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WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2020

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:06am.

Prayer.

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

Greetings to good health and spirit to the dignity of Parliament this morning.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.3) 2019/2020 & APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021 – resumption of debate over the second reading

MR SPEAKER: Debate will resume on these Bills, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned yesterday when the member for Anoamaa East was speaking.

I call upon the respectable member to upstand and continue with your speech.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East): Greetings to the dignity of the House and to good life and good health. Glory be to God for his compassion upon us this morning.

Yesterday, we had our exchanges, and this morning, *ua faiva ese foi Lopepe*, we will prioritize and uphold. The grounds of Tiafau was not easy to accomplish, it is the land that is under the protection of Lufilufi, Tuisamau and Leulumoega whose struggle came about through usoga ia Puleono in Salafai. It is therefore believed that this is a unique day for it is a day that the Lord has made for us to rejoice and be glad in it.

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Furthermore, our prayers have been delivered to the Almighty Father, yesterday and today is the same, and with two, the mercy of God remains eternally and so as his strength, which has enabled you to be here in good health this new morning. There is a break of new dawn such as the story of Paiatea and Paialala, gone are the bad days we had in the past when we had the arrival of the good days. The renowned pacific tide of Alo is revered discounting the raging tide of Tigilau, as your notable presence fills the air with honour and tranquillity. Why? The middle posts are being taken and so as the front posts, the Samoan Parliament is now whole, *o lupe na faia mai le fuifui* for the Government of Samoa.

Today is a chosen day to review the oratory views for the sake of Samoa today and tomorrow. Further in thought, I recall the *faiva ole tautai*, when going to the high seas to search for fish. It is said that when his feet stood on the seabed, he murmurs words of thanks to our God the Creator to tranquilize the rough surfs of the coast to gentle seas for the occasion. If mountain tops are viewed, we remember the support from our homes. If the Oceanside is viewed, then rest assured that a person was chosen for the sea given your support. If a fisher catches fish, *e sasaa faaoti le utu a le faimea* meaning 'Let the fisherman's bamboo receptacle be completely emptied out due to your support and prayers. Samoa, render us your support, as this constituency proceeds with its speech. Mr Speaker, yesterday's event was well clarified, which we now present before you Samoa, let us seek refuge in God for there is no other way to find prosperity, although we are small but there are so many blessings upon us. His works and his protection comes from his Word, and no weapon can form against a person who is in Christ our Lord.

This morning, we wanted to speak of garden which was in discussion yesterday, this was the only creation that God made before life was put into it. God did not create vehicles nor telephones neither airplanes. As reiterated, when everything else shook, all the other things came to being, leaving behind the necessary to do. From there and right now, given economic anxiety, we need to ensure improvement for the country and village, and land sufficiency, whether it is \$10 billion worth, nevertheless, there will be no more landspace from God as the existing land is more than enough for cultivation.

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There is also word that the supply of other items are running short in the country, and so Samoa, we rely on our lands which is our inheritance and blessing. Do not be misled by those who say that lands will be sold, this is your inheritance from God which are eternally in your arms.

In saying that, we must develop our plantations to support us. We have not come to the most serious part yet, because according to talks already made, the economy of the entire country has been very much affected. Perhaps in the next 12 months, just a recommendation, to the *Sui o nuu, sui o Malo*, keep in mind, we rely on these crops for our survival. This is rightfully the reason why God created plantation, God knew very well that right from the stages of aging to baby, there are four meals per day, and food security supply must be sufficiently available to provide support.

Education; thankfully some of the needs of the Ministry of Education has received responses. Although there are a few things with regards to issues allegations the country. The Ministry has therefore urged the continuation of online education using internet, as this will not finish... So our office will endeavor to bring online education for the sake of our children. As such, the works of the State are interconnected, we have wires connectivity to provide speed... I appreciate the collaboration of all entities of the State for the prosperity of the country.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I allow the chance... Is there anything you want to... I call the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I do not want to interrupt the delightful speech of the orator of Tumua and Lufilufi. However, the country is listening in. The word given for a Chinese to invent another virus. I respect our relationship with those overseas as they are hearing us, we are partnering with them for their assistance. That is the intent here, what say you your honour...

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. I call the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I have thought of making a comment however, the member has stood up. To date, America is blaming the Republic of China which was the initial place for this virus instead, China is also blaming America for this disease. The derivation of this allegation is due to an article written in the New York Times, it was written by an American who lives in Japan who testified that this is the place whereby, this warfare germ had developed. Perhaps they had a sports team that had travelled directly to China whereby America is saying that it was this place that the emergence of this virus had all began. To date, these allegations are ongoing between China and America due to conflicts between the two countries particularly during the German times and the blame on Iran on the investigations of warfare germs emergence which was normally utilized by these large Nations. And so to date, it is not known which is right about all this, except that the entire world is now affected. The only challenge is that it is good that things are happening regardless of who the instigators are if testimonies are true, they must be aware that it is now affecting the entire world. Education shared herein is very useful.

Mr Speaker up to now, some are blaming other people, and the world has come to the point whereby people are found dead and still, a cure is yet to be found. The testimonies brought forward, 4 years later after the flu pandemic, Spain is also being blamed as this is where it all started, the Spanish flu, which had spread across the globe including Samoa. By records, a total of 100 million death toll resulted from this virus. For India alone, the death toll came to 13 million. The world has not reached that number, however it took 4 years to find a cure for this flu. For the current virus, it is much easier as one must take the antibiotics and that is it. However, in the past, whenever someone gets the flu, they automatically die and this was known as the deadly disease back then although, a cure took 4 years to find.

As such, let us bear hope, we are in the test trial period for all scientists of the world to find a cure. Tests by scientists within their own countries are over as none have been proven correct for cure or protection. As some scientists have been found dead. Therefore, it is the self-interest of all people to find a cure for this deadly disease.

Mr Speaker, that is the importance of the reminders made by the members, for us not to do things swiftly as we do not know what right thing to do.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. The correction is good by the Prime Minister, pardon the member I wanted to assist the member's statement, as this olioli bottle is the reason for your speech. I therefore say, no, but for the protection of our relationship with other countries, remove these words in the speech of the member from our transcript records.

The Speaker has instructed the removal of the words by the member of Anoamaa East from Hansard – *[I toe alu alu foi se isi Saina faatupu ifo se isi siama aafia ai le lalolagi]*.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Thank you. People are being silly, they are becoming problematic. The term that is now used is patemi or pandemic, it not only affects the health but also, it is deeply affecting the economies of the world. If investigations are carried out to find out which nation started this disease, then these people must be held accountable for these things, complaints must be made against this Nation, although, thank you for...

MR SPEAKER: Thank you that is well received, do carry on with another matter.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: This is the situation with our good health, thank you Hon Minister of Health for your engagement with our country at this critical time. The main thing is that we are assured, there is currently no virus in Samoa as of yet. The only reason for this virus to come to Samoa is by those travelling in through our borders. This is the only way for this virus to reach our shores, although, thankfully there are preventative measures in place for our protection. There is point to...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me I call the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the member has come to a very critical part of his speech, such as the announcement I made 2 days ago, Monday and Tuesday during my program talks held yesterday which included discussions with our Committee (NEOC) on some of the pleas on some of our flights reopening. From that talk, a decision has been made according to negotiations with New Zealand and the Air New Zealand about bringing some of our seasonal workers home. The reason for my upstanding is that it has gone over 3 weeks since no new case in New Zealand is being found from the Covid19. Unfortunately, during the progress of Cabinet meeting, it was reported that there were 2 new cases in New Zealand, they were people from Great Britain who transitted through New Zealand for funeral purpose and were caught at the New Zealand border. That said, they were caught at the airport and were asked to return to their initial destination. For the sake of our listening country, there is nothing to worry about, Cabinet has reached its decision, our travelling to New Zealand is safe. There is adequate communication links by our NEOC Committee every day with the World Health Organisation as well as with New Zealand on this virus disease, which is a huge task performed by our health officials.

I hereby extend congratulations to the Lady Minister and the Chief of the Ministry who are working closely with the Committee in monitoring the protection of our country, also with our flights to American Samoa given the high security and protection by the Governor and his Cabinet there. Therefore, a decision must be made to open up borders between these two countries.

Mr Speaker that is the announcement with all due respect to the dignity of the House.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. The protection by the State is explicitly clear which has our priority. I call upon the member you have two more minutes left.

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Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: I thank the clarifying statement by the Prime Minister on protection. This is such a huge delight for the elderlies in the country and those that have managed to travel back here to be with their families. This is not cheap however, we endeavor to do it for our people and for their benefit. Such is the heart of gratitude.

The summary of our Budget, is like a wonderful story in words, the aim is to collect whatever we can to help us in this time of need. The effect upon the economies of other countries can also affect ours. Thankfully, I see that our senior members are also sharing this benefit. I have a relative who is looking after pensions for senior groups, the Senior Iuni who attended our village meeting, and had clarified the increase of pensions in our meeting. After she did that, ‘let us applaud and praise God.’ All the aging group in our village clapped and were thankful for this benefit for them which is such a joy for them moving forward. And so majority of this House are heading to 65 years old thus earning \$160 from our pensionary scheme.

Taken from an accountant perspective for these Budget Statements, you can take a sip and see the bottom line which is very noteworthy. You watch this bottom line and see that there is a huge drop. For any business person, this is their critical number, although it is not complete but it is vital. Because when I look at the process for this Budget which will progress soon, I can assure that all expenditures will be utilized by all Ministries. On top of revenues, that is where the question poses, due to the current effects, whether all our projected revenues can be collected. The world is in huge turmoil. Then I thought, the bottom line here is on the rise. And now that we are collecting other people’s plantations, which means that not only will you take your plantation, but you will also steal money from the bank to fill up this payment.

