

**TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2018**

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly commenced at 9:00am pursuant to the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2018.*

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

Prayer.

**OPENING SPEECH BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I take this opportunity to respectfully welcome the Leader of the House the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and all Members of Parliament.

I also welcome the various Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations present this morning especially Samoa listening in from elderlies to children as well as the esteemed Leaders of various church denominations in the country for your prayers and blessings upon Samoa and its Government.

I thank our Heavenly Father for bringing us to the first Sitting of the year, for without Him we would not have been able to witness a God of Peace and Splendor this morning. I wish Parliament the best in this Sitting for the benefit of Samoa.

I pray that the Lord bless all of Samoa and the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly especially the continuous service by the Ministry of Police and Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations.

**NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

*Mr Speaker read out the notice from the Leader of the House.*

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

1. National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018.

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**Notice from the Leader of the House**

**GIVEN THIS** day 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

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

**NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

*Mr Speaker presented the Notice from the Leader of the House.*

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament, notice is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to proceed upon the consideration of the given Bill:

1. Constitution Amendment Bill 2018.

**GIVEN THIS** day 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

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

**OBITUARY SPEECHES**

*Mr Speaker announced the passing of **Susuga Hon SEIULI Taulafo**, a former Member of Parliament.*

***Susuga Hon SEIULI Taulafo** was first elected as a Member of Parliament for the territorial constituency Sagaga le Usoga in the IV Parliamentary term from the year 1970-1973 and the V Parliamentary term in the years 1973-1976.*

*He was the Minister of Health in the years 1973-1976.*

***Susuga Hon SEIULI Taulafo** passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.*

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### Presentation of Papers

*On behalf of Parliament I take this opportunity to convey sincere condolences to the late Members wife and family on the sad passing of Susuga Hon SEIULI Taulafo.*

*Members of the House showed respect by standing for a minute of silence for the passing of the Member.*

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*Clerk read out papers tabled before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to Standing Order 49.*

1. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 116, Annual Report of the Public Trust Office for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016;
2. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 117, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017;
3. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 118, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017;
4. P.P. 2017/2018 No 119, Annual Report of the Parliamentary Pension Scheme 2017;
5. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 120, Annual Report of the National Provident Fund for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017;
6. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 121, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016;
7. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 122, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017;
8. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 123, Annual Report of the Samoa Senior Citizens Benefit Fund for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017;
9. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 124, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour for the Financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017;
10. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 144, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the Financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

*The Clerk read our Parliamentary Committee Reports tabled before the Assembly pursuant to Standing Orders 52(2)*

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### Presentation of Parliamentary Committee Reports

1. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 125, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee Report on the P.P. 2016/2017 No. 137, P.P. 2016/2017 No. 138 and P.P. 2016/2017 No. 153, Report of the Controller and Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly for financial years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
2. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 129, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No. 65 & P.P. 2017/2018 No. 69, Annual Reports of the Office of the Electoral Commissioner for financial years 2013/2014 & 2014/2015;
3. P.P.2017/2018 No.131, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on the Fire and Emergency Services Amendment Bill 2017;
4. P.P.2017/2018 No.135, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on the Supplementary Estimates (No.1) 2017/2018.
5. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 136, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the S.R. 2017/7, Professional Engineers (Registrations) Regulations 2017;
6. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 137, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No. 62, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.
7. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 138, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No. 63, Annual Report of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the Financial Year 2015 -2016;
8. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 141, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No.108, Annual Report of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics for the Financial Year 2015/2016.
9. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 142, Social Sector Committee Report on the S.R. 2017/8, Coroners Act 2017 – Notice of Commencement;
10. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 143, Social Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No. 66, Annual Report of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for the Financial Year 2015-2016;
11. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 145, Social Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No. 106, Annual Report of the Samoa Prisons & Corrections Services for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
12. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 146, Social Sector Committee Report on the S.R. 2017/5, Police Service Amendment Regulations 2017.

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### MOTION FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A BILL (S.O.65)

**Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister of Revenue):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Firstly, I want to acknowledge the Chair and Members of Parliament since we have now come to the beginning of another year with its proceedings especially the support of the country.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2017 be withdrawn as referred to the Economic Sector Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Health and Minister of Finance.*

*Motion approved and the Income Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2017 was withdrawn.*

### MOTION BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Deputy Chairperson Parliamentary Commission):** Mr Speaker I have noticed something different this morning. Hence, in case I long for the fish in the reef and forget to consider the shells on the shore. Then I recall the words of the women in the Bible. They said when the Lord blessed Mary, she went to Elizabeth to tell her the news, and the two famous women were used by God to fulfill the prophecy about the Messiah by the Prophets.' The explanation went on to say that 'when Elizabeth saw Mary the baby leaped in her womb with joy. Why? She has witnessed Her Savior.' Those were the words of their meeting between these two Women of the Gospel, 'oh my, have mercy on me.'

Mr Speaker this is rightfully my feelings this morning viewing the Members on both sides of the House. Before the Parliamentary Commission moves a motion I wish to welcome the respectable Members of the House.

Honorable Speaker, thank you for your patience I am grateful for your found strength, happy New Year as we meet once again upon the agenda of the House, may the Lord's Mercy be upon you.

I welcome the Leader of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet and Associate Ministers; I commend you all for the hard work this year 2018, well done.

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### Motion by Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees

I also want to welcome all Members, the presence of the Chairpersons of Select Committees and the esteemed Members of Parliament. I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries with us this morning. I commend you all for your patience and hard work and I wish you all the best with your duties this New Year 2018.

I acknowledge the support of our country, *Aiga ma latou Tama, Tama ma Aiga, le Usoga a Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga I le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Papa ma Aiga na Tafaiifa*. Thank you for your support, your Parliament will now resume its duties for this year to achieve points as we move forward.

Mr Speaker with respect I move a motion *that the Legislative Assembly approves the Third Parliamentary Sitting Program 2018/2019 as scheduled by the Parliamentary Commission pursuant to Standing Order 170(g)*.

<u>Month</u>		<u>Day</u>
January	-	23
March	-	20
May	-	29
June	-	19
October	-	2
December	-	18
January	-	22

*Seconded by the Member for Siumu and Member for Palauli le Falefa.*

*Motion approved and the Parliamentary Sitting Programme 2018/2019 was approved.*

### MOTION BY CHAIRPERSONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEVAISEETA (Chairperson of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition & Constitutional Offices Committee):** Mr Speaker before I move on, I wish to greet the House from the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and respectable Members of Parliament especially Samoa listening in to Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly this morning.

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### Motion by Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees

I believe all constituencies are also tuning in. Why? It is the love of our Father and it is a must that our voice should be heard this first sitting as we ensue with our work for God's protection upon us. This is my gratification this morning.

Mr Speaker I stand before you to move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly allows the Committee more time to consider the three orders referred, the work have yet to be completed before it is reported back to the Assembly in the next Sitting.*

1. *Honors and Awards Amendment Bill 2017.*
2. *P.P.2017/2018 No.59, Office of the Ombudsman Report of the State of Human Rights for the Period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.*
3. *P.P.2017/2018 No.100, Samoa Law Reform Commission Final Report on Pule a le Matai Sa'o (FR 18/17) February 2017.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Speaker, Member for Palauli le Falefa and Member for Safata West.*

*Motion approved.*

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee):** I humbly greet the Hon Mr Speaker, respectable Members of Parliament and Samoa listening in this morning.

Mr Speaker with respect I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly allow the Committee more time to consider the two orders referred, the work have yet to be completed before it is reported back to the Assembly in the next Sitting.*

1. *P.P. 2017/2018 No.58, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the financial year, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.*
2. *P.P. 2017/2018 No.64, Annual Report of the Office of the Regulator for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.*

*Seconded by the Member for Palauli le Falefa and the Member for Siumu.*

*Motion approved.*

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**National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018**  
– first reading

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee):** I welcome the Hon Mr Speaker, I gathered from the speech of the Deputy Speaker this morning that the Angel speaking to Mary the mother of Jesus is highly favored however, a correction on that, the Angel told Mary, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.’

This morning, honorable Speaker I noticed you walking unhurriedly due to very bad health condition, I appeal to God to give you strength. I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Members on the opposite side of Chamber and this side as well.

Before I move a motion I offer my sincere condolences to one of the Members for the passing of her mother, Afioga Faaulusau, we shall talk after, it is hard because you are the princess of our Committee.

