

**WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

*The Speaker took the Chair at 9:00 am.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** The spirit of thanksgiving to the Almighty Father is far greater. We are grateful for renewed strength upon everyone not to mention the Leader of the Government, Leader of the Opposition and all the notable members of the House.

Greetings also to all the Government Heads, the honourable Attorney General and all Government bodies this part of the day as we ensue with today's orders. Well done on your perseverance and persistence. We received this month's sitting schedule yesterday for everyone's information. The aim today is to heed patience as we progress with our scheduled work.

I also greet the support of the country this morning. Well done to good life Samoa, the essence is to receive your support for today's business. We hold the belief that Parliament tasks will end well given your prayers and support.

#### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

*The Clerk read out the Papers tabled pursuant to S.O. 48.*

1. P.P.2014/2015 No.205, Samoa Post Annual Report for the Year 2013/2014.

#### **PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*The Clerk read out the Reports of the Select Committee tabled before Parliament pursuant to S.O.51(5).*

1. P.P.2014/2015 No.206, Report of the Justice, Police and Prisons Committee on P.P.2014/2015 No.38, Samoa Law Reform Commission Report on the Media Regulations Report 10/12.

#### **CITIZENSHIP INVESTMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2014 – debate continue on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** During adjournment yesterday the Hon Deputy Prime Minister was clarifying the Bill.

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I hereby call the Deputy Prime Minister to resume your speech and clarification on the second reading of this significant Bill before the House.

I call the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Deputy Prime Minister):** Thank you honourable Speaker for the chance. We are thankful to the prayer of offering this morning to our Almighty Father. This morning I greet the House and Samoa as we resume with our business and clarification of Bills in the Chamber. During adjournment yesterday we were discussing company eligibility or applicants for opportunities under this program or permanent permits of three years upon their business investments. Before I come to that Mr Speaker, I wish to explain Samoan citizenship as observed it seems that there is only one citizenship in Samoa and that is citizenship by birth.

For the information of the House there are four types of citizenships in Samoa or four ways to earn a Samoan citizenship.

1. Citizenship by birth.
2. Citizenship of parents if you have lived in Samoa abroad. You are not a Samoan citizen but you are eligible to a Samoan citizenship if your father or mother is a Samoan.
3. Marrying a Samoan girl or boy can also give you Samoan citizenship. This is similar to other countries.
4. You are eligible to this citizenship if you have lived in Samoa for at least five years. After five years, you are eligible to apply for citizenship; and
5. Citizenship under this program.

There are five kinds of citizenship in the country available under this program including the three years permanent resident permit reviewed by a Special Committee. As explained yesterday, you cannot obtain it automatically. The eligibility involves capital investment. The program incorporates a \$4 million minimum capital requirement for three years permanent resident permit with the purpose to invest in Samoa. This is called qualifying investment. Such includes the tourism development I gave as an example. The total investment is infinite hence you can go above \$4 million.

I can recall a current undertaking tourism development at Taumeasina. I think they had a capital of \$85 million or (AUS) \$75 million. I do not remember it well but I think the Hon Prime Minister is well aware of this. By conversion into Samoan currency it should get a value of over \$100 million. Then we can look at the kind of business project that could create job opportunities. \$4 million is the kind of investment we can look at as startup cost.

I agree with one of the members's statement yesterday, the pastor, yes. Perhaps free citizenship is available in heaven. And this is not false, but let me remind the Pastor, they also have free citizenship in Hell.

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The only thing to consider is your manner whether you are good or bad then either you go to heaven or hell. Hence the people's manner is also taken into account like false preachers who misconceives the country with such behavior.....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr Speaker point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will grant the opportunity at debate time.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Remember the statement by the Hon Prime Minister, it must be corrected now when the metal is heated as the subject at hand is quite sensitive.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is appropriate according to our principles. As of now, the matters must be presented and recorded whilst timing is drawing near. When time comes, I will give the chance for your response to the Deputy Prime Minister's statement.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I will comply.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I call the Pastor, one of the members for Salega, Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam.

**Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam (Salega):** Praises to God remains forever for what can we do if we would not have made it today; we have grown by God's new love. Let us renew our tasks and selves today. I rise to the excessive statement of the Deputy Prime Minister. I did not say free citizenship yesterday. It is free to us but expensive to God. I thought this Parliamentary term will complete without you hearing me say anything, otherwise, thank you. Let us proceed to further clarification of the Bill.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** You did make a submission on citizenship yesterday. We had....

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** No I wish to assist the Deputy Prime Minister. Do not jump on something that you lack knowledge of. Theology is the pastor's favourite subject....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Lealailepule, the speech of the Hon Prime Minister is on track in relation to the Pastor's statement made yesterday. When we come to debate, you will have your time.

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You will freely express your opinion as the pastor's statement yesterday was not strange. You have already heard me before I gave Tapuai the opportunity, "Say the message". That was the message yesterday. Calm down, the views are appropriate whilst the Deputy Prime Minister is attempting to present the various kinds of citizenship. We are living amongst the tares but it is the person's choice to decide which citizenship to take whether heaven or hell. Yet the pastor's reminder is laid accordingly.

Go ahead honorable Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. That is rightfully the intention on the overview summary on the various types of citizenship available. Mr Speaker the example I gave on qualified businesses under this scheme covers a tourism development location or tourist. This is the purpose of yesterday's speech. If a foreign investor is eligible under this investment our country will benefit well from this. Hence we will have a growing number of tourists and flights schedule to Samoa will be full. Additionally we will have more job opportunities and more workers on aircrafts and the airport terminal. The capacity of public employees will also increase for the Customs Office, Quarantine and the Immigration Office. Flight schedule will also be tight including visitor numbers, hotels and accommodations. Who else will benefit from this? The taxi, vans and shuttle bus operators will provide transportation and tour services for the tourists around the country. Who else will benefit? The store owners and the restaurants will also share this wealth. So all in all it will generate better economic growth for the country. Land is a major issue under advertisements however such advertisements are baseless according to this program. Some have reported that this country is for sale. Who can purchase this country? How is that done? Neither of this will happen. It will never happen. Therefore Mr Speaker....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker point of order because this is the second time the Deputy Prime Minister has spoken on this.

**MR SPEAKER:** I am giving chances through our....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** It's not for sale but it is under the law?

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** I am trying to clarify it.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg forbearance Leader of the Opposition.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Who's reports, so does this mean that these reports are yours?

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Do not make figurative speeches that do not go in line with the law.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** I am talking about the number of written and verbal reports made publicly. Hence my statement is not mistaken. Where in the Bill does it stipulate land purchase? There is none. The only stipulation here is....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, you see this mistake.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Patience as the clarification of the Bill is made. *(To the Leader of the Opposition who is interjecting).*

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Public lands are on sale.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** That is not true.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** These are not only Government/Public land but they also belong to the country.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** No.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Hon Prime Minister let me relay something. Pardon the members but I beg your patience whilst the matter is laid appropriately. Give the Deputy Prime Minister the chance to give clarification of the Bill on behalf of the Cabinet. We meet here day and night and yet given chances to speak and respond, but do not be desperate as it will drag our meeting.

The Hon Prime Minister is also trying to respond but it seems that the cart is following the horse. This is why troubles occur due to discussions made outside the House when we have not yet deliberated them.

I beg forbearance members allow the Deputy Prime Minister to elaborate the Bill before we comment on it otherwise – we must leave it aside. Once the explanation is well defined, then it will be well taken.

I call the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The land of the country is self explanatory. 80% of customary land is not for sale. Under the written Constitution, this land is prohibited from selling. These lands are also under the authority of the matai. This heritage is God-given and therefore should be protected under the written Constitution passed down by our forefathers and descendants during the Fono Faavae.

