

22 SEPTEMBER 2020

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:15am pursuant to Parliamentary Sitting Programme 2020/2021.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Parliamentary Proceedings.

The honorifics of Samoa will be laid aside as it is a country of divisional status and that Samoans are all related. In thought this is the chance to formally acknowledge the dignity of this Parliament, the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers. To this side of the Chambers, I acknowledge the presence of the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, as well as the respectable members who have been elected to unitedly find blessings for the sake of the country through this Parliamentary Sitting.

I further greet the dignity of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises. Additionally, I wish to greet the respects of Samoa gathered here today, especially the constituency of Gagaifomauga No.3, who are here to witness the swearing of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3. Commendations. All exaltations be unto the Almighty Father for his Goodness and Peacefulness and His Beauty.

WARRANT OF APPOINTMENT

PURSUANT TO provision of Section 84(2) of the Electoral Act 2019, **I, TUIMALEALI'IFANO VA'ALETOA SUALAUVI II,** Ao o le Malo, hereby issue the Warrant of Appointment to elect the given Name as a Member of Parliament of the Independent State of Samoa:

LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea

GIVEN under my hand at Vailele on this day, 31st August 2020.

Signed: Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aletoa Sualauvi II
AO O LE MALO.

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SWEARING IN OF THE MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA NO.3

MR SPEAKER: Before the Parliamentary member makes his way before the table for swearing in, I ask that you upstand whilst I read out the Code of Parliamentary Ethics.

CODE OF PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

It is the personal responsibility of every Member of Parliament to maintain the highest standards of ethical behavior to protect and maintain integrity of Parliament and to make every endeavor to uphold the principles of the Constitution.

The following principles are intended to provide guidance to, and standards against which each Member of Parliament, individually and collectively should discharge their duties and responsibilities.

THE PRINCIPLES:

- (1) Loyalty to the nation and its people:
Every member shall uphold the contents of the Oath of Allegiance at all times and maintain the dignity and integrity of the Independent State of Samoa; its institutions and its people.
- (2) Respect for the Law:
Every member shall uphold the laws of Samoa and safeguard the principles contained in the Constitution.
- (3) Respect for all Persons:
Every member shall treat other members, the public and officials with respect and dignity, honestly, fairly; and acting with integrity at all times.
- (4) Proper Exercise of Power
Every member shall:
 - (a) Arrange their private affairs.
 - (b) Use any and all information obtained from their public office; and
 - (c) Exercise any influence or authority obtained from Public Office, only to advance the public interest and where any potential and actual conflict of interest arises whether in the member's private, financial, pecuniary or any interest the member shall be required to declare that interest and take any steps to remove the conflict or withdraw from the particular process of transaction.

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Oath of AllegianceSpecial Requirements for Ministers and Other Officeholders

Every member who holds parliamentary office of any kind is required to adhere strictly to the principles outlined above and shall not under any circumstances undertake any decision or exert influence in any form whatsoever in respect of a matter in which the member will derive personal gain or benefit.

SANCTIONS:

Breaches of this Code maybe dealt with by the Privileges and Ethics Committee or as determined by Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: In carrying out of the Oath of Allegiance, I call upon the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 to come before the Table to undertake your Oath. I ask the respectable member to read out Oath of Allegiance and state your name.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

“I, SWEAR BY ALIMIGHTY GOD THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA, AND THAT I JUSTLY AND FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT MY DUTIES AS A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SAMOA. SO HELP ME GOD.”

MR SPEAKER: Before the signing of the Oath of Allegiance, I ask that since you have stated your name as Laaulialemalietoa, when Laauli Polataivao Leuatea is the name, you submitted according to the Writ by the O Le Ao o le Malo. In addition these were the differences in former views bearing integrity, that your Oath cannot be continued, and that I cannot approve you as a Member of Parliament, if you do not state your correct name. Furthermore, you could be prosecuted for breaching your Oath of allegiance.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

“I....., SWEAR BY ALIMIGHTY GOD THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA, AND THAT I JUSTLY AND FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT MY DUTIES AS A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SAMOA. SO HELP ME GOD.”

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**Ministerial Statement by Hon Prime Minister - Susuga Hon Tuilaepa
Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono
Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi**

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. To be in line with the Standing Order, well this is the Code of Parliamentary Privileges and Ethics and therefore integrity must be maintained. It is finished and as such you must bear this in mind.

With respect, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister for your Ministerial Statement to commence our Work this morning.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER
Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti
Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi**

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I rise with delightfulness to commend you for managing our Sitting, and the prayers in particular to the Divine Father for blessings upon this House.

I greet the highest respects of this House to all the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Independent State of Samoa. I further offer commendations to the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Susuga Laauli Polataivao Leuatea, and your identity will be heard this morning within this House.

I further wish to greet Samoa in all your honorific salutations and his Highness O le Ao Mamalu o le tatou Malo, the member of the Council of Deputies and the Chief Justice, *i le paia o Aiga ma latou Tama faapea foi le Usoga a Tumua ma Puleono i Salafai.*

The end of all things is full thankfulness to the support of the high priests or the prayerful warriors who are praying for blessings and wellbeing upon this Parliament and Samoa.

I further wish to acknowledge our neighboring islands in the east, the Governor of American Samoa and the Government, Chief Justice and the two Houses of Common, the Upper House of the Senate and Representatives, the Speaker and the President. *O paia faalupe lava ia aua le Faleagafulu ma le nofo a Maopu, le tapuaiga i Faatuiolemotu, Tootoo o le Faleula ma upu i le Manuatele.* These are entire honorific salutations of the Samoan islands for the sake of Samoan listeners in the lands of Tiafau in Samoa. This is a beautiful morning, it is a normal Sitting day, as the matters beforehand are vital for the engagement of Parliament discussions for the upcoming Elections.

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**Ministerial Statement by Hon Prime Minister - Susuga Hon Tuilaepa
Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono
Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi**

I specially wish to commend the honorable Speaker in reminding this House the Acts that guides all members, who are the paramount chiefs of the constituencies of Samoa who are undertaking the respects of village councils, which we have heard the reading out of these Acts which we must live by within and outside of this House.

It is not the end here inside this Parliament, but we carried out our honors, as elected leaders by our constituencies based upon the secret whisper of the Hold Spirit, and reason why we are sitting on these seats, to contribute to the decision-making process. That is what marks today as an important day.

I convey gratitude to Hon Laauli for your reappointment, you have been selected by your constituency through the by-election in pursuant to the Act passed within this House to officiate the views of our constituencies that leads to the electing of us here to discuss important matters for the sustainable development of Samoa based upon our promises, that we will join this Political Party. And so the time you leave the Party, it is a must that you go back to your constituency to ask in order to give their blessings, as you have changed your path of representation. It is simple to understand. That is called integrity, which was spoken by the Speaker. That is the Law, which is behind the rationale, for what? For the purpose of gaining a peaceful nation, to abide unity and harmony based on the law. Because if 30 members leave a Political Party which they promised to their constituencies to join and provide loyalty to within this House, it may lead this country to new government administrations 30 times within 5-year Term. This is not good in the eyes of foreign countries, because from their perspective they can only see conflict and quarrel. But the words of our Lord are apparent, "No nation lasts unity when divided."

Mr Speaker that is the importance of your reflection and so as Sittings like this which allows the swearing in of a Member within this House to remind us again the purpose of the laws passed in this House. Laws passed is not for a Political Party to make movies and strive to keep on bearing success. Why? Because no Political Party lasts forever, as God rules the Government, he chooses and whispers to us the Party that wins and departs whilst Government remains. Such is the reason why a Political Party can never create laws for their own benefit except those that benefits the country. Such is the commendation to you for making it back again for the few remaining months of this Parliamentary Term, exercise your integrity. There was view that you would never run again as you have turned your back on your fellow Parliamentary Members, given their compassionate reprimand and advice which resulted in your departure.

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**Ministerial Statement by Hon Prime Minister - Susuga Hon Tuilaepa
Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono
Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi**

My appeal towards your reappointment, that you do bear forgiveness, upon your brothers and sisters and fellow Parliamentary colleagues who have stated advice upon you this morning.

I cannot go on without acknowledging the Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa for your service, we have worked together for several years. Such is your service upon the country, and your huge contribution to our Government. It is why I must commend you, as I cannot be silent, it is necessary that I officially declare it in the House where we all said our oaths, that we will serve our country. May blessings be upon you, and may you find prudence in consulting together the decisions for the benefit development of Samoa. These are the nature of positions like this, sometimes we stand together and sometimes we contradict each other.

Now on to the Committee, I would like to congratulate the Committee that had reviewed these 3 Bills, so as to amend the Constitution. I further trust that you have been restless. There were 2 consultations that were conducted for this Bill, in order to gather the views of our people commencing from March 2016, when a motion was passed in Parliament to establish an Inquiry Committee of Parliament to discuss with the entire country on their recommendations to further improve the Land and Titles Court. Why? It is due to the influx of our people submitting their applications with overdue and lengthy delays resulting in them seeking help from the Government. What can I and the Cabinet if help is sought from this Political Party? We can never tell them to go to the Court. It will reflect that there is no generosity from us to assist our people regarding their grievances. That is the reason and objects of this Bill which stemmed from the motion that was moved in this Parliament which had no one's rejection. Which involved the entire country. Where all recommendations were brought in from the people of the country which resulted in the report that is again tabled before Parliament for our deliberations and support, no one objected it. Therefore the Bill should be drafted covering all views of our people who have expressed their concerns during consultations. What is happening now? The view of our people has been put in to the Bill as they came forward and conveyed their sufferings. Who else to turn to? There is no solution from Justice. Then they sought help from us, as elected members of our constituencies. Is this really our responsibility? Of not having any response or solution for our people who are seeking help from us.

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**Ministerial Statement by Hon Prime Minister - Susuga Hon Tuilaepa
Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono
Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi**

This is why I acknowledge the decision made within this House that we will turn to offer help. Hence is the existence of this Bill. This Bill will enforce the independence of the Land and Titles Court that was there, as prescribed within the Bill under discussion. There is a view that there are people opposing this Bill, due to its influence upon our customary lands. My challenge is, anyone, a lawyer who knows that there is a phrase within this Bill that affects the customary lands, bring it to the Committee to repeal and omit as that is also the instruction, I have given to the Attorney General. Remove, grind and omit. Why? There is no such stipulation in the Bill. The issue here is, there is greater interest for the hypocrite. Such is the importance of my upstanding this morning.

That is my challenge to any lawyer, if they see any impact on customary land, inform the Committee to repeal, erase, eliminate and grind it to fulfil the words stated by our Government. The belief that said there is an addition of what has been given in the recommendation by the Committee. That is wisdom and common sense which suggested good things. Take action if it is for the improvement of the Law for the protection of our customs and traditions. There are no boundaries, no limits to stop intellect and prudence, to improve the Laws in this Parliament. We await the final sitting for the view of this Parliament. In view, the Laws laid accumulates our custom and traditions. Why? Because it is not stipulated in the Constitution, communal rights, the rights of village councils.

As such, any case that concerns the village against a chief or any individual opposing the authority of the village council. The words of the former Chief Justice, which officiate and was heard by all the judges and the lawyers. He said "Any case like this, it is always the individual right versus the communal rights, and it will technically Knock Out the village council. That is the common language for us who are involved in boxing. When TKO the fight will stop because you are dead. That is why the Government is trying to catch and recognise village council. Whoever is opposing this Bill is not a Samoan and he/she does not understand the customs and traditions of Samoa, and do not want to be a Samoan. What is happening to our country, there are villages that have weak village council systems of authority. Why? Because they have grown tired of going to the court and have been shamed in court. Why? Because this is the individual right. As there is no communal right such as the village council.

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As for the authority of the village councils where the Government rely on for her developments for the village and district. The church also relies on it for the safety of religious leaders that are residing within the villages. They are the sacrificial covenant of the village council. Which relies on the power of the village council authority. Anyone opposing this, whether it be a chief, but that chief did not live in the village. Even if he is now a chief but does not sit inside the village meeting. Even if a monotaga is rendered, then this means that his/her family is doing it too or whether there is still monotaga given but still does not sit in village meetings. He/she does not understand how the village meetings are conducted. Furthermore, he/she does not understand the procedures and how the speeches are done within the village meetings. The decisions from village meetings are normally higher and is now lessened. That is how farsightedness is reviewed, the authority of the village council. Mr Speaker, that case makes this morning important. The advice for the committee, it has been noticed that the work is about to complete. And it will be tabled within this House, for more clarifications and for the members to speak upon it. That is the main intention of the Government, for us and do our job. Consequently, anyone opposing this, that member refuses to make changes, and to earn solutions. How often have vulgar words been thrown at me and the Cabinet and also to this Political Party because we have touched upon these hard-core subjects. Who is going to do it? We have to do it. Because if we will not fix it now, who is going to do it? The Lord has given us the time, and he also had given us the brains and courage to make these amendments. This could not be implemented in the last parliamentary term. Why? Because there were no policies to enable support to achieve for something good.

Mr Speaker, that is the vitality of this morning, not only does it bring commendations to your honour. In reading the Act to guide this House, the behaviour and what we do should reflect the dignity of this House. We must also allow blessings upon the works of the Committee that is coming to an end.

I bless the Hon Fiame, and Hon Laauli. If I was invited, I would have brought a monetary gift to your Party. I will await the selection of your true leaders, then I will give my blessings. As for now, let us embark upon the purpose of our Sitting today.

Soifua and blessings from God be upon our Sitting.

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

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Notice from the Leader of the House

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minster of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker, and the dignity of the House, I rise to move, *That the Ministerial Statement of the Hon Prime Minister be laid on the table for the records of the House.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Tourism.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks for the statement. Do not be anguished by the Hon Prime Minister's statement. The words of one Elder, a person will select another person for a limited time only, but if God selects a person and should he decide to re-elect that person for an extended time then so be it.

NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament Notice is now before the Legislative Assembly to review the following Bill hereunder:

1. Electoral Amendment Bill (No 2) 2020.

GIVEN UNDER this day 21 of September 2020.

Signed: Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE.

CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Pursuant to Standing Order 100(2) notice is hereby before the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the Bill given below under a Certificate of Urgency.

