

*WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayer.

#### **OTHER ANNOUCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I would like to acknowledge the presence of our Parliament on this new morning, I believe we have gathered here today to continue with our orders.

I am thankful for the love and kindness of our Father for his guidance, also to all the Members of the House for the patience shown to carry out our work. I believe there are various other family and government obligations faced by each Member whilst we have already set our sitting schedule. Therefore it is our utmost responsibility to fulfill our duties.

I humbly greet the respectable Members of the House on this side especially Cabinet and its Members. We are also greeted with the presence of respectable chiefs, women of the country, teachers and also students of the various Primary schools. As we are all aware, yesterday we had the Primary schools from Savaii and today we have the schools here in Upolu. This programme is for our children to learn about our Parliament and what it does within the country. This is a joint initiative of the Parliament of Samoa and the Ministry of Education. I strongly believe with these programmes our children will greatly benefit from them and who knows in the future some of them will be leaders of the country.

The purpose of this program is for them to observe and take note of the way proceedings are carried out through debates and discussions between Members. I wish you all the best with the programme especially the Office of the Legislative Assembly faced with the task to promote the work we do. I also acknowledge the presence of Chief Executives Officers of various Government Ministries and Corporations here today.

Also not forgetting the support of the whole of Samoa to the duties carried out by the Parliament. Therefore your Parliament will do its best to adhere to thoughts and ideas given, thank you for the support.

As for the motion moved yesterday there are a lot of orders still needed to be carried out, which we are still evaluating. Also opportunity is given to queries upon Bills, Amendments and Bills that have been passed within the House. The opportunity is also given to Members to voice concerns to clarify some of the issues.

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### Presentation of Select Committee Reports

There was a time when proceedings usually finished during the day but the Hon Prime Minister and the Chair have decided that we need to consider all the new reports and Bills in the House. This is needed by Cabinet to fulfill developments especially in consideration of the work of our Parliamentary Committees.

### PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Clerk read out Select Committee Reports presented pursuant to Standing Order 51(5).*

1. P.P. 2013/2014 No.128, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P.2012/2013 No. 24, P.P.2012/2013 No. 22 & P.P.2012/2013 No. 23, Annual Report of the Samoa Water Authority for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010, 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012.
2. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 129, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No.7, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Samoa Water Authority for the period 2013-2015.
3. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 130, Report of the Officers of Parliament Committee on P.P.2012/2013 No.74, Ombudsman Office Report to Parliament to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
4. P.P. 2013/2014 No.131, Report of the Primary Production, Commerce Industry and Labour Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No. 85 & P.P.2012/2013 No.72, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Labour financial year ended 30 June 2010 and financial year ended 30 June 2011.
5. P.P.2013/2014 No.132, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land and Titles Committee on P.P.2013/2014 No.49, P.P. 2013/2014 No. 50 & P.P.2013/2014 No.51, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services for the financial year 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.
6. P.P. 2013/2014 No.133, Report of the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs Community and Social Development Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 42, Annual Report of Health Services 2009-2010.

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**PLUMBERS BILL 2013**  
– second reading debate resumed

**MR SPEAKER:** Before adjournment last night the Member for Aana Alofi No.3 was commenting on the Bill, therefore I call upon the Member to continue his remarks.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No.3):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also like to second your praises to our Heavenly Father for his guidance to each one of us. He has given us the strength to carry out duties as we were chosen to do. Also I would like to greet all the Members of Parliament, representatives of the various Government Ministries, the students that have gathered here this morning, not forgetting the support of all of Samoa.

Mr Speaker I wish to continue my comments upon the Plumbers Bill 2013. As I stated last night this is a very important Bill because it will upskill the abilities of those working in this field. As the Hon Minister has spoken this Bill is to enhance the services to reduce water being wasted and for future improvements on government infrastructure.

Mr Speaker the Bill provides for exemptions and perhaps this is one way that should be considered to allow our plumbers that do not hold qualifications but they possess the skill to practice the profession in the villages and their homes. Also some of these individuals are old and they do not have the time to undergo apprentice trainings to get qualifications. The main goal is so they can still carry out the work especially for independent water schemes within villages that the Samoa Water Authoritys services do not reach.

Also Mr Speaker as voiced by the Hon Minister, and this is also my concern, is that the service is improved to resolve the problem of water wasted. This is the third year of this Parliamentary term and more than 66% of water is wasted under the Samoa Water Authority. The main concern is for the Bill not only to improve the services of plumbers but also for employees of the Authority to consider their work with utmost importance, to minimize the leakage to 20%. The significance of this is so we will save more also to overcome the problem of water being wasted especially when there are water outages during raining and drought seasons. Perhaps this Bill will also instigate advice to the Samoa Water Authority management to improve its services.

Mr Speaker another issue is a request to the Authority concerning my constituency. For clarification the primary school at Satapuala has already been equipped with water pipes. The issue though is that most of the time the school is closed because there is no water, whether there is a qualified plumber to foresee this problem so we could have access to water.

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I want to thank the water Authority for fulfilling a request for Aana Alofi No.1 College because ever since it was opened there has been no water. Nevertheless I thank the Ministry of Education in working together with the Authority now that we have water together with the new hospital now being constructed. Also support will be given for qualified plumbers that will overlook these duties to reduce water wasted.

Mr Speaker I then conclude....

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

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Minister of Commerce Industry & Labor):** Mr Speaker I move with utmost respect. The issue mentioned by the member is important but I do not understand. The Hon Minister is listening to the reason why there is no water. Is it because there are no plumbers, we are talking about the Plumbers Bill. What exactly is the problem? Not enough plumbers, no plumbers? Is this right?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member for Aana Alofi No.3.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the interruption by the Deputy Prime Minister. Before I conclude I wish to answer to assist the Deputy Prime Minister.

Water does not reach the school grounds also a request has already been submitted regarding the burst water pipe in the school compound. So now it has been fixed but...

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

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker the accusation towards the Ministry is really insensitive. All the plumbers working for the Ministry are all certified. There is not one that is imperfect and all the work they carry out is running smoothly. I asked because you are talking about water issues but we are discussing the Plumbers Bill 2013, which establishes the responsibilities of plumbers and the profession.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to assist with the matter. I call on the Hon Minister.

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– second reading debate resumed

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure):** I was waiting for a time to discuss the concerns voiced by the member for Aana Alofi No.3 concerning the accusation given on the performance of plumbers within the Ministry. As mentioned last night the Authority is only in charge with meters, as for the problem stated it is within the schools grounds where the leakage occurred. This means that it is not a concern of the Ministry but it is the Committees duty to look into these matters because it is on school grounds. Perhaps it can relate to the Bill being discussed. As for the accusation upon the plumbers of the Ministry Mr Speaker I request that this statement be removed.

**MR SPEAKER:** This was the opinion of the Chair but I humbly gave the opportunity to you to clarify. I advise the Member concerning the language used within the House as we are all aware those mentioned are not present to respond to these accusations. As the Hon Minister clarified, the duties of the Authority correlates with that of the school Committees. These concerns are also important to review qualified plumbers within the Ministry also in villages. I humbly instruct that accusations made against the plumbers of the Ministry be removed considering respectable relations. I call on the member to continue with his clarification.

*Statement by the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 omitted from the Hansard as instructed by Mr Speaker : “e leaga le auunaga tau palama a le Pulega”*

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker perhaps there are various meanings to the statements but it is definitely not an accusation to the Samoa Water Authority plumbers. It is a concern because this issue has not been addressed over the years especially as water supply of the school is needed during school hours. Mr Speaker I confess that this problem occurs two to three times a week where the school has to find water not only at the airport but also families but there are pipelines and no water. This is a concern to improve service standards. The leak mentioned is stated in the Bill, the intention is that plumbers work consistently with one another in doing the work in villages also being good engineers to distribute water wisely under the Authority.

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Lastly Mr Speaker, the water supply in Satui towards Aiga i le Tai is saline. A request was put forward and the Authority has already pumped and drilled boreholes, hence this matter should be reviewed within this Bill. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Works.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Mr Speaker, due to the fact the Member has now concluded with his speech therefore I do not wish to elaborate further because we are not discussing our Estimates, it is the Plumbers Bill. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** An overall concern of the Member Hon Minister as I perceive, is that his constituency has a water supply problem where they have not had access to water over the past years. He is stating that maybe it is a problem because of the poor work done by the plumbers; this can greatly ruin the good image of the whole Ministry. Perhaps the meaning of the statement of the Member is that those who are carrying out the work are to blame for this problem. Although I advise the Hon Minister to look into this matter because it has not happened once or twice, it is an ongoing issue as the Chair has elaborated this bill is to discuss the performance of Plumbers. It is to ensure that their duties are carried out and fulfilled. I call upon the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 whom I believe wants to take the floor.

**Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU (Gagaemauga No.2):** Thank you for the opportunity. This constituency only has a few issues that I wish to address considering the Bill tabled. I am thankful that a bill has been drafted to establish the services and duties of plumbers and to register plumbers. I was going to ask about the plumbers who have 150 % intelligence on this profession on what has been initiated for them but I am satisfied that there are proper measures already set up for them. Mr Speaker I am also grateful that there will be more plumbers that will assist the issues as mentioned by the member for Aana Alofi No.3 regarding the 60% of water which is wasted. This means that more water is wasted than the 40% that is being used by the country. I heard that this problem of leakages is mainly within the town area and the Ministry has not received a decision from Government on what action should be taken whether all pipelines should be dug up so that the whole area will be re-laid with pipes.

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This is a very important aspect that should be heeded by the Government considering when water charges will increase because of limited water supply but there is great amount of water being wasted. This is just a recommendation to Government to look into the matter because the Authority is awaiting a decision and are ready to take action, to resolve the issue of the 60% of water being wasted. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the opinion voiced, I call upon the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker also respectable members of the House. The Bill as explained by the Hon Minister and through the assistance of the Hon Prime Minister is an important Bill, especially with the services provided by the profession for the country. But there are a few matters that I do not understand as discussed by the Hon Minister last night concerning the services provided by the Authority to the public. So once this Bill is passed and the Plumbers Association is official will the assistance to the public be removed especially to low income families who are faced with water problems? Because they usually call the Authority for assistance on issues such as checking water meters and other related problems. Or when the Bill is passed, correct me Hon Minister, will there be a Plumbers Association like the Lawyers and Doctors societies? We must consider that the doctors society have the assistance of Government which is through the hospital also for the lawyers there is also assistance of legal aid through the Justice and Courts. Nevertheless when this Bill is passed will there be no more assistance from the Samoa Water Authority? Thus the purpose of the Bill is really important.

The issue I am trying to convey is a matter of concern for families excluding village councils and schools but families who have low income. For example, my village in Savaii; when a problem occurs with the water supply they call the Authority and they come and check out the meter and other neighboring families for free. Therefore my question is, when this Bill is passed and there will be an official plumbers association will there be free services offered by the Authority? With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** We will continue on with opinions of the Members then the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister to clarify issues raised. Pardon the Member for Salega, Afioa Afualo Wood Utu Salele but I will give the opportunity to this side of the Chamber. I call upon the Member for Vaa o Fonoti followed by Salega.

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– second reading debate resumed

**Afioga TIALAVEA FEA TIONISIO SEIGAFOLAVA (Vaa o Fonoti):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Firstly I give thanks to the Hon Minister and the Ministry especially the Plumbers Association for the Bill that will initiate the services of plumbers in the country. An issue that has not been addressed by the Bill nor regulations regarding those who have the knowledge to be plumbers but do not have certificates or qualifications. I can see in section 8 of the Bill that the Executive Committee can observe the work of these individuals and satisfied with the good character, a person may be qualified to be registered in the Association.

Mr Speaker I believe most of the plumbers within the country are well skilled in plumbing. I am speaking from observation when work is carried out all certified plumbers have their own set of tools to use. As for the purpose and objective of the Bill I am thankful to the Ministry for legalizing this association.

As stated in the Bill the building of homes can be initiated by anyone but there is a division from the Ministry of Works that visits and monitors the work. It is allowed under the Samoan Building code that anyone can build their own houses. The building of houses also includes plumbing and other aspects allowed under the code. A division of the Ministry will therefore visit these sites to foresee the work under provisions set for building. Perhaps with these visits the plumbers should also be a part of this to ensure work is properly carried out, if not then the family will be dealt with accordingly to the law. As for those whom are not given the opportunity to sit exams, perhaps it would be better if exams are set in the Samoan context, because most of the exams are in English. Most of the older plumbers in the country can pass these exams when they are written in the Samoan context .they already have the skills the only disadvantage is they do not have official documents to do the work.

As for the purpose of this Bill I greatly support it because this is one trade that needs to be recognized together with the responsibilities of being a plumber. We have a construction business where there are more than ten plumbers working for us because people have various behaviors some may leave and the work is not yet done. I am thankful for the code proposed by the Bill it will save businesses, but my concern is for the Board to visit these sites and observe the work of plumbers so that they can acquire a certificate. Therefore Mr Speaker my only concern is to give an opportunity to our plumbers to prove themselves. God Bless our sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon one of the Member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.



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**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Hon Minister for such an important Bill. This is one important profession not only for our economy but also as a source of income for families. It provides employment and also helps prevent water from being wasted.

There are two types of plumbers that I know, plumbers who have been certified under the Apprenticeship program or other trainings from overseas; and general plumbers who are labeled as bush plumbers (*palama taavao*). They are cause of these problems but I am thankful with this Bill it will assist the association. As stated by one of the members, all this knowledge and skill is consolidated in an association because most of these professions are not official under the apprenticeship program, also there must be a certified qualification from the University to ensure that the person is eligible to do the work. This has caused various problems within homes and large scale buildings. And a lot of families have suffered economically with this problem also when assigned to do the work they do not seem to follow proper guidelines from the association. This applies to new companies now being set up if their services do not follow guidelines, licenses will be removed.

I recommend to the Hon Minister to abide by the provisions of the profession accordingly in relation to our Apprenticeship program in regards to our University. There are a few things that need to be addressed as we are all aware we are in a world of constant change also intellectual improvement. There is no need for clarifying the matter, it does not mean that we will go there to do the work and rely solely on skills learned. No, there must be special training that will make it easier for them to solve such problems such as water leakages.

Mr Speaker lastly a humble request to the Hon Minister in relation to my village of Sagone the water is saline, whether it is possible to drill the water inland, on another land. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Member for Salega Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele for opinions shown. I call upon the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West):** Thank you for the opportunity. I humbly greet the Members of the House especially the support of our country listening. I also would like to acknowledge the presence of the students who have come today to witness the proceedings, a blessing for Samoa. It is important that you learn from this because in the future some of you will be Members of this Parliament.

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– second reading debate resumed

I would like to thank the Hon Minister for the important Bill being tabled. Some members have already stated the purpose of this Bill, on the services provided which has been poorly carried out. Although I believe that the important aspect of the Bill is that it will enhance the services and skills provided by the plumbers and to safeguard their profession. I am thankful because this Bill has taken years to be drafted considering the importance of the profession to the country. I have noticed that these individuals do not work together they tend to do whatever they wish; therefore it is difficult to impose guidelines that ensures safety for their work. I am grateful to the Hon Minister for this Bill which I believe will assist them in working together and also give each other much needed advice. This will also give our plumbers the opportunity to be registered not only to work in Samoa but also given the chance, to work in other Pacific countries like Australia and New Zealand based on their qualifications. As noted there are builders within the country that have the skill but do not have certificates.

If I have to find someone to do the work for me I usually go to someone I know or someone recommended to me but if there is a association that can recommend and assist me it would be great. I have a friend who hired a team to do the work for him, but half way through the work most of the builders left and now he does not know what to do, he does not know where to submit his grievances. But I am very thankful for the new set up of this new association.

The only issue I do not seem to understand is the provisions set for some to be a registered member. I am thankful that an opportunity is now being given to our elders who have carried out this profession for years they have the exemption and skills even though they do not have certificates. Why not give them a refresher course maybe for one to two weeks then they can register and officially do the work. I am worried; perhaps the association can work together with Polytech on their curriculum on some of the work requirements so that when they are recruited they have acquired proper skills and be given certificates.

Another aspect is that licenses are renewed annually. Is it for free and how much it is to renew it? These are some concerns and can result in people not registering because it is done every year. Is it possible to make it two or three years or just stamp the license to validate the certificate? If it is every year it means that the people will be reluctant to be a part of this association.

Another issued as mentioned by several members is the problem of leakage. I thank the Ministry for explaining that assistance from Japan has been acquired to resolve this problem. It means that the water wasted as stated about 70% will be saved and we will not face anymore problems concerning water supply.

As seen in the report submitted this is a problem mainly seen within families. I hope they can assist in working together to solve this problem. But as I stated this registration is an issue, Parliament has already passed part of the Tribunal where people can submit appeals when licenses are removed.

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Therefore Hon Minister I am grateful for this Bill tabled with the establishment of this new body as it will make it easier for people to find people to do their work, but also there will be a council where complaints can be submitted due to dishonesty and poor work skills. With respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the speech respectable Member, I call upon one of the Members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I humbly greet the respectable Members of Parliament and also to Heads of various Government Ministries.

I would like to elaborate a bit on the important Bill. The reason why it is important is because every family has water, and water is life. And we pay for this water and with the lack of water today we need reliable plumbers who will be able to carry out this duty.

Firstly I would like to thank the Hon Minister for your foresight that has enabled this bill to become reality. Perhaps this would initiate other services to formulate Bills to protect their services and properties. The country is listening and plumbers are aware that it is their duty to ensure that water pipes are well monitored for leaks. Once there is a leakage, I believe that you have the opportunity to press charges against the Plumber because you will have to pay for the wasted water.

