

25 JUNE 2019

TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2019

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.

Prayer.

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

I will take this opportunity to greet all the Members of the Parliament. I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, the Cabinet, Chairpersons and Members of Parliament this morning. Well done on your perseverance and dedication.

I also offer greetings to the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises as well as the support of Samoa.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)
2018/2019 & APPROPRIATION BILL 2019/2020 – debate on
the second reading – Day 6**

MR SPEAKER: During adjournment yesterday, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour was speaking, I ask the Minister to resume your statement on matters raised yesterday.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Mr Speaker, you have already started us off with a prayer of thanks to God for His Abiding Love as night has passed and a new day has begun. These are the images of God's love upon Samoa. Praise the Lord every day.

Mr Speaker I rise again to greet the dignity of the House, the presence of the honourable Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister, the Members of the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I further offer greetings to the Leaders and Members of Committees and the respectable Parliament this morning.

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Furthermore, greetings to the Heads of Government Ministries present today, well done to your patience and commitment.

Mr Speaker, before the adjournment of our Sitting yesterday, the Hon Prime Minister was giving further clarification on some of the raising matters, one being the minimum wage for the casual workers. I trust this matter has been clarified. I will move on to other addressing issues from other members.

The matter I was about to explain before adjournment yesterday concerns the goods being sold at the local stores especially stores in the backside area, saying that some goods are outdated and have expired and that some items are in a form of language that we do not understand. This is against the law. Our government has attempted to block these goods from entering our country at the border; nevertheless, it is difficult with the volume and hordes of goods coming in and some unfaithful workers smuggling these goods into the country. No matter how hard the government tries to prohibit these goods, they still manage to infiltrate our borders. We the consumers are the ones that can stop these illegal acts from occurring. First, we are the ones buying these goods from stores on a daily basis, hence is reason you should contact our Office here and in Savaii if you notice these products at your local retailer shops, contact us directly even with goods that are of low quality. We will conduct a thorough investigation on the matter, as the Ministry of Health are unable to identify these products every time they carry out inspections.

Secondly, the storeowners should also cut the buying of such cheap products from delivery trucks. It is your responsibility to sell quality goods to the buyer, specifically to the people of our village. Even if the goods are being sold to them cheap, they also need to consider the quality of the product they are selling to the people. Once this can be done, people will lay off on buying these expired and low quality products. There is still time to stop these cheap products from entering our region, even so, if the buyers recognize these expired goods from the local retailers please notify our office and we will handle it accordingly.

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The Ministry has also been advised to have a look into a Law which prohibits the wholesale delivery trucks that do not have company logos or labels and ensure the obtainment of receipt books for buyers so that the Ministry can easily locate these companies whether in Apia, as majority of them use white vans.

Majority of these companies have no logos and when they are asked, the shop operators would say. The Chinese people are selling us these cheap products. Although, we must ensure quality products and health protection upon our people, and avoid these illegal acts from existing.

My appeal to all the members of each constituency, consult your local retailer shops and uncover if they are involved in selling these illegal products. We should work together, instead of being dependent on the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. That is my request on this matter.

Furthermore, they also found some items, like vehicles and other modern machinery that are not in line with our price control measures. The owners are only interested in increasing the selling price they find fitting for them. To counter this concern, the Ministry can intervene with the help of the Consumer Protection and Competition Committee, to identify if there is any violation on the Trades, Commerce and Industry Act in existence. Collusion to set the price higher than the original cost amongst these people will rescind our Competition and Consumer Act. As I said, if anyone is experiencing these overcharging prices, contact our office and we will conduct a comprehensive investigation on these existing high prices. The main attempt is to encourage fair-trading between the producer and consumer. In addition, the Ministry is able to lend a hand if the prices are up significantly which will otherwise affect the consumers.

Other members addressed the issue on borrowings at the Housing Corporation. In consideration, this is one Ministry that has made a huge impact for Samoa, especially for people who are unable to afford expensive housings. If you have noticed, a lot of money has gone to those who need it for house renovations and house extensions.

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We have witnessed the beauty of plentiful homes in Samoa and this is all made possible with the money from this housing scheme. A member suggested a loan scheme at a minimum of \$20,000 without the need for any asset as a guarantee; they only need one employee as a guarantor. The aim is for the State to gain back the full amount that was borrowed.

The conditions of the Policy is clear, the borrower also understands these conditions when making repayment, how much repayment and so forth. It is no different with the conditions of the Samoa Housing Corporation. The only competition is the interest to find out which bank has the lowest. Aside from that, everything is running smoothly, and about 3% of the \$30million is allocated for this scheme, which is approximately \$90,000 is owed by the people.

What this signifies is that majority of the borrowers are compliant with the Law and policies. Some people come in a good time to borrow to build a house. Other people evade the policies of the bank. The Ministry is also attempting to follow up these repayments because with bad records, you will not be allowed another loan until forever. Some people only thing short term and not long term. If records are good, they can loan again in the future, with a higher amount than \$20,000. Therefore, the main thing here is honesty, the Ministry is upholding honest in getting you your loan and so people are expected to do the same.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member. I call on the member for Safata West.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): Thank you Mr Speaker, I extend great appreciation to the Minister for the clarifying report. I recall that I was the one that raised this issue, that \$20,000 should be paid within five years in addition to \$11,000 to make it easier for you to understand. On the other hand, if it can be paid within 3 years then an additional \$7,000 will be added to the payment if paid in full. Even so, they will still need to pay the \$11,000.

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I humbly request that there be small changes if full payment can be made early. Anyhow, thank you again to the Minister of Finance for the report. I noticed that there are very few unfaithful people evading payments, but I have the utmost faith in our Ministry, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister of Finance to rise.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I offer some clarification on an issue in terms of the difficulty faced by those paying loans, notably to the Housing Corporation and other Finance Companies, also including the South Pacific Business Development due to the high interest rate. We consulted the Central Bank of Samoa, and further investigation will be conducted because the interest rate should be 8% per year, not 8% per month. This is not a regulator role of the Central Bank of Samoa, which does not accept deposits, instead they loan money from the Samoa National Provident Fund and loan it to the public. There have been many complaints, and this could lead to the creation of a bill to protect our people from the high interest rate in the next forum. To add on, many of the people that have outstanding payments to these Financial Companies have been imprisoned. The \$20,000 limit mentioned by the Minister of Finance for the Housing Corporation, maybe in due time the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Samoa could help lend some funds to the Housing Corporation, in order for them to fulfil the needs of our people through monetary assistance, especially for building houses on customary lands. Money owed is used to upgrade their homes or repair damages from natural disasters. Families will also need money to build houses on the lands they paid for. In saying that, I urge the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Samoa to look into this matter. From that, the Cabinet will make suggestions on a policy to decrease the interest rate.

That is my assistance Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour to rise.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you to the member for elaborating the matter. You are brave if plan is a go on receiving more money for the Housing Corporation. We require more money to increase the portfolio.

In regards to the \$20,000 scheme, it is different; it is a special scheme that is different from the normal loan scheme of the Ministry that goes beyond \$20,000. I was about to clarify this point when the member for Safata interrupted me.