1. Electoral Amendment Bill (No 2) 2020.

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Other Announcements by the Speaker

GIVEN UNDER this day 21 of September on the year 2020.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: For the information of Parliament, I have the State of Emergency Order signed by the O Le Ao o Le Malo.

That said I call the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to read out these Amended Orders and lay it on the Table.

The Clerk read out the Amended State of Emergency Orders.

**AMENDED STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS FOR
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

1. Repatriation Chartered Flights.
In review of this matter on the 4th of September 2020, it confirmed the amended flight schedule which were set to arrive on Friday, 11th of September 2020 to the 18th September 2020 due to flight conditions. However, there is no change for chartered flight for returning scholarships students who have completed studies including permanent Samoan residents in Australia as legalized, which will press through on the last week of September.
2. Domestic flight services between Upolu and Savaii may operate on Sundays for emergency medical services only.
3. Private Pharmacies. Pharmacies may operate from 3:00pm to 7:00m on Sundays.

This order commences on the 20th September 2020. The rest of State of Emergency Orders remain in force.

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Presentation of Papers

This decision was based on a matter of Urgency pursuant to Section 38(1)(c) of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa.

Afioga TUIMALEALIFANO VAALETOA SUALAUVI II
O LE AO O LE MALO.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read out the Papers pursuant to S.O. 49(2).

1. SR.2020/3, Teachers Amendment Bill 2020 – Notice of Commencement.
2. P.P.2020/2021 No.53, Annual Report of the Ministry of Health 2018/2019.
3. P.P.2020/2021 No.54, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Samoa Post Office 2021- 2024.

PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Clerk read out the Parliamentary Committee Reports pursuant to S.O. 52(5).

1. P.P. 2020/2021 No 55, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2019/2020 No. 128, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority 2018/2019.
2. P.P. 2020/2021 No 56, Infrastructure Committee Report on P.P. 2019/2020 No. 136, Annual Report of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure 2018/2019.
3. P.P. 2020/2021 No 57, Infrastructure Committee Report on P.P.2019/2020 No 208, Annual Report of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology 2018/2019.

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ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2020
– second reading

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister of Justice and Court Administration): Mr Speaker, I move the motion, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Revenue.

Motion approved and the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2020 was read a first time.

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2020
– second reading

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Mr Speaker I move, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2020 be read a second time and I wish to clarify it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister for Revenue and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon your honour for you clarification.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Thank you for the chance honourable Speaker. I firstly wish to greet the dignity of the House in all its honorifics. I rise with great respect to clarify the amendments submitted in the Electoral Amendment Bill 2020.

For the clarification of the respectable members and this House, the territorial constituencies are dissimilar to electoral constituencies. Territorial Constituencies is what we have at present, whilst electoral constituencies will only become effective after the dissolution of Parliament in the coming year in January 2021, for the information of the House.

There are 4 main objectives for this amendment, (1) To provide for more fair application of the law to a person intending to contest for elections from constituencies affected in the re-defining of the electoral boundaries under the Electoral Act 2019. (2) To provide for a fair application of the law to a person intending to contest in the general elections but has been impacted by the Covid-19.

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Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– second reading

(3) Travel restrictions. And address administrative gaps to improve the law that the Electoral Commission were faced with during by elections since the principal Act was passed, the constituency of Faasaleleaga No 2 and Gagaifomauga No 3. In particular implement the recommendation put forth by the Parliamentary Committee which is reason or the amendment of 3 months to 6 months, the nomination date. (4) To clearly provide the rationale, for inserting eligibility provisions for all electoral candidates, the integrity of monotaga is intact for purpose of elections, it should be no less than 3 years.

Therefore, these are the amendments. Clause provides for the short title and commencement. Clause 2, amends section 8 of the Principal Act. Re-arrange the eligibility requirement to follow that a person is required to render monotaga under a matai title within a village in a constituency has done so in not less than 3 consecutive years. This candidacy has already been registered legally no less than 3 years that a person wishes to nominate its name in the election, nomination for the Election.

Clause 8(2) amended, to clearly provide the non-eligibility of a candidate, whenever the legal requirements is not met pursuant to clause 8(2) of the Legislation. This clause has therefore been amended under clause 47 of the Principal Act. So that there is clarity in the review of candidates' applications from the Commissioner for his decision to approve or reject the admission of candidates.

Since there is a change in the requiring number for a candidate to be in Samoa from 240 to 305 within a year. Therefore, there should be a change in the number that is under clause 8(3)(d) of the Principal Act from 125 days to 60 days so that 365 days is complete in a year. Due to the effects from the Covid-19 we have nowadays, and traveling restrictions, this will allow the candidate that resides permanently in Samoa if 355 days has not been fulfilled, due to Covid19 traveling restrictions and even if 305 days has not been met according to the Principal Act. Clause 4, adds 46A, so that nomination forms for a traveller is submitted. And because he or she is stuck there due to covid ban for the review of the Commissioner. It is necessary that this person must submit a letter to the Commissioner to signify that the person who is replacing him or her here is implementing his or her nomination form on his or her behalf before the Office of the Electoral Commission. Clause 5 amends clause 47 to allow the running candidate to argue a decision of the Commissioner to approve or reject a nominee's application. This change will allow the submission of an Order from the Supreme Court to disqualify a running candidate who is out of Samoa, due to Covid-19 restrictions, even if the Commissioner had accepted the nomination form for that contender.

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Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– second reading

Clause 6 amends Clause 53 to disqualify a running candidate who is out the country due to Covid-19 restrictions, because the Commissioner did not accept the nominee's application for the elections. This candidate should return in no less than 14 days before the General Elections in April. Clause 7 amends clause 58(4) to clearly provide the list of chief titles that will be used by a candidate in the ballot papers. The chief titles that satisfy the 3 years requirement for monotaga must be first in the ballot list. Clause 8 amends clause 141(2) so that the reason is made apparent for a seat of the Legislative Assembly.

This amendment will clarify the legal influences that is likely to arise, when a member resigns from a Political Party pursuant to Part 46 of the Samoan Constitution. Clause 9, amends clause 152 of the Principal Act, to replace number 48 to 46 to consolidate all clauses that will be applied during the general election, and it should also be applied in bi-elections. Clause 10, this amendment will provide clearly the essence or the policy or rationale which will enact that all candidates must implement their cultural services no less than 3 years requirement using their matai title they will be using in the general elections. This is for consistency purposes for all candidates running for the General Elections in 2021 except these 2 parts.

(1) For a candidate of an urban constituency, he or she can use a service from a chief title name to meet the 3 years monotaga requirement. This will reflect the effect of constituency division that will be implemented when we have the dissolution of Parliament next year.

(2) For a member that holds a matai title of an electoral constituency that is affected by this division, can use his or her monotaga or service to compete if the 3 years matai title requirement is not achieved. This change will not be used by other electoral constituencies we have now.

The addition to be made to this Amendment the interpretation of monotaga or service to clear up the connection of constituencies that were affected by this new division. Provisioned the exemption and necessity of residing in Samoa for a time period of less than 3 years for anyone who are affected by border restriction due to the Covid-19.

Clause 11, the Schedule provides for a list of territorial constituencies and corresponding electoral constituencies used in the proposed amendment to section 156(c) of the principal Act.

Clause 12 provides for Consequential Amendments and the 51 electoral constituencies we have at present, this can also be applied and recognized when Parliament dissolves in January 2021, and given the need for these electoral constituencies to implement nominations of candidates in October or next month.

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Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– second reading

It is necessary that Clause 5 of the Electoral Act 2019 is amended to recognize the 51 electoral constituencies for the upcoming General Elections in 2021.

Clause 13 provides for a transitional provision to this Amendment Act to recognize a pandemic already declared as such under an enactment before commencement of this Bill once passed. This is to ensure the Covid-19 declared as a pandemic in Samoa is recognized for the purpose of the proposed amendments.

Mr Speaker this is the clarification on this Bill as prepared by the Electoral Commissioner and the Attorney General so that the Mandated Policies are clear as the country is prepared to go into the General Elections in April 2021. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks for the statement, Hon Minister, the statement is well given, and clarification is clear on....

Susuga Hon Lauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker, with respect I wish to be allowed a chance.

MR SPEAKER: The topics which you wish to speak on is in relation to our proceedings.

As such, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for normal recess for us to eat...get energized so as to carry on with our Work.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be suspended for normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for normal recess at 10:21am and resume at 11:10am.

Debate resumed over the second reading of the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2020.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Legislative Assembly Proceedings.

During recess the Minister for the Electoral Commission Office was finishing his speech to clearly clarify the objects and main focus for this Amendment. This has allowed the members to voice their views together with the respectable member from Gagaifomauga No.3 Hon Lauli. Go ahead Lauli.

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Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– second reading

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you so much Honorable Speaker or the Head of Parliament for the chance granted unto me to make a statement and a message in particular for my constituency.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. Psalm 35: *Verse 1 to Verse 6* - “*Plead my cause O Lord, with them that strive with me, fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler and stand up for my help. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me, say unto my soul, I am thy salvation. Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul, let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. Let them be as chaff before the wind and let the angel of the Lord chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.*

I trust no one is greater than what can be done by the Maker neither he that was sent greater than he that sent him. A servant is neither greater than His Master. *O le a ou le toe sueia fuefuesina po o tuaoi taoto o alofisa o tupu o Samoa.* Firstly, I shall turn the rock and make known the light of the world. *Sosofa laia o le la fala ma le la afa ae faaeva le lupe o le talalelei ma le lau olive o le faaolataga aua o le lago sa folau lea o le Atua ma lana faatufugaga mo Samoa.* It is His Grace that has given me strength in this seat which I have again taken here at the Fields of Tiafau, it is the grounds whereby the decisions and words of the wise men in the country are made for Samoa and its wellbeing for today and tomorrow.

I greet Samoa in your honorific salutations, *Tulouna lava le paia o Aiga, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Papa ma Aiga na Tafaiifa, tainane Aiga i le ite a le malama, na emo ai le malama i Saua ae suluia Samoa i le malamalama o le Faaolataga. Tulouna ou mamalu faale-Talalelei, tulouna ou mamalu faale-Malo, tulouna ia ou mamalu faale-atunuu.*

I acknowledge His Highness, O Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo o Samoa and your good lady, the member of the Council of Deputies and your good lady.

I greet the honorable Speaker and the Meeting House of Samoa, greetings to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. I further acknowledge the Chief Justice, President and the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice and Court Administration, Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises and the Private Sector in our presence today.

I greet Samoa in all your honorifics, *o paia aua Aiga ma latou Tama, Tama ma o latou Aiga, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

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I greet my beloved constituency, *le paia aua Aiga Sa Tupua ma Aiga Sa Malietoa ma le Faletolu, le paia i le Aiga o Mavaega, le Falelima ma Saeseese ma lau tofa i le Tuua.*

I further greet any Samoan here and around the globe, men and women, I wish the best this fine morning.

I further greet our neighboring island of Tutuila and Manua, one man, one woman, we are one family. The honorable Chief Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the honorable Speaker, President of the Senate and the Government. *Le paia lava lea aua Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofo ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua, Tama a le Manuatele ma le Faleagafulu o le Motu, le Tootoo o le Faleula ma le Laau na Amotasi.*

I wish not to discuss what we went through last time, *o le a ou le toe toli niu fitifiti pe ou te toe asaasaina le vai na pisi, o le vai foi ua mai aua le Tagaloo Aopo, o le vai foi ua fatitoto ina ua ta tu, ua ta tui ma ta tagi tele.* I pity you Faatuliaupolu for you have been smashed by your enemies but where is your family and Samoa particularly Puleono and the big island of Salafai. Nonetheless, praise you God of Samoa, thank you for your mercy and for your shielding hands which has paved forgiveness out of mutual respect in the house of Salemuliaga whilst I seek life in the house of Tuamasaga. Then I thought, the wonderful works of the Master from the seas and mountains, it is He that has allowed us to meet this morning in the fields of Tiafau. The last words from our Savior on the cross, “It is finished, it is done and let this be for you and us.” The cross is the symbol of shame and disgrace which gave birth to blessings.

I take this golden opportunity in the spirit of respect to voice acknowledgement to the support of Samoa at large. Samoa is a country that is all related. Ulufanuaseese wept and said to his children Taema and Tilafaiga, “*Fuga e, se ua talalua lo oulua po fetalai, tautuana le ausaga, a ia oulua matatau ia Samoa.*” That is the similar spirit, *o le paia ia Sa Tupua ma Sa Malietoa ma Aiga, le mamalu i le Faletolu aemaise le Aiga o Mavaega ma le tofa i le Tuua ma le Falelima o Sanaeseese*

I convey appreciation to the support of the Leaders of the Church and everyone who have contributed to praying whilst this constituency was engaged in its by-election for one to return to this House to resume its duties for the constituency. Thank you to all the relatives and friends, you have worn the belt of developing the nation whilst this constituency is tasked with issues, with prayers before the Almighty God for an opportunity like this to meet and praise God for his assistance and sharing that has enabled us to meet here this beautiful day.

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I extend great appreciation to the honorable Speaker, thank you for your dedication and service to the country. You can never manage us whenever there is disorder in our debates. Thank you for your prudence and wisdom in protecting the dignity of this House in all areas. I have already rendered my apologies Toleafoa, God is aware of everything else given our relationship, whereby I had to leave peacefully due to reasons that you were aware of, I took authority over my decision due to my respect and love upon my constituency which the member had discussed. However, thank you very much for your perseverance and patience due given our relations and mutual respect.

To the dignity of the House, respectable members of *Tumua ma Pule, Aiga ma Tama, tainane Faleupolu o Tofiga*. Given our relationship, I beg your pardon in the days that have gone by. If we have erred you in anyway, God is aware of everything. The plea that was put before God, is for us to develop Samoa and gain blessings. There is no chance for us to argue and create differences amongst ourselves which are unnecessary, the main purpose this morning is for us to work together for the welfare of the country.

