

*TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY, 2013*

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

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: I humbly greet the dignity of this Parliament in all its honorific salutations; Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament.

We have assembled again this morning to continue with our orders of the day. I thank you all for your patience and participation and we thank our Heavenly Father for guiding us here in health and strength.

I acknowledge the support of Samoa; His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and your Good Lady, the member of the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady, the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary and last but not the least the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations working for the benefit of our country.

I address our traditional setup; Aiga ma a latou Tama, Tama ma o latou Aiga, Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti. I greet the various high chiefs in the village councils and I acknowledge the unfailing support of the women and their committees.

I take this opportunity to also greet our cousins in the east; Tutuila and Manua. The honorable Governor General; Afioga Lolo Matalasi Moliga and the Lieutenant Governor; Afioga Lemanu Peleti Mauga and the Speaker of the two Houses. Congratulations! A worthy sailor has been chosen to captain your ship and we can only rely on God to guide the journey.

May we continue to co-exist in peace and harmony.

I greet the leaders of the various denominations throughout Samoa and am grateful for your unceasing prayers. Well done on your continuous offerings and pleadings to the Lord which has seen us through the natural disaster that we have just endured. God lives and he is our foundation during hardships. We must humbly contemplate the meanings of these hardships and never cease in our faith.

Let us now proceed to consider our orders of the day.

22 JANUARY 2013

MESSAGES FROM THE HEAD OF STATE

*Mr Speaker read the Message from His Highness the Head of State.*

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 Bill:

1. Canine Control Bill 2013.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Monday 21<sup>st</sup> day of January in the year 2013.

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

2. MEMORANDUM for:

Mr Speaker:

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

1. Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Monday 21<sup>st</sup> day of January in the year 2013.

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

22 JANUARY 2013

Messages from the Head of State

3. CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY.

Pursuant to Standing Order 99(2), I, TUI ATUA TUPUA TAMASESE EFI, HEAD OF STATE, hereby issue the Certificate of Urgency to the Legislative Assembly to consider the Bill listed hereunder in the Meeting commencing on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2013:

1. Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the year 2013.

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

PRESENTATION OF PAPER

*The Clerk read out the Paper pursuant to Standing Order 48.*

1. P.P.2012/2013 No. 61, Polynesian Airlines Company Annual Report for 2012

PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. P.P.2012/2013 No. 62, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on P.P 2013/2014 No. 60 – First Supplementary Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for FY 2012/2013.
2. P.P.2012/2013 No. 63, Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee Report on the Personal Property Securities Bill 2012.
3. P.P.2012/2013 No. 64, Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee Report on the Labour and Employment Relations Bill 2012.
4. P.P.2012/2013 No. 65, Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee Report on the Family Safety Bill 2012.

22 JANUARY 2013

Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral  
Committee Motion

5. P.P.2012/2013 No. 66, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on the Customary Land Advisory Commission Bill 2012.

BUSINESS, STANDING ORDERS, HOUSE AND ELECTORAL  
COMMITTEE MOTION

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Chairman who is also the Deputy Speaker.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA (Deputy Chairman of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Before I carry out the task I was chosen to do, I concur with the prayers that were offered this morning thanking the Lord for his blessings and love upon us enabling this gathering for the beginning of this year. Even though we were affected by a natural disaster, our Lord forever loves us.

I greet you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and each and every Member of Parliament this new morning. I also greet the Clerk and the Office servicing our Parliament. I acknowledge the support of our country; His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and all the citizens of our nation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to greet my constituency of Palauli West from Nuuuli to Falemai.

Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2013/2014 as approved by the Committee.*

Month	Day	Month	Day	Month	Day
January	22	June	18	December	17
March	26	August	06	January	21
May	30	October	08		

*Seconded by the member for Alataua West, Hon Minister of Finance and one of the members for Faasaleleaga No 1; Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow.*

*Motion approved, Parliamentary Sitting Program 2013/2014 was approved.*

22 JANUARY 2013

Canine Control Bill 2013 – first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Thank you Mr Speaker. The Deputy Chairman read out 28<sup>th</sup> of June but it is written as 18<sup>th</sup>. Which is the correct date please?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Chairman.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA: I apologize. The correct date is the 18<sup>th</sup> of June with all due respect.

CANINE CONTROL BILL 2013  
– first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI (Minister of Police and Prisons, Fire and Emergency Services): I first express my gratitude to our Lord for this beautiful morning we have come to in health and strength. I greet my constituency; Gagaemauga No.1.

Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Canine Control Bill 2013 be now read the first time.*

*Seconded by the member for Alataua West and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

*Motion approved, the Bill was read the first time.*

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Standing Orders, the bill will be second read on the third sitting day following.

UNIT TRUST OF SAMOA LOANS BILL 2013  
– first reading

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Unit Trust of Samoa Loans Bill 2013 be read a first time.*

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

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

*Motion approved, the Bill was read the first time.*

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to our Standing Orders we will proceed to debate the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013.

Before we continue, I remind the members that this is the time for general remarks and not consideration in detail which will be done when we reach that stage. This is the opportunity for any member who wishes to make a comment. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): I only remind our members that the latest weather update forecasts that the Cyclone will hit around 2pm so that you can make necessary preparations. Perhaps by that time we will have been done with our work. I recall the Leader of the Opposition's previous statements that they will support the Appropriation and it will proceed to be passed. It is just a reminder of the remarks that were made before we adjourned during the last sitting. God bless this meeting and the debates this morning.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the Government for that reminder. The Chair has also recorded the remarks made in the previous sitting. The discretion is yours to complete this debate and proceed with the consideration in detail.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition): Point of clarification with all due respect Mr Speaker. I thank the Hon Prime Minister for the reminder and I will return the favor by reminding him of his reply to my comments which was that we do not rush our work. Therefore Hon Prime Minister by way of the Speaker, do not worry about the cyclone as it is moving away from Samoa.

Let us not rush our work. Our side is prepared to assist and contribute to the governments' developments with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, those were my words to allow for a break from the last sitting to recuperate. We will see now if that side respects their leader and his comments made. If not then that side must make a decision.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. To the Leader of the Opposition, we do not question the wisdom and knowledge of that side of the House. You are the chief of one of the strong families of Samoa. However, we do not rock back and forth like a ship without a steer. Our Standing Orders have been set aside and we hope that our Appropriation will be passed soon.

Despite that, we should be mindful that our country is listening for a favorable result and with the prayer offered this morning, perhaps this day will be fruitful.

We have passed the Main Budget and this is the Appropriation with additional funds to assist with our needs since the devastation of the natural disaster.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification. There was a statement that this side should respect my remarks. We had a meeting yesterday which almost lasted through the evening with this side respecting the comments that were made. If only you were there Mr Speaker during the time when Samoa was faced with the natural disaster, this side was eager to pass the Appropriation. However we are moving forward and there will be no eagerness from this side today. The appropriations are very important and because of that we would like to assist the government in this regard with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. We will now proceed with the orders of the day.

The floor is open to any member wishing to make a comment.

I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker. I agree with the prayers of thanksgiving offered this morning to our Lord for His love and care shown upon our country during our witnessing of His Almighty work.

The leader of this side has mentioned that we met yesterday and perhaps the Lord has given us this fine day that we may gather here to offer comments to assist the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet with their work.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

I thank the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the Report tabled. Even though we were faced with problems, we completed our work for the benefit of our country and I therefore thank the Chairman and the members.

I begin with the Ministry of Agriculture. Thank you for the Report on the Appropriation for the Ministry and I thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry. However, I would like to comment on the export of taro. From the point of view of a Savaii local, there are times when notices for taro exports are only made in Upolu. I mention this for the information of the Hon Minister and the Ministry because the Type 1 and Type 2 taro approved for export is found in abundance in Savaii being sold from Salelologa to Itu o Tane and Itu Salega. I ask that the opportunity be equal for Savaii.

