

**WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayer.

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

I wish to take this opportunity to commend and express gratitude for the presence this morning; to the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and all the Members of Parliament. I also greet the Heads of the Government Ministries and Corporations present here today.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2017/2018  
& APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019  
– debate commenced on second reading – Day 2**

**MR SPEAKER:** Our Meeting adjourned yesterday and the Member for Gagaemauga No.3 also the Deputy Speaker had the floor.

*I call on the Member to resume your speech.*

I will allow the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Revenue.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister of Revenue):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I concur with your prayer offered this morning. I greet the esteemed Members gathered today; Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and that Side of the House. I also greet the Heads of the various Government entities present here this morning and Samoa listening in.

Mr Speaker, I did not interrupt the Members speech last night and left him to submit his remarks especially as he is a Member who has a wealth of knowledge and thoughts. I assumed I would comment after he made his remarks last night but I was also cautious of the time as we were nearing the end of our Sitting. However, this morning, I rise to comment *on the remarks made regarding the taxation of the pastors.*

The Member mentioned the meeting where the Chairperson of the EFKS and the Elders Committee met with myself and the Hon Prime Minister. I am not sure if gratitude was to the Chairperson for accepting the legislation. We met also with the Methodist representatives while the Bill was in its consultation stage. The Bill Mr Speaker was initiated by the Ministry and we visited with the leaders of all the denominations before...

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, I advise the Hon Minister to be patient until it comes to the time for the Ministerial responses but I will address the matter. I also had the same thought last night. There are times when we become enthusiastic with our speeches and we stray from the facts especially with regards to our meeting with the Churches. The Cabinet has only addressed the matter and a decision has not been made. It seems however from the remarks made by the Member last night that a decision was made. This is why I am cautious. The Executive has not consented on the matter as the Cabinet has only just addressed it. I advised the Church that it was too late but the reports have blown out of proportion. The Cabinet will officially address the matter tonight but the Member has assumed through his speech that the Government has approved the decision. The Government does not take lightly to the matter.

I assumed the Member heard my lengthy speech of almost an hour explaining the confusion in depth. I assumed he understood but it seems he has also become elderly. I mentioned in that speech Parliamentary integrity and laws passed in this House. This House is where Samoa is completely represented. Mr Speaker, a Government that wavers is never supported. The country continuously supports this Party. We do not lead to satisfy one individual, this is not how this Administration works. If an opinion is made, we do not satisfy that one person's view and that is why this Government is known throughout the Pacific region. A decision cannot be made without a thorough investigation of the impacts therefore the Cabinet has not officially decided on the matter. There are 35 different Christian denominations in Samoa making up 75% of the population and there was no voice. Now the law is passed by the House and Samoa to its entirety including the Christian churches and none opposed it.

Mr Speaker, our divine calling is clear. There is a separation between church and State. These separate responsibilities are very clear. Paul said all of you should obey your Government rulers. He did not say only some of you, he said all of you and we are those Government rulers. Why? Because we are the chosen servants of God to obey. Mr Speaker, the Government has not responded but the Member has led astray the nation listening in.

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This is why I ask the honorable Members to have sympathy and have respect in your position as leaders of Samoa. You do not agree with legislation and then stand later and go the opposite direction. Have pride in your calling like Paul who was the initial theologian of the Christian church and he was taught by a lawyer based on the laws of Gamaliel of the three; the Gamaliel, Shemaiah and Iliad. These three were professors of law who worked alongside Jesus. In the 12<sup>th</sup> year of our Lord during the Israelite tradition of Passover, Jesus worked with these three whilst reading the Book of Luke.

Mr Speaker, Paul was no mere man. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I beseech that the speeches be directed to the Budget and do not make comments on things you do not know. The constituencies were listening in and the House has passed the legislation. After hearing that and then hearing speeches take a different view, this is when the constituency will make their decision on your leadership.

Mr Speaker, I apologize for the interruption to the Hon Minister but there will be a time for a response to the matters raised in the House.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Hon Prime Minister, I acknowledge your interjection and I will leave the matter at that. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I apologize to the Hon Minister and Hon Prime Minister for an error in last night's Proceedings. The matter concerning the Member for Gagaemauga No.3 hence we cannot deliberate further a matter already passed by the House. The statement given by the Hon Prime Minister is accurate, we can approve and overturn legislations that is our decision.

I believe this is how the Parliament works in trying to find a way going back and forth to find resolutions that will benefit our people as a whole.

I had a different statement like that of the Deputy Speaker on the matter relating to the decision made by the Leaders of the Congregational Christian Church. They requested a meeting with the Cabinet once they accepted the decision of Parliament. Nevertheless, Tutuila and Ape do not have the same opinion. This is why Deputy Speaker I gave you the opportunity last night to voice your opinion because it was different. Perhaps your opinion will be accepted by Government but let us not speak further on such matter.

I call on the Member to continue with his speech.

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**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No.3):** Mr Speaker events that conspired this morning are important as the country says. Nevertheless, I will refrain from speaking on this matter because the Member for Gagaemauga No.3 supports all the decisions of Government. This is a statement made clear before all of Samoa especially to respectable Members of Parliament.

As for this morning I recall the song from the Methodist Book of Hymns, 190, “We have heard the good news, the voice of love. It has concluded for the Lord Jesus has spoken of everything.”

Mr Speaker we have already sung praises to the Lord above for his love and protection that has given us strength to be here today. This is the way of life, yesterday everyone went home with happiness with the guidance of our Father. How about today? The Lord has shown his might in giving us another day of our lives. I take this opportunity to humbly greet the House to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime and Cabinet also to Associate Ministers present here today.

I also greet Members of this side of Chamber to the Chairmen of Parliament Committees and all Members of the House. I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations. I praise the Lord for his love that has brought us here safely to continue the work we were chosen to do. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of Samoa as well especially to my constituency of Gagaemauga No.3 for the support given to this Government.

Mr Speaker you have already spoken that the opinions of the constituency should not be reiterated, therefore I apologize for any wrong committed I pray you forgive this Member. Although the only statement made last night if the Hansard corrects me, was I am grateful for the meeting. I did not say anything on the outcome and that was all. I apologize again for any unpleasant comments.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker there is a saying that we usually use as orators, there are those who say things and others who take notice. All of us Members of the House are all matais that serve our villages, families and churches. This is the reason why we have to be cautious of what we say because the leaders of all churches are listening in especially those who are paying taxes.

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The Member has spoken and now the matter has concluded. I have accepted his opinion and such matters happen for a reason because we are not perfect. There are also times when we ourselves make mistakes but it is our duty to work together in making decisions. As we all know everything that is voiced within the House are heard by everyone in the country.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I advise the Member that the Hon Leader of Government has clarified the matter, I ask that you now move onto speak on the Budget.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** Thank you Mr Speaker I believe I will now move on to the objective of proceedings this week, the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.

The Hon Minister of Finance the House has heard your clarification and I am grateful for the explanation. The title of the Budget tabled within the House is, “the right path.” What is the meaning of this? It is to choose which area we should consider first, which developments that we should take into account for the future development of our country. These are very hard decisions. When I think of the ferry that travels between Savaii and Upolu it is small but quite fast. If I compare this Budget 2018/2019 to the previous one 2017/2018 there is not much difference therefore it portrays that the work is still ongoing and it is being carried out properly. The theme of the Budget is relevant to how our Government is carefully looking into certain areas that need to be developed and I am grateful for this consideration.

The truth is in this financial year the Government has a lot of matters to forward to especially the South Pacific Games. This constituency wants to thank our Government for bringing the Games into our country which we believe will be beneficial for everyone. Samoa is number one in the area of stable Government because it has a strong constitution which assisted with the bid we put forward. Furthermore, this bid to bring the games to Samoa will help us show the talent of our people in sports. I am grateful for this opportunity that we have been given and I have witnessed from the budget in revenue and expenses there is a deficit of \$12 million. \$11 million is expected to be used for the Games. This is preparation starting this year and for next year if not for the Games we would have had more funds for other developments. I am grateful to the Minister especially the Executive and Ministry for their hard work in acquiring these funds for our country. I praise the Lord in all that you have done.

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I want to thank the Minister of Revenue for the hard work in collaborating with the Hon Minister. It is now stated within the Budget the increased amount of revenue earned by the country. I want to thank you once again for looking at future developments and in putting this Budget first signifying its importance. This constituency supports this Budget wholeheartedly.

Why? The outline of the budget is well planned emphasizing the key priority areas like the education and health sectors for developments. Therefore, with utmost respect this constituency supports the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.

Mr Speaker I will now move on to voice a few requests of this constituency.

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture I salute you for the hard work done. At the beginning of the year a new school building was unveiled in Laumoliafi Avao, a two storey building which was witnessed by some Members of the House, the only problem now the field has yet to be completed. I humbly put forward a request to the Hon Minister considering the constituency listening in to proceedings. We have already submitted a written request on the matter if it is possible we hope that this project on our field in Laumoliafi be completed, with consideration to funds available.

In the field of sports, this constituency is a participant of the weightlifting and boxing. I humbly request an opportunity be given to our people in this field who knows maybe in the future they will famous in weightlifting and boxing in the region. We have already met with the president of the sports association and they have given their consent. The only concern Hon Minister is we need encouragement and assistance in this area so that our young people of Gagaemauga No.3 can be able to get into these sports.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am certain that you have heard previous requests made by this constituency. I just want to voice with respect that our road in Safai be overlooked, it is not an access road as I stated last year but it is the village road since they have moved inland. The only problem though with the main road there are two big churches through it the Assembly and Catholic. I know it is not my business to pry but it is clearly stated in the Budget that priority is our roads, schools and churches. I humbly ask the Hon Minister to reconsider our request I see that \$8 million has been allocated for such developments, I also hope the roads for Safai to our primary and pre-school be considered. I want to put forward another request for more access roads for the constituency since there is only one road used by people to go the plantations in four sub-villages.

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These villages with respect to the House include Avao, Lelepa, Vaipouli and Saleia. The constituency has been informed of certain developments and is prepared to move inland to cultivate the land. As the Hon Minister of Agriculture is witness these areas can be a refuge during times of tsunami and cyclones. This constituency only wishes to have proper roads which will greatly assist our people.

I now come to the matter relating to the travel between Salafai and Tumua...

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has two more minutes.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** The question Hon Minister why have such services ceased. The people travelling between Salafai and Tumua were served well, like that of the services provided on airplanes. However, I have noted that it is not being done anymore, I request that this matter be reconsidered. Especially with the tourists visiting our country this will be hospitable.

Another matter I wanted to state is the change seen in the price of ferry fares. Is there a way to rearrange policies to give passengers a three days pass for them to change their bookings? If I were to make a booking in the morning and change it again in the evening, the cost will still be the same. It is the duty of a Member of Savaii to attend to duties there and come back to Upolu for Parliamentary Committee meetings. I am voicing this concern for consideration to allow a three days pass, if it will be more than that then the fee will be appropriate. We all want the revenue. Nevertheless, we humbly request this consideration because we constantly travel to Savaii.

Lastly Hon Minister I want to ask about the progress of the bridge at Samalaeulu that is affecting our constituency when the Maliolio river overflows? Another matter is when the Maota airport will be constructed to ensure easier arrangements for domestic flights especially for Members who have to be there quickly and return for meetings. These are the developments that I am hoping to hear whether any progress has been carried out.

The Hon Minister of Police and Prisons, I am grateful that promotions will be carried out. It is a humble wish is for the Ministry to improve its services and ensure that our police force have the will to work hard. A recommendation for this would be to increase the pay. I know the Minister is aware during that time I was working there if we compare it to now, if the Hon Minister of Finance was to oversee the Fire Emergency department the starting rate for Police is much lower.

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Therefore, a pay rise would be an option to overlook we should not forget the work zone 24 hours, 7 days a week by our Police. I will leave this matter to the Hon Ministers consideration with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, the Member should now conclude.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** Mr Speaker with all due respect even though I have yet to voice all the requests of this constituency I am grateful for the opportunity. Now we will have to discuss the areas that will assist our Government and the development of our country.

Mr Speaker I humbly apologize for any despicable behaviour shown or voiced within the House. I apologize also to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and I pray for blessings upon our Government and its duties. Bless our proceedings and bless our country. Soifua and God Bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Deputy Speaker for the opinions voiced this morning. I see the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 wants to take the floor.

I respectfully call on the Member.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The question, which is the power that has brought us here today? Mr Speaker it is our Heavenly Father, he is the Father and the Holy Spirit hence our country and Parliament is founded upon him. We are here this morning because of his love and guidance. He has also blessed the Chair another fine morning hence for us to proceed with our orders in Parliament in all its honorary salutations.

I take this opportunity to welcome the Leader of the country, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Lady Prime Minister and Cabinet. Also to all respectable Members of Parliament who were chosen from the rest specially to make decisions for the development of the country.

I humbly greet one of the three pillars of Government, the Judiciary. Nevertheless, I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Le Ao o le Malo and Member for Council of Deputies. Also greet the Heads of Government Ministries and organizations and all public servants serving our country. Least I will not forget the support of all Samoa.

I take this time to acknowledge the support of our neighbor in Tutuila and Manua to the Governor, Hon Speaker and Members of their Government.



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I want to greet my beloved constituency in all its honorary salutations. I will try my best to put forward the requests of our village in relation to the Budget tabled. The theme that I will base my speech upon this morning is, "it is not the soldier or the strength but your belief in God." The Lord chose Samoa to be ruled by matais, it is not the body but the belief in God. If we were to keep believing in Him Samoa will keep on being blessed.