Special thanks to the independent members of the House, Afioga Sao Faapito Fiamē Naomi Mataafa Mulinuu II, especially Afioga Olo Fiti Vaai and Afioga Leatinuu Faumuina Wayne Fong. Thank you for the respect, as well as your devotion in all that this constituency has encountered. The Lord knows the spirit and the mind and the feeling that we should work together for the betterment of Samoa now and in the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude, although not officially in this House in Tiafau, but I express gratitude to the SNDP Party to its high chiefs and orators, especially in preparing for the upcoming general elections. I commend you for your authority and respect. Moreover, the Political Party of Puleono and Tumua, thank you for the trust placed in this Political Party that has been officially established in our country, the *Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi* or FAST Party. Samoa's elections are approaching, and there is no one that would go forth without the support of the country. But I take this important opportunity to express my gratitude for your willingness to put your trust in *Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi*, to embrace and work together to build a better Samoa today and tomorrow.

Hon Prime Minister, Susuga Tuilaepa Naiti Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Samoa have heard the words, therefore nothing is hidden in proceedings and all that is going on the internet. I would also like to extend my apologies to your Excellency, on the words and comments we make against each on air while the country is listening. I only pray to the Hon Leader of Government, to consider our efforts.

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The Parliament House in Tiafau is the mirror of prosperity, peace and freedom of the country. May one err, and the other make right, let us maintain our mutual respect, and maintain harmony, especially for the country giving support. This is a prayer of Aiga Sa Tupua and Aiga Sa Malietoa, I will swallow the shame, the bitterness and pain of the suffering and hardship I took with me during this term, because I have much respect in my relationship with the Leader of Government, which is a reason why I left the Political Party formed by the hands of this constituency and all of Samoa. Those are the contribution and love of this constituency, for our Political Party. However the *futia* and *umele* do not seem to be in harmony with our feelings.

The words that I often speak, is the vision and message from Aiga Sa Tupua and Aiga Sa Malietoa, which is a reason to be standing here again and officially deliver a speech with respect this morning. As for our intention on the standards you have stated, May the Lord guide us, we will not go do anything that will hinder the work of our Parliament, however we will do what is best for the benefit of Samoa. We will speak if there is anything inappropriate, as for anything that is unfair, we will give advice for the benefit of Samoa today and in future.

As for the matter concerning the Political Party, as you stated we have not chosen a permanent leader, for the clarification of the House, I am the Leader of the Faatuatua I le Atua ua Tasi Political Party. As for preparations, we will choose someone come the time Samoa makes its choice that is how it will be. As for now, I have returned back to the House in that capacity, with all due respect.

The Hon Minister in charge of the Bill, I speak with respect since it is this Bill that led to the decision to remove me from the Party, this Electoral Act. I conveyed a thought out of my love for the Government, out of the desire that all provisions of this Act be set in order, the decision for Samoa is not easy, to choose wise individuals as members of Parliament. But sadly, we are nearing the time maybe 6 or 7 months left but there are still changes being implemented, these are not easy changes, such changes contradict policies of constituencies, between villages and also affects all voters of the country. We have just concluded with our elections; we have just completed the election process that implemented provisions of the Act that I respectfully prayed that you take note of the changes.

The Chairperson also spoke that at all times efforts have been made, everything has been thoroughly discussed through the specifics and provisions of this Act. What do we see this morning? We see once again another 12 Amendments made to the Act.

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But as we were trying in the past, we cannot be hasty on implementing such matters because it affects the whole country. Why? It affects individual rights, the village council authority is affected, as well as those who claim cultural lands and titles, because of this Act. We have moved away from territorial constituencies we were used to and have moved towards electoral constituencies to emphasize the importance of vote.

Hon Minister, we are once again heading towards rushing these things. Is this not enough? It is embarrassing to go to the court, yet it is being brought back again. Is this still not enough, I humbly ask you Hon Minister, it has been brought back, and we have already changed it, and have resolved some things, now other matters have occurred to create more issues. The spirit here Hon Minister...

MR SPEAKER: The member has two more minutes.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I cannot stop thinking about it...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega): Mr Speaker, apologies to the member of Gagaifomauga No.3. No, I rise with respect Mr Speaker, since this is the members Maiden Speech. As is the practice of Parliament, there is no limit to the speech. I apologize to the Chair, you have already stated he has 2 more minutes, *how about we add another 20 minutes.*

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Seconded by the member of Urban West.

MR SPEAKER: Well, we will follow the usual practice, even though he is a new member, but he was a former member of this Parliamentary term that is the case, since a motion has been moved, the Chair will leave it at it is. Susuga Hon Laauli is a senior member, and is a member of this term, there is just the matter of change in seats, and returning after by elections, but he is still a senior member in this Parliament.

Therefore the motion moved to add another 5 minutes, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this needs to be clarified. Please Mr Speaker, it is not good since it has been stated as Maiden Speech.

The member has long lost. I do not know if he has lost three times, therefore I want to ask, what is your decision? Is he still eligible for a maiden speech or not? Is he making his Maiden Speech or not?

MR SPEAKER: Well, the opportunity given to Laauli is 30 minutes, while the normal speech of a member on such matters is 20 minutes.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I have much respect for you...

MR SPEAKER: Well, it is out of respect for the member that I gave him 30 minutes. Therefore, the decision of the Chair, I appease the member you should finish your speech in 30 minutes.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker I humbly ask for an opportunity...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Do not worry Mr Speaker, do not worry.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member of Gagaifomauga No.3, I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you. I did not want to interrupt the wonderful speech of the member. But I just want to say, there is a statement voiced by the member that should be assessed before he concludes, since these are our official records for the House.

There is a statement saying, the reason why he was expelled from HRPP was because of these Bills. It has to be corrected, I have been in all the meetings of the Political Party, it was not mentioned that Laauli was expelled because of this reason, with utmost respect Mr Speaker this should be corrected. With respect.

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Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you. There is a man in our village named [.....] But do not be audacious Hon Minister. I thought another Authority or Pule would be safe with another Pule.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member speaking, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the member started his speech while we sat here patiently. Also, there are a lot of mistakes being mentioned, but we still sat here patiently so that he can continue with his remarks. This is one of the issues raised by the Minister of Cabinet, especially in the context of the Bill that we are considering. It seems he is violating this Act, but the Bill that he is referring to, is a Bill that encapsulates all of these things. Again, in the event that the member voted against the passage of the legislation, these are the legislations we are now considering. As such the Bills that are currently being discussed have been considered by Cabinet, and Laauli attended the Cabinet meeting, together with the approval of the 3 Bills. Therefore, the legislations governing constituencies are no longer called territorial constituencies but electoral constituencies. Thus, it will be consistent with the terms of public appointments such as doctors, there is no specialist doctor in a single constituency or village. These Government positions is a reason why we changed salutations; it is no longer referred to as territorial but as electoral constituencies. These are the things we discussed while Laauli was sitting in Cabinet, which I announced, before he resigned. There was not a single voice that rejected it meaning everyone agreed, however when the Bill was brought before Parliament to be passed, the member stood up and rejected it. I believe such matters should be modified, because it is misleading, even with the Amendment that will be considered today. It is stated that it is rushed, or it is done because of the upcoming General Elections. I just want to say we did the same in 2015, we also made amendments to the Electoral Act at that time in adjusting constituencies of non-matai voters. This was done at the end of that year 2015, before the elections. At that time, Hon Fiaame Naomi was Minister of Justice, and was also in charge of electoral matters. And that was also done in an urgent matter.

Mr Speaker, it is true that there are some who speak but also those who take note of what is spoken.

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member of Gagaifomauga No 3, the Chair will make an announcement.

Perhaps this matter needs to be clarified in moving forward and upholding the dignity of the House. As I stated Laauli is not eligible for a Maiden Speech, as it is the practice for new members. The usual time given when deliberating an Amendment Bill is 20 minutes. But I gave the member half an hour out of mutual respect. In addition, I emphasize the support of your constituency, therefore I have given you 30 minutes, to clarify your point. Even though a motion has been moved, but it is with respect that I clarify this matter. Despite our Standing Orders it still comes down to mutual respect. I also order the Office of the Legislative Assembly to remove the words that the member made towards the Hon Minister of Agriculture as impetuous.

Everyone is aware of our Standing Orders, the Government takes the floor to explain and clarify, and make a point of order or clarification. This is the stance of the Minister of Agriculture. And I apologise to the Hon Minister of Agriculture, and I perceive you are a man of God, and you have a sense of forgiveness. The Hon Laauli I ask that you retract your remarks.

This is the rectification of the matter as it arose, since the matter was given to Government to explain, matters from the past. I appease the member if the Chair speaks you should sit down.

As for the matter related to your resignation, it was the report of the Ethics and Privileges Committee. This is exactly where the commotion took place and resulted in your resignation. These are the facts that I stated. If we were to look at the records, those are in the records. This is why I strongly suggested not to revisit the past and please conclude your speech now.

[Statement Mr Speaker directed to be removed from records of the speech for the member of Gagaifomauga No.3: - "*O le Sui Osovale.*"]

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you Mr Speaker, it is very clear, the speech conveyed by this member is towards this Bill, the same Bill that made the decision for me by the Political Party. Because of my objection to the Bill in forming of the Constitution. This is why I stood, with respect to the Hon Prime Minister he said I was in the meeting and agreed. However, God is my witness, my rejection to the Bill was issued in the House.

This is why I was trying to make right the statement by the Hon Minister because his intrusion is wrong. I will retract my statement, of the member interfering. I am also speaking on this Bill, since I did not participate in the voting.

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MR SPEAKER: I know you also sat in this Chair. Therefore, you should have said the Minister was wrong in his stance. The Minister took the floor, because of a point of order and clarification. Thus, the constituency of the Hon Minister is also listening. You have just finished taking your oath of allegiance. Do not say these words to demean the dignity of Parliament. It has been noted that the day is not over, yet you have broken your oath. This is a reminder, and I ask that you not speak further on this matter.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I will not speak against your command. Because you are the one that has sole authority over our Standing Orders. We are only here to give advice; however the authority is on you. Despite our best efforts, in an initial statement by this constituency, our opinion has been voiced. As for opportunities given to us, let there be one since there are only three of us. Thank you Leatinuu, thank you Olo, for your patience in seeking Government. Our time will come. Patience, let us go with what is now, since they are leading, it is their time. This is the spirit Mr Speaker, apologies to the members of Salafai. We have seen that Pule is not safe with Pule anymore that is how I feel. Nevertheless, with all due respect to the Chair, such is a sentiment we want to express. On the day that I resigned from Parliament, those from pule were the ones being crude. Where are we safe? where is our sanctuary to ask if Pule is welcoming.

MR SPEAKER: Let me speak to your constituency, be patient. What do you feel seeing the member being instructed by the Chair to sit but he is still upstanding. This is what you call an offence. Our Standing Orders state that it is an offence if a member continues to disobey the instruction of the Chair. Because of the concern between members, based on the words being spoken. It is the duty of the Chair to administer Proceedings under Standing Orders so that orders are carried out efficiently and ensure the manner of speech between members is upheld.

This is why, Laauli the important aspect here is that your constituency have heard you. They are observing everything, and it is not hearsay. They are aware, how many times have I appeased the member, even though you are still upstanding. However, you can wait until the Hon Minister's interjection is conveyed. I call upon the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you Mr Speaker, there is much ado about nothing. I just want to give advice to the member. You cannot voice unreasonable statements, then expecting Pule to come and embrace this wrong. You cannot do such thing within this House. Mr Speaker, with utmost respect.

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It has been a long time and I have been to all HRPP meetings, there was no decision made on this issue to expel him from the Party. I testify to it, even the Party, with respect this is a point of order. As for the statement made that Pule is not protecting a member of Salafai, no, that is something we should not do. My constituency is listening with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No 3. You may conclude.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I will not speak further about what has passed. It is tiring trying to clarify the meaning of the words said, because the Hon Minister is also debating it as well. I will try again; it is the Act that I opposed against the Party that resulted to the decision made upon me. That is it. This greatly differs from what the Hon Minister stated. Nevertheless, I will dismiss this matter.

The Hon Leader of Government, I once again convey apologies towards you. It seems the speech of the Chair has stated offences upon me while my constituency is listening. But my stance is clear and understandable on what I am striving for, to have opportunities to express thoughts and feelings. Mr Speaker, we will not try, but we only have one purpose that is to assist Government. To assist out of respect to the support of our country. Whatever the level of unequal opportunities, and the situation we are in now, we cannot sit back and not voice out thoughts. Because this is the reason why we came into this House. It is to express opinions and ideas. As for the aspiration Mr Speaker....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker you have just laid down orders that guide our debates here in the House. And the Standing Orders are quite clear. The statement made by the member, of unequal opportunities. What exactly does this mean, unequal opportunities? Mr Speaker, this is directed to how to administer our Sitting. It seems from the speech of the member, you are guilty.

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However, you are the one that is implementing the Standing Orders of the Proceedings of Parliament. This is why I am not sitting still, because these words have meaning. We take the floor because of the opportunities given under Standing Orders to make a point of order and clarification towards a matter. And that is another duty of mine as Leader of the House, others in this House do not think I am the Leader of the House. I am the Leader of the House that assists with your work, in terms of compliance with our Standing Orders. As for the statement there are unequal opportunities, it is a very serious comment in our current debate.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, let me clarify this matter since the Chair is still being blamed. Not only that, the speech by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 broadcasted on television and in newspapers. Stating there are unequal opportunities has led to the Speaker being treated differently. I just want to clarify these aspects, a member cannot continue to speak if it is a matter that was argued by another, also mentioned by another and another member later. It cannot happen, since it is stated in the Standing Orders, as disruption within proceedings. If another member has mentioned it, then another should move away from it. Also, we must understand the clarification of Government is the final response. Yes, Government also speaks on policies if a member moves away from the matter considered, then Government will stand to make a point of order on the policy. However, the difference here is, the member speaking wants Government to say, you are right, but Government is wrong.

No, it is not like that, you have mentioned, time will come. Well, you should wait for that time to come, then you can be satisfied. But not the Government explaining, but also want Government to come there, no. That is not how things are done. I am an old man and I have a heart of forgiveness. Laauli I humbly ask that you move away from this matter. Do not mention this again because it portrays, that you do not understand our Standing Orders. So, what do you think? Are we going to go back and forth between you and Government, until 8pm tonight. What do you think? I am trying to administer our sitting; this you should know since you once sat in this Chair.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Pardon me, Toleafoa, for calling your name, I am not a silly person. Apologies, I apologise.

