

TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2017

The Speaker took his Chair at 9:00am.

Prayer.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I declare that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Firstly I greet the consecrated Morning Sitting, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet and members of Parliament and Samoa in all your significant status from God's servants and their prayers for Samoa's blessings.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read out the Papers tabled in accordance with S.O. 49. –

1. S.R.2017/7, Professional Engineers (Registrations) Regulations 2017.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2017 – resumption debate on second reading

MR SPEAKER: During the adjournment of debate yesterday, the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo was about to conclude his speech.

I give this opportunity to any member who would like to speak on the Bill. I call on the member for Vaisigano No 1.

Afioga LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Vaisigano No 1): I humbly greet Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister as well as Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the dignity of the House and individual members of each constituency. I would also like to express gratitude for we have surpassed the night where we were able to rest. Now our strength has been renewed due to the grace of God.

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Greetings to my constituency tuning in. I rise to speak about the Bill. The concern Mr Speaker, is that the Budget has been approved, and changes and plans for the Ministry for Revenue has been provided for. In other words, in my opinion deliberation for the amendment to the Act is a bit too late. I am not aware of their principles your honour. There were so many views that our constituency would have liked to express regarding the issue unfortunately the Budget is approved. The truth is we cannot go back to discussing the Budget owing to the fact that it has been received and approved by the Assembly. I apologize, but I am complaining about the delay in the Bill as it should have been deliberated in the first place, If we look at the Budget and all the amendments done to the income, changes are reflected there, as in the Pastor's tax. Its not only in this kind of tax but others such as the threshold. It simply means these are some of the aspects we have so far approved, except for translation and interpretation of words under the Act.

For me, it is reason enough to apologize for the delay in the amendment, when the Budget has already been approved the day before, and I just want to show it to you. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well I call on the member of Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West): I rise with respect to contribute to the Bill on behalf of my constituency. I want to greet and offer affectionate words to respectable Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the Associate Ministers and likewise to this side of the House.

I also extend gratitude to the Hon Minister due to some parts of this Bill. The first that I would like to speak on, is what I had mentioned in my general speech on the Main Budget and as the Minister of Revenue had mentioned its the reduction of tax for companies which are selling goods to overseas companies. For that I would like to thank the Hon Minister for the plans which have been laid down whereby 50% reduction was being discussed. As elaborated in the past, it used to be 27% but untill now it is 50%, with its half being 27%. Therefore all those companies that would be selling their goods to overseas markets their tax would be reduced by 13.5 %. It would lighten the burden for companies who will sell their goods to overseas buyers. This is one very important aspect of our Bill. We are all aware that if the business people have more money to operate their businesses they would have more businesses and more job opportunities for the people who are job hunting. This is why I express gratitude.

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In the amendment it's stated that 100% profit should come back to the people from selling goods to overseas buyers. This is the only question I would like to understand in this part of the Bill, and mind you there are some companies that have the intention of using the profits to buy some of the goods to help purchase businesses here in Samoa. It would mean that this money would enable them to purchase machines for the production of goods. The question is, whether this is in the 100% profit or whether all is included in it as long as the profit that would return to the people is 100%, whether it be in the form of money or equipment, or others or getting these goods ready to be sent overseas like packing materials. Or all those are included in it, as I had mentioned before some companies operate in this manner, they do not give all the money, but use other means to improve the company, especially the goods that are sold to overseas buyers.

One other aspect of the Bill, I acknowledge the capital gains tax. If a land is purchased as you had elaborated clearly on this issue your honour, if it be sold back within 12 months from the day it was purchased, 10% is taxed. But if it been sold within 12 months, it is 27%. It's just an opinion stated for your honour to look at as we progress forward....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister for Revenue): Mr Speaker, I thank the member for his view stated concerning capital gains tax. If it be bought within the 12 months then 27% for the capital gain, but if it's sold beyond the 12 months then 10% due to its transportation.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, the Minister is correct, it is 27% within 12 months but 10 beyond.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Hon Minister, perhaps the version I have is not the correct one, as corrections are given. As stated 27% is given for 12 months. But my brother Faumui has whispered to me to correct the error, and its good. The correction is now given and for that I thank you, its 27% if the land be sold out within the 12 months but 10% if it's sold beyond the 12 months. Thank you for this.

As far as I am concerned, it seemed as if the issue was stated to be put aside as we are heading towards the future, but its wise if its divided during the first year and then sold it after three years with a different percent, but for five years do it likewise. Do it in a scale-like way but I urge your honour to look at it closely to see what should be done.

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I will not speak openly about Pastors' taxes, but will take my own constituency as an example. There are 27 denominations, 27 pastors. The other villages, there is one village of my constituency that has eight denominations, therefore the people are everywhere. Most of the denominations in my constituency has only a few people attending church. How I see it and being discussed by pastors especially churches with a few number of people, perhaps most of them who doesn't reach the limit given of 15,000 per year, if they don't reach this amount, they are tax free. This is better as far as I am concerned it would go in line with how the government system taxed their employees. Anyone whose wages is below 15,000 is tax free as most of the villages within my constituency are too much into having their feeds in the form of food, they do not rely on money as it is scarce. These are some of the concerns. This is where I do believe that this Act and its parts that I had touched on during my speech, it is better if we put it on trial and monitor how it would go as if it needs amending we can do that, take into account how it would go therefore we should monitor where it would be. This is just a view from me and also the voice of the constituency Hon Minister, you, the son of Malietoa Taulapapa, my responsibility to take care of, you are well aware that this is our contribution. May today's Sitting be blessed.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I have mixed feelings towards the speech by the member for Anoama West. Thank you, in case a member speaks again on the Budget, we have received the Act. There is no other work prioritised by Government when the Budget is being considered as it's the most important. I wish to remind you about this, the priority is our Standing Order followed by Acts as we have here with us one of the Acts. Let me remind you about our Standing Orders, but all the same the belief is that everything has been laid down.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity special thanks to the House.

I rise with dignity, I also speak with respect and care and do so with great concern just like the ghosts' making noises in the land of Fiiame and Salevalasi.

At this particular morning, with the Hon Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, the Deputy Prime Minister and that Side of the House having woken up to this lovely morning, I have noticed with great care that the Budget has been passed the previous night.

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Glory be to our God. We have come to the situation where the issue or the Amendment Bill for Income Tax should be discussed, I acknowledge the efforts of the Hon Minister, especially the honourable Associate Minister and the Ministry, as well as the CEO, for his advanced vision in including the Servants of the Lord especially His Highness the Head of State and other issues. But the concern is, as this constituency has expressed one of theirs about the Budget while your honour was speaking, you had clearly stated the \$2 million. But what the member for Vaimauga East requires is that any plan or vision laid down, the important time is the time of planning. I think it's a bit early for the Minister of Revenue to include Pastors tax. I have noticed with care how the country has trusted our Political Party while being under the guidance of the Prime Minister Tuilaepa Saiele. The country has shouted out that we have done so many good things for the country, the road switch, time saving as we have now shared our Sunday together with other religions, bigger construction work, electronic subways and a lot of things. But our constituency see it this way, we have included the Pastors in taxing and this is our concern. The Pastors and what's being done, its like...

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 of the House, that is the issue I had raised the previous night, because once this is touched, you have also touched the Bible. I have tried searching for it in the Bible but failed to find it. That's the point just in case you make an accusation while the pastors working in the administration section are paying taxes. Some of these pastors' requests are thanks for the administration in their inclusion in taxing. The fundamental law of the Government of Samoa is that our laws should not be colourful. Our Law is to treat everyone equally. But it is like there is favouritism shown here in the way our contribution has been required, but that other side has never been asked to contribute. Others, as the member for Anoamaa Sasae quoted, 'there is something to lighten this burden of ours which is \$15,000. If this amount is not reached, you are tax free for all the employees of Samoa including them. It simply means for those small constituencies like mine, its 100,000 to 200,000. See how big these payments are? If a pastor's monetary gift reaches 100,000 they they should give something to construct roads, most especially as you have complained loudly about the so many tasks done within your constituency.

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That seems to be the case. God's will says "do not be afraid to do what must be done". You are one of those scary person here.. Dont worry about the election. If its God's will for you to succeed in the next Parliamentary term, you will be here, but do not worry about such things as elections in case you do but your constituency is all for you especially those who have never contributed...there is nobody who would not like to have a contribution for his Government. But once we discuss tax issues, as the word seems to be a horrible one, that is the word mentioned in the Bible, as people seemed to be against tax collectors. But once we talked about a contribution of yours to help with hospital work, to help improve education, roads for the sake of the pedestrians, then your burden is lighter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Could the member rise again, perhaps...

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: The time my constituency brought me into this Political Party the HRPP asked as to why my constituency had chosen to, when there is already a senior member representative from time to time?. My dad who brought me said "I am bringing in my son to do his dance from behind. And I am doing just that at the moment, dancing behind those on that side of the House for the sake of progress. I am not concerned for the elections your honour, but for our Political Party, we have set up another political party paving way for the Opposition to come into existence next time. Because when the election is over for this term, five more years will be added and the other party will be government and will say, "we have won and we will take away tax".

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, do not be scared easily. This the manner of those who oppose our Party for the VAGST is worse while the member was on this side. Why is it worse? Because all the people of the country, the different denominations and the Pastors walked to show their objection to it. And what happened? Nobody died from paying the law of VAGST. But the opinions expressed, is that we will soon see. That's it, gone are the hotter days, today, just a warm drink needed but there are still others that needed theirs to be hotter. We have not been to the beginning of this Political Party had begun, which was the worst part.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Could the member speak as everyone of us had been there by then.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, I will move away from this issue. As mentioned before, this is the only member who had been in the discussion of the Budget and he supports everything.. He was only against the \$2 million. This morning the Budget is approved and although the request is a bit late, I still want to submit it to the Hon Minister. It is about capital gains tax which I had spoken about when this Bill was first introduced, I had raised the 10 years for it to be in this part of the Bill. Three years was also raised, but now its 10 months.. Vaimauga East concern the businesses or companies that are purchasing our local ones, the 10 years given would not be sufficient for trading process. People who would end up receiving 10% at the end of one year would be the happiest people. The ones who wanted three years, as I had mentioned, it should be 10 years for the overseas companies to buy our local products for us to earn 27%. But now it is 12 months which is insufficient. If there is ever any discussions on business trading within 12 months it would not be sufficient.