There were rumors about the quality of our exported taro and I believe this is an issue for the Quarantine Division. I advise that the Quarantine Division carry out this task with utmost caution and proficiency.

I hear that the funds proposed for the stimulus package have been returned. As is mentioned continuously during our sittings, this is an essential program to attract farmers to develop agriculture. I gather that if the terms and conditions are not met then the funds will be returned but the Ministry must play an advisory role to our farmers to motivate them to develop their farms. Many of our farmers are financially struggling and rely on the Ministry for their expertise and knowledge to assist with their developments.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, can the member elaborate on the statement made on the advertisements that are being made solely in Upolu? I have no recollection of the advertisements being made in Upolu only. The Ministry is not the only exporter of taro. There are other private businesses that cater to this service as well. There is no policy of the Ministry of Agriculture that is bias to only the taro growers in Upolu. Can an explanation be made in this regard to avoid confusion?

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

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Hon Prime Minister by way of the Chair. The advertisements are those of the Ministry which was publicized perhaps two or three weeks ago.



22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

I mention this issue because I am also a farmer in Savaii and this notice was specifically for the Upolu taro growers. I know the Hon Minister is aware of this.

No false statement can be made in the House with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give this opportunity to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to clarify the issue.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** I am grateful for the grace of God which has led us here in the best of health and strength.

I apologize because I am also unaware of any such program of the Ministry which is bias to only one island. Perhaps there was an urgent need therefore only the island of Upolu was notified but I know that the Ministry conducts round trips in Savaii. Construction of a pack house in Salelologa is complete to stock containers for export but there is no prejudice of the sort in the Ministry or any such bias notices.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I believe the issue is clearly understood.

The farmers in Savaii should not be anxious; the pack house is complete and perhaps it was a matter of urgency.

I call on the honorable member to continue on other matters.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister. The farmers in Savaii will rely on you in this regard.

On the matter of the funds appropriated for 2AP, I believe it is sufficient. Coming from Savaii, this radio station is reliable in their broadcasts especially in regard to the weather updates. I lend my support to this service however I suggest that a suitable location be allocated for this radio station as the current location of the reconstruction of the office is susceptible to strong wind storms. There are sufficient funds for the reconstruction of the building and there should be a certainty of its durability especially now that we are experiencing drastic climate changes.

The Ministry of Health is now undergoing reconstruction as well. I hear the work is going well and the plans have been made for the transfer of the patients from the old hospital. The building contractors are the same that built the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi building and I only recommend that they review their building plans to ensure sufficient electricity supply and safety because the building will house patients and to avoid any further issues such as those experienced by the Tui Atua building.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member of Faasaleleaga No. 2 while I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance.

I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Point of order and also a point of clarification. There was not power shortage at the TATTE building. During the cyclone, rain water affected the computer that controls the flow of electricity to the building and it has been repaired. Buildings are built based on the sufficient capacity as the need arises with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The issue has been clarified. I call on the honorable member to continue.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: My mentioning of the issue has been useful and now it is understood. Thank you. However I am surprised that this new building had roofing iron blown off and yet Samoan thatch houses were not affected. This is just a recommendation.

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

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity once again to the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: This is an aspect that the former police constable does not understand. The small buildings that house these generators were in the path of the cyclone but the thatch houses were not in the cyclones path with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that there is no need to debate this as Cyclone Evan has left us and it will only return if we continue to mention it.

Please continue honorable member.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: I am satisfied with the Hon Minister's response so I will therefore move away from the issue.

The House is aware of the issue with the mentally disabled prisoners at Tafaigata which is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Police. Therefore I am grateful for the proposal to reestablish a Mental Clinic.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

This is very important because these illnesses are supposed to be an issue for the doctors and not police officers. I also recommend that the Hon Minister of Health and the Ministry give the opportunity to the graduated pharmacists to develop their careers in the field. There are returning pharmacy graduates but the CEO is still looking for a Chief pharmacist to look after the pharmacy.

Thank you for the Appropriation to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to assist with the cyclone afflicted areas. This side accepts and supports this appropriation wholeheartedly. I only pray that priority be given to the families affected by flooding such as those in the Magiagi area. The areas affected by strong winds are able to recover some personal effects but those affected by flooding have lost everything. The budget is tight but I personally think priority should be given to families who have absolutely nothing. Our people are easily satisfied and perhaps 5,000 per family would be enough assistance.

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

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: During such natural disasters, the government's first assistance is to provide water, clothing and food. These are the necessities and make shift shelters are provided.

The Samoa Housing Corporation Act was passed in 1990 after Cyclone Ofa to assist with rebuilding homes. Only during the Tsunami was loans made easy because of the substantial financial assistance that we received from overseas because of the many lives that were lost. The funds received during the preparation of this Appropriation were \$2.8million for natural disasters but other assistance was issued before this. There is still assistance being distributed to the affected families. The Housing Corporation was not established on a whim. All governments establish such corporations as a means of assistance during disaster.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the explanation. I believe the issue is clear for the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The honorable member is commenting on the plight of the people. The government has notified the families in shelters to move out but there is nowhere to go and the tarp houses are too hot.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

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

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: We all know how to make enticing speeches. The tarp houses have been distributed but I have been notified that the families do not want to leave the shelters because of the grants and gifts being dished out. Only a fool would want to leave but this is a global issue. It happens everywhere but you should be mindful of the government's capability.

As I stated Mr Speaker, every country no matter the financial status provides the necessities after a devastation. Tarp houses, food, medicine, food and drinking water is provided. We also do the same and plans are in progress to rebuild homes. This was also the process during Cyclone Ofa. After the distribution of these tarp houses I flew over the island and no such houses had been erected instead there were wooden houses. A travelling companion asked me where the tarp houses were and I stated that they are being stored to be used during funerals or other obligations.

The norm was to collect the debris of roofing iron and wood to rebuild but since the Tsunami things have changed but these are things that we can do ourselves.

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

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Prime Minister for the clarification. Is there another issue Leader of the Opposition?

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Point of order. The Hon Prime Minister is the one making enticing remarks but I am speaking from what I observed and learned from those affected. Everything was washed away and the tarp houses are not livable because of the heat. The people are struggling and up until now they are living in the temporary shelters.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. I again give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister for an explanation.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, perhaps the honorable member did not receive the list of the necessities distributed that I mentioned. We have our culture within our families, churches and villages. The culture of helping each other during a time of disaster and those implementing this assistance is aware of this culture which we are aware of and take pride in.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Mr Speaker, we all know how to make enticing speeches. Even during the time we sat on that side, we also made colorful remarks of enticements. That is my response to the remarks Mr Speaker. Let the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No.2 continue his pleasant speech.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe the issue is understood. You have heard the governments' response and we need not go back and forth on this issue as it is prolonging our supplementary debate. You have heard that there is \$2.8million and the first relief effort of water, clothing and other necessities has been distributed. Patience Samoa! Machinery is working to clear the debris off the roads and then housing will be provided. I call on the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta (Falealupo): Mr Speaker, these are not bribing remarks, they are facts and the Hon Prime Minister is brushing them aside. If.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The opportunity will be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui: I thought the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was interrupting to assist the situation.

