

30 JUNE 2020

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2020

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:12am.

Prayer.

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

Greetings to new health and perseverance this morning.

PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. P.P.2020/2021 No.26, Report of Privileges and Ethics Report on the Report of Revenue and Expenditure Committee in relation to the Case of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

MISCELLANEOUS (SALARY CONDITIONS UPON SUSPENSION) 2020 – first reading

MR SPEAKER: With respect I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, together we lift our hearts of thanksgiving and exaltations unto the Divine Master for guiding back the members of this House in good health and spirit.

I move that, *The Miscellaneous (Salary Conditions Upon Suspension) Amendment Bill 2020 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

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Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019
– consideration in details

Motion was approved on the first reading of the Bill.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR BILL 2019
– consideration in details

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the Legislative Assembly must firstly approve the Report of the Committee on the Bill to allow the consideration to progress.

I call upon the honorable Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee, Tofa Lauofo Fonotoe Lauofo.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Chairperson of Economic Sector): Thank you Mr Speaker. Greetings to the honorable Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and that Side of the House, and the presence of Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons and members of the House, and the support of Samoa.

In the spirit of respect I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approves the Report of the Committee which recommends that the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019 progresses with Corrections.*

Seconded by the member for Palauli le Falefa and the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West.

Report approved.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Legislative Assembly has approved the report of the Committee on the Bill and will now proceed with its consideration.

Pursuant to Standing Order the consideration will commence with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Interpretation.

Approved.

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Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019
– consideration in details

CLAUSE 3: Act binds Government.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Guiding principles.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Functions and powers.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Delegation by Minister.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Chief Executive Officer.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Functions.

Approved.

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Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019
– consideration in details

CLAUSE 9: Power to investigate.

Approved.

CLAUSE 10. Power to conduct inquiries.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: Delegation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Purpose of the Ministry.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Continuation of Ministry.

Approved.

CLAUSE 14: Divisions, units or other sections.

Approved.

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Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019
– consideration in details

CLAUSE 15: Personnel.

Approved.

CLAUSE 16: Functions.

Approved.

CLAUSE 17: Enactments administered.

Approved.

CLAUSE 18: Cooperation with agriculture and fisheries association.

Approved.

CLAUSE 19: Annual reports.

Approved.

CLAUSE 20: Establishment.

Approved.

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Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019
– consideration in details

CLAUSE 21: Appointments.

Approved.

CLAUSE 22: Remuneration.

Approved.

CLAUSE 23: Notice of establishment and dissolution.

Approved.

CLAUSE 24: Evidence by certificate.

Approved.

CLAUSE 25: Protection from personal liability.

Approved.

CLAUSE 26: Regulations.

Approved.

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Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2019
– consideration in details

CLAUSE 27: Repeal.*Approved.***CLAUSE 28: Savings and transitional provisions.***Approved.***SCHEDULE:***Approved.***CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:****CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.****TITLE: Agriculture and Fisheries Bill 2019.**

MR SPEAKER: The Committee has a Correction in Clause 1 and the Title.

With respect I call upon the honorable Chairperson of the Committee.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker I move the Correction in Clause 1 and the Title of the Bill as follow:

“AMENDMENT:

To delete number 2019 and replace thereby with number 2020 to read the Act as:

“Agriculture and Fisheries Sector 2020’

Correction was Approved.

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Motion to set aside Standing Order 108(4)

Clause 1 and Title was Approved as Corrected.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Bill 2020 progressed with Corrections.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE STANDING ORDER 108(4)

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister, with respect.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker with respect I move the motion, *That Standing Orders 108(4) be set aside to allow the third reading of the Bill that has just been considered.*

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

Motion was approved.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR BILL 2020
– third reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Tofa Hon LOPA OO NATANIELU MUA: Mr Speaker I move, *That the second reading of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector 2020 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Tourism and Minister of Health.

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

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**PRIVILEGES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE
FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE REPORT
REGARDING THE INQUIRY FOR THE MEMBER OF
GAGAIFOMAUGA NO.3 - CONSIDERATION**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the honorable Chairperson of Ethics Committee.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Chairperson of Ethics Committee): Mr Speaker with respect I move, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the Report of the Committee on Privileges and Ethics Committee which contains its Findings and Recommendations.*

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West): Mr Speaker, I plead your honor for a chance before the motion is approved on a point of order for the records of the Report. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The Chairperson is now up, the member for the Urban Seat West is up at the wrong time. I call upon the honorable Chairperson.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Thank you. Because I see the report on witnesses in regards to discussions of the Finance Report, however, with respect I wish to clarify that there was no witness of the Freight Plus Company in this Finance Committee. The witness was only present in the final Committee for Privileges and Ethics.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, no I and Parliament do not have to listen to you. The order of our work was given in the Revenue and Expenditure Committee Report, this was resubmitted so that the Report of the Committee is tabled again before Parliament and Parliament has agreed to refer it to the Privileges and Ethics Committee.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker, with respect no one wants to surpass your decision honorable Speaker given our compliance with our Standing Orders. Perhaps now that we have our Parliamentary Report, but the impact on me and the respectable member, I plead that the provisions of our Standing Order regarding matters like this, give us time to look into the Committee's Report as I have not yet received any copy and in accordance to the Committee's motion.

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**Privileges and Ethics Committee Report on the Finance and
Expenditure Committee Report Regarding the Inquiry for
the Member of Gagaifomauga No.3 - Consideration**

Pursuant to Standing Orders regarding this matter that has greatly tarnished my reputation. I have just received the tabling Report. And so what then should I be saying? What is my response to the statement of the Chairperson?

This is the intent, in submission to our Standing Order and motions set given severe matters, I plead, this report should have been given yesterday or last week for us to read and gain thoughts. With due respect.

The view here is to maintain our Standing Order on motions set upon serious matters like this. As such I plead, this should have been distributed last week for us to read and gain thoughts on the Committee's Report. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I get your point, but since the Hon Prime Minister is now taking the floor when I am about to say something.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, all of us here have just received this report other than the First Report that was also tabled. The member of Gagaifomauga No.3 says that the Report should have been referred to the Privileges and Ethics Committee which was why this was referred there because of this member's advice. Now that the Report is now tabled, and all have just read it. We do not need to read it again, we did receive this Report before and we were clarified. Thus the only thing is to refer it again to the Committee in accordance to your advice, although the House is well aware of the Report. Mr Speaker, you are the one that makes the final decision.

The member for Gagaifomauga No.3 is well aware of the interpretation of our Standing Orders, and only one person interprets it and it is the Speaker of the House. You are aware of it. These things are not new. They are old. When you started in Parliament this was the normal practice which does not happen instantly in the House. It happened out of your diligence with a report you submitted into the House to provide your evidence.

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The only thing that the Ministry of Finance looked at, do consider the evidence of your testimony you brought, yet you have requested again, now it is being referred again and it had my approval and so as the House to refer it there. This practice is not new, and with the time given during the referral of this matter there, you should have gone there to, I also see that you are another witness.

Mr Speaker, there is no hidden agenda as the order of the House should be discussed, it is time to deliberate and there is nothing to be concerned about if you are a person of honesty. How many times have you stood up to seek integrity, the will for you to seek integrity. These are the normal things we often talk about. So why do you fear again?

Mr Speaker, the words spoken in this House...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Your honor until I am finished...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member sit down.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Words spoken inside this House, it is witnessed that 50 members and Ministry Heads plus 200,000 people are listening in to our deliberations and you can falsify judgement in order to find proof but it is here, you can ignore as evidence spoken here are noted in our Parliament records through the recording system. We can therefore not avoid it.

That is the explanation on this matter Mr Speaker.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker ...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes, the essence I had attempted to bring forth is how the matter is put, I will not argue anything else. The aim I wish to bring to the Committee's Report...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg forbearance to the member, I have...listen up

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: To insert in the Standing Order in accordance to the set motion.

MR SPEAKER: Parliament was not set up to satisfy your will. Sit down pardon me. I am full of respect upon you lest I speak offensively and result in hurting you. The priority is that when the report of the Ethics Committee comes before Parliament and proof that comes with it should be prioritized, it needs no finding as there is proof, it is our evidence. It is like that, there is no need to find proof in your statements as they are all recorded in our Parliamentary records. There is no need. A thought conveyed for the information of the Committee.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes honorable Speaker, I wish not to speak on anything else, the only I wish to state is the Standing Order. Whenever a motion is set on a matter like this, the accused should be given the opportunity to say something. It does not matter as none of you is affected. I am the one being abused.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member, we shall go ahead with...you see...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: The question regarding your honesty, Tuilaepa, that is the real spirit here.

MR SPEAKER: Look here... you are getting rude.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I am not afraid to table this. I am not scared. Do not say that often and defame, you are starting your defamatory remarks. I respect you Toleafoa.

MR SPEAKER: It is like this. I am getting close to order the Sergeant to...I beg forbearance to the member...

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Look at the Standing Order this matter is not right to be tabled.

MR SPEAKER: The chance is permitted to all members to speak on this matter.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Your insulting remarks are infinite.

MR SPEAKER: Having said that, I beg tolerance. I order the member to bear respect which is a protocol inside Parliament, I have thought, *e nofo magalafu e iloga malalaola* in Parliament through the Leader of the Nation, which is what we should prioritize as he makes clarification of public policies.

That said, I beg forbearance to the member, leave it until the statement of the Chairperson is complete as all of us too have not the report, it is still lying here and I will gain thoughts after the Chairperson reads out the Report with their recommendations. We are following procedures of Parliament in accordance to our Standing Order.

As such I beg tolerance to the member, let....

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Pardon the member, because you are bringing up the wrong information here...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member...Does this mean that I am incorrect?

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: No you are not wrong the Report is.

MR SPEAKER: Pardone me let us discuss the Report...

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: This are records of the Report.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member do sit down please. Honorable Chairperson, go ahead, do not sit down again until I call another member's name. Taking the floor is yours until I give my orders.

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I call the honorable Chairperson.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Thank you honorable Speaker for the chance in accordance with the orders of the House. This Committee will make a statement, I greet the Sitting of Samoa pardon the dignifying Parliament, the honorable Speaker the administrator, the Hon Prime Minister, the deputy Prime Minister and the notable Cabinet, Associate Ministers and honorable Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and the dignity of the members of XVI Parliament of Samoa. I further wish to acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises who are in support of our work today.

I further greet Samoa all around in all your honorific addresses, I further greet the chosen members of the clergy and any religious denomination in the country. Your respects remain forever. Greetings to you all, I salute your perseverance and support. The lay down words which consecrated this House must fit the presence of the Great God in it. The Independent State of Samoa which is founded on God the Almighty Father. God is the Omnipotent and a God of Grace. The Divine Master is the Righteousness and Justice.

We did try everything, why? Because this is the Privileges and Ethics Committee. It is the highest Committee there is. Therefore, this research has to be done thoroughly. Together with the Holy Spirit through your views and ours. So that this work is complete at the satisfaction of Parliament particularly Samoa who are in support.

Mr Speaker, with respect I read out the Findings and Recommendations of the Committee, for the information of the House and Samoa tuning in.

Pursuant to the motion approved by the Legislative Assembly on the 18th March 2020, this Committee was instructed to investigate so that they are read out together with the Review of Committee Policies and Procedures.

- (1) **Thoroughly review the findings and recommendations of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee, whether it has implicated and breached Parliamentary privileges and ethics pursuant to Standing Orders 186.**
- (2) **Committee to report back to Parliament in a future Sitting, of the Legislative Assembly such as this morning.**

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**Privileges and Ethics Committee Report on the Finance and
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This motion which was approved by the House had the selection of 7 members for the Privileges and Ethics Committee of Parliament from different constituencies to research this matter for:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Selected</u>	
NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu	Chairperson	18/3/20
Hon. LAUOFO FONOTOE Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo	D/Chairperson	18/3/20
TAFUA Maluelue Tafua	Member	18/3/20
TAEFU Lemi	Member	18/3/20
ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI		
Sepulona Moananu	Member	18/3/20
AUMUA Isaia Lameko	Member	18/3/20
TOFA Foleni Lio Tama Galu	Member	18/3/20

Supporting Officers to the Committee:

Office of the Legislative Assembly
Office of the Attorney General

Review of the Committee's Proceedings:

Mr Speaker, the Committee firstly conducted its research on the verification of the member's statement during Parliamentary Proceedings on the 24th January 2020. The Committee has asserted that this matter has curtailed from statement of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 in the House on the 24th of January 2020 in which he queried the price tag of \$300,000 into a generator proposed for the Ministry of Police and Correction Services.

His statement was based on the belief that the price was too expensive compared to the generator he had bought from New Zealand. Such is reason for him to say, "I had bought a 200kva standby power not long ago for only \$100,000 tala." (*Chapter 981, Hansard 24/1/2020*). It was also questioned what year this was bought, however the member responded. "I had bought it the previous year (*chapter 981, Hansard 24/1/2020*).

In the Committee's findings and research, it proved that the statement was false, as there was no purchasing of a 200kva generator by the member in the previous year 2019. The member had testified before the Committee on the 7th of May 2020 that evidence of the 200kva generator is now submitted before Parliament, it is only a quote of a proposed generator that will be procured very soon for the constituency.