This is my concern, let the Pastors in the forefront, when the Le Ao o le Malo is lurking behind. I support Le Ao o le Malo paying tax, as we are paying as well. It was the Pastors tax that the member had been stressing about but our Government does not have enough money for such thing. The member does not support the \$15,000 as a starting rate for the Pastors tax. The request put forward to the Hon Minister, I recommend that the Pastors whose pledge is \$15000 be 10% while those with \$20000-\$25000 be 20%. But it seems the 10% has been removed. It is better to proceed gradually because it appears that your needs is greater as it had been 12 before... approved. But this morning the Budget has been approved, although it is late.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the member for Vaimauga, as I am giving this opportunity to the Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I had wanted to listen to the speech by the member. The only thing is, I believe my standing up is useful to clear the issue about captal gain tax. There is an intention to visit it again in the coming year in case more people would speak again on the Bill but there is preparation to bring it in in the coming year. For the tax, as I have expressed that everyone should contribute.

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This is the same amount of tax as deducted from the employees, and its likewise for the pastors' and O le Ao o le Malo. This certainly means.. everyone have the same tax and contribution deducted for the development of the country.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Perhaps the member has grasp my meaning, that is the overall idea, and Government's will is for the equal treatment of everyone.

Could the member rise please.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Thank you now that the Minister has understood what I had been urging him to do in the previous 12 months when I had referred to the capital gains being not enough. But for the 15,000 I had requested, why havent we added the 10% to it. If it \$12,000 going on to \$15000, free of tax is a good idea. But the gap in between \$15,000 to \$20,000 I suggest it to be raised from \$20,000 to \$25,000 because when it's 20%, it will jump up to 27% in tax.

For the rest of the clan, we are grateful that the businesses have been blessed with this tax being 12 instead of 15. Do you have a vision as the local companies are being taxed with 20%. But the member's concern is that this overseas tax is the same as our 27%. Cant we plan for it to be remained in the same amount as our country is benefitting from it and the load of work, although it is not much of a benefit for the local companies who are still being taxed with 27%. I just want to raise it for you to think about it.

The member supports the tax credit which has been deducted form Government project, and it is one of the reasons why the Ministry for Tax objected. There is no money going in from the tax payers or this company into the tax but his 100,000 thousand as mentioned is all gone into his deposit made to hotels that is automatically deducted from the Ministry. I support the tax credit being set aside as we get nothing out of it to make a contribution to the Government.

Mr Speaker, I support the case but as I stated before, although it is late but I support the issue tabled. May our Session today be full of blessings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Could the member for Urban West please rise.

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Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West):

I express sincere thanks to the Chair this morning also I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as Associate Ministers and this Side, I also acknowledge the representatives of Government who are able to be present here this morning...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is a morning programme by the FM whereby when the FM announcers say hello, it is a must for you to say hello back. Therefore I want to say, Hello Afioga Faumuina Fong.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am going to greet the Representatives of God praying in each village, who preaching the good news and the gospel to the people of our country, but I will try to contribute by giving an opinion. No, I will give a very brief opinion Mr Speaker. I am not really concerned about the pastor's tax, because the pastors will not be the ones giving tax but I am concerned for 'taxing all the people including people of all denomination because without them there will be no tax for pastors, without people attending church, there would be no monetary gifts for pastors. So I will leave the pastors aside, as it is the congregation who budget their contribution for each week and month as well as the whole year. But I do believe, as congregations of our denominations, we cannot give up on such issues as we are the ones in great need of blessings. We should not give up on Government and their tax systems as we are already aware if we pay tax it would be of great help. If the pastor pay tax it would be of great help.

If the pastor pays tax, his reward would be greater. What would happen is that the burden would be put on the denominations' shoulders in order for the blessings to multiply for the pastor's benefit, the congregation, and Government as well. No one suffers but the people whose taxes have **already been deducted, those who have taken their taxes to government.** The intention was for the Hon Miniter to return the income tax to the employees but to bring it in for the sake of easing their burden especially as they are the ones who are contributing in each denomination and are also working for Government in order to relieve another distress because now it will be given by one hand and received in the other hand of Government.

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Unfortunately, perhaps there would come a time when they will progress forward before the expiration of this Term, whereby the income tax return would be brought in for the second time, and the employees are well off due to this tax. Now we are trying to discuss the pastors tax again, the solution to it is to deduct the pastor's tax from the monetary gift already given but because the people of our country are different such that they are proud people.

My concern is that, in case they will tax the pastors but his monetary gift remains the same. That is my concern, because in our constituency, Urban West, there are hundreds and hundreds denominations, hundreds and hundreds of church congregants multiply by a hundred, these people will be more than the population of Samoa your honour, and those who are serving the Church and Government. But I thank the Hon Minister. My humble request to you Hon Minister, now that the pastor's alofa is about to be deducted, on no, the pastor's alofa will not be deducted but now they are about to deduct tax from them reaching our village of Vaigaga where there is a fence, its a fence damaged when the road was constructed. I urge the Minister for Labour, allow us to finish our fence. And then you'll see so many tax that will be collected each week. Our need to collect them is greater but the Church has no money. This is why I put a request to your honour, that I, as a member supports taxes for denomination, but not the Pastor's sermon to our Political Party.

That is my opinion, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the member. I call on the next member to speak. I give the opportunity to the member for Gagaifomauga No 3.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker. I also greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as Associate Ministers and this side. Greetings also to the silent supporters who are here with us, the CEOs and Managers of Ministries and Government Organisations, plus the silent supporters of Samoa who are tuning in, as well as the Sacred Servants of God.

I rise with due respect to voice an opinion to the House about how I feel, I acknowledge the Hon Minister for his bravery in proposing this Bill. I acknowledge your speech. My own views and beliefs as a member, it is the most honest thing to do. Our Government is founded on God, and up to this time of the lives of the Samoans since Independence, the faith is getting stronger.

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And I do believe that it's a must, and this is the perfect time to tax the Servants of God, we also protect them, the life we live in is changing its pace to a faster one, so that there is no complaint from the people against the Pastors due to not paying their taxes, especially as Government services will be rendered for a good outcome in the people's way of life including the Pastors. I believe they are the ones praying for Samoa to be blessed and it's an encouragement to keep on praying as the Government has likewise been encouraged to tax the Pastors, it is the best thing to do.

In conclusion, I support the Bill. Justice is right, but giving is better. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The member gave an interesting speech. If you have faith, everything is possible. I call the member for Falealili West.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given this morning. I also welcome the Government, Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet, Associate Ministers as well as our Side. I also acknowledge the silent support of our constituency and the country to our sitting today.

In my own belief, this Bill is divided into three parts. First is the development of our economy. Second, equal opportunities for everyone, which is in the objective of the HRPP Party, that what is good for Upolu is also that for Savaii, and the villages in the rural areas too. My belief is, I acknowledge the efforts of the Hon Minister regarding this Bill, that has made all taxpayers amount of tax equal. First I would like to speak on the part of the tax being amended...comparing to the old one, I believe Hon Minister, there is an area where the tax has been reduced. For instance, in the old tax, if your salary is \$12,000 a year, it is tax free. For this year, if, by January 1st 2018, your salary is \$15,000 it is also free of tax. For example, if the members of Parliament's salary is \$88,302 per year. For the \$12,000 which is tax free, the member's whole tax collected per year is \$20,011. In the new system if it happens, it's \$19,311. It means the tax has dropped to \$650 a year. It's where I thank Government due to this burden being easier whereby everyone has equal tax.

Then I come to interpreting this word, employee. I did a research in other Acts and they have its translation of the word employee, ACC Act, NPF Act, Labour and Works Act, they all have the same translation of the word.

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In our Income Tax Bill 2012, employees are each persons employed in a job. It means any person who is employed by a job. It means any person who works. The question that will also arise as everyone is well aware of it, is whose employment is it? For the Head of State, he is well aware that the employment is Government's. But my own example if it's a pastor. Whose employment is it? My response is, it's the church whereby it is being cared for by the Pastors. These are the Churches that have exemption grant, the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, they are the ones dealing with the Pastors taxes. I remembered that two weeks ago, Government Money was distributed to Non Government's Organisations.

I would like to extend gratitude to the Government in the inclusion of the Missions' schools, whereby they had been blessed in receiving monetary gifts to operate their schools. That is my question, where does the money that Government is distributing to schools come from, the answer is that it comes from Government tax.

A big faamalo to schools .Thanks for supporting the Bill. Then I come to where the burden is made lighter in regards to those taking theirs to overseas countries. My only advice to the Minister in regards to profit, is to let it flow back into the country. Its a small request because many companies have sent our goods to overseas countries, and this money would also be used to purchase some of our local goods. We cannot allow receipts to pay the percentage, a proof of a profit being made. And I remember an old man's saying, he said, "for your information, Jesus also paid tax." You have to remember, we are farmers and fishermen, we are not paying any tax to Government in order to calculate your earnings per year. Its not included in this, but the VAGST is important for all the people's tax to be of the same amount. This is where I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Government in regards to tax deduction being effective in the coming year.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Could the member for Salega Sasae rise please.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given, I applaud you being in a healthy state this morning and also to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the sanctity of Parliament. My constituency will not take long Mr Speaker.

This Bill is one of the most important in the history of Parliament, discussed today. It is not a Bill to be partially discussed...