This is the only Opposition member that I am attentive with because his speeches are metaphorical. After a previous cyclone that hit, your constituency was the first I visited. Hovering above in a helicopter, I could see elephant taro shoots and when we landed a crowd of children came towards the chopper. A shirtless man came to me and said that there had been no food for four days. I put my ear to his belly and it did not growl from hunger but quite the opposite. Mr Speaker, the words of Solomon say that there is nothing new under the sun. Let the honorable member that was speaking continue. We all know how to entice and our words are especially colorful during these times. Instead of throwing words around you should have come and assisted the Committee during their sittings but I did not see you or the Leader of the Opposition.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the honorable member for Falealupo. I am trying to steer our proceedings in the right direction enabling the queries of the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 to be responded to. However I will give you this last opportunity.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: First Mr Speaker, the country and the House should listen to these comments which the Hon Prime Minister is trying to prevent.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Second, my remarks are not enticing in nature and the problem is that they are always being labeled as such.

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

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Even during general elections, we had to go through the courts.

MR SPEAKER: The issue is understood. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order on the term prevent. Discontinue these ridiculous remarks; we were not born yesterday. We are permitted under the Standing Orders to correct any statement that is false. We are not preventing you from making your comments. How are we preventing you when you are upstanding to voice your concerns? We must interrupt if the comments need to be clarified or corrected.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: With all due respect Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Please be sympathetic Leader of the Opposition.....

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: We never interject when the Hon Prime Minister makes his speeches but we only ask for an opportunity to voice or opinions but they are not meant to entice. We did talk to those affected yesterday. It is not as if we are not also visiting the devastated areas. We are trying to put forward the peoples concerns. I pray Mr Speaker that you are lenient with this side because we are trying.

MR SPEAKER: Your concern is noted Leader of the Opposition. The Hon Prime Minister is trying to explain the government's stance on the issue raised by the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2. The first relief stage is complete. Everything said in this House is taken as enticing remarks but it must be based on fact. We have just survived a natural disaster and we are the voice of the people. How can we expect to give out food when we are trying to distribute what little we have?

Honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2; your issue has been clarified by the government. Please proceed to comment on other matters.

The intention of the Chair is to proceed smoothly with our speeches and therefore pass this appropriation so that the funds can be used as soon as possible for those in need.

I call on the honorable member to please complete your speech.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will take heed of the Chairs wishes. Raising this issue has clarified it further.

I thank the government for the response. I believe that whatever assistance was given to the Aleipata area during the Tsunami should also be done for Magiagi.

Nevertheless, I am clear and have understood thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the members comments about Magiagi are ambiguous. Everything that can be done with what we have is being done such as what was done for the Tsunami-afflicted area.

There is no one that ever says that it is enough. It is human nature. During one of our visits, we came across a man sitting in his tarp house alone. We asked him why he was sitting alone and he said that no one visited him. They only passed by. Without his knowledge, we drove straight to the village mayor's place and we asked the mayor why this man did not receive any assistance. The mayor pointed to a house and said that that was his house and he did not know why the man chose to stay in the tarp house. The mayor further stated that the house was stocked with sacks of rice and boxes of herring. The reason they complain is because they want more.

Mr Speaker, this is the nature of the world we live in. no one ever says that they have enough. The Committee has to be aware of this sort of issue. You were also a member of the Police Committee and if false statements are again repeated, then you will be charged.

That is my final clarification. These complaints are being relayed to you because they know that you will believe them and mention them here but we are all aware of our people and their nature.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Please complete your speech honorable member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you. Raising this issue has resulted in it being clarified beyond clarification for myself and the country listening in. The Hon Prime Minister is right; this life is as he stated. However, raising the issues for your information is useful for the future.

With that Mr Speaker, I complete my speech, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the advice and recommendations for the government.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

I will give the opportunity first to the member for Falelatai and Samatau followed by the member for Alataua West.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker. We support your words of thanksgiving to our Lord for his everlasting love and care upon us with regards to the natural disaster that we have just endured.

I greet the dignity of the House Mr Speaker; Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader and Members of Parliament. I also greet Samoa in all its honorific salutations not forgetting the Leaders of the various denominations throughout Samoa. Thank you for your prayers and may our Lord guide us safely through this New Year.

Now to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation. I thank the government for the allocation of funds to repair what has been destroyed by the cyclone. I thank the Electric Power Corporation, LTA and the Samoa Water Authority by way of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the work carried out. During any natural disaster, infrastructure is destroyed and I am grateful for the quick response with the repair work. Electricity was quickly restored to some parts of our side of the island and the potholes were temporarily filled with gravel to wait for the rain to subside. Our water pressure is weak but I believe that it will be looked at in due time when the electricity is fully restored to operate the water pumps.

I applaud the committee responsible for the allocations of the funds. We all need help during such times but only when angels allocate the funds will everyone be satisfied and the distribution fair.

Our constituency was also sheltered in churches temporarily but after the Sunday luncheon, the families returned to their homes to start repair work on Monday and that is when the committee visited. We were not in the shelters and churches when the visit was made as we went to our homes to repair and await the assistance. The Prime Minister has mentioned a strategy of making sure that the assistance is given to those who need it by listening to their stomachs if they are growling but I would be skeptical about doing that to a woman's stomach.

I thank the committee for their assistance to the families of our constituency.

On the matter of requests that were made before the devastation and still awaiting implementation. There were requests for our access roads in the Main Budget which was third on the list. I note that we have come to the final months of this fiscal year and still there has not been any progress. The Hon Minister stated that we follow the list and this is a mere reminder.



22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

As for the seawalls; there are parts in Sualo between the Mulifanua wharf and Mt Mafafa in Falelatai that has been overlooked and we have made requests constantly in this regard. I believe that it was not intended to be that way but there was a problem with the contractors. The Tsunami in 2009 and Cyclone Evan have adversely battered our coast and I pray that this unsealed part of the coast be considered Hon Minister.

That is the only request for this constituency and I again express my gratitude to the government for improving what needs to be done. I also thank the Hon Minister for listening to our many requests and we are mindful of the insufficient funds we have. With that Mr Speaker, I announce that this constituency fully supports the Supplementary Appropriation. God bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau.

I call on the honorable member for Alataua West.

**Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES** (Alataua West): I rise with all due respect to greet you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and all the members present here today as well as the Leader of the Opposition and that side of the House.

I also greet the country listening in and the Servants of our Lord. I thank our Heavenly Father for bringing us safely to this New Year.

Mr Speaker, I speak directly without the intention to entice because there is no need to do such a deed as the power to choose is the electorates.

We do not have much to comment on. I was under the impression not many members would comment on this because of the scarcity of funds but we only have one question to the Hon Prime Minister by way of the Chair. Thank you first of all for the water supply that we so desperately requested in the past but we are now experiencing issues with the pipes. I address the Hon Prime Minister because it is a waste of time addressing the Ministers because they pay no attention to.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. You have mentioned the Ministry and the Hon Minister and so I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala** (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker and everyone present here this morning. We have given our acknowledgment to our Lord and I now rise to clarify an issue.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

There is a water tank and the water supply flows from inland from the Falealupo school building down to the coast continuing to Papa Sataua and it has almost reached Neiafu. Only a few places have not yet received it but the intention is that it will reach the Neiafu school building and then it will continue from there to Falelima. I ask the members for their patience; before the half of this year the water supply will reach your respective areas with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clear explanation Hon Minister. I advise the honorable members to please be tolerant with your remarks. The Ministers are doing what they can. Member for Alataua, you have heard that by midyear your issue will be solved. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, I remind the House that the Cabinet has a collective responsibility meaning that if you address one Minister, the Cabinet as a whole cooperates with that Minister on that issue. A Minister becomes very offended when issues are directed to me because even if the matter is referred to me, it will not be implemented any faster. This needs to be made clear because my office is always crammed with issues that I will refer to the Ministers and the Minister decides whether to delay it or not. This indicates to the Minister that the member making a request is very proud and high minded and when this parliamentary term is over, nothing will be implemented regarding the requests directed to me. I reiterate again that our work is collaborative and if you address a Minister that is also me.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for that transparent clarification Hon Prime Minister.