Mr Speaker I wish to convey a few matters in relation to the Budget considered within the House. The Appropriation considered now is not a budget for us or the Parliament alone, but who benefits? As earlier stated Hon Mr Speaker it is the Parliament that overlooks this task. The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet the Chair and respectable Members of the House are responsible in making such decisions. Our country has given us their support even village councils high chiefs, Alii and Faipule, Faletua and tausi and saoa and tamaitai. Samoa has been founded upon this belief for more than 2,000 to 3,000 years. No one can change the foundation already set we were already chosen thus each family has a genealogy that cannot be changed easily. An intelligent person and someone who has a lot of money cannot just come forward and say I want to take your place. Can this happen? It cannot. Our country was already chosen, if you are born into a family then your duty is to the family if you are born an Orator you do the oratory. A Tuisamau cannot easily say, I do not want to be a Tuisamau anymore. This is our culture which differentiates our Parliament from other countries in the world and Pacific. Why? It is the ruling of Alii and Faipule an authority chosen by the Lord Almighty. There was much conflict in the year 1830 fighting over who will hold power the same year the messenger of peace came to Samoa. It brought Christianity which was welcomed at Mataniufeagaimaleata, it was a day of awakening the day of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. The introduction of Christianity clarified the authority of Malietoa Ao o le Malo also our culture was influenced. The introduction of Christianity came to Samoa 200 years ago at Mataniu Feagai ma le Ata, Faleu, Utuagiagi, Malaeola and Nafoga.

Our Parliament was chosen by the churches it is now 56 years and we are the ones making these decisions, looking at how to build Samoa or how it will be in the next 100 years? What will happen? How do we do it? Where will we get the money? In 1962 the budgeted revenue was estimated at \$1 million. What was the Budget that the Hon Minister of Finance proposed? \$800 million. Where did we get this amount? We do not even have many resources.

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Mr Speaker it is not just the strength or courage but the will of God. Mr Speaker I am here today to represent my constituency I did not come upon my wish but through the trust from my constituency. It has been nearly 15 years now an honor was passed down by my grandfather who had served this Parliament for over 60 years. Therefore, whatever we say however we act we should do it with dignity and respect. We give our best and voice encouragement and recommend what will benefit our country. If we look at the term we are now in, we have made history because our people have elected a one party state, the Human Rights Protection Party ruling as the major Party. We have gone back to the beginning where we were a one Party Government, one people. We have control and we should respect such decision.

Mr Speaker we should all work together the Government, churches, Alii and Faipule, this way we will achieve our set goals.

Mr Speaker I am grateful to the Government hence the work that we do should be done with consideration of the opinion from public. This can be done by voicing requests through Parliament because once an error occur the Captain and crew will sink. I want to emphasize that our Government should work together with the community to improve our economy.

The Hon Minister of Finance I want to thank you for your decision made on our Appropriation. I am aware that there have been several requests made together with the need for financial assistance. I recommend that the Minister not give up so easily on finding new money, there are plenty of fish in the sea and birds in the sky. We need new money, new investment and new people. Do not try and take on a major project that may cripple our country's economy. We should look into the future. I want to advice that our objective now is to look into new ventures. Before we look at the Bill we should consider current matters in case the Ministry might miss out something that will benefit our country. It may be complicated but...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Ministry has already visited me and apologized a long time ago, they have yet to reach such standards even for other countries who are more developed than us have not done anything. I recommend to those who have to be cautious and this is the same advice of this Government. Do not worry about such matter for we are monitoring it as well.

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As I stated before there are those who just speak without thinking and those who take notice. Do not worry because matters of this sort arise it is the Captain and his engineers will always be the firsts to know. It will be noticed later by the crew at the back but first by the Captain. I am grateful for the concern voiced by the Member but this Captain is not asleep at the wheel, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I call on the Member to continue.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** The Hon Minister of Finance it is important that we remind you of such matters, but I am grateful. Also why not set up our own stock exchange or stock chain which is something we should be looking into for the next 50 years.

Another matter it is not stated within discussions our GDP also the cable is not mentioned here but hopefully you will be able to clarify this matter later.

The Hon Minister of Public Enterprises, I thank you for the hard work carried out for our airline. I am certain there is no other strength than the support of our people and I have also recommended that you should be patient to await results. We are all aware that within a year there are more than ten church conferences held in Samoa and most of the people are from New Zealand, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. They all have supported our airline by choosing to travel with it which I believe will help us with our plane. I only ask that we be patient of the outcome which I believe will change over the next years. I am saddened by the fact that there are Associate Ministers who have made rude comments on the airline even those who go drinking to tarnish the intention the Hon Minister attempts to develop. A recommendation to these people....

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Associate Minister.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaau Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East):** Mr Speaker I did not want to interrupt the speech by the Member but since he has made such accusation in reference to Associate Ministers. I want to ask that the Member mention the name of the Associate Minister who made these comments. I flew to New Zealand last week using our Airline and it was splendid. I do not know who the Associate Minister was in case all of us might be blamed for such comments. Therefore, it is best that the Member states the name of the person, with respect.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Associate Minister for Faasaleleaga No.4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4):** Thank you Mr Speaker, such accusations are clearly noted by the country especially the Member stating Associate Ministers. Although I recall it was two months ago when I went on a trip with the Member and I envied him because he sat in the business class area whilst we took the economy. I understand the concern of the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 whether the comment is directed towards me. I am not sure whether other Associate Ministers have spoken ill of the airline while drinking but I believe it is best that the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 state who made such remarks. With respect.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai (Salega East):** Mr Speaker a question please.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe you are not an Associate Minister.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai:** I humbly want to ask a question on a clarification to the comment made by the Member.

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

**Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai:** Does this mean that the Ministers are not working together with Associate Ministers? This portrays Associate Ministers conning Ministers, no wonder why Ministers barely give them any work.

**MR SPEAKER:** The differing views is like as far as the East is from the West nevertheless I will call on one of the Associate Ministers. I call on the Member for Sagaga Le Usoga.

**Susuga Seiuli Ueligitone Seiuli (Sagaga le Usoga):** Mr Speaker since we usually travel to Savaii every month of the year for Committee advisory meetings. I and the Associate Minister together with the Minister are in charge of the shipping services. The comment made by the Member states there are Associate Ministers that have been drinking on board the ferry. This also puts blame on the Minister overseeing this area. Therefore, I advise the Member clarify this misunderstanding by stating the name of the Associate Minister who made such claim.

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

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I did not think my Associate Minister would take the floor because it would be easier to say that these two Members are here to argue their point. It seems that they are still continuing with this argument. Maybe the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 is right. I ask the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 to come and tell me who it is.

**MR SPEAKER:** As the Chair also presumed the Speaker does not trust such comment, the Associate Minister for the Prime Minister stated that he went on a trip recently but the airline was not good. Is this statement accurate? I ask the Member answer.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Thank you Mr Speaker I humbly apologize to all Associate Ministers for mentioning anyone without consideration. However, I strongly believe that the person knows exactly who they are, I do not have to say it. The person who said this knows who they are, how can they do this? The Member for Aiga I le Tai...

**Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai):** Mr Speaker....

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** The Member for Aiga I le Tai...

**MR SPEAKER:** Since you have mentioned the name of Aiga i le Tai.

**Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki:** I did not want to interrupt the speech by the Member since he is one of the longest Members of the House. He is also someone who has the knowledge and understanding in such area. Nevertheless, he has made a comment that involves all others. The teachings of our Christ are not wrong which was argued by his disciples. What exactly makes a person bad, whether it is the words he speaks or what is put into his mouth? I recommend that the Member *withdraw such comments but state the name of the person.* I ask that you state the name of the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 if this is the case, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask that we move away from this matter.

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**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** The Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 do not be concerned, I cannot do such thing to you. I will never do that. As for our issue let us meet later. Let us talk where you wanted to as scheduled.

I apologize to all Associate Minister....

**MR SPEAKER:** I advise the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 to be cautious of his movements because it seems that it is disturbing the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

**Afioga Pau Sefo Taumata Pau (Faasaleleaga No.2):** Mr Speaker I did not want to take the floor. The trip stated by the Associate Minister, I was also part of this trip there were three us together with the Member who just spoke. I second the statement made by the Associate Minister on the business class seat the Member sat at on the flight. The Associate Minister sat further back and I was in the middle, which is the reason why I am trying to sort this out as a lawyer. Samoa has heard if we look at the picture these are the only Members who raised their hands perhaps I am now the mediator and judge for these two. Therefore, no money will be spent to bring in lawyers from New Zealand because I can do this case for free. I take the floor to clarify this matter since I was part of this trip. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is a huge relief for the two Members.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Saleaula you and Safotulafai are the main authorities. Therefore, it is both your duties to take responsibility for what the other may speak.

Mr Speaker there are two sides of this story. The Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 and the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 paid for a economy class fare, as for me even though it was expensive I paid a business class seat. This was done to show my support for our airline and it was money from own pocket. This is the differences in commitment, both Members are right that we all went together.

Mr Speaker I now come to the matter...

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena:** Mr Speaker a point of order.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Since the Member was mentioned, I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena:** The Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 has more money than us. The Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 is right that we went together on this trip. Although I thought considering that he has a business he would afford a business class seat. But this was not the case, we both sat at the back and the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 was sitting at a seat that cost two to three thousand. I am grateful to the Member for being supportive and paying this expensive fare for our airline.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe this is based on your income. I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

**Afioga Pau Sefo Taumata Pau:** Mr Speaker since my name has been mentioned again by the Associate Minister, I stated that we went together. Therefore, I took the opportunity to be the lawyer for the Member of Gagaifomauga No.3, I recommend that the Hon Prime Minister be the lawyer for his Associate Minister. The Hon Prime Minister already holds a Doctorate therefore he should be able to judge this case, with respect, bless our proceedings.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor):** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Prime Minister was not part of the eighteen who sat the exam. I call on the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell:** I want to thank some of the Members who have shown their support for our airline. I want to thank the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 for being honest. Although I take the floor to clarify a matter mentioned which is a concern to the country *listening in on the cost of airfare. If we look at the costs of economy class seats it will be around \$400 but not \$3,000 as mentioned by one of the Members.* There are a lot of changes done by the airline especially with the low prices imposed.

The business class rates now can be compared to the usual economy class fare for Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand, this is the difference and how cheap it is to fly on our airline. Since I heard the Member say it is \$3,000 for an economy seat that is not true.

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I also want to thank the Member for stating Associate Ministers but I think the Member might have forgotten that maybe some Members of that side have also made comments on the airline. An advice I want to give the Member, maybe this is the reason why the Associate Ministers are complaining, Ministers if you go with your Associates let them sit in the business class. When I go with my Associate Minister I always pay a business class seat for him and there will be no complain later.

This is an opinion on the matter.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I thank the Member for stating this matter. The opinion of the Member is quite significant to the ideas considered within the House on our airline. This matter was considered during the time the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 was a part of this Cabinet and he is well aware of the decision made by Cabinet.

I want to clarify to the country and everyone listening in that having an airline is not cheap. This is the exact reason why there were problems faced with our airlines in the past. This emphasizes the importance of management performance for the airline companies because I do not think we earn a lot of profits from such venture. Although once it fails, it results to the country being in great debt. This is also the reason why the Government did not own an airline company to take our people overseas. Although with the many changes and for the development of our country the Government has taken the initiative to look into future development and have set up an airline we can look after and use for our people. It is not a business venture that can earn us a lot. This is also why the Government in the past tested having affordable fares so that in future we will know what works and can collaborate with overseas companies. We did this and it has been ten years since we partnered with Ansett Australia, our plane was returned ten years later and we became broke.

Nevertheless, this did not stop us from trying again. We are now working in partnership with Virgin which initially went well on the objective to provide cheaper airfares for our people. This was accomplished but two years later Virgin went into dealing with bigger planes that earned more profits.



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This resulted into the Government not achieving what it set out to do. This ended up to people paying \$4,000 for airfare to go to New Zealand. This is what happened, we cannot expect to have cheaper fares if our country does not own an airline. These are some of the hardships faced by Cabinet. The decisions made by the Cabinet were to continue with our partnership. However, it was the benefit of the country and for our development that resulted to Cabinet and Government to set up another airline. We have been practicing such services for more than twenty years as recommended by some professors about planes yet we have been facing a lot of difficulties. Therefore, with the launching of our new airline the Government has made it clear that we will never again do what we did before and learn from what happened.

Our country has faced a lot of problems with having overseas countries owning planes that land within the country. This is one of the reasons why we have launched our own airline once again moreover we are thinking of having two planes to service Samoa. This is also why we emphasize that our people use our own airline to travel overseas. We have a newer model plane than the one used by New Zealand, our plane is a Boeing 737-800 which is the latest Boeing 737. When our plane was taken to be serviced we hired the plane Air Nauru to travel between countries although this was a Boeing 737 300 which differs from the 800 that we are using. This is what the public does not understand nevertheless with every good deed there is always someone that tries to obliterate it.

The country now understands the situation explained all the good deeds are tarnished by a single threat. All the good deeds that we do are done for the betterment of our country moreover these are deeds from our Heavenly Father.

Mr Speaker this is the importance of comment made by the Member towards our airline it brings forth the issues that have now been clarified for the understanding of the country especially those living overseas. Our services have been successful with our plane being fully booked majority of the time, if this continues we will be able to get the second plane, third, fourth and so on until we can get bigger planes that will develop our country. *We do this today and it will benefit our people travelling in the future.* Bless proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I call on the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

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**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Thank you for the recommendation Leader of the country. Afioga Lautafi Purcell there is only one reason why I mentioned this matter, it is to show support. I want to apologize for the fare mentioned but that was just an estimate although if it is too much we should be considerate nevertheless let us not try and do something that will ruin us.

I will not state the name of the Member, but he knows who he is therefore I recommend that you not do it again. Please show your support for Samoa and also to the work carried out by our Government, it is your duty to support and advice on certain aspects.