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But before I had start Mr Speaker, I made a short prayer to God to give me something to talk about as the Bill is of importance. Then the Spirit of God whispered and told me to touch on the issues that I am about to reveal. Feelings are different from ideas given to us by the Spirit of God. It is hard to think about a topic to discuss because our country is the only one with uses three sails to sail on as mentioned in every Act. Our culture, Christianity and democracy all go hand in hand. That is the part where it is hard for me to give an opinion Mr Speaker. This Bill according to how I see it. It seemed as if democracy is in contrast with Christian beliefs of our people, in thoughts and guidelines to guide our ship.

There are so many members who have been speaking and likewise with some broadcasting made by people who supports the notion not to tax the pastors saying that they are Representan. But mind you Mr Speaker, if you could remember well, there are three addresses to address our Saviour, the Government will be upon his shoulders, the Prince of Peace, Councillor but not a Pastor. My own opinion Mr Speaker, it is just an issue to build a conversation, heirs that we can see of our Saviour are also talking about it because we are the members. Then later on is a point of view from Pastors, but we have taken from here things to guide our country in trying to direct our country.

Mr Speaker, I will not speak further on other parts of the Act, almost all have been completed, I thank the Minister for the effort in trying to export our goods and it is being done.

But for the first part your honour, this issue is that kind referred to by Government as one that needs to be looked at for some length of time, meaning its not an issue to be quickly resolved therefore the issue was planned ahead. I had believed that it should have appeared in the Government Manifesto during the Elections. The truth is if you had brought this up, you would have been defeated by us, the Member for Falealupo and that for Aana Alofi Nu 2. Manifestos are work and developments laid down by Government for five years, but it is not in it, nevertheless, it does not matter. The issue about the Pastors tax, Mr Speaker, they will be taxed together with their envelopes from families *gifts as a way of respect. Mr Speaker, if we do it in the way of democracy,* it is very fair. I say yes. People should all be treated equally under the law regarding taxes. But there was no intention to deduct tax from pastors. I was looking at the offering as tax deductions can be weekly or fortnightly from government employees' money and it is this money that they are budgeting to give to pastors as their gifts. As everyone contributes through this tax.

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As mentioned by one of the members, the word pastor in the Act has no great effect, but it is the contributors that are carrying the heavy load of this law. Do you remember the issue of the offering that I had raised, as this is the money which the people are queueing up in banks to loan from to be used for their offerings? And it is not below \$1,000 upwards, that's the amount to be taxed and not the ones given as a gift to them. But the church is making businesses from it. That is my opinion, pastors should never have been taxed, but those who are given the offering to.

Mr Speaker a concern about this Act. The truth is, Mr Speaker about this Act there will be other new thoughts by the employees, especially for the pastor and congregation and secretary.

The truth is, those pastors who are not liars will end up being the ones with the most lies, mark my words. Let us keep track of the \$15,000 starting amount for taxing. There is nothing...

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the floor, but there is an interruption from the member of Palauli le Falefa...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Now that the member has spoken, there are two issues I would like to counter. First it is not the Government as the member is not in the Opposition but is an Independent Member. Second, the pastors have been called liars as they cannot give a response at the moment. I recommend the member withdraw what was being said about the issue from his speech, with utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I had been waiting for the member to rise to assist the member taking the floor. It is usual practice of Parliament that Members be mindful of what is said to those who cannot be here to defend themselves. On this note I appease the Member, think carefully before you speak or there might be consequences. This is how you see it but the view of Government is also different as to why this Act was given in the first place, this also applies to the Servants of God and how they see it. The Pastors views also differ as each of them have their own opinion, but the most important of all is honesty. Honesty is missing from your speech. I call on the member to continue with his speech.

I apologize to the member but I call on the Prime Minister to rise.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: It is hard to just sit, and then come up with unfounded opinions. Perhaps it will be covered in the Minister's final speech. The income or peoples' earnings being taxed are based on money earned fortnightly, weekly and even monthly. My first salary during the time I became Minister of Finance for the first time I changed the time for Parliamentary Members salaries to be the same as everybody fortnightly. The regulars' wages continue to come in the form of love and then became an income that is the definition and it is only one definition of the word money in the whole world. I do not know where you come from with your envelopes

Secondly, there are no taxes on top of the offering as contributions are meant for charity work. There's no work done for those things. The Act is small and narrow, the only thing is money we get fortnightly, if it is a 1,000 for the pastor a month that is all he gets.

So if it is a \$1,000 from each pastor, by the end of the year it would come to \$12,000 therefore its tax free for him. It means if the pastors who are in this category tuning in there is no reason as to why they will object to this Act. As this is the only money he's getting, he does not have access to the Act, but they are free to roam the grounds and so forth. But these things are being financed with the money from our tax, yours, mine and Parliament. This is why I wanted to correct it as these people are tuning in, and thought that offering are also being taxed. There is nothing in the Act which says that we will be taxed.

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

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to clarify to the Member than interjected that I did not say the pastors are liars. But these circumstances as mentioned will fall on them. My speech was clear. I had assumed that our Oposition Side is in unity, but it is better for him to go look for a Minister position over there than sitting here but his heart is on that side.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Could the member for Palauli le Falefa rise again.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you to the member for Salega East, even if it's a lie, it's the same thing. When you mention a lie, then you have labeled that person.

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MR SPEAKER: Could the member for Salega East please rise.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: This constituency would like to state an opinion, as I had said before, if you could recall the pastors' secretaries are their right hand men. It's right that honesty is being query here but I believe honourable Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I advice the member to refrain from these situations. Save your time as yours has come to an end. Please finish your speech.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: The other part of the Act is about pastors' income from the envelopes they are getting as a form of respect from families. My question your Mr Speaker, who from this office will go there and see how much is inside these envelopes. As it can be carried out by....

MR SPEAKER: I would like to give an advice to the member, that the Government had already made this clear the day before those who are absent from our meetings. I say this to help save time.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister who owns the Bill to take the floor.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: Because the member was outside the previous day...Envelopes from funerals, weddings and bestowing matai titles are not included in this. The objective of the Act is mainly for money the pastors get from the congregants' contributions The P4 which the pastors are responsible for filling, is up to them to decide the amount they want to write on these forms. It can also be filled in by the church committee or their treasurer, still the pastor is the one responsible for the P4 and he is the signature appearing on it, evidence that he has totally agreed with everything on it. But for the amount shown it is within the pastors' discretion and honesty. We do not monitor it, whatever amount is stated on it, that is it and we do not tax it... We have already declared it and have informed them that for weddings and other envelopes they get, except when the church decides to change their monetary contributions on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday. For funerals, weddings and matai title bestowment, we do not do them everyday. It is the same with all Members, you are getting money but you are not being taxed.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Prime Minister to add on to what was being clarified.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Let us look at the general income. In case you are mistaken with one funeral having three hundred pastors attending... but it is not a common habit. The Ministry can not include this in their schedule because it is not regular but comes weekly or fortnightly. It is the same with people's contribution on Sunday, some denominations does it weekly while others do it fortnightly, there are also churches that do it every month. This is the reason for the clarification nevertheless I think the member does not go to church which could be the reason he does not know such times monetary contributions are given.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Salega to conclude as his time is finished.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, I mention this because if you have a look at part three of the Bill, clause 19 is amended. In part (a) contribution to be done by members of the church, meaning the pastors' monetary gift donated by the church. In part (b), the usual money from the service, performing their duties as pastors caring for the people of the villages. What is that other source of income? Such things as envelopes are the result of what they get for going to see the welfare of each families each day as the people usually say, give a \$10.00 for the poor pastor. All of these are stated in the Bill to be taxed.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps this is your own interpretation of the Bill. This is your opinion which differs from that of Government. I ask you conclude for your time is over.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I believe this is enough....

MR SPEAKER: All of your speeches are about the same issue.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: What I am talking about is new nonetheless I am grateful for the opportunity given.

MR SPEAKER: Well done this is why I prefer the older members they are quick in assisting the work of the Chair.

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Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister for Education Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister for Education Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I also feel that I could not just sit without saying something about the Bill Mr Speaker. I have felt pity for my brother the Minister who owns the Act.

MR SPEAKER: Would you like to speak about the Bill?

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I just want to clarify a few matters.

MR SPEAKER: Okay but be brief.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you. No, just in case our deliberation is too much about the church ministers who have not paid tax. And we tend to forget the rest, especially those who are paying taxes at the moment. As there is no Act, that is the reason why.

This would mean that the church ministers paying taxes is illegal, but just for the sake of looking too much into church ministers who have not paid, and made us forget those who are paying up to now, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. May I remind you about the equal rights for everyone in our constitution? I allow you to speak.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker the church ministers have not committed a crime. There is such a thing called voluntary contribution which is something you do out of your own freewill. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I believe enough speeches have been said for today concerning the Bill. I believe that all the speeches are all the same. Although everyone has its own interpretation of the Bill, still it all comes down to the same purpose. I also believe that justice should be maintained, wherever our principles may be. The member also mentioned the fact that we are all related to church ministers. Executing justice is the the most important thing that one must do in order for human rights to be the same. It should be the same for the country than favoring and praising others while the rest not be recognized.

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This seems to be the intention of this Bill. If I noticed correctly that is the overall purpose of the Bill as given by the Government. Would you like to take the floor again the Associate Minister.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No.4): Yes Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I am asking whether you would like to take the floor.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Yes Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Good, I ask the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 to make it brief.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I would like to express my sincere gratitude as the opportunity has come again to our constituency to contribute to this Bill. It is a Bill whereby so many have expressed opinions about it. For this Bill, perhaps it's a Bill that would cause concern for those that are related to this Bill but I believe most of the country that would like to contribute to serving our country.

Mr Speaker, when this bill was deliberated, there was one thing that came to my mind and that's the Bible. I would like to quote a verse from the Bible to support the Bill. That is why Hon Minister for Revenue, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and the Associate Minister.