As stated under Clause 6 “a person who undertakes plumbing works must engage a registered plumber to carry out the plumbing works.” Although it has just been provided for in the Bill, I believe that many plumbing jobs have been done by plumbers with the knowledge and skill. These are also the same people that are looking after our water supply. I believe this is what Clause 6 is trying to clarify, but whether there should be recommendations for them, because there are those who have degrees and theory. I believe theory is really important for these people because it will assist them with the work and give them methods to make the work easier. It would be fine if they are registered according to their work performances under referee observation so they can continuously carry on with the work not only to assist the economy but also their families.

Once this Bill is passed I believe that even for a small hut or any building, if a plumber does not sign, then the installation of pipes can be done. And this will mean a higher cost of living. But I strongly believe that our plumbers, most of whom do not have degrees gain experience from their parents whom have degrees but they are the ones carrying on the legacy. My observation during the past and now this is still evident today because there are plumbers that still do not have degrees but are well skilled in this field.

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Also if the plumber is late, I will not wait because I know what to do, how to cut the pipe and glue it back together. These are some of the aspects that must be considered within the Bill to help protect the profession. Plumbers are specialists and they are aware of how to manage major projects like water pumps and they also know the intensity of the water to reach higher settlement areas. They can recommend the types of pipes to be used in concrete walls, underground or in the ceilings. This is an important bill because as we have noticed during natural disasters, this service is needed. Any building should have water sprinkler. I believe this profession is important within the country because there is no family that does not have water, thank you Hon Minister for initiating this Bill.

I humbly ask the Hon Minister to consider the remarks made during site visits to schools regarding water supply. As stated by some of the Members earlier they are getting tired of submitting requests but nothing has been done. Therefore Hon Minister I humbly ask that these requests be resolved because during visits to these schools where there are a lot of students we have come to witness that there is no water. Even though it rains the water tank that holds 500 liters of water is not enough for all the students. Also with the millions of tala spent on building the school the size of the water tank is not appropriate. A person does not die from not going to school but they die from not having water. Each school should have water tanks perhaps this will solve this problem. In addition, for future improvements of schools and students a proposition must be imposed for each school to have water tanks and drainage systems. Perhaps this will minimize Members from asking about issues concerning water supply. These are a few recommendations that I believe will help our plumbers with their work especially the issue on the management of our water supply. Thank you for the Bill which I strongly believe will benefit our country as a whole.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification, I now call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I greet the Deputy Prime Minister and Members of Parliament, the Leader of Opposition whom I see is in good health this morning, to this side of the Chamber, the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly also to all the heads of various Government ministries present today. I also want to thank the Ministry of Education, teachers and students who have gathered here today. I am grateful for your participation to record the happenings of today; we are today, you are tomorrow. To our teachers, do not be eager about the salaries but rather the students so that they will earn good marks and pass with flying colors.

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Listen to PSC for they have the legal mandates, when a person reaches the age of 55, they are to retire and make way for the new teachers graduating from Universities and that is the procedure. Thus I thank you all for the hard work in teaching our children.

Mr Speaker there are only a few opinions I wish to discuss regarding the Bill tabled, there are three issues I want to clarify. I believe the explanatory memorandum clearly explains the objectives of the Bill, it is a regulation that seeks to regulate the registration of plumbers, including issuing of their registration certificates, suspension, removal and restoration of registration by the Executive Committee of the Association. So if a problem occurs like a pipe leakage we do not have to find a number in the phone book for a registered plumber we have to abide by this Bill. This is a concern that must be taken into consideration because it is easier to employ the plumber within that same village than another person because it is time consuming. It might take about two to three hours or until the next day for the plumber to arrive to fix the problem.

I thank the Hon Minister of Works for implementing the Bill it should have been tabled a long time ago. Mr Speaker the law is like a guide that we should abide by. For example, the Canine Act passed last year; I am not sure how many canines have been registered. There was a puppy that came to my house and it has been two weeks now and it seems it is not registered. Mr Speaker I mentioned three areas that I wanted to discuss. First, Clause 6, where there is a fine of 100 units. I think this clause should be reviewed. Because this is a very high penalty. Secondly, clause 12 which mentions at least 3 months before a certain date for the annual renewal of registration. I think the opinion of the Member for Faleata is good, to have registrations every three years for instance we have elections every 5 years and also heads of government departments, and ACEOs have three year contracts.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member taking the floor for the interruption. I call upon the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

**Afioga Hon Sala Fata Lisati Pinati (Minister of Police, Prisons & Fire Emergency Services):** Thank you for the opportunity. I take the floor in relation to the mention of licensing dogs. At the moment the Service is trying to instigate a strategy for such problems, because if each dog costs a \$100 it means that not everyone can afford that amount to register their dogs.

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The Ministry has therefore chosen four individuals to go to Auckland New Zealand for special trainings which will take about 2-3 weeks. When they return back they will be able to determine how much the fee will be, whether it will be \$5. If these dogs are for protecting properties then families should have 50 dogs to protect their homes which will prevent criminals from breaking the law and to protect family assets and homes. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe this is a matter that is overlooked by the Ministry therefore I thank the Hon Minister for the clarification and I am thankful that they are still carrying out these registrations on dogs and also for dogs that are to be put down.

I call upon the member to continue with his explanation.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA:** Thank you Hon Minister of Police, Prisons & Fire Emergency Services for the clarification, it is important that the Ministry be prepared for this to take place in another 10 years. This will give the public the opportunity to prepare and be able to register their dogs.

Clause 12 provides for annual renewals of registrations and application for renewal to be made three months before it is terminated. A humble request to the Hon Minister whether it would be appropriate to change it to every three years so that our plumbers will also be able to afford it. The fact is that once the plumber registers once and then again the next year, they will not register again, but if we put it at a three year registration it will be a more satisfying solution.

Lastly on the registration of plumbers there are no provisions stated in the Bill that monitors the services of the plumbers. As stated in Clause 17 (d) functions of the executive committee include, to conduct inquiries and investigations. I would like to remark on this to clarify my point. Two weeks ago a constituent visited me because his electricity had been disconnected. We visited the EPC office and they said that it was theft of electricity. The lady at the Office said that more than 200 families are doing this. Mr Speaker I do not think families are to blame it is the electricians. They connect the wires to the main and not through the meter so that the usage can be calculated. The electricians should be monitored for these dishonest ways.

The gist is that there should be a provision in this Bill to monitor plumbers that may also divert the water instead of connecting it to the meter. This is theft of water and there should be protections because Clause 17 (d) is the only provision. There should be a compulsory record card with the plumbers name to be followed up. It is true that it is easy to know things that happen but for the family, if there is an issue with the water such as the theft thereof, the Government can easily pursue the issue. Mr Speaker those are a few queries on the matter. I thank the Hon Minister for the Bill, with respect.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now give the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition, I humbly greet you.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II (Leader of Opposition):** I stand with utmost respect to briefly elaborate on the Bill. Perhaps some of the members have already discussed some of the important aspects of the Bill. But we also must look at the other side of things and my question is, what is the cost of this Bill to families? Will it minimize or increase the cost of living we are faced with today? Because the local carpenters usually are the ones that also do the plumbing within homes, most rural families have a different house for a kitchen and sink. The carpenters have the knowledge to do this work.

Mr Speaker the main reason for taking the floor is based on what is happening today, when a new house is constructed there should be a permit from PUMA there is also a permit for the electricity and others. I am worried in case there will also be a permit for the plumbers. There will be a Plumbers Association and they will have their constitution to provide for these things. For big buildings to be planned such as Government infrastructure, the companies that will implement these works are registered.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Leader of Opposition I will allow the Hon Minister the opportunity to clarify the matter. I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Mr Speaker this is exactly what will be carried out by this Plumbers Association which will be established by this Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** PUMA was mentioned and I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister responsible for PUMA, I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity but it is true that PUMA is also a part of this process there are many businesses now been set up and have no permits. In consideration of the public's benefit PUMA has taken the initiative to ensure their safety also in compliance with the Bill. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

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**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health):** Mr Speaker permits have been mentioned. Therefore Mr Speaker and members of the House what I want to understand is the question of the Member, whether he has a permit to be able to attend the sitting today? It has been known that he is affected with the pink eye disease. My question is in consideration of our state of health because he is going to give us all the eye disease. Is there a medical certificate that states he can be around a group of people to prevent the disease from spreading?

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member but I will give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister then to the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker based on the importance of the matter mentioned by the Hon Minister I humbly ask that he elaborate on this type of disease considering the safety of the House and the children present here today in case they will be affected. The Hon Minister of Health I humbly...

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker a point of clarification, these opinions shown are just wasting the time of our proceedings, they are all rubbish...I am thoughtful of the Chairs work.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker I believe the Leader of Opposition already has a permit. Thus for the protection of everyone within the House I believe a motion should be moved, *That all those affected by the eye disease take a leave of absence, we have a lot of work that needs to be carried out.* With respect.

*Motion was not seconded.*

**MR SPEAKER:** This is a matter that should not be taken lightly, because we discussed the effects of this disease last night. The Leader of Opposition has already come to me to excuse himself and he is given the opportunity as stated within our Standing Orders to do so. I strongly believe that the Leader is aware of his state of health also the Hon Minister of Health has elaborated that we must be cautious. Although we cannot make a decision on the matter because if we are all affected then it means our sitting will be postponed. I also told some of the Members affected to take a leave to nurse themselves back to good health before they come back to attend our sittings.



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I pray to the Hon Minister of Health, during recess please check if we have any risk to the Members, because we will be present here for another 12 hours. Therefore measures should be taken to ensure the safety of everyone. I believe the Leader of Opposition is being optimistic in attending with our orders although this issue must be addressed. I humbly ask the Hon Minister of Health to certify the proper information whether those affected should be present. Also I have noticed that there are some members that are not present I am not sure if they are also affected because they did not consult with the Chair. Do we all know Standing Order 23? No member shall be absent from the Assembly for 3 consecutive sitting days without obtaining leave of absence from the Speaker. I am respecting mutual relations, do not take it upon thyself to leave by free will, it is not a childrens proceeding but it is the countrys and a leave of absence is granted by the Chair alone. Also stated in our Standing Orders a member who fails to occupy his seat for at least 2 consecutive hours in any sitting day is deemed absent. Hence this is a matter that I wish to remind everyone to abide by. Again I ask the Hon Minister of Health to look into the issue so that we will be certain with those who need to take a leave of absence.

I call upon the Leader of Opposition to continue with his query.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I am worried because there is a gynecologist and a optometrist. I am worried, with respect to the Hon Minister, as he has not made the recommendation and there is a eye specialist to consult.

**MR SPEAKER:** A woman has eyes, therefore during checkup everything is assessed from the face and the whole body. Therefore we should leave the matter to the Hon Minister for him to assess. A decision will be made after this assessment. Leader of Opposition you may continue with your query.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The only reason for taking the floor Mr Speaker is the burden that will be imposed on the country, as the Hon Minister responsible for PUMA stated this is the reason PUMA was initiated. Hence it has become a burden for the public who are building new homes to register for a permit and have PUMA approval. Also approval is needed from the Ministry of Works which is added paperwork for the plumbers as well.

The Hon Minister has elaborated on registrations stated in the Bill. Associations should not even be under legislation because they are already noted in the Ministries responsible for trade and taxes. And for the work carried out plumbers are quite reliable to carry out their work whether it be for government buildings, or other businesses.

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But for rural areas, loans are taken out from Samoa Housing Corporation, hence the reason for voicing these concerns is the economic state our country is faced with nowadays. If we keep adding new restrictions it will be harder for people to carry out the work. There are carpenters who can connect the water pipes and build the ablution facilities.

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

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Minister of Finance):** The matter mentioned by the Leader of Opposition is that the society is not registered by the people they establish themselves as a corporation. If the Leader of Opposition looks at our appropriations there are only two Government corporations that get assistance through the community service obligations. It is specifically for families with a low economic status. If a road is needed to connect the water supply to a family home, it is no longer paid for by the people but the funds are from this appropriation. If a request is made from the rural areas for a streetlight for the children, the Government funds it. This is a saving grace for the people. Even VVACGST for electricity, the Government subsidises it and the Government has no intention of burdening the people.

That is the clarification that there is absolutely no additional charge to the country to establish the Plumbers Society. The requests are forwarded to the Minister responsible and then the House if there are any appropriations for this obligation.

With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification on the matter raised by the member.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker there is a big difference between CSOs mentioned by the Hon Minister of Finance and this. Plumbing for your home is not funded by the CSO, it is from the person's personal funding. If a plumber is to register, they register with money. A permit also is not for free. Who then will handle this payment? This is what I am concerned about which is different from the CSO.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Leader of Opposition, I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

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**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker the problem with the Leader of Opposition is that he is sick and he is talking nonsense. Whether there is a Society or not there is no extra payment for other added work done to the house, it is all paid with the building of the house. There is a permit for PUMA and also from the Ministry of Works and the Water Authority. So there is no added fee upon extra work, with respect.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Point of Order Mr Speaker no one that does the contract pays for his own work. They pay it first and the person that owns the work fills in the paperwork. The plumber pays for his permit and his fee is given to the family and they add on the labor fee.

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of Opposition your opinion is clearly understood. The Hon Minister has also answered your query which is also the response by Government. Any type of profession has to have a permit. A carpenters permit includes the electrician and a plumber and other things. This is the reason for the implementation of this new Bill, to separate these fields of expertise. The Hon Minister has clearly stated that there is no extra fees paid, I am not sure what else you wish to know. As for the main objective of the Bill it is to improve the services of plumbers and resolve the problems that you have mentioned. If there is not enough water that means there are many leaks. Therefore the first thing to do is to resolve this issue. The plumber fixes it then informs the Authority on the situation. As for discussing licenses and other matters it is not really what we are supposed to be deliberating. And now the matter is getting more complicated with the mention of PUMA and the Ministry of Health. Leave the matter to the Hon Minister who owns the Bill. I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker due to the mention of permit fees paid to those who have permits. Therefore based on your instructions to do a check up on the member during recess, I want to know who will be paying me for my services. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I guess you can...

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I am nearly finished. There is no one that offers free services anymore, no one. This extra cost has been put on the country. The Hon Minister has spoken the truth of the matter; no one does work for free. Mr Speaker, the intention is that the Bill will improve the service, but I believe that with this improvement the costs burden the country and the cost of works will be more expensive.

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The Government is alright because the new 15 storey building they are planning is not financed with their money. Even the CSO mentioned by the Hon Minister of Finance, it is not money from the sky, it is tax payers money. So is that free? It is the sweat of the country. Mr Speaker, all the best with this Bill.

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

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker, I have noted from the Leader of Oppositions speech that he does not get the purpose of the Bill. There is already a plumbers society which was registered under the Incorporated Societies Ordinance 1952. It has been reviewed again in consideration of plumbers work and those who are certified to carry out this profession. Therefore this Bill was implemented to resolve issues such as water leakages that are constantly submitted by the public. Because a lot of the carpenters who build houses are not certified to do the plumbing and it has resulted to a lot of problems. Therefore more and more money is spent on repairs done to resolve these problems. This is why it is expensive for those who are not qualified for this type of service.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I will give you the opportunity after the clarification made by the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** The main objective of the Bill is to ensure that plumbers register and are certified to do the work, and with the good work carried out there will be no more problems. It will also mean that water will be saved within homes and villages. Because the longer it takes for something to be fixed the more complaints are submitted from the public every month, due to the fact that the work was not done by a professional plumber. Then by the end of the year more money will be spent on paying for these mishaps because of the poor work done.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker a point of order because the Deputy Prime Minister seems to have changed the matter discussed.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will give you the opportunity later Leader of Opposition. Be patient it is important to listen carefully at the explanation given.

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**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** If the work is done properly then people will not have to worry about anything for another few years. It is assistance that this Bill gives to the country.

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

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** I am talking about what is happening in villages in the rural areas. What you are mentioning is the works to high rise Government buildings. You stated the fixing of pipe and faucet leaks. I or a child can do that easily. This is exactly what is happening in rural areas it is reality, it is why we need registered plumbers working in these areas. Where is the assistance that you are talking about? I have a new Samoan Fale built with a new sink that can be easily installed by my carpenter or a member of the family.

**MR SPEAKER:** The statement given is now understood Leader of Opposition. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure responsible for the Bill.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** I humbly request that an opportunity be given for me to discuss the Bill perhaps it will help with some of the questions that will be asked by some of the members.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe it is best that you elaborate on the matter because there are a lot of various professions. There is work a certified plumber can do and also a job where the individual uses his intelligence. This does not mean that when there is a small leakage a certified plumber has to be contacted to fix it. This is the reason why we I ask that we have some middle ground. I understand Hon Minister. I intended that your clarification be made after the Members made their comments but I think it is better that way.

Please take the floor Hon Minister to clarify the matter so there is understanding.

The member for Faasaleleaga No.4 is there something you wish...

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga (Faasaleleaga No.4):** Thank you Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is not the final response of the Hon Minister, he is just going to clarify the issues raised. Thus I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure.

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**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to add on to the praises given to our Heavenly Father this morning as he has enabled our Parliament to continue with its order and allow the presence of our primary schools. I hope all goes well with school work this year. As for the Bill initiated, it was a request from those who specialize in this area. They came to the Ministry and Government for assistance on drafting a legislation that will acknowledge their field of profession. It is not an impulse decision it was drafted with the partnership between Government and the private sector and civil society to help develop this profession and to ensure that work is carried out competently.

This is the reason for establishing this Bill because of the requests given as the Hon Prime Minister has also stated there are also other professions. There is a group of architects and others with the changes we witness nowadays with technology and intelligence there have been constant developments. This is reason enough to draft new legislations for these specialized fields so that people will understand what they do, this applies to every trade and vocation. This is exactly what is happening in rural areas with how families are building three bedroom homes not like before with traditional Samoan fales. This means service standards should be uplifted to be in line with other services. Also more money will be spent if there are constant problems, as stated by the Deputy Prime Minister more money will be earned when it is done properly.