I call on the honorable member to continue.

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALESA: The remarks by the Hon Minister and the Hon Prime Minister are understood. I respect these comments and I can clearly see which way this going. I address the Hon Prime Minister because if I had not mentioned the water supply during the Budget tabling and the Hon Prime Minister had not addressed this issue our water supply would not have been implemented. The honorable member for Falealupo, Vaisigano No. 2 and I, with the exception of the member for Vaisigano No. 1 as he is a new member; have been requesting this for our constituencies for years.

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

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I remind you that the work is not new. We were there during the opening ceremony and the only thing left to do is the connection.

The member commenting and the member for Falealupo are impatient. There are 49 members in the House so if assistance is given during this term just be thankful.

I can name many members who have had their requests granted by the government and they do not return after elections because this is not the only way to be elected. You have to interact with your constituency and not only greet them when the elections near. I am not referring to the member, but there are those that are outspoken in the House during our sittings so that their constituency can hear them but afterwards they become idle and do not go to see the Minister but little do they know that their electors are aware of the politics.

The CEO's of the Ministries and Corporations should also be visited. You have to start inquiring from the bottom before you reach the top.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: The investment in this program is more than \$10million and the Ministry of Finance needs to be cautious with the distribution of these funds especially as the borehole supplying water to these 3 constituencies is located in a mountainous area.

I ask the members of these constituencies to conserve the land where the borehole is located to preserve the aquifer and thus ensuring its longevity. This \$10million will be a waste if the aquifer dries up after 10 years with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Minister for that assistance.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Mr Speaker my constituency was mentioned. We are told not to grow plantations near this borehole but what is the meaning of this? Is he a scientist?

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for the interruption. The Hon Minister who was the former Minister of Natural Resource and Environment has just commented and he is also the reason the borehole is located at Falealupo and not the other neighboring constituencies.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

The recommendation is that the forest around these boreholes be conserved and I believe that he is a scientist of sorts in this area as he was also the responsible Minister for this sector.

I apologize honorable member for Alataua West, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: This issue mentioned by the Hon Minister of Finance is very important Mr Speaker. This is the reason why the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment restricted the sale of the land at Malololelei.

We do not know if the town area will grow in population to a million and where will they get their water supply from? It will be from this conserved area at Malololelei. Scientists have noted the need to preserve these areas because we might end up having to desalinate sea water for consumption. We are currently weighing out our options for the future.

I mention this because when the Hon Minister mentioned the conserving of the area some members snickered especially the member that just rose to speak. I recall him saying that his house and plantation was located near the borehole and I recommend that you remove them and grow the ifilele tree to sustain the water supply.

Our village is implementing a program to replant trees near the boreholes because the aquifer is also depleting and now they are thinking to dig up the fresh water springs near the coast because they were careless. As leaders we need to initiate these programs within our villages. If we joke about these issues then who can the country turn to? Mr Speaker I endorse and support the recommendation by the Hon Minister of Finance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I call on the honorable member to continue his speech.

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES: I do not wish to contradict the Hon Prime Minister Mr Speaker but as per his statement of members that are only heard when in this House, I assure you I am not that member because God has blessed me with hands to serve and I serve my village.

As I stated Mr Speaker, I do not make enticing comments to taint the reputation of the Hon Minister...

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

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, in case the member is mistaken, I was not referring to him, I was commenting generally. The issue of water involves the whole of Samoa and the Hon Minister of Finance is knowledgeable in this area because he was once responsible for this sector.

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

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES: I will not readdress the issue but our intention is to voice our views and opinions. The Hon Prime Minister is fond of my honesty and perhaps you are unaware that I have approached the Minister tirelessly. What else is there to do if our requests are not done? Despite that I will move onto other issues. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance. I know your work was not easy and it is a blessing from our Lord that you and the Ministry were chosen to allocate our insufficient funds. I am grateful for the water supply but the only problem left is the water pipes.

The member for Falealupo is constantly complaining but his village was the first to have the borehole and it is depressing to see the trucks pass by and unload all the pipes at Falealupo.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: There is no intention to be bias. We rely on the scientist and their water detection equipment to locate aquifers and that is where the boreholes are located.

In the past, the government wasted time digging 2,000metres for 3 months but there was no water. Other places where also dug on suspicion but there is no suspicion on the presence of water at Falealupo and we have visited the area 3-4 times and the borehole has been dug almost to the point of sea level. In case there may be a misunderstanding that the more you complain then you will get results; that is a mistake. *Equipment was used to detect the aquifers and that is the fact of the matter.*

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Please rise honorable member.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Point of order Mr Speaker. Our water was not implemented because of our constant complaining. I will tell the honorable member why his water supply has not been done and that is because your message is confused and unclear. Unless I agree and am satisfied then your water pipes will be connected

MR SPEAKER: Again I advise you member for Alataua West to be tolerant with your remarks. We are all aware of your constant requests but you have heard the response from the Hon Minister of Finance. Falealupo, Vaisigano No.1 and Vaisigano No. 2 are lucky to have this \$10million project and it is only a matter of time before you will feel the cool water. Support and encourage the work of the Hon Minister.

Please commence to complete your remarks.

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES: This is my personal view of politics Mr Speaker. The borehole should not have been dug for the member for Falealupo because all he does is oppose, oppose, oppose! I have no intention of contradicting the Hon Prime Minister or the Hon Minister.

I am related to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure through marriage but every time I go to see him, the member for Falealupo is there. He knows very well how to get what he wants fast. As I said before, I am only being honest.

Mr Speaker, I will now conclude. My constituency did not elect me on accidentally, I have the hands of a servant. For the information of my constituency and the country you have heard the responses. You asked me last week 'Lafaitale, ask the Prime Minister why there is water supply but the pipes are lying around unconnected' and I replied 'Tune your radios in to the sitting and I will deliver this request for the country to hear'.

Before I sit down, I apologize to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for any offence that I may have caused during my comments.

Hon Prime Minister, I am straight forward and honest. I hold much respect for you because I am married to a woman from Lepa.

Mr Speaker, I humbly apologize for any misplaced word or comment. If the east errs, may the west continue to be steadfast in truth.

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

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES: I beg tolerance of the honorable member for Gagaemauga, I am completing my speech.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Just a minor request for our records. I recommend that the honorable members words be recorded accurately and exactly as they were said.

MR SPEAKER: That is the discretion of the Chair. I beg tolerance, I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: The members words are not important to me, the important thing is that the constituency receives water. The Authority is progressing with the work but there is only one point of order; it is not a government policy to be prejudice or bias but the objective is that water supply is made available to everyone.

Also, if the constituencies being mentioned are listening in, the member of Falealupo and the other members never come to see me and the water supply is not implemented because of them. The government's sole objective is to provide water for the whole of Samoa.

Have a good day.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the lay preacher for your words and I believe it is your Godliness which has enabled this work in the Vaisigano vicinity.

Tofa Motuopuaa Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai (Vaisigano No.2): The Hon Minister stated that we do not visit him and because my constituency is listening in Mr Speaker I would like to comment. We visited countless times and the secretary asks us what we want with the Hon Minister. When the secretary responds in this way I reply in gratitude and tell her to forget about my appointment.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister has noted the issue and will instruct the secretary because appointments must be kept.

Please continue honorable member for Alataua West.

Afioga LAFATELE PATRICK LEIATAUALES: To the country listening in and the Leaders of the various denominations within my constituency that is our final word. For two terms I have served you and a third term is coming up. Despite all this commotion, come the 2016 Elections, I will again be elected.