Mr Speaker with respect I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly allows the Committee more time to consider the two orders referred, the work have yet to be completed before it can be reported back to the Assembly in the next Sitting.*

1. *P.P.2017/2018 No.68, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the financial year 2015/2016.*
2. *P.P. 2017/2018 No.70, Annual Report of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology for the financial years 2011-2016.*

*Seconded by the Member for Siumu Member for Urban West and the Member for Faasaleleaga West No.1.*

*Motion approved.*

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2018**  
– first reading

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health):** Mr Speaker I believe the praises to the Almighty have been well heard this morning. Joyfully, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year, to the Hon Speaker and respectable Members of Parliament; I thank God for his loving kindness upon us all and the commencement of our work this new year.



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**Constitution Amendment Bill 2018  
– first reading**

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my constituency in all its traditional setup. I also want to offer sincere condolences to the wife and family of my colleague Afioga Masoe Dr Toga Potoi for his sad passing, may God comfort the grieving family at this time of sorrow.

Mr Speaker I move with respect to move a motion, *That the National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018 be read for the first time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of Public Enterprises.*

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

**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL 2018  
- first reading**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Constitution Amendment Bill 2018 be read a first time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Health, Minister of Public Enterprise and the Minister for Revenue.*

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders debate will be carried out on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018.

This is opportunity for Members to speak on matters relating to the financial and economic state of our country and our State's financial policy.

I want to remind Members that we cannot discuss the details of the Bill. Nonetheless there will be a time for that later on during our session.

The opportunity is now given to any Member who wishes to speak. I call on the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT (Gagaifomauga No.3):** With all due respect since there is a problem with the microphone for this constituency, I humbly ask if I can borrow another Member's microphone for my speech.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member's request is understood. It is important that we all work together. There are duties that must be carried out thoroughly but considering the changes in the weather these days; this is reason for this problem. In case the Legislative Office is blamed for this inconvenience. I apologize the Member for this matter; I see that the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela is availing his chance for you to give your speech.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Respectfully and in all high honor and sacredness this morning at the Fields of Tiafau or Malae o le Fautugatagi of Samoa. It is a place to find Success and blessings for Samoa and the future through its decision making. I believe praises have already been delivered to the Almighty God and Omnipotent who holds all Authority and reason for all the blessings since the time we came to earth until today.

I humbly greet the Speaker of the Independent State of Samoa. I also acknowledge the Leader of the House and Cabinet and all the Members of Parliament this morning. There is no higher authority than the Legislative Assembly, hence we were chosen specifically by the people to make decisions for the development of the country.

I acknowledge Le Ao o le Malo, Tuiaana and his Good Lady and the Members of Council of Deputies. I acknowledge the Chief Justice and the Judiciary that makes up the three pillars of Government, something that cannot be changed now until forever.

I also want to acknowledge all of Samoa for the support in your honorifics, *Le paia I Aiga, Aiga ma Tama, o Tama ma o latou Aiga, le Usoga Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga I le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I want to acknowledge the support of our neighbors in the East in all its honorific salutations.

Lastly my beloved constituency in all its traditional salutations, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, thank you for the prayers and patience.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

The premise for my speech on the Supplementary Appropriation Mr Speaker is ‘fear not that I am the Lord thy God, the first and the last, and I am with thee forever, but believe and know me, thy only God, Jesus I trust in you.’

Mr Speaker, first I would like to thank the House for giving this constituency another opportunity to be part of the decision making process of Samoa. Nonetheless I will not discuss further the tabling case before the Court but I am grateful for another opportunity to continue our service to voice our contribution to Manuao by serving Samoa through this calling.

It has been five months since I left that side of the House to be on this side which was a decision that came from my true heart knowing that it was the right thing to do. I pray God that time will tell for integrity to be confessed.

I apologize for not being able to attend the previous sittings because I had to attend to personal affairs; I have been putting my trust in the Lord for his guidance. Mr Speaker the matter has been put before the Court to bear justice whilst I pray God for the next step for me in the future. I apologize the Speaker for any inconvenience for this is not an external issue rather it is an internal matter that has tainted the image of the Samoan Parliament. But I have faith in God that time will come and everything will be precisely given.

Thank you to this House for your prayers upon this event. To my family and relatives, I beg tolerance, like I said, I did nothing to destroy our relationship and everything else.

My constituency, like in our meeting, no one can stop your authority and respects. I ask that you continue your trust as we seek justice before everything is laid to rest. The only concern honorable Speaker, what happened to me could happen to anyone in this Parliament in the future. My heart is saddened by what God had shown me through a spiritual vision, I pity, a hug that is untrue, the hand of Esau but the voice of Jacob.’ This is my advice to Members not to get involved with this matter and avoid inflicting pain on one another. Regardless, patience is a virtue for it this is the gift from God, persevere and it will guarantee outstanding results.

Mr Speaker Samoa is a country with divisional wealth, and nothing is new in this life, God has already distributed plans for our environment for us to develop through our callings for the State. The State therefore cannot do it alone, it needs the support of the whole country which is why we have the three pillars of Government which are the Government, Judiciary and Parliament and the positions of the State within the country, Church and the authority of *Alii and Faipule*.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

If we recall the initial years of our self-government until today, God was a gracious Father to Samoa through our economic wellbeing and the numerous things He helped us through and the many assistances we received from abroad. If it wasn't for the Love from God, we would have nothing today. If it were not for that love we would not be reaping the benefits today.

My advice Mr Speaker, gone are the days of betrayal, gone are the days of difficult and suffering hitherto Samoa will now face blessings and reap the benefits. However, the devil will never rest as it aims to conquer and destroy the good plans in our daily lives. The Three Pillars of Government wholly requires that we work together for the development of everything in response to the intention of the Government, Church and the general public. If the decision by the State does not have the support of the Church and the *Alii and Faipule*, it will not go through. It is like a ship at sea, if the Captain lacks insight of his men what happens then? He must remain calm, if the crew doesn't inform the captain of the ship's problems, what happens next? They will drown and perish.

This is the reason why I take this Supplementary Budget seriously; all of Samoa should stand together and support it. Let our differences from the past in the old meeting place be set aside by respecting each other in managing our Government through the various authorities.

I wish to congratulate the Government for initiating our local Airline Company. This is a good dream we have yearned and patiently aimed for to revive as the only pathway that connects us in transporting travelers to and fro not only for the development of our country but also an advantage for our exports. Therefore, a lot needs to be done. Based on current observation, ever since the establishment of our Airline Company, we have noticed a change in the conditions of other Airline Companies that have long existed in the country. This is evident in the huge drop in the airfares. They seem to be in competition with one another for the benefit of the traveling public. There was no such thing in the past where we had to pay \$2,000 - \$3,000 for a one way ticket. Rather, the launching of our own Airline Company has given us an idea of the airfare listing that should have been the case in the past. As such, I am grateful to the Government for this initiative that should help us build a close network such as the recommendation I gave initially, we must have the people's support as a whole.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

Hon Minister may you bear patience because the Air New Zealand Airlines is heading to destroy our local company, that is the direct wording. May you endure patience and pray that our country continue to show their support by using our airline. There is no other way to keeping this airline running; the only way is through our people to use it. Although we see changes in the airfares and everything else nowadays, if we have the true Samoan blood and patriotic feeling and the spirit of true support, I trust we will be successful.

I tried it too during my former time as the Minister of Agriculture, when we had our past attempts to export our taro. The main method that was used back then was encouraged our locals to come and have a taste of our taro products and purchase them. Your contribution will go back to the country. Although the Fijian taro and the Tongan taro and taro from other countries looked better, it did not take three hours to sell out our containers, why? It was because of the loyal feeling from the people and the collaboration effort of various churches and people with age range from old to young, we need to stand together in order to find success for our local Airlines Company.

Mr Speaker words must be spoken and not be avoided. Arriving at this side of the House, I feel very grateful for this is the 13<sup>th</sup> year since I became a Member of this Parliament; it has been ten years since I have worked for the Legislative Assembly and two years in the Ministerial level. It made me realize the significance of the saying about our national building that I tried to highlight, work together, ‘united we stand, divided we fall.’ I have worked with the Office of the Legislative Assembly for ten years and God’s love is wonderful Mr Speaker. Well everyone is a witness to the management of our Laws we have in place for the betterment and improvement of our Parliament, thanks be to God. The two years I undertook as Minister, I realized the so much work I should have achieved, I will now say it whilst I still have the chance, and I will further give recommendations to you Hon Ministers. It is not easy but it is a must to look into these things thoroughly in order for the Ministries to manage their works properly for the State. I wish to thank the Government Heads and all public servants for the good works achieved for the wellbeing of the country. Possibly too, we have the careless, there are those who think that this is Government issue, it is public property, if we go bankrupt then so be it, if destroyed so be it, they do not bother. The movement of a person is his/her own property, if you go broke; you feel the hardship and hurt right into your bones.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

That is the feeling, because by observation, Samoa is entirely covered with foreign relationships, we are in the ring of managing funds and things of that sort, otherwise, we cannot remove this very thing of relying on money borrowed to fund our Budget. By that we must reexamine and monitor well the management of each Government Ministries. My personal view of the past two years when I was working for the Ministries, I have seen the good and the bad due to the carelessness of employees. So in the future, we must be able to stand strong, include and give recommendations and insight to Government Heads and Government Ministries and public servants and take heed of the works in the future. We can never go on with a deficit every year, we have to change this...