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“This is my standby generator I brought for the information of the Committee, it is only 30kva which I use for my house, but the second generator is the one I have thought of getting for my constituency in the previous year which is 200kva”. (*Proceeding Records of the Committee on the 7th of May 2020*). This Committee therefore believes, this clearly indicates, the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 made his statement in the House with full awareness that he did not bought a 200kva power generator. The member also responded in relation to questions put forth from the Committee that Parliament Records was correct on the statement he made however, the difference between the statements he gave in the House on the 24th of January 2020 and the testimony he gave before the Committee, was because of his willingness to empower his testament nevertheless, the spoken words he made was a mistake. He also affirmed the statement he gave in the House was based on his intent to purchase a 200kva generator for his constituency, given the enquiries he made regarding the 30kva generator that he bought.

It was also confirmed before the Committee, that he has accepted things this way, “What you said in Parliament is a different statement you gave before the Committee”. The intent of the member in his submitted argument, came from his belief that there was a lack of money and the power generator was too expensive for the Prison and Correction Services at the value price of \$100,000 Samoan tala in the previous year 2019.

Mr Speaker, Part 2 of the Committee’s investigations, provides evidence which the member had brought forward. This evidence was tabled before Parliament including, (1) Letter to the Speaker on the 27th January 2020. (2) Quotation of the 200kva power generator on the 25th January 2020. (3) Photos of the Generator consist 200kva. (4) Photos of the Technical Datasheet.

(5) Standard Control Panels (6) Standard Control Panels Options (7) Bill of Landing (8) Photos of the Power Generator 30kva – on the 9th January 2018 at 2.06pm (9) Photos of forklift and forklift operator of the Freigh Plus Limited – on the 9th January 2018 at 2.16pm (10) Photos of the truck, lift and officials of Freigh Plus Company Limited – on the 9th January 2018 at 2.10pm. (3) Photos of the generator (Generator consist) 200kva.

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However, we found in the Committee's investigations that there was no evidence from the member on the 27th of January 2020, to confirm his statement given on the 24th of January 2020 inside Parliament. Since there was no purchasing of the 200kva generator from New Zealand under the name of the member in the exact period (2019) according to his statement. Except a 30kva generator under the name of the member in 2017/2018. In findings of the Committee, these were all the evidence provided by the member to confirm this 30kva standby power.

The Committee received a copy of the letter from the QPower Company regarding the member on the 21st of February 2020, to confirm that the 7th of December 2017 was when they had received the total cost of the generator at NZ\$13,500 on Invoice 1024 for the JD30kva (serial number 25864). This letter was signed by the manager of QPower Company in New Zealand.

When the Freight Plus Company was queried on this matter, they confirmed that, they did not clear a standby generator in 2019 except in 2018 as witnessed by the Committee with the pictures that was submitted by the member before Parliament on the 27th of January 2020.

The member of the Electric Power Corporation had affirmed that he had seen the photos of the stand by power which the member had also looked at on the day of the visit during the investigation by the Ministry of Customs and Revenue. The members of the EPC also avowed that it was difficult to receive the standby generator strength during this visit as it was unable to start. Instead, he had contacted the Q Power Company on that same day for confirmation of this generator. This 30kva generator on Friday March 2020 was affirmed by the Q Power Company. It is the same standby power that the Committee had investigated on Friday 15th of May 2020. The member's private generator according to evidence which was visited and seen by all the members of the Committee at the Maota o Samoa in Vaitele which was the same generator that was investigated by the Ministry of Customs and Revenue together with the member of the Electric Power Corporation on the 10th of March 2020.

The Committee had requested the member to start his standby power, and the Committee saw that it worked, however, it was not completely plugged to his place for use. In findings, it was confirmed that, the member had a 30 kva generator right now, which was purchased at the end of 2017 and was cleared at the start of 2018.

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The member had verified during his meeting with the Committee that, his standby generator was purchased and was less than 200 kva, it was only 30kva which was received at the beginning of 2018. Evidence submitted by the member before Parliament on the 27th of January 2020, did not provide evidence of the statement he made in this house. This is proof of unconfirmed documents and Evidence tabled before Parliament, as clearly provided in the Report of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee. It further specified, that he did this with the assurance that false Evidence he submitted before the House was different with what he said before Parliament.

This Committee had thoroughly reviewed the Findings and Recommendations of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee, in accordance to the approval of Parliament and those who support by this Committee, the findings in summary. This Committee call witnesses to stabilize allegations and assist accordingly in relation to this matter 1. The Office of the Attorney General, the Revenue and Expenditure Committee Parliamentary Committee. The Executive of the Ministry of Customs and Revenue. The Freight Plus Company, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Police, Prisons and Corrections Services. The members of the Electric Power Corporation, the officials of the Customs and Revenue had implemented this work, the same with the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Mr Speaker, as soon as this Committee saw fitting Legislations on this matter. The importance of this Research, the thorough review of Findings and Recommendations of the Committee of Revenue and Expenditure whether it affected nor breached the privileges and enthics of Parliament in accordance to Standing Order 186. What is Standing Order 186? For instance contempt. It clearly stipulates the examples on any behaviour, it is interpreted as offensive behaviour.

The view of the Committee on this matter is that it is stipulated in (b) of this Standing Order the example which links to this matter. Standing Order 186 provides examples of contempt. Without limiting the generality of Standing Order 185 Parliament may treat as contempt any of the following (b) deliberately attempting to mislead the Assembly or a Committee by way of statement, evidence or petition. The Committee was also able to look at the Acts relating to Penalties.

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With penalties the Committee reviewed the Legislative Assembly Powers and Privileges Ordinance 1960. This serves to complete its recommendations for a just decision from the Legislative Assembly. Section 21 stipulates inappropriate conduct of members. (4) If a member is penalised for inappropriate conduct in the Assembly. The Assembly may resolve to reprimand the member or suspend the member for any period of time it determines necessary.

As indicated in the above section, the power to discipline shall be accorded to the Assembly in a resolution to penalise a member who is guilty of contempt before the Assembly. The following penalties are (1) reprimand the member; or (2) suspend him from the service of the Assembly for a period determined by the Assembly. In pursuant to Clause 21 (5) of the 1960 Ordinance, no salary or allowance payable to a member of the Assembly for the member's service as such shall be paid in respect of any period during which the member is suspended from the service of the Assembly under the provision of the section.

On to the Consideration of the Committee. The progress of the Consideration of the Committee Mr Speaker attempted to cover all areas to ensure the integrity of its recommendations to this Legislative Assembly. The Committee findings focussed on two areas, the member's statement and information with regards to violating Standing Orders 186(b), whether he genuinely intended to deceive the Legislative Assembly on both counts. (1) The statement he made in Parliament on the 24th and the 27th of January 2020. Secondly (2) is the information he presented to Parliament on the 27th January 2020.

Mr Speaker since this was the first time a member had been investigated under Standing Order 186(b). The Committee gained the opportunity to review some of the findings from some of the Parliamentary Privileges and Ethics Committees of past years. Where their findings were presented within this Parliament and this be to serve as a precedence to a proper recommendation. The Committee also reviewed similar matters to the one under consideration in countries like New Zealand and Australia. Since it is understood that the wording and application of their Standing Order is the same as ours.

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The investigations carried out by these Parliaments observed a procedure standardised by a Parliamentary Practise in New Zealand known as the McGee Test.

Due to the relevance of the matter under investigation and the matters reviewed by similar Committees in New Zealand and Australia. It was necessary for the Committee to look at 3 elements to prove the allegations. (1) Does the member's statement and evidence tabled in Parliament contain any apparent or proven factually incorrect matter? (2) Did the member know at the time the statement was made and the time the evidences were tabled in Parliament that he was misleading Parliament? (3) Did the member deliberately attempt to mislead Parliament by way of his statement and evidence? The Standard of Proof or the credibility of evidence presented in determining a suitable decision. The Committee feels that in determining the outcome of this matter we were of the opinion that for these particular matters such as breaching of Parliamentary privileges, the standard of proof required is the civil standard of proof on the balance of probabilities.

Mr Speaker allow me to elaborate on the three elements relating to evidence received by the Committee. (1) Whether the accuracy and integrity of the member's statement made in Parliament is verified. The member clearly stated on the 24th and 27th of January 2020, "I bought a standby generator of 200kva not long ago and it cost me only \$100,000." (Recorded on page 981 of Hansard 24/01/2020)

"Mr Speaker the total upgrade quote was \$72,210.00 financed by my family. When the generator arrived it was handled by the Freight Plus Company at Vailoa Faleata" (Recorded on page 988 of Hansard 27/01/2020) Moreover it was verified by the member during dialogue with the Committee on the 7th May 2020 that he did not buy a generator of 200kva for his constituency. This was similar with the evidence from the management of the Ministry of Customs and Revenue. That there was no generator imported under the name of the member in 2019. Other than the generator 30kva that was brought with a cargo of items at the end of 2017. That was confirmed with documents of the bill of lading attached to the Report.

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The evidence of Faumuina Wayne Fong the Director of Freight Plus in front of the Committee was they did not handle a standby generator for the member. That was the responsibility of the customs officer. For these reasons your honourable Speaker and this Assembly, the Committee confirms that statements made by the member in Parliament on the 24th and 27th January 2020 is false and untrue. (2) Whether the member realised when making his statement that he has misled Parliament? The statement from the member when he met the Committee reflects his awareness of the incorrect statement he made in Parliament. That he knew there was no generator of 200kva that he claimed to have bought. He also testified before the Committee that he will continue to claim the 200kva generator in his statements due to his belief that if he does mention the generator he bought 30kva to make his case the power output is weak to support his argument.

Due to these testimonies Mr Speaker the Committee confirms that the statements given by the member in Parliament on the 24th and 27th January 2020 was made with the knowledge that he was misleading Parliament. (3) Whether the member attempted knowingly to mislead Parliament with his information? Mr Speaker and members the Committee did try to strike a balance by having consideration for the true purpose of his claim in this matter during the debate in Parliament. The statement he gave before the Committee was that the reason he mentioned the 200kva generator was from an update quote for this type of generator 200kva which he was planning procure for his constituency.

To make his argument stronger as if he did mention the 30kva generator it would render his argument weak. For these claims the Committee believes that the member did knowingly attempt to mislead Parliament as it was him alone that understood the meaning of his statement made in his privilege inside the House. As it was elaborated during Committee sessions, Mr Speaker there was ample opportunity to correct his statement if you consider the time frame between the 24th and 27 of January 2020. Yet he did not do so.

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Mr Speaker and members I will now come to the information tabled in Parliament. I again wish to follow the three elements. It is important for this issue. (1) Can the accuracy and truth of the evidence he tabled in Parliament on the 27th January 2020 be confirmed? During the Committee's consideration, the authenticity of the documents submitted by the member to parliament was confirmed. (1) Bill of lading invoice was for a 30kva generator not a 200kva generator. (2) It was confirmed by the Ministry of Customs and Revenue that there was no generator from overseas under the name of the member in 2019, but the generator 30kva brought in 2017/2018. This confirmed to the Committee the false information presented by the member to Parliament on the 27th January 2020 to prove his statement of the 24th January 2020. (3) Whether the member knew at the time he presented his information to Parliament on the 27th January 2020 that he has misled Parliament? The member did confirm to the Committee during their meeting on the 7th May 2020, that it was an update quote which he submitted with the information that he tabled in Parliament, was that he intended to buy a generator 200kva for his constituency but has not yet done that.

The photographs contained in the report were taken within the premises of the Freight Plus Company. Which he tabled before Parliament were his information and confirmed before the Committee that they were the photographs of the generator 30kva that he bought. The Committee were able to confirm that the member knew very well at the time when he presented his information to Parliament on the 27th January 2020 that he was misleading Parliament. (3) Whether the member attempted knowingly to mislead Parliament with his information. The information the member tabled in Parliament clearly reflects that he very well understood the contents of the information and the results which will eventuate. The member should have given the factual information to link with his statement on the 24th January 2020 in the House yet he persisted to present misleading information to support his argument.

Mr Speaker allow me to elaborate on the three elements relating to evidence received by the Committee. (1) Whether the accuracy and integrity of the member's statement made in Parliament is verified. The member clearly stated on the 24th and 27th of January 2020, "I bought a standby generator of 200kva not long ago and it cost me only \$100,000." (Recorded on page 981 of Hansard 24/01/2020).

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“Mr Speaker the total upgrade quote was \$72,210.00 financed by my family. When the generator arrived it was handle by the Freight Plus Company at Vailoa Faleata” (Recorded on page 988 of Hansard 27/01/2020) Moreover it was verified by the member during dialogue with the Committee on the 7th May 2020 that he did not buy a generator of 200kva for his constituency. This was similar with the evidence from the management of the Ministry of Customs and Revenue. That there was no generator imported under the name of the member in 2019. Other than the generator 30kva that was brought with a cargo of items at the end of 2017. That was confirmed with documents of the bill of lading attached to the report.

The evidence of Faumuina Wayne Fong the Director of Freight Plus in front of the Committee was they did not handle a standby generator for the member. That was the responsibility of the customs officer. For these reasons your Honourable Mr Speaker and this Assembly, the Committee confirms that statements made by the member in Parliament on the 24th and 27th January 2020 is false and untrue. (2) Whether the member realised when making his statement that he has mislead Parliament? The statement from the member when he met the Committee reflects his awareness of the incorrect statement he made in Parliament. That he knew there was no generator of 200kva that he claimed to have bought. He also testified before the Committee that he will continue to claim the 200kva generator in his statements due to his belief that if he does mention the generator he bought 30kva to make his case the power output is weak to support his argument.