The Hon Minister of Health, I salute you for your hard work doctor and in the improvement of services provided. There is a Bill that was considered and was amended under your direction. Nevertheless, I will trust your decision although there is a matter of concern for the safety of our country.

There is vodka produced by a company in the country. I carried out my own private investigation and some people said that it is not real vodka. It is an industrial spirit used to wash tools. The Hon Minister I humbly ask that you look into this matter, it is Boom Vodka. This is a way for some people to get affected with different substances which is a huge risk to their lives. I witnessed in the past that there were some people from my village that drank this vodka and someone's organs was burned, why? Because it was a spirit used to light lamps. However, it is now seen again.

I humbly ask the Hon Minister to find out which company is bringing this product into the country, even though it is cheap it poses a big risk to our people.

The Hon Minister for Tourism, you are the most hospitable man. I am grateful that the Miss Samoa Pageant will now be held in Savaii which is something that was supposed to be done long ago. This will be the first time this event will be held in Savaii and for this I am grateful.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I thank you for your patience especially with the many requests made by Members to your Ministry. I humbly request your consideration on our seawall, it has taken 14 to 15 years since our request has been put forward. This seawall Hon Minister is also where our drinking well is located. The water supply in Savaii does not work 24 hours from Gagaifomauga No.1, 2 and 3. It only works two to three times a day and it is turned off the whole night.

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We do not have access to the services offered in Apia in having 24 hours access to drinking water. Once the tide goes out we go to this drinking well at Sasina and use it but once it comes back in the water is too saline to use. I want to put forward this request as a reminder also for the water supply for the Gagaifomauga No.1, 2 and 3. In schools they have to fill up barrels of water for use before they can do any work. The response they give was they do not have the budget to work the generator. The Hon Minister I am voicing these concerns for your consideration...

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has two more minutes.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Another issue is the electricity, the fluctuation in Savaii is not easy. There are times when the power is strong, and other times when it is weak, and I received a letter that 34 televisions from Gagaifomauga No.3 were destroyed. This is an issue because of the electricity fluctuation; nevertheless, I will leave this matter for your consideration.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, even though I resigned from the Ministry I still have respect for the work done. I care for the farmers. This does not mean I doubt the work of the Minister, those who are faced with the majority of the work are dirty from morning till night. This also includes the fishermen who go to sea, the hard work they do, I have confidence in you Hon Minister.

The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology, I commend you for your patience. The Cable being installed will be a big transformation for our country. I just want to ask what is the situation with the broadband given to Government? How is the progress for our broadband with our school net, what is the latest with our cable? I have heard that there is another Cable being brought in. We have now also invested in the wharf, but I will leave the matter to the Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister, I just want to say a few words based on the Top and Credit I humbly ask your consideration on the matter. The Ministry is one of the biggest assets that are important to the country. We already have the forestry convention which was in the year 2013. *The amount was \$36 million cubic top and credit for Samoa the value not lower than \$500 million within a financial year; this is one area that has assisted us greatly.*

**MR SPEAKER:** The time for the Member is finish.

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**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** I want to conclude with the Hon Minister of Revenue, I support the work of the Minister. I salute you for your patience with the issues faced by the Ministry, I humbly recommend your consideration on matters related to our country and to our churches.

It is our duty to protect the rights of our people, do not focus on other matters but be weary of our own people. Therefore, whatever decisions the Cabinet will make I hope it is done with discretion. As I earlier stated the three parts that make Government is the church, country and Parliament. Lastly I want to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister for his work, we all know how passionate you are for this country with all the developments seen by the world. I humbly want to say, take it easy, I pray the Lord...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a point of order. The work of the Cabinet is collective responsibility. I do not make the decision for praises but it is a decision carried out by the whole Cabinet. The good decisions made by the Cabinet and the Party are their service stated in our mandate. The work is not done by one alone it is done by everyone in the Party and Cabinet.

I just want to remind everyone that there are a lot of requests made by the people. The Member is well aware of this issue, the Cabinet has not been sitting around but has been very busy. This also includes the support of the overall Party. I just want to remind everyone that the good deeds done is not a duty I carry out alone but it is the overall decision of this Cabinet and Party Members which has resulted to a accountable Parliament. It is the decision of all Members of Parliament that passes the Bills put forth into the House.

Mr Speaker this is how our Parliament works, it does not strive to find the benefit of one person alone but we all work to serve the country as a whole.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** I will now conclude with respect Mr Speaker, it is not my intention to speak ill of the hard work done by the Member nevertheless comments are made so we can be considerate. I do not question the decisions and the work carried out by the Hon Prime Minister or Parliament however I just want to recommend that we take it easy. I am confident that you will be considerate of what is best for our country.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I want to remind the Member that I am taking note of his words. The work we do together with Cabinet is carried out step for step. Also all performing duties we do are discussed and considered in the House, it seems the Member has forgotten the founding principles of this Party. Therefore, I wish to reiterate that we are carrying out the work gradually.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, just a reminder and a recommendation from the Chair, there are times when such comments are taken seriously by others especially in consideration of Parliament. This is why I want to recommend that Members try and be cautious of what you say. As stated by the Hon Prime Minister the HRPP mandate is all of us.

At the moment the work carried out is performed base on the opinions of the country.

I want to remind Members and we are all aware of our manifesto. I appease the Member of the comments made and I ask that you take on another matter.

**Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT:** Thank you, I apologize to the Hon Mr Speaker and to the Hon Prime Minister. As for our Party that is where my heart lies. I was just concerned and humbly suggested what could be done for the improvement of our work, if it is something useful then I leave it to you for consideration.

The Hon Mr Speaker I am aware of how hard your work is in administering the proceedings of the House.

I am grateful for all the developments and I salute the work done by our people. I thank our Government for the services provided to our country I also thank our churches for their prayers and patience. I pray may the Lord guide us and protect our country through our journey and our Parliament. I hope for a better future for Samoa Soifua and bless our proceedings.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe we have reached our recess hour.

I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for its usual recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside from 10:40am until 11:25am.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly continued with the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.2 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019.*

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

Before recess the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 was concluding his speech. Therefore, the floor is open for anyone who wishes to speak on the Appropriation Bill.

I call on the Member for Vaimauga East.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I believe all Members of the House have been strengthened from the refreshment we had. I take this opportunity to voice an opinion of this constituency in relation to the matter considered in House. The representatives of Finao and Matautu have spoken and have paved the way for Tuisamau therefore I humbly acknowledge the representative of Lufilufi and pray for his support. Also the Members of Saleaula and Safotulafai. A speech without support is not blessed.

Therefore, I humbly ask my constituency for their support I will try my best to voice an opinion on your behalf.

There is a story about Sina and her brother Tuisavalalo, they usually converse and tell stories everyday at times at Sinas house and another at her brothers. Then one day Sina told her brother today is a different day. He then responded why is it different? If you look at the sky it is very clear and blue and but no clouds. The brother in return responded, alas this was also the matter I wanted to tell you.

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Mr Speaker this is the reason why this morning the House is so different. Why? All respectable Members were chosen by the country through the will of God are present here this morning to carry out the will of our Father and make decisions for the country. It is such a fine morning and I feel the presence of the Lord is with us this morning.

Mr Speaker before I take to the floor I would firstly want to acknowledge the respects of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Associates and also to this side of the House. I want to acknowledge the Chair, I thank you for administering your duties moreover I thank the Lord for giving you good health. I am grateful to the Lord for such an outstanding Mr Speaker guiding our proceedings during my first term in Parliament. I pray the Lord bless you in your duties.

I want to acknowledge the support of the Heads of Government Ministries and public enterprises; you are the source of the work of Government. I am grateful for your services and your honesty and for the hard work done for our people especially the Media, the television and radio. The Member for Tuisamau cannot commence with its speech without acknowledgement of His Highness Le Ao o le Malo, Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano and his Good Lady Afioga Maposua. I also want to acknowledge the Member of Council of Deputies Le Mamea Ropati and his Good Lady, the Chief Justice and Judiciary. I commend you all for the good work and serving our country.

I want to thank my constituency for their support from Fusi and Fanuatanu in Leniu also Taliulu and Fuatimau also Tuisamau. I also acknowledge my village of Letogo in all its honorary salutations. I want to mention as well the support of Vailele and Fagalii and to all the servants of the Lord, I pray for your blessings.

Mr Speaker I want to start with saying, there are three parts I will be stating in my speech, first I want to convey an opinion on the Budget, second I would like to convey requests of this constituency and third I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Ever since I came into Parliament the matter that I always argue is land because this is our identity. I am sure the Hon Minister is aware of this matter. Unfortunately, Members are debating the letters been submitted for lease payments of \$35,000 to be paid back. Such requests have been forward by each constituency. I pray the Hon Minister in charge of the Samoa Land considers the request of this constituency for the lands of Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii and parts of Vaimauga East are not viable to undertake any development.

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This is the reason why we requested in the past compensation of \$8,000 or \$500 in consideration to the year 1977 unfortunately the decision has already been made by Government with the \$35,000 being paid but it turned out to be customary lands. This is the reason why this constituency is again putting forward this request for these lands.

These lands being divided are not quarter acres because at that time the surveyor only cared about dividing it into several pieces to earn more money. Another issue the Hon Minister for Land Corporation the lands in Fagalii are located in the valley. Nevertheless, a letter has been given by the Chief Executive to pay the \$35,000. This is a humble request for our lands in Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii because these are lands debated by the public under the Customary Land Bill where \$35,000 is to be paid to Samoa Land although they are not freehold lands but customary. Are we supposed to pay for customary lands? If these are customary lands then I humbly request that our lands be returned to us for free because we cannot sell customary lands. If you are willing to pay \$8,000 for these lands then the constituency will be fine with such payment of their lands.

The Hon Minister, I am certain that you are aware of the request made in relation to the Fagalii airport which has affected some families due to planes landing. Nonetheless I am grateful that some of the families have been moved to live in Vailele. I just want to convey that these people are still residents of Fagalii and they cannot live in Vailele and provide service to Fagalii.

A survey carried out by the Member recovered that there are flats located inland in Fagalii-uta, on the left side located on Government land are five flats. I kindly request whether it will be possible to transfer these flats to these five families who have moved as a gift so they will be able to come back into the village.

The case of our access roads, I am certain that most people are aware of the situation therefore this constituency humbly requests...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member for Vaimauga East, I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the matter stated is not new, the issue concerning Government land is evident in these constituencies. This is the reason for the many difficulties faced by Government in the past. The Government offered these lands for the people to cultivate and live on with a reasonable price.



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This also included other lands within Vaitele which was also sold at a cheaper price as suggested. The price for a quarter acre was \$32,000 this is really cheap compared to the original price which could have been \$50,000 to \$60,000. This was the decision made by Government when authority of land was removed from Trust Estates. The matter that surprised the Government, I and the Minister in charge was when people of your constituency came and requested that they had lands that they wanted to sell. The Government later found out that most of the lands leased were sold therefore a decision was made if lands have been sold to other people then they will have the right on that land. I was quite surprised when I was approached by a man saying that he had a cheap piece of land he is willing to sell to me. Then I asked where are you from? He said from Vailele. These are some of the matters where decisions made by Government were based on for Vailele and Letogo. I called in to check this piece of land being sold whether... when we checked it...

*Proceedings were abruptly stopped for a minute due to electricity outage.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly recommenced at 11:41am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Our proceedings was interrupted by a power outage therefore we are able to get it back again, I call on the Hon Prime Minister to continue with his speech.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The Samoa Land Corporation checked the lands and saw that a lot of these lands were sold. This is why it was emphasized by Government if the village has sold these lands then these lands should be given without return.

If we look at Vaitele the price for a land piece used to be \$32,000 which was affordable but now these families are selling it to millionaires for a \$100,000 \$150,000, and \$160,000. This is the reason why when you visit these areas most of the lands are now owned by business owners. Specifically, these lands were made available for those from Savaii as the lands in the rural side were unavailable for settlements. Although now based on greed for money on the increasing value of \$100,000 most of these lands the Government gave to these people have been sold to those who already own a lot.

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The Government has now decided to transfer these lands under customary lands hence whoever has ownership of these lands could not be resold but could pass it down to their children. This is for security requirements offered by the Government so that matters of this sort will not recur. The Government has assisted the people but it seems that they are much smarter by selling these lands which were sold to them at a cheaper price than what they are selling it, earning them more profit but it is Government land. The Government are only guardians of these lands because everyone from Falealupo, Aleipata and Fagaloa has the right to these lands.

Mr Speaker I am clarifying the principles already been set by Government. These lands have now been registered under customary lands so that they are retained by families for future generations. These lands cannot be sold anymore which is something we are trying to keep. Mr Speaker I do not think they understand the matter clarified in the past but this is what the Government is looking into land protection.

These lands are owned by the people who buy it and be passed down to their children. Even though it is noted as customary it will be freehold land to the family and their future generation. This means these lands are no different from the freehold lands sold by the Government. The only difference to note is that these lands are not easily sold given their registrations under customary land category that involves official traditional honorifics or village salutations. Overall these lands are given without attachments and will be owned by families for a lifetime. What do others think of the price \$8,000? This is inappropriate especially if the land value is between \$160,000 which is reasonable price. I will let the Member think of this offer and next time the people of your village come to you, you should be honest and tell them the facts. What does the country think of this issue, are we doing the right thing? These are lands owned by all the people of Samoa.

Mr Speaker this is a clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call on the Member to continue with his speech, hence the matter has been clarified by the Hon Prime Minister.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. As stated earlier the constituency of Vaimauga supports the decisions that are made by Government. Although it seems that when the power was out we were surprised when a clarification was given on our lands. Thank you, but I will now move on with my speech.

Mr Speaker, I want to say...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a point of order. This is not the matter I want to correct this it is the ghost of Faleata.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the matter has been rectified.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Well since the Hon Prime Minister is siding with his man. But these are the lands that are owned by Tuisamau.