God bless our journey Hon Prime Minister and this side and that side of the House. May the Lord steer away any natural disaster that might be coming our way. God bless you Mr Speaker and the country listening in as well as the CEO's of the government Ministries and Corporations. God bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for his remarks.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

We have now come to the time for our usual morning recess. Our proceedings will be set aside for its normal recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 10.45am for its morning recess.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 11.20am.*

MR SPEAKER: I believe we have rejuvenated from the meal provided. I thank our Lord for continuing to bless us with food which restores strength to our bodies that we may continue our work. I thank the members that commented in the first half of our session. The floor is open to any member wishing to make a comment and I humbly request that we all be mindful of our time.

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

Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI: I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation.

It is only appropriate that I follow the honorable member for Alataua West to add on to the needs of our part of the island.

The previous member has mentioned the issue of water and I apologize Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure if you have been offended by any of the member's comments.

There is an access road leading to the water source and the school building in our village that is located inland and I leave my request for the improvement of this road by your side.

Hon Minister of Health, during the first year of this Parliamentary Term, I raised the issue concerning the pharmacy. Mr Speaker, a pharmacy cannot be established if there is no pharmacist and the same goes for an accounting firm without an accountant or a hospital without a doctor. There are graduates with Bachelors in Pharmacy and some have graduated with first class honors. Others have worked at the pharmacy for seven years and yet this position still has not been filled. In the past, the chief pharmacists only had certificates and diplomas and I do not intend to undermine or belittle their contribution. I only ask for clarification as to why a pharmacist still has not been appointed and ask the Hon Minister to look into this.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give the opportunity to the member for an issue that needs clarification.



22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Point of order Mr Speaker. I note that the Hon Minister of Health is not present but I would like to shed light on the issue. First, I spoke to the Hon Minister last week and he explained that there was an interview but it is being set aside for now because the pharmacy graduates are young and there is none worthy to take this position.

Second, there is an expert employed under our partnership with Australia via APTC to train our pharmacists.

That is all I wished to clarify Mr Speaker with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable member for the assistance. The Hon Minister had an emergency to see to during the recess but I believe the issue will be noted by the Cabinet Ministers to relay to the Hon Minister.

I call on the honorable member to continue.

Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI: Thank you. I do not understand the explanation that was just made. What does it matter if they are young? How can this be when it has been 7 years since one of them has been there? Is there a regulation or law that provides for this selection criteria? This is...

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The position has been advertised Mr Speaker and a decision will be made. That is the response to the whole issue.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): I would like to assist Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. You were not mentioned honorable member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I am a member for the Finance and Expenditure Committee and I also asked this question to the Ministry during our meetings. The Hon Prime Minister has also stated that the post has been advertised.

MR SPEAKER: Granted as you are a member of the Committee.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: The CEO stated that it is true that the graduates have technical experience but they do not possess the management skills and that is why the expert from Australia has been employed for two years.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister is here to answer to the issue raised.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Health. Members of the committee are attempting to answer the issue mentioned...

Afioga Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health): I see Mr Speaker that the cats are fighting on my fence. The way I see it.....

Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI: Mr Speaker, we are not cats, we are elected members with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Do not be easily offended. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to continue.

Afioga Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: This is not a new issue Mr Speaker. It was raised during the Main Budget and I also explained it then. Four graduates are in management training and from them a chief pharmacist will be chosen. Knowledge on the pharmaceuticals is important but the ability to manage is also essential.

As I stated in my last response, at the moment, there are various heads for different sections of the pharmacy. There is one for the storage of pharmaceuticals and one for the mixing of the drugs and so forth.

There is now a Council of Pharmacists but there is no board yet to decide on a worthy candidate. When the appointment is made then there will be one Chief Pharmacist to oversee all the areas within the pharmacy.

A bill is being prepared to provide for the things I mentioned and there is a plan to have a representative of the pharmacy in the medical council or the board that oversees all medical aspects.

Those are just some areas that are being looked at. The Ministry is not being idle in this regard. The need for a pharmacist to fill this position is not being taken lightly by the Ministry and so all necessary steps are being taken to ensure a qualified candidate fills this post to deter any future mishaps.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister, I believe the explanation was satisfactory. In the interest of time, the Chair requests that the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet note all the issues being raised and respond at the end but the floor is still open for points of order or clarification and complex issues that must be explained.

I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: This is the second time this issue has been raised and our intention is to explain the issue before others raise the same issue. Now that the issue has been clarified, it will not be repeated and the proceedings can progress smoothly.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I will leave that discretion with the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Please continue honorable member for Vaisigano No. 2.

Tofa MOTUOPUAA UIFAGASA AISOLI VAAI: Thank you Hon Minister, Hon Prime Minister and the member of the Committee for trying to explain the issue but the words went through one ear and out the other. I worked at the pharmacy and there is one that has been there for 7 years so what other experience is needed. I remember the Hon Minister of Agriculture returned with his Bachelor of Pharmacy and he became the Chief Pharmacist. That being said, I will now move away from this issue.

A question Mr Speaker to the Hon Minister of Health as to what is being done about an X-ray doctor. Us doctors have been having problems reading scans and x-rays since the passing away of the long serving Afamasaga Venivenia Sila. I know for a fact there is a student that is pursuing this area and I suggest that until that student graduates that we have a temporary expert for two years to cater to this need.

To conclude my comments I would like to applaud the completion of our new hospital. There is a saying that it is not the physical appearance of the building but the infrastructure. I plead that consideration be taken in regards to the salaries of all the medical staff. A happy employee delivers quality service no matter what the circumstances.

That is all Mr Speaker. God bless the Hon Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Members of Parliament and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: The country and the Cabinet have heard the remarks made by the honorable member for Vaisigano No. 2.

The floor is open to the honorable member of Falealili; Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Falealili): I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity extended to me. I will not address the dignity of our country because it will remain unchanged forever. I would like to use this opportunity to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation before us.

I thank the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry for preparing this appropriation despite the difficulty faced in regards to Cyclone Evan.

Our constituency was one of the disastrously affected areas during the cyclone. Plantations and livestock farms were destroyed and it is not unknown that our constituency relies heavily on agriculture. On behalf of our constituency, I humbly request that the Ministry of Agriculture assist by clearing felled trees within cattle farms and other agricultural developments as the farmers are unable to access saws and the like to clear the debris. The removal of this debris will enable the farmers to again continue with their developments.

Also Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture should perhaps consider removing the old coconut trees that fall and destroy assets and begin replanting younger trees.

Finally for the agriculture sector, the Ministry should consider improvement to the sweet potato and cassava crops especially since they are appropriate for cyclone prone places. Mr Speaker, Falealili is considerate of the distribution of our funds during natural disasters and that the future economic stability of our country is being contemplated.

Now to the Electric Power Corporation; I thank the Hon Minister and applaud the efforts of the EPC staff working day and night to ensure the power supply was restored to Falealili, Safata, Lefaga and Aleipata which was devastated adversely in the cyclone. Our power supply has now been restored fully. I also praise the services of the Samoa Water Authority as Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko is aware; our water supply at Falealili was not interrupted. Well done for the exceptional service.

In regards to the roads I can only pray that the works and improvements will reach Falealili in the near future. I will not go further into the issue as I am one of the Associate Ministers for the Ministry but I am grateful for whatever assistance we may receive.

As for the Supplementary Appropriation in its entirety, I do not know why it is taking long to be passed. Mr Speaker and the dignity of this House, I move a motion giving my full support on behalf of Falealili to this appropriation.

May our good Lord continue to smile upon the work of the Disaster Management Committee. Well done for the work done and...

Afioga Lafaitale Partick Leiataualesa: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: What is the matter member for Alataua West?

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Afioga Lafaitale Partick Leiataualesa: It seems as if the honorable member was about to move a motion.

MR SPEAKER: The Chair has noted that the member fully supports the.....

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA: Falealili is moving a motion for itself and not for Alataua West.