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For these claims the Committee believes that the member did knowingly attempt to mislead Parliament as it was him alone that understood the meaning of his statement made in his privilege inside the House. As it was elaborated during Committee sessions, Mr Speaker there was ample opportunity to correct his statement if you consider the time frame between the 24th and 27 of January 2020. Yet he did not do so.

Mr Speaker and members I will now come to the information tabled in Parliament. I again wish to follow the three (3) elements. It is important for this issue. (1) Can the accuracy and truth of the evidence he tabled in Parliament on the 27th January 2020 be confirmed? During the Committee's consideration, the authenticity of the documents submitted by the member to parliament was confirmed. (1) Bill of lading invoice was for a 30kva generator not a 200kva generator. (2) It was confirmed by the Ministry of Customs and Revenue that there was no generator from overseas under the name of the member in 2019, but the generator 30kva brought in 2017/2018. This confirmed to the Committee the false information presented by the member before Parliament on the 27th January 2020 to prove his statement of the 24th January 2020. (3) Whether the member knew at the time he presented his information to Parliament on the 27th January 2020 that he has misled Parliament? The member did confirm to the Committee during their meeting on the 7th May 2020, that it was an update quote which he submitted with the information that he tabled in Parliament, as he had intended to buy a 200kva generator for his constituency but has not yet done that.

I now come to the recommendation of the Committee:

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on constructive Findings, the Privileges and Ethics Committee confirms the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 has breached Clause 186(b) of Standing Orders and the Legislative Assembly is recommended as follows:

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To suspend the member of the electoral constituency of Gagaifomauga No.3 from the service of the Legislative Assembly for three (3) months in pursuant to Clause 21(4) of The Legislative Assembly Powers and Privileges Ordinance 1960. If that may be the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly Privileges and Ethics Committee shall take effect from today. The guilty member will not be eligible to Parliamentary salary and allowance in pursuant to Section 21(5) of the Legislative Assembly Powers and Privileges Ordinance 1960.

RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of the Findings of the Privileges and Ethics Committee we have resolved to recommend the Legislative Assembly to endorse and confirm its report.

To uphold the standards and integrity of Parliament privileges of the Independent State of Samoa. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: I commend the Chairperson of the Privileges and Ethics Committee. I call upon a member to second...

Seconded by the member for Lefaga and Faleaseela and the member for Falealili West.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Salega. Are you intending to second the motion?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): No. It has been seconded by a member from the other side. But I wish to make a brief statement about the report.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will allow the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I rise to applaud the Chairperson of the Committee regarding the presented Report. Pursuant to our privileges this is the opportunity for the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 to respond to the report and also that member who keeps getting up. We will then voice our views and we must all contribute to the wonderful report now before us. Deliberations has taken several months as well as hearing evidence and viewing photographs presented for the information of Parliament. The report submitted is very important and it is vital that we hear from the members involved in this matter before we give our views on the subject this morning.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker we will say no more if that is the case, that the alleged member is to give a statement.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Salega but let me say this. The undertaking that went into the report is not an easy one. I commend you for that. It is understood and the country are listening in. We have heard the recommendation of the Committee and we need not praise it or say nice things about it. I had allowed the member for Salega thinking that you were rising to support the motion. Your desire to speak on the matter must wait whilst I allow the member implicated in this matter, the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 before members voiced their opinions, rather than members taking the floor first and letting the member speak last. Yesterday the member apologised and when concluding his statement, he threw further attacks so it is best to allow the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 since the Report concerns the member. I will not persuade you to speak if not that is fine....

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa (Gagaemauga No.2): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the member, you do understand I was speaking to that Side?

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: I am listening.

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but the member for Gagaifomauga will take the floor.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise with all due respect before the dignitaries of this Assembly, with the understanding that the public are listening in to our proceedings on this matter. It is not a matter that had just surfaced yesterday but a topic that has been under consideration for quite some time to seek the truth. Mr Speaker I stand before this Parliament with disgrace. I am down hearted, last night has passed and was of the thought that the issue will not surface again. However, I am awoken this morning to misery and heartache coming my way again.

Thank you honourable Chairperson for your Report together with your Committee and all your signatures on it as it is your rightful duty to do so. You were engaged with this responsibility as the appointed Committee to correct and consider the matter in its entirety and to set the record straight. I appreciate the fact that my request was accepted, because the Ministry of Finance should not do an investigation as they are the other party to the matter I am arguing as to why I made the initial request. The reason I made the request was for the public to understand why the generator that was procured so expensive. Why did it cost more than \$300,000 for the generator for the prison? That is the motive behind my raising this here. Why? Why spend so much money? I bear witness to you about the price which I can submit before Parliament.

My apologies to the Committee for what I said when trying to clear things up. I did not avoid the issue. But showed proof that I did procure a generator. What is the power output? That is the point in which I decided to alter my information since I could get a generator for the prison at \$200,000. The quote I took with me was not accepted by the Finance and Expenditure Committee, but that is proof of the actual amount that should be spent for this item for the prison. I also apologised to the Committee stressing that our general remarks in here during our general debate tends to span but I was surely not trying to mislead the Parliament. The sworn oath I took is that I will not deceive anyone in this Parliament. Toleafoa you are one of the senior Members of Parliament and you realise that with general speeches and how it varies in tone and style and we try to show comparison when putting across your view.

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That perspective is, why should we waste \$300,000 on the prison when I am testifying that it can be done for less than \$100,000. My desire is to save the government's money. But it has brought about shame however that was my intention. I will not say anything further which may portray me as evasive. Mr Chairperson, I have proven my point and I have presented to you proof of 200kva which can light up the prison at less than \$100,000. So that is proof of what I was arguing about yet it has hung me dry, despite the fact that the quote I presented is true and it should not be more than \$300,000 for a generator for the prison.

I am disappointed with the Chairperson for taking the side of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and yet intentionally disregarding this constituency. Why did you not ask for the quotes which the chairperson spoke about? I did argue to ask for that quote as it was the lowest cost at \$300,000. It is sad since the public are listening in to you saying on four occasions that I have deceived this House. Here I am considering the past and present.

Regardless Mr Speaker I am going to accept the fact that God will be my only witness to this very trivial matter, of conduct and behaviour, what we say and the errors of judgment. I am pursued as if I am a murderer, someone that has lied to Parliament. How can you compare this to grave incidents that had occurred in the country where lives were in jeopardy and you led the Police force to Satapuala to protect the public?

How can you compare what I said about the difference of power output with these generators and the reason why I am suspended? Was Toesulusulu suspended here? When he instigated a blockade along the road and people were close to committing murder? Why have you done this to me?

I apologise to the dignitaries of Parliament Mr Speaker I regretfully acknowledge this, alas, my wounds have not yet healed and here I am again taking more. Mr Speaker I am sorry if my opinion differs from what I actually said. They were my words so I interpret my words. Yet, you have interpreted them according to your opinion. The judgment of truth is God's alone. The Leader of the Government has also spoken that I can influence the court, but I can't do that. God knows that did not happen. Toleafoa if I have erred in speech, then my apologies to Parliament but I do not have intentions to deceive or disparage Parliament. I will not do that nor betray Parliament with what I may say or do.

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The intentions I had was to save the Government's money. Yet my point of argument has been ignored whilst I have been put under the spotlight. I also apologise to Faumuina Leatinuu, God knows the reason behind my mentioning your good name as it was your company that the generator was procured. But there was no collusion whatsoever with the developments of this matter. You are cleared of any blame in this matter. The Chairperson also mentioned the officer that handle the customs responsibilities as it was his duty. I did not maintain any influence or bribe. So Mr Speaker I am of the view that I do apologise to Parliament with regards to my attempts in this case. My sole intention was to save Government capital. When you go to catch a terrorist you have to be a super terrorist. That was the mindset I had. If I am guilty I apologise. I will treasure in my heart the decision you made. To the Parliament of Samoa, I apologize.

Prime Minister I will swallow this poison which is the outcome of our constant arguments. I do feel that only God has justice, so I will leave it up to members. I have apologised and if I am guilty given the interpretations of words and the error of speech. I beg your pardon, as my main desire was to save money.

To the listening public today, my sympathies. It has been disaster after another, the reality is catastrophes boundaries is next to hardship. I had thought that I would be spared this morning but my thoughts are to seek justice. I do not have a say at this stage, whatever decision the Parliament makes today, so be it so I will walk away in silent. Toleafoa, I do observe our Standing Orders. I am unable to make another decision today, whatever you will decide so be it. The court is now parliament. The courts do not overrule one another. Where can I turn to? Despite of it all I will take back my thoughts. I shall leave it up to God as to where justice will end.

Whatever I may have said that was unbecoming as the public are tuning in, and my constituency are prayerfully supporting. I am of the belief that God sees everything. God If I have erred in this matter you have the discretion over my life. That is my testimony. Whatever is about to come my way, forgive them as they do not realise what they have done. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: Mr Speaker I seek an opportunity please.

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MR SPEAKER: Alright you may take the floor. I remind members that you have 10 minutes if you wish to speak. I will allow the opportunity to the senior member. I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this report is rather important to me, as the report is very clear. I am quite aware of the reasons behind all this. It did not eventuate from Cabinet nor myself.

If you follow the member's statement he comes across as I am the cause of this issue. No, I did not instigate this. The only reason why I took the floor was to avoid the false allegations that the role of the Ministry of Police in this matter is corrupt and that the budget proposal concerning the generator that cost \$300,000 needed for Tafaigata is corrupt. That is not for the generator alone, there was a bidding advertised. The actual cost of the generator is about \$100,000 plus the premises to keep it and relevant preparations like the cables and so on. But the allegations voiced that the Minister is corrupt and the Ministry is corrupt and this was all done in crooked deals. It also suspects that a price was charged for this

My taking the floor on that day was to exonerate the Government including the Minister of Police and the Police Commissioner. The preparations of their budget was done well inclusive of these costs. That is all the attempt I had aimed for. But the constant rising of the member it gave me confirmation to ask him that must bring forth proof. I was actually the first one to suspect whether the police were mistaken with this. You came here with confirmation of what you said, now that is not an error of speech. When I looked at the information you brought with you, I thought to myself this is not right, an investigation must be carried out. I have not even started my speech and you are calling out that I am conspiring against you. That is not so. My objective is to clear the name of the Ministry of Police and the Government including everyone that was preparing the Budget.

Mr Speaker the other member that is alleged to be involved in the procuring of the generator should also make a statement to clear his name before we make our speeches regarding the matter. Even if we go late into the night deliberating this matter.

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Mr Speaker that is the reason I have stood up if you could allow the opportunity to Faumui, these three whom are constantly getting up sometimes all at once. He has already spoken and it comes across as he is clear of blame, well we shall listen.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: I think we should let the senior member from Saleaula speak.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I will allow the orator from Gagaemauga No.2 Tofa Faasoo.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA: Thank you. May I say to Saleaula, your representative is about to speak on your behalf. Samoa has been traditionally proclaimed.

Mr Speaker, the Committee have given their decision on this matter. But I do applaud the Prime Minister. Saleaula cannot be silent over such matters it is my duty to ensure peace is kept, so that God will show compassion and His Spirit may overwhelm us all the representatives elected here to consider our political affairs. Mr Prime Minister thank you, I do not normally speak and it is why I urge the Prime Minister and members from Salafai. I will not direct my statement to members of Upolu, after all what is good for Upolu will be also for Salafai. I am disappointed as the responsibilities and our work that we were engaged in has been done for the developments and prosperity of Samoa. Alas, this happens, the old adage is that no matter how severe and grave our statements towards each other can be at times, peace always prevails.

Thank you to the Prime Minister for there is nothing going on. My suggestion to Laauli is that, and it may seem that I am taking Laauli's side due to our relationship with regards to the Ministry, but everyone is the same to me. But with the situation I fervently ask the Prime Minister, despite the progress of Parliament and politics within HRPP and its reign. I urge you, where is your cultural acumen and wisdom? Is this not the hour to reverse your deep vision and cultural acumen Mr Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I wish to express my point of order to the member. We have yet to give our opinions and I know that the majority of members wish to speak on the matter.

We cannot do that before they do. The process is we must ask the members alleged to make their submissions so we can respond. I think your timing Saleaula is wrong. How can you ask me that when he does not know what I am feeling? We are processing our thoughts but until we hear the explanation from the member that is alleged in the report then we will have the opportunity to share our opinions.

I am trying to set the records straight with our policies and procedures given our decisions after all, what happens today will dictate the future in terms of protecting this Parliament of Samoa, we are elected representatives. What we say in the House should not be trivial. I was supportive of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 as speculations overwhelmed the integrity of the roles of the Ministry of Police. That was the objective with me to pursue and emphasize the conviction of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, I was suspecting the staff at the corrections services as with the accuracy of their figures presented. However, a very different result is now known in the end. So we are trying to compose our thoughts but the member for Saleaula has got up too early. I beg tolerance of him but we are still a fair way from that stage. Whether we go late into the night with this debate because what we do today will determine the future.

MR SPEAKER: I am of the view that the Prime Minister's statement is understood by members. Do not direct your statements towards the Prime Minister as he has not shared his thoughts on the matter. This is normal Parliamentary procedures where matters are brought before us and then confirmations are called for before it goes to the Committee to ascertain and consider. This is not new the matter concerning Laauli. When you are out of line that is how it is. We must observe and uphold our Standing Orders so as to not regard Parliament as it is trivial. You must present factual information in Parliament for consideration. It is why I asked the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 when he was speaking, to disregard the errors and I was of the view that he was acting on his suspicions but he pursued his conviction.