Mr Speaker I want to voice an opinion that these lands. As I earlier stated and I know the Chief Executive of the Samoa Water Authority is witness the lands in Fagalii, Letogo and Vailele are abundant with waterfalls. There was a Committee site visit that took place and Members were surprised when they saw many ravines within the area. These areas are water reservoirs. I humbly ask the Government to allow the people of our village to overlook these lands and allocate some of it for water reservoirs. Not only for lands inland of Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii but also for water supply to be distributed to all parts of Samoa.

A request has been put forward to the Samoa Land by the village of Letogo for a piece of land for a school building. There is a need for expansion because the majority of the children living inland Maugafiafia attend Letogo Primary School. Also the families cannot afford to attend Samoa Primary which is a private school. I humbly ask that this matter be considered for a piece of land for a school building expansion.

The Hon Minister of Samoa Land my village of Fagalii is grateful. We are grateful for the lands given; I think four quarter acres were allocated for our school building. Although the problem with these lands is most of it are gorges and you can easily see Vaivase uta. I humbly ask the Hon Minister to please review this matter on looking at another area for the school. If you go and see the location of where the Fagalii Uta School is, it is quite small but it was where some prominent Chief Executives like Samau who was at the hospital was taught. This is the reason for our request, whether it is possible for another location maybe next to the Fagalii airport. A lot of the lands of this constituency of Vaimauga are used for developments of our country such as the airport, golf course, flats also the use of the coast for the cable. These all caters to the development of our people. Perhaps the customary lands occupied by my village of Fagalii will soon be threatened?

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Nevertheless, we are strong supporters of the Human Rights Protection Party and we have been since our elders and those before, we all own these lands. If not then such developments, the airport should be taken away so that we can use our lands for our own development.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am certain that you have heard this request a lot of times but I will reiterate the need of development of our access roads. The village of Laulii, Laulii has agreed that if I am able to complete an access road towards the mountain I will not lose anymore. This is why I am requesting this development to take place so I will not lose again. Even if the road is roughly dug inland to Laulii it will be much appreciated, if the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister visit Laulii you will witness that we have set up our own market. Why? Because we have an abundance of crops and fresh produce from the mountain, the problem though there are no good roads. The people have to carry the produce down another issue is when the water overflows the small bridges made for people to cross are washed away. If we look at the people selling produce at the market majority are from Fagalii, Letogo, Vaialele and Laulii. Most of the cooked food is sold by people from Laulii. I just want to ask that you look favorably on our market even though we did not have the funds to do it we have tried our best to make it happen. This is why I humbly request to the Hon Minister on our access roads for the Letogo and for Maugafiafia.

My village of Fagalii this was where the former Minister of this constituency resided and is the only village that saw developments. Although now that he is not a Member anymore some of the roads within the constituency are in bad condition. This is why I humbly request that the Hon Minister consider development of other constituencies before overlooking his own, with respect.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I just wanted to ask, where exactly is the market in Laulii located? I have driven past there every day but did not see any market. I was also there to open the access road not long ago and did not see a market. Where exactly is this market located? If there was a market, I would have stopped there and bought something. I only stop at the shops along the way but have not seen a market.

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

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**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker I do not think the Hon Prime Minister wants to see the beauty of my village. If we look at it when you travel between Atua and Tuamasaga, a reason why Tuisamau was chosen to protect the boundaries of Atua. The school building....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I am well aware of these boundaries stated by the Member perhaps you do not know but this is where my family Neioti resides. I did not speak on matters related to boundaries but I was asking what you mentioned in your speech which was, where is the market located?

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker in case the Member gets confuse but as I stated if you look at the location of the school the Laulii primary school. There are new houses in front of the road and this is where the new market is going to be, it has yet to be opened.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I now understand, I think this new house was competed yesterday, I always wondered what it was going to be and never thought it will be a market. Nevertheless, I am grateful that I now know when I come by this evening I will stop and see if what the Member is saying is true.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the Hon Prime Minister has not understood the clarification made by the Member but the market has not opened. In case you might stop there this evening but it has not opened, is this right?

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Yes, this is exactly true, I am thankful to the Hon Prime Minister hence he is a resident of our village. Our market has yet to open, I will give you the honor to open our market and for the Government to give a donation to our market.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The reason why I have mentioned this matter is for the Party not to be hasty, it is the duty of this Cabinet to work diligently and oversee areas that need development within each constituency.

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Also to look at what constituencies have to offer? This is the reason why I asked but the Member has been voicing so many other issues, but we just wanted to know where exactly so we can visit. If we come on a visit we would not use cars that will easily make people recognize us. We would come in disguise so that we will be able to observe freely. Nevertheless, now that I know maybe by next week when it opens we will visit but I am surprised why the Member mentioned access roads but the market has not opened yet. This is what we did in Savaii, we went around observing several constituencies inland and obtained what needed to be done. Although it has now been confirmed this morning the location of this market but we have been going around on site visits and observed every constituency. This is important to Government because it is our mandate to serve the people and to inform them in the next elections that we have achieved the goal we set out for our people.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker once the Leader speaks we will not have anything further to say. Nevertheless, the clarification made by this constituency is quite clear, we are not dependent on the Government and we have developed our own villages with the use of our hands and produce found within our constituency. This is the reason for the request...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker we are not talking of this request, I was asking about the market. Nevertheless, you should continue with your speech.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I believe the Leader of the House has spoken, I am grateful that the Parliament will be there to open the market and develop our access road.

The Hon Minister my village of Fagalii I had an aunty who died recently at Fagalii. Why? It was due to a car accident. Therefore, this constituency humbly requests that speed bumps be installed again within the village of Fagalii, if you pass by the road you will see the spot marked where my aunty was killed due to reckless driving.

When cars pass by Fagalii and are headed to Vailele they tend to pick up speed. I humbly ask the Hon Minister to reconsider installing speed bumps maybe in front of the former Ministers house and another in front of the Fagalii EFKS hall since it is a crossing for children attending Sunday school.

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If we look at the village of Fagalii it is vulnerable to disasters like tsunamis it is a lowland area with a weak seawall structure. There are times when the tide is strong and sea water spills into some houses and also onto the main road. I humbly ask that this matter be considered, to build a higher seawall and pave a road inland for emergency measures. Fagalii does not have an access road, the primary school is located inland therefore when the children go to school they go through Vailele and the golf course so go through Vaivase uta. This is the same as going to church which is why I request a road which can be used by the people, we already have customary lands that can be used for this development.

The Hon Minister I humbly request also your consideration on my village of Vailele whether it is possible for a road to be constructed within the center of Vailele and Letogo. There are no proper roads within these villages also for Laulii that do not have proper bridges hence majority of the people live on the other side. The matter of water supply, a visit has already been carried out to check the water reservoir in Laulii and we were surprised how the people have survived. The water there is quite dirty. I humbly request that engineers come and check and filter clean water for the village. This is the same for Letogo the water reservoir there is also dirty and the engineers looking after it are the villagers. The reason why we opted for these water reservoirs is based on the fact that some people cannot afford to pay water bills. Nevertheless, inland areas of Vaimauga are abundant with water and it is where filtered drinking water supply for the country comes from also of Vailele, Letogo and Fagalii. I pray...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member I call on the Leader of Government.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker this matter is important. Nevertheless, I recommend that the Member keep reminding the Hon Minister of Works of such matters also to inform the Ministry in charge of this issue. It is important for such issues to be resolved quickly since we seldom sit and if such matter is raised in our sitting it will be added to the list of requests already with the Minister.

This is a recommendation to the Members of the House, do not wait until our sittings to voice requests but do it once an incident occurs. It is best to keep reminding the Hon Minister and the Ministry of such matters nevertheless the Ministers of Cabinet is quite busy with other duties. The matter raised on the situation of water supply is quite important and it must be overseen.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Perhaps the Member for Vaimauga East has understood the recommendation.

I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Mr Speaker just to add on to the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister, at the moment there are problems faced by the Samoa Water Authority because of water reservoirs. The water reservoirs are looked after by the village also they believe that having reservoirs is cheaper than paying water bills. However, it is not cheap to maintain water reservoirs especially in keeping it clean. The water is not hygienic; the Ministry itself has suggested that you connect to the Government water supply to have access to safer water. If the constituency does not wish to connect to the Government water supply because you think it will be cheaper, it is up to them. Nevertheless, I have noticed that the villages do not take good care of the water tanks where their water supply derives. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister and Minister my constituency are listening hence the reason why I mentioned water reservoirs was contractors taking care of it are not being honest. A request for the water reservoir at Letogo was made last month it was in good condition but after a bid for contractors was made they took the money and nothing was done. This is why I pray to the Hon Minister for his consideration.

The matter concerning pipes dug inside...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele, 174, Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The issue mentioned, there is Government assistance on such matters where we work together with overseas organizations. This is the reason why it is important for such requests to be put before Government so we will receive assistance to aid our financial support. This is the same situation with my constituency of Lepa, the elders want the same thing and the Government has opted to take responsibility of water supply in the area. There is also the matter of not being able to pay water bills.



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This is also the same for other villages where most of the water flows from the mountains. They will not allow the Government to overlook this area unfortunately they cannot look after it well. We have been trying to organize funds to improve water pipes but the funds are first eaten by the Committee. This is one difficulty with village councils if those elected into the Committee are not honest the funds will disappear and nothing will be done. This is one of the reasons why they say the bill is expensive, the starting fee is small but when it is not paid for three years the amount will be in thousands tala. This is the problem if the people were to pay the fee on time the Government fees will be quite affordable.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member, I recommend that you move away from this matter since the Leader of Government has already given a recommendation on the matter.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** There is an issue concerning the installation of water pipes with the assistance of LTA to dig up the road. The Samoa Water Authority informed us to pay the fee to LTA so they can come and dig up the roads for water pipes to be put in, after the Water Authority does this they leave without filling the holes. Therefore, our roads are left with big holes but we already paid LTA for the service.

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

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker there are set procedures and guidelines for this type of work like a new water connection which requires the cutting of roads that comes with a fee/payment to the Samoa Water Authority. The problem noted are the contractors doing the work perhaps the Authority is already aware but they are the ones doing maintenance work.

This is the plan hence the Ministry will review these issues again and see appropriate measures to be taken. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Perhaps the Member now understands the clarification concerning payments. The payment for a new connection is paid to the Samoa Water Authority whilst the road cut is done by LTA. Am I right? The Government has also recommended...

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**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker, that is wrong the fee is paid to LTA to cut the road and then the Samoa Water Authority comes and installs the pipelines. The problem is that payment is not being made to the Samoa Water Authority but to Land Transport Authority. I am not happy with the Land Transport Authority because we already paid them but the work is not being done properly.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker a point of order. In the payment process is not being made to the LTA but to the Samoa Water Authority because they are the one installing water pipes. After this request is made to the Water Authority they inform the contractors of the Land Transport Authority to go ahead with road cut. If the Member is telling the truth about this process then the money paid is probably pocketed by the Land Transport Authority, at least the issue has been addressed. Nevertheless, I know these processes as I am overseeing the two Authorities. But leave the process with me I will check and sort it out. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member, you have two more minutes.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I will move away from this Ministry but I will now speak upon the matter concerning the seawalls.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member has two more minutes.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I still have a lot of queries, is it possible to move a motion since I have yet to discuss the Appropriation Bill.

The village of Laulii, I humbly request the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to review the poor state of the seawall area that is clearly seen when you travel pass Letogo and Vailele.

I humbly request as well a sports field for our residents in Maugafiafia. We all know the reason why people want to live in Vailele uta and Maugafiafia due to the good leadership of the Alii and Faipule. Perhaps the Hon Minister could consider the reserve area in this location to set up a sports field. At the moment the residents are using the burial site to spend their leisure time which is inappropriate given its sacred ground for those people who have passed. However, a sports field is put forward for your consideration.

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There is also the matter concerning the Hon Minister of Police but since he has left the Associate Minister, do you still have your Bible? The matter concerning the Reserve has already been made to the Ministry of Police. As mentioned earlier a lot of people have resided in these villages nevertheless there is still the theft problems experienced by the villages like Vailete requiring safety measures despite the ruling and protection by the Alii and Faipule in Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii.

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

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker I interrupt the clarification of the Member since he continuously mention my constituency of Faleata especially my village of Vaitele. Those view should have evidence and facts to support them. One of the main reason for this stems from the constant escaping prisoners. The Hon Minister of Prisons has already noted that prisoners will no longer be released which is the best solution.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I call on the Minister for Revenue.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker, the statement made by the Member on prisoners escaping and going around Vaitele this is not true. It is the prisoners who have been released but not those who have escaped causing the trouble.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the matter is now understood.  
I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena:** Mr Speaker since my Minister is not present I am willing to respond to any queries made by the Member to this Ministry. I am waiting for a summary of requests for me to respond to whilst the Hon Prime Minister is away, with respect.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILIILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow a response from Government before an opportunity will be given.

I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.2.

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**Tofa Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili (Aana Alofi No.2):** Mr Speaker I move with respect, I feel for the Member taking the floor since he has been given a lot of interruptions. I humbly request if possible, to allow the Member another extra hour. With respect, thank you.

*Seconded by the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Since it is not usual practice for the House to give an additional hour, and problems seems to initiate from the Member moving the motion and therefore are usually the ones wishing to prolong the time for these speeches. This is the why I do not permit.

I call on the Member to conclude his speech for his time is up.

*Motion was not approved.*

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker I have divided my speech and the first half has concluded now I will speak upon the Appropriation. I humbly ask for a Fire Emergency Unit for Fagalii airport. The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment I humbly ask that you review the contractors in charge of rubbish disposal; I have noticed that they do not have safety gear to do this work.

I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance for the tabling Appropriation before the House. I believe you were born to do great things.