There was a 10-year agreement for borrowers to make full repayments, suddenly you win the lottery, and you want to make full payment for 3 years. Therefore, the Ministry will gain back money fast for other people to borrow. Upon making your full payment, there will be measurements undertaken by the Ministry. Because you cannot expect to make full payments of the 10 years agreement within 3 years time without having to comply with the Ministry procedures. Keep in mind that there are also penalties in place. You are also required to pay the penalty fee that were not settled in other months apart from the principal debt, according to the signed agreement you made with the bank in the beginning. Clarifications on all this is given by the Ministry should the borrower have any further questions. The Ministry has consideration of all this based upon the situation the person is in and the money they brought and where they stand in terms of payments.

Mr Speaker, a point was also raised about carpentary workers that go overseas for work. I met them on my latest trip to New Zealand at the beginning of the year...

MR SPEAKER: It is not finished. Maybe it was not clear enough. Fine, this is your final opportunity.

Afioga Leanaa Ronnie Posini: Thank you Hon Minister for the precise clarification. It seems we have a different affiliation with the Ministry, but it is clear now that I should pay all my loans in full before the interest is lowered as you suggest. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you. The most important thing is to pay the debts to the Ministry. As I mentioned before, this is just how we work down here. If you need guidance then the Ministry will be sure to assist you in understanding the situation. That is the most important thing.

Mr Speaker, it was mentioned....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, the matter raised is very important, because I have had it with the several people seeking my assistance. You have the clarification. This is just between the borrower and the banks. For example, the National Bank of Samoa, or the Development Bank of Samoa, or even the ANZ. I have no business in this matter, because this is between you and the administrators of the bank. I have had many people coming to me for assistance on this matter asking for a recommendation letter, and when I do it for them, they tell the banks that I am instructing them to do this and that. That is not true.

The purpose of my letters is for the banks to offer assistance towards these people who came to me; I have no interest in the way you do your job, but all I ask of you is to show some empathy towards these people who are in desperate need of assistance, because they are your clients and not mine. If you take good care of your clients, they will spread positive comments about your institution. Importantly it all comes down to the relationship between the banks and their customers. However, if you make it up just because of my letter, then you will gain nothing from it. This is a common issue with people seeking my help but are unfaithful with their repayments to the Development Bank. The recommendation letters I write to the employer who holds full power is to either accept or reject my advice. Because the people conducting the services are abiding integrity, their decision is based on the integrity of a person or no integrity.

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What then can we do if you do not make any repayments for 10 years and all of sudden you decide to pay your debts, but records indicate that you are up to date with your payments to the National Bank or the ANZ, but not to the Development Bank or the National Provident Funds.

Mr Speaker, the issue here is the undervaluing the Development Banks over other Corporations whilst borrowers are up to date with their payments with other bank institutions.

Mr Speaker this matter is very important, but the final decision is up to you.

That is my assistant Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. It might be easier to go kneel in front of the office when it is not busy. I call on the member to rise.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the clarification. What you have stated is the truth and I support your opinion. I move to the issue concerning the wages for our carpenters working overseas, there are about 26 of them that are included in the scheme. Similar to the seasonal workers, they are given the opportunity to work in New Zealand for 3 years, but we are also looking at expanding this to Australia. These opportunities are a blessing for many. The last time I travelled to New Zealand I met 7 of these carpenters that had recently arrived there. As we spoke, they showed their appreciation towards our State for the opportunity granted to them.

The scheme they are a part of in addition to working, they will also get education to increase their knowledge and understanding. In terms of salary, I am not sure.... I heard rumours that they are under minimum wages including the seasonal workers. That is not true. The minimum wage in New Zealand is \$17.00 per hour. This is how much our carpenters are receiving, keep in mind that those countries have a different way of categorising carpenters. Foreign specialists came to conduct interviews for our local applicants. Majority applied and the foreign specialist interviewed them and came with the outcome that these workers go by period.

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The opportunity is granted like that so that our people will get the chance to increase their expertise and knowledge for the sole purpose of gaining benefit for Samoa in the future. They are obligated to return after 3 years with higher knowledge gained for the development of our country. It does not mean they will stay there for 3 years straight, but they will be given the chance to return to visit their families and then head back to continue work and studies. The wages for maintenance, I am not sure how to pronounce it, hammer hands, they are the ones ordered to hammer nails and... receive \$21.00 an hour, the other is the builder labourer who gets \$22.00, the assistant carpenter receives \$23.00 an hour and the carpenter gets \$24.00 to \$25.00 an hour. Income is important, but in my personal opinion, the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding is more important. If we look at the bigger picture, they will return with more wisdom and information that is profitable for Samoa. This will earn them benefits through their income earnings.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, but the member for Siumu is upstanding. I call the member.

Afioga Faalogo Sopi Iosefa (Siumu): Thank you to the Minister for the clarification. I have a question on the income, is it New Zealand dollars or Samoan tala.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: If they are working in New Zealand, they are also getting paid in the New Zealand currency not the Samoan tala. The minimum wage I mentioned is \$17.00 New Zealand dollars. I am not sure, there might be some negative speculations stating that..... Because the way I see it, no matter how much we try to do what is best for our people, *there become gossipers that our people being exploited.* We do not want to make it seem like we are exploiting our people, because they are desperate for work.

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Even if we have the urge to work, if our people are being abused overseas the contracts will be demolished with that country. Our focus is for our people to gain equal benefits as the local New Zealanders and Australians, in terms of rewards and other benefits. That is also their explanation.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I want to offer my assistance on this matter. It has been over 10 years since Samoa raised this issue,... It was after the earthquake that took place in Christchurch, we were able to raise this advice with New Zealand to increase more job opportunities for our seasonal workers and agricultural products, as well as jobs for those with special expertise in New Zealand. It took me a lengthy time to raise this concern with the New Zealand during our leadership talks. The reason why it took them long to accept my request was that they were working on the conditions for employment. To ensure that our people going to New Zealand are being treated well and maintain high standard and not to abuse our Pacific people by lowering the minimum wage than the lawful minimum wage set by New Zealand for their casual workers.

Mr Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, there two types of workers and two types of salary arrangements, there is one for the permanent workers and one for the daily labourers. This is where the minimum wage lies. However, it is the lowest minimum wage there is, if a company violates it, they will get the penalty.

We are in line with New Zealand. New Zealand will never allow any company to pay our people anything other than the approved minimum wage set by the State. This is similar with the issue faced in 1973 with the Pacific Forum Line. There were initial talks about a trade lines for the Pacific in 1971, then again in 1972 and 1973.

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This talk assured the ceasure of voyages owned by the PFL to New Zealand due to salary arrangment. If our PFL vessel was sailing in those days to New Zealand, the minimum wage for our sailors should be similar with those sailors in New Zealand. Because this is also monitored by the New Zealand Union Society for daily wage earners.

Mr Speaker, it saddens me to see the comments made by those people, who aim to ruin and stop our workers from traveling to New Zealand for work. The complainants are not doing anything for the benefit of our nation. All they do is complain, because it is what they are good at, but they have never done anything useful with their lives or for the development of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The subject has been clarified. I call on the member to rise.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you to the Hon Prime Minister for putting in further clarity in this matter. Another point raised by the member is the creation of a new market place near here. The government intend to use the lands near the town area for the market. There were also plans that the market be built by New Zealand, but the government wanted to construct a big house where the existing flea market is located, while we find another nearby location. The aim is to have one flea market to avoid people from going back and forth between the two existing markets.