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I advise the member for Saleaula to focus on the matter whether it has you support or not. But you do not direct your opinion to the Prime Minister as he has yet said his view. This decision is the recommendation from the Committee but do think about it when we take our recess.

Since we have now approach our normal recess hour. I now suspend the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for its normal recess

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was suspended for its normal recess at 10:51am and resumed at 11:37am.

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

During the setting aside of Proceedings, the member for Gagaemauga No.2 was giving his remarks. I call upon the member to continue, he has 2 minutes remaining.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA: Thank you Mr Speaker 2 minutes is a lot. I do feel that members have gained energy from the refreshments provided. I do not have much further to say on the Committee Report. This constituency do not have a habit of demanding. Whatever the outcome is all I will say is that no one is perfect. That is the suggestion of Saleaula, I am quite reserved on days like these but that is my view and God has sovereignty over everything. All our shortcomings and failures should be uplifted to God. All our aspirations and plans for the future of Samoa well God is the sole authority over Samoa and its people. In case you think I am taking Laauli's side well our relationship is the same as mine with Lopao at this moment. Whether Lopao shows me compassion or not I will still be good to him. Everyone is equal to me.

Laauli, God has sovereignty over everything. The Leader of the State is the Chief matai in our Parliament. Whatever his plans are let us embrace it. Your time will come, and we must all live with the notion that our time will come the way to authority is service. None of us is perfect we all have failures but let us be grateful for God has given us His beloved son who died on the cross for all.

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That is the recommendation of this member to the Leader of the State. May God show mercy and fill you with wisdom and patience in everything. May God's goodness and prudence be upon you. Bless our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you I appreciate the speech. I call upon the member for the Urban Seat West.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker, I too concur with Saleaula regarding the refreshments we shared which has invigorated us to continue our meeting.

I firstly acknowledge you honorable Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister, Ministers and Associate Ministers and members on this side of chambers. I rise to comment on the report now before Parliament from the Privileges and Ethics Committee. I applaud the Chairperson and members of the Committee for the thorough report which is now before the House.

Mr Speaker I must clarify a matter that was implicated in the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee as tabled before Parliament. Although it was not debated but it is concerning as it has come before Parliament. May I humbly say this about the allegation contained in that report which does implicate that I was colluding with Laauli concerning the problem that has surfaced with his generator.

I do appreciate even though the Privileges and Ethics Committee has corrected this issue. Which pushes me to give an explanation to the Leader of the Government and the Chairperson on this matter. Although I do believe that the report is understood and that Hon Laauli has given a statement on these plans

Nonetheless, I do apologise to Parliament but this company is under the authority of the Customs Office. Whatever items that are brought to Samoa or whatever goods, the Freight Plus company has no authority to discharge these goods to customers other than the permission and authority of the Customs Office. This company also does not have a say to changing the cost of freight items entering through our company.

We are dictated by law enacted by the Ministry of Customs. The other point is the company has its own director as I am now a member of Parliament. I was also trying to explain earlier to the Leader of the House that there is no such thing as a party which he claims.

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I went over to give my support to the fellow member but it was not for such reason as a political party. My support was for the member involved in a court case. Whoever wins the case that is it but I must show my support.

If you have notices, we do have our party at this stage, and though the leader has asked me to resign but I have not done that.

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

What we are talking about here is you three all getting up at the same time to whatever little thing that is corrected as it misleads matters when you all get up. You are all anxious and claiming that the Government is hiding US\$20 million which is why I got up but it was a joke for fun which made everyone laugh.

I was joking as it seems that you three were so obvious with your criticisms of HRPP and it is even publicised on Facebook particularly the member currently speaking who has made heaps of post. Whatever decision the government makes they would post it up. There was even a headline that I have pressed charges on you but I did not pounce on your party. I was merely joking. So as to help you and stop putting on the disguise.

Which is also why Leala was mentioned as this member was also involved in the same scenario. The elections were looming and he officially resigned causing a by-election so that their party is formally recognised. So that is why I mentioned that it was something on the lighter side. You have also declared that Samoa will witness your new political party. If you want to do that then go right ahead and do it. Instead of beating around the bush. But that is my advice which I am giving jokingly for the fun of Parliament. I am helping you to form your party to crack up a joke in parliament. Since when one gets up the lot of you there are all upstanding.

So I am encouraging you so as to not beat around the bush but officially set up your political party. Just like Lealailepule, he was a Tautua guy and now he is reborn. But that is why I said it in a joking manner which led to the misleading of the Samoa Observer. I am not attacking you I am helping you. If you wish to form a political party go ahead and do it. That is better than being in disguise.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since Lealailepule's name was mentioned I will allow the member...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Lealailepule is a person that has gained salvation, with a new mind from my fellowship with God. That is the reason. My joining our Political Party as I do have total trust in the leadership, it was almost perfect until I joined in and therefore it is now perfect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, and you are courageous to stand up and tell the truth. I call on the member to continue.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Mr Speaker, I applaud the Prime Minister. For I now know that it was a joke he was making. I appreciate that since I know now that it was a tale from the old man every tale is not true. The point made by the member for Faleata, well he had a different opinion at the time.

That will not persuade this member. There was a story from this old man that said that real solid is different from real stupid. That was then and it was that kind of thing which made those three members to return. But this time around we have the cultural acumen.

Nonetheless, I beg the the pardon of the Prime Minister...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I pity my brother, his statement was quite good but it sounds ambiguous. The ambiguous remarks that was just made, he has been constantly doing this for a long time. You were a coward by not going through the elections so why are you talking stupid. Watch what you say. Stop making stupid remarks.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Mr Speaker, this just goes to show how weak the wisdom of this member is. Yes, in Parliament whatever is said you must exercise patience. Everything the Prime Minister is saying well we are advising, yes.

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MR SPEAKER: Well I advise the member to mind what you say and be mindful of the listener. The other old man said that it may be soothing but it does hurt the eyes. Though it sounds humorous but it hurts. Therefore, the member must consider the remarks he makes. The government's response concerns the contents of social media, and do take that outside. Your 10 minutes is up wrap up your remarks.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Apologies to the Hon Speaker, no, because a statement has been made, if I am brave, why am I going to go to the polls? Has this member sinned? Is anything wrong? Perhaps it is the thoughts I am expressing, but that is the nature of this Sitting, to convey my thoughts and ideas. So if someone does not like it...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I said it, it was something humorous to entertain our House. Officially form a party if you plan to create a party. That is what I meant. Because all the advertisements that you have been doing, it has caused distress to the hurts of many members of this Party. It is very stressful for the majority of the members of this Party. That is the case. If you want to, set up your party, but do not throw insults at the Party while being part of the Party.

The announcements you make affect all members of the Political Party. And it is not done by a person, as those are declarations of a person who is not loyal to the Party. That is the point Mr Speaker, but it would not matter if it were information that were valid and true. After all, our Party has group discussions and that is when we express our thoughts. But I am confused as our Party has had 50 meetings this year and last year, but you only attend once. It has all been recorded.

MR SPEAKER: Good work, I believe that the member's time is finished. Let us not go backwards. Your time is up.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker. Then I will express my gratitude. Thank you very much Mr Speaker, whatever allegations I have received, well, it does not matter, and it does not affect this side. Nor does it contradict me, as my views should be expressed on whatever I want to convey.

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If it has caused discomfort for the Hon Prime Minister, I implore you. I also apologize to fellow member Leala, for any problems that have occurred...

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

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member as I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order. In this House, our Standing Orders are what we need to clarify and correct. That is why I stood up, to correct the member's statement. If a member spoke of an issue that is valid, there is no reason for me to be irritated by his suggestion. I would be please with what he has to say. The only thing is, once it becomes invalid, and then I will correct them.

Mr Speaker this is the reason why I was upstanding, because he was the first to speak, and then he misinterpreted my statement. Therefore, I stood up to correct him.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the member, as these are situations that cause turmoil, which is a matter of internal loyalty within a party. Yes, that is my belief. It is not a good thing to talk about the internal affairs of a Party, especially if it is a member outside this circle.

Such it reason for stating this, being loyal to the Party, as these things should not be taken lightly. And seeing that you are new to Parliament, but back in those days, in case what I am about to say offends you. As only certain matters were brought here for discussion. Since at that time, we only had honest members. So after it was debated here, and then it was dissolved through votes in majority, and then it is submitted to the Cabinet, and afterwards an Amendment Act will then be passed by the Cabinet.

But what is happening now with the gossipers we have, there are things that have yet to be assembled but Siaopo and Siasau are already aware of it. That is the reason why I am advising to you, it is because I care. How will the Government response to these claims? You were the ones that publicized it but what does the Government have to say?

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Therefore, I ask that you restrain yourself as we are also restraining ourselves, and you are right, it is also affecting the rights of others. But that is my advise.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker I will now be concluding my speech. No one is right and perfect in the sight of God. We all make mistakes. If anyone in this Parliament is perfect, I believe they are angels. But at this hour, I convey my gratitude for the advice received.

Mr Speaker, I also implore you, to consider brother Laauli. He is not just anyone, he has served the HRPP for a long time, and he has also served this House for a long time, let us forgive him. That is all; bless our Assembly today, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I give the opportunity to the member for Salega, you may stand, member for Salega East, Olo.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East): Well, thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I also stand with the utmost respect to express some lowly suggestions, concerning the issue that we are discussing.

Mr Speaker, earlier this morning you have already offered our devotion of gratitude, in the form of prayer to bless our work for today. And so far, Mr Speaker, the Spirit of God is still dwelling within us today. Thank you as in the case of which you have elevated our offering to God. I also want to take this time to pay tribute to Hon Speaker. For these past 2 weeks, which will soon be 3 weeks, as you are continue to carry out your duties as Speaker. Nor is it easy from our observation. I congratulate you on your focus and your guidance.

I have noticed on this day the progress of our work. But Salega East has an opinion, *a ua a'e ia lo tatou faiva, ia tatau ona a'e ma se tatou ai*. However, at this hour and the report of the Committee as it stands, there is a feeling that our ship is going off course as we are nearing the end of our work. So there is a belief, where is the wisdom of your honour and the dignity of this Parliament, as the member whom we came together is being cast aside. In accordance with the decision of our Committee elected for this matter.

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There are often times, when we would share, face to face as brothers. And the many times we would share, we would also forgive each other. So if such a situation will arise for the fellow member, set our political policies aside, for we are brothers.

As for the report of the Committee, I know that the Hon Speaker and the honourable members of the House are aware. Many serious issues have arisen in this House. And we will not go back to discuss those issues. But the issues are quite serious.

But when I look at this matter, the only thing stated by the Committee is, the misleading of the Hon Prime Minister with records. When I sit and measure the severity of this matter compared to the issues from 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 years ago, the Parliament have yet to make a decision on it. This matter is quite minor.

Well, I believe that the decision of Parliament is not based on my opinion, but let me be the voice and mouth of Matautia. To address this House in all its honorary salutations, I ask that your decision be overruled.

If this Parliament is also the House founded on God, let us become the House of God for today in dealing with this issue. Mr Speaker that is what I wanted to say, because I believe that there are many members who want to speak on the issue. But we only wanted to offer our guidance, our advice and our plea to Your Excellency and the Members of Parliament, well, may we be compassionate and forgiving for today. Bless our Assembly.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and thank you, I call upon the member for Vaimauga to stand...

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East): Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. Perhaps at this hour I still stand but also trembling. I also speak with respect and reverence to the sanctity of this Parliament. This morning with our Sitting we can feel the Spirit of God on our bodies brought by the winds. Considering that in the last 3 weeks, this Government has been in session for our Sitting, and it was not be easy, because why? The Spirit of God is still present, as we have reached this morning.

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Last night we thanked God and passed the economy of this country of Samoa. Today it has been approved and submitted to Ministries and Corporations to implement developments of our country. But this morning is different, with new things that have transpired during this Sitting. Today is a different day when I arrived, as the report of the Committee is now before the House, which has already been planned.

Thank you to the Committee, thank you for the views expressed in this House. But that is why I am proud because this is the land of Tiafau where Samoa is enthralled. What makes Samoa so focused on this land? There are many lands like Niniva and Punalavaa and Fatutolo and Pilioua and.... but they are focused here, why? We have wisdom, as well as the judgement of the orators and those who were appointed by the people within this House. That is what makes Samoa different from every other country in the world. Since the following Act is being enacted to uphold the customs and traditions of our country, because of these practices. We are chiefs.

What does that mean? We are here to discuss the welfare of the country. So this morning and the audience of the country and this constituency, I feel worried, because it is a new morning, and it is also the first time that a member has done something like this. Mr Speaker, there is a thought, as I offer my apologies. I am disappointed in the Committee. When we look at this Committee, it consists of Lawyers and Auditors who are experts of this Committee. What disappoints me about this Committee is that, even with their decision making, they would seek the views of the New Zealand and Australian Governments. Why would they do that? Why are they seeking views from New Zealand and Australia? We already have our chiefly system. We, the Samoan chiefs make our own decisions.

Hence is reason I came with disappointment, but the people are important. But they are asking for a decision to be made.... that is why Samoa is different. In contrast, Laws to allow in other countries are unacceptable, because we are chiefs, it is our inheritance from God, as it has divided the Name of God. This morning as we are at the boundary of the deadly virus, we have proclaimed that Samoa is founded on God. Not a single devil can be seen this morning.

