

TUESDAY 4TH JULY 2017

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayers.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I announce proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed.

I take this opportunity to welcome with respect the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and all Members of Parliament also to the Chief Executives of Government Ministries and organizations also the police force in serving and safeguarding this Parliament. I acknowledge as well the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

I acknowledge the presence of one of the Members for Falealupo one of the eldest Members of Parliament, he was not able to attend other sittings since he has been recuperating overseas. I thank the Lord for his guidance and strength given for the Member to be present with us today.

OBITUARIES

Mr Speaker announced the passing of Tofa AUTAGAVAIA Lave, who was a Member of the previous Parliamentary term.

Tofa AUTAGAVAIA Lave, was first elected as a Member of Parliament for the constituency of Palauli East in the XIII Parliamentary term, in December from the years 2001-2006.

He was a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the year 2001-2006.

Tofa AUTAGAVAIA Lave was a Member of the Human Rights Protection Party, HRPP.

Tofa AUTAGAVAIA Lave passed away on the 19th June 2017.

On behalf of Parliament I convey sincere condolences to his wife and family especially the constituency for the sad passing of Tofa AUTAGAVAIA Lave.

Members of the House took to the floor for a minute of silence to show respects for the Member who have passed.

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**CONSIDERATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 117(1) Committee of the Whole House will now consider Committee Reports.

I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 117(5), the Committee of the Whole House shall consider the Committee Report on an Annual Report and the Government Response.

In following provisions of Standing Order 55, only Members who submitted written queries will speak upon the Government response during the time it is being read out by Government.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO.50, REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND
EXPENITURE COMMITTEE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.14,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA LIFE ASSURANCE
CORPORATION FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.**

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA
(Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditures Committee):**
Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No.50, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No. 14, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation for the Financial Year 2015.*

Motion approved.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance, Samoa Life Assurance Corporation): Respectable Chairperson I will now read out the response of Government in relation to recommendations made by the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Pursuant to the recommendations made by Committee as stated above on the Annual Report of the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation ended 30th June 2015 response is hereby given.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.14, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE SAMOA LIFE ASSURANCE
CORPORATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.**

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P.P. 2016/2017 No.50, Report of the Financial and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.14, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation for Financial Year 2015

Recommendation 1:

That the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation maintain its new policy holders at no less than 10% annually, furthermore, the Corporation should develop guidelines to encourage policy holders at not less than 10% annually, furthermore, the Corporation should develop guidelines to encourage policy holders not to withdraw but to retain their policies till it matures.

Response:

Government has set a target of 15-20% increase in annual premiums per annum in the Samoa Life Assurance Company's corporate plan 2017-2020; the government noted that the SLAC was determined to meet the target set.

The Corporation has developed guidelines to inform policy holders the importance of not withdrawing early but to retain their policies until maturity.

Recommendation 2:

That the Corporation reviews its policies with regards to Superannuation provisions to be in line with the Cabinet Directive.

Response:

The Minister of Finance referred to Cabinet Directive relating to Superannuation of staff members Super Plan had been discontinued; however, the Superannuation plan provided by the SLAC to the general public. The Minister also noted that the SLAC intends to review its Superannuation policies in the future to ensure effective services are offered to its clients.

Recommendation 3:

That the provision of Contingency Reserve Fund be reviewed to ensure efficient funds are available to cater for policy holders claims in the event of an emergency.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Response:

The Mortality and Contingency Reserve Fund being set aside in the Financial Statements amounts to \$1.1million by the Corporation with the Actuary's support. The SLAC will consider reviewing the Mortality and Contingency Reserve Fund to cover policy claims in the event of Natural Disasters.

Recommendation 4:

That the Corporation utilizes and competes with Commercial Banks in terms of loan lending interest rates. The Committee believes that competing with Commercial Banks will provide better interest rates than what is being offered to date.

Response:

The Corporation continually seeks for information on interest rates and quotes from various Commercial Banks for timely deposits. The Bank with the highest interest rate will be chosen as the bank for the Corporations deposits.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Chair person I move a motion *that the Committee of the House approves the Government response on the report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government response on P.P.2016/2017 No.50, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.14, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation for the financial Year 2015.

**P.P.2016/2017 NO. 51, REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SECTOR
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 4, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015**

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA
GIDLOW (Chairperson, Social Sector Committee):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Chairperson.

Honorable Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the House approves P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for financial years 2014/2015.*

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Motion approved.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Thank you Mr Chairperson for the opportunity.

We have witnessed the grace of the Almighty and his protection upon us that has enabled us here this morning, respectable Chairperson and Members of the House, the Leader of Government and everyone gathered here this morning.

I move with respect to read the response of Government in relation to recommendations tabled by the Social Sector Committee.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.4,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015.**

Recommendations 1:

To thoroughly reconsider decision on the non-payment of 30% sick leave entitlement of teachers as it affects their performance. Due to the nature of their work, teachers need to attend everyday but removing such benefits will cause other problems.

Response:

The Minister noted that the payment of 30% unutilized sick leave upon retirement, resignation or moving to a contract position was removed when the PSC reviewed the working conditions for all public servants that were passed by Cabinet in December 2015. Unutilized sick leave rolled over to the next year, hence the accumulation of sick leave balance over the years and some have leave balances in excess of 200 up to 300 days. Staff members can utilize this when they take prolong sick leave and have exhausted all other leave avenues. The change means only 20 days can be carried forward to the next year, and anything in excess of 20 is forfeited.

In a teacher's case, those who have been teachers all their lives and served for more than 20 or 30 years have accumulated up to 200 and 300 unutilized sick leave. When the change took effect, all this amount of 200 and 300 sick leaves forfeited and a new balance of 20 sick leaves was granted to everyone.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

The impact of this is that all teachers tried to utilize their sick leave throughout the year, meaning each teacher will take 20 extra days off the school calendar (4weeks) on top of other leave. This adds more stress to the already severe teacher shortage we are currently facing. This at the end of the day, will impact negatively on the students.

Recommendation 2:

To collaborate with parents and village councils to encourage children in schools in order to reduce the number of drop out male students in Year 12 & Year 13.

Response:

The Minister noted that the Ministry (MESC) has already begun to address this via face-to-face meetings with School Committees and via TV news release to provide home and community support for the Ministry's effort for Literacy and Numeracy activities. There are on-going inter-ministry discussions with MWCSO for the support of the Pulenuus and Sui Tamaitai in monitoring school attendance of compulsory aged students and promotion of family and Christian values at the family and village level. MESC and the Officer of the Attorney General are in the process of discussing the review of the Education Act 2009 in particular the Compulsory Education provision to lift the compulsory age from 14 to 18 years old.

Recommendation 3:

To look at ways to encourage and promote culture in all Government schools as well as increasing allocated funds to implement such programmes.

Response:

The strategies for cultural practices will be announced in the upcoming months, it evaluates guidelines for the improvement of culture within schools. This strategy will pilot the work emphasized by Government on matters concerning our culture for the next five years.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Recommendation 4:

To establish a new office of the Ministry in Savaii due to the following reasons:

- i. Reduce movement of employees for educational matters.
- ii. Make it easier for parents to pay SSC and SSLC examination fees.
- iii. Encourage close communication between the Ministry and employees from time to time.
- iv. To achieve the government mission that what's good for Upolu is good for Savaii.
(O le mea e lelei mo Upolu e lelei foi mo Savaii)

Response:

MESC has already secured 1-acre piece of land through a lease with MNRE with the official paperwork in work-in-progress. It is the intention of the Ministry that a MESC facility be built in Savaii with staff to provide assistance as described in (I) to (IV). Negotiations with MOF to fund a new facility are in the pipeline. The exam fees collections are gathered through fortnightly collection at the Salafai Public Library Salelologa.

Recommendation 5:

To build a new convenient Museum and National Archive building in town for tourists and the public. It also ensures that our culture and heritage is well preserved.

Response:

Proposal for a new Museum of Samoa was presented to the [Japanese Ambassador to Samoa and JICA, for funding](#). The official proposal was submitted in March 2015 to the Japanese Government through the Samoa Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

The Arts and Culture Centre was proposed during an earlier visit by a Chinese delegation in 2014 to MESC. The visit by members of the Huizho Municipality China in 2016 brought this project as a possibility for funding. It was put forth to the CEO of MFAT and PM and was endorsed as part of Samoa's official projects to hand over to the Huizhou delegation for funding. Ground breaking is scheduled for November 2016 at the old Apia Primary and Central Administration area. The building concept is yet to be negotiated with the donors, but it is envisaged that this Arts and Culture Centre will include a National Archives.

Recommendation 6:

To encourage school committees to improve and raise standards and conditions in schools. A clean and safe environment will help children's education and healthy lifestyle.

Response:

In Part 1 of Requirements needed for schools, it clearly outlines a set framework of what is needed and appropriate for a healthy lifestyle for students within schools' grounds.

There are two major programs put together by the Education Committee this financial year. One for Upolu and one for Savaii. These programs were a remembrance of guidelines needed and duties associated with each sector. This program will continue to be implemented to set proper grounds and strengthen the relationship between the Ministry and school committees.