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So in planning how are these lands sold? 10% of the land portion belongs to the Government whilst 8% is freehold land. Therefore government directive is made directly from this 10% land allocation that can be leased to an eligible company or individual under this program or legislation. As known, this 10% is mainly settled by our families from the rural area and Savaii. Furthermore, lease is also extended to local companies and businesses. Overall, not much land is available now from that portion (10%). Government has no authority over freehold land. You see the difference here? I do not know how other land buyers will see this? It is much impracticable – very impossible. On to the three years permanent resident permit. For the record, the three years is scrutinized by the Committee in the process I mentioned. This Committee will conduct a site visit and draw up reports for the Government. Once the three years requirement is over, the investor can apply for a Samoan citizenship upon their wish. This Committee reviews and scrutinizes the application. Different processes apply for permanent permit and citizenship applications. The first thing the Committee looks at is an investment plan when starting a new business. This aims to see if the requirements for the investment plan have been followed through. Otherwise, citizenship cannot be granted. Therefore that is the clear explanation for citizenship that cannot be granted automatically as soon as the three years requirement is met. Furthermore, the Committee also reviews the financial statements and background of the investors and their relatives to see if they have other branches abroad. Three years is quite lengthy and there could be unforeseen hurdles along the way. The Committee requires information such as Police Reports, Medical Reports to review and make recommendation before it is passed to the Cabinet and the Hon Minister to make appropriate decision. Thus we have a process in place under the Committee's review, due diligence. Therefore, not all applications are considered, no. All are under review. Possibly some applications will be considered and some not. And there are reasons why the Committee reject applications, due to false information obtained. As a result the Committee relooks into it in depth to confirm if they are true or false. Before citizenship is granted the Committee also investigates whether the investor has committed a crime for any valid reason. Unlawful violence or terrorism is also scrutinized for the country's security. I have also witnessed and read about the alleged reports claiming that we have terrorists in the country. All these are well investigated by the Committee to ensure the involvement of terrorism do not exist at home. This undertaking is encouraged worldwide. The Committee also has in place a special investigation for terrorists. If such crime is confirmed, the Committee will take 70% of the capital investment from the foreign investor. But if all requirements are met, the foreign investment and the three years permanent permit is granted under this program. It is not easy task as the Committee will look into this thoroughly.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Prime Minister, I give the chance to the interjection of the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Mr Speaker, most of the matters have blurred my sight similar to the public, however the presentation now is very insightful. It has provided a full response to the statement uttered by the member who said the prayer yesterday that is wrong all the way to Sidney. It (citizenship) is not for sale and is not free. That is reason for the pastor and chief to consider and never deceive the country anymore, yes. This is because yesterday, this pastor has gone too far with this lie.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** No the statement I made is correct Mr Speaker. The country is being deceived about free Samoan citizenship.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker these accusations are extremely severe. They are rude and alarming to the hearing of the public. The pastor....

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** That is not a worry.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** He is a servant of God. Note how rude he is?

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** He was elected in Parliament because he is not a pastor. Do not – this is not a Theology College.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the honourable Leader of the Opposition, let me respond to that.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** An elder deacon is different from a pastor. Try and respect the pastor.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** You did make it to Malua and did not....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister, the spirit is for us to be harmonious. I beg tolerance Hon Minister who stood up to find the one who said the prayer yesterday. I beg your pardon as the Pastor was only saying a prayer not a speech.

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Whatever words he uttered during the prayer I beg forbearance that was his own view whilst judgement, well the country is listening. Hence if we are to discuss Theology it speaks of several context and interpretation when we talk about the Book of God. Pardon the Pastor I will give you the chance after I make this statement. Since the Hon Minister has spoken of the prayer you gave yesterday, I plead forgiveness. I did not say this lightly yesterday given this sensitive issue so we could accept the message. That was the intention whereby you gave a comparison of worldly things and heavenly things created by God our Saviour for us to receive eternal life. Note the support I had for the Hon Minister's view. That was his own view hence I refuse to condemn the prayer offered in this House. That is my true intention lest we argue about this matter of prayer before us.

I call the member for Salega, Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam.

**Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam:** My heart does not matter because God says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake". I therefore am not affected. The statement given yesterday is well defined. It was delivered through a prayer. Unlike others I do not pray and cram verses that are meaningless but if you have respect and humility, then I ask God for its interpretation. I only wish to remind Parliament the message relayed yesterday. If you heed the word yesterday, they are God-given gifts of wisdom, knowledge and talent...

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Minister of Communications and Information Technology):** Mr Speaker, it seems that we are being dragged off extensively from the main discussion.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister I will grant you the chance after.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** This mistake is going too far.

**Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam:** No, as the accusations is very alarming. Hence I think I must make a statement on why the message was delivered yesterday. Once again I wish to confer a reminder. The talent is over and if you think of the message God sent yesterday then we must seek God's decision for all matters because that is the right way however we could be cursed if you had heard the message yesterday. In conclusion, we have not contributed anything yet as we have just been borne, hence I must say that free citizenship to heaven is already open and very expensive. It is free to us but was bought with the blood of a lamb. We are very expensive and in support of the Hon Prime Minister's statement, it is a person's choice. As we only have two destinations, fire or eternal life. Ending my talk, I am not affected but that is the message that is the reminder once again. We were only born yesterday and our knowledge has limitation.



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We are correct in our own thoughts but I will conclude with John 34:6, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that no member shall enter hell, but for all to have eternal life.”

Have a blessed meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done, I guess that is the intention respectable member. I wanted the Minister to make his point in regards to your prayer. Now you have stood up and made your clarification, the matter is well sorted. It is an indication of a small prayer you delivered to elucidate the message from your heart.

I call the Hon Minister for Information Communications and Technology.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** Thank you, the day before yesterday which was a Sunday had us gathered at the Prayer House to witness the ordained Ministers and a very important message. Now we are in Parliament and we do not want to hear any more sermons about Theology, I plead we are given opportunities to receive those messages on Sundays but let his message be passed on to his Ecclessias and his people so we should focus on our Parliamentary session now.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Your honor....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the members I am trying to maintain order in our meeting, I beg forgiveness to this side of the House. The main spirit is to lay direction to the matter that was allegedly spoken in response to the Hon Minister’s statement, I testify that we are all Christians with clean hearts and no boundary could refrain us from speaking God’s name any time which is justice. It is unquestionable to speak of body and soul but saying God’s name should not be overlooked as it completes our confession in Christ. This is the end of this distinct matter by the pastor who declared it yesterday posing significant reminder to all for no other reasons but knowledge of Theology and spiritual wellbeing. Let this matter be laid aside I call the Deputy Prime Minister to resume his speech.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you honourable Speaker, heading back to this earth and the legislation. That is the case I made earlier, once the Committee’s investigations is over and the three years requirement is met, then (citizenship) is granted. Once the three years is over, the application is once again reviewed before a recommendation is submitted to the Minister and the State. Hence the process is quite lengthy but the aim is to setup business developments. This three year requirement is monitored closely by the Committee and the Government by conducting site visits to follow up the progress of the development whether it is in compliance with the set out requirements submitted initially.

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The Committee also can also cancel the citizenship under the legislation if false information such as committed offense was investigated. As per normal procedure, the Committee must also present an Annual Report to the Minister, Cabinet and the Parliament to consider before its referral to a Parliamentary Committee. It is not an easy task given transparency purposes.

Mr Speaker, I will now conclude with the Bill's explanation. Given my recent trip to New Zealand and Australia, I have received numerous complaints and reports in the media regarding this Bill. I had a dialogue with a business owner whom we flew together in Australia about this legislation. I made it apparent to him – that I held discussions with another local media reporter whom I also clarified the same program to for their insight. He had a number of questions on Passport and Citizenship; I replied he was lucky to have travel to Samoa often using his Australian passport. He swiftly replied they are blessed to receive the Australian and New Zealand passports. I told him he was complaining about his unused Samoan passport yet he is a Samoan, I told him that we normally travel using visas, nevertheless the aim of the legislation is to create employment opportunities to boost the economic standards and wellbeing of the country. Mr Speaker, this is a very beneficial Bill for the welfare of everyone, that is the clarification. Have a blessed meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you Hon Minister for the well defined statement on the Bill, I believe the House is now well versed of this Bill's objectives. Before I give the chance to the districts representatives for their deliberations pursuant to normal procedures, it is a must that I hereby give this announcement for the information of the House. The members can freely stand and comment on the Bill. In belief, everyone has read the Bill, therefore do not make incomplete submissions that will make the State respond to your concerns. The intention is to avoid any mishaps on this matter. Let us exchange views and clarification from the State and refer this case to the Committee. The Committee has different perspective than the Parliament and so as the public to improving this legislation. I see that the State is not yet done with their explanation whilst the members are concerned. It is not new that statements and reports on this legislation have reached out openly whilst the Government aim to provide accurate information for the sake of the public. You have heard the Hon Minister's statement on this legislation, word for word, clause for clause, regardless, let us exchange views and not generalise these words as if they are made outside. Samoa is now clear of this bill.

The House is now available for anymore speeches. I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2. You have 20 minutes please direct your view on the Bill.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker, well done on your submission in regards to our legislation which I take it as true.