**MR SPEAKER:** Five more minutes the Member.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** It is impossible, but just recommending, there is a huge chance to change this to something good if we work together to secure the assets of the State.

To the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Auditor, thank you for your works, because this is where we can find public funds and whether they are used appropriately and properly. We must ensure that this undertaking is enforced so that public funds are distributed appropriately.

Mr Speaker I notice the mention in variation of Prisons in this Budget. Mr Speaker with all due respect I thought we were not doing this anymore. Generally speaking where is the blueprint of the building that resulted to the approval of contractors? Does this mean that this school building is being discarded? If this is tabled again does this mean there will be a whole new prison building?

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the Member, I call on the Minister for Prisons and Corrections for his response.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker I do not want to interrupt the speech by the Member, previously we were on this side and perhaps we have different views of this appropriation. We also have the Finance Committee and the \$3.7 million allocated to sufficiently cover the costs of contractors.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

The contractor involved with this project mentioned \$7.4 million; \$3.7 million given in the previous Main Budget and the current \$3.7million presented here is to fully cover the contractors at a total of \$7.4 million. There is no variation to this work up to this point, incase this was misinterpreted by the Member, thank you.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, in regards to tendering contracts, this also covers maintenance work contracts at the new prison location. The significance of the bidding process is to ensure that corruption practice is not involved. There is a Committee tasked with this Tendering process of the major projects of the State that includes the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Works.

The bidding process involves all Bidders that after the public notices and advertisement that compiles all bidders then all bids are passed to the Committee involving Government Heads who investigate them in accordance to the set tendering guidelines and requirements. Because for a contract that does not meet any of these requirements then it has to be cancelled. The reason why we go through this process honorable Speaker is to ensure the avoidance and involvement of any corrupt practice in the process.

Mr Speaker it is important to find thoughts for the current speaker who knows Cabinet procedures very well as he too used to be a part of this Cabinet. The essence of him raising this matter has allowed the Government to clarify these major works and reason why contractors bid.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter is now clarified, may I also remind the respectable member that such questions can be asked when we have the consideration of the legislation into detail which should further assist you.

Go ahead.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Thank you Mr Speaker, if the clarification is simplified, then that is it because Samoa is listening in.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

Mr Speaker a matter concerning our relationship with the Government of Israel, just recently I heard we are now a neutral supporter of Israel on the belief that Jerusalem should be the central base for the people of God. I plead the House with greatest respect to consider our Constitution and our agreement before God. I will bless you and your people; I will curse you and your people if ever anything happens to my land.

In the saying '*E le aoaia e Laupua Tamaiga*' honorable Speaker, only this to say to our Government representatives overseas, have mercy and take into account our recent approved Constitution that we are founded on God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to guide us through in regards to His Word.

Mr Speaker this constituency will conclude with....

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the member's query is vital and is exactly what is carried out. Thus there are principles in place to govern our Government. Although it is true that Israel is the Land of God, but Israel is still paying for the crucifixion of Jesus and it is these people who also replied/shouted, '*may the blood be upon us and our children.*' This is the reason why there is war every night and day. The land of God should be peaceful, but these people took upon themselves the curse that is also shouldered upon their children in finding true peace for Israel.

This is just a clarification, we all read the Bible but there are times when the Government has to consider the future wellbeing of our country lest this curse is spread into Samoa.

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

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Thank you. These are just a few reminders because no one can change the words of the Bible, for it is the word spoken by our God, I will leave it as it is. I also heed the voice of Government on consciousness.

Mr Speaker lastly our congregation conducted a meeting last Sunday on the passed legislation we had in the House about the taxing of Church Ministers. Mr Speaker this meeting did not go well as the Church Secretary and Members had to prepare all in compliance to the approved Bill.



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Otherwise, a letter has been received by the Church on a resolution by the Church's Annual General Conference specifying that all Church Ministers should not comply with the provisions of this Bill until further decision in its Annual Conference.

Mr Speaker I humbly request...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I too have received that letter clarifying everything, and it was our Lord who spoke, 'render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, the distinction, the Bill is directed straight to Church Ministers, not even a Church, therefore, the blame is upon the Church Ministers themselves just like us, if a person does not pay tax, that person is liable upon the Law, but there are some Church Ministers who have been paying their taxes. On that note, the Minister will handle its own penalty.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** I do not fully understand what the Hon Prime Minister and the member are deliberating about, whether it is a strong coffee when this is pertaining to matters of the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, which is paramount unless... therefore I do not know how this is related to the debated matter, leave the CCCS matters alone.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** I thank the Member for the interruption. Mr Speaker I alone, do not serve one church within my constituency but all churches in it which is unquestionable. In my position as the senior Lay Preacher for the Congregation of Alamagoto, I rise to voice the request from the Malua Theological College whereby no pastor dares go against it, because if mistaken, you are taken to Malua for a lecture. What concerns me Mr Speaker is where exactly do we stand in regards to spiritual belief, where? That is the intention to the Government Leader and Ministers, because when we get there, the main conference will be held in June and July where we will have the passing of this matter. This will then be handed in officially for Government's decision, the legislation is now approved...

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**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the Member to endure patience; I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a Point of Order. I was going to ask the Member whether he is a Member of the Church or a Member for the constituency, because we are here as representatives of our Constituencies.

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the notable Member, a word of advice from the Chair; we were all present when we had the deliberation of this matter. I advise again that matter is being discussed again when it already has the House's approval, we were all here and I do not recall you speaking about it from that side. I beg tolerance to the respectable member; it is good to find information about the member for Gagaifomauga No. 3 before we have the Annual Conference in Malua this year, yes. I beg indulgence to the esteemed members of Parliament, I ask the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 to set aside your intention on this matter. I beg your pardon as one of the senior members and former Speaker and member of the Cabinet...the letter you mentioned has just been delivered to you whilst it has been with the Hon Prime and Cabinet for quite some time now for their consideration.

I call on the Member to conclude his speech.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Mr Speaker I fully respect your recommendation hence these are the opinions of the Church Ministers within my constituency, I have to obey them. This is why I have voiced it given the opportunity whether I am a deacon or lay preacher; I have to voice it as this is no easy matter to the Church. The reason why I did not raise it at first, was because in accordance to the Minister's speech, 'everything is fixed, I beg indulgence.' What now? These issues have just been surfaced, which is reason for our response. Lest you think the Church and its members are uncertain of what to take, this is a concern Mr Speaker, I humbly request that we recognize the Constitution of the Church. Let us await the decision of the Church in their Annual Conference rather the main thing is that we have complied the procedures of the Constitution of the Samoan Government and the Constitution of the Church.

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That is the advice honorable Speaker, leave it to the Government for your authority, Government is Government, Law is Law just a reminder Mr Speaker man makes Laws, man changes Laws. Do something that will bring peace to our country and not something to threaten our Church Ministers and chase them away because where else will we go to find another a spiritual leader when this happens? That is the intention Hon Minister, bear consideration of the Church's Constitution, this is your discretion, and everything is now in place according to your will. However, what's happening now is conflict building that must be said. The words we receive is different from what's happening in reality.