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Other countries are still under lockdown, what about us? We are still free from the virus. Therefore, I express gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, as the prosperity of this country stems from the mountains. So this morning, I will make my speech brief, regarding the state of our decision. As that is the reason for my request. All decisions are put before the village council, and that is what they would always say. However, the prisoner survived. That is the reason why you are upstanding, because of what? Not only with the threat from the virus, but we are also in the last few months of this Sitting, let us be productive.

Well, this fellow member will be put forth, excuse my language as I speak with respect.... Laauli, excuse the title of Laauli, he is the chief of this constituency of Vaimauga East, by the title of Fa'atafamanogi. What does it mean? This is an orator who speaks the words of this community. That is why I apologise to the Leader and the House, well, if there was a mistake or fault that was seen as unpleasant in this House, it is in that spirit. That is the spirit in which the nation has ordained us. We are Leaders, but now it has been seen again by our beloved country of Samoa, as this is the only thing that is observed by Samoa. They wait to see how the situation will be handled....

MR SPEAKER: Well done, the member's time is up.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILIILI TUIVASA: Well, that is the belief of this constituency, to let the prisoner live. With all due respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA (Faasaleleaga No.2.): We are making a lot of noise this morning in Tiafau, because of the important issue that has been submitted in the House. I offer congratulations and thanks to the Chairperson for the report and the advice that was given.

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This constituency has a belief that this House of Samoa is the House of chiefs. Yes, there are times when we set our political party views aside and we converse as chiefs. The remission of Afioga Laauli has been tabled in the House this morning, yes. Before the constituency gives an opinion regarding the issue tabled here, and the recommendation of the Committee, Laauli do not be offended by the statement that I will be making towards you.

You have already stated clearly this morning, that you are safe within this Parliament. The words of this Parliament to you this morning, is that the Parliament is safe with you. Yes, I listened intently. 3 weeks ago, your debate with the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the House, the courtesy of this House. Yes, directing the sails of the Hon Speaker. My body shivers, with the words you say and uttered in this House.

The whole world has witnessed the statements you made to this Parliament, stating that we do not understand the Act. Yesterday I heard you say, you are returning to clean up corrupt Politics within this Parliament. Let us take a closer look. Do not be overly addicted to catching fish which could ruin the net.

Now I am talking to you as a chief, this is Safotulafai, the authority of leadership and the senior authority. Yes, Mr Speaker, I would just like to say this to Laauli. Yes, the courtesy of our House, keep it in your words. You exerted the words, ‘abuse of power’. Yes, last night your humility was wonderful. You apologised and stated that it was successful. And we prayed for Court case to be triumphant. But then you turned to us and said, ‘watch it, I’m coming back’. Only a fool would not know the meaning of these words. Yes, take it easy. Yes, Laauli, Mr Speaker, that is the guidance of this constituency.

The words of this House are not mixed with sorrow. Yes, because in here, *e sua le aulapauta, sua le aulapatai*, but what? Let us support our seats of harmony and bound it with the love of God. The words of the Bible, ‘if you speak the words of man but do not possess love, it is a waste of time’. I have already made my statement to Laauli. Spilling something that I was unhappy about.

This is Laauli Polataivao, heir of Faleulu Mailei. What happens when the rug is laid-out? It will reach Sasina. You are stating that you are from Saleaula, this is Safotulafai, Leaula and Letufuga are brothers.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and thank you. The member’s time is up.

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Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA: To conclude my statement this morning.

Mr Speaker, Safotulafai is of the opinion, since our Parliamentary term is almost over, lest Laauli feels remorse, as he has apologized to the House, and so Safotulafai believes that another chance should be given to Laauli, so that we can work together again, yes.

Mr Speaker, this is a brief notion by this constituency. Hon Leader of the House, Hon Prime Minister, the faults of Laauli, is also the fault of the brothers, I ask for your forgiveness. All members from Salafai, I ask for your forgiveness. It has been made clear in the Committee's report that these circumstances are not true, my apologies. With the utmost respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well, direct it to this side of the House, apologies to the honourable...

I call upon the member for Aiga I le Tai. Also remember that you only have 10 minutes which includes the time of...and everything.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI (Aiga i le Tai): *O le aso ma le filiga, o le aso foi ma le mataigatila. O le lou ma lona fuata o le taimi foi ma le mea e tupu ai.* The day with diligence, the day with vigilance. The hook stick and its crop, also the time and its event. Mr Speaker, most of the time the House is praised, and most time the journey reaches its peak, but Aiga I le Tai sits quietly, well aware of its time. But today Mr Speaker, I believe that the Report of the House, the Ethics Committee Report, is tabled before us. As witnessed by the Parliament and our country, there is not a single area that has not been covered by our Committee. That is why I stand to express my gratitude to the Chairperson of the Committee. No, wisdom and opinions were not sought too far, the craftsman has poured out all of his skills. The Report is comprehensible, so congratulations on the preparations, congratulations on your foresight and prudence, but the discretion that was far-fetched, as you did not trail the image of the tree, as the declared in the poem of the man, you brought your decision, and your advice was given as it is laid before us.

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Hon Laauli, no words are needed to be said, we have one pillow and one blanket, and I cannot resign from the position. You dwell between these members, and when they are in dispute, and then it is your time, the sceptre of reconciliation, and the sceptre of peace. This is the issue that I wanted to give an opinion on this morning, Mr Speaker, witnessing the words that were uttered this morning by the member whom the matter is addressed to, it makes me feel sad, very sad. We are accustomed to days like this, as modesty is how victory is obtained. You have all heard, as we have all observed today, *na ona togi o le moa ae uu le afa*, it seems like letting go of the chicken and still pulling on the tether, alas, the Government is always blamed. It just seems like he is being humbled but there is some evil intent hidden within. It is not easy to blame the Government, because if your hand is impaled, it can be felt in your brain, excuse. These are the feelings, which have caused sadness within me this morning, as it appears calm but bitter, excuse the language. However, I remembered the words used on the island of Salafai when the young Lady Taputu Taputele shed tears while exclaiming, woe, woe to Faatuliaupolu, you were beaten but where were your relatives? Where were Tuato and Tuitolovaa? Where were Tevaga and Vaifale? Where were Togiai and Salemuliaga? These are the feelings of the morning.

But what does the Bible say? “Thou shalt love God with all thy heart, and all thy strength, and with all thy soul. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”. The question is, as it is my own personal question, who is your neighbour? My own response is, “it is your enemy”.

MR SPEAKER: The member’s time is finished.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: I criticize my fellow member because he does not acknowledge the Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister in many cases, it is raised. But this is the spirit Mr Speaker, I pray with the utmost respect, where is your discretion, between you the honourable member and the Leader of the Government and Parliament, though it is harsh, but that is a gesture of love, an aspect of forgiveness.

I beg you, just set it before you, where is the wisdom, to let the brother live. With all due respect. Bless the Assembly.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West. Well, now the Madam Deputy Prime Minister is upstanding. I give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Deputy Prime Minister): Thank you to the Hon Speaker for the opportunity. I rise with reverence and respect, as this hour, this issue is quite unique. It is pleasing to hear at the beginning with the comprehensive Report of our Committee, as well as the speech of the member whom this matter is referred to, the member for Gagaifomauga No.3. Your Excellency has also received some of the speeches and statements of the House, as it has been observed in the same spirit as we are accustomed to in times like this, and it is left to wisdom and reasoning, especially in maintaining peace and respect. Mr Speaker, this is the first time, I am not sure whether the statement of our Committee is correct, but perhaps for the most recent Parliamentary Term, or whether that statement is correct.

Mr Speaker, on the Report of the Committee, I would like to address the Report of the Committee. I believe that the matter put forth by the Committee is correct, because it refers to the words that have been said, the statements that were made and the written evidence. And the Report of the Committee has been submitted, confirming that the testimony of Hon Laauli presented in the House is false and incomplete, and it is also confirmed by Laauli with his appearance before the Committee, that the statement he made within the House was incorrect.

Mr Speaker, the words that were said will be set aside, there is no court to clarify that further, but the intention behind the statements, not only for the person who uttered the words, but also the response, especially the Government in presenting that evidence. And I can say that the meaning of Laauli's testimony is that the Government's allocation is not good, as too much money is being spent, but the testimony being heard by the Government, is that it seems like he is questioning the honesty of the Ministry, who prepared this scheme. These two issues are opposite, and so I have a question, do we focus on the letters of the words that were said, or do we prioritise the intentions behind the words uttered in the motion by the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 and also the response by the Government.

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Mr Speaker, perhaps we all have trials, therefore the sentence in accordance with the offense of violating customs within Parliament, and it is recommended that the member be excommunicated for 3 months. Mr Speaker, for any punishment, there is an English word called mitigating factors or measures to reduce a penalty imposed.

And it is also interesting to read that in the Committee's Report, this issue has also led them to conduct their extensive research into the process we use to purchase or spend our Government's funds. 1. The Committee has stated, prison services have poor arrangements, their preparations are not good. The Report states that they did not seek the advice of a person with experience, who could advise them, which this word is stated, we were moving obliviously, these are the weaknesses of our system. And then we come to the Tenders Board system, it was done twice, at first, 3 bids were submitted, and the Tenders Board said, the bids that were submitted are not good enough, and so it was readvertised, there was one offer, it was made too late, but since this is the only one, it was used.

Well, Mr Speaker, I am still looking for the cost of this generator. The only information on the cost of the generator is the statement that was made by Laauli in the House or in the Committee, stating that the generator was \$72,000. Mr Speaker, I am not saying in terms of right and wrong, but all these things must be submitted to determine the decisions of this House on the penalty imposed for this matter.

And so Mr Speaker, I do not want to monopolize the time of others who want to speak, but these are the aspects that I am talking about, mitigating factors as well as listening to the utterance of those members who are praying that this House be merciful, and it has also captivated my sentiments. And the way things work, Mr Speaker, if it is appropriate with our proceedings of this issue, I have an amendment that I want to put forth via motion on the Table. I respectfully ask whether the motion be moved now or set aside for a later time when the question is put forth. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. In any case, your desire can wait until the last minute and then you can put forth your amendment in case there is going to be a... Or you could stand up now and propose your opinion for an amendment.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Perhaps it will also be useful for our Clerk's records.

And the amendment of the motion is as follows, *To approve the Report of the Privileges and Ethics Committee on the matter of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, and to give him a stern warning to uphold factual information in the Parliament of Samoa.*

This is the motion Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Well, continue with the...the motion has been laid, but the question will be put forth in due time, because we do not know if there are any other motions that will be moved. I call upon the member for Falealili East to stand.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO (Falealili East): Well, I wanted to make an appeal since the motion has been moved, for an opportunity to give our opinion on this issue. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well, you may speak for 10 minutes.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Thank you. Perhaps I was just observing and looking, but now the wisdom of the staff of Fuifatu, the Ruler of Salafai, is now permitted to speak. It was also noted that Tuisamau has spoken, and it is thought that the house of Samoa is well known for its pillars, it was observed if Tumua and Pule were going to prioritise it in their speech, and we are fugitives or appeal to revive the penalty. However, this will not be seen as an excuse for us to miss an opportunity.

First of all, thank you to the Chairperson and the Committee who considered the matter. In fact, it is not necessary to hide the Report that has been well considered and made very clear. Thank you to the Hon Chairperson. I believe that no further statement will be made on the Report of the Committee, but it is also thought-provoking, as it serves as a guide for the future progress of this Parliament. It has its inherent advantages, its advantages to monitor the work performance of the Government, and it is also a way to give feedback to all members of Parliament in the areas of ethics to guide the opinions in this House.

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And so there is this feeling, it is only a few suggestions, as it is not hidden from Samoa and the audience and especially this Parliament, therefore the defendant confessed to the difference of the information and the dishonesty, I will not talk about it any further.

When I was elected as a new member of this House, I could hear Laauli from the back, you sat in this Chair, you were very proud. But I always looked up to you in the leadership of this Parliament. And so I sat and observed, it seems that listening from outside is different from what is happening inside this Parliament. What is different? You would always say that you follow the Standing Orders. From what we have seen, we are new members, and most of the time it is, it would reach a point of disrespect. That is our point of view. But the truth is, these lessons are purposeful for us, because it is being observed by the country. These words, may your words go together with your actions. Yes, for we always pray to God for righteousness, and our actions have to be in harmony with our words.

From my observation, anything can happen within this House wherever it goes, as they appear to be pointing fingers at the Leader of the Government. The Leader of the Government is the cause; the Leader of the Government is the cause. This caused a rift with one of the members, as they are also to blame. We also have families that call us, what are these bad politics that are in the Parliament, does it need to be cleared? What are those bad politics? However, it is noteworthy that the members of Parliament will be comprehended in the speeches, especially interviews over the radio and television. Well, my advice, you should directly address the members that you believe are engaging in misconduct in Parliament and ways that are not in line with the policies of Parliament. But to induce the whole Parliament, no, it does not affect the constituencies. And then it will affect the velocity of the scale. This is the most prominent House of Samoa with its gathering of chiefs, which is the reason why it is so important. There is no difference in the structure that is used in the villages and the gathering in this Assembly House. How come? The orator will go as far as possible, and then word is sent to bring wisdom to families to persuade them to restore the fine.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The member's time is up.