The Appropriation according to previous Members affirms that they are satisfied whilst I am not. Why? It states a deficit of \$12 million. Where will this \$12 million be paid? Where is the payment established? Any business once you earn the profits you are set. If we look at the Budget it states this \$12 million. Where is this amount allocated to? This is just an opinion in relation to the Budget but I am grateful to the Hon Minister for preparations starting from when you first came into office, I believe it is not an easy task especially for the Chief Executive and the Ministry in trying to assess each Ministry's request. I am grateful for the work and pray the Lord for blessings upon you all. Although my question here is, where will we get this amount if we were to pray to the Lord? The Member for Vaimauga East is a spiritual person like the theme made by the Hon Minister, the "Right Path." What does this mean? Where is the love? There are some people who are brave and calm but overlook compassion. Why not rephrase it as, path of love because if you choose with compassion no one is disappointed.

That is the view Hon Minister of Finance and hopefully this \$12 million will not be used for something else.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. The time of the Member is now over.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I now conclude with respect to Members of the House by voicing an issue faced by the public and is affecting this Parliament and its Proceedings carried out in the House. This is the taxation imposed on the Church Ministers. What now? Well we have seen and heard Government's response. In plea Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Member, I am not trying to stop you from voicing an opinion. Nevertheless, I want to remind the Member that the legislation has already been given the Houses' approval. Therefore, I appease the Member for such comments and conclude your speech.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** This is what I am worried about, these are matters that have already been considered and passed. Therefore, whatever the opinion given it is made in relation to the Bills considered by the House. This is the humble request of us Members. What now? I humbly pray the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy that this is the reason why you are both leading our Parliament. It is to have overall consent on the decisions made reflective of the plans set forth by Government.

I apologize for any misconduct of this constituency nevertheless problems arise from within us. The matter was brought forward so we can consult and make decisions and pass the laws by uphold its principles. I pray that the Hon Prime Minister be brave in leading our country well.

The Deputy Prime Minister everyone is aware that within a family there is always a loving mother giving advises to the head of the family which goes the same for the Leader of this country. Nevertheless, there are also the Cabinet Ministers who should be making the task easier. If we look at some of the decisions carried out by the Ministers when they are done poorly, who is blamed? It is the Leader of the country and Members of Parliament I recommend that Ministers be more considerate. If I look at the way the cars owned by Associate Ministers go, they speed like the motorcycles driven by the Land Transport Authority.

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

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it seems the Member has been speaking for an hour and still he has not concluded. I appease the Member let the Ministers respond to the various queries made, I feel for the Member because it seems when he first came into the House he was 7 feet. Now he looks to have shrunk to 5 feet. This is what happens from carrying all the problems this will only contribute to hypertension and shorten your life. Do not take seriously such simple matters.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member I will call on the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papalii Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker if the Member is not respectful then I humbly recommend that such comments be set aside. It is not appropriate especially with the country listening saying that the problem was created by us Ministers. He has praised the Lord which is inappropriate; also what he said about the Ministers should be removed from official proceedings. With respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the Member.

**Afioga SULAMANIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker I will now conclude.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member since...

**Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki:** Mr Speaker I do not want to interrupt the speech by the Member but considering that inappropriate comments has been it seems to be directed to others. The Member has mentioned Associate Ministers and it seems he is making fun of us, I recommend the Member to keep his teachings and take it home to his family. As one elder said, one Member cannot teach another. Bless our proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you.

**Afioga SULAMANIA FETAIAI TUIVASA:** This constituency will now conclude its speech.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member but this is exactly what I was worried about, I have already told you to be mindful of our time. Nevertheless, you have ignored the advice by the Chair but there will come a time to consider such matters. The reason why I gave the Member opportunity was I thought the Member for Faleata was giving him a handkerchief because he was crying. Nevertheless, this was not the case, I recommend the Member refrain from further comments and to conclude his speech.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** The Hon Prime Minister it was you who stated that the Captain of the ship is the first to suspect if the ship is going to sink. I am not sure if the Hon Prime Minister has watched the movie Titanic, when the ship sunk it was the Captain that first jumped out, why? He was afraid. It is the Captain that knows all.

Also Susuga Mulipola Laki this is not the behavior of someone supporting the Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I am confused what Titanic movie the Member watched. It seems he was watching the wrong titanic. We all know that the Captain stayed on his ship when it went down; I ask the Member not make a fool of us.

**MR SPEAKER:** The time for the Member is now complete.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I pray blessings be upon proceedings of the House and to the people of our country listening in, I ask for forgiveness if this Member have overstepped. Also to whomever who has been hurt because of comments voiced, we were chosen by the Lord to give advice and not to show off.

This is why Susuga Mulipola an Associate Minister does not answer back. The Member should be happy that I am supporting the Appropriation put forth by the Hon Minister. God bless the Hon Speaker and to Members of this side of the House in Jesus name, Amen.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, it seems the conclusion of your speech does not relate to the meaning of your name, you are trying to make trouble. Nevertheless, the time is now up, I apologize to the Hon Minister of Works for taking the floor.

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This is not unusual to happen within proceedings there are times when some Members try and make jokes but are aware of the Almighty judgment. If the other side commits a wrong doing I hope the other does the right on the judgment of Members of Parliament. The floor is now open for anyone...

I call on the Member of Salega East.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I pray that you use this humble person to convey your will. Therefore, whoever shall interject does so to your Holy name, Amen.

Mr Speaker I move with respect to voice an opinion of this constituency for Salega East. I believe praises of thanks has already been voiced to the Lord above especially for his guidance and giving us strength to be here today.

Mr Speaker I will not reiterate the respects of Samoa both spiritual and cultural also political. I believe Samoa is a country already chosen therefore its lands is scared together with its salutations. I humbly greet le Usoga o Tumua and Pule.

The respects of my constituency I will not reiterate you in all your honorary salutations, I pray for your support while I voice an opinion in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 and the Supplementary Appropriation 2017/2018.

Mr Speaker first of all I want to voice an opinion in relation to the theme of the Budget. As mentioned by some of the Members the theme stated is quite unique, "the right path."

Although personally I think it would be better if it was, "calm path." If these two sayings are explained they have different meanings. If the path is calm, the decision will be done carefully also with consideration and honest and transparent. If it is the right pathway there will come a time when the decision is made wrongly.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker such statements should be clarified further. The Member should have listened carefully on the day the Hon Minister gave his speech. This was exactly what the Hon Minister was clarifying.

The meaning stated by the Member differs from what the Minister stated. This is why it is important to listen when the speech is made because I saw that you were reading. It is important to listen to the words spoken because nowadays there are several mistakes made with the use of apostrophes.



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This is the same with the address given it is missing apostrophes and it is the reason why some people have mistaken the meaning of the word. Therefore, it is important to listen carefully when the address has been made by the Minister. I was looking at you that day the address was made and saw that you were reading, the other time I saw that you were sleeping. The speech was well said and informative.

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

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** We are the same even though it seems that I am sleeping but I am listening intently to the opinions of Members within the House.

Nevertheless, Mr Speaker the view of Salega correlates to that of Safotulafai on the Appropriation tabled. The meaning of this statement is, the Member for Safotulafai mentioned that the budget is not clearly stated, this is our view as well. Mr Speaker I personally believe that this is not the amount of money that we should have earned. It should be more maybe twice the amount stated of revenue earned within the country alone apart from grants from overseas and loans.

What I mean Hon Mr Speaker, this is matter made towards the Ministry of Revenue who are in charge of this task. I am grateful for the work especially to the Hon Minister and Ministry in acquiring more revenue. If I look at the allocation of taxes brought into the Ministry there is one area where most of the profits are earned, this is from the tax collected from companies which has been increased.

If we look at the taxes of overseas goods brought into the country and the VAGST the rate is the same. The duty tax of overseas goods brought into the country last year was \$56 million, the Ministry is now planning to collect tax for the year 2018/2019 on overseas goods separate from the \$145 million duty which will now be increased.

Mr Speaker if we look at the increasing pace of businesses within the country I am certain everyone already knows it. The revenue earned is not equal to the many businesses developed especially with the Chinese partners who have set up business in the country. There seems to be an *increase in business although the revenue is still the same unless the containers bringing in people's goods enter the country through the harbor then this will be right.* Whether it comes in through the wharf, but these taxes are not collected as stated in the Appropriation then this number will be accurate.

Mr Speaker this opinion is made for reconsideration on the matter to the Hon Minister to overlook these issues, with respect.

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Secondly Mr Speaker I want to voice an opinion to the Minister of Revenue regarding the duties of the Prisons department. I want to thank the contractor and the Project Manager in charge of the work carried out. I can see the work carried out has been done exceptionally, Afioga Alaiasa and Afioga Vui well done. The only issue that I can see in the work carried out is how slow the process has been since the start of the project. I thank the Project Manager for the clarification hence there is no further funds allocated for phase two of this project in the Appropriation. Majority of the money for the project has been used for the final progress. At the beginning there was a lot of conflict in the country on this matter but it is the fault of the Ministry. This is the only multi million project that does not have a master plan. If I were to query the progress of this project, I would expect the Project Manager for the contractor and a Clerk of works working for Government or the Prisons Corrections Services. At the moment both tasks are being carried out by Afioga Vui and therefore the planning of the project is not properly done. This is the reason why there are so many queries on this project. If there was a master plan Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House these variations would not have been questioned. This is the cause of much conflict, I want to remind our Ministers to follow guidelines when doing such projects.

Mr Speaker I now come to the Minister in charge of our market just a few recommendations. I was standing at the market observing the farmers coming into the market. I witnessed that the actual farmers had to ask for a space to sell their goods to the middle farmers within the market.

As for the cost perhaps they only have to pay \$6 or \$10 a day but everything like power and water is free. This seems to be the habit of these people to occupy the market but this is not the main purpose of the market. It was established for the farmers to sell their produce. I raise this matter for the Hon Minister's review.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I normally make my rounds at the market to observe the farmers and their produce from taro farmers, banana farmers, farmers selling cabbages and pumpkins and even those selling flowers for bouquets. I have not seen a farmer sitting outside in the sun selling their produce. I am not sure what the Member is talking about nevertheless this is also the reason why the market at Vaitele was sold because there were barely any farmers.

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I am not sure what the Member means on finding a space in the market to sell goods, I have been there and there seems to be a lot of free space and therefore I am confused. The Member is only complaining and tends to find flaws in everything. It is significant to provide facts on raising matters in order to support your argument. I do not know who you have been asking and questioning regarding this matter but it is important that you state your opinions with backup evidence. The Member mentioned a plan, well there is already a Master Plan perhaps soon you will find out the results in the meantime, this is the Cabinet's process on tender for now which sets out the entire plan and design and the schedule of the work that will be carried out. Also the Cabinet has already entrusted someone to overlook the project which is a professional civil engineer. This is also the same person who was in charge of the renovations for the 2014 conference which included this House that we now have our Sittings. Therefore, I know your view is vital however, to complain about is unacceptable. The Minister will clarify further in due time.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member to move on to another matter.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** I will now try and clarify the matter to the Hon Prime Minister. The plan that was put forward was the plan for the building but the master plan has yet to be submitted. However, I will now move on to another matter.

Another matter Mr Speaker...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I want to follow up on the matter. What do you mean by Master plan? What plans do you mean? We are following the plan already set out. Does the Member want a master, master, master plan? This is the plan put forth to the tenders' board that includes all professional engineers of Government who are experts in this area. You are not a civil engineer and yet you are criticizing the work of qualified engineers. There was a year when one of the Members complained to the Minister regarding NPF, saying that I should resign because there are people taking out entitlements because they are sick.

I respectfully responded to the Member, you are a plumber therefore your expertise lies in the field of plumbing alone. When considering cases concerning illness only doctors can give an analysis. Therefore, all those who have taken out entitlements are sick based on the doctor's report.

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This means if we were to find out if a person is sick the only person who can give a clear explanation is the doctor. If a problem arises concerning toilets the Member should be the one to oversee this area. This is how things work; it is based on your area of expertise which is also where decisions are implemented. If you meet someone who is going to die, then the Member should just tell them to die peacefully and withdraw their NPF.

As for the Member questioning the engineers this is not your area since you are not one. This is also an aspect respected by the Tenders Committee. The Tenders Board Committee includes the Minister of Works, Minister of Finance and engineers. That's what they talk about. Here you are talking about engineering matters when that's what the engineers recite off the top of their heads. But it's good that you bring these up and we listen because it just reaffirms the kind of Member of Parliament that you are, bless your speech.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call on the Member and to move onto another matter.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you for the blessings. I will find time to discuss the difference to this matter. Although one of the engineers had told me about this concern, never mind. But I do have some knowledge on this profession other than the Ministers in the Committee; I do not believe they fully understand what they are doing.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member, I call on the Minister of Revenue.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker I thank the Member for asking about this matter. The plan for the prison started at the time of Sala as the Minister, which had the design lay out of the new facilities for the Tanumalala Prison. The land where the buildings were expected to be constructed was too rocky. As for the Clerk of works the Government did not have enough funds for another person so the Project Manager was in charge of everything. Also there are already representatives from Committee of the Ministry of Works, Ministry of Finance the Attorney General and engineers in charge of drafting the designs of the project. Our objective is to complete the work since it is not a small project also the progress is based on the funds provided by the Ministry of Finance since we are funding this project.

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Nevertheless, the draft of design will be submitted... as for the master plan suggesting that involves qualified people in this area should be included, why should we pay more for a Clerk when the Project Manager can take care of the work. There is already a representative of the Ministry of Works.