Perhaps it may be far apart, but we have plans to install pathways linking to the government building, the flea market and the bus stops. It will resemble an avenue of footpaths connecting all three locations, making access easier to the market and the bus stop area.

Possibly, when this project is completed, there will be a more suitable building for this era. Everything that has happened is important to designing our new house. This is all for the development of our town area, also including the plans for the new wharf to be built at Vaiusu. Maybe we can connect the new flea market and the wharf. This will make it easier for the locals and tourist as well. I am sure doubts will arise about the locations of these projects.

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In terms of the Salelologa town area and market, the Samoa Land Corporation has plans underway to renovate and extend the flea market to make good use of the land. There are also plans for the improvement of the town area, at the same time to avoid conflict later on.

Mr Speaker, I now move to the matter of our aeroplanes. This is the second time for me to express my gratitude to Parliament and Samoa for your support. No one is mentioning anything negative about our planes. Yes, all your comments are well received and recorded for the Ministry's review. I want to give thanks to the member that mentioned the plane, as they are thinking about the welfare of our country.

The status of aircrafts worldwide, situations have aroused due to two incidents that occurred with the Boeing Max fleet. We were also hoping to purchase our aircraft from this company. During the incident, our plane had already been painted and the only thing left to do was for pilots to bring it to Samoa. Due to these circumstances, all 370 planes were on halt. Luckily, we only purchased one plane; other countries are heavily affected from this stoppage.

If you notice the airport in Fiji, three of their planes are grounded with mile a minute weed been grown on the wheels. That is because they are unable to repair these planes, due to the investigation being conducted for the incidents that occurred in Malaysia and Ethiopia. The plans of the State is therefore put on hold until the results of the investigation is received, then we will make decisions on these plans moving forward.

Meanwhile, we are still looking for ways where we can obtain an aircraft, because the lease for the Millendon is due to end in August. Unfortunately, we are unable to lease these types of planes, but these aircrafts are huge, good and is only 3 years old. We are still searching for a plane that is similar to what we are using right now. Our people are enjoying the plane and we have not yet received any complaints from it. For clarification, ever since the grounding of the Boeing Max Fleet, it is very difficult for us to obtain an 800 model.

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Major aircraft companies of the world are relying on these type of aircrafts in replacement of the max. Other companies have 50 aircrafts on halt and therefore, they are interested in the leased planes. Therefore, they will need to compensate for the grounded planes, which is why they are trying to attain aircrafts from multiple companies making it difficult for us to obtain 1 aircraft. The drastic increase in the lease amount is also a problem, but as mentioned by one of the members, there were problems for a week, but we still managed to acquire the plane we are using now the Millendon. As such, I want to thank the Airport Authority for their commitment in making traveling easier and cheaper for our people, which is one of the major objectives for setting up this company.

We are not trying to compete with other major airlines, but as mentioned by the Hon Minister, many of our people are choosing our airlines. This shows that it is benefitting our people since it is cheaper, and now other airlines are lowering their prices than before when it used to make it be very expensive for us. This is one social benefit to ease traveling for our people using our own aircrafts. Even the Air New Zealand, their prices have gone cheaper. Why? It is because there is finally competition. That is what we should look at. Our aircrafts are very beneficial as our people now can travel back and forth to attend traditional gatherings like the bestowment of chiefly titles or just for vacation.

All that could not be implemented before due to high cost.

That is the situation on our aircrafts, perhaps in August we will be able to acquire another plane by then...a decision is still undergoing. From what I heard, talks about aircraft safety may continue until next year. There is also talks about max fleet first flight to America by the FAA or the Federal Aviation Administration. Since it is their aircraft, they are attempting to prove to the world that their planes are safe. However, New Zealand and Australia should still be cautious.

We will only receive our aircraft if New Zealand and Australia allow the aircrafts to transit through them. Perhaps in the next Sitting we will get a conclusive decision.

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However, in terms of moving forward, we hope to own 2 aircrafts so we can travel using the routes we already scheduled to Melbourne, Wellington, Christchurch... we can also travel to other Regions like Tonga and Hawaii. There was a study conducted by the most highly educated people who recommended that it would be better if we had 3 planes. This is why we are planning to obtain 2 planes for now, and perhaps in the near future we will get one more. We need the collective effort from everyone. There is a testimony, it is the airlines of the country, so come and give your support.

Mr Speaker, this concludes the clarification. However, just to add on to the matter on plane, we are awaiting for its arrival. The plane was obtained through a trial period in a lease because it was cheaper, as the crew members employed were all locals including our pilots.

Duing this recent incident, our crew were all prepared to receive the arrival of the aircraft. Even our local pilots were all ready, about 18 of them, they have been trained and are ready to go, the same with the cabin crew. Arrangements have been made for these workers who are no longer working but still have the chance to gain themselves income earning and still undertake trainings so that when it comes... whatever plane the Boeing sends us, our crew are prompt and ready. And....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister there is an interjection from the member of Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you Mr Speaker, I am concluding... but since the Hon Minister has addressed plane again, I have a question. I believe we all support the aircraft. The only area I wish to gain clarity on is logistics. It is so that before the arrival of our new aircraft, all these things including the booking system, partnership and a connecting system in particular with major flights from overseas before you check out and get your baggage.

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I trust we should focus on some of these areas so that by the time our proposed plane arrives, everything is all set. We must also form a partnership, like that of the Fiji Airways and Qantas. If we are able to get a partnership like that, it will provide a great deal of help for developing our Airways, Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Good work...

Afioga Faumuina Asi Wayne Pauli Fong (Urban West): Mr Speaker, to save the time of the Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt your comment... I implore the members of Parliament, but I have noticed that we are having electricity problems. I beseech the honourable member, especially the members who are commenting, and the entire Parliament. Our Sitting will be set aside for a few minutes as they check the power, with due respect.

Parliamentary Proceedings set aside due to a problem with the electricity at 10:10am and resumed at 11:11am.

Second reading resumed on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018/2019 & the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the continuation of Proceedings and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

Now that the electricity problem is fixed, we are now able to broadcast our Parliamentary Sitting for the sake of our people tuning in. I affirm that our members have been re-energised from breakfast.

With respect I turn to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you for the opportunity, I respectfully stand to notify the Speaker and the honourable members of Parliament on the issue concerning the sudden power outage.

Concerning the power disruption before recess, it was due to the complications with the transformer in Fiaga, it is already fixed. For the sake of your honourable Speaker and the respectable members of Parliament, this was unexpected. The EPC did not anticipate these problems to occur with the transformers. It is good these complications occurred, so the EPC can arrange for daily check-ups for our transformers to ensure that no problems occur again in the future. The same should be done for our generator at Fiaga, as they should administrate regular maintenance check-ups for these generators. A reminder to the EPC that these are very expensive assets and that they should be responsible for its maintenance and conduct a follow up and reminder to ensure the maintenance is done appropriately.