The recommendation, let us see, because the commencing address by the Hon Minister of Finance, the dress depends on the material available. That is the norm of our past Budgets. Let your demand depend on the means that you have available. However, I see something different here, it seems that the plantation of another family is being stolen by another family due to longing desire. Just an assistance for the Minister of Finance. It is like grants.

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There is a free \$50 tala distribution for all, see if it can come to \$500, otherwise leave it. This amount seems misleading but when you times it by 200,000 people, it will come to \$10million. As such, it is best to leave it to reduce this bottom line which is becoming an issue. It is not known what \$50 means but when it is \$500 then everybody will be happy and will accept it.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker just this bit for clarification. I see that Lufilufi does not know the meaning of \$50. To the respectable member, \$50 per vote or x.

MR SPEAKER: I permit the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, we do not use x for these things, we are trying to develop the country and programs which are still ongoing.

The main thing, if the Ministry can have \$50 to implement this project, there are two people who will not agree to this doing, they are the member for Lufilufi and the member for Salega, because they do not take importance of this matter.

Mr Speaker for the clarification of the Budget as there was a huge mistake spoken by someone yesterday on our Budget. Our Budget on the overall for clarification to provide clarity using our collected revenues for our Government operations which includes our small debt repayments of only \$89 million. Whereas some say that this debt is highly unaffordable. There are 3 main things in priority, for the operations of our Government. What funding is necessary to be utilized for our developments so that more job creation can be made for our people and to develop our economy?

If we look at the first chapter, it is very important. If a person does not understand the first chapter, it does not understand the entire budget. The layout of Budget is there. What lies in this first part. \$107million for developments. How is this funded? It is funded by grants. These are not loans, it is financial aid from overseas. What then is the worrisome about? Should we stop receiving grants from overseas? \$107 million grant comes from overseas plus \$11.4 from new borrowing, this 11million, we have 2 developments given here from the All Bank.

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Another funding is to fund the completion of our airport which is almost finished. Another allocation is for funding of our storage tanks to store up oil supply. That is all, therefore surplus means more expenditure than revenues. This includes this 11million that is almost finished. That is the meaning of the term deficit here. Revenue on top of revenues that was collected comes to \$838 million.

Mr Speaker, if a person does not understand of this chapter, it will not understand the entire Budget. That is why the interruption made yesterday and the statement issued today on deficit showed poor understanding of this matter. Is the grant of \$107 million a deficit? It is not. It is a grant donated to us to implement our developments given the trust and our good reputation viewed by foreign countries and the works that we implement.

Who implements it? It is implemented by the Government Chiefs who are sitting there, so that they are aware of the honorable members' intents. Who else is above you, when you are the Leaders of Samoa, quit the deriding spirit.

Mr Speaker that is what I meant, it is not a deficit, which could lead to something awful. Is it bad to receive \$107million from our partners? Because this is viewed as... free money. Because we are trying to implement developments, and because we are attempting to raise with our people what we call tax. We are also trying to help ourselves. It is therefore not good for some to pay tax whilst others do not. Mr Speaker, let this House be clarified that the layout of the Budget tabled by the Hon Minister of Finance, and the inadequacy of the terminologies used, is now being expounded into a simple language.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. It is now clear, the same with...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, a chance for me to give a thought, since my speech from yesterday has been mentioned, it is stupid, he is stupid and lacks understanding.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes your honour, I rise...with respect to you honourable Speaker. What is the meaning of deficit? Such is the explanation, bankrupt.

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: He is dumb. Look at the huge time that has taken me to explain this. Is \$107million bankrupt for grants that are allocated for free? Mr Speaker that is exactly the intent. You are the rightful one that the speech this morning was directed to. You have been in Cabinet for a while yet you do not understand.

MR SPEAKER: There is thought that...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I have been sitting here long yet you have made the decision on your own.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member; we will not make any arguments.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I will demonstrate in our program Cabinet's decisions which he took part in. I do not make the decisions. It is done by the Cabinet. And so here is a former member who used to sit in Cabinet but does not understand his role. The entire Cabinet makes the decision. Mr Speaker, the statements given are very nonsensical. Even the resolutions reached by this Party, where I had made clarifications, they are done collectively and from there, majority of this Party went against you. The resolution was made to demolish the building as it was getting dilapidated however, you refused to do so. He further sat on that chair and attacked this Party, *ua maua ula futifuti*. It is like a person with a good big heart however, you have said it yourself. If these words were not spoken, the House and the whole country would not have heard your great weakness.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. Pardon the respectable member.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: It is your filthiness and trying to be in control, that is the reason why and if I had not stopped the election by Tafua I would not know what would happen to you.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: You see how rude he is, you are sitting here yet he is saying that it is he who appointed you.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I have already shown my respect upon you Toleafoa and have rendered my apologies. I have apologized... the Party knows my full heart upon your honor. I have said my apologies yesterday, forgive me. God knows what had happened...

MR SPEAKER: Let me assist you, perhaps you are aware that you used to manage our Parliament. The chance is necessary for me when interrupting any speaker as my protection is upon you. In clarification of a matter, the State has the final explanation. This also applies to any other government of the day. Also keep in mind, that the reason for the grants and financial aid submitted from other countries is because they see that we are using these funds appropriately. Furthermore, we must prioritize and learn to support our own developments. Such is the will from God; He will help those who help themselves first. That is how this life works. Who would want to lend help to a person that mocks around and begs. Such is the feeling, which is your own view and clarification on this matter. However, the Leader has made his statement and therefore that is the final clarification from the State. As such, I beg tolerance let us not go back. I ask the member for Anoamaa to conclude your statement now.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Thank you, because as soon as you picked me yesterday, I then thought, alright these boys will be in dispute this morning. Be calm and look ahead. Uphold the dignity of the House. That is the recommendation. As for this morning, it is...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance member for Lufilufi...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is no dispute.

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The reason being is that if our ancestors were still here today, we would not have it, the words/language they used were more vulgar and insolent. One would call out freely to the Speaker and words used were uncouth. I therefore thank Parliament today, there is so much calmness seen today then before. I can never hold back what needs to be done. Because the entire Budget Statement is the focus of our Sitting today and wherefore, it is necessary to manage our country for the next 12 months. That is why the Cabinet does not take lightly the statements and exchanges made, which could omit the attempt and intent of Cabinet for the development of the country, especially at this critical time. We are currently facing this deadly virus, and it will eventually reach countries that are granting us financial aid, which would not be the same. Mr Speaker that is reason for correcting these things. Because this subjectmatter all started yesterday. If Cabinet therefore does not correct it, the falsification and misunderstanding will spread across thus prolonging our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. I call the Minister of Works.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you for the opportunity. I wish to talk about deficit as I too used to be a Minister of Finance in the past. Although, my understanding of deficit, it is not a loss, it is a loss when projected revenues and expenditures are stated in the budget. Therefore if there is excess expenditure and if our ordinary revenues is insufficient according to the Ministry of Revenue, then that is called deficit. The allotted funds to make up this deficit are called grants and soft term borrowings. Perhaps the Hon Prime Minister's statement is correct, if we do not understand these things... I recall the argument by Afioga Saleimoa, translate deficit to tefisio in Samoan. It is therefore not a loss, if money collected by the State from ordinary revenues is insufficient, then additional money from expenditures is made, it is insufficient. That is called deficit, not bankrupt. If deficit is funded from grants and soft term borrowings then we will have a complete budget.

That is the clarification of this matter, because without understanding, that is what the Prime Minister said, the Budget will not be fully understood. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuia Rico Tupai: Mr Speaker just adding on to this matter. There is a number we could look at, to bring peace and harmony upon our country on this matter. The GDP ratio between our economy and debts is only 48%, in the world; all budgets are in deficit due to the virus. Other deficit within the Pacific region is 7%. Now you know what figure we are on. Let me clarify this, as this is not the first time to present this before Parliament. Your honor, in Cabinet, the Prime Minister does not make the decision on his own. The Cabinet is bearing witness to this, matters are debated heatedly inside Cabinet before they come to Parliament, and therefore, the Prime Minister does not make the decisions by himself. Your honor and the dignity of this House and the listening public, Cabinet conducts serious discussion on matters before they reach us. That is the clarification, as this is not the first time this matter has come before Parliament thank you.

MR SPEAKER: It is clear now, pardon the member for Gagaemauga No 3... I will give clarification on this.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, I respect you. If the Leader of the Nation speaks, that is enough for me and the Minister. But for someone new to speak, that is the intent. I am not talking, only the Cabinet, overall, everything.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, have patience let me say something. We were all inside Cabinet together and it was not like that. Cabinet negotiates and discusses until a decision is reached which is the case.

In terms of the situation as well the Prime Minister has said it, he has made clarification about deficit and bankrupt. And there is a difference between these two things, Asiata and Saleimoa had also argued about it in the past. However the statement made by the member for Anoamaa is well taken, as he too is an auditor himself. However, how can our money not have a deficit when we are trying to meet all the demands of the country by providing assistance? Where do we get the money to increase our pensions and where do we get money to do all...yes...our developments are being implemented, they are being pushed through. Developments are ongoing.