The Ministry is closely working together with the Ministry of Health on maintaining these guidelines.

Recommendation 7:

To consider other appropriate measures to control the maximum number of students in each class as one of their Policy. The committee noted from their visits that some classes in other Primary schools are double the maximum number, and raise concerns on the risk it has on students.

Response:

The reappointment of some teachers who have diplomas, this was one of the approaches took to resolve the issue.

The Ministry supports children being sent to schools within their own constituencies to minimize the number of students within classrooms of schools in the urban area.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Recommendation 8:

The establishment of a state owned printing press to merge the printing divisions under the MESC and MWCSD due to the following:

- I. The two printings need new buildings for printing services. The committee noted from the visits that the two buildings posed safety risks to employees and the merging of the two will also save funds for both ministries.
- II. Confidentiality of Government records and information such as Financial Estimates, exam papers, ballot papers and others.
- III. Utilization of skills and knowledge in full capacity.
- IV. Corporatization will not only provide the services to Government entities but will also allow competition with private businesses.

Response:

The building of a printing press for the Ministry was also in the future plans implemented over the years by the Ministry. Unfortunately, this project could not take place because there were no funds. When the printing of exam papers for the SSC and SSLC took place in Samoa the Ministry worked together with the Ministry of Finance on this goal. Also the design of the new printing press was advertised unfortunately further implementation was withheld due to the lack of financial support.

The same request was again submitted in 2016 and we are now awaiting a decision from Cabinet for the funding of the printing project under the Ministry of Finance. The printing press prints school textbooks (curriculum statements) and also books for teaching materials and also examinations papers each year, it is very expensive to maintain it because it is an old building.

Major improvements are needed for a new printing press to be able to carry out the work. There will be major problems in future if we continue to use this old building. Majority of the large printers have broken down since it is too old and hard to maintain. Another aspect it is not safe anymore for employees considering the poor condition such machinery being used.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Recommendation 9:

To reinstate school inspectors for the following reasons:

- I. Monitor performance in each school.
- II. Foster communications between teachers and village school committees in areas that need developments.
- III. Be a spokesperson between the Ministry and teachers in resolving disputes.
- IV. Principals can focus on his/her teaching career rather than spending more time to monitor teachers' performance.

Response:

Documents have already been prepared for resubmission to the Public Service Commission together with job descriptions for school inspectors on new requirements needed together with new objectives for much needed outcomes. These requirements have been compiled together to monitor and revise the duties of school inspectors.

We are planning to submit the revised documents to the Public Service Commission at the start of October 2017.

Mr Chairperson....

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

For the clarification of the House there were only two Members who submitted written requests based on the response of Government voiced by the Hon Minister. It is the Member for Faleata East and the Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West. These will be the only Members that will get an opportunity not more than ten minutes for a clarification on the response made by Government after the Minister answers your queries submitted.

I now give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata East to take the floor.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING (Faleata East): I move with respect to greet the Honorable Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House this morning.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Mr Chairperson I humbly request a clarification from the Hon Minister on the response of Government presented.

Response to Recommendation 1:

I support the reconsideration on non payment of 30% sick leave entitlement of teachers to resolve the problem stated by the Ministry.

Every teacher at the start of their career should sacrifice there time in school rooms to teach our children. The award of an honest, hard working and meticulous teacher is not evident in the beginning of their service but only when they are retiring or have advanced on to contractual positions. It is normal for us when we are younger to be healthy and that is the time when we are strong and not have any illnesses.

The accomplishments we make will only be evident once we retire from the work we have been doing over the years. We will be greatly rewarded later based on our honesty in fulfilling our duties. I am not sure on the reasons for taking away such benefits, but it is a needed benefit, I support this consideration even though it was put aside due to lack of funds. We should be honest with the work we carry out, we must develop our education sector for the next five years of this Government.

Response to Recommendation 2:

I support the age group for compulsory education from 14-18 years unfortunately the Government must look at other ways to assist on finances for school fees. Majority of students especially from rural areas get the chance to get into University but later cannot afford to pay the fee. It was mentioned in one of our sittings for funds from SIFA on such matter for school fee loans. Eventhough there are some countries that were not able to execute such strategy the Government should still evaluate a method to assist our children in paying fees.

Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON: Very well thank you. I call on the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Pardon the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Chairperson such matters are not new and it is blamed on policies implemented by Government in the past, which had limited guidelines. The reason why these guidelines were set were to address some issues that occurred then. If such issues occur we cannot just give it to the Public Service Commission to resolve.

First recommendations must be made which is simply showing compassion. Once you think of something you think of love. There is a country Ethiopia which was ruled by the Emperor Haile Selassie. Every time Haile Selassie goes on site visits his soldiers always take him to areas that have outstanding houses then they would tell him your kingdom is a hundred percent. There was a time when he went on a site visit and he suddenly told his soldiers to take a different road. When they got there only the poor people were residing in the area. If you visited this country then and stopped at the traffic light the people would come begging while you sit in the car. Haile Selassie did not know what to do. He then filled boxes with money and gave them to the people to satisfy their needs. There are reasons for implementing such policies.

Other important reasons involve all public servants of Government, to encourage them to take a leave, a time period to recharge. This will be the opportunity for another person to take over their duties, this is a control system some are not aware of though certain corrupt practices are revealed.

This is a reason why some people do not want to move away from their posts because if another person comes they will easily find errors that they have done. This will affect the whole of Government, it is important to reassign employees from one section to another to assess the work and ensure that there will be no errors. This is where the issue always occurs it is found mainly with those who say that they are busy and cannot take a leave since they are too busy. Mr Chairperson there are a lot of issues contained in this period of 30 days. There are some who are able to carry out all the work thus we all know we are not always strong therefore we always have to take a leave.

There was a teacher that came all the way from Savaii to see me, I asked what do you want? She responded, I came to humbly ask for your assistance if you can guarantee my loan of \$1,500 for my husband's airfare to New Zealand. I asked what does your husband do. He is a teacher at another school but he wants to go to New Zealand.

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Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

I asked what he wants to do in New Zealand. He wants to visit his father who is ill. What will he do if he gets there? Will he be able to make his father live longer yet you have missed out on classes just to come here for such request? If you think about it, it will not be worth it going there because he will not go there to heal his father.

As an advice I will give you money for a ticket to go back to Savaii and tell your husband to use his common sense because his pay and your pay cannot afford a ticket also you have loans to think about, and going there for a holiday will not help his father at all.

Mr Chairperson there are a lot of issues noted under these recommendations. Even though the Ministry of Education may ask assistance from the Public Service Commission they already have with them the information on the investigation carried out, these are the issues I have heard in symposiums. This is the reason why other schools have poor standards, the teachers should be assessed on what they do for the eight hours of work. It is not only the Ministry of Education that needs this 30% but also other Government Ministries. Although if we assess those who want this we will find out that they do not work for eight hours, you will find that they are having fun elsewhere.

Mr Chairperson recommendations have already been established I ask that you leave the matter for the Ministry to evaluate because we cannot directly imply a recommendation once it is given. The recommendation given by the House is evaluated again whether it is necessary to implement changes or not. This is the same with loans, it is carried out in other countries but later on the people will move elsewhere to work because they cannot pay it back. There are hundreds of dollars being loaned by students going to school in New Zealand, there are many opportunities for such assistance for the Government of New Zealand. Only countries that are fortunate are able to give such assistance.

This is a reason why we cannot implement the recommendation given straight away, the Ministry of Finance also has to assess the matter and we just passed the other Bill that was greatly criticized. The problem is many are happy to write requests to do this and that therefore the only [resolve the Government will set out to do is to increase duty and taxes](#). Although every time we do this there is a lot of criticisms voiced.

This is why Mr Chairperson in case we over exert ourselves in this matter for the Government to fund everything the Government might in return increase taxes and duty. This is the reason I have taken the floor because the policies implemented were not drafted lightly it is based on what has happened and has been witnessed by the Ministry in charge of such matters which is also implemented within other Ministries.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, the matter is now clarified. There is an understanding all matters have been addressed for the Member of Faleata East. Since there are two Members who submitted written queries I will now give the opportunity to the Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West. I call on the Member for her clarification.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW: Thank you Mr Chairperson for the opportunity. First I want to thank the Hon Minister for the response of Government presented on recommendations made by our Committee. Nevertheless, with respect there are parts of the response given that still needs further clarification for this Member.

First Mr Chairperson I have heard the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister on such matters therefore I will not reiterate further on those aspects. Although for recommendation 6:

Recommendation 6:

I accept the objectives set for schools as voiced in the response by the Ministry but unfortunately the Committee believes that guidelines are not followed for such programs because the recommendation made is based on site visits, we noted that committees have not been performing their duties. I recommend that such matters be monitored and reviewed to ensure progress of such programs in schools throughout the year.

Mr Chairperson a more detailed explanation on the matter is the need for improvement on school grounds where our children attend. I am certain it is not something a lot of Government funds will be spent on, also there should be a collaboration with school committees. The condition of school grounds has been noted to be quite unattractive, this is something the Ministry and the school committees can work in partnership on achieving.

