward for the water in Aleisa and we are grateful that the drilling has finished at Tapatapao and I believe that the same can be expected with Aleisa.

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Mr Speaker, the central part of Apia is always affected by flooding during heavy rainfall but at least the Hon Minister has responded that work and plans are underway and I am grateful for this.

Mr Speaker, another natural disaster that we are not...we are being idle because there has been no fires. In Apia, there are multi-storey buildings built for businesses and development that further strains access to water particularly in preventing hazards. This is why Mr Speaker I beseech the Fire Emergency Services, to empathize this as we note that there are no fire hydrants or water spouts in case of a fire. I humbly request in this regard...as it would put my mind at ease if buildings were constructed and fitted with these equipment and that the Government is supportive of these...because we never know when an accident would occur and it can happen anytime which is why we need to prepare. Mr Speaker we will leave our request for this important service at that. We have one township and the houses are built in close proximity to each other, if an accident were to occur the insurance would be expensive.

In regards to the Supplementary Appropriation, many members have commented on teachers salaries, I will not speak on it but I am sympathetic of the appropriation of funds. It is just an increment for now but the Lords-days are endless. Although it does not look like much, it is an assistance. Thank you also that there is an addition to the pension for our senior citizens.

At this time with respect Mr Speaker as it was probably the Tuiatua Faanofonofu who commented on our culture and the law. From what I know is that love and respect is a part of Samoa's culture, and these two cannot be separated it is an issue that is difficult to discuss, but it is easy to combine culture with respect and the law, and never let law trump over respect, but let us work together so that we can better execute and fully know this part of our country to use respect and love to make our working and living together easier with regards to following the law and especially on Samoa's culture that we now enjoy.

Mr Speaker, we acknowledge the decision by the Hon Minister of Police to propose rehabilitation programs for the prisoners. I am pleased with the appropriation to renovate the cells but it would be great if they could be destroyed but the initiative is applauded. We have witnessed the increased crime rate and it is something which needs our collaborative efforts and we thank the Hon Minister for...There are many changes to our country especially the youth. Mr Speaker, we note the persistent work of the Police in preventing traffic accidents which has benefitted the taxi businesses as youths are now taking taxis when they go drinking. Why? Mainly because of the police officers continuing with their work and programs. This is why Mr Speaker, that I recommend that they should continue with their efforts as it was pleasing to note the safety maintained on Christmas and New Years.

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There is not much to say at this point, the only matter Mr Speaker is my request that was put before the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, as it was pleasing to attend the opening of our access road which was a positive event for villages. However, I am convinced as we have considered Mr Speaker, roads close to Apia and access roads leading to tourist attractions should be upgraded. There are requests Hon Minister that perhaps you have come across for the Alamagoto cement drain and the Siumu road as well as the road leading to the One Tree House which is a potential sightseeing location to witness the tree house built around the banyan tree and it is quite a sight to see. That is the point in developing our access roads to be able to enter into these individual tourism businesses.

I wish to finally acknowledge the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Your focus on local products is very important. The aim of the Ministry is to ensure that there is no famine in Samoa and this is an important goal. As you may recall, I attended the agricultural show at Savaia, Lefaga and not only were there produce from the land, there was also produce from the sea. I wish to thank the village councils for their great coordination and this is a good example of good governance within villages. Thank you also Hon Minister for you walk the talk, this is the countrys foundation which is the land and marine resources.

Mr Speaker, these are my views in support of the Supplementary Appropriation, and I am grateful for the appropriation which is being given to develop and improve areas which are in need. May this Meeting be blessed Mr Speaker. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you esteemed member for the Individual Voters Roll, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him. I believe that the House has heard your comments and especially your posed concerns. Thank you.

Is there another member who wishes to comment? I call on the member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (Vaimauga West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I ask your pardon and convey my congratulations on undertaking your role in steering our Meeting; Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, including the Leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition as well as esteemed members of the Legislative Assembly. I also greet the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, including the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Government Corporations. I also ask the pardon of our supporting country and that of my constituency of Vaimauga West.

Thank you very much Hon Minister, Chief Executive Officer and Ministry for preparing the Supplementary Appropriation. I do not need to guess that the work is not easy as many need funds to set matters into motion, but you have distributed according to the needs of the Ministry in implementing their work for our Government and the country.

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In the Supplementary Appropriation Bill there are funds given to the legal sector like the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General Office, Law Reform Commission and the Ministry of Police which are allocated for salaries. This sector is very important specifically the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Police and the Attorney General Office as any development in any country is hard. If citizens do not follow and respect the Law, attempting to implement any development will be very difficult.

I convey my congratulations and appreciation to the Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration, as well as the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons and the Hon Prime Minister for the Attorney General Office. I note from the Ministry of Justice report the increasing crime rate that also increases the number of court hearings and civil cases for the Lands and Titles Courts including appeals. Despite this, the Ministry's work is progressing well so that law enforcement is done well and this is why I thank the responsible Ministries and the employees for their work.

Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration, a judge by the name of Justice Slicer ended his employment last week to return to Australia. By way of the Chair and the Hon Minister, I extend my gratitude to Justice Slicer for his service to our country. He is not Samoan but an Australian whose contribution to our Law included Court Decisions and his reasoning and decision making were useful in moving our country forward. People whose cases were handled by Slicer did not want him anymore, but people who won their cases with Slicer consider him to be the best Judge. Whichever side his decision swayed, the most important matter is that Justice Slicer contributed to Samoan Justice. I wish to request Hon Minister to continue this program so that...this is not to say that the Samoan Judges are invalid. The program should continue so that there are Judges different from Samoan Judges presiding in the courts especially the High Court.

The reason behind my explanation from a legal perspective, it is very important to have an outsiders perspective on your own decisions and whether other jurisdictions laws would be applicable. There are parts of our legal system that are different from other jurisdictions like the Lands and Titles Court. However there are other areas where our Laws are similar to those in New York, Washington, Rome, Paris and Britain. We are now a member of WTO and Samoa is not only under Pacific Law but now International Law and breaches can affect us. Whether we are certain about it or not it includes all of us which is why it is good to have other judges aside from the Samoan judges. I know it is expensive but I beseech the Hon Minister, to continue this program and not only have the Court of Appeal judges from overseas.

Also Hon Minister, the court structure is clear for the Supreme Court and District Courts but not the Lands and Titles Court; the Supreme Court and District holds no jurisdiction there. Within the Ministry's Annual Report, it is documented that there are many cases in the Lands and Titles Court and there are also many appealed cases.

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I was happy to hear that another judge is now with the District Court and that made it four and four judges in the Supreme Court with Justice Slicer. I wish to thank the Hon Minister, Government and the Ministry for this initiative. These additions to the District Court are suitable as it is a testament to our work as there has never been a Parliamentary Term when only three laws have been passed, and in these bills that we pass are penalties and the powers of the law. Breaches are heard in the the Supreme Court, or the District Court or the new Family court and with more laws, there are more Judges. This is not a complaint but an observation where the Supreme Court and District Court Judges assist the President of the Lands and Titles Court with the workload. Hon Minister, my recommendation for a temporary solution is to appoint lawyers with seven years experience to become Assistant Presidents for the Lands and Title Court to help the President. There are cases where appeals are on legal grounds, but most other appeals I have noted are from cases where people have lost. This workload on the Lands and Titles Court can be lessened with the assistance of the District Court and the Supreme Court if the appeal is appropriate. In the Ministry report regarding this, about 90% of appeals are not approved to be considered but in terms of the workload, it can be greatly alleviated in my view if lawyers are hired to be Assistant Presidents and be a panel. These lawyers should have a deep understanding and knowledge of Samoan culture to be Judges and Presidents in Proceedings. That is my viewpoint that I see would be suitable in moving the justice system forward.

I pose this request before you Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa (Minister of Justice and Courts Administration):** Mr Speaker, I did not wish to interrupt the members comments on a topic that I feel is a very important one. From what I gather is that the member wishes to amass the Justice employees with Law degrees. I am of the opinion that I am able to state although I have not made it known, the Justice has not been sworn in, and His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo has given approval and it has also been passed by Cabinet. The Judicial Commission has proposed that the additional Judge for the District Court, as the Chief Justice announced, will be responsible for assisting with the work of the Lands and Titles Court. That is the initial response for the honorable member.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for your assistance on the esteemed members issue. I call on the member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster to continue with his comments.