Lastly Mr Speaker I want to apologize for any misconduct, forgive me for any mistake. My constituency listening in, I ask for calmness. May the Spirit of the Lord be upon our works and the future. As for me returning to this side of the House, I feel more comfortable to speak freely and no longer have to withhold any opinion. I think this is where I belong, I have returned to serve the Hon Mr Speaker and the Parliament of Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Member, I will give the opportunity to the next Member since you are speaking of all things holy, I call on the Member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker this is a very lovely morning, for the first time again after sitting on that side of the House for 13 years, I am hearing a very constructive view. Now I have come to realize that the Member for Gagaifomauga should have been there while I should have been here long ago. The only point of order honorable Speaker is that none of us is victimized yes, we are free to speak our minds anytime we want, thank you Laauli, this is a new morning and the hearing is new to the views and the strength you have taken with you to that side for the member of Salega East and those on that side which is very weak, thank you.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East):** Mr Speaker since my name was mentioned, I want to ask the Member of this side, what's holding up the Members of that side, or is it the rocks that's fastening the mosquito net? Pardon the honorifics of the House and Samoa tuning in; I did not know there was something like that, now that I am aware, each member of that side has a holder (taotao) thank you.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Let me assist. I appease the member; it is good to hear the opinions of the Parliament. As chosen Parliament members and representatives of our territorial constituencies, the main intention in supporting our work is to take part in the decision making of the State and seek blessings for all of Samoa. I notice with sadness that we are again reiterating and stressing the matter to the current speaker when time has passed. In this regard, this is the reason for giving the explanation in a much simpler language in the presence of everyone, but I did not hear any deliberation like this before, since time is now fresh and new, it is absolutely wrong for this matter to be addressed again. Since it again queried, which body will the Parliament comply? Note our appointment as members of Parliament and our oaths as Leaders of the country in compliance with the Standing Orders of the House. I see that we are at the forefront and it looks like we are heading backwards. It is hard to talk of this concern because it seems...I say this for the sake of making clarification much easier. I appease the member as respect must be maintained. This should not recur in the future, if you are a Minister be responsible to answer and if you are a Member then adhere to the rules of this Parliament and in respect to Samoa. Such is what I said earlier, words and exchanges can affect our sight. It would be good to have the support of Samoa and our Spiritual Leaders as we are prayerful people. As one old man says, ‘do not over work the paddles as it could splash water on other people’s faces and therefore affects the Government.’ This is my assistance on the matter. I call on the member to conclude.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** I apologize honorable Speaker for any misgivings, I will not violate any more rules nonetheless Samoa has heard what I said. It is noticeable; I will not speak of the legislation as it is passed, as for yesterday’s happening, it is also good to guide us through. I will now conclude my view.

I will not respond to these members’ queries, I don’t waste my time, they are jokers, yes I will not respond to it. Whatever words they utter, the country is witnessing the person’s words and the work they do. God is watching our actions and everything we do.

Therefore, respectable Members of Parliament I pray that we sail on calm seas. The respectable leader of Government, Ministers I will not withhold words of kindness and I hope future decisions are made wisely for the country. If we sit speechlessly, then we should not be sitting here, we must...

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it is words of kindness that I advise the member. You cannot bring your church matters here. This House deliberates general matters and the Bill has already been passed. We all go to church and are aware of the standing of the Bible in regards to taxation. This is one concern that was clearly defined by our Lord and Savior. I do not know exactly where the Lord spoke about paying taxes in the Bible and how this came about. This is exactly why it is vital for all of us that whenever we clarify our views; make sure that your thoughts are deep instead of directing anything to this Parliament. Mr Speaker matters pertaining to the church should not be brought here, that is the church's business and the church has the farsighted wisdom in dealing with those matters whereas Parliament has already played its part on that issue, the Speaker has given his word.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member to conclude your time is up.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** If I have gone out of hand, I pray for your forgiveness. I will leave the matter to the House for your consideration as we aim to make peace along our journey. I pray that the foundation of the country be maintained and may Samoa continue its support for this Parliament. I pray that the honorable Speaker and the notable members of this Parliament find strength and so it be upon me. Have a blessed Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you. There is still time for another Member to take the floor before our normal recess.

Perhaps Members are finding it hard to take the floor hence let us go to our normal recess. When we return the Government can respond even if we only have two or three speakers and the Government will give its response even if Members take too long to take the floor.

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*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal morning recess at 10:36am until 11:13am.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resume.

I believe Members have restored strength from breakfast this morning to carry on the Proceedings of today. Before recess, opportunity was given to Members to voice opinions on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Respectfully I give the opportunity to any member who wishes to speak on the Bill.

I can see that the Member for Falealili East, Afioga Gafatasi wants to speak; I call on the Member to take the floor.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUEL TEO (Falealili East):** I believe everyone has restored energy from our morning tea including the Government Leader most especially the honorable Speaker, Cabinet and respectable Members of Parliament.

I stand before you today to voice an opinion of this constituency on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018. I add a word of thanks and gratitude as voiced by the previous speakers. I will not reiterate on anything else. As the saying of our country goes, *'a faufau pupue galu feai o le sami, e faailomala peau o le matasaua.'* Fortunately, we have passed another year, 2017 has gone and the Lord has led us here in good health this new morning.

I respectfully greet the honorable Speaker who is the manager most especially in keeping the orders of the House in the past year. I also take this opportunity to thank the Government for last year's undertakings which was not easy to achieve, thus we must pray together to God to bless you with wisdom to guide us and our works for the benefit of the Samoan Government.

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I move to support the tabling Supplementary Appropriation. In supporting this, I have a few queries and concerns. If you read the tabling report thoroughly and the figures given, I must say I have a query, if the prison project already has its planning and design layout which started off with \$7.5 million and now, the total cost of the project has reached \$9 million? The truth is there are other aspects that are yet to be covered in this Report by the Finance Committee. There are proposed buildings in the pipeline that are yet to be built. The question for the Hon Minister is this, if we have the passing of this Appropriation Budget, would this be the total cost for the prison project under construction? Or are we getting another Appropriation Budget in a future Sitting?

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member for Falealili East; I give the opportunity for the response of the Hon Minister of Revenue overseeing the Prisons.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe most of the Members have already spoken and have covered this matter. It is better that I clarify this matter and I ask for your patience regardless of how long I will take.

The undertaking prison project is quite huge, including the funding for installing water and fixing the roads. Electricity is needed which possibly now comes under CSO. A fence is needed and the buildings stated in the bid is for cells only, which does not include the envi block, dining area, kitchen, clinic for prisoners' medical check-ups, an investigation block or tower for prisoners. Funds are yet to be allocated for these buildings; the estimation for the building of the prison alone is \$10 million. The total price for tender advertisement is \$7.4 million, and so the first phase of the project given in the Main Budget was \$3.7 million whereas the other \$3.7 million herein totals up to \$7.4 million. This cost is valued only for constructing the prison cells alone. We need funding for building the wall for high risk prisoners plus a high security fence cell. If we are to estimate the total costs for the whole prison it will amount to \$20 million even though the Ministry of Finance has insufficient funds such is reason why stages for this project is carried out bit by bit. We cannot get the whole amount to start the whole project. Otherwise, we would not be able to implement the works for the roads and water.

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So this is distributed accordingly to lighten the burden on the Budget with the expectation to relocate the prison to Tanumalala and that some of the good building materials in Tafaigata will be used to build the new prison project at the new site. When the relocation to Tanumalala takes place, the current shifts in Tafaigata will continue. We have three shifts from morning, afternoon to evening commencing from 12:00 midnight until 8:00 in the morning. There will also be a night shift house for the night shifts. They cannot get off at 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning; they have to wait until morning before they can be transported to town to pick up the next shift and the 4:00pm shift. This takes up more expenses for this project. Currently there is no variation as we have a Committee of Finance to do the job, this Committee paid a visit to the site to see whether this project and the allocated funding of \$3.7million is utilized properly from June's Budget.

The clarification given is to answer to some of the previous Members queries, the estimated costs for further works like water and water tank of 500,000 liters for water storage for continuous drinking water supply. This was one of the issues faced by the Tafaigata prison, water had to be transported to prison grounds and the Ministry had no option but had to release prisoners to their families because of no water. This was the process in Tafaigata. But great thanks to the Samoa Water Authority for the pipelines connections to supply water from the front gates to the tank storage to minimize high expenditure by the water companies in efforts to delivering water supply within the Tafaigata prison.

This is a clarification on the development in Tanumalala lest anyone is not elaborated of this work; well the project is still currently ongoing. As I mentioned earlier the Finance Committee has already visited the site and is aware of the progress on site and since the relocation of this prison to Tanumalala is a must, they are targeting the end of this year to make this relocation happen.

Meanwhile the prison site in Tanumalala can take up 40 prisoners per cell which are huge enough compared to the cells in Tafaigata in terms of capacity, it is overcrowded in Tafaigata so appreciatively, the new prison is now built with great improvements together with another prison in Oloamanu. In regards to youth/young age for Oloamanu prison, only one is eligible for Oloamanu juvenile center. A total of 300 acres plot is expected to develop this center. I extend thanks to the Samoa Land Corporation for allowing 170 land acres in Vaiaata for our commercial farm to sustain and supply the prison with food. 170 acres plus 300 acres equals 470 acres in total of land in Vaiaata.



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Land in Tanumalala is huge, another 300 acres is there, however, it is rough to grow crops, only a very small land portion is situated to grow crops here whilst the rest of the land will be used to develop livestock whilst we can use the two newly built prisons in Vaiaata and Oloamanu and works have started to find more prisoners to help build these two prison sites specifically to cultivate the land for food production. In the meantime taro is hugely grown in Vaiaata and if anyone wants a sack of taro you can buy it from there.