Special thanks to Mrs Matafeo Avalisa and the Ministry, for this Bill that has caused controversy within the House. This is why I cannot sit still as the topic of church minister's tax is now being looked at as mentioned in the Bible. Soon, I will get to the Bible.

Mr Speaker, I was born and grew up in the land of Gospel at Lealatele, which is why I support the Bill. I believe the Servant of the Lord from our constituencies are tuning in, those who have wanted to make a contribution. Mr Speaker, perhaps most of the people find the Bill hard to understand due to them reading quotes from the Bible. The quote by Paul in his book to the Romans.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I thought you going to say Zaccheus is Zaccheus...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, there is something I would like to make clear.

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Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: May I have an opportunity to take the floor Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Vaimauga East, you can assist later when the Member is done with his speech.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: I just want to assist a little if I be given the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Alright be hasty with the given assistance.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: The Associate Minister or the right hand man of the Prime Minister has spoken about the Bill with reference to the Bible but bear in mind, if you could remember the twelve tribes of Israel. There are the Levites which do not own lands, and are cared for by the other twelve tribes of Israel. Just in case the preference is one sided, that is the reminder.

MR SPEAKER: As an elderly of Fasitoo had once said, “Tala’i is speaking in English while the European man sits idle”, meaning that you are discussing the Bible when it is duty of the servants of the Lord. Leave biblical matters to them and let us talk about politics.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: The member is saying that I am talking about the land. No, I am not talking about the lands I am talking about taxes. In time I will read out our Samoan Bible to make it easier for Members to understand. But I will proceed in reading the English Bible as it is simple.

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: It is hard to hear that he is my right hand man, he is not. But let us hear about the unrealistic thoughts of the Associate Minister. We do not know whether it is too unrealistic then he will have to amend it later.

MR SPEAKER: Let us be quick in stating the quotes from the Bible Associate Minister.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: In the letter Paul wrote to the Romans, in the English Language as it is easy for us to relate it to the Bill. It says *this is also why you pay taxes for the authorities and God servant who give their full name to governing give everyone what you owe Him. If you owe taxes, pay taxes, if revenue then revenue, if respect then respect, if honor.*” It is that simple Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Could you show us the book that you are reading?

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Members of Parliament if you take a look at this book here, it does not look like a Bible, look at it, I also want to give this book to the Minister of Revenue.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, I humbly request an opportunity.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, this book here says, “*Is a woman Devotional Bible*’ This is a book given to me by an old lady on my birthday she said, “Peseta this will serve as a guideline for you in Parliament, whatever you will talk about, you talk about the Bible”. This is why Mr Speaker it is clearly quoted here that everyone must pay taxes.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Everyone must pay taxes.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, let me say something to convince the member.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I would like to thank you...

MR SPEAKER: I would like to apologize to the member that given time, I will need the book to be brought forward so you could all have a look at it. But we will wait for the time until the member has finished speaking. I apologize to members you will all be given the opportunity. I give this opportunity to the member for Faasaleleaga No 4 to conclude his speech.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I ask all of the Members during recess you can come to me and we will talk about this book.

I express gratitude to the Hon Minister of Revenue for this Bill. Now we have heard the verse from the Holy Book of God. The verse is not saying, that when the amount of \$15,000 is reached then to pay tax. Look at how the Government has lessened the burden, what is stated here is, to pay the \$1 and \$2, yes pay taxes. This should be clearly defined. But the matter is that everything is understood once we read the Samoan Bible. The Samoan Bible states...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker...

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaau Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoanaa East): Mr Speaker, I do not know who they are

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I appease Members...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: There is a Samoan saying that...

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaau Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: I am a church minister, but I want to ask whether this phrase “*forgive those who trespass against us,*” is in this book. This is the matter I want to understand since we are all searching in the Bible...

MR SPEAKER: Your opinion is well understood, forgiveness is not included in the Bill.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: The Samoan translation of this word, since Parliament is listening and for the clarification of this Member to be understood.

MR SPEAKER: Be brief.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: In the Samoan translation, it states, this is why we give offerings. Look at the difference, but in the English version instead of offering it states taxes.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker, with respect.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: This is why I keep saying that I support the Bill.

MR SPEAKER: The message is clear, thanks. Your time is up.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I wish to express gratitude to the Hon Minister overseeing this legislation especially the member for Gagaifomauga No 2.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is why I had advised to give the opportunity to the member to voice his opinion. We have just learned in this House that without this legislation, this member would not have read the Bible. That is all I want to say.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. This is why I had apologized when the member for Anoamaa East rose, as Parliament is already aware that an apostle is one that has so many responsibilities held in church. But I apologize because that is the situation here.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: It is my understanding that all the speeches are made towards one objective and we have referred to the Bible as in the quotes we used.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker:

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauro Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Just a short addition from this constituency to the issue, if given an opportunity.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps two more members will be given the opportunity the member for Anoamaa East and the member for Falealili East, before we progress to other orders. This is your opinion and how the situation is. But let us move forward, it is not a Bill of Medieval and Persia. Yes, it is a Bill to be written as our own laws are changeable and amended from time to time.

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That is the feeling, and not waiting for your views. These are your own opinions as you tried to interpret your knowledge of the Bill. But there are Government reasons as to the situation of the Bill. This is why I will decide on two more members. Could the member for Anoamaa East please rise.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: I will not take long in speaking about the Bill. I support all the aspects of this Bill, especially the type of tax called Capital Gain and the likes. The only thing the Minister had touched on in his speech, is that of the 117,000 people everyone should be the same in the tax they are paying. But I believe that we have a VAGST whereby all of the country is paying equally even babies. This Bill cannot include such provisions.

This is the belief as we are still resorting to the Bible, as instructions for taxing are all in the Bible. “Do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing.” It is the reason why now records of the church have surfaced. What the church wants now, is for the congregants’ contribution not to be read out, also the offerings as this is a skill done in order for the people to keep on contributing. But if it goes according to the Bible, you will not know, you will go by yourself and give your gift to the pastor without anyone knowing.

The part read out by the Member, perhaps Jesus was born during the time the Romans ruled the world, it was the Roman laws that implemented taxes. As for the laws of the land of God, those who are servants of God do not pay taxes. The law of the Roman Government the workers state taxes should be paid. The Jesus said, *‘whose face and name are these on the coin?’* it is the face of the Emperor. The Emperor of Rome. But in this situation...

MR SPEAKER: The clarification made is clearly understood. There is a saying that goes oars are at its fastest speed, it will cause seawater to splash on ones face, this is the same with the House. I call on the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, let me correct the error made by the church minister who had spoken. The tax the tax collector told Jesus to pay was for the temple. As for the tax Jesus questioned with the picture on the coin is the one for Rome. There are two types of taxes. This is the reason for taking the floor, read the book that was mentioned by the Member perhaps this will be a way to start reading books.

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon Members of the House I must follow Standing Orders to administer our work, but do not just stand up and do whatever you please. This is what we call disrespect towards this old man. Therefore, the explanation by the Prime Minister is more than enough to clarify the matter. The clarification from the member of Anoamaa West has concluded your time is up.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Alright I will now conclude. I have discussed the issue with the church ministers of my constituency, the truth is, you understand the answer to it, and the answer is that they do not support it, but we should abide with what the Government wants. This is why I support the Bill because if I look back we have ignored the Bill for a long time. Why, there are two causes, respect and love. They are the major reasons why our ancestors and leaders did not do it, and now they have given their support to do the will of Government. It is done which concludes a comment of this constituency. With respect. Blessed proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Reverend, excuse me for saying this to you as you come as a Member for Anoamaa East. Thank you. I call on the Member for Falealili East followed by the Member for Palauli le Falefa to conclude our discussion today while we proceed with other business. I call on the Member for Falealili East to take the floor.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: I rise with respect Mr Speaker. I acknowledge the presence of the Prime Minister and respectable Ministers, as well as members of each constituency of the Government of Samoa. I was trying in the previous hour to get an opportunity to speak while the Associate Minister was giving his speech using his Bible. For your information, there are so many interpretations of the Bible, but the King James Version is the most used one by many.

MR SPEAKER: I would like to advise the member that we are not talking about the Bible but the Bill.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: This Bible we are referring to is the Women's Bible. I am concerned the House will be led astray by what it says, but the bible the Hon Minister was reading is for women. I would like to speak on the interpretation by the church ministers specifically one that speaks for the majority as talks by the office is different from the one we had in our constituency.

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I stand with respect to clarify something, for your information, our constituency with the member, we have the Church Treasurer and the Secretary on this side while on this side of the constituency, we have the Chairman. Therefore, we have these appointments in the Church. They are paying taxes. No one opposes this Bill as it has very important aspects. I believe that every church ministers has reached this amount for pledges given the lack of finance within the constituencies that are affected. The truth of the matter is, if a church minister's monetary gift reaches 1,000 tala fortnight, this is good, well hopefully this amount is reached. I confess as an attendee of some services, I pity the church ministers as some of them do not reach this amount. They view that whatever the Government prefers, that will be the case in order to support its major developments especially the economy.

Another vital aspect, by the time their service is done they will become elders which will soon move away from these positions. It means they will just be idle and wait for their pension from Government, because once its finished their will be no more money supplied by Government. Hence, they will be receiving further blessings. This factor is vitally important to shed more light to God's Servants as this denomination has been payings taxes for quite some time now, and we are promoting self reliance in order to be independent so that we can implement what the church minister's is preaching which is reward for the person's achievement. That is why a church minister pursues further developments to earn a living for his own family.

With the utmost respect, based on personal investigations, there are several witnesses to the fact that there are piled up tax collectors including our Lord and Saviour himself. The main concern is the majority of complaints against the Minister overseeing this legislation due to the lack of insight from the clarifications given, gladly enough, the Bill is now clearly understood.