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I too will speak directly on the Bill. Thank you to the Deputy Prime Minister for the tabling Bill. I shall relay the submission of this district to the House. Mr Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister's statement on the eligibility requirements for foreign investors is well received with a minimum start-up capital of \$4million as one main objective. Right now we are no longer talking \$4million or \$10million rather we are talking \$700million in reference to the current Budget, and if this is your perception of foreign investors, why not increase the investment to \$100million or \$200million which is one way of attracting foreign investment into the country. I support the \$4million minimum investment in the legislation. The legislation also stipulates \$2.5million and \$1million investments in case the \$4million is only stated. Secondly, the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned land....

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker, it is good for us to try. I have already given clarification; the \$4million is the minimum amount but \$100, \$200 and \$400million is unlimited. That is not a worry. The \$2.5million is a minimum deposit that is paid upfront, this needs no elaboration as you too are a lawyer by profession who is well versed with the legislation, however, this should not avoid the country's developments.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you, that is reason for mentioning the \$2.5million which is reduced despite you have made your point. On to land, you have spoken noticeably on public land which is the sole purpose for this. The legislation also has a section on prescribe land that can be purchased and leased. This is confusing me as it seems to mean that public lands are permitted for lease. A matter of concern, my district made a request to these public lands and it seems that these rich people (foreign investors) will be taking all the land leaving us nothing.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member as I give the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment the chance to make correction.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii (Minister of Environment):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I do not intend to interrupt whilst the member is speaking through a clarification. The sales of public lands will no longer be the case given the Cabinet's recent approval. Public lands is only available for lease including private land as possessors have sole ownership and right to their lands to sell if they want to live permanently overseas. That is similar response and clarification to the same member querying this matter. With due respect.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you for the reminder Hon Minister who is responsible for public lands.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker a point of clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** Go ahead member.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Whether the FK or law is more powerful, under Schedule 5, including purchasing and public lands. Cabinet directive has been made and public land is strongly highlighted in the Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** I get it honourable Leader of the Opposition, I call the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Your honor the Ministry is working on amending the Lands, Survey and Environment Act on the stipulated amendment, right? With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Minister has clearly talked about the conditions by the Cabinet that public lands are no longer on sale, and we have not passed this legislation yet I remind that the Bill will be incorporated accordingly.

I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2. Thank you for the reminder Hon Minister.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you even though I am in doubt of the Minister's elaboration, neer mind, we shall talk further in detail on this matter. On to the statement by the Prime Minister on the permanent Permits for three years before customary citizenship is applied. By viewing this, the opportunity of a foreign investor and his/her spouse is stipulated on the same application. Another thing...

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker....

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Oh.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** I do not know how two or three spouses is permitted, the member is well aware of the existing law whereby permission stands at one spouse only, yes that is the law however the laws of other countries is unacceptable, hence most partnering countries agree to one spouse only, therefore I am unsure of the two you mention, perhaps you are thinking of your side which if possible, the Committee who disagrees of such will scrutinize it.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member to resume his speech.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Well done, thank you Deputy Prime Minister. Mind you we now are allowing the Muslims to enter the country, those people are....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the Hon Prime Minister the opportunity.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I cannot forget the funeral of one of the members, whom I gave an eulogy on, the widow stood up and wanted to know if her husband had any other children, how I knew about it was the line of them walking in to give their traditional gifts (si'i). Therefore Papalii, we will also take note how many wives you will have at your funeral, you probably have other children but it is unknown as of yet.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member to continue his speech.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** I beg forgiveness to the Hon Prime Minister, no my children are all Samoan citizens and none is from overseas. I shall move on Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** The disclosing of private information seems is about to be revealed....

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Mr Speaker in regards to permit applications. There is a chance that step child aside from adopted children, 20 step children for instance will live here with us and will take up most of our scholarship opportunities because truthfully, that is the reality of things in the future whereby the rich investor comes with step children and live with all of us here. Personally we must heed our inheritance, I am worried of things like this, because factually we support our local developments, however, think outside the box, incase these people will come in with their children and consequently cause conflicts in the future, that is the concern, have a thought on this your honor, in case the investor bring in their spouses, children and step children using the permits stipulated in this legislation. On another matter, we have witnessed several diseases around the globe, in case the tolerance of step children with diseases will cause us....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance notable member, I give the chance to the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker, I have already talked about eligibility in detail, which requires medical reports which is one main condition assessed by the Committee before a recommendation is put. Children and business entrepreneurs of this sort, need not carry us away, whatever else....they too understand this situation well as they too are entrepreneurs in their own lands and not just Samoa where they have these businesses setup. If we look at Yazaki, they did not come here all of sudden and become Samoan citizens, also they did not come with children, I think Yazaki came to Samoa only once back in 1997 without any children, so therefore, do not be concerned of immigrants, do not make threats, but think realistic of what's happening around the world. That is the explanation Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done.

**Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors (Palauli):** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the respectable member. What exactly do you intend to....

**Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors:** Point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** To the speech of the notable member?

**Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors:** Very well.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member. Pardon me Papalii let me...I call the member for Palauli.

**Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors:** This case is not extreme as we have the observers and the speakers. The true meaning and interpretation of the term step child is different from the Samoan version and context, it is a child or son of a spouse before she joined in unionship. That is the difference between a step child and an adopted child. That is reason for my upstanding.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I call the respectable member.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** The Deputy Prime Minister who has not yet responded understands the meaning of step child very well, a step child is a step child, if it is a mother's child, it is a step child that is illegal in this sense, that is the interpretation for the member's sake. Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker it is offically legal, yes if united in a new marriage, then that is legal in this case.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** The given explanation is much relevant however the Prime Minister's statement seems repetitive and incorrect. On to investors offence noted by the Prime Minister. According to the legislation, the Committee will investigate any/all liable offence against the investors starting from 500 units two years ago. If the resident permit is cancelled, the investor will be removed after five years instead of two. In depth, the offense of entering a country is much lighter than removing foreigners given the timeframe. That is the personal interpretation that should have been vice versa.

Another thing is the impact imposed on the investor's family including the spouse and children because in essence to the Bill, the removal mainly focuses on the investor not the spouse and child/children.

Mr Speaker, personally, we heed two main factors, the advantages and disadvantages. As the Prime Minister discussed, we must give assistance by way of generating revenue to the local economy. In query is this the only way to seek revenue? There are several ways to making income. One is by depending on God because despite of this Bill, we cannot afford to fund and build the many infrastructural developments we need.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me speaking member I recognize the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the member has spoken twice and three times and there are several ways, give us ten ways you can think of?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member to resume his speech.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Mr Speaker, there are many ways. The first one, I will only give one way incase out time is dragged to a waste. The....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member I give the opportunity to the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker if ten is too much then give us nine.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member, give nine ways Papalii, that is good and...the Government is keen to hear your recommendations. I call Lealailepule.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, a point of....My recommendation to the respectable member, give them one by one, the ones on our side are beginning to become so smart.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, disclose everything that you have. Go ahead Papalii.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** There are many ways. The first one, do well with our Public Enterprises to get revenue. Another one regards the Ministry of Customs. According to our Committee's findings from the previous year, there are many ways to generate our income earnings? With our prayers in God this will help us find more ways.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg forbearance member I recognize the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, Jesus had two main ways, first you can in faith. Secondly, before you build your house, sit down properly and count your money. What does that suggest? When it is time to build, do not use the first recommendation, and when you reach the second recommendation, sit down and count your money. I have asked you to state your ways yet these are not even new. The ways are similar to the ones undertaken by the Government. You see how weak that is, your entire preparation this morning is regarded as very weak.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I call the member the ways given is now clear but go straight to the....

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Note that the Government ways is also our ways. Although, I have heard a very good message this morning such that....

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Because as soon as I mentioned these two ways, I looked at the Pastor who led us in prayer yesterday giving the nods....



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**MR SPEAKER:** I call Papalii to resume his speech. Pardon me I give the chance to the Hon Minister. I call Magele.

**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu (Minisiter of Education):** Mr Speaker, I move with respect that the member's 20 minutes is over.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well. I call the respectable member.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe the opportunity given must be used wisely for us to make significant contributions to this Bill. I am always concerned of these things particularly regarding farming. If a loaded investor for instance comes and plants taro. This will give them no room to sell their taro produce as foreigners will flock in to compete in the market and make money. I know one pastor who is a planter himself and receives the same complaints from buyers who affirmed that they too are struggling to make money to give the (pastors) as church donations yet again they (pastors) are seen around the market doing the same thing. That is one way to look at it. As such it will end us....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the respectable member, omit and replace the word pastor with a matured farmer as the country is listening lest our relationship with the Church Ministers remains sore. The Church servants are also listening in lest they are offended.