The main objective of initiating this Bill is to establish this Plumbers society that will officially take notice of the work they carry out. Also acknowledgment was given to veterans who specialize in this field on requests submitted that has resulted in this Bill. The Bill is just a framework to officiate the registrations of individuals who specialize in plumbing. Also stated in the Bill, an Executive Committee will be appointed and they are responsible with registrations of those eligible to be part of the society. Also to implement objectives on the work carried out by the plumbers, and to ensure that they follow regulations. These regulations have rules that are to be followed. The Executive Committee is responsible for functions of the society and they consult on what needs to be done to improve services. The Executive Committee has the power to select various professionals who are then elected based on degrees and acumen. This includes apprentices under supervision of a qualified plumber. There are different categories the members are planning towards depending on the qualifications and experience. It will enhance the abilities of the organization to carry out services in consideration to different categories.

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There was a concern voiced on water schemes. This is one matter that will be handled by this Association because the designing and project supervision will be tendered overseas. There are overseas companies that will work in partnership with their local counterparts, There can be supervision by our locals and there should be a member of the society present to monitor implementation of projects. There should also be a member of the Association in the Evaluation Panel.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Hon Minister but I believe we have reached our recess time. Hence I will give you the opportunity to continue when we return from our break and another two or three members will be given the floor to comment on the Bill.

I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are now set aside for our usual morning recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 10:45am for its normal recess and resumed at 11:27am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. The Chair humbly asks that we conform to our sitting time, also to the members to keep quorum in order to be able to start each sitting.

Before recess the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure was deliberating on the Bill, therefore I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to continue with his explanation.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker I am grateful for the refreshments provided for the members of the House. Also I would like to thank you and your Office for serving us with refreshments that has given us much strength to continue our orders.

The main purpose of this Bill as illustrated is for sustainability and cost saving. If the work is done comprehensively then it means less spending. It is cheaper than constant repairing which in effect will also affect the buildings.

The work done that I have mentioned on water schemes. It is ongoing in rural areas furthermore authority has been given to village committees in monitoring water supply. Moreover the Plumbers Bill perhaps we will thoroughly look into it for work it does for companies. The Plumbers Association selects an eligible member that foresees the work done in the company. If this work is not done well then it is the Associations decision to consider and improve on these issues.

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Also, in regards to the private water sources, it is maintained by the villages and community and the village committee. However, this Bill for Plumbers will allow them to assess the situation. As for the implementation of projects by companies, I believe the plumbers society has the opportunity to consider the tenders for there must be a skilled Member from within the Authority to monitor the works. If it is not good, the expert from the company implementing the project will be held accountable and will be investigated by the Association.

I also believe that the Association should also determine the village committees that manage the water sources. Because after the project is complete, it is then given to them to administer as many of the villages now have the experience to implement the works without any qualifications. The Committee can consider these situations and if there is an eligible representative of the village, he can be certified by the Association to watch over the scheme and cooperate with them.

One issue is that there are many different members picked by the village Committee, and not one has the experience or knowledge which results in the increase in wasted water. This is the purpose of the Association established by this Bill; to consider the villages under the private water scheme.

As per the requests regarding water supply, the Bill we are deliberation is the Plumbers Bill. However the requests are being considered. The Authority is communicating with Satapuala and Aana Alofi No.1. There is a problem because the schools are located on high ground compared to where the pipeline is situated. There are times when the water is able to reach these areas but sometimes it cannot. I believe it is based on the fact that there are now a lot of families living in this area, so water is very scarce. The solution to this matter will be considered.

It is true about the leakages. In 2012, there was 66% leakage. Up until today it has been monitored and yesterday, I signed up a Consultant to continue for another 12 months to monitor the non-revenue water. This is the only water that does not reap any profits. The Authority is closely monitoring whether there has been a change from 2012 to now. After investigations then the problem can be identified and pipes can be changed and other methods can be considered to solve this problem. I know that the the percentage has decreased since 2012 and perhaps by June this year, a confirmation will be made on the percentage of non-revenue water.

The service of the Authority is still being carried out in Faasaleleaga No.2, in regards to meters. This is another service that receives many reports that water bills have inflated and when the Authority checks, the pipes are twisted everywhere. This is evidence that there are individuals in rural areas that do not have the potential in plumbing, it has only produced leakage and more problems.



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Then the Authority will have to check everything that later resulted to no more problems and less costs. These are the duties of the Authority hence with the assistance of the Association and certified Plumbers work done will be done successfully.

This is similar to electricians because there are families that employ their own they are certified and are assisted by the Electric Power Corporation. This is how it is going to be for our water there should be a certified member of the Association that will do checkups on the work. This will decrease the leakage percentage and save the public's money. Also as stated in the Bill people can fix their own pipes if it is a small problem. Hence for large scale issues professionals should be involved to ensure that families are not affected with more problems.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Hon Minister I will give the opportunity for the interruption.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Thank you Mr Speaker, there is just a minor issue I want to address because it seems the Hon Minister is dismissing the matter on the 66% water wasted.

Mr Speaker this is an issue that has been occurring for the past ten years. This is a concern because it looks as if more and more money is being spent on these projects yet the outcome is not achieved, when will this issue be resolved?

**MR SPEAKER:** The concern of the Member is understood, to save our time I call upon the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Thank you Mr Speaker this is exactly the matter that I was trying to convey. The Plumbers Association will send someone to look at the houses built to make sure that the plumbing is being set up properly. My question therefore Hon Minister is whether the family will be free of charges or does the Government pay for it? This is another burden to the people.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter addressed is now understood, I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker as I stated earlier on the matter, work is still being carried out on checking these water leakages. If it is an earthquake then it will affect the layout of these pipelines. This is a measure taken by the Ministry to ensure that these pipelines are replaced.

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The Ministry is also doing its usual spot checks where areas that have water leakages are replaced with new pipes. Perhaps during our budget reading in June it will address these new changes done. As I also mentioned the work carried out by the Ministry is done under the advice of a Consultant.

This is to employ reliable plumbers that are certified. As I stated, this is just the framework for the Association by the rules and regulations will be made for the Executive Committee and the Association.

As for other matters it can be passed by Cabinet and also be signed by the Head of State as it is the usual process. This work will continue if this Bill and the Association is implemented and there will be programs to manage and regulate the Association and its progress.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker my question is very simple and easy. Whether there will be extra charges on the work done by the plumbers checking the work carried out, and how much? The country is listening to the work they carry out...

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of Opposition, I am aware of your opinion. As the Hon Minister of Finance stated earlier there are no extra charges. I am not sure what else is to be said, the Governments response is clear on the inspections and Government house inspections carried out, which is undertaken by those in charge of this exercise. There are also waste water inspections which I believe is covered in this particular area, thus I call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker these inspections are not very different from those taken in the workplace. Perhaps the Leader of Opposition recalls this during the time he was a Minister nothing has been changed. Inspections are part of the work, similar to when you were responsible for this portfolio inspections were made on telephone and electric poles in the town area. Who should take over this responsibility? I absolutely understand that you are trying to play politics and that is something we have long thrown away. The Hon Minister has already explained their business as usual and that is the Governments stance.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister to take the floor, to continue with his clarification.

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**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Thank you. We cannot acquire anything we ease but we must seek to improve and move forward.

The Member for Faleata West on the issue of annual registrations, perhaps this will be an issue that will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Association in regards to members and their revenue and registration fees. It is not administered by the Bill but it is a condition that is determined by the Association itself dependent on the money earned with the annual registrations.

I believe most of these issues have been mentioned like our private water and other works carried out by the Committee. As for penalties, there is no intention that it will be heavy but that the work is carried out well and that members will implement the work well. The only reason a plumber will be penalized is because there has been no effort to do the work well but if it is, then there will be no penalty fee.

These queries will be given to the Executive Committee and the Association to review and be submitted back to Cabinet, then they can decide whether changes will be accepted and the regulation can signed by O le Ao o le Malo. Overall that is a summary of the issues raised by Members in relation to the Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister, the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture is upstanding. I will allow him the opportunity in relation to the matter questioned by the Leader of Opposition. There are also a few members who wanted to comment, the member for Falelatai & Samatau, one of the members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him, and a member for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola. Then later on the opportunity will be given back to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for his final response.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Education, Sports & Culture.

**Afioga Magele Mauiliu (Minister of Education, Sports & Culture):** Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to assist with the clarification made by the Hon Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure. There were issues raised by some members concerning training within this particular profession also acquiring of certificates, which I believe should be clearly explained. I will start from the beginning considering the country listening in. Vocational studies was undertaken by the University when the technical Institute was merged with the University in 2006 which at the moment is under its authority. There are nine vocational areas undertaken by the University; Automotive Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Fitting & Machinery, Construction & Joinery, Welding & Metal fabrication, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, Panel Beating & Spray Painting, Plumbing and Maritime.

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Those who want to undertake some of these areas need to have acquired credentials from School Certificate and the Year 13 PSSC now changed to Samoa Secondary School Leaving Certificate. It is a requirement to have an average in English, Mathematics and other science related subjects. Also students from Don Bosco and Laumua o Punaoa can enroll but there is already a partnership between the University and these Institutes of how students will be able to attend.

The standard period of undertaking these subjects is two years, these standards used are not the standards of the University. They are standards and requirements set by each trade which is authorized by the workplace and the industry after a meeting by the Trade Advisory Committee or the panels of each trade like plumbing and then it is passed on to the University to offer. So the trades offered are not chosen by the University, it is upon the recommendations of the workplaces and businesses. This is exactly what we want because we will offered what is needed in the industry. After completion of the course then a certificate is awarded. I will comment later on SQA and the level of the qualification. After the two year period the University works in partnership with the Ministry of Labour in the apprenticeship program. This is a really important program where the student will be able to work full time and go back to the University for two hours a week to do theory. But the great benefit is that the students will also be mentored by their employers. This means that the hard work done is not gone unnoticed, contracts have been signed between the Ministry of Labor and places of employment for the student to get full term work, this also applies to plumbers they are observed on standards to achieve in order to be qualified. After two years of training which is monitored on the hours taken to complete the course that is a total of 6,000 hours. When all these hours are covered together with the examination that is set up by the University at the end of the year they will be rewarded with certificates under the Ministry of Labours authority.

As for individuals who already have the knowledge and skill in this area the government have already set up a programme, especially for them whom did not attend formal education. I believe this program was initiated by the Ministry of Labour in partnership with the Institute in 1976, to certify these individuals for the skills they have acquired. This is for those who have worked for more than 5 years and did not attend school. If these individuals request further understanding they are able to take courses at the University, which is categorized as the trade certificate first and second level. These classes are attended for three to four times within five weeks. This training not only consists of new skills but also involves skills that are already used by these individuals; the Committee then determines if the person is eligible, whether they are following legislations. The legislations used are from New Zealand which we have adapted.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister of Education, Sports & Culture but I will give the opportunity to the interjection for the Member who mentioned the issue, I call upon the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity. I believe the clarification given by the Hon Minister is fairly clear. As I mentioned earlier this is a very important matter and now he is explaining that there are hours that are taken to accomplish these skills. If the individual accomplishes the given hours then they have the potential of doing the work. I personally believe that there should be provisions imposed for practical skills of this profession. This should start from when the student is in Apprenticeship training also higher standards should be set for those who have accomplished trainings.

As stated in clause 4 ‘a plumbing apprentice should work under the supervision of a registered plumber.’ Therefore I want to ask the Hon Minister how will I know that the person has the enough knowledge? It is a waste of time to have an Apprentice certificate but it should be Achievement. At the moment you are an apprentice then you receive the certificate of achievement which is the license. It means you have the practical knowledge with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter mentioned by the member is clearly understood, I call upon the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture to conclude with his explanation.

**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu:** Mr Speaker, the on the job supervisor is important, right? Those chosen to work under supervision is chosen by the employer then an arrangement is made between the University and the Ministry of Labor, Commerce and Industry for those who are eligible. The last year for the programme students take final exams and do a project that will demonstrate their skills. This means all the hours will be covered by then and the student will then be able to start working in the specific fields.

I want to discuss further connection between the qualifications and the Samoa Qualifications Authority. SQA was established by the Government in 2006 with the responsibility to establish policies to monitor the qualifications from each educational institution which I will name later. They lay out the policies and set of skills required for each qualification and they consult with the counterparts overseas regarding the levels of their qualifications and the skills acquired under the qualifications. This Authority is also contacted by overseas counterparts. If a plumber is employed to work in Ukraine for example, and they are unsure about the qualifications, they contact the Authority.

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The Authority confirms the qualification level for instance a plumber can have skills at Level 4. Skills levels are 1 to 6 and that is how the skills level is rated internationally. This is the structural framework by SQA for our qualifications at the University, which is listed and the University is already registered these qualifications with SQA. This means that any qualification from the University or the Apprenticeship program is already registered by SQA. There are 4 levels for our certificates. The reason being as there are some courses which are 1 year and some which are only 6 months or 1 and a half years or others are for 3 years and that is how the levels are measured as well as the set of skills for each certificates. Our certificates are from level 1-4. Level 5 and 6 are Diploma levels. A person who achieved a diploma automatically is a level 5 & 6 although it also depends on whether the criteria have been fulfilled. Another aspect is that there are type of diplomas.

Then there is level 7, including the Bachelors, graduate Diplomas, and graduate certificates. Level 8 is a first degree certificate and level 9 is a Masters and 10 is a doctorate.

SQA has categorized these degrees in reference to overseas requirements making our degrees from Samoa internationally recognized.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the Member, I call on the member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Thank you Mr Speaker the speech given by the Hon Minister is really accommodating, but there has not been a response to my question. I want to ask the Hon Minister because he is one of the best plumbers in the country, if you finish registering and abide with legislations what grade will you be in? Also how can we know that the registration is valid when people seek work overseas? Another issue stated by the Hon Minister is the Diplomas that teachers are not allowed to take anymore only a degree, whether these diplomas will be removed as well? With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister will continue with his explanation, I believe he has yet to get to the issue concerning grades and trade prerequisites for Diplomas and what is not allowed. I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to continue.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Mr Speaker the certificate awarded once the individuals pass apprenticeships is a Level 4. When overseas countries want a clarification on this they will consult the Samoa Qualifications Authority who will give them the information. They will then determine the scale or framework this level requires.

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There are already Diplomas done in the country such as the Diploma for Engineering hence there are also people from overseas here that have diplomas. They have been already categorized in level 4, 5 and 6. SQA has already recorded all the different certificates, this applies to Institutions doing trainings they are strongly recommended to register.

I would like to read the list of schools who have already registered which I hope will encourage those who have not registered to do so. The Australia Pacific Technical Centre APTC, Early Childhood Teacher training Institute, Don Bosco Technical Centre, Harvest Bible College, Laumua o Punaoa Technical and Vocational Centre, Malua Bible School, Martin Hautus Institute of Learning, National University of Samoa together with the Oceanic University of Medicine, Samoa School of Maritime Academy, Samoa Shipping Corporation training for those working on ships, Small Business Enterprises Centre, South Pacific Nazarene Theological College, Tesese Institute of Ministries Studies, Wesley....

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

**MR SPEAKER:** The list is nearly done.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Well that is exactly the reason for taking the floor.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Leader of Opposition until the clarification concludes. Apologies Hon Minister while I make a comment. I am giving the opportunity to comment on this Bill which is in regards to the educated plumbers and it is the bush plumbers that cause the issues. The Hon Minister is mentioning the exact education that these bush plumbers should attend because they cause these problems. This is so they understand that they should register with the Association or their specifications will not be valid. They should apply to where the Hon Minister is mentioning to approve their certificates, diplomas and degree because they will be graded like electricians. They have grade a, b, c. Hon Minister please continue.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Mr Speaker it seems you have a broader understanding on the matter. Continuing, the World Wide Mission Training Centre, RHEMA Bible training Centre and the Leulumoega Fou School of Fine Arts. These are the providers or the 17 schools registered under SQA that are taking initiating these vocational courses.

Now I wish to name the education providers that are in the process of registering.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Hon Minister, I will give the opportunity to the member who stated the query, the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I believe the Minister already understands the matter concerning certificates and rankings, but if we go to New Zealand and Australia they have their own rankings, when a student who took nursing at the NUS goes overseas their degree is again retaken. The Hon Minister should confirm that these qualifications are recognized overseas. Also for Bible schools, it seems that Malua and Piula Theological College are not used anymore because they and many other schools are not mentioned in this list. The Tautua party is also going to start its own Bible Study classes. An advice to our Leader let us enter the centre to SQA.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Hon Minister in consideration of saving your time.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the types of trainings mentioned are different from what we are discussing, the question is, are will these bush plumbers be trained for free? Will the Government pay for their registrations?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister to respond.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Mr Speaker there is no such thing as free education in this world. There is no such thing as a free lunch. In order to pay work is needed to be done. A down payment should be made to work towards. Our primary schools and colleges are now free. As for the clarification stated earlier, this is the reason for this framework, perhaps there is no country in the world where you go too and qualifications are not overlooked. This is why whenever people go overseas their qualifications are all certified by SQA, especially nowadays people are forging fake certificates on the internet.

I just want to announce the institutions that are almost completely registered. The New Jerusalem Theological Institute, June Ryan School of Music, Le AMOSA University at Savavau, Malua Theological College, Moamoa Theological College, Pacific International Unitech, Piula Theological College and University of the South Pacific. Consultations have been ongoing between these Institutes, and hundred percent chances have been given to this incentive by government also to enhance other professional studies.

Mr Speaker this Bill is really important and the Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure is confident that plumbers will not seek apple picking jobs because they will be recognized in their own field of work. The profession the individual was trained to do they will do when they go overseas, which earns a lot of money. Bless our proceedings.



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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the assistance on the matter Hon Minister for Education, I believe it is important that these issues be discussed for the understanding of the House. As for the disaster that hit Christchurch, I believe that broadcasts to the world and the Pacific for electricians and plumbers were made. I believe it is important that qualifications are certified. I want to thank the Hon Minister for explaining the matter.