Recommendation 8:

The Ministry has accepted the poor conditions of the printing press unfortunately there is no further clarification on the response given to merge the printing press of the Ministry of Women and the Ministry of Education to minimize expenses and improve services for both Ministries.

Thank you Mr Chairperson for the opportunity.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.51, Report of the Social Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education,
Sports and Culture for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

CHAIRPERSON: I respectfully call on the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Mr Chairperson I wish to speak upon the matter raised by the Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West.

Recommendation 6 as mentioned by the Member is quite true. It is the expectation of the Ministry to work together with school committees in the future. We have already carried out a Memorandum of Understanding on implementing policies on ensuring better cleaner environment for schools. This is not only done for school's grounds but also for food sold in cafeterias these are the areas monitored by school committees within villages to work with the Ministry because we cannot do everything base on the number of staff, therefore with the assistance of school committees collaborating with the Ministry we will be able to achieve a cleaner and safer environment for our schools.

Recommendation 8, perhaps that will be another aspect we will overlook over time. It is noted by the Ministry that we must withhold information provided confidential so that it cannot be leaked. If we can merge together with the Ministry of Women, this will also be a great idea. Never the less it is important that the information be kept confidential especially with examination papers like what occurred in the past, we will consider this recommendation together with a consent from the Ministry of Women on whether we will merge in the future with respect.

Mr Chairperson perhaps this concludes a response on the query voiced by the Member.

CHAIRPERSON: Very well, I ask that a motion be moved so we can approve...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Mr Chairperson I move a motion with respect *that the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Report of the Social Sector Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, Government Response on P.P.2016/2017 No.4, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture 2014/2015 was approved.

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P.P.2016/2017 NO.52, REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SECTOR COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 9, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLYNESIAN AIRLINES LIMITED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI (Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee): Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P. 2016/2017 No. 52, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No. 9, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines Limited for the Financial Year 2015.*

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Hon Prime Minister since the Minister administering Polynesian Airlines Limited is absent.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I will read out the response of Government in relation to recommendations made by the Economic Sector Committee.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.9, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLYNESIAN AIRLINES LIMITED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.

Recommendation 1:

Ensure that the vessel that is leased or purchased by the Government meets safety certifications in order to ensure the safety of travelers. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Management and Board of Directors for discussing this future aspiration for the reoperation and usage of a vessel for international travel.

Response:

The Polynesian Airline continues to carry out consultations, negotiations and investigation on international airlines to determine the best airline to join venture with Samoa for ease of travelling to and from Samoa. In preparation of the purchase of a new aircraft, the company is adamant with inspecting that the aircraft meets international safety standards for aeroplanes. The Company will also determine the quality of the aircraft when a certificate of Airworthiness is provided.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.52, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.9, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines
Limited for the Financial Year 2015**

Recommendation 2:

Reconsider agreements between the Government and Virgin Australia in order to restructure the cost of flights between Samoa, Australia and New Zealand. The Committee is of the view that the air fares are too expensive as there is now a partnership between Virgin Australia and New Zealand therefore eliminating competition.

Response:

The Complete Aviation Solution team carried out an assessment whether it was appropriate for the Polynesian Airlines to carry out international flights as it was noticed that the air fares between Samoa, New Zealand and Australia continued to increase. The Complete Aviation Solution team concluded that it was pertinent for the Polynesian Airline to join forces with other international airlines so that the high costs of air fares can be avoided. There are also on-going consultation between Joint Venture Special Negotiating Team and Virgin Australia regarding possibilities of a partnership between Polynesian and Virgin Australia. This is one reason why the Government has decided to restart airline services since our partnership with Virgin Australia has now ended.

In the report of the investigation company it reviewed whether Polynesia should return with international flights since the airfares between Samoa, New Zealand and Australia are quite expensive.

There are only two companies in charge of such flights. It was recommended by the investigation company that Polynesia needs to partner with one of the companies so that airfares can be rearranged for flights between countries. At the moment we are currently discussing this matter with Virgin Australia to partner with Polynesia to clarify the means of the partnership between the two and strategize on extending flights out of the Pacific region and terminate shares. This means we will have our own airline but if were to reach Europe we will have to partner with bigger companies to make easier for us and have affordable airfares. This is the exact clarification this response is trying to convey but we are not talking about the partnership that we have with Virgin.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.52, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.9, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines
Limited for the Financial Year 2015**

Recommendation 3:

That the company prioritises core functions to attain revenue which includes ground handling at Faleolo. The Committee recommends this for the following reasons:-

- i) to ensure employment opportunities for our people,
- ii) there is currently an international company conducting these services. The Committee is determined to ensure that these services are to be conducted by the Polynesian Airlines.

Response:

The recommendation is appreciated and noted. There are on-going plans to purchase the appropriate machinery for proper packing of aircrafts. There have also been plans to construct a facility for proper safekeeping and maintenance of the machinery from the different weather conditions.

- i) There are also on-going projects to improve the delivery of services to ensure the Company meets the recognisable international standards (IOSA Certificate) from the Association of IATA/IOSA for additional services and to increase the standard of the Polynesian Company. This will also assist with enabling the Polynesian Airline to offer services to other airlines using the Faleolo International Airport. In turn, this would create job opportunities for our people.
- ii) The Polynesian Airline is also preparing an application which requests to the Oceania Ground Handling Company for Virgin Australia when it is open for bids.

For the clarification of our country we will be signing an MOU today with Fiji Airways, the goal is for our airlines to work together in harmony and minimize competition which might result to bankruptcy. The name we will be using for our airline is Samoa Air Ways which was first used for Polynesia, this is a matter considered during the time we were deciding an airline company for the Pacific. This is the reason why we used the name Polynesia with the expectation for the airline to go from one Polynesian country to another. We will now be establishing a new airline which will represent Samoa. If we do not name it after Samoa no one will know it is an airline of Samoa.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.52, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.9, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines
Limited for the Financial Year 2015**

Also any big investment like this, the name of Samoa must always be present so other countries in the world will know that this plane is under our Government.

Recommendation 4:

That the Management consider the life span of the twin otters currently used between Tutuila and Manua in order to ensure safety and legal compliance.

Response:

There are programs offered by companies who manufacture aircrafts, such as the Vikings Company in Canada who manufactures Twin Otters, the factors which determine the life span of an aircraft depends on how many trips it makes, the distance it travels and how it lands. There are also plans to purchase other aircrafts of this type (Twin Otters) when it is required to change.

Recommendation 5:

Committee supports the Company's plan to extend the Fagalii runway as stated in its findings. Committee recommends that extension be carried out immediately. The word that is misinterpreted wrongly in the report is not an extension to expand the width of the runway but making it longer. This extension will be done towards the east.

Response:

On-going consultations between the Company and Government Ministries, which included the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Land Transport Authority, and the Samoa Land Corporation, to extend the runway for aircrafts take-off and landing. This project required one side of the main road (Eastern side) to be closed and to utilize the MNRE land next to the airport. The Polynesian Airline is also required to purchase a portion of land on the Western side of the runway from the Samoa Land Corporation.

Recommendation 6:

That Management to consider the availability of additional fire extinguishers in order to respond to emergencies. The Committee is of the view that there should be a surplus to ensure the safety to the company's employees and passengers.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.52, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.9, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines
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Response:

The Government will add more fire extinguishers in the airport and outside the departure terminal. The Hon Prime Minister stated that there should be drills carried out once a month to check whether the extinguishers are operational.

This is the response from the Ministry.

CHAIRPERSON: For the clarification of the House there was only one written request seeking clarification on the Government Responses received, and that was the Member from Faleata East. He will be the only Member given the opportunity to speak. I therefore call on the Member for Faleata East.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: With utmost respect I thank the Chairperson for the opportunity. Since the written query was submitted early this Member has understood the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister together with the proceedings over the past week where the Minister and Cabinet responded on the partnership between Virgin Australia and Polynesia and the decision made by the new airline. This Member is quite satisfied with the response given. Even the response made on recommendation 5, it is not the width of the airfield but the distance that needs extension. I am grateful for the opportunity and I am satisfied with the response made by Government. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, with respect I call on the Hon Prime Minister to move a motion so the Committee of the Whole House will approve the response of Government in the absence of the Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *that the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the report of the Social Sector Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government Response on P.P.2016/2017 No.9, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines Limited for the financial year 2015 was approved.

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P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 54, REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SECTOR COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 11, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015

CHAIRPERSON: With respect I call on the Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW: Thank you Mr Chairperson, I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole Assembly approves P.P. 2016/2017 No.54, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No. 11, Annual Report of the Ministry of Women for the Financial year 2015.*

Thank you.

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Chairperson I move with respect to present the response of Government on recommendations made by the Social Sector Committee.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO. 11, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.