That is my clarification with respect Mr Speaker and the members of Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, Thank you. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the sudden power outage reminded me of the former General Manager of the Electric Power Corporation, who passed away about 10 years ago. I questioned him about the easy disruptions of the transformer and based on his engineering expertise, he replied, it is the chicken droppings as they are attracted to the warmth of the transformer. I then told him, this is the first time I have seen chickens like this. The Samoan chickens cannot fly that high, so it cannot be chickens.

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I had noticed pigeon nests and flying pigeons and maybe so, I advised the member, it could be the droppings of pigeons on the transformers. Nevertheless, out of all the transformers in here they settle on the transformer that is sending electricity to our House. How disrespectful of that pigeon, just a request to the member, even if it is a pigeon, or chickens or a rooster, these problems are good for consideration.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you... pardon the...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I offer assistance to the point under discussion... a question for the member, what is the difference between our transformer and the transformer of other countries? Their transformer is not easily disrupted even if a dragon settles on it. I think it is better if we can obtain those types of transformers, so that with any type of bird, it will not disrupt the electricity flow, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I hear you.....

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Furthermore Mr Speaker, the member met with the contract company and yet the generator is malfunctioned....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member; do not seek unrest upon our Sitting.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, I support the statement by the Hon Prime Minister. There are chicken, pigeons and roosters, but dragons do not exist in this world as such, the member's comment is false.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker, I respectfully interrupt to ask for an opportunity to interject the member for Vaimauga.

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MR SPEAKER: The member may speak.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: The statements by the member for Samoa Land, the Hon Prime Minister and the Minister for the Electric Power Corporation. The cause of the power outage is my constituency of Vaimauga. For clarification, whenever my lands is mentioned, that is when my people arrive, such is reason why I went outside to ask them to turn back the power, it is now on.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Prime Minister to rise.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: I ask the order upon the member until he goes and converse with his spirits in his village, let that be so, whilst now, we are talking about power outage

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member to leave your comments until you return to your constituency. I call on the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: I offer greeting for the third time before the House. These small talks are good for entertaining our Sitting. A suggestion for the fellow member, why not make a sign on the transformers stating, no pigeons allowed. Maybe that way it will stop the power outages. I hope that none of this will occur again as we near the Games event, because what if the power goes off during a race losing us an opportunity for a gold medal.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: I was only joking, but it seems the member is agitated.

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Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: I ask the member where I can find the language the pigeons is using, in order to make the sign for them, because the pigeons do not understand our language, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Maybe you should ask the member for Vaimauga which best dialect to use...

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: The member is saying that he is sitting with the most senior...the Hon Sala understands the dialects of the pigeons and chickens, because the old man has a large chicken farm and pigeon farm.

Mr Speaker, I will continue with the statement mentioned by the member about the aircraft. In terms of logistics, it is very expensive and is impossible to achieve with only one plane. Let us start with our own money by giving this service first priority to our people in Samoa and in New Zealand. Maybe when we are able to obtain 2 or 3 planes then we can focus on connecting flights, but for now the company is working on this issue.

Right now, we are in the Armadale system for online bookings. It is expensive, and contains technical logistics for it has Banks that accepts visa cards from other countries for online bookings, but so far, we can only use the Bank of the South Pacific.

We are attempting to make it easier for our people overseas to make bookings, especially remote countries than New Zealand and Australia. Our company is working on it. In terms of partnerships, we have a gold share agreement with Fiji, but they are facing issues with grounded planes. We are also focusing on forming a partnership with Qantas and Australia. If is successful we will benefit with their Reward System which I think is called Skyways, which will give our people air points if our aircraft is operational.

For your interest, these are all the issues we are working on right now. There is no hindrance; the main point is getting funds to complete all these works, and hoping that by the end of the year, the service will be much better. Another addressing point is the drop in prices during low season, the Airlines Office has strategies in place to drop prices for some months during the low season. Our Airlines has the lowest airfare than all the other airlines that we take.

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That was the objective from the start, lower the prices to make it more affordable for our people, but we are also looking at profitability for our aircraft. This does not mean that we will solely focus on pleasing the people by incurring inappropriate airfares, rather, consider another way, and arrange a missing flight for one day during the low season, as there are situations like that.

Another raising concern is air freights we aim to obtain. The aircraft we are expecting should be able to carry high carriage capacity although we attempt to receive the carriage capacity we have right now so that our current aircraft is able to carry it.

Perhaps this is it lest there is another power outage, I will conclude anyway. To my constituency of Satupaitea, thank you for your support and prayers, we shall meet at a suitable time after the many engagements I am undertaking. The heart is strong and courageous when I think about your support upon me, in ensuring a huge contribution from Satupaitea in the decision making process of the State. To my dear mother Anesoa, who never misses our Sittings, no matter where she goes whether to New Zealand or Australia, she always say, 'have a blessed sitting.

As such, it is why I stand and speak with confidence, knowing that I have the support of my mother, Ane. May God bless you and may He grant you more days for us to be together, especially as you get close to 90 years old. To the dignity of the House today, bless you in the remaining hour of our Sitting, and to all the participants of the Pacific Games, we wish you all the best.

To the Hon Prime Minister, I wish you luck and may your arrow fly straight and may you gain the 300 point mark every time you let go, keep note that there other settlers lest your arrow points wrongly to them or even stray right through an elder scrapping a coconut. I wish you all the very best have a blessed day Mr Speaker, Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and Thank you to the member, but you seem to be taunting the Hon Prime Minister and his shooting. This is the opportunity for the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Deputy Prime, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): I stand with respect, to offer greetings to the Speaker, greetings also to all the members of the House. Admiration to the Speaker for the prayer to start our meeting, praises to the father in heaven for his guidance upon all the members of the House this new day.

Mr Speaker, I was not present last week as I was attending a meeting with one of the Associations at the South Pacific Community. Now I have returned with a conclusive report related to the issue under deliberation for our Budget 2019/2020.

I offer assistance in support of the State and its response in accordance to our deliberations and comments of members, especially the Report tasked by the Revenue and Expenditure Committee on the Budget review arranged by the Ministry of Finance through its Minister.

I begin my explanation on the Report of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee in relation to the Ministries. I have noticed the recommendations put forth for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment which I greatly recognize. I also see a matter raised by the Committee on the statement related to projects. As aware Mr Speaker and dignity of this Parliament, this is not the only Ministry that is engaged with projects. I recall consultations held with my Ministry this matter of reporting in of projects progress. The Ministry of Finance should be aware of this stance through the Ministry of Finance. For the sake of Parliament, that is the formal procedure of dialogues between the Ministries in order to gain full information in relation to our budget.

I trust this is very noteworthy; there are two huge components of our budget used to operating our State. Our very own revenue plus the funding received from our partnerships; we must make full utilization of these funds and our reporting for the sake of transparency and accountability the implementation of these programs.

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Another observation is the \$600,000 appropriated under the Ministry paid to the National Provident Fund NPF for the lands that were taken. It is now revealed, expenditure is now overpaid and the recommendation states the \$600,000 allocation be put aside, although, I beseech the Minister of Finance and your Ministry to recoup the money so it can be used to pay for the lands that are being used by the State for our developments. These are some of the matters submitted in the Committee's Report, and I appreciate your efforts and review by the Committee in this Report. The recommendations have been approved.