The Members that made comments have clearly heard the clarifications, if your issue was covered by this explanation that is it, but if there are new matters, the opportunity will be given.

I call upon the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai & Samatau):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I was hoping to make a long speech but due to the explanation given by the Hon Minister I have decided to mention only a few things. Mr Speaker I support the establishment of this association and it should have been done a long time. Also, this should initiate the establishment of associations for other industrial trades. This is the only forum in which they can speak the same language and they will be more consolidated. Plumbing services are quite affordable and with this Bill they can be more mobilized and they can discuss the standards, requirements and specifications of the trade within Samoa to guide their plumbing services. There may come a time when Regulations will be made but the request to those who will be drafting the Regulations, to do so with sympathy. We just finished deliberating on the Lawyers Bill and the intention is the same so that there is stability.

At the moment, anyone from overseas can come and work here but with this Bill, they must first go through the association and meet the necessary requirements. This is important not only for the plumbers but also for other nine fields mentioned by the Hon Minister.

I do not wish to cross again the road taken but the Hon Minister failed to mention that these classes can be taken by matured students. This does not mean that the requirements are solely based on students who get the high marks, it is based on current competencies the individual has to meet and then they are accepted into the trade.

Also Mr Speaker these trainings are mostly done in English as it is seen in the development of the sector there is belief that assessments are mainly focused on acquiring practical skills and not on writing or theory.

This is the reason why competency based assessment has been used, especially on trade that tests the students ability and not their English and writing skills. Therefore a great emphasis should be put upon the skill set rather than on learning theory.

And that Mr Speaker are a few concerns, Bless our Fono.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon one of the Members for Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang, followed by one of the Members of Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola and the Member for Vaisigano No.1.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Individual Voters):** I want to thank the Chair for the opportunity granted. I will just be brief on the matter but firstly I would like to thank the Hon Minister for the Bill. I believe the importance of the Bill in my own understanding is to establish the services of plumbers and for improvements that are to be made when they fail in this field.

Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House because there are no regulations at this time, my issue concerns building permits. We are all aware that these permits were issued before PUMA was established. It was easy like a one stop shop where reports were complied on buildings which was done by the Ministry of Works.

Therefore my question is, based on a fact that a report is needed from PUMA and you have to pay a fee, which is paid first before a permit is given. This is the same with the services of Fire Emergency, LTA where people go to get authorization for services which costs money.

My question though in relation to the implementation of the Plumbers Bill is, because permits are needed to construct buildings. Because there is no regulation done on this Bill, whether there is intention to seek a report from this Association? Is their approval sought before the permit is granted and how much would it cost? I am not sure if there are fees for electricians, carpenters and engineers because these are the things that must be considered. What is the process of acquiring permits? I am just concerned about this issue because it seems everything has to have a permit together with fees that ought to be paid.

Lastly Mr Speaker, in Part 6 Miscellaneous, I believe that all Corporations are regulated under its own constitution. My question on the Hon Ministers directive on an act of misconduct, I assumed the society would solve its own disputes. I want to understand this part, why the Hon Minister does not give the Association the power with provisions set in the Bill for them to do it themselves.

And that Mr Speaker are a few concerns, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification on the matter. I now call upon the Member for Falealili and concluded by the Member for Vaisigano 1, before the closing statement of the Hon Minister.

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**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Falealili):** Thank you Mr Speaker I take this opportunity to state that this constituency strongly supports the Bill. This is based on broader view and the benefit it has on the country. Nowadays there is a need for more plumbers in the many constructions seen in the country. I am just saddened by the fact that this profession was not initiated together with other professions like carpentry and engineering. Nevertheless I am thankful with the implementation of the Bill, considering the many changes faced by the country and its developments.

I just want to convey a few recommendations on the issue, a lot of our plumbers are those who have graduated and are certified. The implementation of this Bill though does not help those in rural areas because they already have the skills, they are good in the practical sense and lack in theory. An example are bus supervisors if they know how to drive then it is alright for them to drive the bus. Therefore Hon Minister is there a solution given to those who already possess the skills and are not good theoretically. I believe that this will benefit our plumbers and increase the number of those involved to assist with work done in urban area and also in rural villages. Because stated in the Bill only those who have acquired the apprenticeship certificate are allowed within this Association.

I humbly ask the Hon Minister what has been done about this matter, thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the motion given, I call upon the member for Vaisigano No.1 to conclude our debate concerning the Bill before a question is put.

**Afioga TUFUGA GAFOALEATA FAITUA (Vaisigano No.1):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker but I do not have any concerns upon the Bill. I was worried about fines that could be imposed on those doing small scale buildings. Hence I am thankful that it is allowed under the Bill as discussed by the Hon Minister. Therefore this constituency supports the Bill wholeheartly, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to clarify further issues raised by members before our question is put forward.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe everyone understands the matter concerning education as stated by the Hon Minister of Education, Sports & Culture. As for permits this is under the Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure both electricity and plumbing. These fields are under the Ministry and it is up to the person to go and find their own electrician to do the work.

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The Bill states that the individual finds a trustworthy person that is able to do the work. This means that the work should be done by a professional to ensure there will be no further problems in the future. As for a permit the plan of the house should be submitted to be passed. As for registration of plumbers there is no added fee on the permit. Therefore...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Hon Minister, I call upon one of the Member for Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** I apologize to the Hon Minister. I mentioned the impacts of the Plumbers Association. I want to know if the person requesting a building permit needs a recommendation or opinion from the Association. I want to understand the matter because there are policies for permits, thank you.

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

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker if a qualified electrician does the job then the plumber should also be qualified. A qualified plumber must assess and make sure that the work carried out is done thoroughly. At the moment a Minister is working together with these Government entities in implementing this Bill.

It has been noted that many societies and organizations established today are faced with problems where the Government has assisted by resolving them. This means that the Government is the agent that resolves the conflicts and issues. Even when they are close to being dissolved, the Government is the intermediary that resolves the issues and enables the continuation of these Corporations and their responsibilities.

As for the matter mentioned by one of the Members for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola, it is clearly stated that a person who has the skills and is a qualified plumber can do the work. This means the work can be done by an individual skilled at the work, with the supervision of a certified plumber. In considering the Bill perhaps with the issues raised some of the parts will be amended for future improvement. And that Mr Speaker is an overall summary of the Bill and I believe....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Hon Minister; I will give the last opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** There is only one important aspect as stated in the response made by the Hon Minister based on annual registrations where the cost is dependent on the Association. I believe Hon Minister that this is one aspect that the Government should be involved in because some people do not abide in registering every year. Also is there a difference between the registration for a business and an individual professional because if it is expensive then people will not likely register. This is the reason why these associations are avoided because of additional fees but if there was an appropriate fee or is it just validated...that is what should be done.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member for Faleata West, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it seems we are belittling these people yet they are professionals. This statement is inaccurate. If we do this, then the same would be done for lawyers, accountants and doctors? The matter should not be looked at one sided. These people are qualified professionals that get paid.

If this happens, does this mean that the Government will pay for everything? These are reckless recommendations.

It seems this side wants everything for free, also if laws are imposed and fines are initiated they criticize the idea, because they want to do it for free. What kind of suggestions are these, if things are done for free and the Government finds ways to get capital they are also criticized. Why are you acting like this? This is not compassion and do not say they are unintelligent. These sayings are all being noted by the country and it depicts irresponsibility. Mr Speaker, that is the assistance on the matter.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** What is it do you wish to correct?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** The purpose of the Bill is clearly stated, that added payments are imposed on work done.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the opportunity to the Government to respond to your statement.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I am saying that the service should be free.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:**  
Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Patience for the Government response.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:**  
All you want is for everything to be free. What sort of Government will we get from it? This is the exact problem faced by the Government in 1979 to 1981 when trying to improve with the idea that everything should be free. Now the national status has been lifted greatly. The problem with you, the country is listening in on the type of people you are, wanting everything for free and when the Government asks for funds to implement projects you also object. This is like last night during clarifications which you all objected. If the Government decides to shorten proceedings you also object. Everything the Government recommends is always objected.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, a point of order. There was no opinion of this side for everything to be free Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:**  
You just commented for everything to be for free.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I just said that with the new Bill, the costs of the work will increase.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:**  
Mr Speaker, when the Member was a Minister in Cabinet he did not mention for these things to be free. It seems that once he became a member of the Opposition he has taken the stand to say what he wants against Cabinet. Mr Speaker....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker the accusation made is being repeated over and over, there were no such Bills at the time I was a member of Cabinet.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Leader of Opposition...

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** There were no Bills like this at the time, the only aspect the Opposition is trying to say is that the Bill will be an added burden upon the country.

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**MR SPEAKER:** The opinion has been noted, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I was elaborating yesterday that the Government is trying to bring all these professional bodies into the country to assist with regulation of our work. If it fails there is the Bill to adhere too. It was not long ago when the Electric Power Corporation presented their new provisions which were also objected by that side. Mr Speaker we cannot develop if there are no economic means to do the work.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the matter is now clearly understood. Pardon Saleaula for ending the discussion because the matter is now clearly understood. The Government is trying its best to explain the matter and we all are aware that changes bring forward concerns but they are done for the best outcome. We all agreed that there should be improvements within the plumbing profession and as we have witnessed the Maota Tofilau Building was serviced by whom? The Chinese which portrays that we lack in this area.

This is the reason for implementing the Bill because it will be establish provisions that will be followed by the profession. Therefore Members of the House I apologize but I believe the Bill is now clearly understood.

*Motion approved and the Plumbers Bill 2013 was read a second time.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order the Bill will be referred to the Works, Transport and Environment Committee for consideration to report back to the Assembly.

The day is nearly over and we just reached our second Bill, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I thank you for your patience for keeping order in the House, as noted the Cabinet is trying its best to clarify some of its Bills. I would also like to acknowledge the Opposition even though most of the time the Government is blamed for not being transparent. Therefore we will try to elaborate until we are transparent even if it takes a whole month to evaluate the issues proposed by the Bill. If we have to start from the morning until 11pm at night then so be it, the objective is to ensure that the Bill is clearly understood.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member for Individual Voters.

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**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** Thank you Mr Speaker, this is the exact intention I wanted to convey. The Hon Minister of Education , Sports and Culture mentioned some good remarks that I wished to follow up on and also provide recommendations however out of respect for the Chair, I will leave the matter at that. I understand that our proceedings are being prolonged because of this plumbers legislation. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thought you were going to invite us to your residence for refreshments this afternoon. I call upon the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusaluc Faapo II:** Mr Speaker I am thankful for the clarification given by the Hon Prime Minister, the matter is understood. The reason for stating these issues is to acquire a broad understanding of the matters discussed. Therefore I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and that side of the Chamber for the answers provided in this sitting. With respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker even though some of the matters stated are not important we try our best to explain.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well.

**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION OF SAMOA**  
**AMENDMENT BILL 2014 – second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** For clarification of Parliament the Bill was first read on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014. I call upon the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for the motion.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Mr Speaker I move a motion with respect, *That the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 be read a second time and there are matters I wish to clarify.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Sports & Culture, Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure and the Minister of Police, Prisons, Fire Emergency and Services.*



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– second reading**

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

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Mr Speaker before I clarify upon the Bill I would like to give praise to the Lord for his love that has enabled us to be present here this afternoon especially Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. The Leader of Opposition and that side of the House, and all Members of the House. I acknowledge my constituency in all its honorary salutations.

Mr Speaker the amendment is mandated. There are three amendments to first provide for additional research services on narcotics that involve marijuana, and other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, second to carry out food analysis and testing and third to carry out environment impact assessments. Perhaps when we recall the establishment of this research facility we will come to understand its responsibilities and the need to have additional duties.

The Organization was founded in 2006; two divisions were established to guide the service of the Organization. The first was for research on renewable energy and second was for research on agricultural products that have been harvested and are to be processed. The Principal Act was amended in 2008 and the Research and Development Institute of Samoa was renamed the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa. This was the origination of the scientific research within Samoa. It was then upgraded internationally to comply with overseas standards. This upgrade was done through New Zealand under the International Accreditation of New Zealand. This is the third time the Act has been reviewed with this amendment to provide for additional responsibilities. This is also the reason narcotics research under USP was transferred to the Organization due to this accreditation. Perhaps queries will ask, does the Organization have the capacity to undertake these new functions. The answer, the Organization has long prepared and they employ an agricultural scientist, forensic scientist, food scientist and an environmental scientist. These people are certified considering some have acquired PhDs, Masters and other degrees also they have a general understanding of what they are doing. The New Zealand scientists are assisting with analyzing such drugs. Therefore a laboratory was set up for such purposes that are being carried out by our local scientists.

I want to elaborate on food analysis and testing because every product or tinned herring that is faulty is tested by SROS including water. They are also a great assistance to businesses. If the businesses produce products that are to be exported overseas, they cannot do it unless they meet the standards given, there is a specification given to meet these demands and SROS does the analyzing.

There are two divisions of SROS that has been upgraded for international standards; research on food safety and research on nutritional value.

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Specifications are given to those producing these products and they are referred to SROS for testing and analysis. They will issue a certificate to confirm that the required standards have been met. The product is then shipped and traded.

Regarding environmental impact assessments, this is one responsibility under SROS as they also have a division specific to the environment and renewable energy. Renewable energy is an alternative for reducing gas emissions that has resulted in climate change. This is the reason for setting up this division to monitor these changes.

Thus that is an overall view on the organizations function and the reason for the changes stated in the Amendment. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification given on the bill tabled. It is important that you have mentioned the reasons for amendments made upon the Principal Act. I believe that the Chamber has understood the clarification given thus an opportunity will be given to members who wish to comment on the Bill.

The Member for Gagaemauga No.2, I give you the opportunity to take the floor.

**Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU:** Thank you, my constituency notes its sincere gratitude for the Bill. The only matter I want to address with due respect is that the organization has been established for a while now and yet there are no results in terms of companies that are willing to take on the processing of the SROS products such as avocado oil and flour. It is like a bedtime story without any fruition.

I am thankful for the connection of the Organization and food as the Hon Minister mentioned. Research is preferred because it is appropriate for our health but if it will cost money then it should be priced with sympathy not meaning that it should be for free., thank you.

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

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Thank for the opportunity. The clarification given by the Hon Minister is reasonable considering the many needs faced nowadays.

First, the assessment on the environment is a very important aspect, for example the village of Fagaloa and their waterfall which was built into a dam. Will research be done on such issues because it concerns the environment?

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Secondly the issue concerning drugs, as we are aware in the past a lot of work was delayed due to research but I am thankful for the assistance of those who were trained at USP under this field. Does the organization have all the equipment needed to carry out this process?

As for the matter concerning flour, have we produced any flour from our breadfruit yet? I personally want to know if there have been any successful results on flour because we have a lot of breadfruit nowadays, thank you.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I believe the Hon Minister meant that this is the seed that is grown for the benefit of the countrys future. The Bill as stated by the Hon Minister is aimed at enhancing research skills for the Organization. They are looking at issues concerning the environment, narcotics which are important issues that should be analyzed. The establishment of this Organization is focused only on initiating and then the process is transferred to the private sectors. The Government is trying not to be involved in commercial operations but to refer these projects to the businesses to operate. The government understands the reason for the delay in transference, but we now have produced flour, avocado oil and diesel. The entrepreneurs have a feeling of hesitance until they are aware of the available markets. The Organization has approached the Government to take. Policies will be removed to allow for the Government to take over because of the need to move forward and the private sector does not have the capacity to answer to this need. However the Government is holding back and waiting whether there will be a time when they will take over as the formulas and everything is ready.

Mr Speaker this Organization is important to the development of Samoas economy. We must understand that there are two types of industries; one is the primary industries with the exportation of our raw produce such as coconut, banana and taro. The disadvantage is that the price is controlled by the world market. Second is the secondary industry where raw materials is processed locally, example cocoa to chocolate. This is also the reason why we have stopped exporting our local timber because we are now using it to produce our own products such as furniture which leads to profits for our people. As a result of quarantine laws, our products are blocked from being exported and we have turned to secondary industries such as producing taro into chips and mangoes into jam and juice. Therefore this organization plays a very important role to the future development of our country. Every country has its own research centre, which does research and produces valuable information that benefits the growth of the country. The Government is therefore seeking, and if there is none, the Government will step in and become a producer and operate commercially.

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Mr Speaker this institution and research centre has achieved many benefits for the country since it was implemented and other countries economy has benefited from secondary industries and this is the purpose of the Organization.

The Hon Minister has requested many times but the Cabinet has hold steadfast because of the policy that it will not operate as a commercial entity. Patience is needed and I have seen requests made but that is the situation Mr Speaker as well as my additional clarification on the comments and queries that were just made. Regarding the finances, the Organization is growing and its purpose is to take note of the quarantine laws and process our raw materials to be able to export utilizing our graduated scientists. The changing moment was when we were affected by the taro blight in 1994, every taro plantation was affected. And now we see in our country today, how are we able to grow taro again? It was all because of the research done by the Organization that has produced better and more varieties of taro seen in the country today.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification Hon Prime Minister. I strongly believe that queries on the matter are now understood. Because we have reached our recess time, I will give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata West when we return at 7.00pm.

I would like to thank all the Members of the House for your patience and participation to our proceedings today. I also want to inform you all that lunch will be provided at the Tofilau Eti Alesana building this afternoon, there is also an area for relaxation until we start again at 7pm.

I announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside until 7pm.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1.00pm until 7.00pm.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 7.00pm.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I want to acknowledge the members of the House for your patience and for being here again to resume proceedings this evening. I extend a warm welcome to you all, I believe we should continue with our orders until we reach the time stated in the motion.

I also want to acknowledge the support of the country listening in this evening; we will now carry on with proceedings.

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Earlier before recess the Hon Minister and Hon Prime Minister elaborated upon the amendments made on the Bill, concerning the research facility at Nafanua on the improvements of research services.