I rise to offer my full support to the Supplementary Appropriation but it is not a motion. God bless us and help us through the proceedings for this New Year.

God bless this meeting thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done member for Falealili for your remarks. You are the first to support the Supplementary Appropriation before the Hon Minister moved the motion and your support is duly noted.

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

Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (Vaimauga West): I humbly greet the House Mr Speaker; Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and members of the Opposition and all the members of this House.

I acknowledge also the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, CEO's of the various Ministries and Corporations, the whole of Samoa tuning into our proceedings and my beloved constituency of Vaimauga West.

This is an important meeting because of the Supplementary Appropriation and the allocated funds of \$5.1million for the recovery from Cyclone Evan. I agree with the support by the honorable member for Falealili and I would also like to voice my support for the appropriation and the \$5.1million but I think this \$5.1million should be used for the recovery of the Vaimauga West area and another \$5.1million should allocated to the other constituencies.

I am not belittling the destruction in other constituencies nor am I making our devastation superior to the others nor am I laying blame of the devastation on a Ministry or anyone else. My only intention is to point out the severity of the devastation in the Vaimauga West area and our concern is to prevent such drastic effects from occurring again.

My own observations of the devastation in Vaimauga West which differs from other areas is that families homes were destroyed and many businesses such as the Aggie Greys and government assets were destroyed and affected beginning from the water reservoir in Samasoni, Alaoa and Magiagi. Thankfully the Alaoa dam was not completely destroyed as it stores water used by the SWA.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

The important observations however are those by the EPC and SWA specialists because they work in this area. They are of the opinion that these government assets are important for our constituency, the businesses and families in regards to their locations and decisions are made because of the availability. The only other option would be to relocate which is why we would greatly accept any assistance that can be made to the families and businesses.

The land around the river running from the Fale o le Fee to Vaisigano is a small but very important piece of land within Samoa. Electric power lines were installed 30 years ago by the Joseph Rebeil Company and this is Vaimauga West's contribution to the development of our country.

For more than 30 years we have reaped the benefits from this land with the electricity and the water supply. This land also has history with the Fale o le Fee and the origin of its name.

Mr Speaker, I walked along this area and I took photographs and the scenery was exquisite. I believe that the destruction should not hinder the continuous development of this area with relations to renewable energy, hydro power and the water treatment at Alaoa.

Whatever the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet has allocated for the restoration of this area is not an act of prejudice but rather an investment as the Fale o le Fee reservoir will generate income. The area around this head pond should also be conserved as it has also been cleared and that is what I observed but I am not an expert in these matters.

The tamarind tree has infested our forests and their roots are not far reaching into the soil. As a result they fall over easily and clog up the head ponds and water sources which I suppose is another factor that contributed to the destruction. Our native trees on the other hand have roots that dig deep into the soil and are more useful. I recommend that the Ministry consider ways to use and development this land around the Fale o le Fee. I believe the experts within the EPC and SWA can initiate the conservation of our resources within Vaimauga West to avoid a repetition of this destruction or decrease its effects.

There was flooding beginning in December 2008 which lasted for more than 3 months and it affected Matautu-Tai, Aai o Niue, Apia and Fugalei but this is the first time the flooding has reached Vini, Faatoia, Apia Park, Vaipuna, Matautu-Uta and Moataa. Reconstruction and repairs will be costly. This is not a boast but if Vaimauga West prospers, so will Samoa.

Mr Speaker, that is all. Thank you for the opportunity; God bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for your remarks. The country is aware of the effects to the environment in the natural disaster.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

I will give this opportunity to the honorable member for Faleata East; this is your opportunity.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you Mr Speaker. We have arrived this morning because of the love of our Lord despite the season of floods and cyclones we have just endured.

I first offer my gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, especially the CEO's for the work implemented and we again begin a new year. The concern is still the limited funds and I will comment on the Supplementary Appropriation before us and make a few comments for the Ministry's and their Ministers to consider.

I thank the Ministry responsible for the rescue efforts; the Ministry of Police and Prisons and Emergency and Fire Services, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Disaster Management Organization as well as everyone that lent their assistance in the rescue efforts.

First of all, I comment on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Agriculture Store. The report mentions the export of taro and I am troubled by the statement that there are not enough markets. I was under the impression that this would be the Ministry's responsibility because it currently seems to be the businesses responsibility. The Ministry collects the taro, quarantines it, cleans it even to the point of packing it in the containers for shipment and yet the price of the taro has not increased. The Ministry should also find the markets for the businesses so that defective taro is not being exported because it is a continuing problem.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member speaking as this is the second or third time this issue has been raised therefore it must be clarified.

I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and the Agriculture Store.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Thank you Mr Speaker. Perhaps the honorable member recalled my explanation during a previous sitting in which I commented on the state of the Ministry's future plans which touches on this issue.

The Ministry plans to have a packing store house at the wharf and land will also be allocated for this purpose. At the moment, the opportunity is open to whoever wishes to ship a container of taro or assist with the cleaning and quarantining of taro; even the private sector is welcome. The pack house in Savaii is complete therefore a pack house for Upolu is yet to be established.

The Ministry is still providing assistance but there are many that do not understand the concept of bio-security.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

The two countries that we export to; New Zealand and America; have bio-security laws and every importer must adhere to these laws in regards to agricultural produce. The Ministry is always willing to assist the farmers in any way possible and that is my brief explanation with all due respect.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, it is not only the Ministry's duty. Some taro planters suggested to me that we can cooperate with the reverends and leaders of the various denominations to sell the taro to the congregations. I was invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EFKS in Auckland New Zealand and during my speech I told them that our taro is better than the Fijian variety. The reality is that we are competing with the Fijian taro and their variety is high in demand. We all have a relation with a reverend so please promote our local taro overseas.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the honorable member to continue with your speech.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you for the assistance. The Hon Prime Minister is right because the only people that eat taro overseas are Samoans and they are our biggest market. They will not have to send money over to Samoa anymore but you can buy the taro instead and that is why I asked about this.

Secondly, I would like to comment on the stimulus package with the appropriated amount of \$100,000. I personally think that this program has failed as the Ministry cannot implement this and it is not the farmers fault.

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

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: I do not understand what the member means by failed because you should remember that this program begins with the Ministry giving the tools to the farmers and then the funds are dispatched to them after two years when they are again visited by the Ministry and there is evidence of crops growing well. We cannot give them funds if the plantation is overgrown with weeds and not being tended to.

The Ministry does not grow that plantation for the farmer and the Ministry has not failed in this regard. That is my response with all due respect.



22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the explanation Hon Minister. Please continue honorable member.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I apologize to the Hon Minister if I have caused any offense. The Ministry requested funds for the stimulus package and \$100,000 was approved but I see from the appropriation that the funds have been returned and that is why I queried this issue. The Ministry has failed to visit and keep up with the developments but if the request is again made in the future, what will be the government's response?

Third, the \$16million that I questioned before.....

MR SPEAKER: I give the floor again to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Mr Speaker, the honorable member does not understand what I am saying. The funds will only be paid out to the farmer that deserves it after the Ministry's visits and if no one deserves it then the money is returned. The money is not randomly distributed. There has to be visits to check the farmer's developments and if they have worked according to the terms and conditions when they registered under this program. If in the future funds are again needed, then another request is made to the Ministry of Finance which will then be approved by the House with all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe that this issue is clear we will move on to the \$16million that you mentioned.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you. I raise this issue because in the newspaper two or three weeks ago, there was an advertisement for people to work under this enhancement competitiveness program. This year has now progressed and I wonder when this program will be implemented.

Now to the 2AP Radio Station which I thought would be privatized. The reconstruction is underway and perhaps it is about time it be privatized and the employees should not be worried because they can still work there.