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**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister for your response as I did not wish to argue with the Hon Minister or the Chief Justice since it is my view as a lawyer. The governing legislations of the court are clear that the Courts jurisdiction do not overlap, it is the assistance that can be provided. It is suitable, in my view to choose lawyers to become Assistant Presidents for the Lands and Titles Court for the future. It is my humble opinion that I wish to present before you Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the esteemed member, I call on the Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

**Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa:** Point to be clarified. The member is correct that the Courts are separate; the Supreme Court, District Court and the Lands and Titles Court. However, the member would probably recall from his time with the Ministry, there are special warrants issued to the Supreme Court and District Court Judges, if they work in the Lands and Titles Court. There was also a time when a Judge helped progress the work especially with appeals.

Nonetheless, this is not a debate but an explanation and the Judiciary is planning for this very situation especially with the new Judge that is expected to be sworn in next month.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I believe that we have understood the Hon Ministers clarification, and we also have understood the members recommendation for the future and I ask that you continue with your comments as your concern is now recognized member for Vaimauga West.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, it has been a year since we were affected by Cyclone Evan and my constituency was one of the constituencies that suffered especially villages situated close to the Vaisigano river. I wish to thank you for the work completed in Lelata in building a rock wall to help families along the river bank to avert the water from overflowing in their backyards and onto the road.

However, I wish to pose a humble opinion on the water channels from Papaloloa which are narrow and shallow. Perhaps in the past there were trees that could stop the soil from eroding but now the areas have been cleared and the channels overflow when there is heavy rainfall. The water flows from Papaloloa to Papauta and Tanugamanono across to the village of Magiagi, into the river which is split into two and both of the channels are shallow. One channel flows from Tanugamanono and the other from Lelata where they meet before the Lelata bridge. Just a humble opinion whether there is a way to widen these two channels.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Mr Speaker, I thank the member for raising this matter which is not included in the Appropriation 2013/2014, but this issue was raised and considered by Cabinet, and the LTA and MNRE advised that a design should be drafted and the plan is that the designing will begin from the Vaisigano bridge to the damaged Leone bridge reaching further inland to the Lelata bridge and then to Ueligitone and further inland. The matter is considered but the only hindrance is preparation of the design where a number of studies are taken and assessments are made at how funds can be allocated for this project. This is not a small undertaking, compared to the seawall as it only faces the ocean, but river channels, have two sides to plan for and the MNRE and LTA have collaborated on this initiative from the Vaisigano bridge to Leone bridge, as we are looking at \$2million for implementation. Compared to the \$14million that we are debating, 4% or 5% would have to be used but it is not appropriated for however the Cabinet has made its decision for the implementation of this project for the safety of the families living in these areas. That is the status of the project and it may be implemented within this financial period.

With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you Hon Minister for your clarification, I call on the member to continue with his comments. The opportunity shall be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, another part to this reasoning is that in the past Vaisigano bridge was deemed an appropriate bridge but not anymore. This means that the design should be reconsidered because the brick slabs holding up the bridge is a problem when the debris accumulates and blocks the river flow which then affects the hotels and residents within its vicinity. Everyone will be affected by this decision and consideration is made on whether to demolish the old bridge and build a new one without the brick slabs under the bridge so that the water and debris will flow freely.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your comments and explanation on the topic. I call on the esteemed member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster to continue with his comments.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I am aware Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment that the river mouth burst again in the recent rainfall.

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My observation is that there is heavy flow from the embankment that is inland and in addition to that there is also a heavy flow from Matautu. Mr Speaker, the bursting of the embankment in relation to the Vaisigano bridge as it was in the past, there were 8 tributaries. However now, there are only 3 and the rest have been buried by the companies that mine sand in the area for accessibility. Now the tributaries are blocked and if they were not, the embankment would not burst.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member, as I call on the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, to respond on the raised issue.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulao Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I note that the esteemed members were addressed by the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure as well as the Hon Prime Minister. As for the implementation of the proposed project...there is a proposal to widen the channel causing the blockage. That is why the Ministry deepened the river bed at the bend before the hotel which was the reason there was no overflow in the recent rainfall. As for the sand mining, this has ceased. The widening projects for all the water channels will enable the water to flow freely seaward. As the Hon Prime Minister stated, it is being deliberated whether the bridge should be reconstructed to ensure free river flow. That is the current status.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for your explanation. I call on the esteemed member, you have five minutes remaining.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Minister for your clarification.

I am very appreciative to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the road from Letava to in front of the New Zealand High Commission. In the past, from that corner downwards the water flowed downward but now I am grateful that it has been upgraded. If only the road continuing southward from this road could be in the same state. There was no footpath from Afiamalu and the road in front of Salon Sheree but Letava has footpaths and water ditches on both sides of the road. Consider Mr Speaker that this is one of the roads used by many people to attend our church in Apia and drivers also use it to go to Siumu, and this stretch of road is not safe for pedestrians since there is only a carriage way then grass. I request Mr Speaker on this matter. As stated by my fellow member for the Individual Voters Roll, Hon Maualaivao Pat Ah Him, this is the same situation at Alamagoto on the main carriageway which is a safety hazard for the students especially with the busy morning traffic.



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Mr Speaker thank very much for the opportunity. I know that my time was not finished but it was used up by all the interjections.

**MR SPEAKER:** I only stated that you have five minutes remaining but I am mindful of the time. You will also have an opportunity to comment during the consideration in detail. The Chamber is open to comments. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, our House is now available for your comments.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No. 4):** I wish to convey my appreciation Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to this constituency to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation 2013/2014. Before commenting, I wish to greet the support of our country, His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the Council of Deputy and his Good Lady, the Honorable Chief Justice and the Judiciary. I also wish to greet the Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet, the Leader of Opposition and your esteemed side, Heads of Government Corporations as well as the esteem of the Parliament gathered at this hour of the evening.

Mr Speaker, I will now attempt to voice my opinion in assistance with the Appropriation as stated. However, I wish to first greet my dear constituency of Faasaleleaga No.4 and your traditional setup, especially as our constituency has been covered by the dark cloud of death.

To the grieving widow, Mareoa if you are listening in, have courage as my sympathies are with you while God has called the Reverend of our village, Puapua. May Gods warmth be with you and your children. To my constituency, I will not mention your honorific salutations for if I did, it would continue to 7pm. However, I shall move onto topics supporting this Appropriation.

I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Finance as the total sum may be small it is however large if compared to our countrys economy.

I also wish to acknowledge the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance, Afioga Lavea, You are a Son of the Peseta Family which may be the reason why the Appropriation is passed every year. I also thank the entire Ministry for the preparation. This constituency is in full support of this years Appropriation and I convey my congratulations and gratitude to the Ministry.

There are Ministries I will offer recommendations and suggestions to in moving forward. Hon Minister of Police and Prisons, I wish to greet and convey my congratulation to you and your Ministry. I believe that I must offer suggestions to this Ministry as it is one of the Ministries I am fond of and have spent many years working for. Perhaps this issue is constant with some of the Police, as other members have stated, the Law goes hand in hand with our culture and respect. This does not include the whole Ministry but there are police officers who are not serious when they hold up citizens.

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In regards to our countrys culture and respect, police officers should adopt humble and respectful words. Samoa is filled with respect but when they are harsh, they take it to the extreme and I recommend the Ministry in this regard.

I cannot set aside this matter for I stood in front of the law because of it. I have only gotten the opportunity to convey my appreciation to you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and Parliament, for the matter regarding this seat. Although it is the Law, I am certain that it is here where duties and loyalties of police officers are made, no one is above the Law. As I have stated previously that I will accept the outcome or the Court decision but there is an area which the Ministry of Police needs to consider for the future. The only fact that was disappointing was the verdict. When you look at the television and broadcasting services, they would mention imprisonment sentences. It is not a serious issue for us here in Samoa because we understand but for the sake of relatives overseas. There are different terms used and I know this because I have read it in the newspapers. The broadcasted news is poles apart from the reality because of the information from the Ministry of Police and the charges you give. The constituency and families are listening to my chiefly title being broadcast. This title is not a minor one because it encompasses the whole of Samoa; Peseta Tuiaana Tamaalelagi. See how prominent the title is? It is a title that can be valued in the millions.

Therefore I urge the Ministry.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the esteemed member, it is the Chairs discretion because you mentioned the titles of Peseta Tamaalelagi. The title which you entered this House with is the title that you use...you are lucky that the member for Gagaifomauga No. 1 is not present, or we would have a ruckus. The most important matter is that the Courts did not call you and there was no punishment.

Continue with your comments and do not touch on the fragile issue of family titles because there are many families of the mentioned Tuiaana and Peseta Tamaalelagi titles that are listening in support. I call on the member to continue.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA:** Do not be swayed by my comments Mr Speaker, as these are matters that the Ministry should look into, in wrongly broadcasting peoples names, it is not a simple matter. The hearing proceeded and the Ministry withdrew the case against the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 as it was incorrect. I wish to speak on this matter today so that it is clarified. Has the Ministry seen me take action? No. The cultural norm within the villages would have the assailant covered in a fine mat and to do otherwise would not elicit pardon from the victim. I have waited a long time for a police officer to kneel under a fine mat. Nonetheless, Mr Speaker thank you.