I give the opportunity to the Member of Faleata West who will start with comments this evening. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Leader of the country and his side as well as the Leader of Opposition and this side of the Chamber.

I also greet the Hon Minister of Women, Social and Community returned from his trip to the United States which I have heard and read in the newspaper has been a great success.

An opinion on the Bill tabled by the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment also a scientist. I remember used to train at the USP Alafua Campus, the Hon Minister who was younger worked together with a scientist named Clive Petrana processing juice and chili sauce. I thought to myself this is one smart scientist.

I wish to comment on the statement in the beginning by the Hon Minister stating that there was two reasons for the establishment of this Organization; first, research on renewable energy and second, the processing of our agricultural products. The Hon Prime Minister also stated that this is where the future of Samoa's economy lies. Is the reason for its faults because it is lying and not up and running...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this side should be given the opportunity to correct false statements because it seems that we are adrift on the main issue. There are countries in the world that are labeled as primary producing countries where raw materials are exported. We used to log our timber and export and the Government ceased this in 1989 and now we have been able to produce more secondary products that have earned us more money. The weakness for countries that are still reliant on primary industries is that the costs of their goods are controlled by the world markets. As for us who are now producing secondary products like processing coconut into oil we make our own costs. Countries that rely on primary industries do not develop as fast as those who rely on secondary industries such as Japan. They buy steel from Australia to make watches and other products to export. This is why this research centre is significant even though it has only just started compared to other countries. SROS will benefit us in the future.

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We have already witnessed some of the accomplishments of SROS, the producing of flour, diesel and avocado cooking oil and also they are looking at producing margarine which will be transferred to private ownership. Note that this member has only touched on the surface and not commented on the depth which is why I have provided this explanation for the understanding of the House. There is much benefits to be had for the future as I already mentioned the goods produced and researched. I mentioned that there is a policy regarding the privatization of Government companies because many of these industries or businesses operated by Government become bankrupt because that is the nature of such ventures. I have heard that there is a company that has requested to take over one of the products. I also mentioned that if the private sector does not have the capacity to take on the ventures, the Government will remove the policy as is the adage 'A wise man shares his wisdom, but a foolish man holds steadfast'. If the Government sees what needs to be done then the policy will be removed and the Government will initiate. If it succeeds as was the case with the Tusitala hotel in 1972, then it will be privatized. But that is the situation at the moment and the Governments hands are tied for now. I have mentioned this forthwith before the any other future remarks stray from the facts.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the clarification. I was trying to figure out what exactly your point of order was because that is exactly what I was going to comment on...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** If the Member does not understand...Mr Speaker a point of order. As the member stated nothing has been implemented because the venture is lying down but mind you, nothing ever starts off running. It seems the Member wishes the baby to be born and start running. There is no baby in this world who starts running as soon as it is born. First they lie down, then crawl, then stand and take baby steps, followed by walking and then running.

Mr Speaker the problem here is that he thinks he is in paradise yet he is still in the world.

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

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**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am saddened by the comment made by the Hon Prime Minister that suggests that SROS is still an infant. It is no longer in its infant stages, it is operated by Scientists. We have made many visits and we have eaten the scones and buns made from the flour and we have observed the processing of oil from avocado as well as diesel production. We are still waiting although there is no one in the private sector confident enough. But remember...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. I was patiently listening to the comments of the Member perhaps I should elaborate on the issues raised by other members as well.

**MR SPEAKER:** You may take the floor Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** The first issue, also touched on by the Hon Prime Minister is the function of SROS as a research organization that does research and develops the technology then it is given to the private sector. Formulations for the flour have completed and it was purchased by Vailima Breweries to produce beer which was launched recently. There is also a company from New Zealand who is working together with SROS to market gluten free flour overseas, also there is a company from France interested. As for the oil produced from avocado negotiations are ongoing for a purchase agreement by the AG office to sign it over the technology to the company, and SROS can assist with how it is being used.

There are two varieties of avocados that have been identified by SROS that produce high quality oil; hass and fuerte. These types of avocado seedlings have now been brought into the country to be grown and this is a role undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture. All these developments are under this Organization.

As for bio diesel, there are now cars owned by SROS and SPREP running on bio diesel for that past two or three years now. The situation at the moment is ensuring that there is enough to supply the bio-diesel. The Organization is also working at producing virgin cooking oil from coconut oil making sure that the copra odor is not present in the final product. Also samples have been prepared and SROS is cooperating with other scientists, to create the formula for margarine.

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Coconut oil is a hard oil and the oil harden at low temperatures compared to the avocado oil which is a soft oil. At the moment, they are trying to use this base to find a balance where a consistency can be found for a spreadable margarine. It takes time to develop this expertise and the scientists and SROS are researching the oil bases to mix with avocado oil to make this consistency because these products are marketable and are of good quality to export. If it were not then it would be useless to continue. As the Hon Prime Minister has stated it does mean once we do something it yields results. Also most of the scientific research done fails at the initial period, which is the reason why SROS keeps on researching even things that are not under its mandate.

As for the Bill it was implemented to provide guidelines for the services offered by the Organization. It follows a mandate and it does not mean that if one wishes to research something they are free to do so, no, it has to be for the benefit of the economy.

Then I reach the matter concerning Taelefaga. The Electric Power Corporation needs the assistance of SROS to work together in generating hydro power. A technology has been developed to help clean this waste discharge from flowing into the sea. This waste has been found to affect the environment and marine life that people in the area are dependent upon, especially the odour it produces.

As for the issue concerning narcotics as mentioned by the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, SROS has this problem under investigation. At the moment marijuana samples tested are referred from the Police for criminal charges. This is the assistance given by SROS to test such drugs and report back to Police and it aids them with court hearings.

This is what is happening at SROS they are not just waiting and doing nothing, they are researching these issues. The private sector has been given the chance to carry out this responsibility but they do not have the capital to do so. As the Hon Prime Minister has stated they are requesting Government assistance. The Organization is working in cooperation with overseas partners because it needs funds to carry out such services. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I believe the explanation given by the Hon Minister is clearly understood. The explanation given has clarified the issues raised by some of the members which I believe includes the Member for Faleata as well. Therefore it is important that some of the concerns are addressed so that another Member does not readdress these issues. I call upon the member for Faleata West to continue with his concern.



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**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification given on the issues raised. At the conclusion of your explanation you said that the private sector has given up fulfilling this duty. Therefore I believe the only solution to this is for us to go to them. We should assist them technically, but I am glad that some of these researched products have been put to good use with the Vailima Breweries using it to make beer. Those are the advantages mentioned and the Bill seeks to expand the services of the Organization but I am pursuing the initial core services of the entity. The public-private sector partnership is also being promoted and one aspect that should be considered is whether the product is feasible for the markets and the costs and whether they are cheaper than the imports. I am grateful for the explanation given that has clarified matters such as partnerships formed and research made on certain products.

The Bill proposes added work for the Organization; therefore I want to understand EIAs. Because PUMA which is under the Ministry is responsible for this task, is there a difference between the EIA done by PUMA and the one carried out by the Organization? Whether the EIA done by the Organization is solely based on research. Most of the people find it difficult to do EIAs because it is not cheap and a people are aware of those offering such services but if this is a relief to assist the public because even if only a two bedroom house is built, an assessment must still be carried out. I read a notice in the Sunday Observer mentioning two new homes to be constructed. This is a new process and I believe it is costly for the Ministry. I am not sure if an approval has been given by those involved to advertise these works stating their names and whether anyone is in opposition. If these notices are advertised it is costly and I believe this is only done overseas and printed every 3 months in a gazette. I beseech the Hon Minister to reconsider this procedure as it takes a full page of the newspaper for only 2 proposed homes. The Bill provides for EIAs under the Organization and was there consideration to collaborate with the Hospital lab because some of the tests have to be referred overseas. There is often delay in treating patients because of this tests sent overseas. Testing narcotics can now be done locally and the Hon Minister has mentioned that forensics testing is also available but the only delay was that there was no room to carry it out. I am thankful if it is true that we have these forensic services.

The main purpose of establishing this Organization is beneficial. An important aspect since the opening of their doors was creating products to substitute imports, mainly agricultural produce grown in the country. I recommend that we encourage farmers, as we now have a lot of taro and visits can be carried out to monitor peoples crops through the Ministry of Agriculture. If these two entities cooperate it would be a great support.

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As stated by the Hon Minister certain avocado varieties which should be grown. There is the hass which is round and blackish but most of the avocado grown is the variety with the long green fruit. This is one aspect that should be promoted for the awareness of the farmers which is economical.

With utmost respect Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very Well. I believe the opinions given will greatly assist the Organization as the Hon Minister has already clarified some of its functions. I will give the opportunity to one of the Members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Salele followed by the Member for Aana Alofi No.3.

I call upon the Member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** I want to thank you again Mr Speaker. I humbly greet the Hon Minister on presenting such an important Bill. Although the three aspects of the Bill are clearly addressed, it also portrays the positive progress of the work done. As the Hon Prime Minister stated research is an important aspect in the development of a country. To illustrate, America is the only superpower remaining, the reason for it is because of the strength of their research. The world looks to America as a role model. Lots of funding goes into research as well as their military. They hire scientists from China and around the world to be educated and the research stays within America as do the scientists resulting in the strengthened research ability of America. I am thankful for the reasons why SROS was founded.

The Hon Minister has clarified the three additional services and I have understood. I see that we are still collaborating with an overseas institution for international certification. Just a recommendation as the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture is present, perhaps the task can be done by the SQA and it can be renamed the Samoa Qualification and Research Authority.

Hence it is only a recommendation to consider, although if a decision is made to unite the two as Samoa Qualifications and Research Authority the work will be easier.

As for the work carried out by the researchers it is not an easy duty. After it is prepared and ready, then the wait continues for interested investors. To ensure that the research is internationally registered, it should be patented. I believe that there are completed researches. If there is no patent, other countries can use it but it should be the property of Samoa and should also generate revenue.

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As I stated, SROS develops the product for us to operate and today many of our children are learning to become scientists and we should utilize overseas experts. As I said earlier America is a country that has vastly developed because of the diverse people and how they share new ideas. The intelligence of the people has provided them with a stronger economic growth. If there research facilities were not properly developed then there would have been other countries higher than them. Therefore Mr Speaker is my opinion on the matter, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification. I call upon the Member for Aana Alofi No.3.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker, for the opportunity, I also want to thank the Hon Minister for the Bill tabled this evening.

There are a few matters of concern I wish to address to improve some of the developments made for the country.

Firstly I would like to address the issue mentioned by the Hon Minister, on renewable energy. It seems that value added goods such as our agricultural products reaps good prices locally

Mr Speaker the matter pertaining to renewable energy perhaps the Hon Minister can elaborate further on the issue because bio-diesel seems to be the only alternative done. So are there any further discoveries on other products produced from other forms of renewable energy. Which is the best source and when? For solar energy what is the best solar panel?

Then there is geothermal renewable energy whether further research has been conducted, is there any significance or are we able to do it, also is there enough renewable energy in the country to implement such research?

And now to the issue on bio-diesel mentioned by the Hon Minister, perhaps there are various trees now used to generate this energy. Although it has been noted that only one type of tree is being used to extract this energy, which is Jatropha that has been known to be an invasive plant, thus we must also consider the matter of preserving our native trees. I want to ask, are there any other trees used to produce renewable energy such as the oil palm or coconut oil. Much research has shown that the conversion of the oil is expensive. From an economical stand point, there is more money to made from using coconut oil than bio-diesel. What is the status on the matter for our Organization?

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Another aspect of renewable energy is o-tech, it is general understanding that a lot of this research was carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources in the past, what is the stance for SROS. Do they know which part of the country that can develop the o-tech especially the involvement of the Electric Power Corporation. The research done on Wind Energy whether there is collaboration with the Electric Power Corporation, or will it be useful considering the reason why this Organization was instated.

I will not elaborate in detail on value added goods Mr Speaker because it has already been mentioned by several members. I believe the only value added goods are the avocado and breadfruit which has been for the next eight years. Hence there are still some areas I believe research has still not covered an example, ginger.

Mr Speaker, while the establishment of this Institute was in its consultation stages I was very thrilled, why? For many years I have advocated the protection of our traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights. Also over the years there I have assisted in protecting the intellectual property of those that have contributed to medicines extracted from plants and natural resources. I assumed that this would be of significance because other countries rely on their biodiversity and Samoa as more than 800 native plants and more than 900 coral and fish species and they have not all been recorded. At the moment we have more plant species recorded in Universities and herbariums overseas. My concern is that we should prioritize this and first, document all these plant species and secondly, find out their uses. Not only are they used by our traditional healers but they also have other purposes. There is richness to be had from these resources but we are unable to research them. I believe that if we try to prioritize our environment we will make more money than what we make from avocado oil. The oil that can be extracted from the *calophyllum (fetau)*...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member, I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Mr Speaker I just want to redirect some of the issues mentioned by the Member who is discussing a whole different matter. Our native trees and biodiversity is already under the protection of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. As for the *jatropa* you stated as invasive it is not, there was research carried out by IUCA, an International Union on protection for the environment which was requested by SROS.

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The conclusion of the report found that the plant is not invasive; if you want to know then you can come to my office to see the report for yourself. Hence measures have been taken to ensure protection for the environment.

As for Wind Energy on renewable energy, this is a project the Electric Power Corporation is collaborating together with SROS, with a grant of USD\$5 million signed together with the signature of the Hon Minister of Finance. The Organization together with the Energy sector is looking at possible sources, because fossil fuel is predicted by scientists to be exhausted in the next 50 years. The international organization IRENA, is the number one exporter of fossil fuel and now this is where the headquarters of renewable energy development will sit. Why? Because they realize that this is the only solution for future development. This is why the Government is working to establish solar energy which EPC is harvesting. As for wind energy it is a new experiment with trials just now taking place.

As for geothermal energy, I think was mentioned, I declare that as long as I sit in the chair as Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources,, I would never approve such developments including the mining of the seabed. I personally believe that this endeavor is too risky for the environment. Our country has the smallest EEZ compared to others. if we implement this development it will mean more harm than good to our future and environment. As the Minister of Environment I strongly object to the matter. I have the authority to do so, unless it is done in another country and we earn money from it. There are projects that are done in other countries and in partnership with Samoa.

Bio-diesel is important because 40% of fuel is used for transportation. This is why we are looking at other sources, looking at bio-diesel and bio-ethanol. Member for Aana Alofi No.3 some of your fellow members are calling out to you (*point towards some of the members for Opposition*) write down their queries, they are assisting you with this matter on transport.

As for the matter raised on research of plant species, it is economically dictated. If the research done is not economic viable then research resources will not be spent. The Scientific Research Organization already has a mandate to follow. I must remind the Member that Rome was not built in one day. As for scientific research only those who are educated in science understand but many others do not, perhaps in time we will come to know. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Leader of Opposition. First I give the opportunity for further clarification from the Hon Minister of Communications, Information & Technology. I call upon the Hon Minister.

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**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Minister of Communications, Information Technology):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The only reason for taking the floor is to elaborate on the issue concerning avocado and green coconut. There is a reason why the Organization instated the use of these trees, it was not a dream. There is a reason for planning the use of avocado, green coconut and breadfruit. The question is why? These are the trees by which this organization was established upon. Why? Because these trees are abundant in the country and mostly every family has an avocado, coconut and breadfruit tree. It is also easy to plant and maintain hence the significance of these trees seems to have been tarnished by such comments.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will now give the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition. What issue do you wish to intervene?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister is so reliant on the reports from overseas experts although there is an environmental expert here. So you must take into consideration the advice they give on environmental issues. Another issue Mr Speaker...

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** I did not know if there is an expert on that side of the House that can compare to the expert on this side.

**MR SPEAKER:** Not only is he a scientist but also a professor. I call upon the Member for Aana Alofi No.3. A reminder in case our general comments drag our proceedings. There are only two parts of the Bill providing for testing of narcotics whether it is cocaine or marijuana. Therefore this has been clarified in the Bill. I call upon the member to continue with his clarification.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. It is true Mr Speaker, but just a few concerns on the clarification of the Bill. In respect to the Hon Minister, and the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet these comments are made for the benefit of our country which is done together. Therefore Mr Speaker this side humbly apologizes as for the Organization sated earlier by the Hon Minister. I wish to correct the name IUCN, as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. It was amended in 1994 to World Conservation Union. They have a base in Fiji and I was there during the time their report was presented as mentioned by the Hon Minister.

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**MR SPEAKER:** We already have a clarification....

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** I have already mentioned the IUCN.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Oh you have yet finished your speech?

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Mr Speaker, I apologize to the Hon Minister of Communications, I did not intend to mean it like that, I was just emphasizing the importance of other the native plants in Samoa.

Mr Speaker there is a plant named kava, its scientific name is *pometia pinnata* the seed of this tree is used and it is plentiful in the Pacific. Why is Samoa not conducting research on it? This plant can be researched for our future development.

As mentioned avocado and coconut trees are abundant in the country. Accordingly *tava* and *fetau* tree is seen growing all around Samoas coastline, and we get more oil from this tree than others. There are a lot of trees in Samoa as the Hon Minister stated in our biodiversity, I was one of the people who recorded these trees and interviewed the traditional healers on the use for such plants. WE should continue to seek their knowledge on the uses of these plants. This is why I ask that we stress the importance of these plants within the country. I believe that we should find out from our elders the important plants found in Samoa, this way we will be able to use this knowledge for future development. If we do not take care of it now Mr Speaker we will lose the importance of our rainforests in the process. We do not know that nutmeg is one important plant in Samoa. Therefore it is wise to document all the trees species and implement our own herbarium in Samoa maybe with the assistance of SROS, the National University of Samoa and MNRE for someone who wants to do research on psychotria (*matalafi*), which has many species and is a herb used to cure various illnesses. There are 21 species of phycutria in the country thus we have not done research on all of them whether they are useful. Perhaps we will earn \$50 million by selling all these plants to assist with the development of our country.