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The State is also offering assistance towards individual persons, businesses given the drop in interest rates, whether to suspend it for 3 months time or whatever amount. As that depends on no tourist arrival and the situation that Samoa and the world is now facing. We are lucky we have a few millions, what about America. How many thousands of people have gone unemployed? As such, bear with us as we are trying our best. When we have an issue, where a person has been in working tirelessly and receive a complaint from a person who is sitting around, then, we are not God all the times. As such I beg forgiveness to the member. Conclude your speech now, Lufilufi.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Mr Speaker, the reason for saying this is for the clarity of Parliament. Samoa I am free. Yes, I should not be suppressed from speaking freely in this House, I should be allowed to speak openly. Nobody should stop me. I will speak my right mind, as I undertand many things. I will therefore speak of short term loan and deficit. The reason for saying this is that no Parliament member should be repressed from speaking its mind. That is your own individual right handed to you from your constituency. That said, have mercy on the roads of Lufilufi, I have longed given this request, the last cyclone shared with us is more than enough.

MR SPEAKER: What then will Lufilufi use to build its road...

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: It is up to you whether to have another deficit to execute that matter. I do not know whether the Minister of Health was informed, our village of Lufilufi approached the hospital, to have a look into the doctor's house there and its service towards the district. Nothing much, only this to say, be patience and be calm. A person in the deep ocean is far different that the one in the shallow sea. Meantime let us heed the presence of God, peace is found no where else, because Jesus is the Prince of Peace, he brings you a heart of peace. Let us bear the peace of God. Do things joyfully, our exchanges our box in here, and when we go outside we laugh, it is finished which is good.

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The member of Salega also left this place. Because \$50 starts from 0 to 100. Therefore, it is 0 to 20 will not vote. Instead they said that it is all electoral matters. This is rightfully why the Prime Minister is correct, if you do not understand they do not speak of things you do not know.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, point of order. The \$50 is not clear, it is said that \$50 is to be given. Special years are not specified. This is totally wrong.

MR SPEAKER: Do not bring that pardon the member. Do not bring the distribution of your money to voters to do the works of the State, this is done out of genuine spirit.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, just this one bit to clarify, I understand and so as the member of Lufilufi. The reason for using his statement is to clarify other matters made yesterday. This is to assist those who came last, but still want to talk about this matter. However, within the House, freedom is not avoided. I thank the member of Lufilufi for raising this again for me to gain chance to clarify again these matters, which I did not want to bring up yesterday. I have waited to hear any more views yet the member for Lufilufi has said it again, then I thought, I will assist Lufilufi to elaborate this raising concern.

The clarification I am now receiving, members seem to have no freedom here. Freedom is your own free will. The main thing, do not go wrong, because if do, then Cabinet will be accused. As Cabinet will never stop rising to correct matters that needs to correction. That is the assistance; otherwise, we are all free in this House.

MR SPEAKER: Your time is up, finish now, say goodbye to your constituency. Your time is finished.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Thank you for your statements, the plan this morning, *lele ua tetele lava i pesega ae matua lava i oo*. To my constituency, your member is very strong today. Thank you for your prayers and support.

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The dignity of Toaono ma le saofaiga, Tupai ma Seutatia ma ou fuaiala, may God bless you. Le tapuaiga foi i aiga, ma Aloalii ma la Ulumatua ma le tofa Sololeaai, thank you very much for your support which have made everything go well. Our journey is ending soon yet nothing is affecting it. However we shall see about this deadly virus, we are all praying to God for his blessings and protection upon us and our entire country.

May the honourable Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister find good thoughts, may I pardon all the listeners, if I had erred you in any way, *e poto lava le tautai ae le atoa ia i lona faiva*. Forgive me if I had wronged you. To the House, Government Heads, well done to you, I pray that God will instill strength upon you so that you are able to serve this dignity, for the sake of Samoa and its support. To the prayerful servants of God, may God's blessings be upon you all. Soifua and blessings, may I endure long life, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. Well done. The member for Salega is upstanding in accordance to the Budget. Go on member for Salega East.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you for the opportunity. I am of the view that our prayer of offering has already been delivered this morning. Such is reason why we are here assembling in good health and spirit on this wonderful and beautiful morning. Our gathering here in good health restoration has enabled Parliament to convene this morning. Although we are being calamity and storms heading our way nevertheless, we have gained triumph by abiding the mercy of God for the country in particular. Praises and exaltations be unto the Most High. The notable honorifics of Samoa and our words have been laid and cannot be changed. said honourable Speaker, *o le a nuunuu atu ia faatini o tausala i faiva tofofi, ma faiva alofiaao o Tumua ma Pule e tausi vaatele aua mamalu o Samoa*. Lest my time is up, it is best that I direct my talk on the Budget. I will reiterate my talk on deficit or what other things whether in numbers, whereby all that is clarified.

I wish to acknowledge the Minister of Finance, the CEO and the Ministry. I trust you have worked tirelessly in fulfilling your roles to achieve this. The true word, the work that you did was not easy and for that well done. As such we shall start deliberations, it is the time for us to talk and discuss especially this Parliament.

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This is also the time for some members to go stingy and get angry. It is clear in the bible your honour, ‘anger is a weapon of the enemy’, in Paul’s words, interjecting frequently could mean that this person has been chained by the devil. Mr Speaker, that is the voice and thought of this district.

MR SPEAKER: I allow the interjection from the member for Falealili.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Since I do read the Bible, I want to know exactly where in it Paul mentions interrupts frequently please.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I see you are being problematic, I said Saul not Paul. Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity, let me voice our gratitude or prideful spirit whilst we have the support of Matautia and his sons, as Tuiatua is also the Tuiaana and he is a man of Tuisamau. We are also heeding the support of Samoeleoi the leading lineage and the rest of the traditional honorifics of this district. Those are the honorifics under the protection of the upstanding Olo here. Olomaulugaeleaeaeesefili is the full name the same with the orator Sela and the dignity of Alataua. I see that you are not getting the longer version of my name which is Olomaulugaeleaeaeesefili Mr Speaker seeing that you are trying to...

Mr Speaker, the spirit of gratitude for this constituency is that the canoe cannot be rowed alone. Why? Because of the changes we have now which we have gone through gradually. Since the beginning of our independence until 2020. Well true is the word, *o le tai ma lona taaga, o le mafua ma lona pa. O le aso ma le mea e tupu ai*, there comes a day and its event.

If we look back at the struggle and sweat of our ancestors who had paved the way through, it is striking to the heart. The courageousness of these leaders is astounding. As such we extend our great gratitude although some of them have passed on. It is observed that their farseeing wisdom is overwhelming and astonishing. There were very few men who had the chance to be educated in those days although it was in depth prudence and farsighted knowledge that was beyond belief.

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Mr Speaker, the reason for reflecting back is my inquisitiveness in the academic level and prudence that Parliamentarians had received in the past compared to today. I had searched the methods they had used from the start in developing our country.

Mr Speaker, there was a time when I went to our library. I had read through all the debates and Budget Statements from 1962. Funny whist going through it on the protocols and the way they made their deliberations from one year to another and like I said. I had read through them from 1962 up to 2020.

They were discussions that were made with courage and confidence with a few money earned at that time from cocoa and coconut, banana cartons without their attempt on borrowings nor financial assistance. And that is reason why that was shocking. When the old men had to borrow back in those days, they did so through the Estate or the Copra Board. It was remarkable.

The statement of Lufilufi who had just spoken which has my support, a time when our lands were 100%. There was no worry unlike now, something which could affect our economy. However when we have cyclones in those days and we were left with nothing except our taro plantations that was still in abundance. Cyclones was also challenging for some and the fallen coconuts so that we could make good plans out of it.

Mr Speaker since 1962 until 1984, before HRPP took over our Government, there was distribution bit by bit from 1969 until...we had to use wise distribution from \$4million, \$6million. Up to 1979 to 1980, the current amount is \$14 million, money in portions. But during that time, the population of our country was 115,000, 120,000 in total. There was no budget allocation to ensure that there was enough distribution at that time. There was also no tax imposed on the food we bought. We also did not have to pay any water bills, no service fees for Government Ministries and Corporations. There were also not many assets at that time.

During that time, under the Airlines Company, which had Losi and Pili, it was dumbfounded. Although there were some issues that was faced however the flow of things went well. Even with our debts which I saw, it did not erach \$20million at that time. We even did not have large buildings at that time.

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When HRPP undertook over, there was big change. I thank the Leader of the Government and the Party, we have an allocation of \$800 million plus. The HRPP administration in 1985, there was an allocated budget of \$75 million. This is where more debt accumulation was made. We have seen our beautiful township area. The difference right now is that we now have GST. This is also good which we relied on. That was the same with...at that time it is like assets are also being purchased. So not only did our debts increased, but also assets.

We had Samoa Tel which was our Telecommunications we had under Telecom. There was the Bank of Samoa, Valima, and the copra company. That is the difference and reason for speaking of these things. And so my personal comparison of these things, that was before the HRPP took over, we were known by many countries as a poor country. My personal view and comparison to it, we were poor face to face, we did not worry, we were poor but with joy. And so what now?

Mr Speaker, we were poor with tears. We have also heard of statements made in this House in 1994 that said, ‘Samoa let us pray’ for the development of our country. Time will come for blessings upon you.

Mr Speaker, we have been praying for 38 years. And I notice that we were worshipping the wrong God. Perhaps we are praying to the ancient Baal who has not responded. That is my statement on this situation.