Pardon me I give the Hon Minister of Forestry and Fisheries the chance.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati (Minister of Forestry and Fisheries):** Mr Speaker this is one initiative that the Ministry is building up on, by way of showing people how to make plantations and stop being lazy. We can consult a number of pastors in Savaii to encourage the village communities to make plantations. Perhaps the pastor you speak about is also the one I have in mind. That is the pastors' intention as youth leaders, to assist the idle in the villages by pushing them to make plantations. I congratulate the pastor you speak about as a leading example. Well that is the assistance from me to the member.

**MR SPEAKER:** I take it that your view is now clear Papalii I ask that you conclude now as the explanation by the Minister of Forestry on farming is now well defined.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. I beg forbearance Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister, no the pastor is not from Savaii but somewhere here. That is the spirit on....

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

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I see that the member is pointing in the East. What you should note is that every village has a land plot called Society designated specifically to pastors. That is the piece of land avail to the youth to work on in order to become independent individuals. So the address by the Hon Minister is very important which is exactly what we are pushing for so that our people can work independently without having to rely on others. What is happening now? Taro is needed to be exported to New Zealand. Perhaps after the next 12 months, the number of produce will grow due to the Ministry's push for our people to plant the lands whilst we have the chance yet still the market supply will remain insufficient. It is a good initiative but do not make complaints about the pastors.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member to conclude his speech as your time is up.

**Susuga PAPANII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank you. I beg your pardon in case the church ministers take it by mistake, no we don't intend to slander you however something to.....as an example for the local farmers in the future, 70% of the country depend on agriculture products specifically taro produce. That is the intention otherwise the rich is open to opportunity using public lands. Despite, opportunity is taken over as well as our markets etc. Regardless, I congratulate the Hon Minister of Forestry and Fisheries. With taro shortage, the people are working on it rather the main concern is the future once this Bill comes into effect. Mr Speaker have a blessed meeting. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. Thank you for the wonderful speech by the member. This is how deliberation is done. If Government does not respond, then it means that point is taken. Otherwise a response must be provided whenever necessary. That is the sole purpose of having these meetings by laying out your recommendations; refer them to Committees to ease the work for legislations. Any other member wishing to speak? I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister responsible to the Bill.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo:** Mr Speaker, I beg your pardon, in case the farmers are hearing this by mistake, I wish to make a small comment on something mentioned by the member. These kinds of businesses come under agricultural product processing program. This involves processing of agricultural goods like canning and case packing before they are sold to overseas markets. That is the main intention of this Bill. Only major companies and the rich possessing millions of dollars can set up these processing plants in the country so no millionaire in the world would travel here immediately and set up a plantation to sell in the market.

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That is impossible. Mr Speaker, that is the interpretation behind agricultural products processing.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well I call the member....

**Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaianu Taeu Masipau:** Since we were touched....Never mind at least that is clear now and part of this should be incorporated into the legislation by you instead of making plantations in Samoa. Respectfully.

**MR SPEAKER:** That is all elaborated now....I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, that is the main purpose for SROS's establishment, the scientific research area explains everything stated by the Deputy Prime Minister. And for everyone's information, we now have flours and cooking oil made from avocado. More new products are on the way. We await the people with money to build these products and supplies to international markets. To our disadvantage, we lack major plants to make secondary products. Therefore products are exported in a form of primary production. As a remedy we either use canning or bottle products. One of the objectives by SROs is finding potential businesses with knowledge of the market and plan to set up. The local small enterprises are deficient in that area.

Mr Speaker, that is addition to broadening this matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. Any other member wanting to speak on the Bill?

I call Tofa Lefau before the last one to Palusalua, the leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** No, assisting the matter your honor, we take turns now that is how it is done, our Side is finished, it is that Side's turn now.

**MR SPEAKER:** No that is not the case no one is compelled to speak whoever wants to speak will do so. I have made my decision, after Lefau then it is your turn before the matter comes to an end. What is taking you so long to speak when you are given the chance. Very well will allow it. Stop.

I call Tofa Lefau before we proceed.

**Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (Vaimauga West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

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The CCCS has a song which goes like this, *Lo ta nuu, ae i ai le isi pese ta te usuina foi e faauma ai se mafutaga o se mea taua ia tatou, Lo'u nuu e, o Samoa, e itiiti oe ma faatauva, ae mamalu oe o le Atua lava, o se tasi o pese e taua ia tatou.*”

Mr Speaker the way I perceive Samoa personally, our own unique ways differentiates us from the rest of the world, once a Samoan is born, you are designated to your own land. The perception of the European sees the land belongs to you whilst a Samoan perceives it as vice versa you belong to land or land owns you, such is your identity which could belong to a chief title holder. These are Samoa's gold and treasure. Another precious notion is Samoan citizenship, although some live abroad with other countries have existing regulations and policies of their own, nonetheless, this is our God-given inheritance. For me alone and as one of the members for Vaimauga West, I am proud to say that the fields of Tiafau is situated in Vaimauga which decides some of the very significant matters since the colonial rule by the Germans which also sought our Independence, hence no country dares rule Samoa after its Independence today, we are known as a tiny nation regardless of Samoan citizenship. I am not against the Deputy Prime Minister's distinct clarification on citizenship however; this is how I view this legislation. Automatic citizenship can only be granted under a citizenship by birth or Samoan born. A person born overseas by a Samoan mother or father is also eligible to a Samoan citizenship. If you were born overseas and none of your parents is a Samoan borne, you are not entitled to a Samoan citizenship; therefore you must reside in Samoa for three years before a Samoan citizenship is granted even if you have Samoan blood connections. On the same, in order to gain citizenship whether family, chief or village holding a dual citizenship of either New Zealand or Australian, you are required to reside in Samoa for three years.

Another thing regards a person wishing to live in Samoa, in this case, it is a requirement to live in Samoa for five years before citizenship is obtained. On a different case, an investor already living in Samoa after five years is married to a local intends to stay in Samoa continuously. Such will raise the number of people holding Samoan citizenships. This is clearly stipulated in four parts which is Samoan blood connections, past connections involving one of the parents being a Samoan citizen. Even couples holding both Samoan nationalities. Similarly to a non-Samoan citizen who is applying for a five year resident permit, he or she is also qualified. In view of this legislation and its principles to attract foreign investors to boost local developments, the investor will be scrutinized thoroughly under the three years requirements. This is my ultimate view on this.....whether three years is appropriate to assess and investigate the investor who is allowed in Samoa for 15 days per annum unlike the three years applications and the Samoan blood connections in comparison, whereas the grandchild of the person

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I mentioned before does not get citizenship automatically to live in Samoa under this three years requirement. As a result and based on personal view, citizenship is much easier to obtain by investors than a person with blood connection. I don't intend to go against nor support the legislation and its requirements that is well defined rather I see it as an intellectual contest. I think it is best to use my psychological thinking in essence to the developments of the Government.

Accordingly Mr Speaker, my heart lies on the legislation that I wholly support, however my heart depends on the following as a Samoan. I agree with attracting foreign investments however, it avoids opportunities for the locals. We have received numerous complaints from New Zealand and Australia regarding high competition from the Asians in regards to expensive lands, housing and businesses. In November issue of the second week of Time Magazine last year, a complaint was received in France in regards to winemakers which makes France number one in the entire world when we speak of winemaking.

A complaint was issued when the Asian and the Chinese purchased the vine planters and winemakers in France. This resulted to reduced wine competition in France and raising demand of 600% around the world particularly the French in Asia and China. The best quality winemaking in the world is produced in France and is treated as a national tradition until today. That is the view and sole reminder to our locals to heed job opportunities these investors will over take in regards to the proposed legislation.

I believe our local businessmen have reached the kind of investment intended by the Government to boost our developments hence I ask you, grant your opportunity now in case the foreign investors take over that later on we are given the blame for not prioritizing you first which is the perspective to secure and reserve more funds to boost further developments for the Government that belongs to everyone. Since the beginning, we trusted the saying, Samoa for Samoa during the times of War until Independence and admission to the United Nations the Prime Minister gave a strong statement in the Forum Commonwealth about Samoa and its welfare– we believe in our identity and what we can achieve a notion that is not a new.

There was a book called 'Samoa for Samoa' by Professor Davidson who was an Advisor during the first draft of the Samoan Constitution and its Independence. In this book, Davidson speaks of one of the gathering by Sir Peter Barter who is part Maori and an Ancient Policy Professor who believed that Polynesians were Asian origins that landed which formed up Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand and specifically Samoa to which Sir Davidson witnessed one Samoan chief who stood up and supported Sir Peter Barter avowing the Polynesians that came with the map said that we were born in Samoa.