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Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: That is the feeling. In continuation of my statement, there are a lot of things that I wanted to talk about. But my advice to the honourable Member, there is no need to mention the families that you oversee, Sa Tupua and Sa Malietoa, it has enveloped Samoa, yes. When we lay out our rug, we are one, yes. The advice is, slow down, *aua ne i o tatou naunau i le i'a ae maumau ai le upega* let us not indulge in fish and lose the net, lest our greed be a means to break the sacred space, because there is a traditional space of chiefs, the rift of people respected by Samoa, are also respected by the village chiefs. Why are you doing this? We stop and watch and yet you keep going? And what can we say? How do we treat the leader? The same treatment that is done in the villages, the orators show respect to the high chiefs because they are the ones who protect the high chiefs. Nonetheless, just like the feelings this morning, Laauli, this is the house of chiefs, the desires of Falealili have been made clear. But the sentiment is for the prisoner to live. Give it a chance, let us work, but let this serve as a lesson for the member. It is the earnest prayer by Falealili to give the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 another chance.

Mr Speaker that is a matter of respect to you, Bless the Leader of the House and the Hon Speaker, and especially this House. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West to stand.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1 West): Mr Speaker, I stand in gratitude for this opportunity for Faasaleleaga No.1 West or the opportunity for the female member from Salafai. I stand as the descendent of Vaoita, the mother of the man who became ruler in Savaii. And on that note, I would first like to humbly apologise before the Parliament of Samoa, with the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, the Leader of the Government, the Hon Speaker and the honourable members of the Samoan Parliament. The mistake is confirmed and the Report is tabled. Any further statements that will come after, it is now confirmed.

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So I rise to express remorse, because the mistake made by the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, is also the mistake of Puleono in Salafai. As the words of Samoa, *a sala uta e tonu tai*, when a mistake has been made inland, it should be rectified at the seaside. Whatever misinformation that has caused this morning, it is the same as a life in turmoil.

Secondly, I apologise Mr Speaker, there is not a day that we do not mention the name of God, as the Lord is watching and listening, but the statements and actions that have been carried out are unsightly in the eyes of God. That is why I stand as a mother, as a woman to apologize before God for the disrespectful statements and the impoliteness of a person in the sight of God in this Assembly House of Samoa. At this hour Mr Speaker, a prayer, as I have already said, an offence that has been proven. For now, the search for success is found in humility.

Mr Speaker, I pray that, if the voice of this mother is acknowledged, the voice of Salafai, the Hon Leader of the Country, I pray in regard to your status as the father of the country or your status as a tolerant leader, I ask that you be patient, because you bear all the evil and mistakes and flaws and shortcomings. For that is the reason God appointed you, and ordained you with overflowing patients. In spite of the difficulty, in spite of your worldly temptations, but you stand firm because you have been ordained by God, you are a man of God. So I pray, be sympathetic, whatever the weakness, whatever the mistakes, whatever inaccurate statements made, I apologise, let this be repentance for all of us members of Savaii, because Gagaifomauga No.3 is a member of Savaii. Thus why, we are submissive before the Parliament of Samoa. Laauli, let these events be useful in the future. You are also a person that declares the name of God, living in the name of God. Be humble. Do not just carry the name of the Lord with you and not walk the path.

Mr Speaker, thank you for my opportunity, May God bless you, may you have strength to guide our Assembly as well as the Hon Prime Minister. But before I am seated, if the motion that was moved by the Hon deputy Prime Minister has not been seconded, then I will second it. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Mr Speaker, perhaps the House has witnessed the speeches of the members, this morning is different, the day is different, and the feelings that ensued were different, because what has transpired is something that rarely occurs, it is not something normal. So now, opinions have emerged regarding the decision that should be made, or decisions that should not be made. Every statement that was made in this House, are placed under each Act that we have now. Also all the activities of the members are under each Act, our in-house rules. And there is a reason why such Acts are created, so that members are not complacent with their speeches, through their actions. And now that this issue has arisen, it is now being considered by the House under our Acts. It has been referred to the Finance Committee and then it is returned to the Committee, these are the practices of Law, and it has reached the peak of Law. The advice was also given, and I fully accept the advice given, the investigation that was conducted in correct. We cannot avoid it, the facts are undeniable. The statements made by the fellow member were either wrong or inaccurate.

The decision on the punishment that will be imposed has been made. But as some have said, let us look at the view expressed by Laauli, in his own opinion it is correct, but only him alone, because we cannot see what was in the mind of Afioga Laauli as he stated, with all good intentions, with all good intentions, it is effective and correct. Because Laauli said, "I can provide proof that states the obtainability of a generator that is cheaper than the generator inscribed in the Report of the Committee, there would probably be no disputes? No dispute at all". Unfortunately, the words were already uttered, "I bought my generator", it was later uncovered that it was incorrect, he brought a different generator. But that is the exact meaning of this thing, the attempts of Laauli to prove his point, that there are cheaper generators. That is why this day has become difficult.

Mr Speaker and Hon Members of the House, my correlation with Laauli, and Asiata in Satupaitea, it is a very honourable correlation. My constituency is also observing, which side I will be walking towards, because Lautafi, his honorary salutations, "*Afio mai lau Afioga Lautafi, o oe o le Matua*". And so the constituency is paying attention to discern the movements of the Elder in this situation.

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Motion to extend Sitting Hours

Unfortunately, it is the Vaimalae that is involved in this case, the relationship between Aiga Samoeleoi, Aiga Sa Asiata, Tapaau and Alataua, The Tofa, Susuga, Afioga and Faautautaga, as another member of our Alataua has already spoken, but I stand, the relationship between me and Susuga Asiata, from the beginning to the end, that is a sacred relationship. Politics is not limitless, as it will end, but my relationship with Susuga Asiata is everlasting.

Mr Speaker, I pray that, since it was proven that the statement made by the member is incorrect. Like I said, whatever views shown by Asiata regarding this situation, those are his own views that he believes are correct, but now it has been confirmed, I plea, as the honourable member is now aware of his fault, he made a mistake at the time. But I implore you, I support the motion moved by the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, it has been approved, the decision has been given, the penalty that will be imposed, if there is a lesson to be learnt, it is useful. Laauli, you are an Asiata, turn over a new leaf. I sit and I observe, but I am also saddened that many of the statements that you have been making are not that of an Asiata. You are a caretaker, so you must have enough wisdom, as our constituency is listening while we exchange these statements. May God have mercy, may this be useful, may it be useful, and perhaps it will regulate some things in the future. Do not do so knowing that there is an Act that we must obey.

That is the request, Mr Speaker, may our Meeting be very successful.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

MOTION TO EXTEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, due to the importance of this Report, as all members wish to address it. Sufficient time is needed for the members to speak.

That is why I stood up, *To resume the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly this afternoon, until the Report of the Privileges and Ethics Committee has been considered and then the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be adjourned.*

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In submitting this motion Mr Speaker, this matter is very important, even since this morning he continues to make comments. I am behind these things. And yet he points his fingers at me, these is now remorse. Mr Speaker, I am not important. People hiding behind OLP have repeatedly sent insults towards me. But the importance of this matter is to respect and honour this Parliament of Samoa. How come? These are the pinnacles of the people of Samoa in all its honorary salutations, which are now in this House. And the word that refers to me as Leader also refers to the entire dignity of the Parliament of Samoa. Even last night, and now today he said, “Watch it! Be careful”. What is the meaning of these words? I really wanted to respond last night, as it reflects the person who is sitting at the highest point and looking down on the Samoan Parliament.

So my point is the glory of this House, now and in the future. If this perspective is overlooked, woe to the future Parliament in the sense that the Parliament of Samoa will be ridiculed. Surely after our debates he will talk with pride using gratifying words, and looking down on this Parliament of Samoa. In regards to these mistakes, Mr Speaker, it has been 3 days, I have observed that we have been discussing this matter for 3 days now, you have advised Laauli twice, to terminate the issue, but he continued pursuing it. I have the reports to prove it, and those are the reports that were tabled in Parliament. Are these known as speech slips? Speech slips are corrected within 2 or 3 minutes. But 3 days, these are plans that have been put in place for a long time, and it reflects the suspicion put upon the plans submitted by our Ministry of Police. That is the reason why I do not take this issue lightly. I feel compassion for the Committee for the amount of time it took. How come? Well the Committee did not take this lightly. That is the situation Mr Speaker, so let us not underestimate the great work that was done by the Committee. But for the protection of this Parliament for the foreseeable future, I believe that all the members would like to speak before I stand to give my opinion on this matter.

That is why I moved the motion, because I have a belief that, it is very important to all the members because these are the dignities of the kings and people of Samoa that we are able to be seated in these chairs. Mr Speaker this is my motion.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Seconded by the Minister of the Cabinet.

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Motion was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Remember that you only get 10 minutes. I commend the dignity of Parliament, there is a belief, Samoa is not a country, Samoa is a family. Well, it is correct, it is absolutely right. And so I suggest that, if we are to go by this belief, then we are all related to Laauli. Those are your desires, it is not the inclination of the Leader of the Government, but the will of Parliament, together with the will of Laauli to refer this matter to the Finance Committee and to receive the Report of the Finance Committee, and then you decided, that it should be submitted to the Privileges and Ethics Committee. Now a decision have been made, the number of sitting days has not been easy. The true meaning of the spirit within this Parliament is, to seek justice and to submit only the truth in this Parliament. Yes.

That is the spirit, but if we were to look the other way because of this social relation, then we will try to cover up the nature of this behaviour, because these are immoral behaviours within Parliament which are affected by our Standing Orders. And remember also, a member that points fingers towards the Hon Prime Minister, the Leader of the Nation and the Leader of the House, I think that this is disrespectful, it is also something that is disregarded in Parliament. It is a reminder that your speeches should deviate in that direction and to examine that perspective. I will not enrich the conditions of your opinions. But if today works out well, then the work of Parliament this morning will be successful. Yes, that is how it is, but just a suggestion to the honourable member, because it seems that we are prioritising social relations, for it is indeed true that it is a gathering of chiefs, but there are Acts to guide us. It is just a suggestion but I call upon...oh who is this member...

I call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to stand.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I would like to make a brief comment, but first and foremost, the Report of the Committee, with recommendations provided and all the information to confirm the status of the Report which was prepared wholeheartedly, as well as the investigation conducted by the Committee.

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Thank you to the Chairperson and your Committee. Your honour the basis of my opinion is because the integrity of the Reports being submitted to our Committee will be questioned. Recommendations were purposed to suspend Afioga Laauli, so my response to this is, I accept the recommendation, on the basis of protecting the integrity of your Committee. As the Hon Prime Minister also said, the decisions we make today will affect tomorrow.

Well, to Tofa Iuli, Hon Laauli, the only thing that makes me unhappy with you is your remarks that were directed at the Hon Prime Minister. Keep in mind that the Hon Prime Minister is the Leader of the House, the leader of our members elected by the constituencies. Do not forget the words of the Bible, we all submit to the authority. Who is the authority in here? It is the Hon Leader. It has been observed, excuse me, the statements you make are not pleasant to hear as it seems like you are challenging the Leader, but I believe that you are a person who follows the Bible, the Holy Word of God. But most of the time, your statements make my body shiver. I am also sympathetic towards the Leader, but perhaps the Leader will forgive your remarks, maybe God will forgive you.

Mr Speaker, many of the remarks seem to be directed at forgiving the prisoner. Personally, I find it hard to forgive the prisoner because of the things I have witnessed, but thankfully Laauli has admitted his mistake. That is why this is significant, as an alleged Report has been submitted regarding these allegations, and the Hon Laauli has admitted to the circumstances in which he is accused of. So this is the most important point. The best part is that the public have witnessed the confession made by the member regarding the complaints and the false promises that he made in Parliament. Maybe this will be a good lesson for Hon Laauli, to never repeat this reckless behaviour, as well as disrespecting the Leader. It is clearly stated in the words of the Book, we submit to authority. So the authority in Parliament is the Hon Prime Minister, and the authority by which we conduct our work as the children of God.

This is a reminder to the member since you preach with sincerity and righteousness. But these are just a few things that proves your negligence, at least you have repent. Incase I prolong a statement, but this is also my view, we all spend time with God and find forgiveness.

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However, I see the future decisions of our Parliament can be affected with the report of the Committee which is given the task to investigate and provide recommendations, fortunately some members have spoken, and I know that the majority of members are set in spirit and heart upon God, like what Samoa is founded upon.

This is a statement to support this and the motion moved by the Deputy Prime Minister. Let what happen not only reprimand the member, but also to reprimand Ministries that fail in carrying out their work in assisting our Government. With respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I call upon the member of Aana Alofi No.2 Tofa Ili Tafili.

Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I move to convey an opinion in regards to the matter tabled before the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. I believe there has been an unexpected turn of events this morning. It is through the love and mercy of God, the morning has pass where on behalf of this Parliament you expressed our gratitude to the God Almighty. I believe we are now sailing smoothly, since this Parliament has been through a tiresome few days in trying to pass our Budget 2020/2021. This morning, Parliament has once again gathered, unfortunately there is some tension in Parliament due to some factors.

The Report of the Special Committee who investigated the matter, we will not comment further, we only want to convey our gratitude. I thank the Chairperson and members. I strongly believe the decision was not made hastily, I know it was done with discretion, and it was calculated and compromised.

However, the findings of your inquiry have been tabled, together with the recommendations that outline the penalty for the member. Significantly in our observation, all findings have been proven based on the research carried out. In addition, rules of the House have been violated, which is why we sit back and observe, we try not to stand up or say anything, because there should always be facts, confirmation is needed for a statement made, which is the result of this matter. Not only has Parliament heard it today, but all of Samoa is witness to the matter being considered.