Mr Speaker based on Parliamentary records, not many people spoke of the Ministry under my supervision. Except for the general remark in relation to the impacts of climate change. Mr Speaker and the dignity of Parliament, firstly, the effects of climate change upon the country does not concern one Ministry alone. It affects all Ministries that are mostly affected with the impacts of climate change. We can also say that the State's vision is cross sector in response to countering climate change. Mr Speaker, this situation will be a role model for the public sectors including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Furthermore, there is ongoing works for the seawall areas, and house buildings according to set standards to combat climate change. These are the priority areas of the country in response to mitigating climate change.

I wish to talk about energy sector. As aware, the State has set out plans that by the year 2020-2025, the country will be 100% covered with renewable energy. The project we are working on is not easy, but these are all in preparations for climate change. So that our country will stop relying on oil that is emitting gas thus affecting the environment that evolves causing global warming which are the effects of climate change. Mr Speaker, there are several Ministries that are in collaboration to counter against climate change. Not only are they using their own set budgets from one year to the next like this Ministry, they are also utilizing the grants from our development partners.

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Mr Speaker, I have already prepared and have signed off the States plans with each constituency in the country. Each item have been noted given the effects of climate change including the contingency plans for those affected areas which are all in place covering water supply. The aim of the State is to create partnerships to ensure that the necessary plans and grants are achieved in order to alleviate the effects of climate change and natural disasters. This is all the same with the appropriations of the State to guide all plans especially for the seawall areas and drainage systems.

Mr Speaker, I think only two Ministries have begun arrangements on this matter. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development have already engaged discussions with the villages and constituencies in terms of the developments needed. Perhaps there is concern that the discussions are only raising the expectations of the people, which could raise questions on when this and that can be done.

However, with respect Mr Speaker, these discussions focuses on identifying the needs before the State can start the work on these projects. The measure is based on the things that we must do. Not only with the works of the State, it also includes the works of our developing partners as well as the works implemented by the village communities and the country. Furthermore, the Government will not be alone, because we will have the support of our development partners and the help of the community at large. Although we understand the effects of climate change, there is also the works of a human being, and its welfare and how this can affect the environment.

Some of the solutions given is to remedy some of the problems we are facing, reforestation of the coastal areas and the forest. Moving from the coastal areas towards the inland area. This is nothing new as we have talked about it before. As observed, this is also the measure for our roads to ease the progress of settlers in the coastline areas towards the inner areas for their safety and protection from the effects of climate change.

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Another thing is flooding and the high set standard for house buildings and another common talk issued to this House is the water catchment areas especially within the villages for their protection. This effort is the collective responsibility of the village and the State or the major projects that has the support of other partners. To note, the respective Ministries are carrying out all the works we are discussing. I noticed that members are making their pleas according to their needs particularly on seawall areas and water tanks.

The truth is Mr Speaker any work or development we do must be in accordance with the benefits we will gain. Rescue works depends on the cost of assets we have available, and the aids we can acquire. That is why we are prioritizing the developing of the seawall areas and roads for the traveling of our people. As also mentioned, in the Report of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee, the revenue distributed on an annual basis is the challenge on the grants we are receiving.

Mr Speaker, next month we will be hosting the Pacific Games, in the hope to make good use of this platform to send the message across to take importance of our environment. Our Ministry and the SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme have prepared the mitigation of the use of plastics during the games within our surroundings. There is already a Law on Plastics, single use plastics and straws with the hope to continue this program on lessening the use of plastics to oppose the mount of rubbish that has piled up in the country including the negative effect of plastics upon the entire planet and the vast ocean.

We will also use this opportunity to encourage the athletes to support us in replanting the trees to counter climate change.

Mr Speaker, another issue raised regarding the taking of lands or leased lands by the Government. I am aware that the Hon Prime Minister has already clarified on this issue. However, in my opinion Mr Speaker and Parliament, the Alienation of Customary Lands Act is yet to come back to Parliament, perhaps this is further chance for members to talk and review it as raised in the House.

Mr Speaker, this concludes my clarification. May the remaining orders of today be blessed. Soifua and God Bless.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you honourable Deputy Prime Minister for the raising matters from the members. Most particularly, the overall explanation on the long-term goals of the Government for the preparation of appropriate policies on climate change to be in line with the support received from overseas. Furthermore, the notable opinions from each constituency upon our part through a collective effort for the nation. Thank you.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister for further clarification should you wish.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEIGAOI: Mr Speaker and the dignity members of the Legislative Assembly, the Cabinet Ministers have already given their responses to elaborate the issues raised during your comments. We will take significance of that and amongst their presence, we have the Ministry Heads who are observing and taking note of all the necessary information, they find suitable with our agreed budget to implement the requests before us. Why? They are the hands and feet of the State who are carrying out our requests. Because you are the chosen and appointed Leaders of Samoa, to distribute the welfare from God, the necessities per day given our new financial budget for this year.

Like other nations of the world, those that are not well off and are unable to fulfil many things in one year, such is the need to create something essential leaving aside other things to fulfill in the future.

That is why patience is imperative. Smooth and encouraging words will tempt one to work, but if we are too hasty, it will cause problems. The member is not an angel, there are positive demeanours mixed with earthly desires. We still have time for this term, the developments implemented in the beginning of the term, come the next election, these developments will elapse because they will not recall any of the good works attained given the sweetness of temptation.

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During the progress of our general talks, an address must be made on the roles/duties of the Legislative Assembly, to be clear about the importance of our honorific citations which is the embodiment of our country and the Supremacy of the Parliament. Why is it significant and absolute? The true meaning of the Legislative Assembly is to supervise peace and safekeep the lives of the people of Samoa. After we approve a law we exit through the Chambers doors, we should remember that we too are citizens of our country, we are equal with everyone in Samoa, hence is why we should abide by the laws we enact in this House. We must lead by example and adhere to the laws just like our people, it must be obeyed by male and female judges, and it must be obeyed by officials of the country, the Head of State, the Members of the Council of Deputies, Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, Chiefs and untitled men and their wives.

It must also complied by the Church Ministers and their wives, deacons, Lay Preachers, Archibishops and Bishops. Young children even newborn babies and aborted babies.

That is the conviction on mothers who are being cruel for terminating their babies, a baby is also living being created by God. In Samoan, *o le Paiaaga o le Ola i le Tulafono*, the Sanctity of the Living Law. This is the exact definition to the statement we say in English, the Rule of Law. It is also stipulated in Article 15 of the Constitution of the Independent Country of Samoa, and this is the most important law of our country. Even if you have served our country for many years, once you breach the Constitution of the country, then acquittal is upon you. All people come under this Law, including the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, the Members of Parliament, Judges, Pastors, High chiefs, women and children. Therefore, our sole duty before this Parliament is to create and approve the Constitution, and pass them on to the judiciary for them to interpret and implement these Laws to govern the people. This Law also applies to the Judiciary whom are also well versed in this area given their legal expertise.