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In belief, Samoa is us alone and in response, the desire of my heart does bear similarity with.....despite the tons of cash an investor holds, in judgement, it is not the mindset but the heart, my love for Samoa is the same, the eagerness I have for Samoa is similar to the genes I produce and when it.....and when the investor is entitled to the same privileges as the local indigenous Samoan such as voting if you have not committed a crime or put behind bars, otherwise during the election, you can purchase a customary land upon your wish, you are protected as a Samoan, and if detained by overseas immigration, you are protected under the legislation by the assistance of the Samoan Embassy, Samoa has also taken part in two world wars and in honor of those killed in these wars, their names are being engraved in the stone at the town clock and in Mulinuu. In query, perhaps we may not be like the rich investors, because when a Samoan needs life security for Samoa, you either give in or say, 'Oh, the citizenship you put for sale is returned to you, pardon me I will return to my country because I do not want to die in the wars that is affecting Samoa. With greatest respect Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker part of the statement by the recent speaker is very critical, it is a good reminder for the business sector to raise the standards of our goods. The constant market competition and concerns made by the Hon Prime Minister to cut prices and raise quality goods and services is essential for our review. That is the reason for Government's support on these undertaking for the benefit of the people and country as a whole. For the public's information, every year we advertise permanent stay in the country in the newspaper. On advertisement we had about 15 applications for the five years requirement. For everyone's information, 15 days per annum is allocated to the Special Committee's assessments and investigations of these kinds of people who do not stay in one place permanently due to the many investments they make everywhere including branches in New Zealand, Australia, Asia. As said earlier, Yazaki was set up in Samoa for 22 years, and Yazaki himself has never yet set foot in Samoa even once. Now you see what this means? That is nature of these foreign investors by visiting the branches in other countries. Therefore, if the same program is carried out in other countries, then Samoa is not the only country they travel to. Yes. If we can get one, two or three investors in the future, this will help boost employment opportunities. Where are our school children? I did not receive the latest number of school children from the previous year; perhaps the Minister of Education is aware of this statistics and job hunters to fund the wellbeing of the families. Yes.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker point of order please....

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** All these initiatives and programs by the State is our main intention.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will give you the chance soon.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I do not want to speak only a point of order

**MR SPEAKER:** What is the point of order Lealailepule?

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** The Deputy Prime Minister has given clarification on something we already know about for the fifth or sixth time now. Respectfully, give us a chance to make our....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me I am good, I get your view. As made earlier give them the chance as....the State did not interrupt the speech of Lefau the Government's Reponse is referring to the clarification.

We have arrived at our recess time, Proceedings of the Assembly will go on break as per normal procedure.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended at 10:45am and resumed at 11:24am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. I congratulate everyone for your patience this part of the day as we reached the second part of today's sitting. I believe you have regained strength from our break in courtesy of the Clerk and staff. I believe our discussion has been laid accordingly. Before our break the member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster has already given his speech. The House is now available for another member to speak on the Bill. I call the member for Faasaleleaga No.1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1):** Thank you Mr Speaker. That does not matter thus essentially as a member for Faasaleleaga No.3 that is how harmonious we are in Faasaleleaga. Hence I greet all this morning and the notable Parliament the presence of the Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet as well as Associate Ministers.

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Also like to acknowledge the presence of the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader, and that Side of the House. Welcome all Government Ministries and Chief Executive Officers, the Clerk and staff who are the hands and feet of our work in Parliament.

Greetings to Samoa from paramount ranks to the lowest class. Thank your Mr Speaker for the chance, I first and foremost give thanks to the Government for this Bill which is a reminder for the people of Samoa of their God-given gifts about their setting and true identity. There is no place I can refer to as my true identity other than Samoa. Therefore I am reminded to caution my God-given inheritance. Thank you to the Government for submitting this legislation into Parliament for us to stay alert and endeavor effortlessly to seek ways to develop and boost our economy. I personally agree that as representatives of the constituencies, the entire purpose of this Bill is for us to make contribution and recommendations on laws that can benefit Samoa. That is the sole reason we were elected in Parliament. That is the essence of our contributions as the Samoan saying goes, "*O le tele o popo e sua ai le lolo.*" And if one side is false, then another side is correct. That is the aim of the recommendations and assistance we give. Mr Speaker the main concern is that once this Bill is enacted the local indigenous population will share the same rights as the foreign investors including the rights over freehold land. For this reason we cannot point fingers and become prejudice, it would be racist. Samoa is roughly 100 square miles which is very small in size. Our population is growing and even 10% of freehold land is much to small for our own growth. We are still trying to allocate lands especially to families from Savaii and rural areas they too want to stay in town close to work and other developments.

Mr Speaker, if a citizen who entered under the legislation and has millions, they can easily buy freehold lands and when our children of tomorrow come, they will not have that available for them. Mr Speaker I know under the Bill there is a reserved list for our businesses like taxi and shops. A reserved list no longer exists hence is freedom for the locals. In Samoa one old lady owns a shop in Savaii and sometimes shuts it down due to the many monetary donations at church and the village, otherwise she relies on remittances or money sent by her relatives living abroad to reopen her shop. This money helps fund the families, village and the church. That is what I meant about liberty in regards to the earnings received by the locals. If I can recall back in the 1980s when we were still trying to develop our families, I travelled in American SAMoma to take some crops to sell. I noticed that many of the stores were not owned by American Samoans but by foreigners. I sat and thought, I hope Samoa does not go through similar situation. I believe that is the situation today. I see that Samoa is heading towards this point. As a Samoan I am very concerned of our children in the future. After education, one must start a business without having to work under foreigners. Considerably, we have special treaties with our neighboring countries, in case Samoa is prevented from this opportunity to benefit her people.



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Mr Speaker I recall one of the recommendations given by an advisor who advised our forefathers during a draft of the Samoan Constitution for its Independence. The recommendation received is that Samoa has three main things in her hands that must be considered in depth.

First is our language. Second is our culture and thirdly is our land. Those are three main treasures that we must protect otherwise they may be taken away from us. We are not similar to other countries with large land masses, more developed economies, even though Samoa is small and insignificant we need to guard her for our children and to maintain our birthrights and not neglect her.

Mr Speaker I conclude by citing a biblical story of King Ahab and Naboth for us to do the right thing. Ahab wanted the vineyard of Naboth in exchange of a piece of land, Naboth replied, “The Lord forbids that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors,” For that Deputy Prime Minister reconsider the legislation for the future of our children.

Have a blessed meeting Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done on your speech. I shall turn the chance to this Side of the House. I call one of the Individual members Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Individual Voters):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I think it is good that I have my turn after her considering our short submissions. Respectfully Mr Speaker I wish to comment on this very significant Bill. I heed three main things mentioned by the Deputy Prime Minister, Firstly, to increase businesses or employment in the country, Secondly, create employment opportunities for our children. And thirdly to improve our economic growth. Mr Speaker, I speak of the book of Timonty 1 Chapter 6 verse 10. “For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil”. This is God’s speaking not me. In truth Mr Speaker, we are founded on God, and if this is an opportunity to allow terrorists in Samoa especially those who are not Christians, then I am worried. I am aware that the Deputy Prime Minister has explained the processes that protect us from such but Honorable Speaker, it is happening in Australia and it will possibly be the same for Samoa. These investors will *have equal rights as us. Hence the Deputy Prime Minister has made it clear* that the Committee will ensure that none of this will occur. However such event has occurred in Australia when yet we are located near Australia otherwise I am sure you have it all there Deputy Prime Minister....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker, I only wish to remind the member speaking that the incident in Australia was not done by a businessman or a billionaire. It was a refugee. Such people are not permitted....the program I am clarifying refers to large businesses not a program that allows refugees to come to Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker point of clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is it a clarification for Papalii or Fonotoe?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** A clarification for both of them.

**MR SPEAKER:** Direct your clarification to Papalii.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Just to make things clear, it was the son of a millionaire who was a refugee. He can get away with it but he is a millionaire who received citizenship due to....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Leader of the Opposition....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it is easier to escape in Australia because it is larger in size but not in our small islands. We have the Transnational Crimes Unit office that communicates closely with international police and correspond on those kinds of people. Before they get here, they would be captured in New Zealand or Australia, just like Ebola that has not reached us. "The people are examined in Africa before arrival." Do not worry about the diseases asserted by Papalii. I am worried that you are making all these claims to make people scared and prevent the good purpose of the well prepared legislation. People favour the sweetness of those kinds of comments to frighten others at times like this. The diseases have now being mentioned. So Papalii, do not be alarmed as those diseases will not be confined here. Even if it reaches us, we will have medical supplies in place. If not, we can use *launonu* or the traditional medicinal leaves.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker a point of clarification and a point of order as the Prime Minister is giving threatening speeches. The Prime Minister speaks of people being frightened but what does he expect? We are talking about our citizens, our birth rights.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will give clarification on the point of order on....