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Hon Minister of Police and Prisons, those are my concerns that would be of use to the Ministry, it is good to correct charges and then refer them to the courts.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I wish to convey my thanks and congratulations. I have had conversations with you many times in this Parliamentary Term regarding works for my constituency. I wish to acknowledge the Chief Executive Officer of LTA in Upolu and the honorable Mataafa Sepeline in Savaii for the good works laid in the previous year which will assuredly continue into this year.

Hon Minister, I have heard other members have at least four access roads upgraded when nothing has been done for my constituency. I only pray for the road in Puapua and Asaga to be considered. You have stated the upgrade for Puapua will commence this year and Asaga in the following year and we are grateful for this. Recall Hon Minister, during every Appropriation debate I always mention the Lago road where the accident occurred. This road is constructed on sand and when the incident occurred in Tiavea it immediately made me think of the road in Lano. You hold a prestigious position in our Congregation, and Jesus preached, ‘Do not build your house or road upon sand but upon the rock’. I only wish to remind this teaching of our Lord. Consider the accident in Tiavea. Although it was not done during your time in office but this road is old as it is eroded by strong water currents. My request is not only for the benefit of the constituency as the esteemed public also travels on this road. Just last week I travelled with the Hon Prime Minister where I returned to inspect it and if the Ministry were to visit the coastal side, it is seriously eroded. I only wish to offer a reminder in case you forget to consider another option in fortifying this road.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment I have made many requests, and many times you have looked kindly upon our constituency. I convey my gratitude on behalf of Asaga in regards to the establishment of the building which was halted by the Ministry. As you are aware, we approached the Ministry because we cannot breach the law in this regard however we are thankful Hon Minister that this work could be continued. The only issue is that the building is near the river, you are aware of the damages it sustained from floodings that occurred last year. A kind reminder, if a wall can be built on the river bank to protect the committee house of our village. It is a must because overseas assistance was also received for this building. This is why I wish to convey appreciation to the Hon Minister for your generosity to my village of Asaga.

I now come before the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, it is probable that you are aware of the school in Asaga that we are prepared for. I have also talked with the Hon Prime Minister regarding work to commence in Asaga, possibly within this year. If my village is listening in, do not worry, as these projects will be completed before our election period.

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Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, it is necessary that I offer gratitude on behalf of our constituency and I suppose that this is also the feeling of all the members for the abundant agricultural products that are currently available. It is true that our families are not rich but we at least are not experiencing starvation like other countries. My appreciation to the Hon Minister and your Ministry as I have noted and seen the supply of produce that is being sold on the roadsides, which is evidence of good administration by the Ministry and particularly the Hon Minister.

Hon Minister of Health, I will end my speech with your Ministry for if I comment now, all my time will be taken up by your responses.

Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, thank you and well done on the good works within the Ministry including the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. Thank you as we begin this year. My constituency only hopes for your eminence to consider the poles further inland of Puapua that have interfered with television reception on this part of the island; just a performance check to see if there are any issues.

Hon Minister responsible for the Lands and Titles Court, I request with respect for audio recording during court proceedings. There are some lady reporters who are recording the proceedings by shorthand however there are many court decisions that are incomplete because I believe the reporters cannot record all the family genealogies and court proceedings. This is perhaps why the judges decisions are incomplete and I request Hon Minister whether it would be pleasant to attain a recorder to allow judges to follow up on the arguments to allow them to make an informed decision.

Hon Prime Minister, for you are also the Minister I am responsible to, I convey my appreciation to you. I recall last week Hon Prime Minister, we went to the funeral of one Reverend for Puapua. I believe the funeral was held over two days but I was able to see your strength. In your eulogy for the Reverend, I was reverent as I listened to your eulogy. As you spoke, I heard you mention that you were once charged in court when you only had the Sailele title, and I laughed when I heard this because I wanted to know why you were charged. I was eager to find out why you had been charged and I finally understood that it was from wrong parking. I sat and thought to myself; blessed are those who are prosecuted as they are chosen leaders. I heard on radio that the Deputy Prime Minister and my fellow member are prosecuted before the courts, although a decision has not been made for the member for Gagaemauga No. 2. As for the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 the courts concluded that the case be withdrawn. This was what I was thinking during the Hon Prime Ministers eulogy; that is how Government leaders are chosen, they are those who overcome legal battles.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member for Faleata West is missing from your list, but he has more than one court case which means the member for Faleata West has overcome much.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker....

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

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I wish to understand as to where exactly the member is going with his comments. His comments were pleasant but I sympathize with the Hon Prime Minister as his eyes are shut and his body is shaking from this members absurd descriptions. If you are prosecuted you should ask for forgiveness, conclude you comments.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe you have been understood, conclude your comments.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Gagaemauga No. 2....

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** I do not know which parts of the members comments relate to the Appropriation as he has raised an entirely different matter. We have an association of those who were charged and we are discussing having the Deputy Prime Minister and the member for Sagaga le Usoga in our association and we will be contest the upcoming elections in 2016.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I shall first give the opportunity as we are moving towards clarifying the topic.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** There is not much to say as we are on the same side as the member for Gagaemauga No. 2, we are only hoping towards what decision will be made. I think next week we would also wait for a decision to be made for the member for Sagaga le Usoga, however the only matter that I found pleasing with the members comments was how the Hon Prime Minister mentioned in his eulogy that he was charged for a traffic issue, which is the exact same offence that the member for Sagaga le Usoga and I are being charged for. But it is vastly different from the charges against these gentlemen which is much more serious.

**MR SPEAKER:** The opportunity is given, be upstanding.

**Afioga Muagututagata Faamausili Auimatagi Peter Ah Him:** I am content with my charges. I am only saddened that the Leader of Opposition and TV 1.

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The road they broadcast was an area of no entry which I did not take. It had a u-turn sign but they should have taken footage of the road where my traffic violation occurred to see what signage is at that road.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member has been fully understood, and the Chair is observant of the Standing Orders; we cannot discuss matters that are before the court.

**Afioga Muagututagata Faamausili Auimatagi Peter Ah Him:** I will now conclude....

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** I am not happy with the comments of the Associate Minister of MPMC because he did not mention the details of the charge in its entirety. The charges were made 45 years ago before the esteemed member for Faleata West was born. My vehicle was parked too closely but since it was not an offence under the Law I was only fined \$2.00. This is why I am unhappy, because the member should have stated that it happened 45 years ago before the member for Faleata West was born.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** What is it that you wish to....the opportunity shall be given.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pah Ah Him:** I wish to understand please. Mr Speaker I commented on respect and culture as I sympathized with the members, but I hear that they are happy to be prosecuted.

**MR SPEAKER:** We should be mindful that the country is observing us and we cannot dodge the law as leaders. The important thing is that the police have done their duty and we must follow the law. There is no overlapping of duties. The police process the charges for the members and then it is referred to the courts. We are grateful Lord that some members have come through like the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 and the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 but there are others who are awaiting the final decision. Whatever the court decision, that is the final say and I cease the discussion of this subject as it is before the courts. I beg tolerance to the member for Sagaga le Usoga, you are seeking out the investigations but the issue is a sensitive one. Refer your statement of the incorrect signs broadcast on TV Samoa to the courts and the appropriate action will be taken for this is a fragile matter. The matter is beginning to get complex but I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 to conclude as you have five minutes remaining.

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**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. As I have few minutes remaining I now come to the Hon Minister of Health.

I also wish to convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister for the services of the Ministry. However there is a matter of increasing hospital bills to which I fully support, but there is an area that needs your consideration Hon Minister as well as the Ministry. This is in regards to the free service to expectant mothers and their babies when born. From the time the mother enters the hospital till she gives birth, the service incurs high costs for the hospital. Consider Hon Minister the laundry costs for the clothes, towels, sheets and pillows. This is one area that I usually comment on Mr Speaker as I believe that there are no longer any boiler rooms to dry and remove infectious germs, which means that the Ministry should reconsider this. Also consider that in the new hospital, patients are still using outdated beds, although there are sheets and towels but I believe that it is not enough as provided in the report on the old hospital. I am praying to consider this matter as our new hospital looks wonderful. In addition, not including the private practitioners that hold mobile clinics and are paid \$200.00 an hour, there are doctors that are working at the hospital, who are being paid \$20 per hour, unless they are on call then they earn \$150.00. The only difference, and the Ministry should look into this, the doctors in the mobile clinic deduct taxes and have tax returns. However, this is not the same for the doctors at the Hospital.