As I said, do not be concerned Hon Minister. I refer to the verse about a son to end my speech, it says that the old man instructed his two sons to go work in his vines. The older son said that he would not do it, later on, he regretted his decision and pursued to his father's instruction. However, when the younger son was instructed, he also refused in reply, in consequence, he replied that he will do it but he never did. Therefore, the older son replied that he will not do it and in the end, he did it because he thought twice. Whereas the young son, he answered that he will do it but he did not. Then the Saviour was questioned, which of the two is the greatest? Everyone replied it is the older son. However, the Saviour replied, "*verily I say unto you, the tax collectors come first, then the harlots and then you, in God's Kingdom. Because John the Baptist came but you never received him.*"

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In saying this Hon Minister, you have a good chance, you can enter the Kingdom of God first with the harlots. May our Sitting be blessed.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Now we are on to the final speech about this topic the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: Mr Speaker, as the words are quite severe about us entering the Kingdom of God with harlots, this is like an insane person when our people are not like that, we are regular church goers and I also do not own a brothel. But if there are many brothels in Falealili, then take them all to heaven.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Matthew 21 verses 31 to 32 states this saying by the Saviour in case the Minister thinks that this is fictitious, the Bible is speaking evidence here.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, can you note this Peseta and see whether it is found in your Bible? I call on the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given. Gratitude also to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and to the Minister responsible for the Bill. Thank you for your support and being a right hand to this side. I strongly support the Bill with a few requests, firstly, I see that majority of the Government agrees to the urgency of this Bill. However looking at the effective dates of the Bill under Clauses 1,4,6 and 7 (c), these Clauses is required to take effect on the 1 July of this year, the second one from the top 1 (d), we have other effective dates for other clauses by the 1st of January 2018. The Bill appears to be small however it is a very important one. I will not repeat what the others have said.

In regards to the sections sought by the member for Anoamaa West.... Thank you Mr Speaker. The Samoan version for Part 7(c) is correct, but the English for 7(c) should be corrected as it is mixed up, given that under the Constitution, the English version is applicable on matters that seeks further clarification. But I have a look at it, you are right, the English version is not in line with the Samoan language.

This is why Mr Speaker our constituency has a different opinion of church ministers. Our view of church ministers duties is that there should be two people doing it, its the church minister and his wife. The big churches that we have in our country, once the wife is sick then that church minister is removed, or the pastor gets sick vice versa.

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Other denominations is like this, when the pastor's wife dies, the Church Minister is given three months to find another wife otherwise he also has to go, and if this cannot be inserted, we can make further amendments in the future, we must employ two as no church minister works alone. This only applies to priests and so forth, have a look in...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I have great concern for these kinds of issues stated by the member because once this kind of practise is exercised, then it is compulsory for everyone. As aware, majority of us here including our salaries, our spouses are sitting in our homes because they are unemployed. Therefore, if this is practiced because the taxpayers will not sit idly as they too have spouses. It is even worse for those who have spouses and numerous other illegitimate children that we are unaware of.

This is the assistance, I have also received this mater which is nothing new, and then I come to think of the many unemployed wives that are looking after the children. Therefore, if they too were to seek help then it will defeat the entire purpose of this Bill.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the member who took the floor now understands.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, this is exactly why I advised you to look at it for the future as there are Churches that use faletua to teach the little ones on how to read and look after Pre Schools, and the support of Church Ministries on Sundays to develop the Church on the spiritual side. Thank you for the interpretation by the Hon Prime Minister.

Further issue is the exportation of goods and the Exchange Rate Spread as voiced by the majority here for the consideration of the Hon Minister. This is where we can be affected by trading bank and if negotiations of rates go well, we can get a refund and revenue earning will also go well. But if exemptions on competition by the Trading Banks apply, this could affect us.

That is one recommendation, because with increasing money inflow, we can have a narrow spread as we have ten plus gap in the selling and the buying rate. Such is the request to the Hon Minister and reason for the closing down of some Money Transfer Companies. The big guys overseas that have this under control no longer trusts us.

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This is further helpful for people sending money from New Zealand, Australia and other countries, especially the seasonal workers. But I thank the Hon Minister, its not an easy task as you heard, its the curse, but the curse wont affect you as you have been blessed by God, that is the protection upon you and your Associate Minister, and that side of the House. Thank you. Blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. As the Chair has already given a ruling, I apologize to the member of Faasaleleaga No 2, I just thought that it would be dishonouring to have mixed rulings. Pardon me, you will have more chances in the future, I beg endurance to the member.

I now call on the Hon Minister of Revenue responsible for the Bill to give a brief clarification as most of the comments are aligned in support of this Bill.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, also to the House who had expressed views on this Bill which is vitally important for the country.

Mr Speaker, this Bill started off with the various Heads of Religious Churches. We appreciate your thoughts, though we were the ones that faced the Komiti Tumau and the Elders Committee, Church Heads and those that... it was overwhelming, your comments in this House is not even a complaint. Nonetheless, the decisions by the Elders and church members, they gave us blessings. Most of the Church accepted our intention with gladness, I have evidence here of our talks, we received so many good views and encouragements.

This is also why our Ministry is stronger due to the hopeful words of Church Ministers for the development of the country, and perhaps the answer to income tax.

For the 100% money taken overseas, the Ministry is working on setting Regulations for implementing the defining process to earning the entire revenue to the country. So some even queried whether purchases can be done.

This process will be deliberated and incorporated within the [Regulations for the Ministry to fully improve whenever necessary](#) and appropriately. Both things are good, imports and refunds must be 100%.

The comment by the member for Falealili on definitions of employee is particularly referred to the Ministry for Revenue alone whereby the church minister here is referred to as the employee. This definition is used for Church Ministers contribution to the Revenue Office and under this definition, it excludes the Labour Act.

27 JUNE 2017

Motion to suspend Standing Order 30(2)

Mr Speaker, perhaps most of the views on this Bill have now been given response, moreover I will take note of some matters for the work of the Ministry, as for the Bill, I trust it is in under a state of urgency for it to be passed today. This is a word on the matter but I am grateful to all Members who voiced their thoughts on the Bill of this Ministry, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

Motion approved and the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Since we have arrived at our usual recess time, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual recess. Thank you.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:52am and recommenced at 11:22am.

Debate continued on the consideration in detail of the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017.

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

The Chair believes that the strength of each member has been renewed. Thanks to the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk as well as the employees of the Legislative Assembly for their service to Parliament.

I call on the Leader of Government.

MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDER 30(2)

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFEITELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise with respect to move a motion, *That, Standing Order 30(2) be suspended to allow adjustments of Parliament Sitting Days, and adjourn today's proceedings at 1:00pm until Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 9:00a.m.*

*Seconded by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and the
Minister of Finance.
27 JUNE 2017*

**Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

Motion was approved and the Standing Order 30(2) was suspended.

**INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– consideration in detail.**

MR SPEAKER: Since I have here with me the Certificate of Urgency signed by the Leader of the House, the Legislative Assembly will now commence the consideration in detail of the Bill.

Pursuant to Standing Order, consideration in detail of the Bill begins with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Section 2 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Section 61 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Section 66 amended.

Apporoved.

CLAUSE 5: Section 93 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Section 104A amended.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017
– third reading**

CLAUSE 7: Schedule 1 amended.

Approved

CLAUSE 8: Schedule 2 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 9: Consequential Amendments

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.

TITLE: Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017

Approved.

The Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017 progressed without Amendments.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017 progressed without Amendments.

**INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: Since the Certificate of Urgency has been received and signed by the Leader of Government, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed with the third reading of the Bill.

I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

27 JUNE 2017

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Income Revenue): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister for Education Sports and Culture, Minister of Finance, Minister for Women Community and Social Development and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Since a Certificate of Urgency has been received and signed by the Leader of Government, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed with the second reading of the Bill.

I call on the Hon Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker, I move a motion *that the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017 be read a second time and I would like to make a clarification.*

Seconded by the Minister for Education Sports and Culture, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker, the Excise Tax for cigarette has increased to 5% this year, the 15% has already been passed but it will be implemented throughout the three years, meaning 5% this year and the next until the accumulation of 15%.

There are no major changes, like the cigarette which was \$200 as for small cigars and rolls it was \$221.60 for 1000 now it is \$232.68 for 1000 rolls and other cigarettes. The Samoan tobacco that are like braids of leaves or roll on cigarettes, was \$235.94 but now is \$247.74 a kilogram. This is the only Amendment for the Bill. Thank you.

Motion approved and the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017 was read a second time.

27 JUNE 2017

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Since I have received the Certificate of Urgency signed by the Leader of the House, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed with the consideration in detail of the Bill.

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the consideration in detail of the Bill starts with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Amendments to the schedule.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Consequential amendments.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017.

Approved.

The Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017 progressed without Amendments.

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– third reading

MR SPEAKER: Since I have here the Certificate of Urgency signed by the Leader of the House, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to thrid read the Bill. I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017 be read a third time.*

27 JUNE 2017

Conventional Arms Bill 2017
– second reading

Seconded by the Minister of Education Sports and Culture, Minister of Finance, Minister of Women Community and Social Development and and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

CONVENTIONAL ARMS BILL 2017
- second reading.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr Speaker and Parliament, since the Prime Minister has left due to obligations, I rise to move a motion, *That the Conventional Arms Bill 2017 be read a second time and I would like to clarify the matter.*

Seconded by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour.

MR SPEAKER: Since the Hon Prime Minister is away I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to elaborate on the Bill.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker and the dignity of Parliament, due to the fact that the purpose of this Bill is to regulate internally and to make effective the arms trade convention signed by Samoa in 2013. And the convention aims to legally regulate the transportation of conventional arms from country to country with an intention of staying clear of any criminal involvement internationally. It has been made clear in the Bill that the quarantine and the restriction of trade remains especially the removal in secrecy of dangerous weapons.