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker no one is taking away our citizenship. But you hold Australian citizenship. How does it feel? It feels good right? If two is good for you then it will be easier for another person as three includes Samoan, New Zealand and an Australian citizenship. We have heard of the news presenter in Australia (mentioned by Fonotoe) who said having Australian citizenship makes him feel good. When you want to jump on the plane, you just use the other passport. So it is good to have several citizenships. For me, I am a citizen of only one country. But I refuse to ask Aea how many he has.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call Papalii as this matter is now thorough.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** My constituency is listening. Just to let you know I am using only one citizenship which is a Samoan citizenship. Yet I am more concerned of the constituency citizen which will be on sale.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Yes, one citizen here but you been living in Australia using citizenship because we can hold more than one citizenship even hundred citizens. It is not prohibited. The only regret I have of this amendment in the past is the opportunity for our rugby players to gain citizenship to play for the Manu Samoa. There was an amendment on granting citizens to athletes. But now that I have thought of it, I should not have taken away that amendment. We have many athletes who can win us Sevens and basketball. This is in consideration of Lefau's comment about our children borned overseas. Mr Speaker, that is the addition at his hour, shortly I will fire some more bullets.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call Papalii, I think this commercial should be passed.

**Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I did not discuss millionaires or anything like that. The only thing I said were non-Australian citizens who managed to obtain Australian citizenships because of this process. Therefore the concern I made is whether [the Government has ensured adequate security conditions otherwise if they](#) make it through they could bring in false Christian beliefs that can hugely impact our country by selling our people and things like that. That is the utmost concern although these things may seem to exist. The Deputy Prime Minister also noted the view on sale Samoan citizenship. And for the record, it is best to safekeep our submissions on this Bill that may implicate our local indigeneous population. Like the views we received, this is like an incentive to attract foreign investors to get citizenship.

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And like the saying, ‘*aua le naunau i le i’a ae maumau ai le upega*’, lest ‘*we hunger after the fish and get caught in the net*’. What it means is although money is important but let’s not prioritise money and forget the drastic effects on the Samoan culture and traditions and in particular, land. Mr Speaker I am concerned about its possible negative effects and unforeseen circumstances which is why I cannot fully support the bill. On another note Mr Speaker, my sister next to me has spoken on similar privileges attained by business owners. Intentionally, that is now in the Bill under reserved list. This includes shuttle buses, taxi, rental cars, retail shops and most particularly....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the notable member I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker before the member resumes his speech, there would be no change to the reserved list in relation to bus operators. The bill provides opportunities for applicants to make request to the relevant Committee but this does not affect local bus or taxi operators.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the respectable member.

**Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Mr Speaker the Deputy Prime Minister’s Bill if you look at Clause 18(b) the conditions of citizenship by investment, A citizen by investment is subject to the following condition upon granting of citizenship the investor is entitled to invest in any other business or economic activities listed under the Reserved List and the Restricted List in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Foreign Investment Act 2000.” Therefore, citizenship is granted immediately....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member....

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker, there are stringent processes before that. The member’s statement is well versed, but not the....the foreign investors are ineligible according the member’s statement. What we have here is land tenure and the processes for agriculture products and technological products. You see that is what we are referring to not taxi operations. What millionaire comes to Samoa and set up a taxi service? They can always set up a taxi stand in Australia or New Zealand instead of Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** I wish to remind the member to use general comments when directing his remarks.... as I see that we are considering the Bill. We are not yet on that process.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker point of order to the current speaker, he started off on the Bible. In the meantime he is referring to the time when Jesus told Moses, “Moses, go up in the mountains and there you will see Canaan”. Before Moses reached the top, he’d already seen what to come. The member is speaking directly hence he will come to the part stated by the member. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member’s interpretation is as far as east and west. Do not respond to Lealailepule’s statement.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I think I should stop here as the devils are beginning to interrupt. With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I will toss the chance to this Side of the House, Tuuu, it is your turn followed by Levaopolo and then Lafaitete.

**Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA (Siumu):** Thank you for the chance to make a brief contribution in accordance to this legislation. For the information of the House, we have been discussing with my fellow member here that if we support legislation, he rises on our behalf and if we oppose, I rise to voice our concern.

Mr Speaker, I rise to make a short explanation on this Bill. By hearing the statement of previous speakers, it is nice to hear, but I also like to share the views of some members who spoke on this Bill during its first consultation, “Is Samoa poor due to the sales of their God-given gifts? One statement says, “I wholly reject this law because it is in fact happening in Asia as well, once they leave their country, they no longer go back. Like a Samoan travelling abroad, they will always want to come back and live in Samoa until death.” Another statement....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, point of clarification pardon the member.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member. What is the point of order? (*To the Leader of the Opposition*).

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Because he is giving his comment in general but the names of those who rejected the Bill should be read out. He is speaking in general and is affecting this Side, but assisting the member it is good to know who made these accusations. With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is up to the member on what to say. It seems that the member is giving a comparative speech. Be upstanding member for Siumu. Are you talking proof Tuuu?

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**Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA:** I do not respond to these kinds of interjections Mr Speaker you are aware of our Standing Orders. Am I right?

**MR SPEAKER:** Go ahead Tuuu.

**Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA:** I am in awe if this Bill is enacted as there will come a time when these people will take over seats inside Parliament. I am worried of my children's future and generations to come. Mr Speaker, these are the concerns and views to help build our decisions for good governance. I solely support part of the legislation on job creation for our children hence is the bill title? Citizen goes together with investment, if only our citizenship was not being used as a bait to lure investors and millionaires.. Could there be any other avenues we can use to attract foreign investors to Samoa? The main fear is our identity. Citizenship can affect passports. And our local indigenes could also be implicated in the future. The initiative is good if citizenship was not applied. Our identity which includes citizenship and passports concerns people in the future. Note this for recommendation. Because, it has been said that Yazaki has not yet arrive. That is the essence as we did not campaign with Yazaki. Neither does he require a citizenship nor a passport. They never said, "If I do not get a citizenship first I will not come to you." The legislation stipulated five years yet it now down to three years which looks quickening. Although we now have a Special Committee that comprises of brainy members, however it also looks like our people are attracted to holding New Zealand and Australian passports. I guess that is easier to get because they (New Zealand and Australia) need the people with the brains – cheap labour. If we look at America, Britain, France and Australia, the people reviewing these requests/applications are notable professors yet terrorists still manage to get through. The restrictions provided in the bill are insufficient to bar immigration by unwanted visitors. \$4million minimum is quite low. Again and regardless of the circumstance, that is the major concern in case these people (foreign investors) find the chance to make it through. I pity us if these (terrorists) enter our lands.

Your plan is well taken Hon Minister. Otherwise, I plead we could use other initiatives. Your talks of security and citizenship cancellation are useless after something has already happened in the country. At which point is the declaration of citizenship voided after an offense has taken place? We have seen unnecessary trouble already. Another issue is the inability of local business owners to compete with foreign investors. In testimony though all callings are from God, we do not remain here forever for this reason we must make valuable and proper laws for the future of the country.

Truthfully this legislation does not intend to destroy the country no. Purposefully, the Government aims to benefit the country but that is the concern Mr Speaker.

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Those are some views on the Bill to assist the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, Prime Minister and the Government to cautiously look into. And to avoid any issues in the future and statements like, this Parliament did not have any review on this legislation. Mr Speaker, that is the spirit in support of these plans for our developments. We now have flour made out of breadfruit and oil from avocado. Hence this is what the State is looking at given the many SLC lands. We must set up more large plantations using the unemployed to attract business investors to produce taro chips and banana chips. Such is the aim to create employment to minimize the public's anxiety and complaints on citizenship.