On the overall honorable Speaker, and this rising deadly virus, which are in so many talks today, and have affected our economies given the main objective of the HRPP Party on Tourism and remittances which have been very much affected today. I have thought that it would be best that we go back to our lands. Regardless, our economy will become stable if we utilize and make good use of our lands.

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I allow the member for Faleata...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I am trying to observe the speech of the respectable member. After thanking the State and praise the developments and again say, there is a lot of debts and...I do not get it because the projects and status that the State has come to, God has given his response. Yet again they are deceiving, they are worshipping a different God.

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I therefore do not understand, what exactly the member is saying. We too started off with the old Parliament and have ended up with a new and wonderful Parliament. There are plentiful developments which I will talk about when I give my speech. What I wish to ask the member is, it seems that he is questioning God,. I am stunned, with all due respect.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, the sacrifice is unrecognizable. It is explicitly given in the bible. God accepts the offering we do. But Baal did not accept the offerings made upon him.

The Associate Minister, I am shocked. It is not 4 years since he has been with the HRPP, yet he still does not listen, the debts is for the development of the country. That is the meaning here, debt is not bad.

MR SPEAKER: Since the country is listening in, the member for Faleata is upstanding to voice his concerns on this correction. There is view that assistance must be made to the notable member. We are the leaders and that is stated under our Oath of Allegiance. Therefore we must abide by our oaths. Because the people are listening lest they are being falsified by this view...as I take it that God does not respond to us as we are worshipping Baal. Yes I am very stunned to hear you say this.

I order that you move on to another subject, as it is God that is answering to us. You do remember that God's response is that we are not being affected by the virus, other than the wealth and resources that we consume and obtain. I beg tolerance to the member, move on to the next topic.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Very well thank you honorable Speaker, lest anyone is being fabricated, however I have compared the offering to God with the offering made to Baal.

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the respectable member I allow the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker looking at this side, we are so full tuned to the current speaker especially my Cabinet and members of the HRPP. We are listening to the words of a person who does not feel thankful to God for all these good achievements we are seeing. A person who never sees anything good. A song sung by the Church and the choir of the President of Methodist Church during the Independence celebration sounded really nice. It was a hymn to praise God for all the good developments witnessed in Samoa as part of his creation, because we are still hearing repentance. No good development cannot be done by our Creator. The splendour of this House was created by God. God creates good thoughts upon the Leaders of the State, Cabinet and all Political Parties. All Legislations are submitted to the House for approval through the grace of God to enhance and enrich that Samoa is being founded on Him. Particularly the majority of this House to bring forth words that was in the Preamble, Samoa is founded on God, which was not part of the Constitution, otherwise, the insertion has been made into the Constitution during this Parliamentary term.

The country is blessed but it is going down the drain by him. It can never be understood by someone with a devilish mind. Such is why we are still listening and letting him speak, let Samoa hear and see for themselves the type of member that Salega has brought here. He mainly focuses on bad things and that is it. Although the road and ship he travels on is very beautiful.

Mr Speaker, it is such a glad feeling I have this morning, now that we heard what was in his heart. And nothing is being hidden. Salega has heard, on the type of talk regarding the word of God, the Holy Book of God yet he does not live by it. Because your life is measured according to another person. What status is it with this other person's life journey? You can never talk about anything if it is measured according to you but what about your spouse and children? Where are they? I am reading these news which are from overseas.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker, why say it to me and what about you?

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Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I am reading these things from overseas about a lady from Australia, everyone knows about it.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Do not be inquisitive, I refuse to say anything as you have a relative before us. You look like a chatter box fagot.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: On that note, if a word is spoken from the Holy Bible and does not abide by it, that is it. We are all ears whilst you pour out your whole being.

MR SPEAKER: I beg forbearance member for Salega, do remain calm.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker whilst Samoa is tuning in, do not be distorted by the word of the devil. Do not be manipulated by those words, because I have compared the offering to God which had HRPP caused troublesome to the country. That was the comparison I made.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker even with this..

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member...

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: The member can speak of words only by using the Bible to misled the people through the devil. Mr Speaker, bring it on, let us hear him.

MR SPEAKER: Well... member for Salega, I have thought that you would move away from this matter. As Samoa is Founded on God. The intent for me is to not speak and say the Lord's name in a jokily way. It is clear as the Prayerful Leaders of the Church are tuning in to our conversation.

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Yes we are worshipping the Almighty God who created everything, although, we are again questioning what he has done to us. It seems that we are worshipping Baal, those are the objects here. That is my duty which is to advise the respectable Parliament.

That said, I beg tolerance to the members, focus on the Budget and let go of those things which are unnecessary for the State, because this is the role of the State, it is to give assistance and bring all thoughts to the right track. I beg the pardon of all the members.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you honorable Speaker, God does not look at the person. He looks at the heart and the meaning of words he says. That is the difference between me and the Hon Prime Minister.

I will move on to the Hon Ministers. I will start with the Minister of Communications. Yesterday you clarified the matter with capeways. During my time with the Telecom which was under the State, there was only capeway at that time. We can gain communications with the outgoing and incoming of the traffic. Right now, there are 2 capeways which both the Vodafone and Digicel have. We are only receiving a small percentage of this. In advice, as the member for Gagaemauga No.3 had said yesterday, try and gain back this area.

Even with the internet, based on personal observation, this is not cheap. The reason being is that this Company is benefitting a lot from this internet connection and the use of telecommunications as well as the benefits obtained from our Tui Cable. Because they too are shareholder of the Tui Cable and are also playing up with these benefits. Therefore, there is not much coverage gained by the entire country and the State since most of the benefit is going towards these 2 companies.

Let us look at the Internet and its connectivity in the country. Whenever we have the Budget majority of the time, there are millions and millions accorded to the SNPH that we speak of. Two weeks ago during my roundtrip to Savaii, there were only two schools that uses the School Net. And none of them uses any of this even over here. The hospital also has 2 using it but the connectivity is also not good. None of this is being used. The reason for talking about these things, is because there is a lot of money going into these Broadband which are in millions when it is not being utilized. I do not know where this money is used for. I am saying it like that, but Hon Minister do have a look at this matter.

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On to the Ministry of Finance, spirit drinks were being raised. This is very true. As for your explanation on wine, I am sure you are aware of the truth behind these things. It is wine on the outside but spirit on the content, because I have drunk it myself. That is the truth. However, business people like this, they too come up with ideas especially slit shaped eyes people. I am shocked if you are not aware about these innovative type of people, they now say excise tax as the excise tax for wine is lower then that of spirit. I know it is necessary that you must be aware unless you do not want to know...

MR SPEAKER: The member has 2 more minutes. I call the Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister for Revenue): Mr Speaker, the accusation about me saying that unless I do not want to know. I trust my Ministry and their decision relayed to me. The word on wine is a wine. There is no spirit. If our Ministry says the process for making wine is this, then that is it. Wine is also labelled in bottles. However if a member is aware of a process for making wine, then that is its own view. However, there are records brought by the Ministry about this wine making process and those who visited this undertaking. The Ministry is also preparing for another process in accordance to the will of this House which is ongoing, together with investigations. This is the response lest you think I do not wish to know.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, I allow the Leader of the State.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, time will come for us to respond to all the raising matters from the members, the only thing given here is ruining the good works we have achieved. That is also another reason why we had the assessment on our Budget, on the submission of a generator that could burn down the prison. Those were very plausible allegations. There comes the last times, where we will have that report where we will speak of piled up garbage, but time will come for our response, whilst the Government Heads are listening, we will have our full presentations on the mounted rubbish you are submitting.

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MR SPEAKER: The members time is finished. Do conclude now.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I will conclude now, just this small bit then I will wrap up Mr Speaker. Then I come to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Hon Minister...

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I wish to ask, how much more time does this member have?

MR SPEAKER: The time is finished and the member is concluding his remarks.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Because once the member finishes then his time should be up. If he wants time extension, then you should move a motion.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker I am now standing...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I rise with due respect honorable Speaker, I have thought that a motion will be set for the member from Salafai whether approved or not, I think the views of the member is important for he is far from getting to the finished line. I rise to move 15 minutes time extension for the member of Salega with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon, the member is late as I have given my ruling do conclude now your...

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Well I am upstand to second this, what say you. Nevertheless, thank you honorable Laaulialemalietoa...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me you have heard the view of the Leader of the State, I may be blamed for managing our works. Despite my respect upon the respectable members, the State also intends to continue our works for the sake of piled up duties and roles of the Cabinet. As such, please, your time is up. Conclude your speech.

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Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you, I am concluding now, I only wanted to state this one issue with the Minister...

MR SPEAKER: We shall spread our word further, because there is another conclusion whereby one is automatically cut off from speaking. But due to respect, given the tuning in of the public and districts. I plead that you conclude now, bear the support of your constituency, lest your speech is cut out suddenly then it seems like we are kids. Pardon the language.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker you have heard the speech of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 I am the only correct person and I do bear so much respect upon you. I will therefore conclude, then you will see the rightfulness.

Hon Minister of Commerce, I have this bit of advise to say to you....

MR SPEAKER: Your will shall be done instead of mine.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I will finish at another time, I will obey your orders.

MR SPEAKER: Your will will be done instead of mine.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Very well, I will conclude at another time, I will abide by your orders. Although my time is not yet finished however the Prime Minister has been very venal, thus that is all right. I extend great thanks.

MR SPEAKER: Lest you think that, we are in control again.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: No, you are in control but I will now conclude. Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Since you have also accused the Cabinet, lest you think that I am of the same view according to the advice from the Prime Minister, no. You began speaking at 10 o'clock exactly. Now it is 10.38 going on to 40 minutes.