This is the clarification on the work progress in Tanumalala, it is estimated that \$20 million is needed for the entire project regardless of the shortage of funding allocation from the Hon Minister of Finance. With great respect, thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call on the Member to continue, you only have a few more minutes to speak.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO:** I think I have wasted time on raising this concern rather it is now understandable. But it is good that my query has clarified this matter for the rest. The First Supplementary Appropriation is well stated about the total prison cost whilst I see in the Report of the Finance Committee, there are other developments. This is the reason for asking since there are other stages that have not been undertaken.

I proceed and implore for another Supplementary Appropriation for the Government to look into. I visited a few families within my constituency and found that most of them work under a minimum wage of \$2.30 per hour. If appropriate, is it possible to increase the minimum wage? Looking at the cost of living and the value of goods today, it is gradually going up whilst the minimum wage remains for employees working in the hotels and so forth. If an employee travels from Falealili by bus to and fro, his/her pay will be used up quickly because of these daily expenses and be left with only a sack of rice to buy. Such is the humble request to the Government, whether possible to review the minimum wage in comparison to the cost of living today for the sake of employees that are working in jobs of this sort.

I want to thank the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the previous Minister for the initiative to the rural constituents and the enforcement for them to be able to grow thousand taro shoots in their districts. I request to increase the cost in order to meet the supply.

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The issue today is that taro is plentiful to less market. Even the taro demand required from the constituencies and word from the local export companies says that number is restricted. This could bring our farmers to laziness and meeting production supplies in response to our economic development.

I wish to thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure; I know that most of our roads are in poor conditions. But thank you for burying one of the roads in my constituency, the one in Utulaelae. Hopefully the rain will help flatten this road and later on have it tar sealed sometimes in the future. In regards to house building, I feel that there is a duplication of duties and work by the Ministry of Works and the PUMA division. These Ministries are finding it difficult to issue a house permit due to the so many processes that are involved but it all comes down to one thing. Is it possible to ease this process or merge the two for those living in the rural areas and perhaps make available standard drawings or house designs within the Ministry for the sake of those who lack insight of these things so that they are able to make a choice and pay from these house drawings. I will make further submission from this district later on when I have the time.

To conclude I take this opportunity to thank Falealili East for the support. Even though our constituency has been divided I believe we are of the same people with the same respect to one another. Thank you for your support and prayers. Whatever contribution we have done for the Government, we pray God to guide us.

God bless the Speaker of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Chairpersons of Committees and the opposition side, I am pleased with one of the strongest members of this side, to manage this side of the House. With respect, bless our Proceedings.

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

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the given opportunity for me speak on the Supplementary Budget. I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers and this opposite side of the Chamber, I see that we are all present here today which is going good.

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On behalf of my constituency I wish to say a few words on the matter under discussion, even though I see in the legislation that this constituency will soon cease to exist. Nonetheless it is important for the sake of other districts.

The first matter is noting a word of thanks to the Minister for the new airplane, I flew to Australia on this plane and it was very good. This is one investment that should have been implemented by Government long ago, the only problem though during my flight I did not hear the pilot speaking. I was later informed that he did not know English but that is alright we have the air hostess on the plane that can do that job. Overall this development is hundred percent. I want to thank the Minister for this accomplishment; I hope we can get a bigger plane and have two sections front and rear to gain more passengers instead of the seat arrangement that we get which is the rear seats.

Thank you to the Ministries who have managed to spend less as initiated by the fellow Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Well done there, it is now lessened, which includes the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet...which makes up \$9million that is now returned to our public reserves. These are good Ministries which are able to give back even though Yazaki has closed down, I trust that we are still earning assistance to build employment in other parts of the country.

I have one last question for the Minister of Prisons; I want to thank you for the precise clarification. In query will this project be tendered again at the end of the tendering process, the one covering this \$7.4 million because you are saying it is twenty, so will there be another tender in addition to this or will this variation make more than \$20million? This is the question for clarification.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** It is best to respond now. For all works, we go through the tender process. For instance, we have the prison project.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister has spoken.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you I am now aware. The tender process will be undertaken to earn \$20 million.

I humbly request the Hon Minister of Police even if we did not get any supplementary appropriation in here; I trust the Police station in Faleata has a huge area to cover. The concern is that it looks like there is not enough vehicles used to carry out the work.

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There was an incident where a call was put through to the station and they told us to wait because they had no vehicle available. This area is huge if we think of Faleata West and Faleata East. When I went to the station at Faleata there was only one long chair for us to sit and wait. The canine area is much bigger than the location of the Faleata station. That is the plea. It is good to cater for the public living nearby in this area. Isn't there another post that can be set up in the main road of Vaitele Tai or Vaigaga for the police to easily attend to problems as soon as they arise? Since we have not yet received any additional funds, I will leave this matter to the Minister. I also wish to query the Government if possible to seek employment for those policemen who have been redundant. I trust and long heard that the Faleolo airport is looking for securities, if possible to have a Private Company to employ these people whom I think is over twenty in number. I was hoping there could be extra funding for these people never mind that is the Government's authority. That is the assistance.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I can see that a lot of damage has done by the heavy rain these days. The main road in the town area is still in good condition. Although some small roads are in bad condition especially inland areas like Siusega, Vaitele, Vaigaga and Vaiusu. This is just slight assistance for improvement. This is it honorable Speaker since I am aware we have a short Sitting today. I wish everyone all the best in the remaining plans for today, to the Cabinet and that side of Chamber. With great respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I thank the Member for the opinion given. I call on another Member to take the floor, the Member for Salega East.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given this morning. I take this opportunity to speak on behalf of my constituency in relation to this year's Supplementary Appropriation. May God's glory be unto Him this morning and a start for this year 2018. I remember how our people used to travel in the olden days, preparations were well taken like how mothers do for travelers to avoid any misgivings along the way. Similarly, with the Israelites journey that was led by Moses to the Promised Land. It was not an easy one for Moses as he had to face so many difficulties along the way. It was trustworthy that preparations for this journey went very well.

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The only issue with the people was that they lacked their trust and faith in God. This started with his entrusted servants who initiated worshipping false idols. It is like they were free to do anything. No one cared about God's Commandments but was free to do what they like. As for Moses honorable Speaker, even though he was one of the greatest leaders nonetheless, he also made a mistake. He did not obey God when God said to him to speak to the rock to bring forth water'. Instead he became angry and hit the rock with his staff. What was the result after this? Moses did not reach the Promised Land. He did not get to experience the blessings of the land; in fact, only very few Israelites persevered and made it to the land, the land of blessing and where you can find freedom. For what reason? For one reason only, because they failed the false Gods.

Humbly speaking honorable Speaker, I advise the Hon Prime Minister to lead our country with courage, patience, love and respect. God bless your duties for this year.

I will start with the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Mr Speaker I wanted to ask the Hon Minister that there is a policy concerning the ineligibility of taxis commencing from the year 2002 and years gone by. Just an advice with respect, I do not have any more taxis but on behalf of the people with taxis, honorable Speaker I trust the impact on this must be reviewed for the sake of the general public. Over 200 taxis will not be eligible anymore and therefore over 200 drivers will be unemployed, over 200 families will lose businesses and have nothing to earn a living by, nothing to pay for their children's education and fund all village and church obligations.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is a matter that is ongoing at the current, but do direct your statement to what the member is saying given the vitality of the request I received. This matter is under consultation process with the Minister whereas what the member is giving is being reviewed at this stage.

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

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**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the quick response to the member's query. I too have a copy of this letter in my office. But I guess the rationale behind this initiative comes from the plentiful taxis on the road and that majority of these taxis have committed offenses on the road. The Hon Prime Minister has already told me to consult the Land Transport and Authority (LTA) for a review on this matter. The LTA has already been instructed to draft another submission to the Cabinet to withdraw this decision in consideration of taxi operators since this is the only source of income for them to earn a living. Most of the less fortunate are trying their best to develop small businesses in order to earn a living to serve the church, village and to help their families. I can assure you that this matter is now being resolved through a Cabinet submission for vehicles from the year 2003 and previous years to continue operation and services on the road on the condition that if they are inspected and find that their wheels, body and everything else is in good shape, then they can be approved for continuation. Regardless, the plan was due to the fact that we had too many vehicles on the road and that these vehicles are becoming a nuisance to other vehicles.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call on the Member to continue.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Alright this matter is now clarified. Perhaps there are people who are worried of this concern, well it is being approved with gratitude and I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Minister.

On to our roads, this issue is a very frequent raising matter by the members of the House every year. This responsibility has been undertaken by so many Ministers and in truth; no one was able to resolve this problem in the past years. I have thought that there are different procedures or specifications in developing our roads and the roads of other Pacific countries like New Zealand and Australia however, it is the same. Questionably in my mind, why do we have damage roads after three, four, five months whereas in other countries it takes four to five months? As aware, the main reason is rain. This is no professional reason in response to improving our roads.