With utmost respect, have a blessed meeting.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Mr Speaker I speak of a few. I did not want to interrupt the speech of the member, hence I have quite a few correction to make. I have noted your recommendation and support of the Bill with thanks. Hence note that this Bill will be referred to the Committee for their review on comments such as name change for the Bill. The legislation's title is very important. The name of the Bill must be amended appropriately. Now that is nice. Reference to Yazaki, well Yazaki did not invest as a result of an investment programme however the Bill in question monitors investors. This legislation incorporates a program for all business ventures to ensure that it is well monitored during its process of businesses and new establishment in Samoa to avoid any difficulties moving forward. However there is a possibility that they might end up taking our seats in Parliament. But you must understand you need to be a matai, it is a requirement for membership. No one sits in this House without a matai title.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will grant you the chance once he concludes.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** You have given almost all the Chinese matai titles.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Even if they were given titles they are not registered. So they would be ineligible to serve as Members of Parliament. Those are threatening speeches according to the Hon Prime Minister said.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will grant you permission later.

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**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** A frightening person is the only one who misunderstands these statements. However we are all intuitive of our laws and culture. There is no trouble; you see how easy it is? Currently, as affirmed by previous members, a person can enter the country under the five years permanent visa policy as majority have managed to earn citizenship out of this. However, what have they contributed? Have they any businesses to create jobs and wealth for the locals? In truth they have small businesses but not necessarily what we are looking for. As stated yesterday, Bills brought before parliament are for the betterment of the nation and its people, this includes the bill currently discussed. The Hon Prime Minister said it all; you hold an Australian citizen and passport. Note, that is exactly the intention Mr Speaker.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Point of order Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Lest we are misdirected, hence aim your clarification to the member. You cannot intervene over another interruption.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I wish to direct my statement towards the recent speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I refer to those travelling here to elect. There was an European that ran for office in the 2011 general elections. He was conferred a matai title. Now if this European succeeded in the election we would have had disorder in the House, he would've been the only one speaking English here. Before running for the House, you must know the Lord's Prayer, sing the Samoan National Anthem and speak Samoan, all these should've been interpreted in the Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** I get your point member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Mr Speaker, I am shocked to further receive statements when clarification has already been made. The alleged candidate you mention is a Samoan matai who was neither a businessman nor a millionaire. Why was he eligible to citizenship? Because the European candidate was a citizen married to a Samoan, not a foreign investor. I have clarified four types of citizenships. You see. He did not receive it out of this program.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, as my name was mentioned by the Deputy Prime Minister. What's happening in my heart now is love towards the Deputy Prime Minister.



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He is like a clanging cymbal who rises up constantly and speak. I advise the Deputy Prime Minister to heed patience as we discuss Samoan citizenship. Rather than standing up and speak nonsense. You are the cause to all this, that was the statement spoken by the white guy.

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I will explain your concern. We must give the Deputy Prime Minister to respond to these statements. We have not received the Electoral Amendment Bill yet in regards to the subjectmatter concerning the European guy. Hence do not be alarmed as sometimes the proposed Bills are incomplete and requires improvement. I call the member for Siumu.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Mr Speaker, as the Deputy Prime Minister has made a mention. Because I did present some of the concern and reviews of some of the members lest these people (investors) overtake our seats. I also agree with Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee

Hang reference to the Bible on money is indeed the root of all evil. And if we get into corruption then that is a major worry. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I get your view. I view as the Deputy Prime Minister was following up the submissions by some of the members. I call the Hon Minister of Public Enterprises.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Public Enterprises):** I wish to correct something as the Ministry mentioned is under my supervision. The statement by the member about SLC several lands in case the members of the public made requests for land lease think that these statement are true. Currently, there are no lands available at SLC as stated by the respectable member; these lands are distributed evenly amongst the members of the public for their proposed developments.

That is a slight correction Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I take it that....Leaupepe.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi (Aana Alofi No.1):** With deepest respect Mr Speaker because my name was mentioned in the introductory speech of the member for Siumu.

**MR SPEAKER:** What is your intention since this is your speech with the member for Siumu, do you want to say something?

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** I wish to be clear of this element that is almost clear on the Prime Minister's part. The statement of the member for Siumu is on recommendation and advise whilst the concern that Tuuu and I have pardon me, the Deputy Prime Minister's position is not permanent.

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The reason for saying this is in case the Opposition Side takes over the Government one day then this is utilized mistakenly. Therefore the Deputy Prime Minister and the Government must take heed of this Bill and its amendments. Our concern please let me finish. As an expression says one fagot, “Just reach it and see if the law is beneficial”. Because I speak of this side, anything done by HRPP including vehicles and other....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member, I give the chance to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker note that I am head of the fagot association. The full statement is not rightfully given. The correct statement by the fagot goes like this, “Go and sink in it.”

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** I am satisfied with the Hon Prime Minister’s statement, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** These accusations should not be taken lightly which is the exact happening we have now for the legislation. We can repeal this bill. Mr Speaker, this side is observing the speeches of that side – that is the statement.

**MR SPEAKER:** I get your view, leave my work to me and get on with your speech.

I call the Hon Prime Minister for his Ministerial Statement.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTE SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I rise with all due respect Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House because of the importance of the Citizenship Bill before Parliament. This Bill encourages foreign investments for Samoa’s economic development. Various companies will create employment opportunities for our children. This entire Bill attracts foreign investors to invest in various businesses in Samoa as a result creating employment for our youth. It is a brief Bill but the intention is true.

The Deputy Prime Minister has spoken on the preparation stages of the Bill. It was in consultation with the experts, heads of Government departments, Government Committees and also the public for three years.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister**

As per our Standing Orders, after the deliberations on the second reading, it will be referred to a Select Committee for further public consideration of the Bill. This will be another opportunity for the members to comment on the Bill. There is no intention to have the bill under a certificate of urgency because it is the view of the Deputy PM and the Ministry as well as the Cabinet that this Bill is thoroughly investigated and considered. Mr Speaker, after hearing of the Bill, an elderly man stated, ‘This is an important Bill that is not political in nature.’ I asked him what he meant and he said that the Bill has vision for Samoa’s future success and its citizens. If it were political in nature, the benefits would end at the completion of the General Elections however the Bill considers the future. Politicians plan for the General Elections, but Statesman plan for the future generations.

Therefore I express my gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry for the foresight and consideration of the future of our youth and the general public that will seek employment. Many of our citizens approach my Office and other Ministers Offices pleading ‘We want jobs please. We are tired of working the land’. This same land that we preach is our God given inheritance. Our people are tired of working on the land and they want jobs for income to meet their daily needs. For parents, this Bill is important for the future of returning graduates seeking employment. We must prioritize the positive merits of the Bill.

If you recall, yesterday, the Chamber was filled with Foundation students from the National University of Samoa. When these students graduate with degrees in the next three years, the question is, where will they work? If 500 students graduate in 2018, and another 500 in 2019 and 500 in 2020, where will they work?

This is the enduring question. What is the major challenge that future Government will face in the next 10 to 25 years? There is only one answer and that is providing employment opportunities for returning graduates. We should not only constantly speak about improving education but we should also prioritize finding employment to utilize the knowledge acquired by the students during their education.

Parents present their grievances regarding their children who have returned with degrees and do not have employment to myself as the Leader of the Government and the Ministers, specifically the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. The question is Mr Speaker, which should we prioritize? *That is the important question. Are children not precious to their parents that they should be well educated and have jobs? To care for them when they are ill? Is it evil to lay down plans to create employment opportunities for our children? I believe it is crucial for the Government to make these plans. These are plans that will benefit not only this generation but the generations to come.*

Our calling as members of the House Mr Speaker is to be leaders of the country. It is not a task only for the Cabinet and HRPP; it is a collective task: We were elected to be in this House to utilize the talents our Heavenly Father has blessed us with.

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### Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister

Members quote from the bible to support their opposition but they do not quote the relevant proverb for this situations. What proverb? The proverb by Christ to utilize our talents wisely not only for our benefit but for the benefit of the future generations that rely on us for their future success. We should think deeply of methods to utilize our talents. This is one strategy used by many other countries to create employment for their future generations.

Mr Speaker, we should thoroughly inspect the strategies used by other jurisdictions to develop their economy. Some countries have natural resources, human resources and minerals but these are resources that we lack. When we advertise road tenders locally to bring out the best in our people, after the road is completed, there are complaints that the roads are in poor condition. So why do we not employ overseas assistance to construct our roads? How many times do we advertise and broadcast that our Government is trying to employ our own citizens no matter the defects. We follow up with these matters but there are times that we are unable to undertake the task and then we seek assistance from overseas.

One such example of assistance is the treatment of our patients in New Zealand. On the day the new hospital was opened, I spoke to the Doctors saying, "This is your hospital; it has been equipped with modern technology. Go forth and use it." I noted that our doctors send their patients overseas for New Zealand doctors to treat. As a result they become more knowledgeable in their field of expertise. We are supplying these doctors with patients to practice on.