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The time of your interruption is also covered here. As such, have mercy, as the Prime Minister is not saying that it is necessary to do this and that. I have thought...

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I will not go against your will Mr Speaker, I am also submissive, I will now conclude our speech. I bid your forgiveness if I have erred anyone today, may the honorable Speaker be blessed as well as this Parliament. I also express gratitude to the support, do not be misled by the words of the Prime Minister. Praise the Lord, Amen.

MR SPEAKER: Do not mock man. Very well. Thank you. This is the Meeting of high chiefs and orators, we speak with great respect. I heed this side of the House, do not allow err to burden your thoughts, such is the normal mistake of speeches. It is a norm to you the dignity of the House, Hon Prime Minister, it has been 30 years since you have been faced with leading the Government, you are used to hearing all this and the speeches of members given in accordance to this side of the House and their attempts.

Is there another member who wishes to speak, go ahead. Very well, I call upon the member for Falealili to speak o the Main Budget and the Supplementary Appropriation. Falealili East, you may proceed.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Thank you Mr Speaker, and you managing of our Sitting this morning. I heed great appreciation to the support of Samoa. It is good to find new thoughts from the senior members of the House for their prudent wisdom. This is good for us in searching farsighted and wise decisions for Parliament.

It reminds me of one of the orators, although some of the members are still preaching like servants of God, which indicates that we are still fastened to the Constitution of Samoa by which God is our Foundation. One of the preachers was selected to lead the service, he told his wife that he will give the sermon, so that she can see him during his sermon. He then told a story of three people being thrown into a fiery furnace. During the preacher's elucidation, the faith of these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and he totally forgot the name of the other guy. He went on and on with his sermon and mentioned the two names again forgetting the third one and then his wife sitting in front row said, "Abednego." The the old man said, "yes, Penitito."

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That is the spirit this morning, because you listened differently, some thought it was Abednego, whilst some said it is Penitito.

I understand that your ship is all geared up and ready to sail, your vision and concepts have been composed, I also realise that it is understood and it is commendable and admired. Your wisdom which is revered and attractive to the belles of Samoa as the adage goes. It is a faultless and desired compass for steering our course forward. It is a beacon which dictates our path and to counter adversity. I respectfully acknowledge your consecrated presence respecting the ceremonial salutations of Samoa's kings and nobles now assemble in Samoa's paramount Assembly, *o lupe sa faia mai le fuifui*, with regards to farsighted wisdom in the House for the benefit of Samoa in the future.

I am proud to say that this House of Samoa, is the original place of our hopes and is where our aspirations and ideas are created, it is where our vision and intellect is generated which does please the lady Fenunuivao, in reference to our people, when adversity strikes, which does steer Samoa's ship off course. The perspective of the outside world particularly the Pacific region, is our status is admired with flying colours with our economy no longer progressing gradually. We are deliberating and debating the English term 'deficit' in light of the Main Financial Estimates followed by the suggestion to pluck out the overgrown weed. May I remind you of Lufilufi's opinion, to not pluck out the overgrown weed as you may unknowingly trespass onto other people's plantations. In the old days...

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I interrupt the speech of the member, I think it is wonderful, we are at a time whereby speeches are being interrupted frequently subject to our time and our orders of the day. As such, I beg your pardon your honour...

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Never mind, the member for Falealili East abides by your rules as I bear you respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since we have arrived at our normal sitting hours, we will resume statements when we return.

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I announce that the Legislative Assembly will now go to normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for normal recess at 10:45am and resume at 11:37am.

Debate will resume over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021.

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

Before the chance is granted to the current speaker, I call upon the...later on we will have the Prime Minister to move a motion, I call upon the member for Falealili East to resume your speech. The respectable member.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: There is thought that replenished and renew strength have been added upon the dignity of this Parliament and Government Chiefs from our morning breakfast, that being said, I submit great appreciation. The statement from Falealili will recommence.

I cannot advance, out of respect for the encouragement of Samoa, and particularly the respectful sitting of Parliament in this Assembly today. As I said earlier, I must accord my courtesy to your distinguish honourable presence for which solitude is resolved in times of resentment and friction like this morning. I revere the worthy dignitaries of this House the centre of our democratic pursue of welfare for Samoa. It is why I am most respectful as if I may err I would be compared to a falling star. It is our sense of courage for a brighter future and our devotion to accomplish the best outcome. But if we are not cooperative and united, the description of a pigeon's cry at the wrong time would be appropriate here, it would be pointless to leave the house. Why? Because nothing done can be completed. The adage would become true, "Vaea had been a servant but Apaula went out wailing in the ocean searching whether the boy was still infant."

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That is the cradle of our culture and the fountain of our traditions, it is the heritage of a loyal Samoan. Which has become the solid foundation and point of reference of the orators to create the most honourable and prestigious intellect of the venerable oratory group, it is the reason I have made the referral.

I acknowledge His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo, Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and your Good Lady. Acknowledge the Member of the Council of Deputies Afioga Le Mamea, pardon Tapulesatele the son of Salamasina and the initial king of Samoa. I further heed appreciation to all the Spiritual Leaders who are praying for our work and blessings upon Samoa. Your prayerful support have been very much appreciated. Our country is peaceful because of your prayers to God.

I further greet the three pillars of this Government of Samoa, the Hon Prime Minister, the honorable Speaker and the dignity of Parliament, Chief Justice and the Judiciary. Let us pray God for his blessings upon the honorable Chief Justice and his judicial role so that righteous judgements and honorable decisions are made for the benefit of Samoa.

Lest we forget the chosen public servants of the State who are implementing and doing all the work for the Government. Well done to you, your efforts will bear fruit. May God bless you and all the good works and services for the country.

Lest we also forget the support of Samoa in all its honorific salutations.

Furthermore, greetings to our neighboring island and its traditional addresses, the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governor and the two Chamber Houses in all your honorifics. *O Samoa mamala na, o Samoa mamana na*. If the House asks, why is the member for Falealili making a detail address of these traditional salutations? Those are the dignifying honorifics of Samoa which covers the sacredness of this House. Why? Because of its culture and tradition. Samoa has divisional status and has already been chosen. We have lived and have come a long way through it. In meaning, there is nothing new as this is our life.

Thank you Hon Minister especially the Ministry Head, in contribution to our Budget, it was not easy, you have worked diligently towards achieving a wise funding distribution so that each person gets a share. And if we compare that with the effect that is witnessed around the country, it is just unquestionable.

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If the Main Budget has fallen this year, so be it, we have been faced with this pandemic disease that is affecting the entire world. Such is the appreciation. With that, there are some things that I wish to make recommendations on and some things I am proud of. One of them being the water supply appeal for my constituency.

Based on observations of the Main Budget, the previous budget of \$2million now has another additional \$2million allotted for the EPC and SWA. This means that these utility services will receive \$4million each so that service is continued for those who have very low income level. And I have asked the CEO of SWA yesterday and she replied that there was no funding, and now that I see it in the Budget, \$2million is being added on top of the previous \$2million. So what does no money mean where there is money here to operate their service. The same with the EPC they have an additional funding of \$2million. The service that is required by the general public. Thank you very much. I will not plead the Minister of Works in accordance with this water supply, seeing that this statement, once it is passed then it will be implemented. I further thank you for the pensions for the elderlies as this is the progress for this Term and this Parliament up until we reach the pension age, I also know that there are some who have reached this age group.

The advice for you Hon Minister, I know there is benefit for senior members of the country to take free ferry ride and collect free medicine from the hospital. Why not increase \$200 pension per month and leave aside free ferry travelling and free medicine supplies. Because in truth, for any family that lives an old man, they would use this free medicine supply from pensioners to obtain themselves free medicine as well. In terms of free ferry traveling, this could help reduce constant traveling for senior members as it is pointless to take a free ride between the two islands when there is no real purpose for them to do so. However when this additional amount is made on top of their pension, it will be a huge benefit for them on a monthly basis. Just an advice, as I said, these are just a few assistance from Falealili.

The 2% is being apportioned to commercial banks. When it comes to commercial banks, there are those with huge assets whom this benefit is shared to. Have a look into this matter, we have other finance institutions, and other companies and workers for whenever urgent family matters comes up, they receive either \$500, \$800 or even \$1,000. Whether you have looked into this please and make an allocation on it.

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Even with the members of this House, they could make good use of that opportunity when it comes to emergency matters. Even though such urgent matters are not covered under this benefit. Just saying it for your consideration.

Another thing please, is there an interest rate measure to control interest for these small finance services. Borrowing amounts from \$1,000 or \$2,000 for 21% interest. And to compare that with the interest in our banks institutions, the interest is far too much plus the timeframe required to make up these loan repayments can pose a great impact on the borrower who does not have money. These are the recommendations to assist you.

\$35 million is allocated NPF contribution, however the main question is, how is this distribution done? Will the NPF Taskforce Committee be delegated with this task which also includes the members of Parliament whom are covered under this benefit as they too are making contributions to NPF, what procedure will they be following?

With regards to this businesses, there is a tax monitoring system that can be used Hon Minister for Revenue. In plea, it seems that there is no central area for the compilation of all this system, although consultations are gradually underway, something like a software that is inserted into these machines or cashier, as some businesses are consulting that the lowest price available is not affordable, it can go above \$10,000+. See what possible way to go about doing this so that it could bear some benefit as the Law is now passed. The only thing if possible to do is to leave this operation aside until the Covid19 is clear. The main point is something to start off with particularly for small businesses to centralize this sytem and be distributed to shops, and perhaps make an agreement as to how this will proceed, whether half payment can be made for the use of this sytem in order for our Government to subsidize this undertaking for the benefit of local business companies.