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The Supremacy of the Parliament is holding authority to establish Laws not the authority to disobey the Laws passed by this Parliament. No one is above the Law. The Old Testament states the traveling of our Lord and Saviour to Jerusalem with his parents at the age of 12. This is the Jews custom, when a child turns 12, they have reached the adult age. You have come of age. Which means that whatever you do it will not affect your parents. Our youths today, only when you have reached the age of 21, then you will be called an adult. However, in Jerusalem at that time, it was the age of 12 where you are then chosen to travel from Nazareth to the temple in Jerusalem.

The foreword according to some records by the Council of Churches states; as soon as he arrived, they had a ceremony. In a short statement by Joseph to the three professor of the law, "This is my son, his name is Jesus and he has reached the age of adulthood, and everything he does is his own responsibility, and his father will not be responsible". The examiners started to test if the child is ready for adulthood. The first question was, "Read the catalogue of commandments".

However, remember, there are only 10 commandments that God gave Moses, however the Pharisees added more and it amounted to 613 commandments. Then Jesus read the commandments in his childlike voice. He was halted before he could finish the commandments. Then the top Priest said to him, "that is enough, return the scroll to me". Then Jesus returned the scroll. "Return to where you were standing". The 12-year-old child returned to where he was standing, about five yards from his parents.

Then the leader of the three professors said, "Continue". Jesus recited the entire catalogue vocally without looking at it. This is how they knew that the child is fitting to be an adult and a verification letter was to be signed. Jesus recited the commandments without a problem, and during that time, they were unaware, that this was the second person of the blessed Trinity. The recitation continued while the three professors observed, and Jesus did not miss a single word. I mean, how can he miss when he is the God Almighty transformed into a living being.

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Then the judge said, “Enough is enough. Do you understand what you are reading?” Jesus answered, “Yes I understand it beyond.” The three looked at one another, and asked again, “What do you mean?” “What I mean is that, You Pharisees are upholders of the Law, but the problem is many of you disobey it.”

Mr Speaker, this short sentence is entirely vital for us the Lawmakers, we create and pass the Laws, although, we must lead by example in complying with these Laws. This is the guideline for the Rule of Law, which initiated during the war in the 1600. During the past 16th century in Great Britain, the public questioned the king to bear in mind to lead by example instead of disobeying the Law. Because in ancient times, the kings were wise in establishing the Laws for all citizens to abide by whilst he and his family disregard it altogether. The question is who is solely responsible with the Rule of Law? The answer, the Rule of Law is for the general citizens and all of us the State. The answer, it is pertained to recognized appointments under the Constitution, statutory appointments under the Independent Constitution of the State, it is the most Paramount Law that all must adhered by.

Whoever holds these constitutional appointments must look thoroughly into adhering these Laws as set out in the Constitution together with Laws that implements the Constitution.

Firstly, the Police Officers. The power is vested in them to investigate any statement against anyone who breaks the Law including all of us in this House, as well as all those who have worked in various sectors of the Government and therefore, press charges whenever necessary based on their just decision according to the Principal Act of the Ministry of Police.

Secondly, the Ombudsman Office set during the Governance by the HRPP or the Human Rights Protection Party now holds legal power to take over any severe decision made by any Public entity or Ministry that consequently affects anyone in the country that has run out of options. Therefore, the Ombudsman Office is the last resort for cases like this and a report is referred to me for the decision of the Cabinet. This is exactly where the termination of the former Police and Prison Commissioner was made.

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I am saying this, although there are several other reckless decisions made by the Public Ministries that had the correction of this Ombudsman Office who answers directly to the Parliament.

Thirdly, the State's Attorney General. The role of the Attorney General's Office or AG is to administrate legal charges within the Court House and carry on the process from the Police Office upon anyone who is breaking the Law. There are over 50 lawyers who are assisting the AG plus many others who have become Legal Advisors or Legal Officers for some Government Ministries and Corporations. This means that all the Ministries and all these attorneys are well aware of assessing the Government carefully according to the Law.

Fourthly, there are statutory appointments, the Chief Auditor. His role is to investigate the State's financial records on revenue and expenditures, as well as public assets and report directly to Parliament for its independent decision. They do not report to me neither the Cabinet, but directly to the Parliament as you are the representatives of the Kings of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, that is what the members should be aware of, as mentioned in some of the statements, it seems that if one of us is convicted then they take it that the decision was directed from the White House. No. That is the duty of the Attorney General. As I said, the Prime Minister was charged although he was also the Minister of Police and the Minister for the AG Office. The Ministers were also charged and were taken to Tafaigata. Similar to the members and the church ministers and the chiefs and orators of Samoa, they all breached the Law, therefore, no one is above the Law.

Personally, Parliament should be aware of the Constitutional Offices' role, whom are tasked with protecting the Laws of the country. That is the perspective of other countries on how we maintain our lives according to the Rule of Law. This is another good way for us to gain sponsorship from other countries, knowing that we are maintaining the Rule of Law for Samoa.

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Mr Speaker, there was an issue mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. The matter concerns the sea cucumber. The state the world is in right now, as some of you have noticed when you travel to Asia and Thailand, you will see the abundance sea cucumber being sold there, because there is a special dish that uses it and it is expensive. If we allow the fishing of sea cucumbers within Samoan seas, in about a month they will all be depleted.

That is why our Ministry is protecting the sea cucumber, making it illegal to fish, and sell them overseas. Let us fish our own sea slugs and sea cucumbers, especially for those families that live off these sea creatures. I once saw a different type of sea cucumber, it was about 2 feet long and it was big, it can feed a family for a whole week, and my mother caught it when she was fishing at Tuialamu. I was about 4 years old at the time. I have never seen one like that again, but it was nice and soft when eaten.

I went to Vanuatu in 1984, as I was wandering near their shoreline I noticed an abundance of sea cucumber. I then asked the Minister who was serving as the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries from 2001-2006 at the time, to contact Vanuatu to lend us some sea cucumber so we can cultivate it here on our shores.

I also asked the Minister to contact Fiji to ship us sheep, so that we can breed and make it easily available for our people here. However, the Minister told me that we already had an abundance of them on Aleipata shorelines. Such is reason for advising the Ministry to protect these sea creatures for our people. If we are not wary, there are many ways to smuggle these sea delicacies overseas. We have notified the Quarantine to ensure the people travelling at our airports are checked thorough to make sure they are not smuggling these sea cucumbers off island, because the smugglers only care about the money, but they do not look towards the future. Our Government is thinking about the future and ensure these resources are reserved for our own people. Once we legalise the fishing of sea cucumbers to foreigners, it will take less than a month for it to be exhausted. I can no longer find any bundles of sea slugs anywhere, even the flag tail, but there was plenty of it in our seas at Mulinuu, I would know because I used to fish there when I was young. It is no longer available. Why?

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It is because greed is the second nature of people; whilst the State envisions the long-term approach to protect these resources for our wellbeing in the future. That is the clarification on the sea cucumber.