As for our Bill tabled, there is one aspect that I wish to elaborate on this evening.

**MR SPEAKER:** Take it easy...take a breather I call upon the Hon Minister of Communications & Information Technology. It seems like you are out of breath from listing all the plant species. I call upon the Hon Minister.

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**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** Yes, it is good to take a break in case you might get sick. As the Member stated we should have a herbarium, but we already have one at Alafua established around 1967. We already have documented the various trees you mentioned although some have been lost. The Bishop Museum in Hawaii has the largest collection of trees from around the Pacific including Polynesia and Micronesia so there is no need to go into this research again. Therefore whatever plant species being research we can get the information from the Bishop Museum. Also I think we should also document the knowledge of our traditional healers on what these plants are useful for and what diseases it cures.

The importance of this process is taking it one step at the time, this is why we are using avocado at the moment because it is abundant. Also the oil produced from it is costly and it benefits our country. Thank you.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** Do you wish to comment or should I give the opportunity to the Member for Aana Alofi No.3 to continue?

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker just a point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** A point of order to whom? The Minister for...

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** I want to clarify a point of order to both the member and Hon Minister. Mr Speaker all of last night we were listening to clarification on milk and tinned fish, and this evening the professor is trying to explain the different plant species. Why not give the opportunity to this side for the professor to elaborate on the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** I am well aware of the explanation given by your professor, thus I am the one that is responsible in giving members the opportunity to take the floor. I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I just want to notify the House that I worked together with the member for Aana Alofi No.3. The member was called the bat those days because he usually went around Samoa recording the various tree species. This is why I recommend my fellow member because he has recorded almost every tree also lemon grass and lemon tree and we should listen to him this evening. With respect.



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**MR SPEAKER:** The Member for Faleata West so he was the bat and you are the octopus?

I call upon the Member for Aana Alofi No.3 to complete with your clarification I believe your queries have been made clear. Your comments are not being taken lightly by the Hon Minister who owns the Bill. Also the Hon Minister for Communications is an expert in Agriculture so everything stated is considered. As for some of the recommendations that you wish to say I advise you to meet up with the Hon Minister responsible for SROS to submit these queries. The queries are now understood so just address the Bill considered member for Aana Alofi No.3.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, my advice to the expert, take it easy and wait until you become the Minister of Environment incase they benefit from your knowledge....

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member for Aana Alofi No.3, as sayings of the House goes, a wise man shares his knowledge. In case you might listen to the advice of the assistant preacher and might be wronged, you may continue.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker, there is only one more matter mentioned by the Hon Minister regarding seabed mining. I apologize perhaps the meaning by the Hon Minister is different from the O-tech I mentioned. It is ocean technology using waves.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Mr Speaker, a point of order. I did not say that O-tech is the same as seabed. I just said that I strongly object to geothermal because it greatly affects our environment. This is what I said. I did not say that o-tech is the same as seabed. I just wanted to correct this matter before you go on further.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity also thank you for the clarification given by the Hon Minister.

I am confident that the Hon Minister is adamant, for as long as he is in the seat, on rejecting geothermal research. Although I seem to recall that the Hon Minister of Finance suggested and proposed research done on geothermal research.

I believe New Zealand this is one....

**MR SPEAKER:** Toeolesulusulu it seems like the matter is being taken to Tonga and I am trying to reign it in.

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I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I take the floor because my name has been mentioned in the members comment.

These sources of geothermal were being considered as a possibility if it does not affect the environment. If geothermal is done it will be dug two kilometers underground and the only risk is that it might cause a volcanic eruption. And it will definitely affect our small island. This is the reason why our professor for Environment greatly objects to this matter. With respect.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Mr Speaker, this is the significance of SROS in my personal opinion but I am grateful that there are other Ministries involved. Perhaps Mr Speaker in the future SROS will be able to produce results on their research mandate of renewable energy.

Lastly Mr Speaker a matter of concern, on the provision whereby the Organization has the authority to carry out an environmental impact assessment.

Mr Speaker I strongly disagree with this provision and I believe that it should be removed from the Bill. Firstly environmental impact assessments are done by the private sector. It has been stated by the Hon Prime Minister that every enterprise is initiated by the public sector then it is given to the private sector to operate. Today most of this work is already been carried out by the private sector. Also most of these people have the knowledge to do this work. If they are paid to do what they do, and then the Bill is passed there will be a competition between this Government entity and private businesses. What are the impacts? It is tax payers money that is used to employ SROS and now we are allowing competition with the private sector. SROS can offer the service at a low price and this will only affect the development and influence the process of submitting it to the private sector.

I have noted that most Government owned entities are in the process of being privatized, so what is the use of implementing this Bill? It seems like the Government is trying to get back their money but how is the private sector going to survive?

Secondly Mr Speaker, my belief in regards to such in organizations such as PUMA, the recommendation in the reviewing of research of the private sector is referred to PUMA. The importance of SROS is that it reviews research from PUMA whether it is accurate. There are already a lot of developments for instance bio-diesel, and producing oil from avocado, an EIA is needed but now they will be allowed to carry out their own assessment.

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– second reading**

Mr Speaker I humbly request the whole of Maota to remove this role from SROS and let its role remain as an advisory scientific body to PUMA and other Government Ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Police Department because the private sector also are reliant on their research to carry out the work they do.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Minister is well aware of the issues mentioned therefore you should be patient. I believe the Hon Minister has already elaborated on some developments initiated by the Government; this means the programme is in progress phase. As the Hon Minister has stated himself we cannot just implement these projects and expect it to gain results right away; time makes the wine. Therefore I give the opportunity back to the Hon Minister to conclude with his clarifications on the issues raised by members.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Do you want to elaborate Leader of Opposition?

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Yes, there is a minor issue I want to discuss.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize because I was going to give the opportunity to the Hon Minister. I thought you already said your piece seeing as your professor has already elaborated your concerns.

Therefore I apologize to the Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition then you can conclude.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The matter stated by the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment is very important. The notion on conflict of interest is an issue that should be considered seriously. This is based on the conflicted ideals of Government in partnership with the private sector.

Another issue Mr Speaker, what reason is there that the private sector cannot take on the results of the research by SROS? What is the reason? The reason is there is not enough money. The private sector is in need of funds yet even this will be removed.

Another aspect as stated by one of the Members for this side is the variability. We have to find out what is the right price. This is one aspect the private sector is awaiting, whether afterwards, will the cost of flour increase. This is one matter that should be considered by the private sector before they take over this responsibility, for example comparing prices of flour here and imports.

**MR SPEAKER:** The opinion of the Member is dually noted.

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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I have not finished although you have replied.

**MR SPEAKER:** I already understand the query put forward. I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to elaborate on the issues raised by Professor Toeolesulusulu. You have elaborated again on the research on the matters that he has already mentioned.

I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity, also thank you for your patience in conducting the matters deliberated in the House.

Firstly, there were plants mentioned by the Member, Toeolesulusulu that have health claims. There is already an ongoing project being carried out by SROS labeled Medicinal Herbs. This project is funded by a Japanese company, because of one of the locals who completed a PhD in a Japanese University creating this connection with international organizations for funding.

The Organization is not being idle in considering these issues as mentioned by the Member. I am mentioning it now for the information of the country that this is one of the many researches being done by SROS. What I have noted is that the CEO as well as the Organization are not deterred by non economical factors. We will not lose money on what is not profitable as for flour, it has already been cost out and the benefits considered. If the Leader of Opposition wants to look into it then you can come to my office and see for yourself. The projects done by the organization are not implemented without costing; bio-diesel, flour and avocado. The Chief Executive of SROS is present therefore we can just ask him to show you the figures which will save us a lot of time.

Mr Speaker then I come to the issue....

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I have not yet concluded with my speech.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Be patient. These issues are important because they are useful to you.

As for the EIA; Environment Impact Assessment, PUMA cannot do reviews of EIAs. It is a conflict of interest if the department also administrates their legislation. This is why it has to be done by a third party. I believe that the concerns voiced by the Member for Aana Alofi No.3, because he is the one doing the EIAs, hence there are also a lot of fees imposed yet you are worried about a high cost of living. Therefore I am not sure what is right anymore from the Opposition, because SROS is a benefit to us all.

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The only thing I am worried about is that your fees might be more expensive than SROS, hence this is why we need to work together.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** I thank the Hon Minister who has stated the costly fee. As we all know the work carried out is done with charity. Also we do not get paid for the work done because I am not the only one Hon Minister, there are about ten of us. If SROS takes part in this project the development will be overruled by SROS, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I did not know that you were affected by this the Member for Aana Alofi No.3. I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker a point of order. All bids to tenders made by Toeolesulusulu have fees, but he just stated that he does other work for free. He also has bids that have been questioned by the Board, whether a Member of Parliament is permitted to submit bids. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the matter is now understood. I call upon the Leader of Opposition to conclude his speech.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** It is not long now. The Opposition is trying to convey issues while the country and the private sector are listening in. Now this crumb that has helped their businesses will be removed when SROS has the support of the Government.

I now come to the cost of flour mentioned by the Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member because you have mentioned this matter which also involves health.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I note that the Leader of Opposition is still present and yet I was awaiting your instruction whether I would have to do an eye examination for him. If you are willing, I will do it from here and the decision is that he should not be present but he should have a rest because he is a risk to all those in the Chamber. The pink eye will not cure here. Mr Speaker, it is your decision.

**MR SPEAKER:** We will decide once we come back from our normal recess hour. I call upon the Leader of Opposition to conclude with his speech.

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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you. I will not consider the speech of the Hon Minister with respect. But the issue that has come about is the partnership with the private sector. I am not eager for the costs but for the private sector and whoever may want to invest in this venture. It is not for my benefit it is for the private sector. This is why I humbly ask that we should consider all areas, now with the use of avocado. I just want to elaborate on the launching of the avocado oil which was well attended. The avocados were mixed and some were watery and that is a fact. This is one aspect that should be considered because it will affect private sector that would be affected.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Leader of Opposition I call upon the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Mr Speaker, point of order. If there are investors that want to invest in flour they can contact SROS because they are waiting.

As I have said earlier overseas countries except the Vailima Breweries who are buying breadfruit flour are free to invest. It does not mean that we have to broadcast here for investors. If people want to invest they can come to us. There is commercial confidentiality perhaps you are not aware of it. It should be recognized.

As for the concern on competition, I have already stated together with the assistance of the Hon Prime Minister and the Speaker that the only things needed to be understood are the provisions provided for the Organization to follow and progress forward. With utmost respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Okay, is there anything else Leader of Opposition? I humbly ask that you mention something new, the Hon Minister is well aware of your other concerns.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will now conclude, I want to elaborate on the amendments to the services offered by the Organization on narcotics and marijuana. I believe this is a really important area that Government should take seriously, why? There is an increased number of offenders. Why is there a breach in the law? *(Words instructed by the Chair to be removed from the speech of the Leader of Opposition)* Where will these people get help from? Yes who will they be dependent on, everyone is poor? I am grateful that there will be people looking into these matters....

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**Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Leader of Opposition, it seems that we are deliberating on a different matter entirely. It is not wise to elaborate the importance of illegal plants in the Chamber. We should not encourage the issue, and justify criminal activities as support. I ask the Leader of Opposition to rephrase his statement, I command you to sit down!

As we are well aware there are criminals listening to such comments, therefore relinquish the issue. As we know the Police department is faced with an already difficult task. If Parliament is the agent that delivers such comments it will mean that leaders of the country are the ones initiating this behavior.

We are supposed to be the encourage those enforcing the laws on such activities. This is inappropriate and I instruct that the comments be struck from Parliamentary records because we must uphold the dignity of the House and give reasonable advice.

It is here that delivers the blessing and demise of the country. If you are listening in do not follow and abide by these statements this is the recommendation of the Chair.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker a point of order. There was no such comment encouraging these activities. The only thing is that I am thankful that the Organization is well prepared in carrying out research.

**MR SPEAKER:** I have concluded on a decision and the matter is very clear as stated. Even though play politics, we must always be cautious because the country is listening in. The matter is closed and will not be addressed, the Hon Minister has made his response.

*Motion approved and the Scientific Research Organization Amendment Bill 2014 was read a second time.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders the Bill will be referred to the Education, Science, and Communication & Information Technology Committee for consideration to report back to the Assembly in a future sitting day.

**SLAUGHTER AND MEAT SUPPLY BILL 2014**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** For clarification of Parliament this Bill was first read on 24 January 2014. I call the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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**Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014**  
– second reading

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** Mr Speaker, I am thankful for the love of our Heavenly Father for we have reached another hour and all are safe under his protection. I move with respect, *That the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to clarify the Bill.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Communications, Information & Technology, and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

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

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House, the objective of the Bill is to promote the agriculture industry in Samoa through an efficient, effective and appropriate livestock slaughter, meat inspection and meat distribution system. Also provided, consumers and wholesome locally produced meat and meat products are safe, following these principles; Firstly, the right of consumer to purchase inspected meat, secondly responsibility of the producers and processors of meat products to provide a safe and wholesome product, thirdly that slaughter be conducted in a humane manner and fourth, government provides a responsive, effective, fair, timely and efficient administrative and regulatory system, recognizing that whenever practical, it is essential to promote the purpose of the Bill primarily through non regulatory means such as co-operation, communication, education and partnerships.

This is the purpose of the Bill to regulate livestock slaughtering and meat distribution especially food safety for the use of consumers. Also part of the Bill is centered meat inspection for locally slaughtered meat and not imported meat.

The issue stressed by this Bill is cattle meat sold to wholesalers in the country. This means in the future local meat cannot be accepted unless there is a certificate from the Slaughter and Meat division. This also ensures the safety of meat from traditional gatherings bought by stores to be sold to the public. There are also conditions within the Bill where a retailer can be charged for not abiding by the provisions of the Bill.

This Bill will be initiated with the bringing in of slaughter mobile units before a permanent house is built here in Upolu. The opportunity is also given to the public interested in establishing their own slaughter units but there should always be a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture present because they are certified meats and vet inspectors.



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This new endeavor is made possible with the assistance of the World Bank and now the Ministry is awaiting the Bill to be passed before this takes place. Also included in the Bill is an Advisory Committee consisting of members from the cattle farmers association, pig producers, sheep and poultry industry also representatives from, hotels, restaurants and Government ministries involved in meat slaughter.

Mr Speaker, that is a summary of the Bill thus it is a descriptive Bill that can be read and clearly understood. I am pleased to answer any questions of concern to the Bill, with utmost respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification given Hon Minister, we have been waiting for the Bill and it is a very important one considering it will help develop livestock in the country.

The opportunity is given to Members who wish to comment on the Bill. I call upon the Deputy Leader of Opposition, the Member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVALISEETA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The House has heard the clarification given by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on the Bill. I believe it has taken about ten to twenty years for this matter to be presented in the House. The strategies taken to prepare for such endeavor was not satisfactory in the past, thus this development is very important for the country. It is important because nowadays most of the people have livestock farms; it is a development that is currently increasing. As for the meat supply and slaughter of these animals we have been preparing for it a while.

I take the floor with utmost gratitude because it has not been easy, the strategies taken to implement this Bill together with the assistance from overseas. And now we have finally reached our goal with the tabling of this Bill this morning and the meat will be cheaper and of good quality.

I would like to thank the Hon Minister for this Bill, it will make it easier for those who own cattle especially with meat supply not only in the country but outside of the country like Tutuila. Therefore this side shows its support and great appreciation on the provisions as stated in the Bill. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, the Deputy Leader of Opposition has given his support thus I will give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata East.

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**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Firstly I would like to thank the Ministry and the Hon Minister for the Bill. Perhaps it is a Bill that should have been instigated before, because not only will it benefit meat supply but also development of livestock farms. I share my appreciation on the Bill; it is not an easy service. As stated in the Bill there are a lot of provisions that are to be followed by cattle farmers, on what they feed their cattle and other. There are a lot of measures taken such as teaching farmers on how to take care of their cattle but also development for income. The Hon Minister has stated that there is one meat and slaughter house and two mobile slaughter units which is great considering our cultural obligations. Correct me if I am wrong Hon Minister because any cultural obligation has to have food. Personally if we are talking about meat supply we relate it to *faalavelave*.

If this Bill looks at meat supply then it should involve all types of meat whether it is used for *faalavelave* or for wholesale or personal use.

Therefore my question is will this be carried out? As stated by the Hon Minister, there will be two units. If a businessperson wishes to undertake this there are various provisions needed to be followed. I believe that this Bill is following provisions of overseas countries thus the Ministry must also look at developing our livestock locally. Many of the livestock farmers do not need mass slaughtering only 30, 20, 10 or 4. As stated in the Bill there are quite a number of requirements that are to be followed by livestock farmers to sell meat. A recommendation on the issue...

As I stated earlier Hon Minister this is a very important Bill, to which I believe will initiate a cattle industry to export to overseas market if this venture is successful but we should also be able to meet the supply demands if this were to be the case.

Therefore I advise the Hon Minister that this Bill should not be rushed. It should be prepared thoroughly and make sure that all the farmers are well versed with the bill and the conditions for sale of meat to the country. Mr Speaker these are a few thoughts on the Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the opinion shown I believe it has been noted by the Hon Minister. I have noted that are no more members who wish to speak on the matter...because we have arrived at our recess hour. I will give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata West and one of the members for Salega; Afioa Afualo Wood Uti Salele when we return from recess. I announce that proceedings are now set aside for its usual evening recess.

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*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 8.43 and resumed at 9.20 pm.*

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

I believe strength had been renewed with the refreshments provided this evening. Therefore we have acquired the strength to carry on with our orders of the day. I give thanks to all members of the House. We have finally reached the second half of our proceedings. Therefore we will proceed with the last part of proceedings until 11 pm. I salute you all for the patience and participation this evening.

I request the Sergeant at Arms to reduce the temperature of the air condition because it seems that the evening is now much colder. Before recess we were deliberating on the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014. I call upon the Member for Faleata West to take the floor for he wished to comment on the Bill.

**Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I acknowledge all Members of Parliament for the patience this time of the evening, also thank you for the refreshments provided. Even though it has varied, thank you for the soup yesterday evening, this evening and maybe tomorrow we will again have the same. Maybe it is because we are deliberating on the meat slaughter Bill we are eating the different meat soup.

First of all I want to thank the Hon Minister and Ministry for this Bill. It is not a new issue because it has been mentioned over the years in the House by members. But I am thankful to you and the Ministry for finally implementing such possibilities.

The only issue I overheard was when the Hon Minister mentioned that it is an initiative by the World Bank although I believe that is an initiative of the Ministry alone. The World Bank is the one funding as for everything else the strategies and development is done by the Ministry. I am thankful that...

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

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I would like to clarify the matter to the member for Faleata West, that it is not an initiative of the World Bank, I stated that they were funding the project.

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These plans I believe have been in the pipeline for more than 10 years and they have been unsuccessful. I think it was all because of the lack in funding but with the World Bank it has now been made possible. This also includes SACEP, now with the plans made it is being carried out. And that Mr Speaker is assistance on the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Member Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Minister for clarifying the issue.

I am just thankful that this Bill has now been implemented. I am not sure if the mobile units mentioned have arrived but if they have, thank you.

The capacity of the responsibility taken by the Ministry handling these duties should be of utmost importance. One of the issues raised by some members in the past is that we do not have enough vets, some have moved overseas because of low salary rates. This is an important factor that should be considered because proposals to perform such a venture relies on them.

Also, in the beginning of the Bill, there is no initiative to export meat overseas, perhaps it will be done in the future. It is an important aspect the Hon Minister should look into because not long ago we exported cattle to Tonga. Before American Samoa implemented its regulations it was also exported there and neighboring countries.

The reason for not allowing this was because we did not have a slaughter house that could approve the quality of these meats. It seems that it does not include cattle for *faalavelave*, whether this is true because if we look into it, more cattle is being used for *faalavelave* than consumer use. This is one aspect the Ministry ought to overlook.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker...

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

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I do not want to continuously interrupt members while speaking although there are times I forget so it is better that I clarify it now and perhaps it is useful also for the understanding of other members.

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The intention is that slaughtered meat sold like steak is purchased by small retail stores for public consumption. This is the first objective. The Ministry is cautious when it comes to public health. As we are all aware there a lot of diseases today because of meat; in Europe there are continuous outbreaks of foot and mouth disease as well as meat products from China and other Asian countries. It is an important requirement today to quarantine our meat supply.

As seen in other countries meat is affected with diseases that can be transferred to people like TB and other diseases. Perhaps it is time that we look at protecting our people. I think it was the beginning of this year or the end of year last year that we passed this new health care. These two legislations, that one and this, aim at improving the local produce before exporting as we did to Tutuila. The only reason it was not allowed by FFA because the meat was not inspected or slaughtered in a slaughter house. Perhaps this will initiate better improvements for the future.

Refer to Clause 37 of the Bill, which provides for a transitional period. The first initiative begins with meats sold retail then it will progress to other plans. The aspiration is to also include pigs as we are using it for our family obligations such as *faalavelave*, thus it is a difficult issue but we will eventually look into to it.

The opportunity is open for livestock farmers to operate the units working with the Ministry. The Ministry now has staff qualified as meat inspectors and vets. It is true that these rely on costs but the Ministry is aiming for the mobile units to be in operation by August or September; one for Savaii and the other for Upolu.

This is a clarification on some of the issues raised by the Member for Faleata West incase the same issues will be stated again by other members. Perhaps it will help members fully grasp and understand the Bill which is very simple.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I call upon the Member for Faleata West to continue.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification, I believe that taking this time to reply will save him time. If we talk about these diseases you are the most reliable person because you are a chemist. You are not someone to be slightly ignored, now with the implementation of such an industry I applaud your efforts. As for some of my concerns I believe that you and the Ministry will look into it.

Firstly these are not arguments they are opinions about the Bill tabled. Most Advisory Committees are chosen by the Minister, but in this Bill it states that it is chosen by the CEO. There is no problem presented although it may produce an inconsistency amongst legislations. A concern regarding the Advisory Committee, the Hon Minister and Ministry should reconsider the more than twenty members.

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Perhaps the Ministry and Minister are trying to include those involved in this development but just a recommendation is to readjust the numbers for the improvement of this new venture.

Secondly if I am reading this correctly, one slaughter house in Upolu is proposed with inspections to be made. It seems that the Ministry is trying to privatize it but it is a new venture. I thought it would start operation with the Ministry then transferred to the private sector as usual. If this is the case to have one slaughter house why only one? Why not build two or three because there are business owners who have the resources to carry out this venture?

There was an individual that tried to implement this brining in livestock feed, building a piggery farm, poultry farm with the intention to have a slaughter house but what happened was the funds ran out before the dream of a slaughter house could be realized. I thank the Ministry for their contribution in the usage of the Vailima facilities to carry out this venture.

These are some of the opinions to be considered as well as what are the costs to the livestock farmers if the private sector operates this because the freezers are not cheap. Also why not construct two or three slaughterhouses to compete against each other and the Ministry can operate it before it is privatized.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker...

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

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I apologize for the interruption. As I stated earlier, there will only be two mobile units. The reason for these mobile units is to make it easier for the people to take their meat to it rather than travel a longer distance to a slaughterhouse. This is why there will be one for Upolu and one for Savaii, as for a permanent slaughterhouse it is going to set up at Nuu at the Agriculture compound. And that will be the permanent slaughterhouse as for these mobile units they will assist people who want to sell their meat.

There is an opportunity given for privatization as you mentioned in the past years some business owners wanted to construct a slaughterhouse, and till today opportunities are granted to them. Even with privatized ownership it will be still under the Ministry's supervision. If in future it will be solely owned by the private sector then it will be a benefit for our people.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member to continue his clarification.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you for initiatives and the main objective is to have more slaughterhouses that will be beneficial in the future. This includes cattle slaughtered for *faalavelave* that is later sold retail.

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If this Bill is passed it will mean the meat will not be allowed to be sold anymore unless there is a certificate issued from the slaughterhouse. It will be useful for family *faalavelave*, they will be able to sell the meat to the shops.

Also it seems that the importance is put greatly on cattle and pork how about other animals such as sheep. I am not certain if poultry is included as well and other four legged animals. I want to ask the Hon Minister as stated in clause 25, “All animals must be slaughtered in a humane manner.” It does not give a detail description of how the animals should be slaughtered by the Ministry. It says humane manner but we are talking about animals so why not state ‘in an animal manner’...

**Afioga Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Hon Minister, the Chair wishes to advise the Member.

Everyone is aware that we are making general comments on the bill instead you are proceeding to comment in detail. We do not have to dwell on the differences in Samoan and English translations. The important aspect that should be noted is that animals are to be slaughtered with necessary precautions

I apologize to the Hon Minister because we are dependent on the time, I believe the Bill is clearly understood. I call upon the member.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker there is an issue I want to address in relation to the meat used for family *faalavelave*. We are all aware that meat used for family traditional commitments are not sold when received, they are shared to family and neighbors.

These meats are not allowed to be sole as stated but only animals that are slaughtered in the slaughter house that are certified and inspected are permitted. As for the cattle we use for such obligations they are for your own personal use. Perhaps with the transitional period where people will get used to it then we can oversee some changes. This can be done after the three year transitional period.

As for the term ‘humane’ it could be applied differently considering its context, as we know there are those who inflict pain before killing an animal which is inhumane. Humane though is to kill an animal in one blow, meaning swiftly.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Faleata West to take the floor.

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**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Minister, we will not do an English class but move on to another issue. I want to elaborate on the meat from *faalavelave*. It is not received with the instruction to not sell it but share it. It is up to the person receiving the meat what to do with it whether to eat, share or sell it. This is why I raise this issues because that is the reality.

Lastly I want to conclude on the slaughterhouse at Vailima. What are the plans Hon Minster and the Ministry for this land, as stated the World Bank is funding the upgrades. Although there are also rumors that these lands are to be used to establish Offices for consuls and ambassadors. What are the plans of the Ministry for these lands as we all know land is limited and the facilities are very old, is there another place that can be used for these services.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Member I will give the opportunity for the clarification by the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Thank you. The location of the new slaughterhouse will be at Nuu. As for the land at Vailima, the facilities will be transferred to the compound at Nuu. The new livestock division office is going to be situated there and China is funding this project. There is about 100 acres of Government land. As for the land you mentioned, perhaps the animals can graze on the land but that is not where the slaughterhouse will be situated. It is easier for all the services to be in one place. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well thank you. I call upon the member to conclude his speech.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you. The constituency of Faleata offers its support especially for the safety of your Ministry. We thank you for these great developments.

I would like to acknowledge the Hon Minister for the Bill. It was significant talking about some of our cultural obligations that involves cows and pigs being gifted. As some of the Ministers have requested we must make sure that our meats are certified before it is sold. Good evening and thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the speech. I will now give the opportunity to the other side of the Chamber, I call on one of the members for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola.



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**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Falealili):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to this constituency to have its say on such an important Bill. The Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 implementing safety measures for the benefit of the country.

Mr Speaker there are only a few issues I want to address, also to state that this is one constituency with a lot of livestock farmers. Although stated in the Bill as the previous member mentioned that will be only one slaughter house and these mobile units. Therefore Hon Minister and the Ministry, what strategies are there especially for villages such as Falealili to ensure that the meat does not go bad? I support most of the provisions of this Bill. During the workshop carried out with Parliament the Ministry confirmed safety standards implemented to ensure safe food products in the country.

I only have two queries I wish to understand Hon Minister, as stated in the Bill the inspection division is closed on Sundays and public holidays. Although if you look at the daily occurrences in the country most of the *faalavelave* are done on Sundays and public holidays. This means that there will be tension between the Ministry and the village, as we all know events such as funerals, weddings and others are important in the Samoan culture. Therefore assistance is much needed from the Ministry during public holidays also Sundays.

Another issue based on the quality of meats in Samoa. I know that other countries in the Pacific like Vanuatu have really tender meat although for Samoa no matter how young the meat it is still tough. So what is the reason, whether it is the way they are bred or the grass they feed on? Many of us like to eat steak. Also when we go to restaurants we order steak cooked medium rare thus it is still tough. Therefore my concern is whether the Ministry is looking at methods to alleviate this problem.

Overall Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House, this constituency supports the Bill. We only pray to the Lord to assist the Hon Minister and Ministry with its work in carrying out provisions implemented in the Bill. Bless our proceedings thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the concerns.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** Mr Speaker I wish to clarify some of the issues stated...I apologize you may continue.

**MR SPEAKER:** I think it is better to answer it all in one time. I will give the last opportunity to one of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

I call upon the member.

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**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you for the opportunity. I also thank the Hon Minister for the Bill implemented. The truth is I give my full support because it has been something that should have happened a long time ago, thankfully it has now been achieved. There are only three areas I want to understand as some of the members have already voiced other concerns.

Firstly, is there a professional that will be working in this division because I am aware that this field of meat inspection is not offered at USP or NUS. This type of assistance is only found in New Zealand and Australia. It is important with the implementation of such services to introduce it to studies where our children can learn and be eligible to do it.

Secondly with the implementation of this endeavor, we as consumers will finally recognize the safety of our meat.

The question to the Hon Minister, because today we have a lot of hotels and they use imported meat from New Zealand, is the opportunity that we could use our local meat, encourage the hard work done by our livestock farmers. It will also promote local meats to tourists. The meat from our livestock such as beef and pork is tender. Although the one of the members for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola suggests that this meat is tough. Hence as you have stated on the methods that will be used to slaughter animals in a proper manner, I think this is the reason why some meats are tough. Although with the slaughterhouse at Nuu I am certain that it will produce good quality meats. I am a bit concerned because some families only want to slaughter one animal. If it is transported all the way from Falealili and Aleipata and as stated in the Bill there will be mobile units. This means Hon Minister that you should consider proper trucks that will store these meats. If it is one family but there are two cows slaughtered then these trucks should be informed immediately for pick it up.

**Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati:** I apologize for the interruption Mr Speaker. The meaning of a mobile unit is a temporary vehicle that moves from one place to another. If it is in the rural village of Falealili then the mobile unit will go there to get the meat and it is taken to be sold or where the family wants the meat to go. These meats have already been inspected by Meat Inspectors from the Ministry.

I just want to answer some of the queries, the meat is not hard it is tough. It is true that the meat found in the country are tough, we must know that steak is made up of muscle tissue. A cow is just the same as a trainer, when the person trains a lot they gain more muscle. If the cow is fed and looked after properly in a calm environment then the steak produced will be tender.

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But if the cow is vicious from when it is young then the meat produced when it grows old is tough.

I just came back from a visit to Mongolia which has cold weather thus my cough. I witnessed that this country has a lot of cows, sheep, goats and horses with all due respect to the Chamber, and their meat is really tough. This is because animals roam freely in the wild; this is one country that has a lot of cattle although the meat is tough. Therefore we should learn two important factors; one keeping cattle in a calm environment and second feed them the right type of grass.

The Ministry is well aware of this issue therefore they are the ones that are supposed to do the seminars and workshops that will advise farmers on how to breed their livestock. This is like the way cattle are in Israel, there are no green pastures for grazing but the farmers take the grass to them. The milk and meat produced is of high quality and the meat is really tender. The cows are well trained, and when it is time to milk the cow they just go to where they are instructed to go. The cows are well trained but our cows have to be herded because they graze everywhere.

This is the reason why the meats of our cows are tough. And now with Vanuatu this is one Pacific country that has good quality beef. They are able to export meats as their cattle are raised on a strict dietary and safety program.

I just want to clarify another issue, our meat inspectors and vets are from Australia and New Zealand I am certain they were not taught here. I am not sure if NUS has a program that does this because it is not an agricultural school. Also I am not sure if USP offers these courses as well. We will be heading to address this issue to consult on programs that can be offered for meat inspectors but as for now we are employing overseas people to do the work. This is a brief response with respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon one of the members for Salega, Afioqa Afualo Uti Wood Salele.

**Afioqa AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you, since the Hon Minister has clearly explained the Bill in detail, I do not have any further concerns. I am just thankful for the Bill initiated.

My fellow member has asked if there is a sedative that can be used based on the fact that the Hon Minister is well known in this area. Is there a drug that can be used that can produce tender quality meats? With respect thank you.

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**MR SPEAKER:** A recommendation from the Chair on the matter, this issue mentioned by the Member is the duty of the Chef. Once the meat is brought in it is marinated then cooked to preference. Any type of meat is tough which means the chef cooking it is not qualified. We all know that when we go to a restaurant we are asked if we want it rare or well done. It all depends on how the meat is cooked as the Hon Minister has mentioned also it is the chefs duty to prepare it according to how the people want it. We cannot just inject drugs into meat to make it tender. I call upon the Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Technology.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau:** Thank you. I just wanted to add onto what you were suggesting, although the method you mentioned is great in getting tender meat.

This is another benefit of a slaughter house when a cow is brought in they are given the night to sleep and then the next day it is killed. This gives the cows body the time to relax before it is slaughtered.

The best meat is found in cows between the ages of one and half to three years. Although livestock in the country are bred over a longer time before they are used. The other issue is that meats are used for *faalavelave* not to be sold at the market. If we implement this slaughter house the meat has to be between one and half year to three years old, when the meat will be tender.

As the Speaker stated there are different types of meats because of how the animals are breed. This is the reason why some meats are tough and others are tender. It is dependent on the food given to feed these animals.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe the issue stated has been clarified together with the assistance given by the Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Technology.

I call upon one of the Members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I also want to acknowledge the patience of Members this time of the evening.

I believe I do not have much to say on the Bill. The reason for taking the floor is to thank the Hon Minister for implementing the Bill I believe provides for prevention; prevention from meat-borne diseases seen in the country. So with the implementation of this slaughterhouse it will provide people with a hygienic facility that will process meats. It is important for us to inspect meats during *faalavelave* and also when buying it from the store.

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It my strong belief we should consider the safety of the meats used for our family obligations than just giving whatever we find. We should be cautious of our health and safety, to prevent diseases. Perhaps this will solve the problem of issues that are seen during the slaughter of animals.

I also want to elaborate on the quality of meat which most are suggesting is tough. I believe there are three reasons for this matter. First, wrong place where the cow is slaughtered, the cow is chased for a long period of time, and then when it is caught it is exhausted. As the Hon Minister stated the animal must be well rested before it is killed.

Secondly, is buying the wrong type of meat, example when you go to the shop you buy stew meat but you wanted steak. So when we eat it the meat is tough. Thirdly is buying food from the wrong restaurant. If we buy the \$5 steak it is not good but if you buy the \$20 one it is prepared well and tender.

I thank the Hon Minister for the Bill. My only advice for the vehicle used to transport our meats in rural areas, there should be a freezer to store our meat. Also how come meat transported is carried around when there is already a slaughterhouse? My advice is that meat transported from Savaii and from rural areas to Apia should be cared for, also make sure that there is protective wrapping paper to cover it. If we consider all these factors then the Bill will provide for our health and safety.

With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for your assistance on the matter. I will give the last opportunity to the Member for Vaa o Fonoti before the response of the Hon Minister.

**Afioga TIALAVEA FEA TIONISIO SEIGAFOLAVA (Vaa o Fonoti):**  
Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I want to thank the Hon Minister for the slaughterhouse which I believe will make it easier to prepare our meat. Also it will ensure the safety of meats that will be bought by the people to determine whether they are infected.

Till now I am not aware if anyone has become sick from eating meat. Although I strongly believe that those who do get sick are people who eat rare meat.

I do believe that cow meat is tough, I know because I have a restaurant. There is local steak meat that is tender and as clarified by the Hon Minister of Communication, Information and Technology tender meat is from a one and a half year old cow. Thus most of the cows in the country are fat and tough.