With questions about the Clerk of Works, the government doesn't have enough money to fund it. My only question is that has there been a variation from the Contractor that's taken the cost higher than the initial cost of the project which is \$7.14 million? You see, you are beating around the bush but that's the gist of your queries. This is the only project where you have included a Clerk of Works and an engineer in the Finance Committee but I'm grateful you have done that to prove that there was no connection between myself and how this tender was handled. My question, is there an additional funding approved by Cabinet to complete this \$7.14 million project which is 98 per cent completed? I guess if it weren't my brother who is doing the work, we would have been faced with a massive variation cost due to the rocky condition of where the project is being built.

I see that the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee is trying to take the floor.

**Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Chairperson Finance and Expenditure Committee):** Mr Speaker I humbly ask for a minute of your time.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

**Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau:** The matter in query if there was an additional fund to the \$7.4 million. We have been constantly debating the matter concerning the new prison building maybe because of the Ministers relations. In relation to funds there was no additional fund but we were able to save \$200,000 from the allocated \$7.6 million only \$7.4 million was used. Therefore, part of the total fund was used for variations implemented. It seems that our visit has been questioned but we respect the word of the Prime Minister, do not take rumors to heart, if you want to know something stand up and go see for yourself. As the saying goes Toma only believed when he saw it. I acknowledge the hard work and progress already seen for the prison project. This is a brief clarification of the matter hence the Chairperson will elaborate further on this matter another time when opportunity is given. Thank you for the opportunity.

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

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I believe there is another meaning behind these comments nevertheless every major Government project is tendered. After the tender process it is then submitted to the Tenders Committee comprising of all Government engineers for their evaluation to determine whether these tenders are in line with the project design. Every aspect should be evaluated and investigated. The Committee awaits a decision from the engineers for weeks during consideration. Therefore, these bids are evaluated in detail by the Committee consisting of engineers, lawyers and the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Finance. After evaluation a decision is made by Committee to approve the most appropriate company for the approval of the Cabinet. It is the rule of Cabinet for Members to inform us whether there is a conflict of interest with the contractor. It is important to know this so it will not affect the decision of the Cabinet in relation to conflict of interest.

Mr Speaker this is how the decision is made hence the person chosen for the project has already worked on several other Government construction projects. Mr Speaker I am aware that during the tender of the project that some people have been talking of the contract being biased. Although it is not true since we have been following protocol on acquiring a contractor. Nevertheless, the Government would not give the contract to a company that will only leave the Government in debt. I still hear people complaining about the contractor chosen OTT Construction being chosen time and time again. How do you see the work already done? The work done by OTT construction is really good. Mr Speaker this suggests the complaint made to the Minister also affects the Leader of Government and eleven other Ministers and their competencies. Mr Speaker this is a clarification on the matter nevertheless I recommend that such rumors and accusations be set aside. We are all aware of the process that was carried out and some have seen it to believe it.

Mr Speaker this is an opinion on the matter furthermore I recommend that Members try not to rely on spreading rumors.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker with respect I move to comment on the query made by the Member who spoke recently. It seems the comment made by the Member is made towards me and Afioga Sili, the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Tenders Committee. I just want to understand the question it looks like he is emphasizing the engineers.

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For clarification of the Member the lawyers have already allowed us given that we have qualifications. Both Sili and I have engineering qualifications furthermore we are following guidelines of how the tender is carried out. I believe the complaint made by the Member is either made towards Afioga Tialavea or us. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe the matter is now understood with the clarification given by Government and the Minister as well. The Hon Prime Minister has also clarified certain aspects. There is not one area that will be affected but everyone including the Tenders Board, the Cabinet decision and a conflict of interest to the contractor.

These issues may arise but are gradually resolved. The Hon Minister has clarified the issue and made it clear that there is no conflict of interest with the contractor.

I appease the Member but there are certain rumors which we should not believe. As leaders of Parliament we should not be easily swayed by such rumors, as our elders believed such words can destroy something good. This is why I recommend to the Member to move away from this matter hence we should portray a confident persona for our people. The Member shall continue his speech in tomorrow's sitting, you have two more minutes.

We have arrived at our usual recess hour this afternoon. I will give the opportunity back to the Member once we return for our next session at 3pm today.

I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside until 3pm this evening.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1:01pm and resumed at 3:00pm.*

*Debates continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and Appropriation Bill 2018/2018.*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed.

Upon returning from our recess I trust that we have gained renewed strength from that break. Proceedings were set aside at 1:00pm when the Member for Salega East was giving his speech.

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I now call on the honorable Member to conclude his statement and you have two minutes.

**Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Mr Speaker I stand with utmost respect to move a motion, *That 10 minutes must be added to the Member please.* Thank you.

*Seconded by the Member for Faasalelega No.2.*

*Approval was not granted by the Chamber.*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member has two minutes, you may continue.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to continue with my remarks on the Appropriation Bill. Mr Speaker I shall not cover the matters that have already been address and understood as the nation are listening and judging our deliberations. I know that the things I want to say can be covered in my 10 minutes remaining. I will start with the Hon Minister of Communication, Information Technology.

Mr Speaker everyone understands the state of our Broadband as mentioned by some members. It started with US\$23 million and as we went along appropriations have been provided in every Budget with the hope that it will simplify communications between government Ministries and Organizations. But also to slash the costs of usage within the country. However, Mr Speaker It now seems that the main objective when this was established is now completely altered to the notion of it to be commercialize. It is my recommendation Mr Speaker based on the mistake selling SamoaTel. At the time we did advise to go steady on our infrastructure and to lease it to companies. I will again say to the Minister to reconsider his stance as our Broadband has been very expensive.

Mr Speaker, to the Hon Minister of Finance. The honorable Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 advised you to find capital. My recommendation and of Salega East is to collect our funds as we have a lot yet to be done so. Sir if I may draw your attention to our Development Bank where a lot of my constituents applied for loans and have been approved but were told that they are dealing with it on a case by case basis. As they acquire funds a loan is paid out.



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I need clarification as well as my constituency on the loan of \$53 million back in 2012 that was given to Aggies Hotel. As of now I think there has been only two or three part payments made. I ask as the Hotel has now been sold, what conditions was the loan based on Hon Minister. \$53 million is quite a substantial amount of money. This, is not \$530,000 or \$53 and I have so much sympathy towards the general public being chased down for \$1000, \$2000, \$3000 yet \$53million is being carried. I need an explanation from the Hon Minister.

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

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** This argument is not new, it is an old one and I guess it is close to 40 years since this argument on promoting the developments that generate the most revenue. If we cannot secure our foreign reserves for trade which is a challenge for every organization of government due to the general opinion that a lot of money had gone into a particular development hence, we cannot ignore the reality that it is happening. What is now happening is the tourism industry is connected to every sector including Hotels. I would think that it is going on to \$400 million of our revenue has been generated from here which goes into our economy with enough to buy our import products. So this development cannot exist on its own. Every development connects to bring about tourism.

It is the reason for our policies, particularly with financial institutions promoting the tourism industry in Samoa because of the massive amount of money that generates from it. Particularly the traveler that likes to go around the place buying things and it is the reason behind the government plan to build certain developments to prolong their stay. It is pointless for a tourist to arrive today and leave tomorrow. We need tourist that will stay for a week so that when he/she leaves Samoa our people have emptied their pockets by selling them baby coconuts when visiting the rural areas, paying for rental cars and dining at restaurants. So that dollar is circulating around the country. It is the reason the government continues its support and deferring the hitting hand of the banks. It even reaches myself and Cabinet, that the provision must be taken and issue them with liquidation. What we are cautious of is the 100s of people employed here that will suffer as their church parishes depends on them to provide money offering for the church minister.

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It will also affect the schooling of their children, providing for their families and the family occasions from time to time. Although it is said that the development is going broke the government has injected massive assistance and similarly they are offering great support and the widespread benefits around the country cannot be denied.

The desire to promote this industry has led us to establishing an airline because if there is no airline not a great number of people will visit Samoa and being in partnership with other developments to promote tourism to visit us. It is also why we went ahead with improving the airport so that the arrival lounge is in good standards and there are retail stores for people from overseas to buy things allowing our shop owners at the airport to flourish

Mr Speaker, there is currently a load of financial hiccup in which this industry is throwing their weight behind. As of now, the total GDP which is accumulated profits of all businesses and everyone including government employees operating the economy is \$2 billion and \$200 million. That is the total amount and there is a system in which the bankers in financial institutions ascertain the funds to circulate within our economy. But the bulk of this money comes from the tourism industry generating the most money for our economy and its development. These loans are bound to the borrower's assets. There are times when people approach me for assistance in which I would ask if they have sufficient assets. If so why are you being bullied when you have enough assets which the bank can tender to cover what you owe.

Mr Speaker there are not many macro businesses owners in our country and they are the ones the government rely on when it comes to tax. They pay the most tax, it is through their employees and the various parts of their service. Mr Speaker that is how things are, I guess if we were harsh in implementing the provisions most businesses would be closed down. It is why people are making a fuss about promoting local businesses as there is evidently a lot of foreigners now operating businesses. It is the reason which the government and its State own Enterprise avoids applying their heavy hand instead it is allowing our people opportunities. Give our people the break to grow their establishment, to whatever length of time but do give them time. If this endeavor with the airplane succeeds resulting with another airplane, then another that is when great assistance will assist these people and will result in them being able to quickly pay off their loans. Mr Speaker that is my assistance to the matter.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I trust the matter has been noted by the Member in reference to the query put forth. I suggest that you conclude your speech as the Hon Prime Minister has clarified the matter.

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**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, now I do not doubt the service from this industry as it has been around for a long time. That was my concern and now it has been clarified. I had thought that some of that money from the selling of this asset would go to the Development Bank.

Anyhow I will wrap up my remarks with this one issue. Mr Speaker I gather that every sum of money that comes in and indicated in the Budget is government funds. What is actually receive by the government are grants and loans or any other source of monetary is clarified in the budget. I want to ask the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries as to why the funds collected from the fishing activities within our coastal waters is not mentioned in the government accounts. I note that from 5 years ago or more there has been no clarification of this money in the budget. Sir if that maybe the case it simply means the government is not getting this money.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg pardon to the honorable Member, but I will grant this opportunity to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** The Member's time is up so therefore, I will respond to the Member's query when it is my time to respond in the Government Responses.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the discretion of the Hon Minister, therefore I urge the Honorable Member to conclude your speech.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you, it is my modest view that all government finances should be accounted in the budget otherwise it raises questions such as, what will it be used for? Where will it be deposited? These are the kind of queries that comes up once this area becomes blurry.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I recognize the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, these people are the same as our fishermen. They go out to fish after registering with us then sell their catch to the market. Why would their profits be mention in our budget, when these boats license is the thing that matters here?

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These licenses comes under, I guess you have not seen it. I am surprised that you have not yet you are in the Public Accounts Committee. It has been 14 or 15 years and you do not understand. That is where our money comes from, the license fees under the Ministry which receives license fees. But with fish, it is their catch and it comes under our country exports in which we receive revenue. Mind you that foreign exchange comes in and goes out again, it comes and go. The actual money comes from the public who sell their crops like bananas, selling water which comes under the water accounts statement, now the revenues from water will not be given out here. Do you follow? I am shocked as you have been here for a long time yet you do not understand. The farmers' income is not disclosed here, why would that be? It is their own money. They go to town and sell the fruits of their labor. The consumers travel in taxis and the taxi owner get its income. They eat out in restaurants and that provides income for the restaurateur. No restaurateur will come and disclose its earnings to us, we have no business with them. Our buses would make round trips to the rural areas and baby coconuts are sold. That is income for the baby coconuts seller. Mr Speaker if I were to elaborate on these things I would go on and on and on. But that is a brief explanation just to give a fair idea but the Minister will cover it in detail when it is his turn.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before you take the floor I want to caution you that your time is up. It is best that you wrap up your remarks as the explanation from the Leader of the House has clarified the matter. Perhaps when the Minister of Agriculture gets his turn he will cover the point of concern. I ask the member for Salega East, conclude now as your time is up in accordance to our Standing Orders.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you I have one sentence to end my speech. The registration of boats under the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure is similar to money claimed for Airspace. Mr Speaker I now understand about the funds in question. That is our speech, thank you God for using me today to be the mouthpiece of your will. Whomever objected me that is your will to decide what to do with them, may we have a constructive debate.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the Leader of the House.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, in 1983, this party initiated a policy which we are still observing. That is all HRPP members are to speak for 30 minutes, and no party member is to move a motion for additional time. Once that happens I, the Minister for Finance will have my scissors out and not allow it. If an HRPP member rises to do the same for an opposition member, my scissors will be particularly razor sharp. The reason being is to speed things up so we may pass the budget and get on with things as the public are waiting for projects to be done. It is due to the major problems we are encountering such as climate change, earthquakes and cyclones and hot air from global warming.

That is why this policy was instigated, so we may contribute to maintain global warming. On that note, the new members may be exempted as they are not aware of the party policy to disallow motions for additional time. When your 30 minutes is up, that is it for you. One must wait for the budget to be deliberated in detail items. This kind of motion was applied to the member for Faasaleleaga, Nu 2, which he duly understands. He made an error of judgement when he failed to respectfully decline the motion and to say that his remarks is done. Anyhow the member for Faasaleleaga Nu 2 now understands and may I say now to our party members to do away with moving motions for additional time. The only people which this is accorded to are Ministers which can speak at length for hours as it is vital that they elaborate on issues which were raised for the understanding of this Assembly and the country at large. That is the policy, it is not about showing discontent towards you, yet you have cursed us and we all said no you. But this policy was set up when you were in primary, yet to reach standards that is my assistance.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you to Leader of the House, I too am in shock of the set motion. Anyway the matter is now clarified, the floor is open for any member whom wishes to speak.

I call on the member for Gagaemauga No.3.

**Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers:** I rise to comment on the Prime Minister's statement about the motion. May I say that it is rather difficult for me and I take into consideration the mutual respect as this guy sits next to me. I note that he has quite a bit on his list. But thank you for the clarification oh and the other thing is, we are both from Savaii. Aopo and Salega are brothers

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Everything is well elaborated thank you to all speaking members and the clarified speech about HRPP by the Leader of the House. Another thing is the legislation given on the state of urgency for the sake of Government projects and works which is also the current intention. This is the chance for another member.

I call on the member for Palauli.

**Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISUAO PALEMENE (Palauli East):** Thank you Mr Speaker, members of this Assembly and Samoa tuning in, I wish to contribute to the Budget Statement 2018/2019. I ask for the support of my constituency as I deliver our contribution for the intentions of a prosperous economy.

Mr Speaker I will not repeat the traditional honorifics of Samoa which have been voiced by my fellow parliamentarians. The Main Estimates 2018/2019 progresses accordingly given its objectives, Brave Decision which is the purpose of this acknowledgement.

Mr Speaker, I wish to note some of the old submissions I raised in the previous Main Budget Address 2016/2017 and some new ones. I trust we are in the presence of some of the Government heads and the requests put forward in the commencement of this Parliamentary term. Only this, I hope consideration is being made for the sake of this constituency.

I acknowledge the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for the ongoing major projects to counter the effects of climate change including the partnership between Vailoa I Palauli and Vaitoomuli with reforestation.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat):** Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member for Palauli East, I recognize the representative from the Urban Seat East.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Mr Speaker, I really do not want to interrupt the address by the member, but the thing is, that side of chambers are currently running the government. They do not need to voice their opinions and wishes. All they need to do is to prepare their list and pass it to a Minister and a response should be given right there. Instead allow us the opportunity after all the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee and two fellow members are here with us. Our Budget must pass with respect.

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance and may I make reference to our Standing Orders which allows the Associate Ministers to speak. Your point has merits so I ask that the address be brief, you understand everything here.

**Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISUAO PALEMENE:** Thank you. The most important thing here is the sense of gratitude.

I requested the development of a seawall for the village of Faala. Vailoa and Vaitoomuli which have been done in the past, it is just Faala left.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I commend you on becoming the newest lawyer of this Assembly. We did visit the sports field and the school buildings of the district school of Palauli. So I guess then you have the insight into what needs to be done. I appreciate listening to this year's supplementary appropriations.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, my appreciations for the road at Vaitoomuli now complete. I applaud your fairness in allocating the resources. I guess you're the only Minister with justness when it comes to distribution. Perhaps it is because you are a matai from Savai'i. Well done, it's just parts of the roads at Vailoa and Vaitoomuli now left to be done which completes the projects that I have been urging for during this term. Let me remind the Minister about the bridge at Vailoa which is over 40 years. What it needs is a survey or an inspection for the sake of the travelling public. Because if an accident occurs government service will be blame.

To the Ministry of Health, my appreciations firstly to the Hon Minister of Health for the first phase of the work on the District Hospital at Satupaitea, Palauli and Palauli le Falefa. This statement pertains to the community of Palauli East, from Faala, Vaitoomuli and Vailoa. The first phase of this project is now complete and was financed by the government of Japan. We need to come together and solidly support this vital project for the wellbeing of everyone in our constituency. I must record my gratitude towards the chief builder and the health committee of our three villages. Secondly to my friend the Minister of Health. The district hospital at Tuasivi do not provide food for the patients that are admitted. I will ask, what the policy is on food for the general public being admitted at hospitals. I understand that the food supply for the hospital at Motootua is funded with appropriations from the budget. The food that is supplied for Tuasivi is done by the relatives of those admitted and their carers. Would you please look into this issue? My stance is to promote equal opportunities for everyone. What is good for Upolu should also be good for Savaii.

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To the Ministry of Agriculture, your management team have done their inspection. We need a few tunnel houses for our farms. I believe that water is a major source in Vailoa Palauli and this part of the country. I feel that if vegetable gardens are done here, the water supply would be most welcoming.

To the Office of Tourism, well done to the Hon Minister and the lady Chief Executive, for we are now into the second phase of our waterfall development in which we are in partnership with New Zealand and the United Nations. I am also pleased with your decision to bring to Savaii the Miss Samoa pageant contestants.

Mr Speaker, I have voiced my appreciations and support for the Supplementary Appropriation 2018/2019 I do believe that you sir and particularly the Hon. Prime Minister and Cabinet have the even-handed approach to appropriate this budget.

To my beloved constituency thank you for your prayerful support. May we have a constructive deliberation.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well done to the member for Palauli East, the constituency have heard you well, I appreciate your sticking to the time frame, it is being supportive of my role. I call on the honorable member from Falefa.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaau Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoama'a East):** Mr Speaker, my speech had almost erred because you failed to address me correctly. I am the member for Anoama'a East which consists of Falefa and Lufilufi. You have ruined my speech before I have even started.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Anoama'a East will now take the floor, gather your thoughts well. It is quite alright, please go on, the member for Anoama'a East.

**Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East):** Our sitting today has been of mixed behavior. Mr Speaker, you are our guiding star, the leading star of this Assembly. I gather that the Speaker has handed over the duties to you so I wish you well in the conducting of our proceedings.



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I believe that today the leaders of the country have come together as representatives of Samoa in this Assembly. Some have said that the country is united, but I am of the belief that they are unanimous that we be their representatives to make a contribution to our God for Samoa rendering support and silently praying for their representatives striving for the prosperity of Samoa.

Praise and thankfulness to our God for we believe that He is the source of all the things we have. He is the Creator and we are mere worthless servants. Our aspirations and hopes would be worthless if it were not for the compassionate love of the Almighty God in Heaven. Therefore, thank you God for steering Samoa's ship this year. It has been six months of smooth sailing without a glitch due to God's mercy.

Greetings to the general public tuning in, which are the royal families and the oratory group of Tumua and Pule listening in from their homes.

I also acknowledge the chosen servants of God constantly in prayer for our spiritual wellbeing. As long as we are in that state our aspirations will be seen. Thank you for your prayers and support which is the source of prosperousness and peace in our country. This is one of the aspects which a leader looks out for which is peace among its people. As our country is in today. If we look elsewhere in the world there is constant war and chaos, what is Samoa like?

It is the foundation set down by our fore fathers whom have passed on and we are still attach to it and we are evidently seeing the countless blessings from God upon us.

I will also use this opportunity to acknowledge our Reverend Elder whom we are saying farewell to this week. He is a stalwart of the Good-word and has reach the pension age. It has been 40 years of service within the village of Falefa. Reverend Mauala, we appreciate your bravery you are a stalwart of the Good-word. We wish you well and may Gods mercy be upon you in your future calling.

This month marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church College at Piula, which is on land that was given under the authority of Alaiasa and Lufilufi. May I say to the President of the church and the Principal of the Theological College, I wish you well. I am glad that the lands of this constituency has been put to good use in preparing the spiritual souls of future church ministers. It is the reason for the constituency receiving blessings for our land is being use for the progress of the Methodist Church. My well wishes on your celebrations. I think you Mr Speaker was in the Standing Committee but you have lost that post. That is our contribution to the denomination and its festivities.

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Thank you to my constituency for your support and prayers. You all understand that I am there everyday meeting with you. Yes. It is important for us to keep our connection since your support is solid. It is your prayers that keeps me well. And I am referring to the honorific salutations pertaining to the Sa Fenunuivao family and Sa Alaiasa family, the royal son, the two Matua and the sustained heritage within the Kings domain. It is the families of Kings, the Sa Tupua which has lineage to all of Samoa, thank you for your prayers and support.

I also acknowledge my village of Lufilufi, the salutations pertaining to the house of six and their council as you are the Tumua. According to Lufilufi folklore after God created Adam and Eve Lufilufi came after hence they are the initial Tumua. Therefore, I ask for your support whilst I deliver our contribution on the subject now before this Assembly.

I just want to make a small comment on the budget. I have heard some of my colleagues touching on some flaws within the contents. Traditionally, when a fishing trip is to embark, there is a saying which cautions one not to be deceived by the calmness of the morning tide. Since sometimes it may seem clear at the surface but underneath there is a current. That is how we view this Supplementary Estimates. With most of the Ministries the budgets must start with revenue before going on to appropriation.

If you read this Supplementary Estimates, you will find that 2017 is the same as 2018. I do not know how to, but if a learned person interprets it, this government is at a standstill. I say this because in 2018 revenues increased by 6.3%. This year there is nothing made. The private sector are waiting on this budget document, and so as the business community, and the people are waiting on it. Is there anything in it for development? Does it contain anything that will create jobs? Is there anything to build on? We see it with much disappointment and it is our view that it does not show any sign of progress. Mr Speaker these are called constructive arguments. We are not complaining, but it seems like it is a cut and paste scenario applied here. As there are times when the CEO prepares things for the Minister, and even with the speech. The Minister will just carry on with it not knowing the flaws within the budget and the speech that is delivered. Therefore, we should be conscious of that when preparing these things.

I have also noted within government some heads of ministries have resigned only to return back to the service. This is after declaring that they will be starting another life of developing their families. It is like they cannot adapt to anything else and if this is the kind of thinking brought into our government we will only be dealing with old ideas, nothing new.

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There are people that are in government services now that are able to provide service yet when they leave the public service they become lost and have no sense of bearing. We should reconsider as many of these people have advised on changes to the ministries these are the very people that recommended this change. Down the line they came back and said forget that and remerge this. Where has our hospital got to, for it seems that it is taking the old approach of operations. Let us look at the small things which is ruining our ambitions.

Mr Speaker my remarks on behalf of Anoama'a East will be brief. I will not repeat myself on the requirements for our constituency because it will anger the Minister. To my constituency, I have whispered and spoke to the Minister regarding our humble demands to develop our community. I applaud the many members speaking of roads. Some speak of roads that needs upgrading. It has been 56 years since this constituency has had its road done. It is why I propose to the Minister to be fair in allocating the wealth of the nation. To take into consideration this side of the country, our constituency of Anoama'a East if suitable to their kingly distribution.

To the Hon Minister of Health please bear in mind our district hospital. If you do have time for us at your office, a delegation from my constituency could meet with you and share some important aspects for our region. The villages from Aleipata towards Solosolo use the service of this hospital at Lufilufi. I ask you to please look at this issue again. The one aspect that is badly needed is someone to provide a 24hour service for the people of the district to turn to in critical cases of emergency before they are brought to Moto'otua.

Our village has a solution to the issue that caused controversy regarding the leasing of land. It really created a climate of chaos in our county. I went to our village fono and said to the council, we should make a decision now. No land of Falefa is to be lease to anyone who intends to start a development here. That is the solution, it is the authority of the chiefs and orators that has prompted this solution in light of the concern that caused much controversy within the country. In other words, whoever attempts to lease land in the future will be dealt with. That should end the commotion about investors coming here, and it should be up to other villages to decide what they want. As with our village, we have made our decision. Respectfully sir.

The quarrels on the internet kind undermines our peace. Some of the comments and opinions as we know are unfounded. I advise those of us that are into this, since not all of us are involve but some of our colleagues in parliament are and they should not be concern about it.

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They are minute insects that makes small sounds and all of a sudden it ends. When we recognize this it will give us a hard time. Isaiah chapter 24:17 says, "Fear and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth." Therefore, if you seek the Lord, you will be safe in His mercy. Do not be concern with such things, they are trivial, nonsense and a waste of time. Believe me when I say that it will backfire on the perpetrators.

All of a sudden we will see them walking unsteadily along the road. A curse will be upon them. I say that because this country is sacred and there is mana. It is not a country without protocol but customs and traditions. Authority should not be forced onto the matai's of this country.

I also want to touch on the subject of crypto currency as mentioned by one of the members. I suggest to the Minister to stay away from this as it is uncertain. If someone comes and sell you computer money and you take your real currency and show it to the world outside. That is the difference, they will deceive you with promises of large returns, all in words from the computer and he takes your real money and use it in Europe. Just look at how terrible that is and it affects our people. The problem is our people have the tendency to be wealthy. They are easily mistaken by this kind of thing ultimately affecting our country

Hon Minister, no one has said anything about our Manu Samoa, I would like to say something about our team. Once the Manu Samoa becomes successful everything done in Samoa will be a success. Why? It is the team which people are fond of. If we had a share market, I tell you that when Manu Samoa wins at night by the next day the value of its shares would surge. On a flight to Fiji at one time, I arrived at night when Fiji won in Hamilton. After seeing the fireworks and everyone in jubilation I thought to myself, the spirits of the people have become overwhelmed when their team won. In saying so I advise our Rugby Union to put their weight behind the team. At times I am ashamed. Truth be told, why? We are used to being champions, we are used to winning. Why have you not change the current coach if he is not getting the results. Why are we being soft on these people? The International Rugby Board or IRB has deceived us and we should not let that continue. Even when we are falling behind. If we are talking like this, it is because we played the game. Some of these guys only played the 15 code, I played the 7 and 15 codes. The level I got to in my career was very high.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Conclude your statement now you have two more minutes. This is a pastoral statement from the member of Anoamaa East.

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**Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU:** I have noted that you started speaking from yesterday until this morning which is almost 4 hours. No wonder the Prime Minister told you off this morning. Now you are telling me that my time is up when I have spoken for only ten minutes. Nevertheless, I have a lot of respect for the Chair.

The good news is for the Ministry of Education which members should know about is today the Hon. Minister of Education will be introducing the legislation for ECE, you must really consider it. This is the future and everything will connect if you accept this. Children's minds will improve and when they grow up their minds will be sharp-witted from Early Childhood Education. The powerful nations of the world are saying that 1% to 1.1% of the GDP should go into funding this purpose. We are not financially strong but if we can do this our prosperity in the future will not be a question. The Minister for Communications is currently working on cable connections underwater. I am telling you that if our smart kids fiddle around with machines who knows they may create computer software here, which will rake in a lot of money for our country.