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Mr Speaker I always go around in my car with two measuring tools, a tape measure and meter scale. Whenever I travel on the road and come across a pothole I get out of the car with my measuring tape and measure the depth of the hole. Mr Speaker the specifications made in constructing good quality roads has four layers. This starts with the sub-grade, sub-base course, base course and the top layer is the surface course. Most of our roads have only two layers; they just smoothen the natural formation which is the soil beneath the road and then seal it. This is the exact reason why our roads are in bad condition. The required depth for roads should be 150 millimeters whereas for ours, the measurement is 23, 25 millimeters.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this is the first time for me to hear a member traveling with two measuring tools... You can still have that but that will not help build us strong roads.

In regards to rain, we are not the only ones affected. I saw a report on the heavy rains in New Zealand, there was an instance when I saw the media lifting the tar and got the rest if it moving apart. So we are not the only country affected, other countries are affected too. This is the reason for developing our roads through grants which is very pricey such as the road from Malifa to Saina. Other roads are expected to be built with funding assistance from the World Bank.

Therefore this matter has long been under consultations by the Cabinet and the LTA together with road experts. I have talked about this concern too many times during my interviews and the issue about numerous damaged potholes that the Ministry should look into should be fixed. Nonetheless I ask for your patience as the Government is not intending to overlook anything. This is also the reason why we are not depending on overseas partners; we also aim to seek our own funds to implement the many works including our roads.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the Member has heard the recommendation by the Hon Prime Minister, we should also protect the Ministry on these accusations which makes it look like they are not doing any work, but it is important...

I call on the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker I wish not to interrupt the vital time of the respectable member given that this is a very crucial concern by the member of Salega East. In regards to the Hon Prime Minister's statement, it is true that Samoa is not the only country affected. Truthfully these roads are ten to twenty years old and the fix is dependent on available funding. The Government is carrying out a survey on the old roads to determine whether they have any information records for necessary improvement. If we do not asphalt our roads as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister our roads will be in the same condition from 10 to 20 years. Unfortunately, we do not have the funds to fix this work. We are using the base course but I am thankful that we now have a consul to consult the progress of this road work project. With respect thank you.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you for the clarification. I will not talk about my other measuring tool but I will speak of this very concern which is reason for our many advises in regards to our roads, because we have been spending too much public funds on them every year. This is why I give recommendation and a few methods to manage your work Hon Minister and Associate Minister. I notice that most of the times you conduct your visits to Savaii and the rural areas thank you. The only thing missing are your measuring tools which you both should be carrying with you to make sure that the contractors are complying with the jobs they undertake.

**MR SPEAKER:** I...

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** I am saying that you use the measuring tape to measure the thickness of the layers. Also if the public sees that you are using those measuring tools to measure potholes on public roads...they will see your honesty in carrying out that job. I guess that is my advice.

Another concern is the prison. Honorable Speaker in reality this constituency will not fall easily with the first clarification given the first incident unfortunately, this is happening again. I wish to ask the Hon Minister of Finance who perhaps is also the Chairperson of the Tenders Board, and the Minister of Works who is the Vice Chairperson. As observed, the total cost for this project so far is \$10.3 million. The overall \$7.4million Tender has gone up by \$3 million. Thus this is the similar projection for works in the pipeline should \$20million be required to complete this project presented in this \$3million.



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I wish to ask whether this decision was made specifically by your honors in accordance with the first Tender process and the Procurement Guidelines Treasury Instructions in the P4 Schedules and stated provisions for tender. I have noted from the Tenders Board that if you offer \$10,000 to \$50,000 the tender is done forcefully but if it reaches a million it is scheming, these are variations. As one of the Members stated earlier these are variations being mentioned here.

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

**Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance):** Mr Speaker a point of Order. In response to the question, at the moment there is no variation request from the Ministry. As for the \$10million tender mentioned, the Ministry of Finance did not want to give in the full amount all at one time, this is why \$3.7 million was specified in the Main Budget given the reason to ration the distribution of funds to be used in carrying out the works of the contractors and so...in progress of this project, more allocation is required and reason why \$3.7million was stated in the Supplementary. In the coming year, the remaining amount will be given in the Main Estimates for the winning Contractor. I further wish to clarify that there is a Project Manager of the OSM Consult Company who is responsible with making sure that the work is well managed and is following set guidelines for the Tendering process. This Project Manager is independent from the Tenders Board Committee and the Contractor.

In regards to the \$20million mentioned by the Hon Minister of Prison and Correction Services, this is the cost to further proposed works like the fence installation, road fix and water connection that have not yet gone through the tendering process. The Consultant in charge of this project did not give any advice neither variation so in the meantime, there are no plans in initiating a variation as \$3.7 million is sufficient to complete phase one for this development. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** This matter is now clarified. However, I wish to advise the member for Salega East who is one of the longest serving members in the House, as former Speaker I wish to advise that I do not want to hear the language you made again. I advise that as Leaders of the country, we must refrain from using this kind of language. I object and am displeased with your language, despite; I did not want to make a mention of this lest we are being heard by the young ones.

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I ask that we use proper and respectable language in this Parliament as the country is observing us. As the Speaker of the House I strongly recommend that such language be banned instead, use proper language in compliance with our Standing Order during deliberations.

I beg indulgence, this is for the interest and sake of maintaining orders in the House and Samoa listening in, His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo, *Aiga ma Tama, Tama ma Aiga*, Church Leaders and children.

I call on the Member to continue.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I am trying to recollect my thoughts and what I said wrong. Pardon me the submission I made was given in a direct and honest intention, I beg indulgence if I have offended you. I beg tolerance to the public if I have disrespected the House, specifically speaking, there was no intention of saying anything sarcastically; our word was given in a distinct and comprehensible manner.

Mr Speaker the Hon Minister's explanation is now clarified in relation to the Tendering process. It is notable that phases are involved in this job. The question to the Hon Minister, will the phases be different for a particular Contractor or will the Contractor be changed because even in this change, there could be a slip up along the process. Gathering from the clarification of the Hon Minister of Prisons and Corrections, funds are distributed in portion for this project and therefore, the project is carried out by the same contractor. This is the reason for sharing the thought on this project as we will entrust the Tender process to you should this be the case and whether this is the same Contractor that will carry out this project?

On to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, we have a concern with the Quarantine office. Truthfully your honor, I am so ashamed of how this service is carried out, the service fees have increased and when you go to the site to see for yourselves the fumigation of fine mats, I beg indulgence to the House, during the process, they will tell you to go and get a tape or mortein. I only wish to note that these small items should be provided by the Ministry, although it seems that the service has gone back to the way it was before, there should be fumigation machines to carry out this job. There are other Ministries that are also being told to do the same. And by request, have a look into this your honor for the improvement of service delivery and for professionalism sake.

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This is our statement honorable Speaker; if I have made any mistake I beg indulgence. The main intention is to make improvement in response to the seriousness of fund utilization in the country. If I have offended anyone in my statement, true is the normal saying, that is not the intention of Salega, and if I have said anything to make you laugh, that is the interpretation of the person itself whether right or wrong rather, my statement was given in the right way in accordance to the Budget Statement.

Bless the Proceedings of Samoa, bless the support of our country with respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I thank the Member for the clarification. The opportunity is now given to another Member to voice an opinion within the House.

I call on the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela.

**Afioga TOLEAFOA KEN VAAFUSUAGA POUTOA (Lefaga & Faleaseela):** First of all, I want to thank the Speaker for the opportunity given to this constituency, our prayer has already been offered to the Lord for His mercy upon Samoa this morning. I greet the Leader of the House, Cabinet, honorable Speaker and Members of Parliament, Government Heads who are serving our Government through its works for the welfare of Samoa tomorrow.

I move with respect this morning to voice an opinion of this constituency in relation to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018. I note that \$24.4 million has been allocated for ongoing work of Government for the districts and the country. This constituency supports the tabling Supplementary Budget nonetheless the Leader of Government and Cabinet are aware of the requests of this constituency for improvement. This is the reason why this constituency supports the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018 considering the benefits for the constituency. Therefore, I humbly request that such improvements and development be continued by Government for the constituency.

I want to remind the Minister of Health on a request submitted for a district health services and continuous health service delivery for this constituency. I take this opportunity as well to thank the Hon Minister of Health for his assistance to one of the members of this constituency. Thank you for the quick response provided, once a life threatening issue arises services should be carried out immediately. Therefore, I thank you again in adhering to the needs whilst seeking help from the Ministry.

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, I want to thank the former Minister. It is evident that this constituency is well known for its food crops supplied for our country. This also includes the exportation of our produce overseas to assist with the economy of Samoa. I thank the former Minister for working together with some of the men of this constituency in developing agricultural products.