Furthermore, there is an issue of insufficient equipment. In the maternity ward, there are hundreds and hundreds of mothers every week, but there is only one heart monitor and ultrasound scan. I am worried that in case a machine was to malfunction, I sympathize for the next mother to be checked. This bears reminding as there are machines needed to diagnostics but is unavailable. There was a senior lady who passed away before Christmas, who needed a CAT scan which should have been available. It is true our X-ray machine is good but there is a special x-ray for this illness. However, when I asked the doctor he replied “Your pardon Peseta, that machine has long been damaged, which is why it is difficult to treat”. So I thought to take her overseas but she had high blood pressure and she could not board the airplane. Hon Minister, services need to be improved. There is another Bill that is coming through however I believe that a Ministry is not successful by the number of its employees. If the foundation of the staff is good, then I believe that doctors are able to easily perform their duties. If the utilities are complete, it will be easier for the staff to carry out their duties. Looking at the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, the biggest expense is food. If it not being promoted, the Ministry should spearhead promotion that overeating leads to obesity. If you look at hospital employees, wow.

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However, if I look at the Appropriation it is no wonder then that the appropriation is for food but if part of the funds were used for equipment....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister for his clarification.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I have been listening and taking note of the comments till there is a time I respond to the member. However I have noted that the member is incorrect and has gone astray, where I feel that it is best to correct this mistake and make a small clarification in case it opens a way for other opinions and suggestions are led astray on this matter.

Mr Speaker, regarding the clothes used in hospitals mentioned by the member...it was probably during the Appropriation debates in 2011 or 2012 when the Ministry emphasized banning clothes and sheets from patients families due to incidents that occurred. These clothes bring germs that are difficult to disinfect and the disinfectants are hard to come by. The hospital found that this is how germs come into the hospital. There is no other way of bringing it inside, other than through patients clothes and the sheets, towels, pillows and pillow cases they use in the hospital. There was a comment made by the member, it was then that the Ministry decided that these services should be implemented once the new hospital opens. This initiative was placed on our new hospital however it could not be implemented so that the new facilities are balanced with new changes for the safety and welfare of patients. This change is currently being enforced where clothes, towels, pillows, pillow cases and miscellaneous are banned with the exception of nightgowns and pajamas used within the hospital. The Ministry, if it is viable with our economic state, will consider changes to disallow anything into the hospital including food because they attract pests and vermin into the hospital and they threaten the health of any household.

There are inspection protocols in place with securities inspecting baggage brought into the hospital. Despite these efforts, food is still being smuggled into the hospital with the smell of an oven baked pig or roasted chicken giving it away. However every effort is taken to ensure that the hospital is risk free.

Food is very important, another member also posed a query in his comments but I refrained from standing as I respected the senior member for Faasaleleaga No.3 with his reckless comments which I will fully respond to when all the comments have completed. But this is a pleasant opportunity to respond on this raised issue.

This is why....



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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg the pardon of the Hon Minister, as we have reached our usual recess time. Your response shall continue towards the comments of the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 once we return from our usual break for the afternoon.

I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 4:43pm and resumed at 5:22pm.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. My congratulations for your patience for this part of our Meeting at this time of the evening. I believe that we are nearing the time when the sun will set but our work still continues. I am appreciative of your patience in our meeting; the final part of is now progressing.

Before our recess the Hon Minister of Health was responding to the comments made by a member. I now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to conclude with his comments so that there is clarification on the raised issue. I call on the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you also for the refreshments provided which has given us strength to continue this meeting at this time of the day.

During our recess Mr Speaker, I was heading towards making a clarification on the issue of laundry or clothes that are used at the hospital. I do not know presently how many Members of Parliament have visited the hospital recently, where there is a building between OUM and the east wing of the new hospital. The ground floor will be the kitchen and the top floor reserved for the laundry. It will be completed soon. At the moment we are awaiting the arrival of commercial washing machines as recommended by the member. These machines will be used for drying and pressing to enable large scale pressing because the laundry will be immense.

There are presently smaller machines being used in an area that can be utilized by the patients. I believe that the hospital is prepared in all the aspects mentioned by the member. If only he had visited this part of the hospital he would not have mentioned it in his speech.

I will now address the matter of private practitioners as mentioned by the member. Recall that we are collaborating with private doctors as there are not enough doctors at the moment servicing the hospital. If we were to execute what the member wishes, the number of patients that would visit the hospital would exceed the current number if the doctors at the hospital were to travel with the mobile clinics.

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This is why the Ministry has recruited private doctors under a SWAP funded initiative. The agreement in the contract includes the wages as mentioned by the member, which is not the same as the salary paid to doctors employed by the Ministry and paid by the Government.

That is the difference Mr Speaker. It cannot be the same rate because it is not a daily service. As you are aware, a mobile clinic services the Savaii hospitals once a week and we are trying to make it twice a week. There is an additional service for expectant mothers and infants. These mobile clinics also service the rural areas and there is a dentist and pharmacist who travels with the clinic with diagnostic scans which can scan the patients and the results are sent to Apia instantaneously so that remedial steps can be taken for this patient who is far from Apia.

This is why there is a salary difference and it can never be equal. There is a salary scale for the doctors which are being used.

Now I will respond to the matter of maternal care that was raised by the member. I know there will be clarity if I announce the progress of this initiative. This is the basis of the increased hospital fees which was protested by some members. Since 2006 to date, it has been ten years since an increase has been incurred for the health services. The fees for the outpatient and an overnight patient have remained the same while other services were mostly free. However since that time, the cost of service delivery has increased due to electricity costs, petrol for ambulances and other medical resources like chemicals used in the reentry of blood referred to a hematology lab and the costs of the service, also....

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the Hon Minister, what is it Leader of Opposition?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, it seems as if the Hon Minister is making his response. However the Hon Minister is stating that the increase is due to increased electricity costs. Is this not the duty of the Government to closely monitor these increases rather than prioritize the health services? That is why I rise because the people should not have to pay.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have been understood Leader of Opposition. This matter that the Hon Minister is attempting to clarify has been mentioned more than once by many esteemed members. The Cabinet is attempting to nip the matter in the bud so that no other member will raise this issue. I pray that the Hon Minister will consider our time. I call on the Hon Minister to continue with your comments.

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**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** If the member were patient I would have moved to clarify this area. The majority of our hospital is fully air conditioned which uses a lot of electricity and maintenance costs are also quite expensive. Which means, who will carry all of these expenses, as costs for these services have remained the same for ten years with the electricity and medication costs? The Government subsidizes 95% of the costs and the country only pays 5%.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the Hon Minister as you reached the exact issue that was raised by the member, I call on the esteemed member.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA:** Mr Speaker, I beg the pardon of the Hon Minister, but if you were to consider our Standing Orders Mr Speaker. This is one topic which is usually raised by the Leader of our Government where the opportunity must be given for the opinions of constituencies, and the opportunity is now being robbed from the constituency. I did not comment on electricity bills in correction to the Hon Minister. I am sympathetic of the Hon Minister for I burdened our error but I have been cleared and I feel for him.

Mr Speaker I will now conclude my remarks.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the esteemed member, you are beginning to take the responsibility of the Speaker. Be patient as I have the discretion and I believe the Hon Minister shall respond as the issue is quite serious and four to five members raised the same issue. You were not the only member to raise the issue but I ask the Hon Minister to please keep your response brief and precise to the matters which were raised. Your complete response can be made when the Government proceeds with their collective response.

**Tofa Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker, I am only eager to respond because it is a complex matter and it cannot be left unanswered. I reject the comment by the member because he has mentioned me as an accomplice to his error when it was his to burden alone.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the Hon Minister of Health, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons as to what truth there is in the matter put forward by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Afioga Hon Sala Fata Lisati Pinati (Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire and Emergency Services):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. I am sensitive of this issue but it seems these two are making a mockery of this House.

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The member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 should be charged first because it was he who caused the accident involving a disabled boy from my village of Leauvaa who I am also related to. In such cases, there is a saying that rings true ‘keep on doing it and you will get caught’.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister to conclude his clarification.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** The Government subsidizes 95% of the costs which does not include grants from the United Nations, WHO, New Zealand or Australia. These funds are used for the service. Although it is expensive, the intention and responsibility of the Government is that everyone is equal in the national health services.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** These services will be equal for all whether it is a millionaire or a poor person. Mr Speaker, the Ministry is not overlooking the countrys concerns. There are unfounded comments that the country will burden the costs because the Ministry is unable to. There are two aspects I wish to clarify before I go into detail. First, the first member to comment in the beginning of the day mentioned that the hospital is only for the sick....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the Hon Minister, the opportunity is given to the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker a point of order because the statement that these comments are unfounded is serious. Consider the affect on the nation. The fee for an overnight patient is \$30 per night and if it was for a week it would be about \$300. This would not be equality because a millionaire can easily pay his bills even if it reaches ten thousand, but this is different for poor people. It is not equal and that is why I stand with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member has been fully understood, Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The Leader of Opposition has taken the bait I threw for I will now respond to this matter. These claims are based on misunderstandings and uncertainty of hospital policies. Consider that these increases do not involve children from 1 to 15 years comprising of 38% of our population or 72,000 in number. Any child that is treated at the hospital from a newborn to 15 years has free medical treatment, medication and no hospitalization fees. Also, there are vulnerable groups.