And then we come to, I appreciate the...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I allow the interjection from the Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: Mr Speaker, it is best that I respond now lest other members will speak again on this matter regarding the system of the Ministry for Revenue.

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The reason for installing this tax monitoring system is due to a lot of complaints being received by the Ministry on the inequity of GST tax payments made by some companies whilst other companies do not. Such is reason why this system was sought to provide consistency for all. There are several advantages for obtaining these taxation which is good for businesses, buyers, as well as the State. Meantime, there are 5 groups that have been divided to undertake this job. This system was discussed in the previous Budget last year and therefore, the launching was conducted on the 4th March this year which gave Group 1 the chance to start working on roughly 210 businesses. They were given 4 months so that comes the 1st of July, a postponement will not be made. This system will commence in the month of July. Everyone in this 210 should come to the office for consultation, so that there is commencement in July, and to progress until the 3rd month to obtain \$1,500, in another 3 months time and \$2,000 will come in until the final 5th stage, it will be \$3,000. There are 8,210 business operators. The objective of this machine is to be able to collect all tax to ensure that all businesses are in compliance with this tax monitoring system. Because what it is now, the reason for implementing this system, is so that all GST tax is collected from all companies. As for companies that are bearing honesty, thank you. This is the only way to bring reliability for all as many of these companies are hiding tax which cannot be found in the system. It is useful for the business operators to pay tax in order to protect them and to provide constancy.

2, records must provide clarity to counter matters related to tax. This system can inform us of a company's bankruptcy through their revenue earnings. It can simply operate refunds at a time GST is received, because as soon as a claim is received, this is done on a basis of 2 months. The Ministry is aware of the total tax collected on a 2 monthly basis. Therefore, this is how this VAGST machine operates. It is also useful for tax collection of the State. And no trick can be made by any business using this system as the penalties are quite strong. The advice therefore from me for all business operators, make your way to the Ministry for consultation, that comes the 1st of July this year, if your \$210 cannot be met, the penalty will automatically come to you. But if you can consult with the Ministry, then the Ministry will negotiate other conditions in the future, which for this \$210, you can consult with the Office on ways that you find difficulties in.

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The investigations by the Ministry alone, for the \$210, there is the installation of these machines for these companies which they can use for this system. Such is the priority given to these large businesses and those that have the assurance of the Custom Office to use this system. Pardon the member, it will not be deferred, this system will take effect on the 1st of July. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call the member you have 2 minutes left.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification, it was not me who pleaded to adjourn, it is the view of business people in the village community, they are listening. Starting in July, do make effort and pay your tax to be recorded into your tax invoice monitoring system. What I was after is the system as that is the difficult part on them, because the systems seems to be different. And if they do come, the cost will increase due to the virus. Such is the plea, although the matter is now being well taken.

Then I come to adoption, please, because lawyer have different fees for adoption cases. Taken from observations in the past, there was a Registrar unit for these specific matters. Whether possible to go back to that doing and have the Registrar implement adoption for the sake of the country. Because in reality, for one adoption case, the legal fee for one lawyer costs \$3000 tala, another is \$2,500, and all legal fees are different. It was much better last time. Give the power back to the Registrar to handle these cases. Because it takes 6 or even a year to await these adoption cases to go through, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu (Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration): Thank you for the chance. This subject, we do not have the powers. The State does not have the power to plan the fees of lawyers. The fees is up to the lawyers themselves.

What the member had raised was the duty of the Office of the Registrar, which caused so much confusion, because the Office of the Registrar was also undertaking this role, and now it is all up to the lawyers. That is why the lawyers' fees cannot be planned by the State. With all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker adding on to the speech of the member, a Law was submitted, I think this was about 7 years ago, and so many lawyers had some tension about it. Not only with legal fees, but provision to seek their certificates, as majority were from New Zealand, when the auditors approached them to seek their accounts, their money were utilised as trustees. Now the jurisdiction in New Zealand if I can remember, the auditors takes 3 or 4 years to sit due to the several criminal charges on this matter, the legal officers in companies would use up people's money for their trustees for the sake of their children in the future. I clearly recall there were 3 or 4 Attorney Generals I advised to draft this Law, and the AG implemented it before the current Parliamentary term. It was submitted to this House and was approved. During the passing of that Law, there were a lot of objections from the lawyers. During the submission of this Law, the legal fees had gone up slightly. However, we will look into this matter again, given the very pricey legal fees. In addition, majority of these lawyers were on scholarships using public funds.

For your information at this time, scholarship opportunities have been limited to lawyers as there is far too many of them now and it is not known what to do with a bunch of them. I am therefore looking at the fees for lawyers as some of them have converted them into percentage. Therefore, if your loan totals up to \$500,000 with 10% interest and the legal fee is \$50,000 that means it is excessively high. In addition, if you see a doctor for just \$20 or \$30tala. Even accountants, they do not have high fees. As for lawyers alone, the concern of the member is rightfully true.

In relation to adoption papers, it is better to leave that matter for us to look at, because it is true that this process was handled by the Registrar of the Court themselves as I used to send adoption documents to them in the past. However, concerning another big issue that is hugely affecting us in New Zealand and Australia as well. The adopting of children from here for the purpose of personal gain and seeking wealth abroad as a result. The benefits of a child is for their gain instead of getting a good education for these children. Another couple has up to 20 adoption cases and 20 kids in New Zealand.

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In Wellington, a couple was being reported and were imprisoned and the culprit was a church Minister. The adoption of 20 kids was made and to them, money was more important to them which belonged to these kids and it was unfortunate that these kids were not being clothed properly and were getting sick especially during the cold and winter season. The advice to all parents be very careful with this topic on adoption. Because there are businesses abroad that already have amassed debts, and if ever you think of sending more relatives there, then it could lead to more problems. Even here, be cautious of white people coming here to take your kids for adoption. There was a case which I have asked the AG to look into it, a case regarding a person from America who came to adopt our children. This is very exclusive matter whereby these people would come here, adopt our children, and take them to their countries for sale. These are the type of businesses which are specific for things like cinemas and so forth. Today, there are so many businesses like this everywhere. The process now is getting very complex today when screening families that are appropriate to go and whether they can afford it. These are the type of concerns that will emerge, if chance is granted to a family involving many children then, the purpose of granting them the chance is not genuine as money is for personal gain only. I have also received reports from some of the families that have not been in touch with their children, particularly in Australia.

Mr Speaker, this is very critical, I have longed talked about our families, brothers and sisters, you must be extra cautious with family adoption cases. Specifically, for the sake of seeking wealth abroad and in the end you face affliction.

Mr Speaker, it is money that is deeply affecting our country and the current practices. Even with the faamatai system and the so many paramount matai titles (sao) conferrals we have today. It is all about wanting money but the real intent is to find wealth from all this which is the hidden agenda. Mr Speaker, the raising concerns of members are very significant.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. It is not only the current speaker but also the Parliament especially Samoa tuning in. The Prime Minister's statement is very useful for the sake of Samoa as there are elderlies whose minds could be manouvered on such things. At least the Prime Minister has spoken; leave us your thought, about your concern on lawyers fees.

Time is up, conclude your remarks.

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Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Thank you. Just this reminder, I had almost raised this bit about the Ministry of Agriculture given that we have \$13million listed here, I bid the process on SAFRON for simplicity. Lest it is like SACEP which is a golden opportunity that should not go to waste. However there are many processes to go through, which could easily refuse the elderly. In plea, it would be good to have the forms in Samoan language, to provide simplicity for the sake of pulenuu and village councils please.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Thank you after hearing the statement of the respectable member in regards to the incident on... The form I have here with me has been made easier by SACEP; it is also being translated into Samoan. There is also an English translation lest my time is up. I guess that is the clarification your honour and the dignity of the House.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Therefore I conclude a contribution of Falealili. The Hon Prime Minister, thank you for guiding our vessel, the truth is once we think that we are clear of this disease that will be the time for it to strike us. Let us not think lightly of it. The request is to slowly open up other areas, Sunday is now good as it must be kept holy. Let us go back to what it used to be for Sundays when nothing used to be opened. Especially the fish market that is usually visited by Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi, member for Faleata, it should be closed. I know that we can prepare our Sunday meals on Saturday, and let us respect Sunday according to God's Commandments. I am grateful to faalavelave (family matters) in regards to lockdown which is a lesson for Samoa, what is this lesson? Ease our faalavelave as there will no longer be formal meetings of in-laws or families. It is now eased, paying more importance to the diseased.

MR SPEAKER: Your time is done. I just want to remind the members they are forgetting that there are other opportunities. There are two opportunities given for each point made for 15 minutes, if the member does not obey the Chair they will not be given another 15 minutes on each item.

I call upon the member since his name was mentioned.

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Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Yes, Mr Speaker. We should remember there are many people who are bald headed. There are different bald headed people as mentioned by the member. We spoke of something different yet here he is saying something else. I told him to ask the Hon Prime Minister and Government to lift restrictions. On Sunday you can go buy your fish and then go to church and praise the Lord, there is nothing wrong. But this is a different matter by which I am mentioned, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The time of the member is finished.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: The member knows very well I cannot leave, he abides by these teachings, it is the pastor. The pastor for our Political Party cannot deviate from the foundation and laws of the Bible. Blessings to the Speaker and also to the Leader of Government and the House.