Recommendation 1:

Committee recommends Government to merge the Printing Divisions of the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture due to the following –

- i. The 2 printing services need new buildings as the current buildings posed safety risks to employees, **and merging the two Ministries would save funds** for both Ministries.
- ii. The safekeeping and confidentiality of government records and information such as Financial Estimates, exam papers, ballot papers and others.
- iii. Utilisation of skills and knowledge in full capacity.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.54, Report of the Social Sector Committee
on P.P.2016/2017 No.11, Annual Report of the Ministry of
Women for the Financial Year 2015**

- iv. Corporatisation will not only provide the services to Government entities but will also allow competition with private businesses.

Response:

The recommendation to merge the Printing Division of the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development and Ministry of Education Sports and Culture is accepted given reasons provided in the report;

- There is an urgent need for new buildings for both Ministries Printing Services.
- The confidentiality of government printing publications including Budget Estimates, Electoral rolls and ballot papers, and SSC exam papers can be maintained through specific contractual arrangements with the newly constructed Printing Entity
- Effective and efficient utilization of employee skills and knowledge to maximize return on investment and also
- Having the newly operational printing press compete with other printing companies, while the printing costs will be restructured according to market rates.

Recommendation 2:

Recommends the Ministry to look at ways to mitigate and control the usage of water for villages registered under the Independent Water Scheme.

Response:

The recommendation is accepted, the Independent Water Scheme Association has been informed of the Committees recommendation to be converted to members of the IWSA to ensure that the use of water is well managed and controlled. The Minister noted that the Ministry also conducts regular inspections of all IWS and advice village communities on ways to control and better manage the usage of water.

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on P.P.2016/2017 No.11, Annual Report of the Ministry of
Women for the Financial Year 2015**

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

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele
Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** This is an important matter especially for communities that have independent water schemes and natural water provided by Government. This water that has already been filtered and clean from bacteria. I mention this matter since I have been hearing some chiefs of these villages complaining, they do not have a problem drinking dirty water since it is cheaper. I believe such leaders within these villages are incompetent. I recommend that the Ministry overlook this area utilize the representatives of village councils, women and men because there are some chiefs who are not educated. Nonetheless this does not include every village council chief.

This is an area that should be overlooked because in the end it will be the Government they will be asking for assistance. The Government is already giving so much to maintain safe water supply. Assistance should not be given to villages who will continue to use dirty water ending up getting ill. Everyone is well educated today therefore we need clean water to ensure good health. As for the matter saying it is too expensive this is absurd. The reason why it is expensive is based on the fact of poor management. Secondly they are not mindful of leaks that can be from toilets and water pipes which make it expensive. These are aspects that should be monitored by representatives of Government, women committees and village councils only think of taking allowances at the end of the month. This is an important matter that should be emphasized no one else is responsible but those living in villages. If they are not honest in carrying out the work then the majority will suffer.

CHAIRPERSON: Very well, I call on the Hon Minister of Women, [Community and Social Development](#).

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKI IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your assistance given on such important matter. I believe villages and communities who have independent water schemes have heard of this measure especially the village chiefs from representatives of villages to Government and from women committees. This Ministry has not failed in reiterating this matter as stated by the Hon Prime Minister every time we meet.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.55, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.13, Annual Report of the Samoa Post Office
for Financial Year 2015**

I now come to recommendation 3.

Recommendation 3:

Encourage Government Ministries and Corporations to use the State-owned printing services when it has been corporatized.

Response:

The recommendation from Committee was accepted therefore Cabinet approval will be sought for all Government agencies to use the new State owned Printing Services.

Recommendation 4:

Recommends the Ministry should provide unaudited accounts for Committee investigation on annual reports.

Response:

The Ministry acknowledges the recommendation and unaudited accounts of the Ministry will be submitted together with the annual report for completion of Committee findings.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Mr Chairperson I have concluded presenting the response of Government, I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Social Sector Committee report on P.P. 2016/2017 No.11, Annual Report of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for financial year 2015 as presented.* Thank you.

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.11, Annual Report of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for financial year 2015 was approved.

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 55, REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SECTOR
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 13, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE SAMOA POST OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015**

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee. The Deputy Chairperson, Member for Siumu.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.55, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.13, Annual Report of the Samoa Post Office
for Financial Year 2015**

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI: Mr Chairperson, with respect I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P. 2016/2017 Nu.55, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 Nu.13, Annual Report of the Samoa Post Office for financial year 2015.*

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Hon Prime Minister since the Minister in charge is absent.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I present the response of Government pursuant to recommendations made by the Economic Sector Committee.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO.13,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA POST OFFICE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.**

Recommendation 1:

Reconsider the lease agreement set for each year for Samoa Post, especially the lease at Salelologa as it is higher than other leases throughout Savaii.

Response:

Samoa Post officially requested Samoa Land Board and the MNRE Land Board through the Chief Executive Officers for a reconsideration of Samoa Post leases at Salelologa Market and the lease at Matafele Building, response on this request is pending.

Recommendation 2

Recommend that the Corporation:

- i. Implement promotional programmes for the public especially for Samoans residing aboard of its current services such as remittances and other services in order to maintain the provision of these services in future.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.55, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.13, Annual Report of the Samoa Post Office
for Financial Year 2015**

Response:

Samoa Post continues to run its promotional programs for the public awareness of our products and services available from time to time.

- ii. Review and reconsider policies to avoid theft and burglary and to maintain the provision of its services and to safeguard money in all of the Posts outlets.

Response:

Samoa Post partnerships with the local community, is now limited to leasing out of spaces at district post offices in Savaii, to rent by the local businesses for their operations. Local businesses are completely responsible for the provision of their own services, collection and security of their own funds.

- iii. Continually attend Postal Projects, Training and special programs in order to simplify and enforce the provision of its services and to build the capacity of its employees.

Response:

Samoa Post continues to take an active role in the Universal Postal Union conferences, projects and training programs, as this is the source of technical and financial assistance for the Office.

- iv. To implement new programs and services such as 'Trade Me' to sell goods on the internet and utilize technological advancements to boost revenue and provide additional services to the public.

Response:

At the moment customers are able to order goods online and their purchase are sent through Samoa Post for delivery. However, establishing a specific purchasing site such as 'trade Me' is a complicated and expensive project, for a limited number of customers, who afford online purchasing services, but Samoa Post is monitoring these technological developments and will explore appropriate new services if they are viable for the Office.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.58, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.16, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce,
Industry and Labour Financial Year 2015**

Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Report of the Economic Sector Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, Government Response on P.P.2016/2017 No.13, Annual Report of the Samoa Post Office for the financial year 2015 was approved.

CHAIRPERSON: Since we have arrived at our usual recess hour proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 10:43am until 11:26am.

CHAIRPERSON: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed.

I believe strength has been renewed with refreshments provided to continue our work. I acknowledge with respect everyone present, Hon Prime Minister especially Cabinet, Members of Parliament and Chief Executives of Government Ministries and Corporations.

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 58, REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SECTOR
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 16, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015**

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee. I call on the Deputy Chairperson then, the Member for Siumu.

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI: Honorable Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P 2016/2017 No. 58, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P 2016/2017 No. 16, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour for financial year 2015.*

Motion approved.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.58, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.16, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce,
Industry and Labour Financial Year 2015**

CHAIRPERSON: Since the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour is not present I call on the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I present the response of Government in accordance to the recommendations made by the Economic Sector Committee.

With respect I present in accordance to Standing Order 54, the Response of Government in relation to Committee recommendations on the Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor for the end of June 2015 as presented in P.P. 2016/2017 No 16.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 16,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE,
INDUSTRY AND LABOUR FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.**

Recommendation 1:

Strengthen legal provisions to monitor Reserved List under Foreign Investments and local businesses that are operated by foreign investors to guarantee their compliance with governing legal provisions.

Response:

The Hon Prime Minister read out the Ministry's response which stated that the Ministry continues to implement legislative requirements and other ways to ensure compliance of foreign investments with legal provisions of the Foreign Investment legislation.

**(i) Study of the Wholesaling Sector and Review
of the Reserved List**

The Ministry recognizes the importance of having up to date information on the business environment of Samoa, particularly in identifying existing investment opportunities with the potential for promotion to potential investors in targeted industries and sectors. The intention if necessary is to review the Reserved List and offer the Samoan people a fair and competitive business environment without any illegal or anti-competitive activities being carried out.

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Industry and Labour Financial Year 2015**

This can be achieved through effective monitoring of the laws to protect all players in the industry and more importantly the consumers in the market.

This Project therefore will seek to carry out a holistic study of the existing wholesaling sector; as well as the sectors categorized under the Reserved List. The aim of this study is to determine whether or not the wholesaling sector should be added to the Reserved List as stated in the Foreign Investment Act 2000. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2016. Should this study identify issues that need to be addressed, then changes will be made to the legislation accordingly.