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There are two extremes of a humans lifespan; the beginning and the end. Senior citizens from 65 onwards have free treatment and medication. Contemplate the costs of the service to these groups. Furthermore Mr Speaker, there are other vulnerable groups as stated by the member who are the expectant mothers.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the Hon Minister is about to conclude his response. A subsequent opportunity shall be given.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Expectant mothers comprise 23% of the population or approximately 43,000 in number. From pregnancy to full term they are given free treatment until both mother and child are strong. If these groups were put together Mr Speaker, close to 70% to 73% of the population have free medical treatment, surgery and medication including blood tests, ultra sounds and x-rays. The remaining 27% are those in the middle of the lifespan and they are strong and should not be susceptible to illnesses which means they hardly visit the hospital if they follow the advice of the health services to exercise. Work in your plantation Leader of Opposition and walk often as you are gaining weight and minimize your sugar intake. On top of these three categories there is an additional category called targeted groups which have illnesses that we do not want to spread such as TB, leprosy cancer and Sexually Transmitted Infections. Medications for these diseases are expensive, but treatment is free for those afflicted with this disease. Collectively, the categories receiving free treatment is huge which leaves only a few paying population. The strong who do not exercise for fitness are the ones who complain since they are vulnerable to illnesses because they do not follow the advice given by the hospital.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you for your explanation Hon Minister. Due to our time I believe a detailed response has been made for the members and the members comments are clarified.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** One more matter Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Conclude with your clarification Hon Minister. Continue as it was one of the issues raised by an esteemed member.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** The accusation against the staff is grave. The allegation that they overeat and become obese is very serious. Remarks should be considerate especially if the persons are not present to correct such erroneous statements. This is why Mr Speaker, I must comment on this matter which has circulated in the newspapers and other media outlets.

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The referred report is from 97 to 98 and 2007 to 2008 and it is being mentioned to taint this proceedings when it is not mentioned in the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report. The only comment in the Report is on OUM and the Committees satisfaction with the plans to progress but I will still make a brief statement.

Regarding the accusation against the staff and food, this food is not to feed the staff but rather the catering costs for meetings hosted by the Ministry. The Government policy is that if a meeting is for the whole day, refreshments should be provided. The Ministry continues to follow this policy for the general well being of the participants. The number of recorded meetings is 136 with a number of 9,321 participants. Most of these meetings take a whole day or two to three days. If you wish I will provide a letter?

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the member is clear. It is not an appropriation for staff refreshments.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** It is not the staff but it is part of the service delivery which is to take care of those you assist with the Government initiatives to enable the implementation of the health services for families, villages and the community.

I will finish here due to my respect for you Mr Speaker as we are eager to progress with our meeting despite my wish to continue.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is also the intention. Your comments must be complete as these allegations cannot be taken lightly which is why your response was required because it is also the sole reason as to why the Leader of Opposition raised the issue of patients bills. The member who raised the issue of extravagant expenses on food has now understood that these meals are not for the Ministry but serves as refreshments for health related workshops and meetings.

I call on the esteemed member to continue with his remarks.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, to save the members allotted time.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the esteemed member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, as I call on the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I also stand in respect of the efforts made by the Hon Minister.

I note that the Hon Minister has commented on the issue within the Report of the Officers of Parliament supporting the Auditor Generals Report regarding overspending. It is not in the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

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I am being cautious because the report that the Hon Minister mentioned, there was a time when the staff of the Ministry of Health was called by the Committee investigating this matter. This is in this report not the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. The Auditors Report....

**MR SPEAKER:** There is no need to comment Leader of Opposition as the Hon Minister has clarified the issues raised by the member.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker, I have responded to the matter raised and it is not yet the vocation for the member commenting. He has not made his speech and yet he continuously rises to comment.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 to continue with your comments.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I suppose the Parliament is satisfied and clarified on certain matters raised and I thank the Hon Minister for the direct response to the recommendation regarding the free service for expectant mothers and infants.

The intention is that there be a percentage to pay because if the service is free, it would result in an increased number of pregnant mothers at the hospital.

This also happened in the Republic of China. When the President of China realized that the economy was suffering, a One Child Policy was enforced. This is my concern and there should be a fee for the expectant mothers. There will be a time when the Ministry of Health will propose a bill to prevent the continuous pregnancies. With the increase in pregnant mothers at the hospital will also lead to increased public spending.

These are my thoughts Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 to conclude with your comments. You have two minutes remaining.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA:** Hon Minister of Health that is the humble opinion of this constituency.

I conclude my comments. To my dear constituency, we are nearing the end of this Parliamentary Term and I apologize for any offence that may have been caused. God bless you for your support because it is your prayers that have led to the success of this seat.

May God also bless you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as the esteemed members of the Parliament. May this Meeting be blessed.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for your comments member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

I believe that the clarification of the Hon Minister of Health has been lengthy due to the importance of the subject raised. The floor is available for a member that wishes to comment.

I call on the member for Vaisigano No. 1, the floor is open to your comments.

**Afioga TUFUGA GAFOALEATA FAITUA (Vaisigano No. 1):** I wish to thank you Mr Speaker for giving this member an opportunity to give assistance on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2013/2014.

I greet the dignity and support of the three pillars of our Government, the public, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the Leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition and the shadow ministers of your Party, especially the neutral support of the individual CEOs of Ministries, my congratulation on your efforts.

I cannot forget my constituency of Vaisigano No. 1, well done on your safe arrival to this new year. I ask for your support as your servant endeavors towards the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1) 2013/2014.

Mr Speaker I wish to record my appreciation to the Hon Minister, Chief Executive Officer especially the Ministry for this Appropriation. Although the sum is small it is nevertheless more than enough. There should also be lesser comments as this Supplementary is only for \$14.4million.

Thank you Hon Minister and my congratulations on your efforts, courage and pursuit. This Supplementary reflects your contribution in changing the \$22.6million loan to a grant from the Asia Development Bank. I particularly wish to congratulate the Ministry responsible for collecting lease and debt payments as well as the readjustment of the Ministries.

My only question Hon Minister is the Samoan translation of the statement in the revenue outlook stating that there is no intention to raise taxes to finance this Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1) 2013/2014, however the second bullet point alludes to a tax or VAGST. I request for an explanation as I wish to understand the meaning behind this statement.

The full emphasis of my comments Mr Speaker and this Parliament is to express gratitude and appreciation for the work that went into changing the loan to a grant.

I now move onto expenditure in the Supplementary Bill. We have no qualms and only sympathize with the Ministry since the Government does not have sufficient funds in developing the areas of our economy. We have no minerals save the capacity of our people to finance this Supplementary.

This Constituency has no more to say as its needs have been presented and already posed in written letters, but we will pray as Feepo did and continue to support your efforts until there is a time that it is possible to implement the requests of this Constituency.



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I thank my electorate for your support. Be steadfast and continue to support the government initiatives.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given. May this Meeting be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done and thank you member for Vaisigano No.1 for your important comments on our Supplementary Bill. The House is open for a member who wishes to comment as we have one whole hour remaining.

I call on the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to this member to make a brief statement on the Supplementary Bill.

Before I continue I wish to greet the dignity of the Chamber in the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister especially Cabinet Ministers.

I also wish to greet this side of the Chamber in the presence of the Leader of Opposition especially members of our Parliament. I also greet the Heads of Ministries and State Owned Enterprises, who are the hands and feet that serve this country through the various Government entities.

I also wish to use this opportunity to greet my constituency of Aleipata Itupa i Luga from Ulutogia to Vailoa especially my dear village of Lalomanu. I make special mention of the Reverend Elder and clergy who pray from dawn to dusk for blessings on the constituency and Samoa.

At this hour, I first wish to convey my appreciation to the Hon Minister of Finance, the Chief Executive Officer and Management as well as Ministries that were involved with this Supplementary to enable the continuation of the work of the Ministries and Corporations. This constituency also does not have much to say except for our gratitude. To the Cabinet Ministers, there are many of you who have received requests for developments within this constituency but I will refer to a few Ministers this evening.