MR SPEAKER: Return a word of the Chair, you may conclude.

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Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I will not speak further on matters that will ensue debate, but I will leave it to the judgement of God and the country. What I stated is not offensive, unfortunately the Leader of Government cannot stop conspiring. It is quite appropriate; therefore, it is not offensive at all. However, the Hon Prime Minister always tries to create conflict, conspiring to destroy our relationship. See, he said that I should be respectful, yet he is being disrespectful.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: See it is happening again, this should be corrected, Mr Speaker a point of order. Look at such rude statement, he also speaks whenever he wants. I am taking the floor because I am making the response. All the problems that the Government is blamed for, I am the one that is responding.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member. Please conclude your remarks. See I am persuading you to conclude. Because if it was another Speaker, you would not be able to speak, apologies to the constituency and country listening. If it was someone else, the members' time would be over already.

Yes, that was then, but I humbly ask you, to show respect and conclude your speech. Your time is finished. I just want to say another member can rise your time is finished.

This is why Laauli, I appease you, with utmost respect, conclude your remarks. Then another member can be given an opportunity.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Let us end this noise, I have much respect for you Mr Speaker, a word or statement made that has been inappropriate I ask that you forgive. You have the sole authority to carry out the work and conduct our sittings. Toleafoa if you have any love, please show us compassion. This is the reason for our approach with respect. The Government still has the full power to speak at all times and every day. As for the Bill tabled, we are also conveying our opinions. But if a point of order is constantly moved, what will we do? Nevertheless, our opinions will be conveyed, and put before you for consideration and contribute to our deliberations today.

The dignity and support of Samoa, in all honorary salutations. May the Lord show us kindness in our journey forward, especially as we near the end of this Parliamentary term. This constituency has once again been blessed to come and continue our services.

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I only pray that we work together and contribute to the development of Samoa. You be the judge, the holy servants of the Gospel, pray that Samoa and its politics be shown compassion. The support from different parts of the country, let us pray to the Lord, that we reach the future General Elections of Samoa.

The support of my constituency today, thank you for your generosity and in coming here. Our Political Party contribute to our cause without hesitation. I am grateful that we are able to be here today to witness Proceedings of Parliament, for the performance of its duties. I pray with faith in God that Samoa is one, for the success of our country. Blessings upon Mr Speaker and the Parliament of Samoa. Soifua and God bless.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you for the remarks. I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No 4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No 4): Mr Speaker I thank you for the opportunity. The Leader of Government has already spoken. The respects of the House I will not reiterate further. But I think since our time is going by swiftly. I move with respect, to convey an opinion of this constituency. On the Amendments now tabled regarding our General Elections. I fully support the amendments, except for some parts of the amendments. Freedom, majority of constituencies are not included in this amendment, with the exception of one of the constituencies of Gagaemauga No.1. I can see in this amendment there is freedom. Therefore, I will make a direct comment so that it will be clearly understood. If I am a matai from Leauvaa, who is not serving in Savaii Samalaeulu, but I want to run in Samalaeulu, Saleaula, Patamea and Mauga. And I have no monotaga there. It is stated in the amendment, that I can run there in the elections. However, it is stated in the Act, only those who are matais and have served for 3 years. Hon Minister, I believe this amendment should be reviewed. Because I do not think this is appropriate, to be a matai in another village and have no monotaga in Savaii where they will be running for elections but has a monotaga here. Is this just? The intention is...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, I call upon the Minister who owns the Amendment.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: I rise with respect, this matter was also considered yesterday, however I will respond to it again. This is the only way that will make everyone united, the constituencies that are affected.

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This is the only way to do it. As you can see, the constituencies that this is implemented, are territorial constituencies. In the event that a territorial constituency is affected by a division, a matai title from any village within the territorial constituency, the monotaga can be transferred under another matai title, within the same territorial constituency. Another territorial constituency cannot transfer a monotaga to another. This is a clarification; this is the only way to make everyone united. With respect.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, I move a point of clarification towards the member.

MR SPEAKER: Who are you....

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: The speech of Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga. Mr Speaker, Peseta is Associate Prime Minister. And the Bill is under the Prime Minister, however he is rejecting the Bill of his Prime Minister. Therefore, are you two discussing the Bill or not?

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I am not sure if the member who just spoke has had four terms including this one. The Minister who stood up this morning who owns the Bill, his name is Faaolesa, he is the Minister in charge of these matters. Mr Speaker, now you can see the reason why there is so much noise. We are nearing the end of the term, but Tofa Olo still does not know the name of the Minister of Electoral, Faaolesa. F A A O L E S A emphasis on the S. Mr Speaker that is a clarification.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, now we understand why there is always an issue with the Bill. This means, the Bill by Faaolesa was not submitted to Tuilaepa and Peseta. Both of them do not understand the Bill.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I rise again to move a point of order on this mistake. He attended yesterday, and I am surprised he was there but still does not understand, this means even if it is explained ten times this morning, he will still not understand. Why would the Minister bring the Bill to me when it has already been considered in Cabinet? Mr Speaker, the Cabinet already met on this matter.

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Any legislation tabled in the House, is first considered in Cabinet, then it is brought here by the Minister appointed to overlook such matters. Why did you not ask Laauli? Ask your Leader to explain it. Mr Speaker, well, you can also ask Fiamē who is beside you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I will...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, a point of order in relation to the statement by the Hon Prime Minister, we are protecting our Standing Orders. It seems he is trying to make Olo become close to me. But Olo is an independent member in Parliament. Yes. However, he is conspiring so that Olo will go into a by election. This is what is happening, it will be a waste of money and other resources.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Facts have already spread about this Party through Olo that mentions all of them. But constantly lying and lying in Parliament, see how rude you are? Then you go and do interviews on television wearing a FAST uniform. See what is happening. I will salute to you; you are the King of Crooks.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Well I salute back to you. I believe FAST is way better than HRPP at what I have observed.

MR SPEAKER: Is there a matter you want to speak upon Hon Minister of Education?

Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Yes Mr Speaker, I have noted in the Bill the Associate Minister has stood and gave an example. However I can see that the Bill is accurate as explained by the Minister in charge, for constituencies that have been divided to be united. There is a big difference between Leauvaa and Samalaeulu from what the member is saying. The difference is as far as Sydney; thus he is speaking about Leauvaa and Sydney but not directly to his constituency. His constituency is not divided, which is the reason why views have resurfaced. It is very clear; however it looks like he wants to compete from Samalaeulu and Leauvaa. Well, with your attempt in trying to administer our work, but the clarification given by the Hon Minister owning the Bill is quite clear.

With all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. I appease the member, since the Chair is blamed for opportunities. Yes, has the House heard what is happening? Each member is now in control of the time to stand up. It seems there is no form of leadership. Yes, there is no Chairperson present, members can do whatever they want.

What opportunities are you blaming the Speaker? Also, the constant standing up, Olo taking the floor to create conflict. Yes, this is how our work is carried out, there are times when I leave you all to do whatever while I sit back and observe. Yes. But there are also times when I can jump in, and we fight. This is the case, but it does not mean after we do our work here you can go and hurl insults from outside. This is what you call throwing stones, yes, hence opportunity is still given.

The member of Faasaleleaga, how could you ask again when you already understood it yesterday. Maybe you have forgotten already, but yesterday you clearly understood the matter. Well, I call upon you once again if there is anything else, I can see that you now understand.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Perhaps this is one matter I brought up yesterday, but I only got an answer after I came out with the Commissioner, and he thoroughly explained it to me. This is why I mention the matter because I am speaking upon the Bill. The Bill is very clear, if a person wants to contest in that constituency, the candidate must come with the village mayor and two matai for them to be registered. My question to you is that this constituency is in Gagaemauga No.1. The Bill states, even if you are not a matai in Samalaeulu but you are a matai of Leauvaa, have no monotaga in Samalaeulu but can transfer monotaga from Leauvaa to Samalaeulu. See Mr Speaker?

Second, there are villages already allocated under this seat, such as Saleaula, Mauga, Patamea and Samalaeulu. If freedom of the Bill is initiated, Leauvaa will be part of it too. I say this regarding the Commissioner listening, how does the candidate go and register? Which mayor will be going with this candidate for registration? Is it the mayor in Leauvaa where the monotaga is done or Samalaeulu where there is no monotaga? Does this mean if the mayor from Samalaeulu comes for the registration, the papers signed Mr Speaker is their oath. Does this mean that the mayor and the matais coming to testify against the candidate will lie? This is a matter that I am trying to explain.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: The Bill is credible Mr Speaker, if a person wants to go to Savaii, they can go get a matai title in Savaii, because there is a different cultural practice in Leauvaa and Savaii. This is the matter I am trying to explain, it is applicable to urban seats, since it has been changed three times, it is applicable.

MR SPEAKER: The opinion conveyed is very clear, I call upon the Hon Minister to further clarify, because this is what I heard yesterday, the explanation given by the Electoral Commissioner and the Attorney General was good, it seems I am getting more confused now and do not understand anymore. I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: I believe there is still confusion with the member regarding the clarification I gave but I do not know what other explanation to give, you must have a matai title from Leauvaa or Samalaeulu then you can use the monotaga from Leauvaa or Samalaeulu. For the example you gave, you must have a matai title from Samalaeulu, but that matai has less than three years of monotaga, so you can use the monotaga from your matai in Leauvaa to complete it, then you are eligible to the matai title you will be contesting under. This is the only election that will be implementing this provision, it will not be used after it. And all our constituencies are safe.

MR SPEAKER: Yes. Try and eliminate your fear against the candidate you will be running against and clarify the matter properly because your win will be far ahead. Well, either way or not...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Hon Minister no that is the matter. You see, if I am from Leauvaa going to Savaii with no monotaga in Savaii but I will bring the monotaga from Leauvaa to contest for Savaii.

Therefore the mayor of Samalaeulu and matais will bring me here to register, what is the point? The form that is given to fill, is the oath. Does this mean the mayor is going to swear falsely? The mayor will affirm, a candidate he does not know because the monotaga is done in Leauvaa.

This is a matter I want to convey.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: Mr Speaker, no it is the mayor of the village with the monotaga that approves. The mayor of Leauvaa or cannot go there, it should be the mayor of the village the monotaga is carried out completely.

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For example if it is Leauvaa or Samalaeulu, and you want to contest under Samalaeulu, and your monotaga is not complete in Samalaeulu under a matai title you have, you can use the monotaga of your matai title from Leauvaa to complete your monotaga in Samalaeulu. And this monotaga is approved by the mayor of Leauvaa and not by the mayor of Samalaeulu.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, since it is my Associate Minister and some might complain about it. Perhaps the reason why my Associate Minister completely misses out is because of the many times he has a case with Laauli, the fact is, the Bill has not been passed. There is still one constituency. There is still one member, am I right? For here and there. In Leauvaa and at Samalaeulu where the matter is argued. There is still only one constituency. So far, there is no need to worry about that, there is still one constituency. It has now been announced that the monotaga will be used, because the monotaga here is also the one there since it is in one constituency. Now that there will be two constituencies, and only after they are passed will there be two constituencies, then the gears of the Bill will be initiated, but now it is still one.

This is the only way to try and compromise this provision and consider wisely.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, this is just a little matter I want to move a point of order. The Act has already been passed on the division of constituencies; it does not mean it has not been passed.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, the rise of the Prime Minister is a point of order, but now you want to create conflict. Look at you trying to pick a fight, yes. Be considerate, I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, perhaps I have conveyed an opinion on the matter, because I know there is still enough time for the Ministry and Minister to review it. Because you stated that the mayor from Leauvaa can come and take the candidate from Savaii. You also know it is not appropriate because there is a different member for Leauvaa and Savaii. I will convey a request, if someone wants to run for a seat in Savaii, they should go to Savaii and get a matai title and do a monotaga in Savaii. This is more appropriate.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon the member of Gagaemauga No.2.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA (Gagaemauga No.2): Mr Speaker, I am very confused with this Bill. I did understand the Bill, however with the recent development I am confused, I sat here thinking of the Bill, now it is being brought up again. What I am contemplating is the wording of the Bill, the Electoral Bill, but it is not a territorial constituency. What I am thinking about is, my constituency is not an electoral constituency, it is a territorial constituency. These two things are in conflict within the Bill as pointed out by the member Afioga Peseta, I am still fixed on my testimony since the Constitution has changed, and this Bill is included in the Constitution...

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the member, it seems your opinion is being drawn back to the Bill...

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA: No, that is not what I meant, what I am saying is this matter is included in the Constitution. My constituency is a constitutional territorial constituency.

MR SPEAKER: That is the status quo that has not been removed.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA: Now that this constitutional territorial constituency is being removed, now other constituencies...

MR SPEAKER: No it is being changed to electoral to where people vote, and customary practices are still carried out, which we cannot remove, because Samoa is a country already chosen.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA: These are things only implemented now, but Samoa has already been chosen from the beginning, as for these provisions they are new. This is the reason for taking the floor, it is the Constitution of Samoa that we are talking about now, the one that is now changing constituencies.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I see the Hon Prime Minister is upstanding.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I stand to make a clarification on the matter, which was understood yesterday. That is why we are meeting today, to clarify the meaning of monotaga. Once this is passed, then we will use it, because at the moment there is only one member covering the whole constituency, the villages from Leauvaa to there. There is only one. After this term is over, we will enact this Bill making it different. This is the reason for this monotaga, it is very simple. And it is not possible, what was stated by the member for future terms is right, but this is the only term that this arrangement will be implied, to use this kind of monotaga for Savaii, because there is only one member in this term. After this term, the matter will be carried out smoothly.

As for the matter conveyed by the member of Saleaula, we have already considered this aspect, the Bill has already been drafted on the division of constituencies to follow our form of Government and resolve issues, like the one that was faced with Parliament in 1962, in trying to make fair distribution of constituencies and the population. This was implemented by previous Governments and up to these changes, where change was implemented to have two members in other constituencies and one for others.