I am also grateful to the new Minister now that we have returned from our visit where you are now aware of where taro is available and abundant in supply and that is from this constituency. As I have mentioned, 'Rome was not built in a day,' I trust in you to fulfill duties of the Ministry and with encouragement we are able to grow taro for exportation to New Zealand, Australia and other countries. The purpose is to ensure that we have enough to export overseas.

The Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure perhaps you have already heard most of the requests made this morning concerning our roads. I humbly ask for your consideration on the matter, I trust that you do what is right. It with utmost respect that I ask, why not implement a program where all roads should be tarred every two years. This is better than maintenance done in filling in parts of the road; let us save the money to tar the roads so that it will be in much better conditions. The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I ask that you look into the roads of this constituency, I know we have talked about it but Christmas and New Year is now over and still nothing has been done. I trust that you will do what is best for our country.

Lastly this constituency wants to reiterate that it supports the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018. Before I conclude I take this opportunity to acknowledge my constituency for their support in all its honorific salutations as well as the various church denominations and their prayers and blessings upon this constituency.

I am grateful and comforted by the support shown especially the companionship established every day. I pray blessings be upon the Chair, may the Lord give you strength in body and soul. Also I pray blessings upon the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet in fulfilling duties this year, may this constituency be part of such developments with respect. Bless our proceedings. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela, it is now time for another Member. I believe the Member for Vaimauga East is now upstanding.

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**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETALAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East):** Thank you Mr Speaker and Parliament this morning. Before I speak on the Supplementary Appropriation I want to acknowledge the House, the Hon Prime Minister especially the Deputy Prime Minister, respectable Members of Cabinet, Associate Ministers and all Members of Parliament. I also want to acknowledge His Highness Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo, Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano and his Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and Good Ladies especially the support of my constituency Vaimauga East.

I am grateful for the Supplementary Appropriation tabled within the House. As noted from the Budget last year the constituency of Vaimauga East did not speak on the individual details of the previous Budget based on the full of our country's economic distribution to achieving its developments. The only issue mentioned by Vaimauga East was the one concerning the taxing of Church Ministers. As for the Budget tabled last year and the current Supplementary, this constituency accepts it with gratitude. In further, hearing some of the comments and thoughts about some of the church denominations rejection of Government's decision this morning, such is the intention and major concern. If the Council of High Chiefs or Alii and Faipule uphold honor and respect then so should be the case for the church that should bear support on the decisions passed by the Supreme House of this Government.

The only member who rejected this Budget Statement was the member of Vaimauga and now I see that more members are going the same road. I wholly support the Supplementary for this Budget Statement given that we lack the resources to build these developments. In regards to the main objective of the member of Vaimauga, the only mistake noted is the implementation of service. There are also so many concerns with the prison project. I have heard the concerns of the public in regards to the Tenders Board which are matters that has the involvement of Ministers and Members hence we should be careful considering the views from outside. Who is the first to blame? It will be the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister since they are the leaders of Samoa. As for this morning the Member for Vaimauga East understands the tabling figures, this is why I will not speak further on the matter.

As for this morning and the issue concerning Tenders, well we have in our presence the Attorney General and if conflict of interest is involved, consultations should come into hand as the blame is on the Government. It involves all of us, but I can see...

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a point of clarification. Do not worry about the accusations made against the Government because we cannot satisfy everyone. You are also aware that the Government has already given a clarification yet there are still some who do not want to understand as that is their own right. Nonetheless the Government is not afraid to explain what needs to be clarified. This is how it is, the Government always gives explanations on certain matters yet people still complain. People will still complain regardless of the clarifications given by the State because it is hard to satisfy everyone. Therefore do not worry about it. And in regards to our given explanation, we are not doing anything corruptible. That is the normal nature of people, there is no corrupt practices being done to the prison project.

We are trying to relocate the prison away from the township proximity and the prison should be isolated to a distant area far away from public places. Therefore, the decision must be made now given the costs because if we wait, it will become pricey in the future. If it is something that must be done, then do so immediately.

At the current, a major problem is on the rise with regards to the Management and the delay development of the Prison building? How many times have we been given the blame? We are in a time of trying to achieve all things for people to see and so we are no longer in the old system. A prisoner is a prisoner and there is no reason to treat them the same with other innocent beings. Those were the old days now we are under a V-Sight control system by other countries on how we are monitoring this part of the country and whether we are treating our prisoners right or wrong. This is the reason for the change in the name Rehabilitation and its entire policies and procedures through a new program for returnees to do the right thing and repent completely as its main objective. It looks expensive rather it is something that has to be done.

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Mr Speaker this is clarification we have further received frequent prison breakouts from overseas visitors which is a major concern that is currently being dealt with by the State. Such is the enforced measures we have in place to avoid break-outs as the old prison facility is over 100 years and prisoners can easily escape from inside. Such is the need for solid prison facilities in the future. Despite the difficulty, we will have no problem with holding down 50 lawbreakers such as in the past as it is now gone up to 200 and 300. Marijuana offenders will keep on climbing in numbers which is reason for the ongoing amendments to our public policies to ensure solid protection and to initiate programs to entirely change the mindset of offenders so that when they go back to prison, they become a whole new person again with a new perspective in life.

Mr Speaker, this is additional clarification on the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you.

**Susuga Laauli Leautea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member, I call on the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Susuga Laauli Leautea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt:** Mr Speaker, just a slight clarification on this matter lest the statement of this constituency is blurred and lest we are observed by the public. The approved legislation has been passed and there is nothing we can do about it. But in regards to conflict of interest, that is the intention. The Constitution of the Church does not approve of this whereas it is now passed in this Legislation. I do not reject the Legislation, I plead the State, give it some time until the Annual Conference of Malua is finished then we will have the Church's resolution on this matter.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neiotei Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker a letter was submitted from the Secretary for an extension. I responded, 'this was his duty, to clarify this matter further as an extension has already been given.'

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This matter was passed in June and was adjourned until the next year which is now. I did advise the Secretary that we have months and days left before this extension is over. So, this issue has already been discussed yet again it's been raised by the Secretary who was the Professor of the National University of Samoa. You should explain these matters to the elders and not go blurry on them when being told by the elders, because as far as we are concerned, you are one of the brightest persons in the wisdom of today. Mr Speaker, the extension is finished.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. This is a matter that has been clarified several times in the House by the respective Minister as well as the Hon Prime Minister himself and the very reason why this matter was passed. As given, there was only one member who spoke on this matter, the member for Vaimauga East. I appease the Member; we have already deliberated this matter. I also remind all, this is my final decision. It is my duty to remind you about our duties as Members given our oath and in accordance to our Standing Orders. That is how our work is done; we share the load together with the Church. As the Elder Deacon of the Church I too did not want to voice this matter openly for as the Speaker of the House, it is my duty to reserve such matters. It is treasured in the heart as this matter regards a collective agreement. In light of this concern, these two pillars go hand in hand together for the benefit of Samoa.

This is my point of view on the matter; I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I do not dispute the opinions voiced on the matter although the main concern in accordance to the Leader's statement on principles used to carrying out the tender process and so forth. I also see this morning the old man's attempt to protect his fellow Ministers. What's happening now is that we are receiving too many complaints from the public upon these principles/policies used on tenders. However, the Hon Prime Minister and his Associate Minister are....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member for Vaimauga East; I will give the opportunity for the clarification of the Hon Prime Minister.



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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a point of order. The reason for upstanding is in regards to principles of the State, and not in regards to the protection of Ministers. No I rise to protect the State's policies and principles. Once principles are in place, we must adhere to them.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps this is part of our work for both Government Ministries and Organizations essence to set policies and procedures; however, there are instances where the message is delivered falsely and thereby, Parliament members could find disbelief in the work that we do. Such is the normal proverb spoken frequently by the Hon Prime Minister, the wheat and the tares go together. There is also a time when either the tare or the wheat is removed first. I want to remind the Member since he has been one of the longest serving members who have received complaints from those who lack insight yet you are aware of the governing policies for this Ministry and this Corporation. I call on the Member.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Thank you. Perhaps the Member for Vaimauga East will now withdraw from the Budget. We support it and I thank the Minister for tabling this Supplementary Budget. Even though the Minister of Finance stated previously that there will be no Supplementary Budget, which took me by surprise nonetheless this morning, without a Budget Statement it feels incomplete. Rather, I approve and support the Supplementary Appropriation Budget; I now wish to address my constituency. The constituency of Vaimauga East is fortunate to have more land space and the appeal they made to the Hon Prime Minister and Minister through their member was the land sales of quarter acre for \$8,000. Our constituency has been awaiting the release of these land valuations before they can make contribution to our economy.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am grateful that you have mentioned that the roads for Vaimauga will soon be upgraded. I pray with respect and I will not dispute the methods used in constructing our roads. The only request from Vaimauga East is that even if roads are not tar-sealed please at least fix the inner problematic roads of Laulii, Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii.