**(ii) Strengthening working relationships
internally and with line agencies**

Given that the process for business registration and residency permits are all inter related, the Ministry strongly believes that strengthening the working relationships with these line ministries such as the MFR (Business License) and Immigration (Residency Permit) have brought about positive benefits when dealing with the monitoring of these foreign investors. The Ministry also considers that internal processes and procedures must be interlinked in order to maintain consistent monitoring and also registration of legitimate foreign investment enterprises. Therefore, the Ministry has also been working and continues to work in close collaboration with the internal divisions such as the work permits and company registration to make sure compliance of foreign investors. Noting that information sharing amongst networks will guarantee compliance of Samoa's laws and legislation governing the operation of foreign investors and minimize manipulation of our systems. The Ministry emphasizes the importance of their [partnership with the Ministry of Revenue concerning business licenses](#) and the Immigration office of the Prime Minister on permanent residence visas to be able to carry out business inquiries in Samoa. This partnership has foreseen the improvement of businesses set up and in adhering to the provisions set by legislation.

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All sectors of the Ministry is currently working together, the business registration sector and intellectual properties also the Investment Promotion and Industry Development sector to emphasize policies to ensure that overseas businesses are following provisions set in the legislation.

The Ministry believes the sharing of information with all partners will ensure the adherence to follow Samoa legislations that involve foreign investment nevertheless to minimize committing of crimes within all business spheres.

The challenge faced by the Ministry when licenses are given under the name of the daughter of the Samoan matai. Although once the business takes place it is noted that the daughter is involved with a Chinese or an Indian or a German. Then we try and implement our laws hence such provisions should not be regulated under special businesses reserve. Nevertheless, the father would respond it is my daughter's business. These are some of the examples that impose issues and challenges in carrying out our work.

**(iii) Amendments to the Foreign Investment
Legislation**

Recent amendments to the Foreign Investment Act and its Regulations are also another strong measure that the Ministry has taken in order to strengthen its legal provisions and monitor the Reserved List.

Repeal of Section 3(2) of the principal Act - to reinforce the issue that non-citizens are not allowed to be engaged in Reserved Activities this included non-citizens that hold permanent resident permits.

Annual renewal of Foreign Investment Certificates - to ensure regular updates and reports are provided to the Ministry for on-going monitoring efforts;

Duration of Certificates - The Ministry now enforces a validity period of 12 months for each foreign investment certificate issued with a maximum of 2 years to allow for commencement of business operations.

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P.P.2016/2017 No.16, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce,
Industry and Labour Financial Year 2015**

Offences and penalties - to strengthen enforcement measures.

1. Develop suitable procedures to promote and publicize Acts and all the policies that administrate the local business owners, and guide the operations of their businesses, particularly the new business owners.

Response:

The Ministry has the following programs and tools to promote and publicize Acts and all policies for businesses awareness.

(i) MCIL Awareness Days and programmes.

It was noted from previous field visits by the Minister, Associate Minister and members of the Prices Board that many of its stakeholders and small businesses are not fully aware of the functions and services offered by the Ministry. To address these concerns, the Ministry held its first MCIL Awareness Day in Upolu and Savaii in September. In addition, divisions currently hold their own awareness programmes to educate and provide information to respective stakeholders of their obligations and so forth. Divisions have also developed procedure guidelines, information pamphlets to effect the implementation of relevant legislation and policies.

(ii) Promotion through Ministry website, social media and pamphlets

The Ministry has more than 30 legislation and regulations which defines its key responsibilities in support of the Government's national development agenda as highlighted in the SDS 2012 -2016. The Ministry through the Legal Unit can develop a booklet of summary of all these legislation and regulations for public awareness. The Ministry has done on-going promotions and awareness campaigns through advertising on TV and public notices on newspapers and also on its website which is by far the most accessible mode of revealing information to the public and in particular the business community.

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Industry and Labour Financial Year 2015**

**(iii) Use of Investment Guide and National Investment
Policy Statement**

The Investment Guide is an important publication intended to provide basic information that every investor needs to know about the investment environment of Samoa, including (i) Investment opportunities; (ii) Processes and Procedures for setting up a business in Samoa; and who to contact on these processes.

The National Investment Policy Statement sets out the Government policies for promotion and facilitating foreign and private sector investments. The Government is committed to these policies and continues to review them in an endeavour to further improve the environment for private sector development. These booklets are available on the Ministry's website and readily available hard copies are distributed to overseas missions and are also kept on hand at the office.

2. Seeking other ways by the Ministry to assist business owners in producing products in the country in order to sell it to overseas markets.

Response:

The Ministry is pleased to inform the Committee that the Sector secured more funding from the EIF for a Trade Sector Support Programme (TSSP) which is directly utilized for on-the-ground implementation along a value chain approach. That is, from Supply (STEC Replanting/Maintenance Project) to processing and value-addition (WIBDI processing warehouse and SROS Research & Development) to market access (SCCI Trade Promotion Officer). Specifically, for the issue raised, the Sector envisioned that the funding of the Trade Promotion Officer under the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) will assist and advise local businesses on international market trends and products that yield high returns. Moreover, the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS) is also capacitated with funds from the TSSP to carry out Research and Development of coconut and cocoa value-added products that would in-time be passed on to the private sector for commercialization.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.63, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.35, Annual Report of the Scientific Research
Organization of Samoa for Financial Year 2015**

In hindsight, we anticipate the duplication of this role in relation to the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. However, we aim to compliment and strengthen the connection of Samoan businesses and products to international markets. In this regard, we note the recommendation from the Committee; and we will continue to seek additional ways and support from development partners to support local businesses in product development and selling these products to overseas markets.

Mr Chairperson I apologize for the lengthy response made by the Ministry. No one in this Ministry is well versed in giving short responses but only lengthy ones. If the response given has been understood I will inform the Ministry to make it shorter in the next proceeding.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the report of the Economic Sector Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, Government Response on P.P.2016/2017 No.58, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No. 16, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour for financial year 2015 approved.

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 63, REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SECTOR
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 35, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION
OF SAMOA FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015**

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

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI: Honorable Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No.63, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.35, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa for financial year 2015.*

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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P.P.2016/2017 No.35, Annual Report of the Scientific Research
Organization of Samoa for Financial Year 2015**

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Honorable Chairperson I will read out the response of Government in relation to recommendations made by the Economic Sector Committee.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 No. 35,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
ORGANISATION OF SAMOA FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
2015.**

Recommendation 1:

Firmly establish the commercialization of frozen taro and breadfruit products at its high standards. The Committee therefore recommends attaining an appropriate oven that is capable of preheating these goods before exportation to overseas markets.

Response:

- SROS has developed the pathways for frozen taro and breadfruit products, and SROS is on standby to assist any local business to commercially produce and export these frozen products to New Zealand and Australian markets, especially for frozen breadfruit to both New Zealand and Australia (to by-pass the fruit fly biosecurity issue), and frozen taro to Australia (to by-pass the leaf blight/ *Phytophthora colocasiae* biosecurity issue).
- Recently SROS in partnership with MAF assisted a local exporter on his 20' container of 5-kg bags of frozen taro to Sydney, Australia. After the successful launching and sale of his 5-kg frozen taro bags, he plans to prepare another 20' container, possibly two, of frozen taro and breadfruit for Sydney, Australia, if time and resources permit. Second for the partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and SROS to assist other exporters to access overseas markets for frozen goods like Samoan crops. For clarification the Chairperson is aware that the report was prepared on the 13th October 2016.

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**P.P.2016/2017 No.63, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.35, Annual Report of the Scientific Research
Organization of Samoa for Financial Year 2015**

An updated report on the 10th of October last year our first container entered Sydney Australia. In May this year we shipped over our first frozen goods container into Brisbane. This coming Saturday we will be launching other containers in Melbourne and then the next Tuesday we will ship other frozen goods containers to New Zealand. The expectation is for such services to reach Hawaii and Australia by the end of the month of August. We have already set up a special oven with a business who offered assistance to any member of the public for proper cooking of breadfruit. For the clarification of the House we are greatly affected by the fruit fly, we exported some breadfruit to New Zealand and it was not cooked properly because this fly was found in the breadfruit. Therefore our cooked breadfruit was not allowed back into New Zealand. Now we have a special oven to cook our breadfruit thoroughly so we will be able to again export our goods overseas. Anyone seeking assistance or want to understand more about this oven can come to the Ministry for clarification.

Recommendation 2:

Recommend the Organization to work in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to motivate farmers to invest in needed products such as coconuts, breadfruit, taro, avocado, ylang ylang, lemon grass and other plants, to ensure the continuous supply of goods for exportation, effectively developing our country and people.

Response:

- Sustainable supply of sufficient volumes of the desired crop varieties for commercial processing is a critical activity that our MAF is mandated and better equipped to implement. The realignment of SROS with MAF under the leadership of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries post general elections will expedite the formalisation of this partnership and realise sustainable supply of sufficient volumes of the desired crop varieties for commercial processing.

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- Our Ministry that farmers are actively encouraged together with assistance to maintain the farmers association. A farmers association was created for Savaii last year with the other two already in Upolu. The farmers residing in Savaii decided to set up their own association in Savaii which is the result of this new association. I am happy to say that the progress of the new association is going well together with plans for the development of farmers in Savaii.

This does not mean that the association in Apia is not doing anything, they are also implementing programs such as the ones seen on television and radio on encouraging people to grow cocoa, coconut and other crops for the exportation overseas.