In regards to the Ministry of Finance I would like to raise the issue of the purchase of PFL.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the honorable member; I give the floor to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Minister of Communication and Information Technology): There are no plans at this moment to privatize 2AP. The importance of this venture was witnessed during the cyclone. Other radio stations covered only 5% of the country but 100% coverage was covered by 2AP.

MR SPEAKER: The honorable member may continue on the Ministry of Finance.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Mr Speaker, these are weak reasons to not privatize 2AP. Even if it privatized, the same service will be provided. However I am now on the...

MR SPEAKER: I beg leniency of the Hon Minister of Finance, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaai: There were proposals to privatize 2AP but the government decided to keep the enterprise for government notices to be broadcast. Since the television station has been privatized there are some government programs that are not being broadcast. Government entities are different from the private entities.

As for the radio station, the decision has been made that it will not be privatized for as long as we are in government.

MR SPEAKER: Is there anything you wish to add Hon Minister of Finance before the opportunity is returned to the honorable member?

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: I will respond to the query.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: I recall the member saying that the reason was weak but you compare 5% to 100% then you would see the weakness of your remarks. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: The issue is clarified.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Perhaps the Hon Minister did not grasp the entirety of my remarks but I will leave this issue.

MR SPEAKER: Comment on the Ministry of Finance.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I will respect the Chairs wishes although I wanted to comment on the Hon Prime Minister's remarks.

I would like to query the Ministry of Finance on the purchase of the PFL. Only Samoa and a business man wanted to purchase PFL and I asked myself why New Zealand, Australia or Fiji were not interested?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I must correct this statement before we continue.

It was not a business man it was a shipping company and they did make an offer. Before that there was another shipping company followed by our offer. There was no business man that offered to purchase the company.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Prime Minister for that clear explanation. I call on the honorable member to continue.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am referring to what is in the report and if what the Deputy Prime Minister is saying is a fact then it should be included within the report and there will be no confusion. The reason why not many are willing to purchase any enterprise is because it is bankrupt. This is why I ask myself why Australia, New Zealand, Fiji or other developed countries were not willing to make an offer.

Secondly, I thought the funds would be used for dividends so do these finances include the purchase of the company or is there a separate allocation?

Thirdly, does PFL have a ship?

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the honorable member. I give this opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo: The answers to these Mr Speaker are simple and I am able to answer them.

Last year, the Opposition complained about the shipping service only operating once a month and so the government sought resolutions to this and other issues that arose. It was then resolved that we should purchase the company as it was at a reasonable cost and it was in debt as is the norm with any company. This is when we sent in our offer. Fiji did not make an offer on the company as they have their own shipping service. Other Pacific islands do not have to worry about this issue as we have sought out a solution. We are aware that we rely on this service with our exports and imports so this was also a solution to securing our trade ties.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

We also export Yazaki products and the importance of this company need not be explained.

As for our ship, it is operating under contract overseas and the term is almost complete and then it will be returned to operate within the Pacific region and that was the initial intention with the purchase.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Prime Minister for the clarification. I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Agriculture Store.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: I wish to add onto the Deputy Prime Minister's comments.

Our Ministry relies also on the shipping services in relation to exporting crops. There were two ships so that there was always a ship docked when the other was out. Now with one ship there are problems with the exportation of taro. The route must be direct and not stop off in Fiji or Tonga because then the taro will deteriorate. Therefore our Ministry also supported the purchase for the direct delivery of our crops.

That is my assistance with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister.

Is there something you wish to comment on member for Aana Alofi No.3?

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi No.3): A point that needs clarification Mr Speaker in regards to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Hon Minister's remarks on the reason of the purchase which is for the direct route of the ship.

First, does this mean that the company can ship our crops direct to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji as was planned?

Second, the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that one reason for the purchase was because there were not enough freight ships coming into Samoa but I notice that after the purchase of PFL, other shipping companies will have improved their operations as per our concerns.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker, these are all areas that we will look into when the ship is returned and routes will be planned in accordance with other shipping companies because we cannot stop them from operating. Plans are being made as per our countries needs.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The Chair again reiterates on the allowance of interjections. You are not permitted to interrupt while another interjection is being responded to. This is the announcement of the Chair to progress our proceedings.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Lending a hand on your concern Mr Speaker on the time of our proceedings. The Minister's are always interrupting but their response time is provided for in our Standing Orders.

That is my assistance Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Your point is noted. The Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet have heard the announcement of the Chair.

I call on the honorable member for Faleata East to continue; you have five more minutes.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I will adhere to the time limit Mr Speaker.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture spoke on the plan of the purchase and the relation to the exportation of taro but only 2 containers are exported monthly. This is why the ship has to travel to Fiji and Tonga and if the route is a direct route then it is not worth it just for this shipment.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: There is a saying Mr Speaker that 'history repeats itself'. I was present during the initial negotiations of PFL perhaps when the member was still in school.

Samoa's concern at that time was that every week the Union Steamship would raise its freight costs. The government of the day was deeply disappointed with this and it resolved that there should be a shipping service for Samoa beginning with the Tongan steamships which is the reason why the first meeting was in Tonga.

At the time only Samoa and Tonga were the only islands that needed this service. Fiji did not because they were the main port which means that they were the port which all the routes from Europe went through to Asia so they did not need a shipping service. The Pacific Island Forum then sought after a solution. For 5 years, negotiations were made with the communist operated Waterside Union in New Zealand. As a result the Prime Minister at the time, Kirk, allowed the Pacific region to have a shipping company. The shipping service began with only two member countries in 1976 as decided upon by the Forum.

The problems however did not arise out of the ships being faulty but rather because of the Management.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

We then decided that we had the means and knowledge to operate a shipping service within the island and remove the management which could not be done by Tonga because of economical restraints.

This decision came about after a repeat of what happened in 1971 with shortage of imported food and building materials. Not only was there a shortage in these items but the duty fees began to increase because it was run by overseas company. However, if the company was owned by Samoa we could control our own costs. We should also consider the Yazaki Company which employees many of our people and they rely on this shipping service and if they cannot ship their goods then they would have to relocate and we would have many unemployed citizens.

Mr Speaker, there are many reasons why we should hold onto this shipping service especially now that we have no opposition in its operation. We should be proud that we are to take over the company to assist with the development of businesses and farmers.

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

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: It seems Mr Speaker that the mentioning of the 2 containers seemed to be hilarious.

I assume that we all recall that there was a time when we were affected by the taro leaf blight and we are fortunate to export a container now unlike then when we could not even ship one container. You should make statements that motivate the farmers not discourage them. It may seem comical that there are only 2 containers being shipped to New Zealand. We now have markets in America and you should be glad. You should grow your own taro patch and not criticize the Ministry's efforts.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of time, I give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker, the interjection was directed to the route of the ship but the Hon Prime Minister has also stated the reasons for the purchase. Future programs include the training of our sailors from the Ocean View Campus at NUS perhaps to be carried out in the shores near here. For your information, there are currently 250 sailors working overseas and their collective salaries amount to \$10million which is assisting our economy. Future plans are taking into consideration employment opportunities for our youth. We can also compete with other companies in freight costs as per our government policies to push for competitive businesses as was done with SamoaTel and BluSky and others.

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

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

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

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I will respect the Chair but these reasons are weak.

MR SPEAKER: Honorable member for Faleata East. You have heard the clarification from the Hon Prime Minister, Hon Minister of Finance and the other Ministers and the PFL issue is clear. Conclude your speech your time is finished.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I guess we will have to remain confused. I would support this initiative if we were to purchase a new ship and not a bankrupt company.

Finally, I will comment on the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment. During the Tsunami, there was only one force of nature which was the wave. During the cyclone, there were two forces; the first which is the wind which we have no control over and so I will not comment on it. The second is the water which caused flooding and it also affected our constituency.