Regarding floating poles, the Ministry have plans underway to create floating poles to be placed near the coastline. We should be cautious of using these equipment, there are.... I am unsure whether this is the type of rope that must be tied underneath, it is unsure whether there are algae eaters, and then we have the medium sized fish, and the larger fish, that is when we ensnare the fish. For those who are interested, the Ministry has set plans for these floating poles in place. It would be better to talk to the Ministry and record down your name. A request for some Samoan cocoa and coconuts for replanting, as there are plenty of Samoan cocoa and coconuts at the market. They are relying on the Ministry, but the market is full of Samoan cocoa. They can go to the market and buy a basket of cocoa, and regrow them. I bought some cocoa, whilst waiting for the stimulus package; and the Ministry seems to do the same. You are so reliant, why not go and pick up all the coconuts under the tree and replant them, which is what the Ministry should do. We should do a bonus.

I have been mentioning this aspect to the Ministry; do a bonus, even if it is \$10 per coconut, ten coconuts to replant is enough. If we can... as we have heard there are 22000 families.

If they each plant 10 coconuts, there will be 220 coconut trees, not much is spent. Although, they will still pay a bonus every year, so that...because there are farmers that do not pay bonus and do not look after their coconut trees.

There have been discussions for small-scale farmers, the type of farms that is cultivated by a father and his son. A father and son can only maintain two acres of land by themselves. Nevertheless, since it is now legal, if the father wants to hire workers, he will need to pay their wages in cash, and consider the minimum wage that was mentioned, it should be raised, but it will have an effect on the farmers. That is why the Government should be cautious with the way they arrange payments for the labourers. Then you will notice the effect it will have on the farmers.

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As for the coconut beetle programme, it is going smoothly and we are also broadcasting it on television. An advice for you all, converse with the members of the Government, and encourage them to keep exterminating the coconut beetle. Chainsaws have also been provided to cut and burn down the coconut trees filled with coconut beetles, but not for cutting wood for your family.

The stimulus package programme has been underway for a while now, and it should still be continued, and with the attendance of the Chief Executive Officers, know that replanting coconut trees does not use a lot of money, since it is \$10 per coconut tree. If they grow 10 coconut trees, they will receive \$100, and this will motivate farmers to take care of their coconut trees, because what usually happens is that farmers wait until the tree bears fruits then they notice it. However, buying it for \$10 will motivate them to care for the tree.

Mr Speaker, that is all from me. I beseech that we use the remaining minutes and perhaps by 1:00pm, we will finish our discussions on the budget should there be no further interruptions to delay our proceedings. Mr Speaker this is the motion.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and Thank you, the clarification by the Hon Prime Minister has been made clear to the country and Parliament. The State has also given its response on this issue mentioned by the member, in terms of money and the economy of Samoa, and the monetary policy of the Government. The motion has been moved and has been seconded during the Bill's second reading. The question will now be put forth.

Question was put and the motion was approved as moved on the 28th May 2019, on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019 and the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2)
2018/2019 - consideration in detail.**

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative will now consider the consideration of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019.

The progress for the consideration of the Bill, the members can comment on items written on Paper 2019/2020 No.21, Supplementary Appropriation First on Revenue and Expenditure of the Samoan Government for the years ended 30 June 2019 and the Paper 2019/2020 No.72, Report of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee for the Government of Samoa ending 30 June 2019.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, the consideration in detail commences with Schedule.

**FIRST SCHEDULE
ADDITIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS**

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:		\$40,000.
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Approved.

FINANCE:		\$4,500,000.
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Approved.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH		\$3,000,000.
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Approved.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019
– third reading

TOTAL	ADDITIONAL	OVERALL	EXPENDITURE
2018/2019:			\$7,540,000.

Approved.

SECOND SCHEDULE
REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE
	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICE	\$40,000.

Approved

TOTAL REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE	(\$40,000).
2018/2019.	

Approved.

SCHEDULE:

Approved.

CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriation of \$7,540,000 out of the Treasury Fund.

Approved.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019
– third reading**

CLAUSE 3: Reduction of amounts earlier appropriated and re-allocation to other outputs and sub-outputs.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 & THE TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Titles and Commencement

TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) 2018/2019

Approved.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019 progressed without Amendments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2)
2018/2019 – third reading**

MR SPEAKER: With due respect I request the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

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

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APPROPRIATION BILL 2019/2020
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative will now consider in detail the Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 and the Report of Finance and Expenditure Committee of the Main Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year Ending 30th June 2020.

Before we proceed to the consideration of the Bill, I wish to make note of the Corrections in the Samoan version to the Main Estimates 2019/2020 on pages 1, 13, 15, 36, 38, 40, 79, 102, 103, 141, 142, 144, 145, 198, 219. These have already been distributed to your tables.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, the consideration in details commences with Schedule.

SCHEDULE

ADDITION IN APPROPRIATION

MINISTRY:	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE	\$18,566,801.
<i>Approved.</i>	
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR:	\$19,852,036.
<i>Approved.</i>	
COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:	\$7,644,638.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Salega East.

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Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you for the opportunity. I want to speak of the Output 5. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for this output, but I have a question for the Associate Minister because it is not here. The \$2.8million that was set aside for the DSHS for the Ash Cable, since we have started using the Tui cable, I have noticed that there is still money going towards old Ash Cable.

Secondly, in terms of the Call Centre or the Data Centre clarified by the Ministry. What concerns me Mr Speaker, if there are constitutions that protect the data or information of our country, since there is a company that have bought Bluesky, and has majority of the shares. Therefore, they have the freedom to do whatever they want, and so we have to be wary of any information leaking out.

Another issue Mr Speaker, the establishment of the Digital Transformation Authority, and I am uncertain on why this authority has been established. As mentioned, the change of technology from analog to digital, that is what I have noticed.

However, in all honest Mr Speaker, technology cannot change from analogue to digital automatically. That is the job of the worker. We already have the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology with qualified workers to do this type of job, instead of creating something new. This means there will a Chief Executive Officer, with less staff.

That is why I was upstanding Mr Speaker; I just needed clarification on these issues. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Chairperson.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of the Finance Committee): Mr Speaker, I think the respectable member is mistaken. The Report by the Finance Committee clarifies the appropriation reduction last year and this year, and the reduction is because there is no financial bill by the SNPH. That is what the report implies, the \$670,761 that was available last year is unavailable this year, plus the reductions of the bill for the CSL Computer Services Limited and the internet, hence is the reduction in the appropriation of \$2.2million, and it is not an additional appropriation.

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The Digital Transformation Authority was mentioned, this is a long-term plan by the Ministry since there are many different types of computer systems nowadays, and the goal is to ensure we have people that can instruct on the ways to use these ever-changing technologies, due to the many different programmes used by different Ministries. We want to assure that the technological programmes that we purchased with our funds are being used accordingly. With due respect Mr Speaker.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, I beseech the Chairperson, I am not mistaken. If the Chairperson and the rest of the Committee considers the portion of expenditure by the Finance Office, it clearly states what the \$2.8 million is spared for. It is not directly under the Ministry of Technology, but since the allocation of this appropriation for the Ash Cable subjugated by the Ministry of Finance. That is why I asked, the \$2.8 million is clear.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I get it, I call on the Chairperson.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, when it is the Ministry of Finances opportunity then they will answer, but we are on the topic of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Yet the member is asking about the funds under the Ministry of Finance, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call on the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Mr Speaker, I offer assistance to the member, we are not talking about the Ash Cable, because the Chairperson was referring to the NSPH. However, the Government is reserving \$2million for the SNPH, hence is reason for the reduction of the used appropriation this year, from \$9million to \$7million.