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With regards to the access road of Laulii, this village is sea view in front and mountainous in the backside. Ever since we became independent, roads could not be erected in the mountainside area pardon me, which was accessibly required for further developments and to escape whenever we have the Tsunamis. Hence I plead the Hon Minister to look into the access roads of Laulii. In view of the restaurant owners in the Fugalei market, majority of them are from Laulii. There is abundant food produce including mangoes that are transported all the way to the market for selling because we cannot sell them due to this inaccessible road. Even in graveyards pardon me, people cannot visit them anymore because of the poor road condition. We have to carry our people all the way up there and such is the humble request.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the next time you travel to Laulii with the Hon Prime Minister, you will get to discover the poor conditioned seawall area of Laulii first that has no mid ocean ridge to counter the tidal waves of the deep blue sea. The Vaiusu wharf is taken longer than expected whereas for Laulii, the ocean is getting deeper. Have a look into setting up a seawall area for Laulii, with respect.

With regards to our village in Letogo, lands were released to the State and the villages of Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii are still awaiting the latest on this matter.

A plea to the Hon Minister of Prisons now designated to the Hon Prime Minister, although with the previous Minister, it was arranged that a prison will be established in Vailele-uta, at the Government reserve and perhaps the previous Minister has not yet submitted this approved project to you knowing that these land properties have been sold and settled by freehold land owner. That is the main concern with the authority in the village despite, with good leadership by the respectful Village Council; this is helping a lot for the people. Such is the humble request to the current Minister or the Hon Prime Minister on the approved prison project by Sala as the file might be misplaced during the reshuffling that we had, have a look into that for action.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Loloifietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I want to ask is it a special prison for Laulii or Letogo?

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**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker a point of order please it was not a prison it was a Police Station to cater this side of the country. Please I correct, this is not a prison but a Police Station.

Hon Minister of Health, perhaps it is a well-known fact the problem with the shortage of doctors in the country as this is my normal duty at night, we would approach the hospital at nighttime with my wife to see the public visiting the hospital. By observation, I thank the Hon Minister for having private doctors to assist with the night shifts. The service delivery by the doctors is going great whereas the problem is the nurses who take their time to check the blood and sugar levels of patients. It takes longer for the nurses to do these tests and I recommend that more staff be allocated to do this job. This is an issue I believe most of our Ministers are unaware of since most of you go to private doctors instead of the hospital. Most of us on the opposite side of Chamber go to the hospital the same as everyone else, and I am saddened by the situation. If we go there and pick the number 102, we will have to wait until evening.

Another issue the Hon Minister of Health is the parking space, most of the public cannot fit within the allocated parking lot. This is why...

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

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker a point of order, with respect to the country it seems the member spoke with ambiguity. He stated that we do not go to the hospital but only go to private doctors for checkup. Last week Friday I had an appointment with a specialist that visited our country at the hospital. I did not see anyone there coming to see the specialist however he was only given very limited time to assist. I advise the Members of the Cabinet to seek medical care from the hospital including the Hon Prime Minister who was there a few days ago. With respect.

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

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker I do not dispute the claim made by the Minister, you only went because you had an appointment. Once you make an appointment you have to attend to it. As for us we go there because we need medical attention. I went to the hospital yesterday to get a set of glasses, since I am getting old. So I went to see the eye specialist.

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I was saddened by the fact that there was only one female specialist in this area; I was taken in for a check up to note the specifications of my glasses. After it was completed the girl told me, ‘you can now go to the pharmacy to buy a pair of glasses.’ Then I said, ‘are there no glasses available in the hospital?’ Hon Minister, have a look into this concern for ophthalmologist which I checked and had a talk with yesterday, and they are...

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker it is good to have these things corrected, *soo le fau ma le fau*. There are different professions; some doctors are ophthalmologists who specializes in eye and vision care. An optometrist specializes in corrective lenses and writes prescription for the patient for them to purchase the correct glass. If an order is placed by the hospital the patient will have to pay for it and not the Government. This process has been ongoing for a long time and is not new. With respect this is the explanation.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, perhaps the specialist is listening in, after I got the eye tests I was told to go to Janets, a company that supplies lenses/glasses. I asked, are there no glasses available here? The Minister who is a friend of mine has given his clarification and clearly advised me to return to him after getting my glasses from Janet’s so that they could frame my glasses. Have a look into this and whether possible to get the whole package deal including these frames and lenses for our eye patients.

Mr Speaker and Members of the House this is the view from this Constituency in assistance to improving our developments. Since the Hon Prime Minister is absent, I want to say that we ought to follow the example set by the Prime Minister and his Associate Minister. Moreover, I salute the Minister of our Airline and his Associate. The only time I saw the Prime Minister and his Associate Minister together was when they flew to Vanuatu I think during the Associate Minister’s court case whereby the public made complaints that he (Associate Minister) was fleeing from his court proceeding...

As for this morning and the hearing public, I beg for your forgiveness honorable Speaker. Have a blessed Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Since the Member for Vaimauga East has already concluded, I will still give the opportunity to the Member.

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**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4):** Mr Speaker I have been trying all morning to come into my senses. I have been listening intently to your statement, now that we have the member's concern it is directed towards the Hon Prime Minister and myself. A point of order, for the clarification of the Member if you barely see the Prime Minister and I together well that is how it is in our Ministry. When the Hon Prime Minister travels abroad to attend to other duties, I stay behind and look after the Ministry, I do not have to follow him everywhere. Another matter, if you make it to this position, my advice to you, do not follow the Minister, stay put and oversee the Ministry and... That is how it is because you will earn nothing from doing such thing. That is the correction to the respectable member and not the other way around.

Mr Speaker this is a brief clarification on the matter mentioned by the Member.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I believe the Member has concluded with his speech. I now call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.2. I call on the Member.

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker. This morning considering we have again return to another is different for the Parliamentary Sitting of Samoa and the beginning of another new year 2018. I believe it is best that I go straight to the matter considered.

I acknowledge Members of the Samoan Parliament, the respectable Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge this side of Chamber the Opposition to our Government. I also greet angel Mary I do not mock you like the famous Judas the betrayer. Even though we go our separate ways and rarely meet, the Jew sits in its own tent and finds assistance for the benefit of its own constituencies.

I acknowledge the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff and their efforts for the benefit of this Parliament. I also greet the Heads of various Government Ministries present this morning. Lest I forget the support of Samoa entrusted to us to make better decisions for the betterment of the country.

23 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

This morning I move with respect to say a few words on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017/2018. I was listening and observing the deliberations today and I did not want to take the floor. Nonetheless it is important that an opinion still be voiced; I am not surprised with the Appropriation tabled. If we look at matters related to money there are always instances where it is never enough. Funds are constantly needed by Ministries to implement further developments. The Member for Aana Alofi No.2 supports the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

I wish to speak upon a few matters that are not related to the Budget Statement. I am grateful to the Minister of Civil Airport of Samoa for the great accomplishment. This is an outstanding achievement for us especially for our people and the expensive airfares for the traveling public to and fro especially in attendance to family matters (*faalavelave*). And now, with the establishment of our own airline and the long ensued vision by this Government for her people, it is finally becoming a success. Just a humble request to all Parliament Members, let us support our airlines by traveling on it instead of taking other airlines. This message also goes to all our friends and families. This is huge assistance in terms of airfare drop for our people. Although in truth, no new development is hundred percent perfect as soon as it becomes operational, there will be obstacles along the way rather, it can be countered from time to time. I want to thank the respective Hon Minister who is in charge of this development.

The Social Development Committee embarked on a site visit to Health Centers in the rural areas. Hon Minister of Health, we have noticed the poor status of the Leulumoega hospital. The facilities are getting very poor in comparison to other Health Centers that were established together with this Health center especially the toilet facilities. For your information, this clinic is frequently visited by the people from Falelatai to Lefaga and the Tuamasaga district from Afega to Leauvaa. Another concern that was addressed by a nurse in this area is the need for an ambulance vehicle for transporting patients. I will leave this to you and your Ministry and perhaps the merging of the two health services will be of help in providing a swift response and assistance for the Leulumoega hospital.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the speech of the Member since we have now arrived to the end of our proceedings for today. There will be time tomorrow for you to finish your speech and to further prepare responses to matters pertaining to the improvement of our hospital.

23 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018  
– debate on second reading**

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI:** If this is the decision of the Chair then so be it, I will adhere to your command.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Before we adjourn, I call the Deputy Speaker to conclude today's orders with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:56 pm until Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 9.00am.*