I wish to convey my congratulations to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure as I believe that your responsibilities are not simple. The Tuiatua Faanofonofu also the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo mentioned the river in Tiavea which I believe we should also comment on. Although lives were lost in this accident, I continue to pray that consideration be given to strengthen the bridge. We have noticed that any rainfall or flooding erodes this bridge.

I now come to the needs of my constituency as requests have already been tabled and as the saying goes ‘The deaf hears when he is tapped’. We only continue to hope for our access road leading further inland. However, I noted recently that there are roads constructed after the tsunami hit which made it easier to work and live inland but there are other villages that are in need of roads.

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In my village of Lalomanu there is a road that leads to a coastal sub-village of Matautunaaai, this road is a Government road. Vehicles presently cannot access it for it has been a while since this road was upgraded but this member prays for your immediate consideration into this matter.

I now come to the Samoa Water Authority, thank you for services as your work is indeed not easy, but I pray for our water tank as mentioned earlier for your consideration. Hon Minister, perhaps there will be a time when the tank will be replaced to gain wider access to water.

I have noted that the water overflows once the tank is full but it would be pleasant if the tank was sufficient enough to distribute water to my constituency as most residents have moved uphill which currently makes it more difficult to pump water.

I now come to the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons, this constituency wishes to convey its gratitude in accordance with the services in ensuring safety during the holiday period for this side of the country. Although there may be mishaps due to unforeseen circumstances for we sleep in calm but harm is always lurking. It is with happiness that I convey my appreciation and the only recommendation I wish put before the Hon Minister is to look into the Police outpost in my village that is in dire need of repair. Most times any amount of rainfall floods the outpost as it is an old building which was previously used by nurses in the past. This is only a reminder Hon Minister.

To the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology your response is correct but my constituency wishes to have reception especially for the television. Our residents prefer the television and it has almost been 10 years since we have been without reception from TV1. I ask for your consideration Hon Minister, if there is a way for the Corporation to implement their services throughout the country so that Samoa, particularly my constituency is satisfied.

Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I have previously given you my acknowledgements. There is now a taro chips manufacturer and they will probably absorb the taro produced from this constituency, as it is widely known that taro is being wasted with no overseas markets and a high supply of taro. This constituency was also encouraged to develop its plantations but since it has flourished there have been problems in its exportation.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for his clarification.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I ask the pardon of the member, I wish to thank you and offer my praise for your support of this Ministry's efforts. I carried out a visit on Monday last week that included your village inland and Lepa, continuing from Falealili to Siumu returning to Apia. I was concerned as I saw a reemergence of the leaf blight in Lalomanu and in Saleapaga.

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This is also an issue that the Ministry is working towards as the leaf blight has become widespread particularly in Saleapaga. The areas affected by the tsunami moved inland and that is where the leaf blight is concentrated according to what I saw. However you are also correct, there are a number of plantations there. That is one advantage of having many plantations by making use of your time instead of staying by the seaside and playing cards. You are one of the constituencies that have a large taro yield and it is obvious in the marketplace. Leave your request with me and the Ministry shall attempt to look at methods to protect our country from this disease in future. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Thank you for your assistance Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I call on the member to continue with his comments.

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** Thank you Hon Minister. Perhaps we have different perspectives of the leaf blight as you are aware that once the taro is mature, the leaves change color, which means that Aleipata Itupa i Luga has healthy taro.

I now come to the matter of livestock and this constituency is querying as to what the status is on livestock....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for his clarification.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker, plantations are not like maintaining a vehicle. There is a difference in maintaining an old car and plantations. The blight is obviously evident because it is not specific to a taro maturity. If you look at young taro tubers even their leaves are yellow. If you still do not believe me since I do not know whether you often visit the rural areas or own a plantation I can show you what leaf blight looks like. That is the fact of the leaf blight since it does not only affect mature taro but younger taro. However at this time thank you for your support.

**MR SPEAKER:** I know that a quarrel will not arise. Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga the Hon Minister visited your area because of his love for your constituency. I advise that you visit the rural area in the weekend and report back on Monday but this topic shall be set aside as the matter regarding taro is clear.

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** I shall take heed of your ruling Mr Speaker and will move away from the subject of plantations. Hon Minister what is the current status for cattle. The constituency seeks to know whether the counting of the cattle is correct.

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When our farmers go to the Ministry with the invoice to purchase the cattle that has been numbered and priced according to its weight, they deliver the wrong cattle. This is why I ask whether our agricultural sector has a proper monitoring livestock system, because we paid for five cows but they delivered five bulls.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance esteemed member, as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister as the Ministry is being blamed for the different in the cattle paid for and those delivered.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker, I am stunned by the issue brought forth by the member. If the order is for five cows but bulls were delivered, how could the cows have transformed into bulls? This indicates that when you bought them you did not know the difference between a cow and a bull. However, I ask that you leave this issue with me as I will consult with the responsible division. Did you say five bulls?

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** That is so Hon Minister. The invoice was for one bull and four cows, and this was paid for but my family called that the livestock arrived with three bulls and two cows. We are trying to start a plantation to secure our family's future.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the Hon Minister shall respond.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Okay, I shall respond on this matter tomorrow. Whose name is on the receipt? Is it yours or is it another's?

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** It is under my name.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I will query the Office as to who is responsible and I will respond tomorrow.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is that matter clarified member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga?

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** I now come before the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. This constituency wishes to record its acknowledgement of the Hon Minister especially the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry, as I have noted the many changes and your continued efforts to work through them. I believe that these new changes are to improve educational standards in our country. Thank you also for the increased salaries of teachers. Although the sum is small but the most important matter is that we have responded to their needs.

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Furthermore, this constituency hopes, as there are not many Science teachers in our country, that a partnership can be formed between the Ministry and SROS as I have noted that many of our people work there and could assist. Nonetheless, I wish to acknowledge and convey the thoughts of this constituency to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, in congratulating your bravery despite the mounting requests but the Lord provides an opportunity and time in achieving these aims. This constituency also wishes to express gratitude to the former Chief Executive Officer who was your support. May the Lord reserve a place for him. This man was exceptional in his expertise and it would be hard to find another to fill his place. My last request Hon Minister is with regards to rubbish collection. We have visited and carried out inspections to a part of the country which has a high tourist visitation rate but there is delay in rubbish trucks whilst rubbish litters the roadsides. This constituency prays for your empathy regarding this issue.

With that I conclude my comments. May the Lord continue to protect you Mr Speaker in your duty of steering the House of Samoa, including the Leader of the Government and Cabinet especially the Leader of Opposition and esteemed Members of Parliament. Be blessed and farewell.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you esteemed member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga. I feel that you have raised new matters to assist in the discussion of our Supplementary. There is an opportunity for another member to comment as we have time remaining. I shall give the opportunity to a member for Vaisigano followed by the member for Aana.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I wish to convey my appreciation as it was through Gods love and kindness that we have arrived safely from the previous year to this year. I acknowledge Mr Speaker as well as the Office of the Legislative Assembly, particularly the Leader of the Country, the Leader of Opposition and the esteemed Parliament on this glorious day. I also wish to greet my constituency even though you cannot hear as the radio reception is yet to be clear but the most important thing is that you have your strength and health. I celebrated my New Year Mr Speaker with my village where I met with the elders who have queried the happenings in Parliament with such questions as to when proceedings shall start and what topics have been discussed. When I told them that we would be discussing the Supplementary, they asked if our government has ample revenue and I said yes. Their query was then why there is a delay in our access road. I have stood for nine years Hon Minister of Works to request for the access road for my village. This road is next to the Catholic compound that connects to the village school and the villages drinking water and it is also relied on by the constituency to access their plantations.

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I request once more with respect if it has been considered for this year. As this Appropriation is a mini budget or supplementary that requires short comments which were relayed to me by the elders to be put forth.

Thank you Hon Minister of Health, as it was mentioned that a new hospital will be built on the agreed location. I was late today because I was in negotiations with the Ministry for two hours. Although the price of this large piece of land is cheap, it is not an issue for the heavens will judge this.

Hon Minister of Education, the hospital will be in the centre of the constituency and there is a lot of land there so perhaps the school can also be in this location. The secondary school in the constituency of Tufuga is too far. Those are the only matters I was told by the elders to voice today.

The comments of Vaisigano No. 2 are concluded. May this sitting be blessed Mr Speaker. May the Parliament of Samoa prosper as I live in the love of God.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for your comments.

**Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua:** A point of clarification Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the esteemed member for Vaisigano No. 1 as your constituency was mentioned.

**Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua:** Mr Speaker, my constituency was mentioned in the comments of the member regarding the constituency school. Mr Speaker the school was first in his village. Although it was in Fagasa, it is sub village of Sataua, and it was not safe. Then it was relocated to its current location where it is safe. This is my correction Mr Speaker.

**Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI:** Mr Speaker, because the constituency is listening in. Perhaps the member for Vaisigano No. 1 does not know where our school first stood. The first school was ruined in Cyclone Val and Ofa and it was relocated to Asau due to its safe inland location. I shall move on as my village is listening in. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** There shall be no dispute between the two Vaisiganos. But this matter shall be given to the Hon Minister for consideration as to its location. Also consider that the relocation of schools is costly but it shall be left with the Ministry as to the action to be taken and if it is possible within our revenue.

The opportunity is now given to the member for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi and then the member for Alataua West. I call on the member for Aana Alofi No. 1.

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**Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI (Aana Alofi No. 1):** Very well thank you. I first testify of the truth stated by the membr for Vaisigano No. 2 as we hail from this constituency of the island.

To the support of my constituency in Fasitoota and Faleasiu listening, I acknowledge you and your honorific salutations. Also the Reverend Elder and the parish, thank you all for your support.

I rise with respect to announce and record my full support of the Supplementary Appropriation, which will be used to continue the work of the Government. I also wish to acknowledge and congratulate the Government led by the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers as well as Ministries and Corporations in implementing the countrys developments. The Lord has responded to the Governments vision where we can easily see the increased standard of our countrys economy. Families have three to four cars with an abundance of produce with breadfruit and pawpaw being eaten by bats. This is an example of the standard of Samoas prosperity unlike other countries where there is starvation and malnourishment. The Lord has answered the vision of the Government as per the Hon Minister of Health's statements that I wish to acknowledge as I still wanted to hear. For Leulomoega, you can go early to the clinic and see a dentist or doctor and the changes seen do not have to be praised incase it may be the opinion that I am boasting on your behalf. Do not take heed of the complaints against the Ministry, everything is fine with the service.

To the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, thank you for the changes in place. There shall be no comments on the appropriation but rather words of congratulations and appreciation to all the Ministries; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries where they have made substantial achievements in the increased supply of taro. I only wanted to make a brief statement on the markets as I am uncertain of the current policies that the Hon Minister and Government has for markets for produce such as taro, bananas and yams. In New Zealand the Fijian and Indo-Fijian shops and businesses purchase and promote their Fijian taro and any other product from Fiji. It is an ongoing trend. We are still having competitive businesses in Samoa and in my own personal view; we should attract Samoan entrepreneurs in New Zealand to buy our taro which is better than the Fijian variety. Indians would first purchase Fijian taro because there are Indians who own plantations in Fiji. This is only a suggestion. There are a number of upcoming local businesses like Pat Ah Him, the Ah Liki Group, Frankies where they can establish overseas businesses for us to export our taro, banana and other products instead of relying on Indians and other entrepreneurs as they would purchase their own Fijian taro since some Indians are Indo-Fijians. That is my belief, but I shall leave it at your discretion since we have talked too much about markets but that is just a minor point to support the industry

From the Supplementary Appropriation....Thank you Hon Minister....

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I thank the member for his comments, as you are one of the veteran supporters of our agricultural sector. Your comments are very pleasant as you are also correct on the Fijian exported taro. We went on a trip to observe and many businesses purchase Fijian goods. These are the businesses owned by Fijians that fled to New Zealand during the coup.

As I have mentioned earlier, we have restrictions especially because of our leaf blight, since this is what New Zealand and Fiji first look at although America is not too concerned, but that is not so with New Zealand, Fiji and Australia to the point that if they find any abnormality in a taro the whole container undergoes fumigation. The fumigation process lowers the shelf life of our taro where in a short amount of time it expires. There was a request placed by New Zealand Quarantine last year, whether it was possible to clear our boxes of taro locally before it is exported. The Ministry is working towards providing a service of exportation by cleaning the taro and then packing it in sacks to be distributed in containers. There is more than one restriction on our taro products but the Ministry is working regardless. I find your suggestion very pleasant as it would probably encourage the network of local businesses overseas. We met with Samoan businesses from Australia as they desired and wanted our taro. The Hon Prime Minister also highlighted in his speech at the commemoration of 50 years of the Congregational Christian Church in New Zealand that being a true Samoan means buying our taro. However others have stated that they have become used to Fijian taro and the Ministry is trying its best to make the quality of taro to what it used to be as our taro has become firm. However, at this moment no matter how many markets there are, I find it more important that we are able to sustain ourselves and I would rather hear from members commenting that taro is going rotten due to its abundance than a village undergoing famine. The Ministry is not being idle. Thank you for your assistance.

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

**Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI:** Thank you. I do not disagree and I convey my appreciation Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. There is a saying that challenges a struggling spirit, 'if there is a will there is a way'. Nothing is difficult with God as our country is protected by God. My thoughts are based on the 65% to 70% of our people financially relying on their plantations. This reliance is used to pay schools fees, support Congregations and family obligations.



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I am convinced that if there is a Samoan business, individual or community that will purchase our products for New Zealand, Australia or Hawaii instead of relying on others who can sabotage our products like what happened to the kava. Who knows whether a person was bribed to disrepute our kava. We do not know the games that conniving and affluent people are playing overseas.

Regarding the Supplementary Appropriation, I wish to convey my congratulations and acknowledgement to the Hon Minister of Finance, well done. It is because you are the President of the Congregation that there is no spirit to increase taxes to finance our Supplementary Appropriation. I shall move away thank you.

On another matter, what is the case with the survey of our land? There is land located further inland of Fasitoota called Tasala and inland of Faleasiu called Sea. This land was already surveyed but there are matters that are not settled and there is a proposal to lease this land. There is so much land we can use for revenue but it is left unused....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Minister of Finance for his clarification. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faolatane Liuga:** Thank you Mr Speaker as well as the member for Aana Alofi No. 1. This matter as you are aware, has already been decided by Cabinet that the lands you mentioned will be leased for \$100 per acre a year. This means that more than 200 acres of land inward of Faleasiu will be divided amongst the villages. However the 800+ acres in Fasitoota will be divided and the Cabinet decision was also made for the land to be leased at the same price. I have checked with Samoa Lands Corporation and Faleasiu has been surveyed but Fasitoota is still ongoing, afterward it will be leased dependant on the village councils of the mentioned villages.

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

**Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI:** Very well, thank you Hon Minister of Finance. I feel proud since you also hail from Faleasiu. However it was only a reminder as I feel sparingly about our finances. If there are 800 acres but it is \$100 per acre, how much is that? Is it enough to finance part of this Supplementary Appropriation? Instead of thinking about other avenues, the Governments intention is good because there are no plans to increase taxes when there are other sources of revenue. Note the thousands of acres in the country that can be consolidated and leased, which means there will be enough to increase the public servants salaries.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member as the Hon Prime Minister shall clarify this topic.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, specific to these matters, Ministries and villages need to collaborate. The Ministry has a lot of work to do but there are times when the villages are lazy. The matter of Satapuala, they sat around and then came straight to one of the Parliamentary meetings. This is what happens when villages have not held meetings and talked directly with the Ministry they are working together with. It is not the sole responsibility of the Government. The village council also has a role to play.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the esteemed member to conclude with his comments.

**Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI:** I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister as he is very correct. This is why I persuaded the constituency of Aana Alofi No. 1 in Fasitoota and Faleasiu, as we wish to spearhead these good initiatives. If the land was given, money will start flowing. As the Word says ‘The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.’ This is why Aiono and Leaupepe have decided to prioritize this so that there can be funds to assist the Government, then we will sow the land. These are matters that I wished to put forward to remind the Government, but you possess the vision.

Finally, with regards to the 800 acres inward of Fasitoota and 200 or 300 acres of land inward of Faleasiu which will be leased if all goes well, there should be access to water and electricity like NPF land, which is why I pray not only for Fasitoota but also the Government lands of 800 acres. It is a must that water for consumption is available. This is why I ask for your empathy while we await the implementation of this initiative and then our village will go to work.

I wish to convey my unwavering appreciation and congratulations for the constituency's school field and every development that the Government has done for this constituency, as to whatever the will that the Hon Prime Minister and Government moves towards, it will be supported by the dignity of Satuala and this constituency, as we have seen the wondrous development for this country.

These are my comments with respect, may God Bless this Government and the Hon Prime Minister, especially the support of the His Highness, O le Ao o le Malo and the three arms of the State, with the support of Gods servants. Our constituency now rests.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you member for Aana Alofi No. 1 for your comments, they were full of wisdom from a veteran member.

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I call on the member for Alataua West, we have enough for another member to comment before the House. I call on the esteemed member.

**Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES**: Mr Speaker, I stand with respect to present the opinions on the Supplementary Appropriation. However before we go any further this member wishes to greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as the Leader of Opposition and all the Members of the House. Despite the setting of the sun this evening, I acknowledge the support of Samoa and its traditional setup not forgetting the CEOs of the various Ministries and Corporations.

How can we forget the support of our brothers in the East; the President of the Senate and the Senate, as well as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor particularly the Speaker and Representatives of the House.

I am convinced that the dignity of the country begins from Matasua to the sacred lands of this constituency which is the home of Tonumaiepa, Taatitimanaia, Tuaiafai, the land which is at the tip of our country. We greet the chosen servants of the Lord in every denomination.

There will come a time when I will salute the dignity of our constituency but I wish to pose queries regarding the status of some progressing projects. Mr Speaker and the honour of this Chamber, there are two Ministers who I will direct my comments to; the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture as well as the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

Mr Speaker, this constituency does not make worthless comments. They will be specific on the developments that were mentioned by the senior statesmen that have graced this seat. Before I comment on these two Ministries, I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Finance and the Chief Executive Officer for your preparation of this Supplementary Appropriation. I am certain that this sum is not sizeable since it is only more than \$14million but I am sympathetic with the insufficient finances that you attempt to distribute. Our request is not for funds from this Supplementary or the Appropriation which passed \$784million, but we wish to place a recommendation to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I pray with respect as the constituency is listening in and they wish to know. As you are aware we have met but we wish to query when our college building will be erected?

We have heard the request of the member for Vaisigano No. 2, Neiafu is the same as Sataua and we do not wish to conflict with our neighbours from Vaisigano. No matter where the college will be built, the most important thing is that the students will benefit but the school mentioned by the member for Vaisigano No.2 is too far. Our relationship with Vaisigano is clear and yet there is disagreement but that is our request Hon Minister. Everything has been sorted and the land is available. We do not wish to sound pushy and we are well aware of the developments by the Government in this constituency for instance the implementation of the water supply.

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We cannot express in words our sincere appreciation for the water. That is the request Hon Minister plus the school in Falelima which we have already discussed.

We only request that it is implemented as soon as possible and we are considerate of the 49 constituencies and the Cabinets efforts to allocate resources. As I mentioned, this constituency does not whine for anything for we are grateful for the water but we are persistent on this matter because we discussed it and we are waiting for the time it will be implemented. Before I made my journey this morning, my village called in to remind me to tell the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture of our college. There shall come a time when I will consult with the member for Falealupo and member for Vaisigano No.2 as our school as already has been requested before the Prime Minister and Minister. Why should it be called Vaisigano No.2, if the school stands either in Neiafu, Sataua or Falealupo? It should be called Neiafu Falealupo Papa Sataua? But there is no reason to call it Vaisigano No. 2 when it stands in Asau. Consider the Prime Ministers village, the college is called Lotofaga and Lepa, since it is named after the two villages it is erected in. This is my request and in a future meeting with the constituency, we shall come prepared with a name for the school, there is no reason why it should be erected in Asau and named after it?

We now come before the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology with our consistent request in relation to the matter raised in the comments of the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, as well ast the Hon Prime Minister. We are well aware that our television station is privatised but the remarks of the Hon Prime Minister are correct; we should bring in more licensed television stations for a competitive service which would benefit Samoa. We can easily tell when a stations transmission has not reached all constituencies, but if there were many service providers, it is probable that members will no longer complain about this area. The honorable member for Vaisigano No. 2 has commented on this matter and we request this every time. We do not have 2AP but are able to listen to Talofa FM but it is a waste as reception is also not clear. If only we had a radio statio to listen to. We have requested in the previous Parliamentary Term for improvements to be made to the television and radio receptions so that there is full coverage as is the Manifesto of our Political Party which is 'What is good for Apia, is also good for Savaii'. As I have reiterated Mr Speaker, this constituency does not make worthless remarks. We wish to express gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, Chief Executive Officer the Samoa Water Authority and the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology, I had almost forgotten to acknowledge you since the beginning of one of the projects which we are truly grateful for. Since the previous administration to the administration of the day, we express our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the implementation of our water supply.

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In addition Moefaauo, thank you for the water supply to part of Tufutafoe. As for my dear villages of Falelima and Tufutafoe, in case you have noted that once Neiafu has water access we would be passive, that is not so, we continue to knock and often meet with the Chief Executive Officer. He understands our plight and we are continuing to be persistent on this matter.

I now wish to record our gratitude, Commissioner Nafitoa and the Ministry of Police in carrying out your duties during our Christmas and New Year holiday, no major accidents occurred. My congratulations on your courage and bravery. As reiterated by previous members concerning the Ministry and the state of affairs. The Hon Minister is correct in saying that there are a few, not all, in the Ministry who have bad public relations with the general public which taints the reputation of the Ministry as a whole. Those are our remarks Mr Speaker and it is getting late and our Members are weary from the days work as it is required of their calling.

Before the comments of Alataua West concludes, I wish to acknowledge the support of my constituency starting from Falelima to Siuosava as well as my village of Neiafu, thank you for your support which cannot be forgotten. I feel that I must comment on the remarks about the temporary vacancy of this seat. Neiafu, Falelia and Tufutafoe respectively, life is unexpected. Lafai did not commit a crime nor did I commit theft, it is merely the norms of politics where we may raise our voices against the Hon Prime Minister. I offer apologies for a fisherman is skilled, but there is a time when he may err. To the Party, I also beg leniency for any offence which may have been caused so that our relation may again be ironed out and there is no contention from the comments of the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4. It was while I was visiting my father in Florida when I read the headlines that Lafaitale was kicked out of HRPP. Alataua West, I have not been removed from the HRPP as the Hon Prime Minister knows that I have married into Lepa. I am the only in-law that stands as an orator and not made to sweat in the cook house. These are the usual arguments between a father and son. You will here soon that I have been accepted back.

Mr Speaker....

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** A point of order and a point to clarify Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** There is a matter that the member for Aana Alofi No. 1 wishes to understand, I call on the member.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** The remarks are very bluntly directed remarks. It is the Hon Prime Ministers compassion for his in-law. The Hon Prime Minister and I also do the same for our in-law who is the Leader of Opposition. We do not let him sweat and burn near the cooking fire because we have compassion for him when he comes to Fasitoo.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Esteemed member for Alataua West, as the Chamber has heard your comments at this hour in the evening, we have reached our time of rest, but I call on you to conclude before we disperse.

**Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES:** My constituency of Alataua West, you have heard the usual ramblings of old men which is not judged in courts but from on High. I look upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 with woe for I do not know why he is concerned when he is off the hook and I am being punished.

With that Mr Speaker we....

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Do not be offended, I have instructed the member for Alataua West to conclude, have sympathy as we are running on time, there shall be no more concerns on the matter affecting the member for Alataua.

I call on the member for Alataua to conclude with his comments.

**Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES:** These are our comments Mr Speaker and before the dignity of the House in the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, the constituency is listening in, Taatiti and Tuiaufai told me this morning, Lafai ask for the Prime Ministers forgiveness, then I asked them why? That was their only comment. However, I believe that we have consulted one another this evening.

Mr Speaker thank you for steering the countrys Parliament, there are times where we have raised our voices, as reiterated by the Tui Atua no matter where the national state of affairs lie, the culture of respect and the backbone of our country can never be removed, this is our mutual relations. At anytime in which we have debates within the House either with the Hon Prime Minister or Leader of Opposition, it is all politics and it does not crossover or affect our relations with one another which is a national custom, it cannot be taken away.

In dignified support of Samoa as well as the chosen servants of the Lord in the various denominations, Alataua West has made its comments. Whatever information has been published in the newspapers or broadcast, this Member has never replied to the papers for as a seasoned politician, no time is wasted on such rumors. To the dignity of Samoa, I ask for your pardon if I have caused offence through the comments made and, we continue to rely on your goodness in forgiving our errors and misgivings as statements are not easy.

Mr Speaker, may this Parliament be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I wish to acknowledge the pleasant comments of the esteemed member also the remarks made were heard clearly for all present.

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I also wish to convey my deepest gratitude to all the members who commented in the House today, from the start to the end, I have noted 16 members have already taken the floor. Thank you for your comments and the same to the Ministers for their responses. A great percentage of our day has been completed today and again, the Chair is truly grateful.

Thank you also to the Heads of Ministries and Public Corporations for your support, there is a certainty that we have reached our time of rest, and shall reconvene tomorrow.

Before we conclude our Meeting this evening I call upon the member for Faleata West to draw our meeting to a close with a prayer.

Prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 7pm until 9am  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.*