This is the situation we are trying to resolve that has been in place since 1962, now a permanent solution has been implemented, then there will be no more argument on having two members in a constituency, or two votes in a constituency, while others have one member and one vote. This is a way to cure the disease faced by the House for many years, when I first came into this House it was an ongoing argument to have 2 more members. It only created confusion. Therefore, electoral processes are not our practices, they are from overseas. And the solutions implemented by democratic countries, is the one that we also implement to resolve this matter. Because it is absolutely impossible for any other solution. Commission of Inquiries have been constantly established to resolve this, on the standardization of the number of people, and members to be represented in the House. We have already considered this matter, which was rejected by Laauli, however the time the matter was initiated and he gave full support. But when he resigned from this Party, he voted to object the matter, now the member of Saleaula is once again bringing up the matter, however it has already been clarified and discussed in this House.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Susuga Laauli.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes, your Excellency with all due respect, I pray that the country is bearing witness. Unfortunately another blame is being made towards me. I did not say yes, I said no in this Parliament.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes, this is the intention of trying to clarify. The proof of my saying was conveyed in my objection in the vote that was carried out against the Bill. That is the reason for saying no please.

MR SPEAKER: Let us leave the matter as it is. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order, he gave his consent when he was in Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture. I cannot stop him from giving his final consent inside Parliament. But as far as Commonwealth Cabinet protocols, once you do not give your consent you must resign from your Ministerial Post. What I am saying is Laauli is quite correct with what he is saying in here, but I am referring to dialogue in Cabinet.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I beg tolerance of you Susuga Laauli but it is understood that the Hon Prime Minister agrees with you objecting in Parliament. Whilst you were in Cabinet you all discussed this and unanimously agreed on the legislation. The Government will not allow this sort of thing and will be countering any view raised. It is the reason that I say that a warrior is seen to have control of his heart.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I will accept your recommendation Hon Toleafoa.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I will do as you say although, what the Prime Minister is saying is incorrect.

MR SPEAKER: Let us leave it at that after all the Prime Minister will always get up to correct it.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, well I will also exercise control over my heart, and I do forgive Laauli. Four weeks ago, I announced a Cabinet Directive when Laauli was present in which a decision was made on this particular matter. So I am talking about false matters but the truth.

I did announce this on Television because of the objection being shown. I have in my possession documents of the truth that actually happened.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I am of the view that...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes, your honor...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of you Laauli. What are we going to do? Sometimes you have to accord respect to the Leader of the Government. If somehow you are not satisfied with things now and then. Do bear in mind that the public are tuning in, and they will have their say on this. Instead of arguing until... Our culture is based on respect and bound by compassion. My apologies Faasoo, but you are causing trouble. You cannot be talking about a matter that has passed. That is old stuff and you have already spoken about it... I beg of you that bear tolerance.

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: No, as Leauvaa differs from us. We have two villages in our constituency, Saleaula and Salamumu. Last night a man from our village called to say that he and his children were wanting to vote in Savaii. I said to him, matais are still eligible to vote. He said to me that it is his children that are wanting to vote. I am making a point on electoral constituencies and traditional territorial constituencies. We must have some consideration for this since the electoral constituencies were not created by sequence numbers. The territorial constituencies were never categorised by numbers. Saleaula had already existed and were not distinguished with a number. I thought I will say that since my constituents are listening in and who knows, I might decide to run again.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. We are going backwards, but what you are becoming is retired victoriously just like the address given to a senior pastor. Faasootauloa Pati now retires victorious. It would be sad if you do become retired victorious and troublemaker. I call upon...

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Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: Thank you Mr Speaker I will now retire.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you and May the Lord be with you.

I did not think this member had any desire to speak as he spoke at length yesterday and I would think you will not be speaking for long. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): I cannot remain seated but must contribute to the Bill on behalf of my constituency. If we are calling this special session for this Bill, I think it is only proper as there are appropriate changes which must be made.

I will firstly congratulate Laauli for occupying the seat of his constituency once again. I salute you for your courage.

The changes introduced in this Bill is appropriate since if we are to consider the changes with politics in Samoa it is gradually evolving, and we cannot maintain policies but must be reviewed according to the environment we live in from time to time.

With this dramatic change we are going to do away with the urban seats. According to our constitution these seats began with eight individual members and eventually came down to just two. During our term we change the make-up of Parliament to matais only. Now we have come to this stage and have decided to do away with them altogether. So, this is not a concept that was thought up yesterday or the day before. But it is an idea that has been in the pipeline for a long time, and I would think that everyone in the ballot rolls for these urban seats had all been prepared for this change. This was all explained recently, and it also affects people in my constituency.

With the changes in boundaries, I think it will not end here as the trend with people moving around town and is not right to keep a lid on the numbers for the town area since the number of people that will contest the elections will double or even triple. When I entered Parliament the roll at Faleata was only 700. By the next election it had ballooned to 5000 and with the elections just past it was 6000. It is these kinds of changes that causes the Government to adopt such measures. If the changes do have deficiency factors or a lapse of judgements, well, we must remain calm and accept the fact that we do have a Legislation to enable these changes.

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It was said that the government enacts laws to safeguard its members that is a very loose and inappropriate view. Previously when the changes were made to divide the constituencies that formerly had 2 seats. Many of our colleagues in this party went had to contest the elections between themselves with some not making it back.

With the current changes there are members of this Party contesting the elections amongst themselves and that reflects the Government initiative to go ahead with measures that must be done and it should not be done in a discriminatory way.

I will say that no democratic system suits Samoa or any other country for that matter. Our democratic system in Samoa is different and so as Fiji. New Zealand have their own unique democratic system and the same applies to Australia and America. Every country has its own distinctive system which should ensure stability of its Government.

We have all witnessed what is happening to New Zealand with their MMP system where power is given to small parties. Where in the world do you find a party that wins the elections and someone from another party becomes Prime Minister.

In Australia they had 5 Prime Ministers within two years. Such are circumstances which our Government is avoiding to uphold good governance. Every stable Government practises the 3 Ps which are Political stability, Peace and Prosperity. It should never deviate from this.

Therefore, we must applaud the changes now introduced which involves political development in Samoan political affairs. But there are issues which must be addressed. We must look at our electoral system and the way we conduct elections as we now have the experience with implementing elections.

My suggestion is to the Minister and the Ministry to let them handle it and make the necessary changes for the electoral process, as we still have enough time to do it before the elections come around.

I have addressed this before as the law must change with elections we must assist the process of elections concerning the running candidates.

I appreciate the fact that the registration is changed as it was formerly compulsory and now it is equivalent to the elections. The usual routine was that we would struggle to pick up people to get them registered and when it is election time they will vote for anybody. If you do not go to pick them up they will not come. Countries are different and people have different emotions. With our country people are like that if you do not collect them they will be reluctant to turn up. We are all arrogant people. But I do appreciate that there is this provision now in place as voting is an important aspect. It is your voice, for the country.

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With our democratic system it is very unique from the whole world as we prioritise our Christian principles and culture. These are all fabricated in our democracy. With other countries laws it does not incorporate Christianity. But with us when Samoa enacts its laws it must ensure that our Christian beliefs and culture is conformed within.

MR SPEAKER: The member has 2 minutes remaining.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you but I will be done in a minute. With emphasis placed on monotaga, your service, I welcome it. The name of the man is Lealailepule and it means service. Yes, we must render service. Every Samoan national will serve a purpose. With monotaga for the church well there is no such thing, but merely service to the church. We did apply this in the previous term but is now included in the Legislation so as to make candidates residing in the town area eligible under this provision. Applying this from of service is necessary as we all do provide service to village communities. Let us unite to run our Government so it may become productive. This should protect us from the 3 years residential provision for people that roam around then decide to run and those with millions and turn up to run in the elections, yet there are those whom have rendered service for a very extensive period.

The other thing Minister concerns polling day and the transporting of people the Minister should really look into this again. Our people are very cunning and they can choose where to vote. My intention is to assist the process and to get as much people to vote on polling day. I send my daughter to register as she has just returned from overseas and she was told that the office no longer accepts confirmation letters from a village mayor as there have been too many issues arising from these letters.

My view is that if there village mayors with issues that is the role of the Ministry to have them charge and this should not apply to all village mayors and it should not include the ones that are doing their job with integrity.

You should look into all these minor issues to improve your service. If there are people that have yet to register let them do so and give you work to do. It is not...as such your honour...

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker the.....

MR SPEAKER: The time of the member is over.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: No as this concerns pulenu'u. There is a candidate pursuing the pulenu'u of Vaitele. He wants to contest the elections for the seat of Faleata.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. The candidate for FAST. Do not stop the guy from running. Let him run and waste polling papers. Do encourage some strong candidates and if the pulenu'u will not sign his documents let Leala sign it.

Mr Speaker that is my contribution and my opinion will not be ignored and the same applies to all constituencies representatives. We are here to express ourselves. We are all free. May this Sitting be blessed.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you and do speak with care and consideration as the member next to you was almost hit by your arm. Yes well done.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The member for Salega East will take the floor.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you Mr Speaker and I will be brief. Some of the aspects of the legislation is understood and this constituency is satisfied and accepts most of the provisions in the legislation. Accept for some minor areas which I will offer some suggestions with the hope they will be thought provoking. We must enact Laws that will ultimately need amending but a Law that is solid in all aspects.

I wish to refer members to areas of the Constitution. In terms of safe guarding the people's rights anywhere around this country but also the freedom from discrimination. These areas are clearly provided in the Constitution. For instance, if a person wishes to leave its church to attend another church he or she is free to do so as it is a right provided for without any discrimination.

I am of the view that the same principle should apply to members within Political Parties. When a member decides to leave a Political Party to join another party. Who knows I could be wanting to join HRPP but I am stuck here. Mr Speaker those are the 2 areas of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa I am talking about.

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The first example is what the Minister discussed concerning elections we are about to engage in and with constituencies divided into electoral constituencies and have done away with territorial constituencies. I will give an example Mr Speaker and members of the constituency of Leala consisting of Vaitele Tai, Vaitele Uta, Vaitele Fou. This constituency was regarded as an electoral one but when its candidates were selected it was only the member from Vaitele Tai claiming that it was a traditional declared village. This is where Leala resides. But with Vaitele Fou and Vaitele Uta they will never get an opportunity to vote in a representative to Parliament.

Mr Speaker as far as I am concerned, this is discriminatory...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker since my constituency is mentioned...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will allow the interruption from the member from Faleata.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: As I have alluded to Sir, this proposal we have now is not a novel idea. It has been in the pipeline for a long time. When I spoke on the division of boundaries recently, I did make a plea for a seat for this group after this division. I also did say that these people occupying Vaitele is not the will of this village. It was the long-term vision of the government. As I did mention in my recent speech, the government of Samoa's elections prioritizes Christianity and culture.

These matais are now residing at Vaitele and are eligible to run at their respective constituencies where they are rendering service. Since they are giving monotaga to the Vaitele village community. My question to Olo is, how do you feel if Lealailepule comes to your constituency and takes up your residency there and runs in the election? Would that be good? Because it seems that you are analysing Vaitele and not the rest of the other villages around the town fringes and Samoa in general. Once you allow this opportunity wherever a matai resides he or she can run as a candidate.

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You must remember though that the purpose of the Legislation concerns monotaga. Where you render your monotaga and so we are not discriminating anybody but we are opening up opportunities to everyone to vote where you are a matai. If you are not a matai, well let me remind you now that they are here and we are embracing them. By giving them land, and if we are to make them our representatives, then what about us?

With Olo he lives 2 doors down from me. An orator will make a statement tonight to have him vacate the area.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Minister. So Lealailepule, are you saying that Olo resides at Vaitele.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: He is living there under my protection, but he is a threat to me.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister will give a statement.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: There is no discrimination with this new system. Our country had already been chosen through the cultural aspect of matai. Only matais are bestowed within traditionally decreed villages. It is why the legislation was formatted in this manner. It is not discriminatory.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, go ahead Olo, you do not have much time left.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you for I hear that the village communities of Vaitele Fou and Vaitele Uta have been legally registered as provided by the Legislation in which copies have been provided for us. But I do apologise to the brother but it is not as he claims, because in my view the Legislation is discriminatory.

The reason why I said this is because the Legislation stipulates that you have 2 options of where to vote. You can vote where your matai is registered and also where you are rendering service. The situation with Vaitele Fou and Vaitele Uta is that after this life and when Jesus returns they will never get the chance to select a candidate for Parliament. That is what I was saying and I will leave it with you.

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The other provision of the Legislation is when you defect from a Political Party you will have to go back to the polls. You cannot become an independent member or join another political party. What does this indicate? Your right as a citizen is affected. We as members must have the freedom to react to circumstances which you do not like. The other factor is that the freedom of the constituency and those that voted you in as their representative.

What is the penalty provided here? The constituency will be removed from the seat in Parliament when this law is breached. Those are the areas Mr Speaker I am trying to focus on as the circumstances presented here are very serious.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: Your honour...

MR SPEAKER: The Minister will take the floor.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: The part of the Law which the member is going on about is merely following the instructions from the Constitution. It is almost a mirror image of the wording in the Constitution now instilled into the Amendment of the Legislation. So if we are to agree with member for Salega's view we must then amend the Constitution.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker the Minister is a lawyer. His Bible is the Constitution, the Law Book. But this part of the Electoral Act is referring to the Constitution. The other area I am talking about is provision regarding discrimination and rights. There are quite a few areas the Minister should really look into this as all legislations are linked to it.

Nevertheless the other area I want to talk about Mr Speaker as clearly stipulated here are the needs of...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Before I move away...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order. The point raised about discrimination when one decides to leave a political party. Well you have to go and establish your own party.

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This is the very area I spoke on this morning. You cannot do something like that as it would be betraying your constituency. You must return to ask your constituency.

They voted you in and have given you this blessing and you have agreed that you will be joining the SNDP Party and you eventually win giving you a seat in the SNDP. Somehow you want the freedom to leave and no longer wish to follow SNDP rules. So you leave and this law says that the honest thing to take is to go back to the polls, to ask your constituency whether they accept this new chapter you wish to pursue. You see how easy that is yet some people attempt to twist things so as to get everyone to agree to his argument but it is rather simple.