Recommendation 3:

Implement promotional/awareness programmes to promote its services and developments within the country so as to utilize their research and scientific services provided by the Organisation.

Response:

- SROS continues to promote our commercial Technical Services Division on biological and chemical analyses they can provide to the public and private sectors on food and food products, water and environmental samples, regularly on local TV stations. SROS is also a member of the Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters (SAME), and uses our membership to regularly promote our developed products and processes, as SAME members are the potential up takers of the developed products and processes.
- SROS recently held an Awareness Day event in August 2016, to showcase and promote our product development initiatives and efforts, and plans to hold such events every three years.
- Coverage of SROS's on-going activities and potential partnerships have also been reflected in the media (through local and overseas newspapers), as well as in certain websites, such as the Pacific Islands Trade & Invest, ACIAR and SPC, to name a few.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.63, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.35, Annual Report of the Scientific Research
Organization of Samoa for Financial Year 2015**

Recommendation 4:

Establish a division within the Organisation specifically tasked to commercially sell their goods and provide assistance to the horticulturists and investors regarding the products needed to produce these goods. These would simplify the production by the Organisation.

Response:

- The SROS Board and Management are currently developing a proposal (including a budget) for Cabinet approval considerations on various implementation options for a Commercial Arm for the Organisation, with breadfruit flour and avocado oil as the first two products to be commercially produced, either solely or in partnership with interested business entities, until such time a business or a group of business entities are ready to commercially produce the products themselves. I stated earlier that we will be using our formula for our breadfruit, coconut, cocoa scented oils made from mosooi and other products reserached by the Organisation should now be commercialized. We are currently working together with the Attorney Generals office on drafting legislations to allow the organisation to carry out such measures. At first Government gave leeway to the private sector on such developments although it has been ten years now and nothing has happened. This is why it is recommended that Government start this endeavor and set an example. We are confident that we can procure such pridcuts and be able to export it overseas and develop the economy of our country.

I take this opportunity to amend a matter Mr Chairperson since it is much talked about widely and has resulted to confusion are the terms privatisation and commercialisation. The truth is SROS is not focusing on privatisation but commercialisation. This means the commercialisation of all products produced by SROS so we export overseas and earn revenue that will develop and assist with our Budget.I want to thank Committee for the recommendations made for the imporvement of not only the organisation but the Ministry as well.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.64, Report of the Finances and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.7, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa for Financial Year 2014

I am very grateful for the recommendations. Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the report of the Economic Sector Committee as presented.*
With respect.

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government Response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.63, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.35, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa for the financial year 2015 was approved.

P.P.2016/2017 NO.64, REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 7, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SAMOA FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No. 64, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.7, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa for financial year 2014.*

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Hon Minister of Finance with respect.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Chairperson I will read out the response of Government in relation to the recommendations made by the Finance and Expenditure Committee. I just want to commend Committee for the recommendations made for the improvement of the services for the Central Bank of Samoa.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO.7, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SAMOA FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.64, Report of the Finances and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.7, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa for Financial Year 2014

Recommendation 1:

Review loan interest provision rates for local farmers and private business owners in order for them to make repayments and prevent bad debts.

Response:

Interest rates imposed on loans are dependent upon the interest rates where the funds are provided. Interest rates offered to the public range from 11% to 16% for different development and reasons. It was only when the DBS received lower interest rates and loans from the National Bank of Samoa, that the DBS was then able to offer interest rates of 8% to its clients. This 8 % interest remains right throughout the term of the loan. The Corporation also considered the time frame the clients can afford to make repayments, to ensure the both the client and the Bank are safe.

Recommendation 2:

Restructure the Development Bank of Samoa to reinstate it as a Public Beneficiary Body.

Response:

it is the objective of the Bank to give loans to aid developments that has high profits with less returns. this service goes in line with with Government strategies to improve our economy and for equal financial opportunities for the public. The recommendation is noted and will be considered for improvement and development of the DBS.

Recommendation 3:

The Board of Directors and Management explore other avenues to market and advertise for interested investors to capitalise on abandoned Medcen Hospital to recover its \$2.5 million debt.

Response:

The Board and the DBS continue to prioritise this work to ensure the loan is cleared; there are announcements and advertisements for interested individuals or companies to buy or lease the land to earn money so that the loan can be paid. Unfortunately it is quite hard since the land is leased from the Lands Committee. Majority of those consulted wanted to sell both the freehold land and house.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.65, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.5, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime
Minister for the Financial Years 2013-2015**

For further clarification on the matter Cabinet has approved the request made by the Central Bank to return the land leased by Med Cen at the moment to Government, Cabinet has passed the selling of the building on this land so it can be privatised and be used for other developments without further influence of the Bank.

This means after amendments are documented on Cabinet approving and passing this matter, the Central Bank will have no authority over this asset and will minimize the debt mentioned by Committee.

I want to convey gratitude to the Chairperson of Committee in relation to recommendations made for the improvement of the services and capital of the Central Bank.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, Government Response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.64, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No.7, Annual Report of the Central Bank of Samoa for financial year 2015 approved.

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 65, REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 5, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MINISTRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEARS 2013-2015.**

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

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA (Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee): Mr Chairperson and Members of Parliament, before I present the report as instructed I will only take half a minute of your time. In regards to this Member being absent during the previous proceeding. I am grateful that we are able to meet again in good health to carry out our duties in this sitting. I give praise to the Lord Almighty and thank this Parliament.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No.65, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.5, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister for the Financial Years 2013-2015.*

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.65, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.5, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime
Minister for the Financial Years 2013-2015**

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI
LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr.
SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Chairperson I move to read out
Government Response in relation to recommendations of the Standing
Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO.5,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PRIME
MINISTER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2013-2015.**

Response of the Ministry on P.P.2016/2017 No.56 & 65.

With respect I read out the response of the Ministry in relation to the relation to the recommendations raised by the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister for financial years 2013-2015.

1. Savali Newspaper – copies of the Savali newspaper

The Savali division continues to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration as well as the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development to compile and print monthly issues for the Savali Samoa.

Currently there are 1,000 copies of the Savali printed on a monthly basis and the printing costs are borne by the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. All copies of the Savali Samoa are issued free of charge.

Out of the 1000 copies of the monthly Savali, 762 copies are distributed to village mayors of Upolu and Savaii (254 in total) and each of the 254 village mayors are provided with 3 copies each. The copies are uplifted from MPMC and each village mayor must present their ID when uplifting their copies. Further, it is the responsibility of the village mayor to avail these copies to their respective villages for information and keep at least one copy for record.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.65, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on
P.P.2016/2017 No.5, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime
Minister for the Financial Years 2013-2015**

The remaining 238 copies of the Savali are distributed to the members of Parliament through the office of the Legislative Assembly, while other copies are distributed to judges of the Judiciary, Chief Executive of the Public Service Commission as well as a copy for the Nelson Memorial Public Library. There are also copies for overseas institutions that pay subscriptions to the Savali. The rest of the remaining copies are distributed to the general public who request copies from the Ministry.

It is the Ministry's humble view that the 1000 copies of the Savali being printed on a monthly basis are sufficient for distribution purposes.

In terms of the weekly bilingual edition of the Savali newspaper, there are 100 copies being printed on a weekly basis and sold at a price of SAT\$2 each from retailers and shops selling the bilingual edition.

2. Safe keeping of arrival and departure cards

There were instances when the availability of the arrival and departure cards for Samoa were low due to a breakdown of communication between the airlines, Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) and the Immigration Division of the Ministry.

This issue has been resolved with improved communication amongst the aforementioned authorities and also the timely printing of arrival and departure cards to avoid repetition of the above issue.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI
LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr.
SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, Government Response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.65, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister for the financial years 2013-2015 approved.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 NO.66, REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.6, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA HOUSING CORPORATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P. 2016/2017 No. 66, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.6, Annual Report of the Samoa Housing Corporation for the financial year 2015.*

Motion approved.

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

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I move to read the Response of Government in relation to recommendations made by the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.6, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA HOUSING CORPORATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015.

1. Recommendation of Committee:

That the Samoa Housing Corporation be exempt from paying their annual dividends as most of its funds are utilized on maintenance work for Government Housing being administered by the Samoa Housing Corporation in accordance with the Cabinet Directive.

Response:

The Corporation established a high standard of efficiency and effectiveness in the management of Government housing when Cabinet decided to transfer the housing stock to the Samoa Housing Corporation to administer in 2014 even though there was no corresponding budget funding associated with the transfer.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.66, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.2016/2017 NO.6, Annual Report of the Samoa Housing Corporation for the Financial Year 2015

At the end of August 2016, 50% of the 72 houses were completely renovated at a cost of \$2 million tala, which justifies increasing rental rates. The \$2 million tala was funded by the Corporation from internally generated funds of its core lending function and a long term loan from Unit Trust of Samoa.

It is essential that dividends from profits be kept within the Corporation to assist with the repairs and maintenance of the rental stock as recommended by the Committee.