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Then we thought, we would like to address the member Susuga Laauli Schmidt. The truth is, you deceived the majority of members of Parliament. My statement is based on what you said in reponse to the group SSIG whom we met, whereby you questioned those in the Committee. So that is what I am saying, you are trying to convince the majority of this Parliament to stand between you and our Leader. It is often observed and puts the body in a state of nervousness, yes, because there is mutual respect between us. Unfortunately, there are times when we feel sorry for our Leader because of the disrespect. Mr Speaker, and Hon Leader of Government and respectable members of Parliament, there is a saying if one is wrong the other should make the right, but we cannot make a decision since that role is respected for you, the Chair and the Leader of Government, this is our opinion, we do not ask to continue with the recommendation made by Committee, we only pray and humble ourselves, because the fault of the member, is also a fault on our part.

This is a statement with respect for taking the floor at this time of the day. Bless the Sitting of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, followed by the Chairperson.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker this will not take long. If we look at the work faced by Committee, this is the usual practice of Parliament. Today we do what is best for tomorrow, and tomorrow is what we build today. The decision we make, is that.

I had a thought Mr Speaker, as I already stated the opinion of Vaisigano No.1 will be short. I also have a motion to convey, make it a 30 day suspension without any benefits, and there will be a win win situation for Committee and the member. I wanted to say a few words to the member however I will withhold what I was going to say. But that is my recommendation Mr Speaker, with all due respect to the Chairperson and Committee, I request that the penalty be only 30 days, without benefits. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I call upon the member of Alataua West, Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

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Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): Thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker, I feel like there is much tension this morning and I have noted, because it is our debate on the Appropriation that has resulted to this Report and the state of affairs we have in Parliament. If we look at our geneology, we are all related. We also have honorary salutations, we are all related. There is the salutation that is referred to us mothers, *o pae ma auli*, and it is also important to me that we all come from the island of Salafai. However, the only issue is, we are the ones that set an example for the future of our children sitting here, also the whole country listening to our proceedings. We all have the heart of forgiveness.

As I have already stated, the time this case started, I felt very sorry for Afioga Laauli Fossie Schmidt, because I knew that he did not receive all the information for the reason of this decision made by the Ministry of Finance, who prepared our Budget. However, I will not speak further on the matter. I forgave him because I felt sorry for him, it is unfortunate that he did not get all the information to understand it before making such remarks. However, I feel this is a great example to set for the future. How about us and the man from the Customs office that was terminated? What about the staff that can be fired if such accusations are approved and we find out that the staff is guilty of misconduct? They are fired, suspended, told to resign from their roles. But when it comes to us as leaders, we are seen as parents, we feel mercy and then we say let us forgive.

If this is the case, then let us all forgive the decisions we have made to the staff who experienced such situation. That is why I am concerned about this situation we are in, we will be setting examples based on personal opinion, and not have Committee to consider the matter of ethics, they will just be reprimanded here and forgiven. This is a weakness of Alataua West. It is to forgive, this does not mean that the member is right, but we have accepted his apology and his mistake. I only ask that the Report of Committee be accepted for future reference, let us look at our children, listening in, they are the future of our country. What may happen in future can be resolved by using what has happened today. Bless our Sitting Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. Perhaps this will be the only remark...

Pardon me, I give the opportunity to...

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Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISUAO PALEMENE (Palauli East): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. The member of Palauli East would also like to express his views, I am grateful it has been 3 weeks but Palauli East has not commented on our Budget, but now we have the opportunity to comment on this important Report this morning.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. But first of all I want to ask you, are you well, since you were...

Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISUAO PALEMENE: Mr Speaker, I am very well, I have already passed 14 days of quarantine at home.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank Committee for their report this morning, I also commend you for the efforts on investigating this matter. I support the report and also the recommendation given this morning, but the member of Palauli East especially Vailoa will follow justice in carrying out this report, also the remarks made in this House.

It is a fact since we are the new members who have been crowned in this House, it is a shock to hear such words since this is what guides us, we sit here in support day by day, especially the prestige that holds the dignity and work of this Parliament. Because the current situation of our Parliament and the future of our country are uncertain. This is why there is a different feeling this morning, Puleono of Salafai has already made a commendation, as for Palauli East, and we follow the Report for justice and to protect the dignity of this Parliament. We are often alarmed with sentiments made by the member, and I recall him saying that his attire is one of the oldest compared to other members here, and this portrays his arrogance.

As for the matter of us coming here, we are all the same, because if we were to contemplate, we all come from different backgrounds. I am very happy to have such measure be carried out because this Report has cost our Government money, but the simplest thing that should have been done then was just correct the wording of the report and amend what was stated, then the matter would have concluded, this could have saved funds spent on this Committee. Money have been wasted, and the employee for Customs was terminated, which has created a lot of mess. I pray and I am certain by now Afioga Laauli feels what has happened, but I rise with respect to support the Report of the Committee as presented. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Technology.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communications, Information and Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe we have heard the various opinions already conveyed by members of the House in regards to the matter considered.

Before I convey a word on the matter, Mr Speaker I first want to thank the Committee for their report Chairperson Afioga Nafotoa Talaimanu Ketu, Deputy Chairperson Tofa Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili, and members Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua, Afioga Taefu Lemi, Afioga Lio Foleni, Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko and Afioga Alaiasa Moefaauouo. Mr Speaker, I wanted the public to listen to the Committee that considered this difficult matter since it consists of lawyers, auditors and those who are intelligent and have been in this House for a long time. It is interesting to hear what you said earlier, that Samoa is a family, but this House is also founded on foresight and discretion of members. There are times when we debate, and the words we say are not said with caution, but I believe there is a boundary set for such measures to end.

In light of this issue, it is noted that there was not only one Committee. There was the Finance and Expenditure Committee then the member requested again for the matter to be considered by the Privileges and Ethics Committee, now the Report has been tabled. It is confirmed as I listen, that the Report has also noted the implementation of the work, but I am grateful that this is the second round of tender, and the experts was called upon on electricity measures.

Mr Speaker, I move with respect, this is what is happening now, all the members feel humbled, however listening to the speech by Susuga Laauli Polataivao Schmidt it seems he is not humbled with the Report. This is how I feel. And I believe a decision has to be made, we must look forward based on the comments made by some of the members on the dignity of the House, to respect our policies on what we say in the House, words that will not mislead the country. Unfortunately after it is discussed and confirmed here in the House there is always the possibility of it being mentioned again outside, and this is by the member and others.

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The problem is that most of the country are not listening to our proceedings which confirms many of these things, but the reason why it is questioned is based on the rumors that differ from what is approved in the House.

I can see some people on the internet watching our session continuously asking where is the \$20 million. It has already been approved in the Assembly, however this has occurred because of the commentaries made outside of the House voiced on TV, and this is misleading the country, this is the same with this matter.

I rise with utmost respect, it is the feeling of our constituency that we support the Report of the Committee to approve the offense of misconduct to Parliament. I then second the motion of the Hon Minister of Agriculture to amend the motion of the Committee. I apologize to the Committee for the motion to dismiss the member for 3 months, and the member to not be qualified for allowances according to Parliamentary standards. However, I pray with respect to our Parliament, and second the motion of the Hon Minister for Agriculture to reduce the 3 months to 1 month to penalize the respectable member.

Let this be an additional voice to this matter on behalf of our constituency. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member of Anoamaa East.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I am a member of the Committee, but I am of the opinion that respectable members are now allowed to speak on this matter. The crescent of the moon is now full considering the dignity here. The House and all of Samoa have also been notified on the origin of the matter. Therefore I thought, a man has more roots than a tree. This is the view as agreed, that Samoa is a family, as for this session and this Parliamentary proceeding, it is not, it is true that we are the chosen few for Samoa, not only for today but for tomorrow. This is the main House, whatever grivences that may occur behind in the small House it is always deliberated here. I also heard that this is a Sitting of matais, however I have noted that such actions seen is not that of a matai, in the relation between Tumua and Pule.

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If the issue arises from Pule, then you will be coming here seeking refuge, but how about Usoga? This is how our country is governed, you sit here and note the actions of the House.

There are times when members take the floor abruptly, but by whose authority, Tumua is sitting patiently, to keep the peace. Then I thought, this matter, has already implemented a lot of views, and the opinions of members on the matter has been heard, therefore it is nothing new. The Chairperson has already spoken, it is also our view to put it before Parliament, for a decision of Parliament. If you want to make a motion, I do not think the Committee will accept it? Implement your own Committees to make your submissions. There are only two things acceptable, it is either accept the motion or move on, that is all. That is the purpose of Committee.

Mr Speaker, I have heard some of the comments made by the member and I have also given him advice. The Hon Minister of Works has also stated that the name *Iuli*, are the eyes of this member from Anoamaa and Falefa, I am not just saying it. *Iuli*, is the *tula* of Alaisa, this is of mutual respect. This is why I say, a person has more roots than a tree. Yes. We have come to another new day, sometimes Afioga Tupua acts, in his relationship with Fatialofa, however I am sitting here. Because if I were to go in detail and explain this, I am certain that all of Samoa already knows the reason behind it. Therefore, I say, whatever is agreed upon, *Pule i Salafai*, this is the duty of Tumua, to maintain serenity. It is my duty to sit here and ask the House for wisdom and foresight, as I stated earlier this House keeps Samoa safe. I also stated in this House, no one is greater, we do not come here to obtain benefits for ourselves, and we have to look at the importance of our stance, our relations. Incase Lufilufi prolongs a statement, yes...

MR SPEAKER: The time for Lufilufi has concluded.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Eventhough there is much talk but it is with compassion, and whatever the decision is to be made by the Leader of Government and all of us, let us look at the culmination of the will of God. We do give our support, and it is something we cannot ignore.

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Resignation Speech by Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea

This is our word, all the best with the decision making, and prudence, good luck Mr Speaker, you are one of the remaining elders, and also the one administering the affairs of our House. I pray for your opinion. Blessings upon the Sitting of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, I move with respect at this time of the day...

MR SPEAKER: Alright, I give you the opportunity.

**RESIGNATION SPEECH BY SUSUGA HON LAAULI
POLATAIVAO LEUATEA**

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Yes Mr Speaker, I have noted with sincerity, and I feel empathy towards the opinions and remarks from members. The dignity of Pule, I know the honesty of your love. Also to all members of the Parliament of Samoa, I can feel your love, and I am grateful that you are thinking of me, thank you for your opinions, I have already given my apology Mr Speaker, as well as my opinion and how I feel. The actions that I have portrayed wrongly, I have already admitted.

Mr Speaker, I am just worried for the support of my constituency. I am mortified and ashamed of this issue, because what is done to me, will be aimed to my constituency. Hon Prime Minister, Afioga Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Neioti Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, I humbly apologize on our relationship, I appease you for any differences we encountered. But God knows my heart for you, you are aware, that is my intention. The respectable Chairperson I accept your report. I accept it. As for my families and constituency listening, be calm and patient. I have humbled myself, not once or twice, on a word or statement made in this House, I apologize. The case against me is not hidden, 3 days after the case closed, I lived in a house of shame. If the decision came to fail, I would have been up at the prison. However, Mr Speaker, I declare today, to all of Samoa listening, I want to formally offer my resignation to the Parliament of Samoa. I believe, I should have control over my heart, as for the comments conveyed today. I will take my leave with such bitterness of things voiced.

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I thank Pule, and to everyone who supported me. As for this morning, Afioga Toleafoa Faafisi I will not runaway like Faleata, or disappear like Aana. I will walk away in silence to do your will. Today is the day I formally resign from Parliament, in regards to this matter. I am ashamed, and I do not want members of Parliament to keep taking the floor, to argue the matter. The families of Malietoa, Tupua and Faletolu are giving support, let us look unto the Lord, for He is the source of justice to all things. Today, I accept the decision of the Committee, that I be suspended for a period of time. That is my dismissal from Parliament.

With respect, this concludes a word Mr Speaker, may the Lord bless you, and may you find strength in body, spirit and mind, to administer the Parliament of Samoa. Blessings upon the Hon Prime Minister, whatever wrong I committed between us, I pray the Lord forgive. The support of Samoa, my families, I have ruled over my heart, they have crucified me, but do not take it as an act of adversary within our country. This is my opinion with respect. But I will now leave the House.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member of Gagaifomauga No.3. The spirit of this Parliament, is that no one wants to abandon you, pardon me, for the words used. There is also no one who does not love you. Susuga Laauli Samoa is a family, this is the reason why I say this, because Samoa is a family. We work together, to find blessings for our country who are giving us their support. We did not come here to fight, but we came here to share our knowledge, so that we will be able to make decisions that will guide our work. We also place our trust upon the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations, in their stewardship and advice given to Government. Since you are aware I do not have to elaborate, it is brought to Cabinet and they decide, they ask for advice from the Attorney General, then it is brought before Parliament, to be an amendment to an Act or Bill. But the argument that is causing this protest, is the member constantly taking the floor, I suppose the opinions of hundreds are dependent on the opinion of the member. It is the duty of Government to take the floor and defend this matter, therefore the progress of orders is correct as presented. In case we prolong an explanation, but this was done to protect your position as the Minister of Agriculture at that time. You stand up to defend the position of the Ministry and Government, if other allegations arise, policies are blamed.