That is the objective of the legislation so if you do wish to leave that means you are free to do whatever you want but you must first go back to ask your constituency. You have not been dismissed but the legislation is actually helping you to become an honest member towards your constituency instead of going incognito around here doing what you please. I am telling you this as there have been incidents in this place in the past which is not good for the public particularly the view from the outside world to a country that is in chaos. Would they want to continue giving assistance to a country that is in chaos? Because chaos is always accompanied by misuse of assistance. These 2 things are interrelated.

This is the importance of being loyal/honest to the Party that you originally joined. Not only we will lose the assistance but these people will no longer be interested to establish developments in Samoa which will provide employment for our people. Now just look at how easy that is. So this is not a law that is discriminatory but a law that makes a member an honest one by returning to ask the people through the Polls.

The view that it should be resolved through dialogue well let me say that we all know the outcome of meetings that is done through mutual respect. But it should go through elections which will provide the answer. If the results will see you through again then you are clear of any issues against your constituency. That is all the law is saying and is certainly not implying that your fate should be that you be booted since you have control of your own freedom. That freedom will have you remain as a member throughout the whole term. That is what the law is saying, “you must have integrity and remain there for the 5 year term. When you do wish to leave then go to the polls and tell the constituency that you want to leave.

You will not be prohibited from doing that. The provision is clear and simple, that you must return to the constituency, it is very simple. But the Law is not discriminatory but does provide justice to make the dishonest person just.

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Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you that interruption was rather good to receive.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Salega.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Every constituency is different and also villages have their own way of doing things. With some constituencies candidates declare to their constituents their intentions and that I will be joining this group. With my constituency they instruct me where to go, and hence my being an independent member. They have given me another instruction to join FAST when the next elections come around. I said to them to leave it with me and after this term I will be joining FAST.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order. You are seeing a very dishonest member. He has been with FAST for a long time but is waiting for that right time to make his incognito act official.

He has also made attempts at luring some of our members. When he is on TV, he says, “we do not belong to a party, we are independent” Now look at him, even in Parliament and with the public listening in a dishonest member making such statement.

That is my point of order.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: So, are you done? Thank you. I have made it clear to the Speaker and members, that constituencies are different. My constituency is not dictated by the will of a candidate since the constituency has absolute authority.

I will now address the reason behind these Laws. They are saying that it must be maintained to ensure a stable Government and as Leala was saying that Australia had 2 Prime Ministers within 1 year. So what has become of them? Are they stable or not? Well they are still stable.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Your honour...

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Motion to Extend Sitting Hours

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Does this mean that the belief of such situation does not happen in Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: So it is up to you who and when can you stand up and speak. Why do not the two of you take your seat and let me say this. I will give the Leader of the House the opportunity for a motion to continue our proceedings since we have reached our usual adjournment time. Let us have the State.

MOTION TO EXTEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Thank you Mr Speaker, I respectfully rise to move, *That the Proceedings of the Assembly continue this afternoon until the Electoral Amendment Bill No.2 2020 is passed and before we adjourned.*

Mr Speaker if we are not able to do it this afternoon we shall continue tomorrow.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion has been moved to continue our service until the third reading of the Legislation is attained.

Seconded by the Minister for Women Community and Social Development, and the Minister for Commerce, Business and Labour.

Motion was approved.

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the interruption, make it brief Leala please.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Out of respect sir, but the member's statement seems to be referring to my speech. I must then say something about it. The first point is the elections and he says it is the constituency.

The opinion of the constituency will be revealed in the outcome of an election. But the member must use his brain and tell the constituents that I will be joining this group. I will be going to where my heart is. So when the constituency do go to the polls, the outcome will reveal where they stand.

As the member talked about stability which I talked about. Please be patient, this is embarrassing. But this area is important since he is saying this only happens in Samoa. Japan is second in the world and it is over 50 years being ruled by a single Political Party. Other parties could not shake them off. Why? The administration of the country is still firmly stable.

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I had the opportunity to hold a meeting with the Prime Minister of Vanuatu at a meeting I attended on behalf of the Minister whom permitted me to go. We spoke on the very topic of stability. The man says to me, Leala I admire your Government. Do you realise what is happening with our Government? I am afraid to travel overseas. I would be at a meeting and be informed that there has been a change of Government. How do you do this? Which has given you a stable and firm Government. I explained to him as if I was responsible for drafting the Legislation. Well you know I was well educated, went twice on scholarship to Australia. The other subject I took was politics.

MR SPEAKER: Well and the interrupting which you are bringing up...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Well since, but if you want me to elaborate, but that will be enough for now thank you.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: The member for Faleata is making another speech. Well I will not ask for confirmation of your conversation with the representative of Japan will leave it at that. What I was saying is that we are the only ones that makes such laws which prohibits members from changing party affiliation although it is happening elsewhere even though they do have stable Governments.

My last point Mr Speaker is on requirements to become eligible to run in the election. Mr Speaker in my view it requires that you are a matai and so a certificate from the Land and Titles Office must be presented. The length of time you have taken residence here and so your passport is presented. Your monotaga or service rendered which is confirmed by the pulenu'u. When it comes to citizenship there is no inquiry by the Ministry on this to confirm that you are Samoan citizen.

There was a candidate that ran in the elections and it was only found out after that he was not a citizen. I beg your pardon it was realised afterwards that he had just been a citizen for a year. This law requires you to have held your matai title and having done monotaga for 3 years. But you will remember sir that with this Law, only Samoan nationals can become matais. So if you have been a matai for only a year, that means your monotaga and matai title counts from that time. Since it has only been a year when you had your citizenship so you should not be qualified to run.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

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Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: This is not a subject covered under this amendment Bill. The provisions provided in this amended legislation differs from the subject the member for Salega is talking about. He is talking about citizenship and that is not even a requirement of Part 8 of the Electoral Act. The only requirement is that a candidate is a citizen. But it seems to me that the member wants this part of the Electoral law to be amended. The amendments currently under consideration does not cover this area.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker it is not a very good idea for someone like me who is not a lawyer to be giving a lecture on this note. What I am trying to tell the Minister is a person that is a citizen that have just been bestowed a matai title. If he had just gained citizenship in the past year his matai title will only have been recognised from that time. It is there in the legislation. Just refer to the Samoa Status Act 1962. That is where our matai titles and those men that visit us are distinguished. Thus what I am trying to tell you is to broaden your view on citizenship. I am shocked with the Minister since it is right at the front. That you must be a citizen and yet he is saying that it is not there.

MR SPEAKER: Leave that for now and the Minister and the Ministry will look into it later.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: May God's blessing be upon you in your role. I extend the same to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Political Party. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well said. It is sound to the ears when one speaks on constructive matters and within a short amount of time. Although some points are not factual but were all rolled in one. So congratulations Olo. I will allow the member for Urban Seat West.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban Seat West): I convey my gratitude for this day, and I do extend the same token to that side of Chambers to your Hon Prime Minister, the Government Ministers and Associate Ministers. I wish to contribute to the Legislation now before us. Mr Speaker I must firstly applaud the Commissioner and the Minister for this vital Legislation. The importance of this enactment proposes our moving forward. Although there are some weak points in the submission of this Legislation. The matter that went to the Court is welcoming as it evoked the Legislation to come before Parliament again so as to strengthen areas which need be.

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member taking the floor, but I will allow the interruption from the Minister of the Electoral Commission.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: A point of order. The amendments do not stem from the court case. They have been prepared well in advance. The member understands that the Electoral Amendment Act was passed in April which changes the month for nomination. If the member heard my statement earlier, I never mentioned such court case because it has no link to this amendment.

MR SPEAKER: That is the point of order from the Minister.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you. I did not understand the statement given earlier by the Minister despite my attempts to. It was after reading the Legislation that gave me an understanding. His getting up and referring to his speech earlier. Well why was it not inserted into this Legislation? I say that if it were not for this court case it would not come to this House. So, be patient whilst I attempt to deliver my thoughts on the Legislation. If he is saying that there was an amendment. When was it proposed to be introduced? Yet we are about to have the elections. I am actually trying to present my views in support of the Legislation. It is quite good that the law is being strengthened and the reason being is the court case. Perhaps the court case and the amendment are not similar, but it is the reason we are in session today.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: Just to be clear, my earlier statement today did not mention a court case as a reason for this amendment. It has been prepared well before due to the effects of COVID and similar circumstances. But there is no connection to the court case, for the record of the House.

MR SPEAKER: I hear you. I beg tolerance of the member and I advise him to not speak about the court case but do move on to another important matter. I call upon the Minister for Works.

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Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you for the opportunity. If I may assist the member for the Urban Seat West. He does not understand but he was present at our pre sitting yesterday. All of this was explained by the Minister. We all understand so I am confused, and he also did this yesterday at our pre-sitting and was briefed. Yet he is raising this again. I do have sympathy for my brother, and I am concerned that our Urban Seats may be affected. What he should do is to appreciate the amendments and we are not affected in these elections. I do applaud the Legislation but the interruption from my brother, well this was all explained yesterday. I did not raise a question as I understood the clarification. My only concern whether our running in the elections could be affected with the amendments. So, I was happy, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Did you hear the statement from your older brother?

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Yes, your honour. I do not know why he took the floor. I do understand and I was thanking the Minister and I did understand when the matter was clarified yesterday. What I meant was I did not understand when the Minister got up to explain the Legislation as I thought it was a new Legislation and he was going back and forth. I do support this Legislation. I will not respond to the point made by the Minister as that is a matter that concerns both of us alone. But with this law it affected the two of us when it was initially enacted. So, we should not be concerned. My taking the floor is to show my appreciations yet they seem to be attacking me, but I do understand totally.

I beg your pardon Faumuina, I allow Papaliitele.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies Faumuina but I will allow Papaliitele.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: My apologies to my brother. It was clear from what you said that you do not understand. So, I was assisting you. I do not know what else you are after when the Ministers clarification was understood. We all understood the Legislation yesterday. You also asked questions yesterday, so you do understand. But I apologise if you do not understand. So, it is true that you do not comprehend. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I wish you could grasp the concept from the Minister.

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Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: So, what the Minister wants is that I do not say anything. I cannot sit by and not voice my opinion. Whether I understand or not I must share my thoughts. How can you demand that I do not say anything, and expect me to remain confuse? My appreciations though relate to the initial Legislation which paved the way for myself to become a member for Urban Seat West. Which this Legislation was approved for me to run in the Elections, in which I...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order. It seems that we are accused of blocking the sharing of opinions. But the member is seeing members of this side making arguments like the big debate between the Minister and Peseta. Leala also shares his views. My take on this is that he is trying to antagonise the public listening in, claiming there is a plot to avoid their voicing of views. Do bring it on and do not keep them to yourselves.

You must remember that Cabinet Ministers have the right to get up and clarify matters. Why? Because we are following policies. So, we do accept matters for a Minister to reconsider, but we will always question so as to further clarify a matter. It is very simple for a Minister to do this.

Mr Speaker as we go forward things happen which we did not anticipate like COVID. So now we have put in COVID into our law. When the law was passed in 1962 it did not cover COVID as it did not eventuate then. Now that is happening the government must amend its laws so that it is in tune with the times were in. The statement that the legislation is not complete is ridiculous as no one is born into this world as a complete being except Jesus who knows what will happen tomorrow and the days to come. The laws that are being amended is done for a reason since the time it was enacted contradicts the present.

Mr Speaker that is my assistance and do spill your views.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The member will continue.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Mr Speaker I am trying to do that but am being stopped. Be patient and be calm...

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Let me ask this. Who is stopping you? Mr Speaker I am taking the floor on points of order and clarification. This party has an objective that we have been following since 1983. That is when something is out of line, it must be corrected right then. That is the reason we take the floor. It is why Cabinet Ministers tend to always take the floor as we operate on policies stemming from Laws.

Mr Speaker that is the situation, but we are not stopping you, go on and give it to us.

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member to be considerate with your views as you will not be taken lightly. The Government and Cabinet will not let it slide and will be corrected accordingly. The member must not think that the Speaker is stopping him from voicing your views. Do not take this the wrong way and consequently make you speak in an adverse manner.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am trying to figure out what is happening. Here I am trying to share my view on the law, and they are taking the floor. I do not know what to say...

MR SPEAKER: Listen to me, I am going to say this. You are saying that you do not understand the Minister's statement will not be taken lightly. What you are saying is so demeaning. Do you think that you are smart, and the Minister is stupid? That is why I am saying to watch what you say. You will say that you do understand and later you go on to say that you do not understand. We do not know where you are. It reminds me of what the other old man said to his son, when he tells him to go for a bath, he will say he is scared. When told to go out there to have fun he will say he may get hit by a car. The member will continue and do please.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: My apologies but we have had our wash. My apologies Mr Speaker and I extend the same to the Minister if you have taken what I said in that way. But I do understand the legislation, but I guess I do not understand the way he speaks. The good thing is I do totally understand. But thank you for today. I was pursuing the former legislation...

MR SPEAKER: The Leader of the House will take the floor.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, do not discriminate. Point of Order do not discriminate. The statement given was quite mediocre. It is just my assistance, my feedback for you. Because the statement you made to Papalii has hidden meaning.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio: Let the oars be split, as I can see that the member is a little confused. The Act has two versions, the Samoan and the European. Yes, if reading the Samoan version is still incomprehensible then they can turn to the English version.... Because I am the Minister of Education, I can help you out with the English version.... understand really... wait until it is... then we will go back and I will explain it to you. With due respect.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker, I am even more confused now. But at this hour, I would like to thank the Hon Minister. What I am attempting to do is, for the first existing Act. This is the Act that brought me into Parliament, the urban area position, so that they may go to the polls to where they live and reside. And it is up to them what matai title they want to use. But now the Urban Area has been removed, up until this time. Therefore, I want to thank the Hon Minister, as now the division is left in pairs because the division is based on the number of people living in each area.

Mr Speaker, the only intention that I have been trying to convey, is the case of transferring an independent candidate to re-run his election after they leave a Political Party. Because of the previous conditions, you can still leave the Party and then you will remain there, in a state of independence. Because it is true that I was elected under the conditions as a member of HRPP at the time I came into Parliament. And now the constituency in which I was elected no longer exists. There is also the case, due to the differences in the conditions of the Act. As there are still others who believe that this Act is good, and there are also others who believe that the Act is not well prepared and is ill-considered. This is similar to the situation that I am current in, and so I have moved on to this point Mr Speaker. I will leave it at that.