The Government has accepted the recommendation to exempt the Samoa Housing Corporation from paying its dividends from 2014 to 2016 but to retain these funds to maintain these units to an acceptable standard.

2. Recommendation from Committee:

That rents and leases of all Government Houses under the Corporation should be in line with the market rates. The Committee believes that this is the only way the Corporation could be able to collect additional revenues in order to make quality maintenance to these valuable government assets, and also enable them to pay dividends to Government.

Response:

The Government accepts the recommendation for the rental rates to be increased with market rents in line with the standard or the quality of rental housing.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government Response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.66, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No.6, Annual Report of the Samoa Housing Corporation for the financial year 2015 approved.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 70, REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE
SECTOR COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 10, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014**

CHAIRPERSON: I call upon the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee): I humbly greet the Chair this hour of the day I believe we have encountered alot today with proceedings therefore I commend you for your patience.

I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No.70, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.10, Annual Report of the Electric Corporation for financial year 2014.*

With respect.

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: Since the Minister of the Electric Power Coporation is not present I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I present the Response of Government based on the recommendations made by the Infrastrcuture Committee.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.10,
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELECTRIC POWER
CORPORATION FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014.**

Recommendation 1:

Prepayment Meters for all Government Ministries and Agencies:

As at the end of August 2016, 61 Government Ministries were on prepaid meters and 381 on post-paid (readable) meters. the Corporation is continuing with the installation of prepaid meters for the remaining Ministries and organisations except for the National Health Services and some Ministries with higher consumption and demand for electricity, in which no prepaid meter is avaiable in the market.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.70, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.10, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year 2014

2. The purchase of batteries for solar storage:

The Corporation is continuing with the implementation of the STORAGE AND SMART SYSTEMS Project mainly to address the grid instability caused by sudden loss of power from variable renewable sources such as solar and wind. Storing electricity for later use at night time is very expensive and EPC is looking into emerging technologies for this purpose.

3. Insurance cover for general public:

There is no insurance cover for the general public at the moment, but there is an allocation of \$2,500,000 for this purpose. In the incident involving an individual (Liueni Manua) who died in an accident where a power post fell on the car he was in at Malifa, payment of \$2,139,953 was paid to his family as damages for this incident.

4. Timely submission of Annual Reports:

The Cabinet and Parliamentary Committee had been advised of the reason for the delayed submission of the EPC Annual Report 2013-2014. This was due to the late submission of the Independent Auditor's report on the financial audit of EPC accounts. The Corporation and the Ministry of Finance had worked on the issue of the Afulilo loan interest for more than 20 years and this is the first time it was raised by the External Auditor. The External Auditor needs to understand that this issue pertains to the Government.

5. Please note a correction to the minutes on the response of the Corporation to Committee concern on the huge reduction of the cost of electricity as planned. The Corporation responded that it is unable to achieve both targets of meeting its obligation of 7% Return on Equity (ROE) under Public Finance Management Act 2001 and at the same time reduce cost of electricity for the country. If the Corporation has to meet its 7% (ROE) obligation the cost of electricity should be increased. This financial year (2016-2017), Cabinet approved reduction in electricity tariff effective 1st August 2016. Electricity is one of the backbone services for the development of Samoa. If cost of electricity is reduced, the whole country and all sectors will benefit.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.71, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.18, 19 & 25, Annual Report for the Office of the Regulator 2012, 2013 & 2014

There was a mention of 2.1 million given to the family of the deceased with the incident at Malifa where a power pole killed a man. This was an issue that happened long ago and consultations were carried and the family from Australia demanded a huge amount which resulted to this outcome. The importance of this matter for the clarification of the Electric Power Corporation listening in, to do weekly checks on power posts because there are some that are crooked and not standing upright. It is better to protect than being treated, I recommend that the staff carry out checks throughout the country on power posts, this will save expenses of Government on such accidents due to such obstacles of not maintaining and checking the conditions of electricity poles.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government Response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.70, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No. 10, Annual Report of the Electricity Power Corporation for the financial year 2014 approved.

P.P.2016/2017 NO.71, REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.18, 19 & 25, ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR 2012, 2013 & 2014

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.

Afioga Hon TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Mr Chairperson I a motion with respect *that the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No.71, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.18, 19 & 25, Annual Report for the Office of the Regulator 2012, 2013 & 2014.*

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I apologize but since the Minister of Communications, Information and Technology is not present I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.71, Report of the Infrastructure Sector
Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.18, 19 & 25, Annual Report
for the Office of the Regulator 2012, 2013 & 2014**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI
LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr.
SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That
the Committee of the Whole House approves the Response of
Government on the recommendations of the Infrastructure Committee as
presented.*

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.18, 19 & 25,
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR
2012, 2013 & 2014.**

1. Committee recommendation:

That a ruling be made on the case between Digicel, Bluesky and the Office of the Regulator. This case has been dragged for the last 6 years and it is affecting the implementation of other important developments.

Government response

The Office of the Regulator and Digicel have discussed possible remedies for the dispute as they await a court ruling that has taken years to settle. Follow up letters made to the Honourable Chief Justice for updates on the matter were unsuccessful. Therefore, Digicel and the Office of the Regulator have agreed to withdraw the complaint while upholding the Order issued by the Regulator. This agreement was formalised and endorsed by both parties (Digicel and the Office of the Regulator). A letter signed by both parties was sent to the Honourable Chief Justice advising this agreement.

2. Committee recommendation:

By 2017, there should be 100% coverage for broadcasting, television, telecommunications and internet services in the country.

Government response

The Office responded that a Task Force had been set up and it is Co-Chaired by the CEO of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Regulator, joined by the members from the ICT and Broadcasting companies (radio and television broadcasters, Bluesky and Digicel) in an attempt to find remedial actions and to meet this target.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.71, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.18, 19 & 25, Annual Report for the Office of the Regulator 2012, 2013 & 2014

The main aim of this set up is to have all service providers' work together to form harmonised procedures with the underlying goal of achieving and providing improved ICT services to the nation. It was also emphasised to the Task Force by the Regulator that if by September 2017 and the nation has not received full coverage of ICT services, the Regulator will revoke licenses issued per the Regulator's power under the Act due to licensee failure to meet license obligations.

3. Committee recommendation

The Committee really supports the plan of upgrading the Monitoring Unit Vehicle to monitor these services in the country.

Government response

The upgrading of the monitoring vehicle has been completed. A Cabinet Directive has been received sanctioning the release of funds by the Ministry of Finance under the fiscal budget 2015/2016 for this important project.

4. Committee recommendation

The Office should follow the given policies under the Public Finance Management Act 2001 and the Public Bodies Act (Performance and Accountability) 2001, by submitting their Annual Reports within the regulated periods.

Government response

The Office of the Regulator duly notes the recommendation by Committee.

1. Committee recommendation

Encourage broadcasting stations and telecommunications companies for overall coverage of their services within rural areas and Savaii based on the provisions implemented in the licesed issued.

Government response

The task force Committee is currently working on strategies as directed by the Regulator for the imporvement of services within rural areas before the Regulator implement restrictions and penalties of the legisaltion.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.71, Report of the Infrastructure Sector
Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.18, 19 & 25, Annual Report
for the Office of the Regulator 2012, 2013 & 2014**

For the clarification of Committee the Government is currently looking at changing the old televisive system from Analogue TV system to Digital TV system, this the reason why Government is giving these companies more time incase they waste money on buying old machines that will not be useful once this change takes effect.

2. Committee recommendation

The Office will assist on consultations for the telecommunications companies Bluesky and Digicel on the use of their statelite poles by broadcasting stations for a reasonable price in areas of the country that has yet to receive coverage services.

Government response

As noted in the taskforce work plan the Office of the Regulator in consultations with these companies have agreed to work together with broadcasting stations both radio and television on discussing an appropriate price. At the moment the Office is working together with the Consultant office, Incyte Consulting Pty Limited from Australia with funding from the World Bank to establish a cost model to provide reasonable costs in using these statelite poles.

3. Committee recommendation

The Office of the Regulator should encourage the Minsitry of Communications, Information and Technology for the improvement of the services of the radio station 2AP in parts of the country especially from areas of Gagaifomauga No.3 towards Salega.

Government response

Recommendation has already been submitted by the Office of the Regulator to the Ministry after the monitoring process which verified this matter. 2AP was asked for a comment and they responded, at the moment the Ministry of Communications is working on changing old broadcasting machines together with 2AP statelite pole at Mulinuu. Also funds was received from the Government of Australia to carry out this work, at the moment Government is carry ing out its procurement process before this task takes place.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.71, Report of the Infrastructure Sector
Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.18, 19 & 25, Annual Report
for the Office of the Regulator 2012, 2013 & 2014**

4. Committee recommendation

Instruct all companies providing internet services to adhere to provisions implemented in the legislation CSAM (Child Sexually Abuse Materials Filtering Policy).