Mr Speaker, the main objective of the agreement signed by Government as usual it to bring it before Parliament for it to be approved. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The Bill has already been clarified by the Ministry in charge.

I call on the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

27 JUNE 2017

Conventional Arms Bill 2017
– second reading

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister incase you are not prepared but the matter concerning resources such as boats, forget our border, but are we well prepared for such circumstances? With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on Members to take the floor to make it easier for the Deputy Prime Minister to make an explanation. I call on the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Mr Speaker there is intention to try and question this good plan by the Government. The only point I wish to convey is our sincere gratitude. I have been trying to get an opportunity earlier this morning on the matter regarding taxes. Nevertheless our orders were carried out in a state of urgency so it was unfortunate I did not get a chance. I rise to show grattitide to the Speaker, we have already signed many international treaties. This Bill on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Samoan assignee signed it not long ago yet we have now implemented it. Fortunately there are some who have given their support on this matter and have urged the Ministry in charge with this Bill for it to be implemented here. There are other Acts such as the Biological Weapon Convention and so forth, we urge and keep on reminding that they should be signed by Samoa. Some of these conventions do not really affect Samoa but bigger countries in the world, it is also a reason why some are hesitant to sign since we are signees. However I am grateful for this initiative taken for our country.

Mr Speaker especially the Hon Prime Minister who has taken action to on this agreement this is a good plan. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member for Vaisigano No.1.

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Just a brief thought on Clause 7 of the Bill on weapons that could possible enter Samoa using our wharf and returning abroad. The intention is to know whether there have been preparations for such cases and a place to keep them for we cannot leave them unprotected on the wharf in case an explosion goes off affecting our supplies on the wharf. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. There is one more interjection, the Member who wants to speak, okay it is not an interruption but to address the Bill. I call on the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

27 JUNE 2017

Conventional Arms Bill 2017
– second reading

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker and Prime Minister, the Bill is comprehensible on the fact that we are one supporting nation on this event. My concern is that the raw material to manufacture these so called things are available. As terrorists use nails, wires, glues and the likes for manufacturing weapons. Its not really a necessity to bring them here. Therefore, if all the terrorists are there, they can produce these weapons. There are raw materials here for production so the Government should closely look at the possibility of people producing weapons using the available raw materials in Samoa.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I am responding to queries and views expressed by respectable members of this Parliament. The view of the member for Falelatai in regards to bonds must be signed by the Government has been noted. It is true as such agreements submitted through the Government Ministries must be investigated if possible to affect other Government bodies and make submission for the Cabinet for these agreements to be signed by the State, I acknowledge the agreements noted by previous speakers. I feel the query on illegal iimportation of weapons is related to this very matter. In fact, this agreement concerns the illegal transportation of weapons. Because these weapons also goes through the normal procedure and we too have existing laws that protects and stipulates this doing.

In regards to illegal weapons and approved recommendation by the Cabinet given that we are well prepared to monitor these types of trade.

In relation to border controls, the comment by the member for Palauli le Falefa on the production of these weapons in the country, perhaps this is subject to some sections of the Bill instead of the agreement that protects the production of this kind of goods in the country.

Mr Speaker, the only weapon that is allowed through Samoa for other destinations is trans shipment. Trans shipment is non stop vessels that carries on the routes to other countries. It does not stop for long periods. Although if it is to stop here for a long period our border control are well prepared in safeguarding trans shipment in the country.

This is a clarification Mr Speaker with respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The clarification by the Deputy Prime Minister is now clearly understood.

27 JUNE 2017

Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

Motion approved and the Conventional Arms Bill 2017 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Bill will be referred to the Social Sector Committee for consideration and be reported to the Legislative Assembly in the next sitting.

POLICE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– second reading

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion *that the Police Service Amendment Bill 2017 be read a second time and I would like to elaborate on it.*

Seconded by the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister for Communication and Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: With respect I call on the Deputy Prime Minister for a clarification.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker this Amendment is a short one but the aim is to amend Clause 6 of the Police Service Amendment Bill 2009 of the Principle Act by inserting Deputy Commissioner as a part of the structure for the Ministry of Police of Samoa.

The Bill will also amend Part 3 of the Principle Act by inserting a new section 4 to instruct the selecting skills requirement, condition and provisions as well as responsibilities and powers of the Assistant Commissioner. Perhaps that statement could be brief, its been a while since the Assistant Commissioner's post has been vacant, but change for this post will be returned to our police. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. If there is no member to take the floor, the question will be put. I give the opportunity to the Deputy Speaker.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: I greet the dignity of the House this morning, a fine morning and one full of sounds, and now you have already done with praising God and his mercy on us.

27 JUNE 2017

Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

I stand with respect to appreciate this Bill in the House. The post of Deputy Commissioner was held by the Ministry at first but due to some issues within the Ministry, such is the gratitude. Why? Situations that affect Government work include the Ministry of Police, if ever the CEOs or the Commissioner is affected then the Assistant Commissioner or even the Associate Minister of the Ministry is scheduled to attend. There are many cases that could get people to work together however Mr Speaker, with bringing up this new post, I trust that the Ministry has properly set out its structure and responsibilities for the general peace of the country or national security.

With this Bill your honour, I rise with respect to give my full support to the objectives and the proper laying out of structure, duties and responsibilities of the Ministry. The Leader of the House has also made statement that if this new post is established and inserted into the Act, the structure and picture for this purpose will depend on it as well as the removal of the existing Assistant Commissioner. But the main reason for my upstanding Mr Speaker and the dignity of Parliament is to show that I fully oppose this purpose. The sole intention for me is to maintain the Assistant Commissioner position given the load that it carries not only with the honor it upholds for the State, as well as with our foreign relationship.

Such is the reason for my upstanding with respect, although this is not minor change which is returning the Deputy Commissioner post to carry on the duties such as in the past, this also involves the Associate Commissioner. If this is implemented, we may have a redundancy plan for those who are working at the Assistant Commissioner Level.

It seemed this is intention that is, we are trying to maintain the office of Assistant Commissioner plus the new office and perhaps other posts will follow. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member, I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker point of order. This Bill includes the Deputy Commissioner post and not talks on amendment but not amendment talks on the Assistant Commissioner. This is why Mr Speaker, I advice the member. I know that your greatest concern is your Ministry, but sheath your sword, if there is a change, then that is the time when to speak. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thanks I think the speech by the Deputy Prime Minister to the member is clear. Great effort thank you.

I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 to take the floor.

27 JUNE 2017

Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you for the opportunity for me to give an opinion on this Bill. The Deputy Prime Minister has mentioned Deputy Commissioner under discussion.

The Bill is important since the work of the Ministry of Police will be of great significance essence to the Deputy Commissioner's position and whether it should be continued. I was wondering if possible to have two Deputy Commissioners including one for Salafai. I say this because if they appoint the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, both positions will be based in Tumua, Apia however we should also look at Salafai. With one Deputy Commissioner why not...for Salafai, I support it because if communication lines are interrupted...the Deputy Commissioner in Salafai will have the power to make decisions in Salafai. A recommendation to the Ministry for this Bill if possible to appoint two Deputy Commissioners under the superintendent level. As for specific matter by the Deputy Prime Minister whether possible and appropriate to have a Deputy Commissioner. Well I support this Bill if a Deputy Commissioner is included.

Secondly, why not make it two, one here and one in Salafai. Mr Speaker these are the recommendations.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Perhaps these are the only members who would like to speak on this matter.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker can I get a chance to speak on the Bill.

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

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: First I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Deputy Prime Minister for the quick response upon the Ministry by the Prime Minister. Thank you Deputy Prime Minister for the effort but I fully support the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner for the Ministry of Police. The Ministry of Police is an entity the public entrusts unfortunately, the Deputy Commissioner was removed due to policies and procedures at the time, the Public Service Commission were reviewing some of its positions and included the removal of the Deputy Commissioner yet again it is being inserted again. I give my full support.

Under section 19 Deputy Prime Minister, it stipulates a person's eligibility to be a Deputy Commissioner under 19A, a current or former commissioner of Police for Samoa abroad for those who are applying for the Assistant Commissioner position.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

This is my concern as the appointment is now extended to other countries, but this is good, it would be good to have overseas police apply for this position. It would be good if application is extended overseas for Samoan police officers in specific. It would be worrisome if a foreigner becomes the Deputy Commissioner here and take control of... that is my concern for section 19 which should be amended. Nevertheless, I support the opinion made by the Minister, it is true that it was stated by the Commissioner that there will be a change in the structure once this Bill is passed. Moreover, I support the amendment of having a Deputy Commissioner for the country. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe this will be our last member of the day. I call on the member for Vaisigano No.1.

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: I apologise to the Deputy Prime Minister, this issue has already been clarified by the Commissioner although there is a concern from us in Savaii, we only have one Deputy Commissioner that is based here in Apia.

As residents of Salafai, what about emergency cases that occur for us in Savaii? Contacts can be made by the Ministry to Savaii but the leader in Savaii should now hold authority and power to execute orders, as pointed out by the Member Afioga Pau Sefo Pau. We show support but this is our humble request to have a Deputy Commissioner for Salafai as well.

Secondly, the eligibility of candidates, the term overseas is too general but may I remind you that there are countries of the world that should... It is true that it might not happen, but for protecting of our laws, there are some countries marked on the blacklist by the United that are prohibited which is similar to the World Bank. Can we not change the term used in case we try later on and end up like like the old man's saying in our village, 'the boat is too late.' With respect these are a few queries of this constituency in regards to the Bill.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since the member for Urban West has taken the floor, I apologize to the member for Anoamaa East, I will give you the opportunity later. I call on the Member for Urban West.