Suppose it is put off for another year if they are re-elected, that means once you slip away you will be removed, while there are those who are trying to register as independent members by October, this means that they no longer have the right to move to another political party in this state of independence.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon Leala to speak.

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Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, there is one more thing that needs to be clarified. I apologise to the member. It is clearly stated in the Constitution, Section 46 of the Constitution. It is clearly stated that it is not something new. As mentioned by the member, if a member were to resign or vacate or change their party, they automatically leave Parliament. For they have removed their flag from our Prime Minister and the Cabinet and our Parliament and our Political Party. And then they go and oppose the Electoral Act. But for this Constitution, it is clear, this means that what the member is talking about, is outdated.... it is in the Constitution that has been used for a long time, so it is not something new. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I have long wanted to say something, but I thought that I might be doing the job of the Minister of the Government, which is to explain. However, since you are prolonging our sitting. But you have spoken, Olo has also had enough time to speak on this issue, to which the Minister replied that it is in the Constitution, to ensure that the Constitution and the Standing Orders are consistent with each other. Now you are talking about it again, and so I thought, this is one area that falls under our Standing Orders, the reintroduction of a statement that has already been mentioned by another member. So, I apologise, I do not want to carry out the duties of the Government of clarifying and correcting, but since our Sitting is being prolonged, please let it go.

So, I ask that you please move on to another issue.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Mr Speaker, those are the only opinions I have, as I was only trying to give some suggestions, but it seems that whenever I give an opinion, they would say.... there are many things in the Constitution that I fail to understand. But we can always talk about it again, as we are currently amending it. The Constitution is amended frequently because Mr Speaker is becoming frail.

So, when a recommendation is given, no, it is given to formulate some ideas together with the suggestions that are already there. Since during these times, perhaps it will be useful for us, and it can also be useful for you. But there may be a time when it will occur, and the Hon Speaker will no longer be here.

But at this hour, I would like to thank you Hon Speaker for leading our Assembly today. Good luck with the rest of the Assembly today. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Congratulations Hon Faumuina for the speech, it is mostly filled with singing but faithful to a good society and the will of God, in a place where there is understanding and clarification of a matter.

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Thank you for the comment. One of the female members from Gagaifomauga No.3 is now standing.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No. 3):

Thank you Mr Speaker, I thought that I should stand at this time to separate the paddles, as only the men have been upstanding, and it has been a long morning. And so, a woman should stand to have a change of perspective at this hour. But I offer my congratulations to the Hon Speaker for conducting the deliberations in the House. I also offer my greetings to the Hon Prime Minister and to that side, as well as this side, the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and all of Samoa that have gathered together. I also extend my heartfelt greetings to our constituency and Hon Laauli who is present in the Assembly House, good health and a clear sky. I also greet the elected members of the party, Hon Laauli, who is also with us in the House.

But I stand to express a view regarding our Bill. I fully support the Bill. For I also believe, as I have heard with the comments made by the members. When Legislations are proposed there are good reasons. Either the previous Acts have become too weakened, or the services need to be upgraded and improved. And this will also reflect that the Ministry is working, implementing their work accordingly from time to time. It is the same for Samoa as well, as it is moving forwards, and so our Acts should also be updated from time to time. I pray to the Minister and the Commissioner and the people of the Ministry for a few more suggestions to be given. Since this member had observed in the last election.

There were many weaknesses seen, but our Act strives to apprehend these weaknesses so that they are implemented properly and to reflect the trustworthiness in the decision-making process of the people. And it is imperative that these Acts be introduced. In the same way, the rights of the people are voiced by going to polls, not to be oppressed by the village council. It should also correspond with the human rights framework in our Constitution. I also believe that we are trying to align all the Acts towards, to ensure that no candidate fails to go to the polls, because of the authority of the village council. Therefore, it is believed that we are striving to recognize and respect the authority of the Village Council, but it should also be in harmony with our Constitution and the formation of our Constitution, with the rights to run in the elections and to make your own choice without being oppressed. So that the people of Samoa are free to make their own decisions.

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And so, I pray to the Minister, to be like the things that have been discussed now, as I know that the issue has also been voiced in the previous Sitting where there are no special polls for us in Savaii, but now everyone will have to travel to Savaii. I implore the Hon Minister of Works, in terms of look towards the future, on how we can assist the voters of Savaii in traveling to Savaii. It is also believed that the spirit of compassion cannot be withheld for those who wish to travel to Savaii but have difficulty travelling, especially the vehicles they use for travelling and so on. Moreover, our constituencies located in the farthest rural areas of Savaii. And how we can assist those who are going to Savaii to vote, so that their travels are made easier to the villages in which they are voting in.

Another thing I noticed in the recent election, even in the by-elections that we had. If there were some methods, because we know that the Act is still trying to improve, to make certain that your choice is unrestricted. Why not move the houses used by the village council lives far away from where the polls are held, because they can influence the votes. It is being voiced, as the statement is pure, given the circumstances. Nor should there be... there should be a lot of police officer lingering around to make sure, so that no one can influence the voters standing in line for the polls. I know there is a lot of nitty-gritty in the implementation of this day and the election, but it still needs to be voiced within this House, so that it can be observed and prioritised for the future.

And lastly, our Acts and many of our existing Acts, it has also been observed, when an Act is approved, most of the people of the country do not understand, they do not know.

But my prayer to the Electoral Commissioner and the staff of the Officer, you should make some announcements, and it should be well explained and fully comprehensible, not only for the us who are in this House, but also for the new members who will be running in our elections in the new year so that they are well aware of the terms and conditions of the Act that are in place, to make it easier for them when they go to the polls. There should be adequate publicity, adequate information and clarification of the Act. And it is the same for the voters, the voters should completely understand the importance of their decisions, and let it not be restrained by their feelings. But the reason why I am voicing this is, because I believe that if the Office of the Electoral Commissioner were to really put emphasis on these groups, so that the people of the country are not oppressed by the restrictions and taboos of the village council within the villages and communities, to vote for a single member.

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Those are the types of things I wanted to voice my opinion on, in order to really articulate these things for the enlightenment of those who keep the peace in the villages and communities, as well as those who are voting with their own free will, without being oppressed by feelings.

That is my assistance and a recommendation to the Bill at this hour but thank you very much Mr Speaker for my opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you very much.
 Well, next is Alataua West.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): Thank you for the opportunity. I would like to offer salutations to you Mr Speaker and the members of Parliament who are with us at this hour. The opinion of Alataua West is very brief. We support the Bill in all its 4 major aspects as described and explained.

But the only point I want to express an opinion on regarding our Act, the case with our monotaga which states 3 years, and for anyone who is a permanent resident of Samoa. Hon Minister, I would like to make a comment, whether it is not appropriate within the villages and communities to bring their by-laws regarding monotaga to be brought to register in the Ministry of Women under the section for mayors, because each village is different with their definition of monotaga. For others, once they become chiefs, they endow \$2000 for their monotaga years before they are told to do another monotaga after 10 years or so. Some villages have gone with value, whereas you are still struggling to perform you monotaga and your service for 3 years, while another person would come and give in \$1000 saying that it will cover the 3 years. But it would be better to bring in by-laws, the laws of each village on their views of their own village council, and how they define monotaga which continues to be registered there, and then it will coincide with the next election which is ahead. The real definition of a monotaga, is based on the interpretation of the village council in the villages and communities.

Well, that is a humble opinion of this constituency. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, perhaps there are not many more left to speak on our matter, only the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 is left.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA (Faasaleleaga No.2): Well, I would like to express congratulations and gratitude to the Hon Speaker for the opportunity of this constituency.

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I also believe that it has been a long day for the members of the Assembly of Samoa. So, my statement will also be brief. As most of the views of this constituency, they were mostly given yesterday.

But this Act that we are talking about today is very important, because it is an Act that uses the framework to elect the leaders of the House of Samoa. There is only one issue I would like to address Hon Minister, as this constituency is the first constituency where this Act was first implemented during our by-election. Probably a lot of other suggestions were made yesterday, and I also think that it has been recorded and will not be repeated in a comment. But there is only one issue that I would like to reconsider for your information as well as for the members of the Office, regarding the approval of the mayors. For your information on this issue, it is very important because there were some voters who were approved by one of the mayors of our constituency. Following the election in our constituency, two mayors were prosecuted by the Electoral Office for performing their duties. What happened was, it was confirmed by another mayor, but our Office should have examined it carefully, because the female representative is in the committee of the other candidate, and then our Office takes the statement of the female representative in confirming some of these voters.

For your information Mr Speaker and honourable Members, 5 people who were on my roll have been removed from this group. In the performance of the duties of the Electoral Office when it was referred to the Judiciary and such conditions, and it was proven that these people were honest, because many of these children and such people, it is true that they moved to Apia for work and education, but they still reside in Savaii. So what I mean is, our Office has taken in the statement from another member but they should have looked into it carefully and immediately remove these people from the roll. If our election was decided upon by one or two votes, that would greatly affect the candidate. This is only a recommendation so that the Minister and the Ministry can closely examine the situation and then they can conduct prosecution.

Thank you to the Commissioner and the staff of the Ministry, since it has again appeared in the new roll that I have, it included the names of the people who were rejected by the Ministry from our election due to allegations that they are not members of our constituency. This is important, because as I said before, if the votes are very close, it means that they will have a huge impact. But now it has been put back on the roll. And two mayors in our district were charged. So, these are the other groups that were supposed to be charged after the March 2019 general election and till this day the charges against the other mayors have yet to be finalised. That is a burden that is being carried vulgarly by that old man within the village and it is not cheap.

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On the other hand, I talked to that mayor last week, and he is continuously coming to Apia 3 to 4 times, and it is always postponed due to the Officer of the Electoral Commissioner and their records, as they have yet to upload their records as required by the Judiciary. The areas being discussed regarding the practical experience of our constituency is important, because it may have happened to one of the honorary members of the Sitting of Samoa and their competitors, but what we are aiming to do is, to ensure that our process is fair, and to take a closer look at the situation concerning the accusations made against mayors because it is not easy being dishonoured within a community, the defendant is being accused and has been proven wrong. And so now the other mayor has pulled through as the charges were acquitted because he was right, but one more mayor is still waiting for his trial.

Well, that is the issue, but as I had already said before Mr Speaker, that is the only issue this member forgot to mention yesterday, but many of the other issues are information and recommendations that is directed to the Minister and the Ministry, which were already expressed yesterday. Bless the Sitting of Samoa. Thank you.

Tofa Hon Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker I want to express a brief opinion, if you allow it.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member for Anoamaa West to stand.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: I also express salutations to the Hon Speaker and all the honourable members of the House at this hour of the day. It is also intended that my speech and my questions for the Hon Minister regarding his Act will be brief.

I also believe that the House has been well-informed by the explanatory speech of the Hon Minister. “*Ae e iu ina loaloa le mafua ae o le a tuli ia na o le manu ua faasee*”. The issue according to the amendments of this Act is directly linked to the covid-19 virus. The requirement of the current Act is to have 3 years of residency in the country, prior to the election so that they can be eligible to contest in the general election. Now it has been proposed in the amendments, it does not include those who were halted overseas because of restrictions and bans or lockdown, when they travelled to distant countries and were affected by the lockdown. So, when they return, it would have already been more than 60 days as stated in the Act we have now, you have to be abroad for 60 days, it should not be more. This means that they are not eligible to run in the election.

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Now that an amendment is given, it will not affect them because the Act that has been amended, it was amended last year which required you to stay in Samoa for 305 days of the year each year, in the 3 years before the election. This means that you can travel to foreign countries for only 60 days. And now it is asserted in this Act, it is seen as a special treatment for those who have travelled abroad but were suddenly lockdown under the taboos of these overseas countries. Not only for those who have returned, but also those who have not had the opportunity to return by the date of registration. They are the ones, who have to return to Samoa 2 weeks prior to the election or is it correct. So, as I have said, those who fall into this circle, it is like special treatment for them, they will not be affected by this 3 year Act.

But a question; what about those who have been complying with the previous Act for 3 years, 240 days in Samoa, 125 days abroad? But when the Act was amended last year, they do not qualify? This is what I have seen in that part of the Act Hon Minister, the special treatment that is being applied to the members who are affected by Covid-19, and it is seen as being prejudice. That is the reason for my question and thus why I rise to address this issue and to ask for your point of view, because the Hon Minister is also a Lawyer, whether it is inconsistent with Section 15 of the Constitution, discriminatory legislation. The reason I asked about this specific issue, because there have been people that I spoke to, who are directly affected by this, saying they are unable to compete. But there is a suggestion, as I also believe that you are aware since the Hon Minister is also Lawyer, as a matter of principle, all these people should be treated equally under the Act.

That is why I have risen to give an opinion and to discuss this issue for your point of view, whether it is consistent with the Constitution or it should be considered. I am uncertain, but I only want to address it for an opinion from the Hon Minister.

Mr Speaker, my statement and contribution for this sitting is brief. Bless the Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, I think, if there is anything else.... Well, I call upon the member to stand to explain some of the remaining issues that were not clarified.

Well, this is probably the final statement of the Hon Fiame. I call upon the member for Lotofaga to stand.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Lotofaga): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Before I make a brief contribution on our proposed Legislation, I would first like to make a brief remark in relation to some of the statements made this morning as well as the remarks of the Leader of the Government. Congratulations to our member for Gagaifomauga No.3 Hon Laauli, who has returned after the by-elections for his constituency. While saying a word of gratitude, I would also like to thank the member because I have noted, although I have already conversed with the honourable member on the sitting of this delegation, but the member has shown respect for me to move from this seat and move to the back seat. And I am grateful for that respect.

Secondly Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister has also said, it is also known that the position of the delegation of this constituency has changed, following your departure from Cabinet. And I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister for his encouraging speech this morning, and also for recognizing the service of this constituency over the years. And God knows how grateful we are for this calling for so many years to make a contribution through work not only in the Political Party, but also in Cabinet. Thus, I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister. And whatever this member lacks in service, may it be returned to mine own self.

But Mr Speaker, regarding our Bill as tabled on the Assembly Table, in overall support of the Legislation by the Hon Minister. And as stated in general, there are 4 areas being considered in this preparation.