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The Ash Cable that had our connection to Tutuila is now being switched to the Tui Cable, so the Marine Cable is no longer used. There were contracts in place, which had unused payments to meet, therefore, this money under the Finance Office is left for them. As for issues relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology that we are discussing, it has been resolved.

The matter concerning the leaking of data, the member is aware, he has answered his own question, as simple as that. Conditions have been in place to protect and safeguard leaked data to him and publicizing them to the public.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, the Associate Minister is making further errors.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise to confirm the motion by the Associate Minister and the Chairperson, the member that keeps interrupting has no more opportunities.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. There are no more opportunities for the member. Lest you all forget, even if the main Minister is absent, the Associate Minister is always steady. Thank you.

Total Appropriation of \$7,644,638 was approved for the Communications & Information Technology.

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE

\$109,517,345.

Approved.

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FINANCE: \$98,461,552.

Approved.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE: \$23,634,753.

Approved.

HEALTH: \$112,081,674.

Approved.

JUSTICE & COURT ADMINISTRATION: \$13,126,656.

Approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT: \$25,284,132

MR SPEAKER: There is a correction for the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment given in the Supplementary Order Paper. I call on the Chairperson of the Committee.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, I move the correction of the Ministry as follows:

“CORRECTIONS:

To remove the total of \$600,000 for reparations for the land owned by SNPF in the Financial Report 2019/2020, as we have already compensated the NPF for the lands used by

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*the Ministry for reserves, and changing the Total
Appropriation by the Ministry to \$24,684,132*

Correction Approved.

*Appropriation of \$24,684,132 was approved for the Natural
Resource and Environment.*

POLICE: **\$32,875,886.**

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the member for Salega East.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: The question on the foundation....Mr Speaker, I just want to ask the Hon Prime Minister or the Minister of Police, in terms of the Holding Cells in Apia. What I am concerned about is that when someone is charged they are sent to prison instead of a holding cell. The Minister of Prison declared that the holding cell in Apia is a prison, which means that we have two prisons. It is concerning as there might be people that are charged by the police and sent to be imprisoned in Apia. This is the very question on this practice...

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA
LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO
GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr
Speaker...

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

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Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA
LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO
GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: This matter has already been discussed with the Attorney General's Office, the issue raised by the member is carefully reviewed. There is nothing to be concerned about.

Appropriation of \$32,875,886 for the Police was approved.

PRIME MINISTER: \$8,509,056.

Approved.

REVENUE: \$12,468,924.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, for output two...I have noticed that the crime rate is drastically increasing, not just in our country but also our neighbouring countries. From what I see, the Ministry should focus heavily on protecting our borders. I am relieved to hear the member stating that maybe in 2 years time or even a year, we will be able to receive our scanner for outsized goods from overseas.

My other concern is that we do not have any security detection dog at the airport, but instead we are relying on robotic dogs from China. I recommend the member that we should get detection dogs and leave your robot dogs at home, or else they will be barking from another family's house.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA
LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO
GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr
Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA
LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO
GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: These
issues have all been examined by the Government for future
developments....We also have a Committee that oversees the
borders. We also have planes that protect our borders together with
large vessels arriving in August. There is nothing to be concerned
about, as the State has already looked carefully into these matters.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, the matter has been clarified.

Appropriation of \$12,468,924 for Revenue is now approved.

WOMEN, COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:	\$10,047,442.
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Approved.

WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE:	\$47,067,483.
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Approved.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister since we have reached our
time, I call you for a motion.

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MOTION TO EXTEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA
LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO
GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr
Speaker I see there is half an inch left before we finish our work. I
move, *That the Proceedings resumed this afternoon until the Main
Estimates 2019/2020 is approved.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, (Minister of Commerce,
Business & Labour and the Minister for Women, Community &
Social Development).*

MR SPEAKER: We will continue until the Budget is approved.

Motion approved.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: \$5,305,858.

Approved

AUDIT OFFICE: \$3,913,650.

Approved.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION: \$5,965, 518.

Approved.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: \$6,528,556.

Approved.

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OMBUDSMAN OFFICE:	\$1,206,828.
<i>Approved.</i>	
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:	\$4,990,897.
<i>Approved.</i>	
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & LABOUR:	\$2,712,306.
<i>Approved.</i>	
STATISTICS:	\$5,376,376.
<i>Approved.</i>	
LAW REFORM COMMISSION:	\$1,478,629.
<i>Approved.</i>	
PRISON & CORRECTIONS:	\$7,098,552.
<i>Approved.</i>	
TOTAL REDUCTIONS IN EXPENDITURES 2019/2020:	\$583,715,543.

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MR SPEAKER: There is a Correction by the Committee on the Total Reductions in Expenditures of Ministries 2019/2020.
 I call on the Chairperson.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, since there was a Reduction in Total Expenditures for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of \$600,000, hence I stand to correct the Total Reduction Expenditures from **\$583,715,543** to **\$583,115,543**.

Correction Approved.

Appropriation Approved on the Correction of \$583,115,543 as Corrected.

CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriation of \$583,715,543 out of the Treasury Funds.

MR SPEAKER: There is a Correction by the Committee on Clause 2. I call on the Chairperson to rise.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, I move the Correction to Clause 2:

"CORRECTION:

To replace the total \$583,715,543 with \$583,115,543, for Clause 2 to read:

**Grant and Appropriation of \$583,115,543
 out of the Treasury Funds**

Correction Approved.

Correction Approved for Clause 2 as Corrected.

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CLAUSE 3: Grant and Appropriation of \$490,333 out of the Trust Funds.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Grant and Appropriation of \$17,511,466 out of the Treasury Funds

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and Commencement.

TITLE: Appropriation Bill 2019/2020.

Approved.

The Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 progressed with Corrections.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2019/2020
– third reading

MR SPEAKER: I call with respect the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Thank you Mr Speaker, before I move to the motion I want to show appreciation and gratitude to the Speaker for conducting our Sitting on our Budget, also to the notable members of Parliament and the Chairperson, as well as the Finance Committee for the preparation and thorough review of the Budget.

At this moment Mr Speaker, I move *that the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 be now read a third time.*

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Adjournment

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

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

The House showed appreciation by applauding upon the approval of the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Hon Prime Minister for an opinion if we will adjourn and continue again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance has already shown gratitude and appreciation, and the same goes for the Cabinet, with the contribution of all the members which have all been recorded.

The Main Estimate has been approved, and so the Cabinet and Chief Executives of Ministries will carefully examine the comments and issues raised. We will work to our fullest strength to implement all concerns shown by this House.

That is our assistance, but there is still more work to be done, and we will continue tomorrow until all the Reports and Bills before Parliament are approved.

This is the addition and we shall now go to a break, as it is adjournment time.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and Thank you, the Sitting will now be adjourned with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1.07pm until Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 9.00am.