Government response

For the clarification of the Committee a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has already been signed between the Office of the Regulator and these companies on banning sexual abusive content on internet streaming. The companies have acknowledged this provision and a list of the prohibited websites have been submitted to the Office of the Regulator to ensure it be blocked. A reminder for the Committee considering the enhanced knowledge of people using technology these days they will be able to use other methods of avoiding filtering systems implemented by companies in Samoa. The Office is currently looking at strategies that will assist in blocking such abusive content as implemented in its policies.

5. Committee recommendation

A legislation should be drafted for the Office of the Regulator to be independent considering the complexity of the two legislations used by the Office and the two Ministers being reported too.

Government response

For clarification of Committee the Government is currently assessing this matter.

6. Committee recommendation

Recommends the Minister in charge of the Office of the Regulator to ensure that the Office responds to the recommendations implemented by Committee on Annual Reports starting from the year 2012 considered by Committee.

Government response

I apologize to Committee on behalf of the Office for its incompetence to give responses on the matters asked by Members of the Committee. Nevertheless response has been given to matters questioned at the start of this paper.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.72, Report of the Infrastructure Sector
Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.23, Annual Report of the Samoa
Sports Facilities Authority for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

7. Committee recommendation

The Management should adhere to Public Finance Management Act already passed by the Legislative Assembly on provisions stating the tabling of Annual Reports together with financial statements on years mentioned as stated in the provisions of the legislation.

Government response

Recommendation given by Committee is noted. For the clarification of Committee the delay in submission of Annual Reports 2015/2016 is to await Audited Financial Statements from the Audit office, the Regulator has already written a letter in regards to this matter.

Question put and when the Ayes have it, Government Response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.71, Infrastructure Committee Report on P.P. 2016/2017 No. 18, 19 & 25, Annual Report of the Office of the Regulator for the financial years 2012, 2013 & 2014 approved.

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 72, REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE
SECTOR COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 23, ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE SAMOA SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015.**

CHAIRPERSON: I call upon the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Mr Chairperson, I thank the Leader of Government considering the responses made have been quite insightful. We accept recommendations made with much respect.

I move a motion Mr Chairperson *that the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No 72, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No. 23, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority for the financial year 2014/2015.*

With respect.

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: With respect I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

4 JULY 2017

P.P.2016/2017 No.72, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.23, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority for the Financial Year 2014/2015

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson I move with respect to present the response of Government on recommendations made by the Infrastructure Sector Committee.

Mr Chairperson no wonder the performance of our sevens team was disappointing. Because such matters as this still needs further training.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON P.P.2016/2017 NO.23, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2014/2015.

Recommendation:

1. That the Authority follows up and encourage collections of outstanding debts from other sporting bodies.

Response:

The Board of Directors had reviewed the outstanding list of debtors and has rules accordingly. The Authority has renewed its lease agreement with all the sporting bodies using its facilities and will try to keep its collections current in accordance with the agreement.

2. **To issue naming rights for sports facilities under the administration of the Authority in order to claim additional revenues**

Response:

The Authority is now in the process of submitting proposals to various companies soliciting interest on this new initiative. We have yet to hear from these companies but will submit them to the Board in due course before forwarding them to Cabinet for a final decision.

3. **That pre-payment of sporting fields should be enforced before permission is granted for hire.**

Response:

Recommendation is hereby noted and will be adhered with. Corrective action has now been undertaken.

4 JULY 2017

**P.P.2016/2017 No.72, Report of the Infrastructure Sector
Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.23, Annual Report of the Samoa
Sports Facilities Authority for the Financial Year 2014/2015**

4. **That our sporting facilities be advertised to overseas organisations like the United Nations for instance for international competitions to take place in our country for additional revenues.**

Response:

The Recommendation was noted. It is also the intention of the Authority to find other offices that need space for lease to make use of some of the sports facilities.

5. **That the SSFA comply with reporting requirements and submission of Annual Reports to Parliament as specified under the Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Act 2001.**

Response:

Recommendation noted and will be strictly followed. Corrective actions have been put in place to ensure reports are produced in a timely manner in accordance with governing legislation.

Mr Chairperson the matter recommended on the timely submission of annual reports, we cannot achieve objectives of good governance on transparency and accountability if reports are submitted late. This is an important matter for the Minister and the Ministry and Executive, this is their duty. The Minister should encourage the authority to adhere reports because it is unfair to the House if it is delayed. This will adhere to the Government making a decision quickly if the report is submitted to Committee that informs them we are doing our work. Another matter I want to elaborate on Mr Chairperson is the state of our sport facilities. The truth is I have never come upon an association that has a lot of money. Perhaps it is only the Cricket association which I am a part off. The reason why our cricket had reached high standards is because of English cricket. We have now have assistance from the world cricket organization. As for the majority of other sports they only result to debts.

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Therefore, if we want to improve in future we should try and minimize the costs of playing fields. If we think of those playing rugby they have to go get money for sub but they do not have money. This is why for the development of our sports within Samoa the association should lease out these fields to sporting bodies at a lower cost. This will also encourage our future generation to be more involved in sports.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion *that the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the report of the Infrastructure Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government response on P.P. 2016/2017 No. 72, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.23, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority for the financial year 2014/2015 approved.

**P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 91, REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS
COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2016/2017 NO. 42, ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN 2014/2015.**

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Chairperson of the Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitution Committee.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA (Chairperson of the Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitution Committee): Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves P.P.2016/2017 No. 91, Report of the Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitution Committee on P.P. 2016/2017 No 42, Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsman for the financial year 2014/2015.*

Motion approved.

CHAIRPERSON: I call on the Leader of Government the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Chairperson, I move to present the response of Government on the recommendations made by Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitution Committee.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE P.P.2016/2017 NO.42 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 2015.

Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsman 2014/15.

At the conclusion of its findings on the Annual report of the office the Committee was satisfied with ongoing support from the Government on the work of the office. There were no errors seen as Committee was pleased with the establishment of a new special investigation unit. It was noted that the unit establishment was in the starting stage and the Committee saw challenges faced by the office in relation to the Special Investigation Unit on staff shortage. The Committee shown their support on more vacancies on staff needed for the investigation unit, it is noted that only two officers are working in the unit as stated below.

Recommendations of Committee:

- “2.1 Allocate sufficient funding in order for the Ombudsman Office to conduct public awareness programs and carry out its investigations on grievances lodged by the public for assistance. The Committee acknowledges the role of the Ombudsman office in protecting the dignity of human rights.
- 2.2 that the Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Finance review the current structure of the Office of the Ombudsman and consider an alternative for the recruitment of 3 additional staff for the Special Investigation Unit as highlighted in their proposed structure attached. The Committee endorses the proposal submitted by the office in relation to the core responsibilities of this new division.

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CLARIFICATION:

The Office of the Ombudsman has multiple mandates which are usually undertaken in other countries by totally separate establishments. Our approach is sensible for Samoa. We would lose however, the advantage of the amalgamated approach if these functions are staffed top to bottom to operate as separate units within the office. The Ombudsman from the beginning has opted for an organization with a relatively small staff of high quality officers who can be assigned responsibilities to carry the distinctly different mandates of the office at all times, but who are also deployed when needed to meet the pressing needs at different times of all the mandates. The value of the Ombudsman to the community lies in the quality of his conclusions and advice. This is never achieved by surrounding him with hordes of middle level officers, no matter how many.

Cabinet has looked carefully into the needs of the Ombudsman in the discharge of expanded mandates and approved staffing requirements in its decision FK (15)15 of 23 April 2015. Negotiations based on this decision made with MOF and the former Hon Minister for the Ombudsman Office settled on the following; Three new positions at the level requested to be filled one at a time in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Appointment to the remaining one of these vacancies yet to be filled is expected to be made in March 2017. Funds are provided in the budget 2016/2017. This office is carefully evaluating how best to make the necessary adjustments in position allocations and reshuffling needs of the Office to properly serve the needs of the three mandates and maintain fair staff salary relativities.

With the resources that have been progressively approved by government in recent years and those provided in the current budget, the Ombudsman envisaged having a competent and **versatile team of quality senior officers to meet his Office's** foreseeable staffing needs across the board.

As explained above the Government has been working closely and pragmatically with the office of the Ombudsman to progressively meet its staffing needs in a meaningful way.

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Future staffing requirements at lower levels as the Office develops and grows would need to be considered in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and submitted for Cabinet approval when the need arises. Ombudsman Office staffing does not come within the review of the Public Service Commission.

The Parliamentary Committee's recommendations advocating lower level staff is appreciated and accepted by Government.

Mr Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Committee of the Whole House approves Government Response on the Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitution Committee as presented.*

Question put and when the Ayes have it, the Government response on P.P. 2016/2017 No.91, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitution Committee on P.P.2016/2017 No.42 Annual Report for the Office of the Ombudsman for the financial year ended 30th June 2015 approved.

CHAIRPERSON: Since we have arrived at the end of our work for today we will now conclude our work.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 126 Committee of the Whole House will now defer to orders of the Legislative Assembly.

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

Since we have arrived at the conclusion of our orders for the day. Therefore, before we adjourn I call on the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga to conclude our sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1.03pm until 9.00am Wednesday 5th July 2017.