A word to the Ministry of Works, I came to your office, but I will not speak further since my time is finished. But thank you. I am grateful for all the good work carried out. So far Samoa is happy, I do not have to call out any names, in case we do not receive any blessings, or praise you. As for your duties, pray to God for His blessings on your duties. The representative of Falealili will now return, bless our Sitting this morning, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you for the speech. The Parliament is now open for another member to speak. I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No 2.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMILEOTA (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker, for the opportunity given to this constituency to convey an opinion on the Appropriation Budget 2020/2021. Mr Speaker, you have already given praise to our Heavenly Father this morning. This is the utmost aspect of our work. As we usually say we are the ones that plan but without the grace of God, our duties will be done in vain. I thank you for your work. I greet the Leader of the House the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. Also to the Associate Ministers, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons especially respectable members of the Parliament of Samoa gathered here at Tiafau for Samoa's Meeting.

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I further acknowledge the support of Samoa in various jurisdictions, from the highest mountain to the lowest. Least I also acknowledge the support of the spiritual servants of God, praying night and day for the blessings on Samoa especially this Parliament. Also I greet the Government officials present with us today, who are the hands and feet in carrying out the work of this Parliament.

I believe the respects of Tiafau has already been voiced as previous members have already conveyed. Such as the inaugural address of the member of Lufilufi this morning, as well as other members of Parliament. Thus I believe we all go as one. Because I believe there is no other aspect to add to excel the statement.

The words and sayings of Samoa have been set out, and no swift mind nor wisdom can change it. Rest assured.

Therefore Samoa I ask for your support, hold on to our traditions, it is said that the storm determines a Government, how so? By slaying the enemy. The dignity of our constituency and its honorary salutations, I will now voice an opinion in regards to our current discussed Budget.

Mr Speaker I thought I was going to go last since I am a member of the Finance Committee, however since I have been given the opportunity I will proceed to convey a brief opinion. Come a time our Chairperson will discuss our report, on the review of the Budget tabled before the House.

Hon Minister of Finance, it was presumed how we would go about with our distribution given the various challenges our country had faced. Not only with the measles but also the emergence of Covid. There was a sense of concern, noting that this is the third time we have met this year to discuss the Budget statement of Samoa. The funds allocated as priority was the first stimulus package but we now have the second one as of today. Also the Main Estimates. I was listening intently, eager to hear your presentation from the far-fetched mountain, on the day you deliberated the Budget for Samoa. I believe this is an idea that has resulted to an opinion of this constituency. You clearly stated that there is nothing the country should be worried about right now. There is still enough resources available. There is also a lot of information raised by some this morning and the situation with our current debt. It has already been addressed by the Hon Prime Minister and the members of the House.

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The important aspect to this member, is the part of your speech where you said, if debts and income are put into percentages. Only 11% is allocated to our debts. This means that 89% is utilised for the operation of the nation's developments. This is enough for this constituency to say that we support our Main Estimates for this financial year. I commend you for your bravery and wise distribution.

I now come to the Hon Minister who has discussed the issue concerning our internet. I want to thank Afioga Afamasaga Rico Tupai, the Hon Minister of Communication, Information and Technology. Yes, our digital TV is now more clearer, but last week when we visited Savaii. In case the men I conversed with might think I am not good in delivering their wishes. But I asked them if they watched the clarification made by the Chief Justice on television. According to a few other elders in the Alataua and Vaisigano area, the TV is still not clear, perhaps there will come a time when members of these constituencies will mention it. As the elders that met with Committee last week are listening. I have carried out the request you made, to present it to the Hon Minister when the Sitting of the Parliament of Samoa reconvenes. Thank you.

The Hon Minister of Justice, the Minister of Electoral. Before I move to voice an opinion on the subject. First of all, my congratulations and thanks to the Chief Justice elected to the position and appointed to serve our country. The truth is such duties are not easy, but I am certain you will do well, therefore all the best. The Hon Minister of Electoral, I am grateful for the budget tabled, but there is only one request of this constituency. It has been noted that the new building for the Electoral office will be here in Mulinuu. Long term plans are being implemented with the Government listening in, I hope we will be able to set up an Electoral office in Savaii if necessary. If it is suitable with the distribution, but we will leave this request here, when the time comes for elections if an opportunity is given, I hope the voters will travel to and from Savaii for free to cast their votes. Perhaps this is also the request made to the Hon Minister of Works, the Hon Minister of Shipping, should our Government plans are fitting.

The Hon Minister of Education, I want to thank you, this is the only Minister that whenever I call, he is always welcoming, and responds to my questions. This is also the only Minister that when there is a missed call he will return the call.

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This means that, we are grateful for the help and support provided, the school in our constituency will be constructed this year, maybe in the following month. I thank the Government of Japan for the assistance, I do not think there is a constituency that has not made a request to Japan, and they have greatly assisted our Government. Therefore, I am grateful to the Government of Japan, and I want to thank the Hon Minister.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture, Falealili has already raised a matter I was going to convey. Perhaps after our promotions that will be carried out in Savaii, in Saronā, I requested if there was an opportunity for members of our Ministry to come, as Afioga Aliimalemalu Alofa Tuuau is nodding her head, to our constituency, we would also like to know in this regard, what qualifications are necessary, so we humbly request, in terms of the benefits for projects that are currently underway. Thank you, this is a great project that is currently underway, not only does it center on agriculture but also on fisheries and other sectors of development of our country. The truth is during the time Covid hit, something significant happened, good things. What are these good things? It is noted that the majority have started to go fishing. Also some have seen interest in their agriculture developments. I pray to the Hon Minister that this is the key and plead of our economy. It is important, yes, if there are any programs, encourage us from rural areas to implement them, especially in this case where there are also reports that have been observed and read. The cocoa and coconut from Samoa is the best in the world. This is really good. It would be great to have other programs that might strengthen this area. To implement it within the communities through *Sui o Nuu*, to use existing lands within our constituency. To plant coconut and cocoa and other produce. But I am grateful for everything.

The matter concerning the price of our taro, I want to voice the opinions of the people of this constituency, some have become reluctant to plant taro. Why? Because there are times when it is \$70, \$60, but when there is a lot the price drops to \$40. But when checked in New Zealand, the price is the same. If you could look at this situation, or we can assist our exporters, I know it will not be less than \$50, the farmers will still be happy. However, once it decreases to \$30 and \$40 it will discourage them from planting taro.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Mr Speaker...

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

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Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua: Thank you for the issue raised because the first issue on cocoa and coconut is under the ongoing programme called SAFPROM. Most of the money goes to cocoa and coconut, but the problem observed within the constituency of the member speaking is that there is a large existence of the rhinoceros beetle and nothing is being done to it. But can the constituencies assist in exterminating the rhinoceros beetle before assistance is provided. The village and the constituency should also do some work in regards to the rhinoceros beetle. We have already visited villages and instructed the village mayors about it.

As for the current price of taro, these are the characteristics of the market that is given to those who are exporting our taro. I came to the Ministry where the minimum price was \$38 for 22 kilo by the former member who was in this seat before me, then I opened it up for those who exported, to let the market decide the commodity price of taro. This resulted in an increase of \$75 since it was opened, since regulations for the Ministry was a result of it decreasing to \$38, \$40 and \$45. However, that was the assumption given the state of the market in New Zealand and overseas.

We are also given reports from our Consulate in New Zealand where they report to the Ministry and me on changes in the price of taro in New Zealand. But I believe that the plans are in line with climate change and the price of taro in New Zealand at the time was \$10 per kilo. Our taro also went up to \$75. The previous month starting from May and June the price went up again to \$55 and \$60. But we will continue to consult with those who transport and deliver our taro to New Zealand for the conditions stated by the member with respect as well as our Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, I would like to clarify a few things on the statement made by the member.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I am grateful that the price of taro has been queried. However I stand because it seems the member is worried about the low cost, the costs that a few farmers are complaining about, in tiring to plant taro but this is how the market works.

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As for the matter raised by the Hon Minister, saying I regulated the price I apologize. I tried to regulate the price, so that it will follow market trends, but I did not state a fixed price. Because the farmers are listening in, thinking that I set the price of \$38. No I did not, the intention was based on market trends, since last month we were assisted by our headquarters, the Samoan Consul. This is the reason for the clarification in case I am accused of setting it, it is not but it was based on the trend on taro prices from time to time. This is the matter with respect. Also the reason why coordination was done was to ensure that businesses will not trample over our farmers, with respect.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you as it will

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: No it is not that, as I mentioned, that was what I obtained with the lowest price of \$38. Now we have negotiated our plans with the Ministry, it will be put up on the open market. It is up to the market to decide the price. But also notice the following, supply and demand, it dictates the price on where it is now. This is what it is following now, there will come a time when the price will drop, it is difficult for us to adjust the set price like what it used to be. These are the changes seen in the prices for taro, because it is not only us that is supplying taro but Fiji and other countries as well. Although it seems people like our Niue taro than Fijis, but that was the initiative.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister for the clarification, the matter is now understood. But there is one matter I want to talk on in regards to our taro, I am grateful that I invited the Hon Minister of Finance to visit one of the rural areas where we had taro from Fiaga. The road inland, it will be of much assistance from you Hon Minister hence the Minister of Samoa Land is listening as well, Afioga Lautafi Purcell.

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The improvements on the road inland was good however it was recently destroyed by the heavy rains. The truth is I do not have to voice it, there is an abundant supply of our taro from Fiaga. I will leave this matter unto you, I hope there will be an opportunity for the Minister and Cabinet to look into this matter and assist with the upgrading of the Fiaga road inland.