Afioga FAUMUIINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you for the opportunity, during the time this Bill was clarified I had already given my support. Unfortunately, there is only one part of this Bill I am concerned about, once passed the Deputy Commissioner elected cannot reapply after the term of contract ends.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

This means they cannot work anymore. I am concerned because the Deputy Commissioner that we have are far from the retirement age. Those who were chosen as Deputy Commissioners are all young. But now their contracts will be over, when the time comes to change the Bill.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the Hon Minister has heard the concern voiced by the member I will give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: It seems the member is speaking towards the Deputy Commissioner but it is the Associate Commissioner, can you clarify this matter because at the moment there is no Deputy Commissioner.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Deputy Prime Minister, you are right it is Associate Commissioner, but the concern is whether there is not another post for the Associate Commissioner when the Bill is passed and if its time for his contract to end, then refer him to another post within the Ministry, where he could be of use, as he has been in service within the country for quite some time especially in the Ministry of Police. This is what I wanted to clarify; I ask that their services not be terminated with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOAMANU: Thank you for the opportunity I will not take long on this very important Bill. It is important because it monitors the work of the Ministry which was a point of conflict but if this will be a method to resolve it then this constituency gives their full support.

There are times where more people become involved and causing the problem. Other times we have minority with in depth thoughts and therefore, let us support the objectives of this legislation and the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner to assist the work of the Commissioner.

I take this opportunity to submit a request for a Post for my constituency. If you travel from Apia, you will only find the next post in Lalomanu. If you go west, there is one in Afega and now at the airport. Therefore, I use this opportunity to request that a post be set up in our constituency for the protection of our country.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

May God bless the one who will be appointed, another matter those chosen at other times are not good because some will only exercise their will instead of following the provisions of the Bill. Let us hope for the best, that a courageous person will be appointed to support the work of the Ministry. Have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give this opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I am glad this Bill has given the opportunity for Anoamaa to request for a post for their constituency. This is a great opportunity for members to voice requests for the benefit of their constituencies. I am grateful for the support given on the Bill.

Firstly, a response on the Deputy Commissioner for Savaii, unfortunately the Prime Minister who is the Minister has left, but if I was the Minister, I would say I agree, but I will take heed of your request together with the other Members of Savaii. The most important aspect here is the insertion of this new post of Deputy Commissioner. Whether it will be one or two perhaps if this Bill will afford it, the most important aspect here is the insertion of a new Deputy Commissioner in the structure of the Ministry.

This issue of eligibility and overseas applicants, well the Bill gives opportunities but as the Chair and respectable Members are aware, we have requirements for the selection of suitable candidates.

In regards to foreign applicants from countries involving high crime rates and so forth, well that can be subject during the screening of appointment selection. Do not worry Moses is present to manage these employment posts.

As for the concern voiced for the second time concerning the Associate Minister, as responded to the first member, there is nothing like that in this Bill. The opinions expressed are essential, and perhaps been noted by representatives of the Ministry, your views and recommendations will be delivered to the Prime Minister who is responsible for the Ministry.

Mr Speaker, this is a response with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Motion approved and the Police Service Amendment Bill 2017 was read a second time.

27 JUNE 2017

Sex Offenders Registration Bill 2017
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Bill will be referred to the Social Sector Committee for their consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly in the next sitting.

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION BILL 2017
– second reading

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion *that the Sex Offenders Registration Bill 2017 be read a second time, and I would like to elaborate more on it.*

Seconded by the Minister for Commerce Industry and Labour, Minister of Health and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker perhaps the House is already aware of this Bill as discussed in the seminar attended by employees of the Ministry. Nevertheless, for it to be noted in official Parliament records, I will give a brief clarification on the Bill.

The objective and purpose of this Bill, to require certain offenders who commit sexual offences to keep the police informed of their whereabouts and of other personal details for a period of time so as to reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend.

Mr Speaker perhaps the intention of the Bill is clear considering it is not a big Bill, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Motion approved and the Sex Offenders Registration Bill 2017 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Bill will be referred to the Social Sector Committee for consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly in the next sitting.

27 JUNE 2017

FILM PRODUCTION (TAX INCENTIVES) BILL 2017
 – second reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017 be read a second time, and I would like to elaborate on it.*

Seconded by the Minister for Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, this is a new Bill that we are trying to implement. Everyone in this House is aware of the fact that the movie Survivor is currently being filmed. This is the third movie which has been filmed in the country. We implemented a Bill for the survivor Australia to attract and to have them film in our country.

The Bill provides for a standard legislation to legislate matters and incentives or privileges that will be granted to any overseas company that wishes to film any production in Samoa. The objective of the Bill is to provide stronger incentives. The recent production a 30% incentive was given on expenses for this company spent in the country with a 30% return.

Fiji's incentive for such companies is 45% of the expenses is given to Fiji or the money spent within the country, is returned or rebate. As for us it is 30%, I believe this is a responsibility of the Tourist Office, to attract those movie makers to shoot their movies within our country.

The Australian Survivor 2 filming is about to be completed, and the conditions given to those who are employed in it, those from overseas are being exempted from having permits and the likes, except for the local employees, they pay taxes.

The purpose of this advertisement, benefits businesses, hotels, rentals restaurants, employees, people will be able to get jobs as you have heard, 30% of their expenses is spent in our country and is refundable. From a tax collector's perspective, we are also targeting the income but we have also considered the overall assistance of this company for our people.

The place where the film is produced is not a mystery, people are able to sell their green coconuts and other goods especially businesses who are used by this company. There are also provisions on things that cannot be brought in, there are incentives on such equipments used in the country, the Ministry has recorded all of the machines brought into the country to be used. After filming we check them again to see whether all of them are being returned.

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Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017
– second reading

If we find out that there will be equipments that have been given away as gifts or being sold then the duty is paid to remove the rebate being added to it. The purpose of the Bill is to authorise cash rebate and tax incentives to be granted to overseas company in relation to the production and filming of any series here, rebate is not fixed to 30%. The Minister in charge will advise the Cabinet on a rebate given on a timely basis about an interested company it is not fixed because there are different times and money given. This is a clarification on the Bill.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, also my gratitude to the Hon Minister responsible for the Bill. I appreciate the intention of the Bill, to give equal opportunity to all those involved in film production who come to Samoa. This is the first importance.

Secondly what the member stated is true. I have a small question for the Minister, there should be a financial analysis, this is the second one but how about the first survivor, how much money did they spent here, and return it based on the legislation whether what we are implementing is accurate. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: To save the time of the Minister, I call on the member for Falealili West.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Thank you for the opportunity given at this time of the day. Mr Speaker, this Bill is of great importance to our country, since the Yazaki was closed, this is one open door for the people, and advertisements for company dealing with filming to come to Samoa to shoot their films. It has also made use of the places where these films are being taken. Not only that, it will increase the economy of our country, through private business.

The 30% rebate, according to a research that I did is implemented in Eastern Europe, Estonia is 30% rebate as for Ireland, they have a cash rebate of 32%. Compared to Asia and Singapore, cash repaid is 50%. In relation to the clarification made by the Minister in his speech about Fiji, this Bill should have been established a long time ago to attract the companies for the benefit of our country regarding the economy, not only that, but in work. Even though the government is not getting any income from it, but this is some form of assistance for private businesses. Therefore this constituency supports this Bill. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. Let us hear from Safata West.

27 JUNE 2017

Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017
– second reading

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West): Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity. First I want to thank the Minister who owns the Bill. I believe this Bill if you have noted filming of this series took place in the village of Saanapu and filming is still ongoing up to this morning. I am grateful because I have noted a lot of people in my village have found work therefore I want to thank the Hon Minister.

The only concern Hon Minister is to overlook whether filming portrays our country because this is one way for Samoa to be recognised by overseas people. Also overlook if the films taken here are the same. I am grateful for the Survivor Australia and America, I am just worried that other filming which might be inappropriate for our culture will be taken here. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the next member Urban West.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will be quick. Thank you, we support the Bill tabled by the Hon Minister. However the only concern is when there is conflict with these companies which might result to rebates to be returned. This is why Hon Minister if such incident occurs I ask that the rebate of the companies be returned diligently so it might not have an effect on us. It is not good at the moment considering we are happy that filming is taking place here because there will be a time when filming takes place and we might see some effects. I will not elaborate on the past but I humbly ask when the time comes for the rebate of the company to be returned with respect please return it.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. First I give the opportunity to the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 and followed by the member from Lefaga and Faleaseela. Then a response from the Minister.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU: Thank you for the opportunity given. The Bill tabled by the Ministry of Revenue, is a legislation for the development of the country. It is noted that the percentage for the rebate does not remain the same. 30% is a big incentive if those filming companies hear of how high it is but the country is a small one. This means filming is still carried out in Upolu but not Salafai or Salelologa where the new town is being set perhaps they will film all of the area. Nevertheless this Bill is very important. This is also the reason why I took the Ambassador for Japan to visit Salafai perhaps there could be a film that will take place at the Itu Asau, all these members from Asau there is an opportunity a good film can be produced there but maybe decrease or keep the 30% incentive.

27 JUNE 2017

Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017
 – second reading

Two Survivor films have already been filmed here perhaps there will be a Japanese movie that will showcase the mountains of Salafai. As for the Bill we strongly support it, I thank the Minister, your body is strong, as the Hon Prime Minister stated you can be compared to Paul, the Paul that went to deliver the message to the Romans.

Mr Speaker we support the tabling of this Bill today. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member for Lefaga and Faleaseela, before the Hon Minister for Revenue gives his response.

Afioga TOLEAFOA KEN VAAFUSUAGA (Lefaga & Faleaseela): First and foremost, I would like to thank Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I have no intention of interrupting the speech made by the Hon Minister. I am just glad that this initiative will be beneficial for filming companies. The two films for Survivor, I think it was filmed within this constituency.