First, these are some of the effects on those who want to run in the election in the New Year due to the changes of our constituencies, the boundaries of our constituencies.

Secondly, some of the provisions due to the effect of Covid-19.

Thirdly, some weaknesses in the Act have been noted by the Commissioner and staff, as well as implementation of some of the recent by-elections.

And fourthly, the enforcement of the conditions of the monotaga and demands especially for those who want to run in the elections.

Mr Speaker, it can be found in some of the speeches this morning the situation of the impact on the candidates due to the change of our boundaries or the reorganization of our constituencies. And I am thankful for the preparations that have been made, because in fact as also made clear yesterday in the explanation by the Electoral Commissioner and the Office of the Attorney General; it is with the intention for equal distribution of opportunities for people under the Acts designed for different areas of the requirements of the Electoral Act. Notably, these are some of the main changes done for these areas, as in the context of the Act before this Amendment was introduced, as it seemed to be intended for our Urban Districts, especially at Vaimauga and Faleata.

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But now it is clear, these conditions still remain, but it has been extended to our other constituencies that are affected by the changes in the reorganization of our district boundaries. From the point of view of the main idea or the policy, which was also noted in the statements made, especially the recent speech regarding the non-discriminatory conditions of our Acts prepared and that everyone should have the same viewpoint of our Acts.

And I believe that is the significance of the amendment that has been laid out and extended not only to the Urban Constituencies of Vaimauga and Faleata, but it has also been set out in our schedule which states the constituencies that are involved. And perhaps we can say that this is the right thing to do.

Mr Speaker, I wanted to say something concerning the Covid-19 virus, but I will not address it any further as these conditions have already been addressed, as it seems that the Covid virus has been beneficial for the terms of this election, but for those who have been preparing for a long time, they were unable to continue their aspirations because of the Act we had.

Mr Speaker, I would like to discuss Part 3 of the Hon Minister's statement which stated some of the weaknesses in the Act that have been seen by the Office and the Ministry that is preparing our Act, and an example was given with the changes in the registration period for candidates from 3 months to 6 months as we have now. I do not fully understand, and I would like to ask the Hon Minister for his response on the usage of this change from 3 months to 6 months as an example of a weakness existing in the Act, although that was the first change made, what have been approved is not affected by the change that is tabled on our Table.

The only thing that I am unclear and uncertain about regarding these changes honourable Speaker is that these changes are for the general election, but there is also a reference to these Acts as such changes should also be looked into for the by-elections. So, if we consider the example stated by the Hon Minister on the registration period, which has now been changed from 3 months to 6 months, it would be better if a question be put forth; or the expectation is that during the by-elections will these conditions be included? Because at this time as it is known, there is not enough time scheduled to plan our by-elections, as it is reliant on the Act. However, as stated by the Hon Minister, this is one of the examples that acquired by the Office, it seems to be a weakness in the performance of the work, that is why I raised this question.

Mr Speaker, perhaps with the monotaga and the issue raised by the Associate Minister to the Prime Minister, but it may have already been clarified clearly, no the plan is now in place for the upcoming election, and then it will be terminated, as all of these things are under the outcome of the change in our electoral boundaries.

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Mr Speaker, I would like to speak briefly on some of the issues in general that are relevant to our current discussions of our Electoral Act. It was also noted in the speech of the member for Salega regarding the situation these constituencies are in, whereas the members are allowed to vote in the constituency they reside, but they cannot become a candidate for that constituency. Well, perhaps that is the answer to that question, as candidates in those kinds of places, have to return to their constituencies in which they are competing for. But the other thing that I am thinking about, is the status of our planning and the groundwork for our election, there is also a thought, well, from my own understanding of these elections, it seems to be like a policy, when you vote in a constituency, then you should be able to become a candidate for that constituency. If you are a voter in a Constituency, you should also be able to become a candidate to compete for the seat. Well, perhaps this is the gap between our traditions and culture on which our elections are based, and now we are moving towards attempts to balance it out with the population count, and so we are still carrying out discussions on this issue, on the status of the foundation of our elections, or categorise it as a chiefly system, or are we already moving towards using the process of statistics and population count. Mr Speaker, I am not asking what is right and what is wrong, these are just things that are happening, but going back to our conversation and the significance of our traditions and customs, as this question always arises. Well, perhaps the Hon Prime Minister has already spoken since our independence, as the Government continues to respond from time to time to the situation that arises as well as the requests of the constituencies.

But I believe Mr Speaker, since we have now re-discussed our Electoral Act, which is one of the key questions that we need to closely look at. Well, Mr Speaker, to finish off my statement...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member; it is something that needs to be corrected?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I have to state my opinion on this Mr Speaker since this same issue is being raised again. Because it seems like it is satisfying to hear, but unfortunately it appears that it degrades people who are in the rural areas, especially now that it seems to...

It is true that it is being publicised, but it seems to be specific to my urban district. Because Mr Speaker, it is not only Vaitele, Faleata West is also affected by this, as well as the whole of Samoa.

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The issue mentioning the chiefs, the whole essence of the whole purpose of the Act that we are discussing as I had given my opinion at the beginning, Samoa's politics is different, regarding the thing called monotaga. So, for chiefs, they are given freedom choice, as the chief can vote and also become a candidate at the place where he has his monotaga. Therefore, chiefs are allowed to freely vote in their constituency as well as compete for that constituency. But it is his freedom of choice, to vote in the village for which he resides if he wants to.

So Mr Speaker, the matter is quite simple. And from the statements made by the Office during their public discussions, when this question was asked, what are your thoughts if the election was open to allow chiefs of your constituency to compete as your representative? Not a single community wanted this. This is the truth Mr Speaker in case you might think that this is the news that I convey to my village and my constituency. You cannot stop this, but it should be explained, the reasons for the Act. With the utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you very much, Well, I call upon....

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Well, thank you to the Associate Minister of the Ministry for clarifying the Act. We are only stating our general views on this matter. It is not something new. But it will happen continuously in our discussions.

We conclude our speech with the Hon Speaker, as it is also reflected in some of the speeches, in the same sense that we are all members in our Legislative circle, so that we can develop Acts that protect those in Parliament, or those who support various political parties and so on.

Mr Speaker, I believe, the independence of the Office of the Commission which handles our Elections is very important. Because the person that is different from our circle, there are legislators, they are politicians, and we have to protect it to ensure this Office is independent, to ensure that the Elections are equally conducted in accordance with the existing Acts without prejudice or discrimination.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity, and this concludes our brief contribution regarding our Act today, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, I call upon the Minister to stand, to speak on some of the things.... that you did not cover in your statement. Most of the issues have already been clarified.

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Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Mr Speaker, from my observation, I have already given most of my responses except for the member from Anoamaa West, who is also a senior member of the Lawyers Association, to refer to Article 15 of the Constitution, 15 (3) (a), which states that this Section of the Constitution does not apply to the qualifications of candidates. There has already been a Court case on this issue or the ruling of the Court. But this matter should be re-examined. But for most of the members, that have already... as the Electoral Commissioner is also present here, therefore Mr Speaker, their comments and suggestions have been heard.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much; your hearing is the same as mine. You have responded to most of the matters raised. But we will still need to seek out the opinion of the Hon Prime Minister, as there may still be things that are missing, just in case you may have misheard. That is how it is, and I respectfully call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, no this is one of the most important Sittings and I move as I have heard the opinions that were expressed. Many of these Amendments have been proposed for our Act. The most important thing is Mr Speaker, as the public is also scrutinizing these conditions....so when it comes to matters like this, the expressing of opinions is not prohibited. It was also observed in the debates this morning. Not only from the members of this Party, but also the members who are not within the circle of the HRPP.

The views expressed by Olo are also important, it is thought-provoking. But to make this clear, this is the sceptre of this Party. Even for our members. It was not easy for the Minister the statements that have been made, by the members of this Party. There are different readings that cannot deny that. There are also many suggestions outlined by the Sao Faapito.

These are the characteristics of the debates in our Parliament, but the policies of the HRPP are not recent, when there is something to be corrected, then it will be corrected immediately, although it seems that we are standing up too often. And I will mention this again because it often seems like there are those who are listening from outside who still do not understand.

This is the Cabinet which imposes Acts and Policies. The public servants are also included in this, those who have the knowledge, to quickly comprehend the gist of what is being said, to record and to further amend our Acts. *E tetele lava la ia Pesega ae matua lava i le oo.*

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As for our Electoral Act, since the emergence of this Government, after every General Election, a Commission of Inquiry is formed. It is their job to formulate a report, to find out what actions that candidates have taken, which may require the amendment of the Elections. Keep in mind that the aim or the basis of this idea is for us to try to minimize situations that may occur, which in turn could cause the constituency to make an incorrect decision especially regarding those who are economically strong, as opposed to those who are economically weak.

But those are the candidates, which may become good Leaders, for this House and the country. As it is being conducted, after this election and then an election will be done for the Commission of Inquiry members. And so these changes are implemented and will be amended further like I just mentioned, for we are not people who are aware of what happens in the future and things that will be done. Nowadays, with the advent of high-speed IT networks, there are so many complexities that come with this type of technology. With the abundance of various crimes, therefore the Government should not sit idly by. And so, communication is important, not only for Samoa, with lawyers but also with the lawyers and Governments in this Pacific region.

Mr Speaker this is the important function. I mentioned the situation regarding the Cabinet standing up, why? This is where the long-term plans of our Government are constructed. Mr Speaker, there are also times when our determinations get the better of us and we forget about our Standing Orders. Well, but determination can cause mistakes, not only for our side but also for their side.

Mr Speaker, this is not a matter of trying to eagerly obtain opportunities to make corrections. But the situation itself from the beginning is that the Government always has the final say, why? Since this is a Government that has Policies. So, if the member were to stand up 100 times, the Minister will stand up 101 times. If the member stands up 1000 times, to question the Government, a member of the Government or I or whoever will stand up 1001 times, to make corrections, so that after the discussions, the final speech of this House, the speech is that of the Government.

Mr Speaker, on that note I would like to apologise to those observing from outside of this House. There are times when we laugh, while our Assembly is underway. These are delightful ways of doing things, because laughter makes everything easier. And when it is sometimes become overly excessive, well, they are just jests. It does not mean that jests are suppressed unless they are only done under the guise of laughter, as we make jokes all the time, which is what makes our discussions interesting.

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Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– consideration in detail

So, Mr Speaker, I am standing again, to apologize if you have discern that we raised our voices, and I would like to explain, if I were to respond beyond this House, there is a reason. The reason for why I have responded, as there are members who sang, and I will always respond. Thus I am replying because they sang, where did they sing? Not only the announcements in here but the announcements from abroad as well. The media outlets are recording it, speeches in Australia, speeches in America and speeches in New Zealand, and it is quite critical.

So, when I respond, it is not to criticise, no, it needs to be corrected, because as I sit here, I have with me a lot of documentation proof regarding everything. That is why when issues concerning the Government are raised, or 30 years ago, it is all noted in these documents, I can just grab it and flaunt it before you to show you the verifications.

Mr Speaker, this is the situation. It is also worth taking a little longer, so that I can recall the things that happened in the past, because a lot of things happened. The Assembly in which are currently meeting and the minor conversations that we are having, it cannot be...as it is not yet time when we will oppose the Tama a Aiga, due to the excessive language used in here. But at this time as if the wind was blowing saying, *alas*. During the times when we interacted with the parents of some of the members who have become dignitaries now, the debates were intense. And it was the first time I heard these words; we should not mince our words.

Mr Speaker that is why I am upstanding, to offer my congratulations for the discussions made on the opinions raised, and I have noticed that we are heading to consider in detail our Act. Good luck with the Assembly.

Motion approved and the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2020 was read a second time.

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2020
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant of Standing Orders consideration in detail will commence on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Section 8 amended.

Approved.

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Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 3: Section 9 repealed.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: New Section 46A inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Section 47 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Section 53 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Section 58 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Section 141 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 9: Section 152 amended.

Approved.

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**Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2020
– third reading**

CLAUSE 10: Section 156 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: Schedule inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Consequential amendments.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Transitional provision.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Electoral Amendment (No.2) 2020.

Approved.

The Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2020 progressed without Amendments.

**ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2020
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: It is with great respect that I call on the Hon Minister of Elections who owns the Act.

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Motion for Adjournment

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2020 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Communications, Information and Technology

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

MR SPEAKER: Well, we have finally come to the conclusion of our work that was scheduled for today. Although I believe that it has been a long day, but at least we have completed our work for the sake of the country's endeavours. And so, I respectfully call on the Leader of the House for his address and a motion to adjourn our Assembly.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I trust the words of gratitude have already been put forth upon your honourable Mr Speaker and the members of Parliament for the Proceedings which has now come to an end. And I think that I should go straight to the motion that I should move for the adjournment of the Assembly.

And I declare, *To change the Calendar Session Dates as approved by the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 170 to adjourn the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, until Tuesday, 17 November 2020.*

Before the question is put forth, I would like to refer the House back to your presentation this morning regarding this emergency meeting which was not included in our Calendar of Sessions, but there is still an opportunity for the Leader of the House, myself, and the Hon Speaker assemble for a urgent meeting of the Legislative Assembly if there is an important matter for the common good of our country.

I believe that although the motion has been tabled, but if there is any other important matter that requires an urgent conference of the Legislative Assembly as this is the last year of our Parliament, the glory of the House will be heard.

But that is the motion for the approval of the House with the utmost respect.

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Motion for Adjournment

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

Motion was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much, as the work today has been completed with the assistance of God, we have gained strength to continue our work, to the honourable members of Parliament as well as the Hon Leader of the House and Cabinet, praises for your hard work, and no words will be sugar-coated but only a spirit full of gratitude and admiration.

I would also like to thank the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk and the members of the Legislative Assembly, thank you for your hard work, as well as the Police Force who are looking after the safety of the assembly.

The devotion of Samoa, thank you for your support, the sitting of your Parliament has come to a successful conclusion because of your devotions as acknowledged by the Leader of the House, leading is never better than the support. Praises for your work, thank you for your perseverance through difficulties that has made today's work a success.

Before we adjourn, I will close our sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 2:35pm until Tuesday, 17th November at 9:00am.