We can protect ourselves from flooding and I am referring to the Vaimoso bridge in this situation. I will not request a new bridge but only that you evaluate this infrastructure as it is the cause of the flooding to the Vaimoso, Fugalei and Apia area. Logs and debris block the water flow under the bridge and the water will overflow onto the bridge. I tried to call the Hon Minister last week when the rain fell however to no avail. The water level was rising and we needed assistance.....

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

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: Just to clear the issue of the bridge. The Vaimoso bridge will be reconstructed and as per the members recommendations on the flooding the government is pursuing to improve this.

MR SPEAKER: Your time is finished honorable member for Faleata East. The Hon Minister has stated that your bridge will be reconstructed. Please conclude your remarks.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Hon Minister. That is all on that issue and I hope that it is done before the end of this year.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

I again query the issue of the mentally disabled. I remember there was a ward that looked after these patients. Hon Minister of Health, to avoid a repetition of the issues that have occurred this again needs to be considered because this is not an issue for the police.

Second, the report states that.....

MR SPEAKER: I again request honorable member for Faleata East.....

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I will conclude with the Hon Minister of Health.

I notice that the numbers of these patients are increasing as well as the expenses. The speech by the Hon Minister in the last sitting was pleasing.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Mr Speaker, although there were many interruptions which took up most of my time and I had other issues to query but I will end by lending my support for the appropriation.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Your comments are important and this is why the government must explain and clarify the issues raised. I believe that it is clear.

There is 20 minutes left for any other member wishing to speak. We also have tomorrow to continue.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: While we are awaiting another member Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: We are noticing that our side has less time to comment because of the interjections. The members of our side prepare beforehand to contribute but there time is being taken up by the interruptions. This is the only opportunity we have and I do not intend to instruct your work but I only ask with all due respect to please consider this.

MR SPEAKER: This is the first day of our proceedings for this year and the Hon Prime Minister and his Cabinet are eager to go to work and that is why the floor is open for interjections. Leave this with the Chair.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.



22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, whenever we hear that the remarks are becoming devious then we must interject. The speech from Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster was 500% valuable as there was only support but when you throw stones, we will throw them back.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3. The floor is yours.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESIA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I will attempt to comment on the appropriation before us today.

First of all I express my gratitude to the Hon Minister for this appropriation. I notice that there is no addition to the budget deficit nor is there any addition to the loan payments as our revenue can cover the developments for this financial year.

Second I would like to raise some concerns on some Ministry's and their needs appropriated for in the Main Budget. I am of the opinion that the Supplementary Appropriation is for the Ministry's and Corporations that were not prepared in their financial needs within the Main Budget and the question is why that is. Why are not all the financial needs presented in the Main Budget? I notice that there is quite a few Ministries that have been allocated finances especially for the recovery of the effects of the Cyclone.

This is why I request Mr Speaker that the Ministry's and the responsible Ministers prepare their Budget thoroughly for the beginning of the Financial Year to regulate the programs and the.....

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

Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko (Minister of Revenue): Perhaps Mr Speaker, the member is new to the concept of the Supplementary Appropriation. The Main Budget is different and the supplementary is also provided for under the law. It seems that the member is trying to say that the Budget is inaccurate but that is not the case with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the explanation. I call on the member to continue.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESIA SCHUSTER: I thank the Hon Minister who is also a veteran member, for the clarification.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

The gist of my comments are that the some funds within this supplementary should have been provided for in the Main Budget. It is a mere recommendation but I will leave that at your discretion.

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

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, the financial report outlines the funds that have been approved for the implementation of programs. When the Government perceives that priority should be given to a certain sector it should be done and so the funds are modified accordingly. The \$14million appropriated has been allocated to the prioritized sectors. More than a half of the first supplementary appropriation was used for compensation of the conservation reserves and \$5million has been appropriated for the recovery of the cyclone devastation. Funds can be reallocated depending on the needs but it is not because of the unpreparedness. Programs are set and funded in the Main Budget but as the needs change then funds can be reallocated and provided for in the Supplementary Appropriations as was mentioned by the Hon Minister of Revenue with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. In the best interest of your time I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, to further clarify the issue. Since I came into Parliament, this has been a perpetual issue. The Main Budget is an estimation of the funds needed for the financial year beginning July to June of the next year. We are attempting to assume the future needs but only God knows what will happen in the future. President Obama requested that the US Legislative Assembly; the Senate and the House of Representatives to approve \$700trillion for the government of the United States of America. No matter how many professors there are, no one can predict the future and this is the reason why we have Supplementary Appropriations. It seems the honorable member wants us to be prophets and foresee the future but we cannot do that.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Please continue honorable member.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will move on to other matters as well as some of the needs of my constituency.

First Mr Speaker, I thank the Ministry and the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for the construction and completion of the school building to service the Aana electorates.

22 JANUARY 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate

The only concern is that the water pressure is not strong enough to reach the school building and I recommend that there be a water pump as the lack of water may affect the operation of the school.

Second, I thank the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the road works carried out. After the devastation of Cyclone Evan, many roads were eroded because of the overflowing sewage drains. I therefore recommend that during the road works, the planning of the drains should be looked into and improved.

Mr Speaker, as for the cyclone.....

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3 as I believe that we have come to the time of adjournment and you will be the first to begin our speeches tomorrow.

I thank you all for your participation and support by attending this, our first sitting for this year. Thank you for your patience as the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet attempted to respond to the issues that were raised on the Supplementary Appropriation. The Chair is of the opinion that if the issues are clearly explained, there will be no confusion. I congratulate also the members of the Opposition for commenting and I also acknowledge the support of our country.

Praise God for we have come to the end of our proceedings for today.

Before we adjourn, I humbly request of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure that the lighting of the Parliamentary grounds be repaired and looked into as there is an intention to continue our proceedings through to the evening tomorrow. Some of the electric poles toppled over in the cyclone and I ask that this be fixed before we reconvene tomorrow. That is my humble request Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister to ensure the smooth progress of our work tomorrow.

Before we adjourn, I call upon one of the honorable members for Faasaleleaga No. 1; Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow to end our meeting with a word of prayer.

Prayers.

*The proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1.00pm until 9.00am Wednesday, 23 January, 2013.*

WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2013

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.*

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: Foremost, I greet the dignity assembled this beautiful morning. I convey my gratitude for your dedication and participation at the beginning of our proceedings on this new day. We have returned thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for without his Love members and the Country respectively would not have gathered here on this beautiful morning.

I also acknowledge the presence of CEOs and Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations in attendance. Without further ado, we will now consider our orders for the day.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL (NO.1) 2012/2013  
– second reading debate – Day 2.

MR SPEAKER: We took the adjournment yesterday while the member for Aana Alofi No.3 was delivering his speech. It is only fitting for the member to commence our debate and continue where he left off.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No.3): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also support the prayer you delivered on our behalf this morning.

Mr Speaker, my views will focus on the needs of my constituency in relation to the Supplementary Appropriations before the House.

Mr Speaker, there is a need for a water pump to distribute water to our secondary school as this has been an ongoing problem from the past as the water pressure from Government main pipelines does not reach our secondary school.

Mr Speaker, I also point out for the consideration of the Hon Minister of Works the need to repair the road between Satuimalufilufi and Apolima since it was damaged by the recent cyclone. The importance of this road is that it leads to developments and homes.

I now direct your attention to the damage caused by the recent cyclone. I will not comment on the extensive damage rather my recommendations are directed towards improvements to our infrastructure. During the aftermath, our poor drainage systems were badly exposed. Bridges were not able to withstand the rapid floods therefore calling a need for better designs that can repel even the most devastating floods.