The Hon Minister of Revenue, I want to thank you. I have noted in last year's budget, revenue is higher than funds appropriated. Other years it is \$7 million. Another year it was \$21 million. The next year it was \$6 million. This means I am grateful for the output carried out.

I am grateful for the Tax Monitoring System which was already discussed by the member for Falealili. Of course, this is one issue that has long been debated by the Private Sector, and the business community, in regards to leveling of the playing field to pay tax. Nevertheless thank you for your decision, especially the Ministry in implementing this system so that they are consistent and harmonious. Because the next time you go to the store, it is the same Prado, but a little different because you get it there too, but I am grateful with the system that will better monitor us especially our border. I agree on the entry of goods into the country. This member also believes that if our system is properly monitored, I know that it will increase the revenue of our current Government. The people of this constituency would like to express their gratitude, we have noted that our revenue is increasing, with the work carried out by the Hon Minister and the Ministry.

I want to thank the Police Department, this is one noteworthy Office for its hard work. Thank you to the Commissioner and the Ministry. The Government has also entrusted you with the prison. The truth is during the progress of the discussion of the Bill with the public, it has instigated ideas. Because it seems this situation is starting to get worse with many now growing marijuana as well as using ice. It has started to grow like wildfire in town, therefore I thank you.

The only advice from this member, Hon Minister and respectable Commissioner, is to continue the good work that is being done. We do not need that in our country. This is also what I have observed, that is why the role of the Alii and Faipule in the villages is important, to try and suppress it. It also brings peace to communities. I congratulate the Commissioner through your Excellency, for continuing the good work that is being done, to suppress such behaviour. With respect.

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The Hon Minister of Works, I would like to voice my sincere thanks for the services provided by our Shipping Company. These members travel to Savaii most of the week. Since the measles outbreak and now with Covid, thank you for the work carried out. It is still being carried out for the people of the country travelling to Savaii. I would also like to thank the previous Chief Executive Officer, Papalii Nansen. I also welcome the new Chief Executive Officer, good luck with your future endeavours.

MR SPEAKER: The member has two more minutes.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA: Mr Speaker matters have concluded.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA: Lastly a humble request to Afioga Saofaapito, the Hon Minister, the lights requested by one of our churches which we received is very good. A humble request which company was the supplier? There are several requests from my constituency wanting these solar lights, not only will it help the church but also schools. A few requests have been submitted, to be reviewed, hopefully we will be given more lights, to assist with the request conveyed. Lastly I want to thank...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: I note that the member is nearing the conclusion of his speech. I just want to respond to the request he made in regards to the election boat fares. I want to understand, is he only referring to those working under the Electoral Commission? Or is he speaking on behalf of the country, to ride for free on the boat during the day of elections? I will now respond to it before the matter moves on to another area. For the public, they cannot.

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As for the Electoral office they already have a budget allocated for such expenses. I see no reason to prolong the wait, but this is a brief response on the matter, however the request will be given to the Administration whether the Shipping Company will accept it. The Shipping Company also needs to survive, thank you.

Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA: Yes, that was just a suggestion for the voters travelling to Savaii, so that they will understand the situation Hon Minister. However I will leave it to you.

Lastly I want to thank the Leader of the country, the Hon Prime Minister. I commend you for your patience and courage. I feel sorry that you are criticized because of your calling. Even your family is affected because of your position, but I commend you for the courage. The wish of this constituency, may you have the strength to perform the duties that God has given you to perform. Also to the Cabinet Ministers, all the best with duties for this year.

Mr Speaker, I just want to say a word to my constituency, I want to thank my village of Sapapalii and Safotulafai. *Le Susu aua Samalietoa ma le alalafaga o Usoalii. Le Paia ia Mago ma Luasiufanua le nofoituaiga ma le mamalu ia te oe Sapapalii. My village of Safotulafai, aua le Afio o Leilua ma le Toalima o Alii. Saalalatoa ma alo o Malietoa, ia ma le Matua. Alalatai laua na pule, Tuilagi ma Namulauulu. Uma loa le Pule a le Atua sosoo loa ma le Pule a Tuilagi ma Namulauulu. Ioe Maopu Tufuga ma le na aimalae, lauti na laulelei, le Vainalepa ma le mamalu ia te oe Safotulafai.* I am comforted by the silent support. I am also not worried about anything for the prayers convey much empowerment. I am forever grateful to my constituency.

Mr Speaker, I pray that the Lord bless you and give you strength in administering our Sittings in Parliament. This is a word from this constituency and our contribution, forgive us for any disrespectful expression that may have been heard. As the words of the country goes, there are times even the intelligent makes mistakes. Therefore I ask for forgiveness on such manner, let us turn to the Lord for his forgiveness. This is the voice of thy humble servant, may the Lord lead us well today, soifua and God bless. Thank you.

Motion to Amend Sitting Hours

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The speech by the member was outstanding. Before we move on to another member, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister for a motion to guide proceedings of our orders and Sitting Program.

MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, I rise to move a motion, *that Sitting hours be amended from 1.00pm and then resume again at 6.00pm until 11.00pm this evening. There will be another adjustment when the Main Estimates and Supplementary Appropriation are passed.*

This is the motion with respect to the House.

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Motion approved

MR SPEAKER: We will now progress with orders of the House. The opportunity is now given to a member to speak since we still have a lot of time left.

Arise, this is a good time to speak to conclude and to start off in the next resumption of our Sitting this evening.

I believe it would be best if we move to this side of the House. Also remember this side is seated by Associate Ministers, which is their Budget altogether. However, the member of Lufilufi was given an opportunity since he is the whip of the Party. Therefore, after this side concludes, the Government will convey their response.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker, I am wondering if a motion should be moved for the Government to respond.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I second the motion.

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MR SPEAKER: I believe so, since a motion has been moved, and seconded. However, the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee has yet to speak. You are lucky since she has not yet spoken. I call upon members to take the floor. I call on the member of Salega West, Afioga Toomata Tuipea you may proceed.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA (Salega West): I was waiting until the majority of the House have spoken, since the report of the Finance Committee has been tabled. However, I believe it is best I convey a few requests of this constituency.

First of all I would like to greet Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House. The Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister especially Cabinet. I also greet Associate Ministers and respectable members of each constituency of the Independent State of Samoa. Least I cannot forget the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministeries and Organisations, the hands and feet serving this Parliament and the Government of Samoa.

I acknowledge as well the support of all Samoa, the respects of *Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma latou Tama, Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*.

However, this constituency will convey a brief contribution to the Main Estimates and the Supplementary Appropriation (No.3) 2019/2020. I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance, especially in preparation of the Main Estimates and the Supplementary Appropriation 2019/2020, to the Ministry of Finance as well as Corporations of Government who have contributed in preparation of the Main Estimates 2020/2021.

In view of the figures set, this constituency supports the Main Estimates 2020/2021 and the Supplementary Appropriation 2019/2020. We believe the preparation of these figures were not done lightly, especially since this is the first time that a Budget has been tabled in this House, which was implemented in the financial year 2018/2019. This is where the ideas and beliefs of the preparation of this Main Budget 2020/2021 is founded. The figures presented together with plans on the use of funds for various projects and operations of Government.

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We therefore thank the Ministry of Finance and the Audit Office and all Ministries of Government, it is noted in the Audits Report the smooth running of all Ministries operations in 2019/2020, this was the same during the Finance Committees investigation for the financial year 2019/2020 which is nearly over, spending is going well also we had enough revenue. I can also see within our Budget that we have a lot of grants from overseas.

The current revenue is \$249,575,571 which is from foreign aid. The question is, why? The response by the member for Salega was, foreign Governments and organisations trust and admire the leadership of the Government of Samoa. This is why I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, also Cabinet for the decisions made in the administering of our Government.

In addition, Budget allocation has been noted for the use of Ministries and Public Bodies, this is based on income earned, especially development projects implemented to improve the economy of Samoa especially in operating of Government Ministries and organisations.

I will not speak much on the Appropriation because there will come a time when the Chairperson will clarify each detail as stated in the Main Estimates 2020/2021 and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020.

This member has noted, that eventhough deficit is constantly mentioned, there are still funds left over at the end of each financial year. It seems only plans and projections are being made by the Government, but the truth is, there are times when our revenue is higher than what is mentioned in our Budget. There are also times at the end of the year when some funds are not used, then it is used on other Government projects and developments. This is why I am not worried, because it seems as if there is a deficit but really it is not. Therefore, I want to commend you all for the patience and hard work, thank you for your service and love to the people of our country.

Thank you for the stimulus packages, it is tremendous help to everyone especially the businesses considering the state we are in with the pandemic, affecting the whole world. Eventhough it has not reached Samoa but we must take measures to ensure that our country is protected from this deadly disease. The truth is, our economy is not enough, and also the knowledge of our people is not enough to prevent this disease or treat those who might be affected. Let us be patient, if there are areas of the lockdown that has been opened, let us be patient with other areas yet to open.

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However, I will now start with a few matters in regards to each Ministry, it is not all Ministries.

MR SPEAKER: With respect I interrupt the speech by Afioga Toomata Aki before you speak upon the Budget for each Ministry, I intervene to inform you that we have arrived at our usual recess time of 1.00pm, hence we will resume this evening at 6.00pm as voiced in the motion moved and passed by the Hon Prime Minister. With respect, I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside until 6.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 1:00pm and resumed at 6:13pm.