Three years ago, we spent approximately \$40 million for our patients to be treated in New Zealand. Fiji only spends \$100,000 to send patients to New Zealand for treatment but the majority of their patients are treated by their local doctors. This is the similar case with Tonga. There are times such situations occur and the Government needs to set down proposals to respond to the various national needs.

Mr Speaker, foreign investment is a scheme being implemented by all the countries regardless of economic status to create new employment opportunities but the success of such a program relies on the enticement strategies. We are all aware of the many problems that lead to the hesitation of foreign investors to invest in Samoa. Some of these factors are our geographical location and the lack of skilled population. I often discourage the use of family planning because it affects the increase of our population. We need people to implement our developments. The Bible says that we should bear children in the multitudes to be as the number of the stars in the heavens and the sand on the seashore. This was the Lord's promise to Abraham of whom we are descendants. We are searching for sportsmen as we have a small player pool. Fiji has a population almost reaching a million and yet we have had a stable population number of 180,000. There has been no increase and yet how are we to develop when we do not have the human resource to implement these developments.

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Some of those that will respond to the incentives under this Bill are investors that will need dual citizenship to allow them to visit their various investments. Their businesses are scattered and we accept this in Samoa. Currently, it is difficult for an Asian to come to Samoa through New Zealand and Australia. I commented generally on this during a previous meeting. There are plans for the Oceania University of Medicine at Motootua to be internationally accredited. Two representatives from an American college in the Phillipines will arrive to inspect the University to be internationally accredited and propose a Teaching Hospital for the University. The date of their visit is near; however, they have requested that I write to the Australian Government by way of the High Commissioner because their visa applications are taking long. There are many similar requests on my desk from those who wish to visit Samoa transiting from Fiji because of strict immigration policies. Mr Speaker, the Arab countries will not accept you if you have a visa to visit Israel. Israel will not accept you if are travelling from an Arab country. The Deputy Prime Minister was trying to clarify that it is difficult for investors to travel to the countries to check on the progress of their investments and that is why citizens of that country is needed to make the implementation simple. Samoa is easily accessed and recognized by other countries of the world which will enable investors to visit their investments. If you may recall Mr Speaker, I mentioned a business man that invested in New Zealand under a similar program. I assumed that he would want to invest in Samoa but I was surprised when he said 'No. I visit your country for relaxation.' I then queried him on his various investments. He shared that he has a residence in New Zealand however he seldom stays long there because he has to visit his investments in Singapore, Australia and China. He needs to monitor and check the progress of these investments in Singapore, Australian and China. He needs to monitor and check the progress of these investments as the common saying goes 'when the cat is away, the mice will play.' I asked him if he had many businesses in New Zealand. He chuckled and replied 'Oh New Zealand is too small for me; it is a waste of my time and money'. This is why some of the comments that many business will flock to Samoa is incorrect.' The intention of the Bill is that only an additional 5 or 10 investors will come under this scheme. It has been more than 50 years since other legislations to attract investors were passed by the Mataafa government in 1965. These same legislations are the reason for the investments of the Yazaki Company and the group from Papua New Guinea building Taumeasina. I almost forgot to mention the Vailima Breweries by the German Company Brauhaase. I almost forgot to mention the Vailima Breweries by the German Company Brauhaase. In 1975, (40 years ago) I visited this Company with the Hon Minister of Finance at the time. We put forward our proposal with a non taxed and duty free incentive but they only asked question, 'How is your wáter supply?' If the wáter supply is sufficient then producing beer will be simple. Then the brewery was opened in 1978.

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For the opening we tried to find a Reverend as they were all hesitant. The task was assigned to Pastor Tovio; the clerk, who was not present at the council meeting. He asked why the others were hesitant and they responded that he should go and bless this development which is perceived as an abomination by many. During the opening, the Reverends were all present to hear what Tovio would say as you know alcohol is shunned by the Clergy. Tovio stood up and preached 'Thank you Lord for your blessings upon Samoa. May your blessings be upon those that consume alcohol. It is written that what goes into the body is good, but it is what comes out that is bad. Bless those who abuse their spouses when intoxicated. May they cease with their stupidity when they consume alcohol and cause accidents. The Reverends that were present contemplated as to why they had not thought of such a message. That was the greatness of this brewery at that time when Tupuola Efi was the Hon Prime Minister. There were only three large scale ventures, not including the smaller businesses. These were the only major investments that were established under those incentives. Our country is not an accessible country to the wealthy investors.

If the next 50 years 10 companies like Yazaki are established to create 20,000 employment opportunities then the Bill will have served its purpose. The parents of those who will work in these businesses will sing the same praises of the parents of those that work at Yazaki now. The intention of the Government is that there are more than five companies that will come under this Bill and we will not want to recall the cowardly speeches that were made in this House.

That will be a benefit of this Bill considering the three years it took to prepare it and this reflects the wisdom and well preparations of the Hon Minister and the Ministry.

Mr Speaker, the enemy of developments is fear and cowardice which is almost transparent in our Sevens Rugby Teams. Millions died during the Second World War from Hitler's attacks on Europe and Japan's attacks in Asia. Why? Because America refused to intervene with their weapons because of national fear. The Leaders of the nation were afraid that there would be a repeat of the First World War. They were of the view that they should not interfere in other nations wars and that they were protected by the vast Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. This resulted in the American Isolationist Policy. It was this fear that resulted in the President's utterance of this phrase, 'The only thing to fear is fear itself.' Fear was the illness of the American nation. The President and the Members of Congress were firm in their stance of isolationism and as a result, millions died. However, it was this saying that calmed the people and so they raised their arms and went to war with Germany and its allies. If Japan had not bombed American ships at Pearl Harbour, America would not have intervened. They then realized that they were not protected by the vast Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Submarines and Air raids were possible with modern machinery. We all know that the war began with the explosion of the atomic bomb.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister**

Now, whenever there is a war, America would send in troops. What is the important lesson to be learned? Fear does not solve problems. If you do not act, you will hide under the bed Palusalue with your legs sticking out, shaking with fear.

When the negotiations for an investment bill were underway in 1965, this same fear reverberated in the views of our people. Many feared the assumed development of the tourism sector with many hotels being erected. Others assumed that our culture would be destroyed and we hear the same comments now but what is the reality? The tourism industry is generating revenue for our country and creating employment opportunities for our children. In 1994, when the VAGST legislation was passed to seek funds for the development of our country, there was a strike which included the members of the clergy encouraged by the Opposition. I can still hear the cries of protest against the Government shouting, asking why do we need airlines, who will build those buildings, who will construct our roads? These were questions thrown at Tofilau and the Government but the work was still implemented with humility relying on God's grace. Nothing is impossible with God who gives strength to us. We attempted to attract canneries and loining factories but there was criticism against the licensing of international fishing vessels. But how else are we to attract these companies? They cannot use the canneries without licenses. There was also a protest during the proposed road switch to enable families to import vehicles from families in New Zealand and Australia. The protestors predicted disasters and that seven hundred of our children would perish. One of the members of the HRPP at that time seceded to the Opposition thinking this Party would dissolve. What now? Many families have been blessed. A composed group cannot be destroyed! Only a fool would not adhere to the word of the Lord that "A Nation divided will not stand." All the legislations amended by this Government are for the national good. There is no Government Bill that is for the destruction of our country.

Mr Speaker I see that the time now is 1 o'clock, and I still have eight more chapters to go....

**MR SPEAKER:** Do you intend to move a motion to end the Ministerial statement before we have our break.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Let us proceed to recess before we resume business tomorrow. I have eight more pages to go....

**MR SPEAKER:** I extend gratitude to the statement of the Prime Minister, it is agreeable that we should find strength even though I thought the next member will have its turn, never mind, we shall reconvene tomorrow. It is best that we should break for the day. Thank you for your patience and tolerance and whatever exchanges we had this morning, let us rest in the House of God as it is a norm to us.

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**Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister**

The spirit and objective is to take and receive that is nature of our work. The intention is not to focus on the fish incase the net is broken, our Standing Orders has been set out in case we carry on giving way to someone's blood pressure which may result to him or her not making the elections, hence we ask God for His guidance upon all until tomorrow. Thank you once again everyone including Samoa and your support and prayers. We have our staff to guard and look out for our Parliamentary documents and records other than your wallets which you must take with you. Before the question is put to adjourn our Sitting, I ask the Hon Minister of Public Enterprises the elder deacon to rise and give us today's message.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now adjourned at 1:05pm until 9:00am on Thursday, 19 February 2015.*