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However, there is no such spirit in this Parliament, but it seems you are angry. Be patient, because what we are trying to resolve is not for you alone. It is for all of us, for those who will follow, our children and respectable chiefs who will want to run and become leaders of the country. They should know, that they should come into this Parliament with caution, to seek justice and speak the truth. But this does not mean they come and say whatever, pardon me, but you cannot just come and say nonsense, to oppose Government, and manipulate another member. No, that is not the case, we have to find a solution today for the success of tomorrow. Let us not allow the evil to blame us. Why did we not do it to Laauli? That is the question, why did we not do anything to Laauli, the answer is, all members of Parliament are related. Why have public servants of Government been terminated, why were they charged? They are terminated, but for us we are forgiven. We have to look at the situation, if we have forgiven, it is nothing because we are in charge, we are the leaders. But this is what we should build together. This is why I am trying to highlight an opinion of the Leader of Government. We should respect the Leader of Government, why? He is the Hon Prime Minister, and I feel the pain, when I hear the Prime Minister speaking and you speak back. Let me be, since I am used to it, but that is how it is. Laauli you were also in this seat, and that is also how you felt.

This is why, in regards to the country listening, this is a statement of the Chair, but I will call upon the Hon Prime Minister. But I seem to be preoccupied with such a feeling.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Yes, Mr Speaker, I have taken the floor often, since I have been noted as a bad person in our meeting today. This is how I feel, however Mr Speaker, I apologise, I am not opposing. Apologies, I am in control of my heart, whatever the words and speeches made today, let us forget it. The sun will rise again on this matter. But this is enough, I beg of you, because not only are there words spoken here, but also words that agonize me outside of Parliament. Mr Speaker, with utmost respect I will now leave the House. But I will let the Hon Prime Minister decide together with the Parliamentary Committee.

I stand, because I do not have a reason to sit here, I have already given my resignation. I am on my knees and humble myself, I will take my leave, as it is the intention of today, with the hope that only God knows my weakness. But I have already apologized, whatever wrong action, or a word made in our relationship, I ask that you forgive me.

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I have already forgiven the Hon Prime Minister, and have respected the Chair and the support of Samoa today, this is enough for me. With the utmost respect.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUJUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise with utmost respect. Perhaps not one of us, is surprised with the statement by the member. The opinion of members are being voiced, and I thought, I would take the floor later to voice my own opinion, especially now that the motion has been moved. I was thinking after opinions were voiced, I would make a recommendation to Parliament, which would be to the delight of all of us, as well as the member. But it is important to me, that it be kept in our records, he has given a statement and agrees with the report tabled.

I want to thank the Committee for its findings. Remember, it was not one Committee, there were two. And it was the demand of the member, which caused this matter to be raised, as he is listening, I want to go back to the beginning of this investigation, to prove the allegations that have been brought to the Ministry of Police. Personally, as I mentioned, the suggestion he made to Parliament was good. That is why I thought there should be an investigation, to really find out if the allegation against the Ministry of Police is true. That is where the issue began. You have already stated, twice, that it is enough, as we all know the member acquired evidence before Committee, evidence that I believe should be proven accurate, incase police officers are fired without it being confirmed. This is why the matter was referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee, a report was given but still the member asked that the issue be given to the Ethics Committee.

I rose again, and moved a motion, that it be referred to the Privileges and Ethics Committee, which was his request. This is the report that we are discussing today. So the views of our Parliament have not been heeded, which is Parliamentary practice.

We have all heard, the members that have spoken, there is the intention to forgive. We have not yet concluded the sharing of views, however I hear, that majority of members want forgiveness. This is all centered on our Christian and cultural values. Also Westminster practices. I can see that we are nearly done with our deliberations.

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I will tell you my opinion now, I will not sit back. Personally, the motion by the Deputy Prime Minister has been moved, and we must contribute to such matter. Considering the big task faced by the Privileges and Ethics Committee. So I thought, this is a good situation, for us to contribute, because these are the words of our country, we have to contribute to the major work carried out by the Committee.

The Committee as well, are distinguished members of Parliament. Mr Speaker, they are the intellects of Parliament. Now their recommendations have been tabled before Parliament for our consideration. But I just stated that there were still a few, but now that I am upstanding, I have made a decision. My decision, is a warning. However, I only ask that such baseless accusations will not be made again.

That is a decision I thought of, but first I take the floor, to ensure that it is recognized, to consider the work of Committee, then opportunity is given to the member to consider because he is accusing me, it is not... the decision of Parliament was made on the motion.

Mr Speaker and respectable Parliament, this is not the practice of this Parliament. However, the member has given in his resignation, so what else can I say? The member feels that his resignation be conveyed to Parliament, but the remarks made today are very useful. It is useful for this Parliament and going into the future. Because what happens today is a lesson for tomorrow.

There was a similar case that occurred, if I recall I think it happened in 1989. It was either 1989 or 1990, I was upstanding making an address to Parliament on the plans of Government to set up our Housing Corporation, to assist our country, to help our country who were in need of assistance, for loans to build their houses, the corporation has now grown.

The problem was that they could not easily get loans from the banks. This is the norm in this country. This is why the Samoa Housing Corporation was established, however I was the one in charge of discussing the Bill, in second reading, to set up the corporation. But the member for Anoamaa East stood up, directly saying, it is all a lie.

Then I responded, no what I was talking about is not a lie. We debated back and forth three times, then he stood up and made harsh accusations towards the Prime Minister. Then a motion was moved by Sefuiva, and I seconded it, for the member to go and obtain evidence, in regards to the harsh accusations that he made towards the Leader of the House.

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I seem to recall it took 4 days to find it, but later returned with nothing. A decision was then made, and the member was expelled from the House for the remaining period until the General Elections, which I believe was 12 months. So such things have happened in Parliament. It is not something new, especially when it happened during my time, and I have witnessed such matters being thrown into this Parliament. This matter is important considering today, once a matter is voiced here, it is aired all over the world. Our deliberations in the House are now being broadcasted overseas.

The words that we are speaking now, is now being broadcasted to the whole world. This is the reason why, the remarks made by members this morning are important. It is not me that matters, the person is not important. But I am only one of the members. The important aspect, is the dignity of this Parliament. Let not one member look down on this Parliament and ridicule it. Because the things that I have heard are quite serious, ever since I came into this Parliament, it is the first time to hear unpleasant allegations, and it is also stated that some members are conspiring to kill him. There is no such thing, to me it seems that the member is only creating rumors, so people will feel sorry, producing anger in this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, this is why the comments voiced are important. These are the views noted by the country, because the statements we voice, are done in the House and we are also judged by our country. Whether it is based on love or mutual respect, or whether it is for justice. Mr Speaker, if we were to consider justice, you no longer look to the left or right, but to judge the righteous, whether it is just, that is what will be done. We do not look left or right. This is the same within our villages. Whoever puts the community under the highest standards of fines, it is decided upon by the village.

Mr Speaker that is the situation. We have our communication values in the House, our cultural values of mutual respect. If we look at other Parliament overseas, some even fight within the House. But what are we doing? We have respect, we have our mutual respect to do such things.

These are the cultural values of Samoa. No matter how out of control it may be, but we are patient. These are the words that cannot be spoken in this House. But the end of these things Mr Speaker, is patience, and forgiveness.

This is what I observed, I can see we are nearly finished, and then I would stand according to the foresight given. And I thought the motion that was moved is great. A recommendation is more than enough, for the contribution of Committee. Those are the words of our country.

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The Committee spent a lot of time, to carry out their investigation. It was not only one Committee, there were two who carried out this task. It is difficult because of the dignity of Parliament and the order given.

Mr Speaker, that is the case, however it is now useless. It is useless now that the water has been spilled, and the member has given in his resignation. I would like to speak on this matter again, there is no issue between me and the member.

The member is a chief of this village, he is Tupua, he guards the dignity of Fatialofa and Auelua. I was the one that blessed his title. This is very important to me. But such actions cannot be tolerated, in regards to the words of Lepa.

Mr Speaker that is the significance. What makes this member important to me? He was Speaker of the House, chosen by this Party, and we put our trust in him, and later I re-elected him again as a Minister of my Cabinet. When the dispute happened with Afioga Peseta, I talked with him, this is the truth, however I have heard that he rejected it. These are words between me as Prime Minister and the Ministers of Cabinet, tomorrow turn in your resignation. He said he will resign from Cabinet and as a member. I advised him not too, because he never knows if he will be lucky at Court. Now he is lucky.

Mr Speaker, he has once again resigned today. Therefore it is not anyone's decision, but it was his own free will. However he would not have been a member of this House a long time ago, if I had given up, as it has been suggested, when he did not follow my advice. To this day I also deny those things that I did not say.

Mr Speaker, perhaps the words of our country, are at stake. I was waiting anxiously out of respect for members who have taken the floor, there are not many members left to speak, then I will take the floor in regards to motion moved by the Deputy Prime Minister. The motion moved is great, a motion to bridge the gap. The Committee has already made its contribution. Now there is also protection, perhaps this is the most amiable, from other motions moved.

Mr Speaker, I apologize to the House that there is nothing between me and the member Afioga Tupua. And all of our country is taking note of it. Why? Because the deliberations we carry out here, is heard by the whole country. This is the meaning of what I said, they can, words spoken outside are different, but the words that we speak in this House is noted by the country, who are listening to our deliberations. And it is in the records of this Parliament.

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My apologies Mr Speaker and members of the House. I also appease all of Samoa listening in, this is not our decision. As of the decision made today, it is the decision of the member alone, which is a result of the decision now before the House. Perhaps this is not the end of things, the sun will rise again. Mr Speaker, let us leave it to God, He will bring warmth to the member whom we have worked with in this Parliament. Let us forgive our brother, and also pray, he forgives us, the spirit here Mr Speaker, is to maintain the dignity of this Parliament, now and forever. May we live and prosper.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, we have...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli (Palauli West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Well it is now concluded, I apologize to the member, please take your seat. I also appease all members who are upstanding, the Hon Prime Minister has spoken, on the matter tabled before Parliament, to speak for ten minutes, on the report tabled by the Privileges and Ethics Committee.

The matter has now been discussed, hence the Hon Prime Minister has taken the floor, to move a motion in support of the opinion moved by the Deputy Prime Minister, and it has been seconded by some Ministers of Cabinet. There are also other motions moved and seconded, and I believe a question will be put on the motion, because the motion moved by the Hon Prime Minister is supported by the members of the House.

Susuga Hon TUILAIPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, this is a matter pursuant to Article 46 of the Constitution, (2b). It is stated in the Constitution, if the member resigns his or her seat by writing under his or her hand addressed to the Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. Since this matter was tabled, I believe opinions of Parliament have been voiced, also a motion was moved, since it is the work and report of Committee, I believe their contribution should be acknowledged considering the work they faced compiling this report. The matter here will result in terms of our debate. There will come a time when the Chair will convey an opinion in relation to the motion moved by the Hon Prime Minister.

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The motion supported, approves the Report of the Privileges and Ethics Committee in regards to the member of Gagaifomauga No.3. To give the member a stern warning, to emphasize the stating of facts in Parliament and to maintain good behavior.

There is understanding, that the resolution given will be recorded in regards to questions that may arise in the future, however work on the resolution of Parliament in relation to the submission of the Report has been done. The Report of the Committee was not easy.

But since we have now.

Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister, is there anything...

Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa: Yes, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Leader of Government, in acknowledging the amended motion voiced.

But we are people of the law and we are ruled by set provisions. It is a reason why the motion was moved to establish the opinion of the House. My mind is still asking, since it is very clear in our recordings, that Afioga Laauli has resigned. He has resigned however we have yet to conclude on deliberating this matter.

I keep asking because I am uncertain, what is the point of our decision, if the person we are talking about is not here? Whether there is the Clerk of the Assembly, or whether you understand these methods, except as stated in the speech by the Hon Prime Minister, that a written resignation must be submitted. In order to protect ourselves, let it not be reflected that we speak only of dignity, but be dignified on how we follow provisions.

This is the only query Mr Speaker on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. The Chair believes, the resignation given by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 was made when Parliament was concluding debate on the matter. Since the matter was tabled under the Committee report, the Parliament must make a decision in regards to the Committee chosen to investigate the matter. A matter that Committee was in charge.

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Motion for Adjournment

Therefore a decision has been made to give a warning, this is the decision that we have agreed upon this morning and for tomorrow, if the matter ever occurs again.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Prime Minister has moved a motion, that I should obtain a written resignation from the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

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

Motion approved

MR SPEAKER: I now call upon the Hon Prime Minister for a motion of adjournment of our matters, and a day to adjourn it too.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion that *Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now adjourn until Tuesday, 18 August 2020 according to Parliamentary Sitting Calendar.*

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

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I commend you all for the work today. I believe it has been tiring for our Parliament over the past two weeks of sessions, now it is the third week, well this is the nature of Parliamentary practice when we have a lot of work, we work from the day into the night. Thus it is also dependent on our strength.

Members should remember if you amiss telling the Chair about your absence three days in a roll, that is one opportunity to make your seat vacant. This is a reminder because I have noted there are members who do not care and if they want to stay they stay. This is a reminder, and if there is a commitment elsewhere, I ask that you let the Clerk or the Chair know as it is the usual Parliamentary procedure.

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Motion for Adjournment

I take this opportunity, to apologise, for any rude statement made that may have offended members, the Chair was only doing its duty to administer our work, and I believe that there is no one who is perfect at their duty. I only ask for forgiveness, and let us move forward for the better.

Before we adjourn, I will conclude our Sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 2:12 pm until 9:00 am on Tuesday 18 August 2020 in accordance with the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2020/2021.