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The method of cooking the steak is also important, during a test carried out in my hotel on cooking local and overseas steak. The local steak still came out tough and this is the reason why we are now using overseas steak. But for our local beef meats it is used in other recipes.

I believe with the implementation of this slaughterhouse we will be able to have same quality meats with overseas meats. Therefore I agree with a notion mentioned by one of the Members for Salega, perhaps this will reduce the import of overseas meats into the country. I thank the Hon Minister and if you need good quality beef come to Fagaloa. Most of the time the cows graze under the mountains, on the seashore also they bath in the sea which cleanses their bodies. If you want good quality beef meat come to my village. Bless our proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is it for free or for sale Member for Vaa o Fonoti?

**Afioga Tialavea Fea Tionisio Seigafolava:** The price is doubled because it is far away.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call upon the Hon Minister, I believe we have now concluded with issues raised by the Members before the question is put forward.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** I would like to thank all the Members who commented on the Bill, and I have noted that most of the comments were of gratitude. It is appropriate because we must be vigilant in protecting the health of our country. Also to have prevention incase of diseases that might affect our livestock used for national consumption.

I believe I have already responded to some of the queries stated by members, and I thank others for the assistance given. Most of the members were thankful for the Bill and also gave recommendations needed to be implemented. The Ministry is well aware and all recommendations given will be considered, also we all depend on the development seen once the Bill is passed. Hence we also must consider the safety of our people and to protect our livestock from diseases that may enter the country. God bless the Speaker, bless each and every Member in Maota, also bless our country listening in.

Also to heads of various government departments and officials who are present this evening, I wish you a safe journey back home to your families, may our lives be under the protection of the Holy Father, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification.

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**Trusts Bill 2014**  
– second reading

*Motion approved and the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 was read a second time.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders the Bill will be referred to the Health, Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee for consideration to report back to the Assembly at a future sitting date.

**MR SPEAKER:** Because I now hold the Certificate of Urgency signed by his Highness the Head of State in relation to the Bill the Assembly will now progress with the second reading.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Trusts Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to elaborate on it.*

*Seconded by Minister of Communications and Information Technology and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.*

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

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker and dignity of the Chamber this Bill is a new initiative SIFA is preparing in seeking new avenues that would benefit our country. The main purpose of this Bill is to modernize the existing Samoan trusts laws so that our trusts laws will be more attractive and relevant to the international investor.

The Bill is particularly intended for personal succession and for the protection of property through trust. It will repeal the Trustee Act 1975 and the International Trusts Act 1988. This does not affect the Public Trust Office Act 1975, hence the other two Acts will be repealed once this Bill is passed. This Bill will encourage overseas investors to invest in various businesses; and will be interpreted into various languages, so that this Bill can encourage overseas investors. Especially international countries like Hong Kong and Singapore, they invest within their own countries and now they are looking to other countries to invest in especially countries with Trust Agreements.

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The reason for implementing this Bill was done considering the financial status in Europe and Oceania because most investors have left and gone elsewhere. The purpose of the Bill is to look to international markets such as China, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Africa together with the eastern hemisphere. This is the reason why it will be interpreted into these various languages so these countries can be attached into the country, for us to have access to markets beyond Asia and other regions in the East, and South of America together with some of our businesses interested in saving in these trusts.

This is one of the main reasons for implementing the Bill to encourage more developed countries to invest into Samoa also use our services through SIFA that is our international finance authority.

Mr Speaker that is the whole objective of the Bill is for Samoa to offer better inducements that are more appealing than other financial centers. This way we will be able to attract foreign investors that will not only benefit our economy but also provide work for our people. This Bill will also try to attract companies so that they can be set up in Samoa especially Trusts, this way our people will also earn work from them. This will greatly help our children who are looking for employment. The question arises, are there protections from fraudulent activities that may be used? Mr Speaker we already have an Act that provides for these crimes, also we have the Counter Terrorism Act which I believe we will soon be deliberating. We are confident with these overseas businesses set up in the country because most have abided by the law. It is a blessing for the country but also for our people and Government in working together with SIFA and the private sector.

And that Mr Speaker is the main objective of this Bill, with respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Finance for the clarification on such an important Bill. I believe it is time for Members to take the floor, we have had our debriefing and explanations on the reasons for the Bill by the Chief Executive Officer. I give the opportunity to Members for any recommendations that may assist the Bill also to show support. I call upon one of the Members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Utu Salele.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTU SALELE:** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you to the Hon Minister on clearly stating the purposes of initiating the Bill. I believe this Bill will assist the country by encouraging foreign investors that will develop our economic standards. Also the Bill has provisions that will help protect the country from overseas businesses that may be corrupt.



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– second reading

A recommendation to the Hon Minister, that the Attorney General together with the Central Bank have taken proper measures to protect the reputation of our country. There are concerns although I strongly believe that with this Act it will safeguard both interests of those countries and us. It is our duty to protect the assets of these overseas investors because not only are these assets important to them they are important to our development as well.

Therefore I completely understand the Bill especially nowadays we are faced with decisions that will financially develop our country. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification. I call upon the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given this time of the evening.

This Bill has 91 clauses, therefore I do not understand most parts of this Bill, and I think it is because the Bill is technical. I am thankful though as I have read and read, I now understand that it is about foreign investors who have trusts in our country. This includes millionaires from around the world that will be in contact with SIFA, there was a misunderstanding with our Public Trust office in the past but I am thankful it is now understandable. In overseas countries it is called a will although in Samoa it is a trust and today we are in the process of drafting our wills for the sake of our children.

As for the inducements made to attract overseas investors, SIFA is the most prominent, they have assisted with our budget also with funding our Manu Samoa and other developments.

Samoa must be aware of the assistance from overseas especially countries like America, Britain and now Australia. They are trying to close down financial centers in smaller countries like the Caribbean, but this is the source that stabilizes their economies. The factors needed to guarantee these investments include safety and protection. Our duty is to guarantee that this Bill will ensure that money laundering does not happen. We have read in the newspaper that the names of these people who are investing are being leaked out. This is what bigger countries are doing they inspect countries that are safe and do not hold a threat. Also these investments play an important role to our economy as a whole. Therefore if this Bill proposes to bring in foreign investors to invest in the country through SIFA then I support it, because it will benefit our country. With utmost respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the recommendations given on the Bill. I call on the Member for Faleata East.

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– second reading

**Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I would also like to thank the Members of Parliament especially the Hon Minister and support of the Head of the department.

As the previous Member mentioned this is one thick Bill that you have to read and read both in the Samoan and English versions until you understand. As far as I understand of the Bill, I support it, as the Hon Minister has clarified it will benefit the country as a whole most importantly it economic sector. The only issue is that we should seriously consider cases of money laundering. The reason why I am very happy about this program and Bill is because there are countries that do not have exports and this is the only venture where they earn money. There is no reason for us to worry about bigger countries and be compared to them.

The only aspect I recommend to SIFA and the Ministry is to do a thorough background check of these investors, but welcome them all into our country. I believe it will also help us with our tourism industry once these foreign investors are in the country they will attract overseas people as well.

If we look at the companies registered under SIFA in the past, correct me if I am wrong there were nearly 2,000, and Cook Island nearly 4,000 companies registered. This is the same for Switzerland where Israel invested in and this is where the wealth of these countries is generated. This is why I humbly ask the Hon Minister together with SIFA and the Ministry to implement these provisions as soon as possible. Even though there might be problems as stated by the Member for Faleata West on money laundering, I strongly believe that the Ministry is well prepared. SIFA has been in the country for a long time now and through its developments on funding the rugby team and the Budget it suggests that they are more than capable. I thank the Ministry for implementing the Bill, also do not stress on requirements given by big countries. We can achieve greater results with our developments also considering other small countries that will benefit from this Bill. Mr Speaker those are few remarks on the matter, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the assistance given towards the Bill. I believe all Members now understand the purpose of the Bill.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow the last opportunity to the Leader of Opposition.

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– second reading

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will be brief on the matter perhaps this is one Government organization as mentioned by some that has greatly assisted with the countrys financial developments. I stand with respect to say that SIFA is an organization that holds success, as stated by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee other organizations should strive to be like SIFA. The only issue Mr Speaker is that the Bill is thick like a Bible.

This side of the House have shown concerns on the issues of money laundering, the question though Mr Speaker, why is it under a certificate of urgency? The Bill must be considered thoroughly by a Committee, I am still not sure why the Bill is in a state of urgency, whether they are afraid these millionaire investors will go to other countries?

This is my concern, the Bill is very thick and long yet it is in a state of urgency. I believe it should have been deliberated first by a Parliamentary Committee because this is one problem. The Bills that are passed today are brought in again tomorrow with amendments, then it is amended. Why is this? There is not enough time to deliberate the Bill. Although the purpose projected is to gain good investments for the country because we need it for development. Let us not be persuaded with the goods alone but think of the consequences it may bring to the country. Also think about some of the provisions of this Bill that might be overstepped. SIFA is an important organization to the development of the country therefore we must be more careful, therefore Mr Speaker...

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo:** Mr Speaker a point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member I have already given you the opportunity, I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo:** We all know how our work is being carried, Bills are implemented and we deliberate on it, if there are any issues that are needed to be changed then amendments are made. It is the usual process which is just the same as business and investments, where funds are deposited how they are used. The truth it has been difficult trying to keep up with all these changes this is why we must consider them carefully, if there are amendments needed then we do it and present it to the House. This Bill has been well prepared by the Ministry. As the Hon Minister stated it has been meticulously carried out also there are individuals who are well experienced with these matters. Their recommendation is that if an amendment is needed to be done they will assist and change parts needed to be amended.

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– second reading

Also most of the Bills tabled in the House are being amended this is evident in the Bills we passed yesterday the different Amendment Bills and this is how our work is carried out.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call upon the Member...

**Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua (Vaisigano No.1):** Mr Speaker a matter of clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Leader of Opposition...

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Is it an issue that I mentioned that you wish to understand?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member for Vaisigano No.1.

**Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua:** As I have noted the Member for Faleata East has stated that it is a Bill that should be urgently considered thus their leader is asking to slow the progress. I want to understand why is their side like this? Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** This means that during our seminar there were those who slept through it. I give the opportunity back to the Leader of Opposition to continue with his clarification.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker as you are aware these matters concerning financial issues should not be taken lightly.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member I thought you understood the clarification given by the Deputy Prime Minister and the procedures are clear. As it was stated during our seminars with the Heads of department this Bill was in drafting stages for two years. It was not only just handled by the Ministry, the CEO and lawyers who have the knowledge in financial institutions. As for other concerns mentioned regarding other legislations, these issues are provided in our criminal law, the Crimes Act and we are preparing a Money Laundering legislation for such criminal offences brought into the country.

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Therefore Leader of Opposition I apologize because the matter has already been clarified, a certificate of urgency has already been signed by O le Ao o le Malo and we cannot go backwards. The consent of the Hon Minister and the Ministry is final for progress. We are not the only country these investors are interested in, if we do not move now other countries will benefit and this is why the Ministry is trying to encourage investors to our country. We have to let them know that we are the most secure island in the world.

This means that we should follow with the provisions of ensuring that when investors come to our country to invest, everything is secure.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance to elaborate then the opportunity will be given to those who are not clear on the matter.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, as you have stated this Bill was not taken lightly, it has been ongoing for years with the assistance from Asian countries for our benefit.

Also a law firm from Asia came to Samoa and held a workshop in Savaii which I attended with the Hon Prime Minister included. It discussed some of the provisions in the Bill which has been overlooked by the Attorney General who drafted the Bill together with the assistance of a Senior Attorney from Britain. This Bill will clearly illustrate trusts provisions whether the individual sets up a trust or not. It does not matter what the situation will be all assets are given to children or family. If a person dies and no will was drafted there are provisions provided by the Bill that will protect peoples assets also protect businesses in the country. There are Acts in place that protect this Bill as I have mentioned in my speech in Jakarta last year, bigger countries want to return financial centers to their sphere. This means we will be in the colonial times but we are now independent. Samoa has a minimum risk because we do not have billions invested here that can finance terrorists. We have an almost zero risk to international investments, because the investment is not even enough to buy a rocket. With respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call upon the Leader of Opposition to conclude, as your recommendation is much appreciated.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Well for future consideration, I humbly ask the Members of the House to consider such bills carefully. The Hon Minister can say that there is a list of potential investors and then the Bill is rushed. I have heard there will be a Bill on stock exchange thus up until today there is none.

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**International Companies Amendment Bill 2014**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Leader of Opposition, the terms financial centre and stock exchange are going to be clarified. I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, the member wants me to show him the list, I cannot do this because we have not concluded this. The people are waiting for this Bill to decide whether they want to come into our country or not. The financial centre or financial exchange is the duties carried out by UTOS; also SIFA is investing in UTOS which is the domestic arm of the stock exchange. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I do not have any further queries and my only hope is that the Bill be successful. I hope that no problems will arise with the implementation of the Bill because Samoa is a country that should be protected especially with foreign investments. Therefore Mr Speaker those are some recommendations on the matter because it is a very important Bill. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to all the Members for the opinions and concerns shown. I also want to thank the Leader of for the recommendations made. I believe that the Ministry has thoroughly prepared the Bill together with the assistance of SIFA that has greatly aided the country.

*Motion approved and the Trusts Bill 2014 was read a second time.*

**INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL 2014**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Based on the fact that I have received the Certificate of Urgency already signed by his His Highness O le Ao o le Malo on the Bill the Assembly will now progress with the second reading of the Bill. I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the International Companies Amendment Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to elaborate further.*

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**International Companies Amendment Bill 2014**  
– second reading

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance to elaborate upon the Bill.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker and dignity of Parliament there are only two amendments made in the Bill, First, Phase 1 which is the review of the Peer Review Group which will be a representative to the Global Forum for countries working together with OECD. Second, to know the list of companies and ensure that finances are audited. Also for them to submit financial statements when needed during investigation whether they are following restrictions imposed under designated jurisdictions such as Samoa.

These are the only amendments done on this Bill to improve provisions under the authorization of SIFA, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. The opportunity is given to whoever wishes to comment. I call upon the Member for Aana Alofi No.3.

**Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I will be brief on the query Mr Speaker because it is an important Bill that involves international provisions. The question though is whether the only companies involved are those registered under SIFA or is it open to other local businesses not registered with SIFA.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, I thank the member for the question. It only pertains to those registered under International companies. With respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe there are no further comments from members on the matter. We have already discussed it during our seminars which are the reason why we do it.

*Motion approved and the International Companies Amendment Bill 2014 was read a second time.*

19 MARCH 2014

**COUNTER TERRORISM BILL 2014**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Based on the fact that I have received the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness O le Ao o le Malo, the Assembly will now progress with the second reading of the Bill.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Police & Prisons.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI:** Mr Speaker I assumed this Bill would be clarified tomorrow as it is in a state of urgency. I move a motion Mr Speaker, *That the Counter Terrorism Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to elaborate on the issue.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure and the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.*

**DECISION BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Hon Minister because I believe we have reached our recess time, you will be given the first opportunity tomorrow morning to start proceedings on terrorist issues. Also when we return nothing will disrupt the urgency of this Bill as everyone will be awake and vigilant.

I convey sincere thanks to all Members of the House for your perseverance to carry out our proceedings the whole of today. I thank you all for the comments and recommendations given on issues raised and deliberated. I believe a lot of progress has been done with orders carried out today.

I thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet also the other side of the House; Leader of Opposition and all the Members. I also acknowledge the support of all Samoa, whatever wrong portrayed in the House today we pray for forgiveness. It is your support that gives us the strength to decide on what is best for the whole of Samoa. There is a decision by the Chair that should be abided by the House.

For the information of the Chairpersons of the Committees that have bills referred today and yesterday, the Committee should report back to the House by June 2014. I request that we follow up on our orders so that we will be in tune with the schedule as we have a lot of lapsed business. The time period of two months is enough to follow through for Bills referred yesterday and today to be reported back to the Assembly by June. This will ensure that orders are carried out accordingly also so there will be no more lapsed business.



*19 MARCH 2014*

**Decision by Mr Speaker**

Before we adjourn proceedings this evening, I call upon the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development who has recently returned from overseas to conclude our session with a prayer.

Prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 11.02pm until 9.00am Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014.*

*THURSDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayers.

**MR SPEAKER:** I am truly grateful this new morning for we have met once again in good health. I find the respectable members of the House in good health and spirit, the Hon leader of the country, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and this side of the House, the Leader of Opposition and dignified members in its honorific salutations. Such is the basis of this morning. The main thing is gaining strength in body, mind and soul for us to resume our tasks. .

I also wish to acknowledge Samoa's support upon your leaders this morning as your Parliament is set to embark on today's set duties. May you hold onto that trust and support today. Parliament will now proceed with its work as per usual.

As pointed out yesterday, today's a new day and the Minister is prepared to discuss the bill. Today we will deliberate the Counter Terrorism Bill 2014. This bill must be clearly addressed and clarified as it deals with the safety and security of the country from global terrorist attacks.

The world is still looking for the aircraft that went missing. We cannot afford these problems. If there are terrorists imitators, then this bill was made to avoid these illegal acts from happening. Let us commence with today's orders. The Hon Minister stood a motion last night.

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

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

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Thank you for the opportunity with respect. You have given praises as we assemble once again this morning. Let His name be glorified as our duties and toils are greatly supported by the country.

Therefore your honor, this side does not forget the duties of the Hon Prime Minister whom you should have mentioned in your prayers this morning for the sake of Samoa. Nonetheless, we share our sincere prayers to the Hon Prime Minister and his health on behalf of the Opposition and this Parliament. We pray for his speedy recovery so that he is able to resume work with us in Parliament.

The country is supporting our tasks as this was not mentioned in the prayer this morning. That is the wish as the Prime Minister is leader of the country and the leader of this side. May God's love...