A humble request to the Hon Minister, villages and constituencies where films are produced should get benefits. Moreover without such locations like Matautu village the Survivor films would not have been able to be filmed, there should be benefits given to the whole village as well. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister for Revenue to take the floor.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker. The recent Survivor expenses spent in our country was \$19 million. Then a rebate of \$5million was returned leaving a total of \$13 million for the country. This \$19 million was dispersed within the country, the Ministry of Finance took \$5.1million for the Ministry. As for our expectations \$19 million was spent on small businesses.

The Bill states that expenses are to be recorded every two weeks. The total expenses should be recorded by the end of two weeks so by the end of the month we will know the expenses earned and what was spent locally. The film production undertaken within the country at the moment is only survivor. There are no other productions seen in the country. Although it was noted by the Samoa Tourism Authority that there are film companies from Europe that want to come and film in the country. Last night I spoke with the lady incharge with filming in the country, I asked her, why not film the third installment in Savaii. They said they were considering Savaii since they have seen the environment but the first priority is looking at the expenses. This will be a blessing for Savaii if it does happen. As for the matter concerning rebates, there is a legislation of the Ministry that states such provisions.

27 JUNE 2017

Energy Efficiency Bill 2017
– second reading

After the year 2015 rebate should be claimed and if by the 31st of December 2016 the rebate has not been claimed then the Ministry will forfeit the rebate. It is not our duty to go and tell them to come and get the rebate. It is the responsibility of a company if they want it they should follow the provisions of the legislation set by the Ministry. This is where a question is asked, members should look into the Sunday paper which states everything on the matter. Blessed proceedings.

Motion approved and the Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order, the Bill will be referred to the Economic Sector Committee for consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly in the next sitting.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BILL 2017
– second reading

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Energy Efficiency Bill 2017 be read a second time and wish to give a clarification.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Perhaps members of Parliament and the country are well aware of Government efforts to reduce relying on imported oil from overseas, and to promote and develop research in order for us to use renewable energy, there is a number of solar projects seen in the country. The sole purpose is to have a safe and a clean environment.

Mr Speaker, there are two objectives of this Bill, first is to regulate the energy efficiency of energy using products. This is based on plans implemented to reduce the use of electricity that are reliant on fuel.

Secondly, it is for consumer information on those products based on standards. As we all know majority of the promotions advertised by companies include appliances such as refrigerators, fans, light fittings and others it states that only a small amount of electricity is used for such products. It is also affordable for the use of our people. Mr Speaker the Bill is very short.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

As for the registration of goods brought into the country provisions should be followed especially for consumers who usually bring these products into the country. They should follow standards set to ensure that our goal set will be achieved. This is a brief clarification Mr Speaker on the Bill.

Motion approved and the Energy Efficiency Bill 2017 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Bill will be referred to the Social Sector Committee for consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly in the next sitting.

**FEES AND CHARGES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT
BILL 2017 – consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: This Bill was first considered on the 7th of March 2017. Unfortunately it was withdrawn based on a motion approved by the House for the Amendments of Committee to be inserted before resubmission.

The Bill has now been tabled with all parts completed as moved in the motion passed therefore the Legislative Assembly will now consider the Bill in detail.

For clarification of the House, consideration in detail of this Bill was postponed on the 7th of March 2017 with Clauses 2 to 6 approved. This is why our consideration will start with Clause 7.

CLAUSE 7: Business Licenses Act 1998 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Citizenship Act 2004 amended

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 9: Credit Union Act 2015 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 10: Customs Act 2014 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: Dental Practitioners Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: District Courts Act 2016 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Education Act 2009 amended.

Approved

CLAUSE 14: Electricity Act 2010 amended

Approved.

CLAUSE 15: Export of Meat Act 1997 amended

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 16: Family Court Act 2014 amended.

Approved

CLAUSE 17: Film Contrt Act 1978 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 18: Fire and Emergency Service Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 19: Fisheries Management Act 2016 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 20: Foreign Affairs Act 1976 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 21: Forestry Management Act 2011 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 22: Gaming Act 1978 amended.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 23: Healthcare Professions Registration and Standards Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 24: Immigration Act 2004 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 25: Incorporated Societies Ordinance 1952 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 26: Intellectual Property Act 2011 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 27: Internal Affairs Act 1995 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 28: Judgement Summonses Act 1965 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 29: Judicature Ordinance 1961 amended.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

**CLAUSE 30: Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013
amended.**

Approved.

CLAUSE 31: Lands and Titles Act 1981 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 32: Lands, Surveys and Environment Act 1989 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 33: Lands Titles Registration Act 2008 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 34: Land Transport Authority Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 35: Land Valuation Act 2010 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 36: Liquor Act 2011 amended.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 37: Medical Practitioners Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 38: Metrology Act 2015 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 39: Ministry of Health Act 2006 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 40: Ministry of Works Act 2002 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 41: National Health Services Act amended.

Approved.

**CLAUSE 42: National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Act 2005
amended.**

Approved.

CLAUSE 43: National University of Samoa Act 2006 amended.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 44: Nursing and Midwifery Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 45: Passports Act 2008 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 46: Pharmarcy Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 47: Planning and Urban Management Act 2004 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 48: Ports Authority Act 1998 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 49: Postal Services Act 2010 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 50: Public Finance Management Act 2001 amended.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 51. Public Trust Office Act 1975 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 52: Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 53: Revision and Publication of Laws Act 2008 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 54: Samoa Sports Facilities Authority Act 2007 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 55: Samoa Qualifications Authority Act 2017 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 56: Samoa Water Authority Act 2003 is amended.

Approved.

**CLAUSE 57: Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Act 2008
amended.**

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 58: Slaughter and Meat Supply Act 2005 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 59: Telecommunications Act 2005 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 60: Tourism Development Act 2012 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 61: Waste Management Act 2010 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 62: Water Resources Management Act 2008.

Approved.

CLAUSE 63: Saving

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE

CALUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

**TITLE: Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill
2017**

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail**

The Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2017 progressed without Amendments.

**CASINO AND GAMBLING CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL
2017 – consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 107, the Legislative Assembly should first approve the Report of Committee on the Bill before consideration in detail.

I call on the the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Since the Chairperson is absent I move with respect to carry out the duties of Committee as called by the Chair.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That this Assembly approves the Report of the Committee which recommends the progress of the Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017 without further Amendments.*

Seconded by the member for Salega West.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Assembly has approved the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017.

Pursuant to Standing Orders consideration in detail of the Bill starts with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Clause 92 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017.

Approved.

27 JUNE 2017

**Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2016
- consideration in detail**

The Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017 progressed without any Amendments.

**CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2016
-consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 107, the Legislative Assembly should first approve the Report of Committee on the Bill before consideration in detail.

I call on the the Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee.

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI (Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee): Thank you for the opportunity given. I stand with respect on behalf of the Chairperson who is not present to move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the report of the Committee that recommends the progress of the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2016 together with Amendments.*

Seconded by the member for Aana Alofi No 2 and the Deputy Speaker.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Legislative Assembly has approved the Report of Committee on the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2016.

Pursuant to Standing Order consideration in detail of the Bill starts with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Schedule 2 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE

CALUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Custom Tariffs Ammendment Bill 2016.

MR SPEAKER: There is an ammendment by the Committee to the title of the Bill.

I call on the Chairman of the Economic Sector Committee.

27 JUNE 2017

Public Service Amendment Bill 2017
– consideration in detail

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI: Mr Speaker, I rise to move an Amendment as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

Omit figure “2016” and thereby substitute with “2017” for the Title to be read as follows:

Custom Tariffs Amendment Bill 2017.””

Amendment approved.

Clause 1 and Title as amended approved.

The Customs Tarriff Amendment Bill 2017 progressed with Amendments.

PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 107, the Legislative Assembly should first approve the Report of Committee on the Bill before consideration in detail.

I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Mr Speaker I move a motion *that the Legislative Assembly approve the Report of Committee which recommends the progress of the Public Service Amendment Bill 2017 without any Amendments.*

Seconded by the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Legislative Assembly approves the Report of the Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the Public Service Amendment Bill 2017.

27 JUNE 2017

Motion to set aside Standing Order 108 (4)

Pursuant to Standing Orders, consideration in detail of the Bill starts with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: New section 31A inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Public Service Amendment Bill 2017.

Approved.

The Public Service Amendment Bill 2017 progressed without Amendments.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE STANDING ORDER 108 (4)

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That Standing Order 108 (4) be set aside for the third reading of the Bills that were considered in detail this sitting day.*

Seconded by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour and the Minister for Health.

Motion was approved and Standing Order 108 (4) was set aside.

**FEES AND CHARGES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT
BILL 2017 – third reading.**

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister for Education Sports and Culture and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

27 JUNE 2017

Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017
– third reading

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

CASINO AND GAMBLING CONTROL AMENDMENT Bill 2017
– third reading

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour): Mr Speaker I move a motion *that the Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2017 be read a third time.*

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

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

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– third reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2017 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister of Education Sports and Culture.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– third reading

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Public Service Amendment Bill 2017 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Health and the Minister for Revenue.

27 JUNE 2017

Adjournment

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

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: I express gratitude and acknowledge your patience and tolerance towards our work that is not an easy task. What is important is the support of the Chief Executives of Government Ministries and the private enterprises especially upon our duties which has now been relieved from the hands of Parliament not forgetting the support of the country towards the development projects enquired by Members of Parliament in our sitting today.

This is why we express gratitude. I also apologise to Parliament and Samoa. If there has been any word of misconduct it was done with emphasis to carry out our Standing Orders, especially on the objective to administer our work. There is no intention to rush things rather the purpose is not to avoid lapsed businesses.

On that note, let us be led by the Spirit of God whilst carrying on with our business. Blessings to all Samoans tuning in today. Before I announce that according to the moved motion, our session will be concluded today with a prayer by the Member for Palauli East.

As leaders that lead the promoting of healthy living, may I remind you all with respect that we have an exercise programme at 5 o'clock this evening.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:00 pm until Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 9.00am.