Mr Speaker, I will now steer my ship home and conclude by saying that If my remarks may have been offensive to this Assembly and the general public tuning in. I beg your pardon, Lufilufi is cool, I make constructive remarks, I discuss what needs to be done. But if I have said something that insulted anyone, I am not perfect. May God's blessings be upon this parliament? May you have wisdom Mr Prime Minister and Cabinet. May your conviction be from God. May you have compassion for Samoa. May this Parliament bear insight, I wish to congratulate all the members that have successfully completed their Certificate of Law. I am thinking of asking our village council this Saturday to give funds to assist you for making the effort. This Certificate you have is Commercial Law One which we got in Accountancy back in the day. That is my statement with respect. My well wishes to Samoa and their prayerful support. I extend the same to the heads of Ministries and of course you Mr Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My compliments on your speech the member for Anoamaa East. It is best that I remind you of our relationship in which you must respect the Chair. The mutual respect between us and the argument on speaking in parliament has got you erred twice in your speech. It does not affect me however as I respect you. I commend you on a priestly speech this evening, the government have heard, and so praises be to Thee.

This is the opportunity for another member. I call the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo.

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**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):**  
Thank you Mr Speaker and the dignitaries of this House. The salutations and the traditional honorifics for this Assembly and the country have been said. Greetings to the Chief Executive Officers present and the Clergy silently supporting us.

Before I begin I want to correct the statement from the speech of Lufilufi stating that he is the first Tumua. Please, the original Tumua is us Saleaumua but we will leave at that. We can argue this at another time, but I am only correcting you as it is in our Hansard.

Mr Speaker I want to share what our pastor said on Sunday in his sermon. "Government projects will continue going to people with wealth, the government do not think of the poor and unimportant. Do not carry out assistance with dishonesty" I was really saddened by the church minister's statement. Why? Well because we are the government. It did not go down well with me and I hope this statement is incorrect.

I want to express my appreciations to the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Last week I met with 3 or 4 ACEO of this Ministry and 8 of their officers when they came to over to our community. They met with my constituency and 6 to 8 representatives of villages were allocated. I want to make known my gratitude to the lady Minister. The purpose of the trip to put in place community plans for community developments is vital. The only thing is Honorable is the time frame, it is too short. Now we were told 4 weeks and we have not met yet and I'm the chairman. My request is if we could be allowed six or five weeks, so by that time we are prepared.

Just in case I get carried away but whilst the Minister of Finance is present. I commend you on the Supplementary Estimates. I have made note of your address and you are correct. I applaud you in placing priority on our Ministry of Education. Some members have highlighted the emphasis and priority on Early Childhood Education. My recommendation is this, as it is also noted in your summary that the allocation of teachers is not the same according to student-teacher ratio of 1-30. Our primary school is at the ratio of 1:40 and 1:50. We only have 3 teachers and 180+ students. I respectfully ask you please to consider some teachers for our school. Otherwise we are thrill with your vision and foresight to make education a priority. For I believe this is the future for Samoa.

I will now come to the Ministry of Environment, there are two rivers at our village and it is a real headache with the mosquito problem since the water is like a sewage behind the settlement area. These two rivers are called Vaitaia and Vaisuli. When it rains the water does not flow out but would remain in this area.

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I respectfully ask for a sum of money from these funds for a drainage system to release this water out overcoming the mosquito problem. Since the Minister of Health is listening may I ask him if we can have spray guns for mosquitos. I do not know the situation with other villages but with us there is a lot of mosquitos. We are concern with the possibility that ailments like dengue fever may spread.

If I can ask the Minister whether there are medical apparatus to conduct blood tests to determine whether there may be cases of such disease. Still on the subject can I ask for a doctor for us as alluded to by Alaiasa for their hospital at Lufilufi. We have our hospital at Lalomanu which is providing service for Lotofaga, Lepa, Saleapaga starting from Tiavea.

To the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, we hosted some visitors that came by and we were told that we will be getting some funds. Our village council have met and we have yet to receive any money. Do I take it that this budget must pass the House until the money is handed over? Our village council have met twice and no money has been given. I respectfully ask who is responsible here?

To the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, please! I spoke twice about the mangroves between Malaela and Lotopue, it used to be a beautiful site where mullets and turtles reproduce. The area was ruined during the tsunami and nothing has been done to it since. We ask if there are funds to develop this area.

I want to ask who is directly responsible for our historical houses or buildings with a history. I appeal to the Minister to establish a register. It would be a positive move to set up a registration for all these historical houses including Robert Louis Stevenson and the current residence of the Le Ao O le Malo in Motoootua. The building that use to house the Ministry of Justice is allegedly said to be in the pipeline for reconstruction. I do not see in the budget an appropriation for this purpose, but I suggest that we wait for a recommendation from our sons and daughters whom have the expertise in this field, particularly the architects.

Let me express my appreciations to the Minister of Communications Information and Technology for the transmissions of radio and television now working. The only thing is that the reception becomes unclear at times causing poor viewing and the radio signal is also the same case. We have been told that the problem is caused by a clash of frequencies with Tutuila. Could you please look into this?

Sili I thought I will make a suggestion on the salaries of government employees as the Prime Minister has stated that there is a Remuneration Tribunal which has this function. But I thought I will recommend to defreeze the salaries. We must consider the cost of living which is on the rise. It must be compared to the wages and what the public service earns.

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We will leave that with the remuneration tribunal for that is their role. I applaud the Prime Minister, deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet for your gift towards the newly graduate of wannabe lawyers.

I want to say this for the information of the Minister of Finance. There was a norm of giving monetary gifts of a \$500tala one off payment to those who have made such achievement. The reason being is the good image of Parliament created and as the Prime Minister has said, it is the first time such an occasion has eventuated here. He is correct when he further said that these are the lot that were sent to school and instead all got engaged in adult things. They were never committed nor passionate to school. Now that they have gone back but are old and they are over stayers. But that is my suggestion can a one-off payment be given to them and the two Ministers, Afioa Lopao and the Minister for Education.

I appeal to the Minister of Agriculture, and my appreciations to my friend for promising us a chainsaw if your request to the partners you mentioned is granted. Moreover, I have also put forward an application for cattle which I have been waiting on for some time now. I have heard that some applicants have received their cattle yet am still waiting. Could you look into this and find out where my application has gone to.

I want to say to the Hon Minister of Tourism that a lot of people stop by at my house to use the public toilets there located at the coastal side of my place at Saleaumua. What has happened is that the door has come off due to exposure to rain which has caused the timber to weaken. The door coming off has brought about four toilets being damaged. Two at the ladies and the other two at the mens. These are convenient for when tourists come around they can stop there to use. Do you have funds in your budget to upgrade these toilets? The other thing Sala, are the road signs, I have notice a lot of them being vandalized. I recommend that you pay a visit around and see for yourself. These are vital to have.

I will now speak about our water supply, the stretch of road from Moataa to Matautuuta has four or five parts of the road that were dug up for water pipes, or was dug up by EPC. I understand that this area that was dug up reaches our home at Matautuuta. Since the pipes belong to the water authority. A former member had mentioned that there is a lot of problems with this. After cutting into the road they will say that the contractors will cover the damages, or is it the water authority. What is happening is the road contractors that come around are not honest. As of now when you drive along Moataa, the smoothness of the road is spoiled by the small sections of the roads like the one turning to Taumeasina. When you go over these it feels as if your car is about to break up into pieces. Not far from that part of the road is another one close to the Wilson guy's store.



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There are lots of these parts of the road that were cut into and not properly seal. My request is for a team to monitor the road and ensure that the digging up areas is done right because it is a detriment to the travelling public.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the current speaker I call the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** I do not wish to interrupt the member speaking but he is raising a topic which I have covered before. The situation with cutting the road to allow the water authority to get on with their work for a new connection. Management have clarified that applications go to the LTA to cut the road. A permit is then passed to the water authority to get on with their role. The Water Authority decides which contractor to take on for the work. The next step of course is to lay their pipes for the new connection and afterwards the contractor does the final phase of re-patching the road. The problem here seems to come from the Water Authority and the contractors.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Resume your speech honorable member.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA:** Thank you Hon Minister. You are exactly right, but I thought I will reiterate that for the information of those responsible for this. I applaud the female Chief Executive Officer and the Minister for the Water Authority as I note in the Budget \$9.1million from our overseas partners to upgrade our water supply at Saleaumua and the village of the Speaker as well as the villages of Leulumoega, Nofoli'i and Sataua. We really appreciate this assistance. I will now come to the Minister of Health. We are very happy with the introduction of the Hygiene committees. I am also thankful to your associate Minister for clarifying to us the topic in your absence that day of our workshop. Your opinion on this matter is vital as they are the ones responsible for ensuring the villages are tidy. They also set up the [policy where for every village committee to pay a \\$5 fee when visiting the hospital](#). If you are not a committee member \$20 must be paid. It was an incentive to encourage women to join, and it is wonderful to see it being brought back. It is a great vision Honorable Minister. I have said my request for a permanent doctor for our community, my other question what is the story with our committee that was passed here in Parliament where you are the Chairman and the other Minister being deputy chairperson.

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I would like to know what has happened to your committee so if you would elaborate on it when you have time. I read the statistics on the Non Communicable Diseases, and this was one of the deadliest disease that has claimed many lives minimizing our population. My question is, are you able to establish a cause which may offer a counter measure to minimize the problem? I am referring to pre-warning signs for the public awareness, with respect.

I want to congratulate Lautafi on our plane. I recommend printing loads of pamphlets. Government's servants are frequent travelers and this is weekly and monthly. Every Minister, all government employee and anyone for that matter should be given pamphlets to hand out. Perhaps two or three to distribute at their destination. In that way the word would be out there about our new airline. It is just a thought if it is accepted, good.

I think it was two weeks ago when the residence of one of the Chiefly gentleman at of our constituency at Lalomanu caught fire. The Fire Service was called, but they are quite a fair distance away. When they arrived the whole house has been consumed by fire. The value of the property is about \$500,000 which is very expensive. I respectfully ask and I have done so to the manager of Fire Service back in 2016 when attending a Parliamentary Committee. He stated that they will look into it whether they can provide a fire truck to cover for the area of Lotofaga, Lepa towards Tiavea and also for the proposed airstrip at Tiavea. It is a good thing that a fellow member made a request for a fire truck for the Fagalii Airport. Is it possible to have one for Aleipata since there will be an airport there.

Finally, I want to record my appreciations to the Minister of Works for your favorable response to our request for construction work on the roads at Utufaalalafa, Lotopue and Saleaamua which have all been done. The road at the inland area of Tiavea has been cement sealed. You have also declared that the bridge will be done. We will leave that with you when we have money but we appreciate your accepting our request. We are overwhelmed with gratitude and praises for you. Oh and just one last thing, to the Minister of Justice. My modest appeal to you concerns Land and Titles Court matters. There is just one sheet pinned on the door to tell people which courtroom their matters are heard. I suggest having sheets in front of all courtrooms to indicate whether the courtroom is in session or what matter that is heard there. It makes it easier for the public when attending the court house for their matters. This will avoid one from going around the whole court house. I went to the court house the day before yesterday to find where our court case was heard. It was frustrating and only to be told that it was upstairs in the Supreme Court.

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To conclude my remarks, I want to express my gratitude and commendations to cabinet. If I may have erred in my statement, I will take back what I may have said. Our collaboration is beautiful and as a fellow member said there are people that blow air and never get things done but it brings us closer. It is great for we are constantly in touch, the Ministers come around to the rural areas mixing together, and it allows us to share our demands when we mingle. Mr Speaker I extend my well wishes to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I acknowledge the senior members on this side and committee chairman's and all the representatives of the people and lastly the Clerk of the Assembly.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well done to the senior member of the House. The government have heard and noted your recommendations. They will respond in due course but we congratulate you on a well prepared contribution. I will allow the opportunity to the honorable member for Anoamaa West.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West):** Thank you Mr Speaker, this constituency will now give its contribution. Let me firstly greet you Honorable at this afternoon and all the members on both sides of chamber.

The complex ceremonial salutations and the religious addresses, I believe has already been said and according to a proverb, it is like a fish appearing at the tip of the surf. Therefore, I will not touch on it for its sacredness and veneration remains. I will now give my address on the Supplementary Estimates. I am of the view that since all the members have addressed the important issues. My contribution on behalf of my constituency shall be brief. All I will say is my appreciations for this Budget and also the wonderful statement from the Minister of Finance clarifying the Supplementary Estimates. I must also applaud the chairperson and the public accounts committee for their thorough report. It is now tabled and we have gone through it. What I will speak of first and duly express my gratitude for is the statement from the Minister of Finance that there will be no propose tax for the coming financial year or the 2018/2019. But there will be increases, I note that such will come about from government services. I want to touch on part of his statement which said that other than taxes we will get \$8.3million from some increase on fees and government services. It is a substantial amount of money Mr Speaker, which will generate from government services. From that \$8.3million, \$6million will come from health services. Within the coming financial year. I am of the view that it is a huge and significant amount from a single ministry.

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In due course the Minister will clarify as to how this money will come about. As you are all aware and I will not discard the fact that we are all patients of the hospital and we all use his service. It seems to me that this hike in service fee will be huge and the cost of using the health service will be just that. As I have said these services must be paid for it cannot be done free of charge. I am only addressing this issue due to the significant of the figures discussed here. In saying so I urge you to consider the affordability of these services. If they maybe too high, it would be difficult for the unfortunate ones to use this service in our country.

The balance of the \$8.3million is \$2.3million which will come from other government services. As you have alluded to it will come from the leasing of government land. Which is intended to rise by 40% in profit that should come from it. Would that be the case Minister or will leases increase? It is a question which needs clarification on. I guess the bulk of these leases are bound by lease which have already been prepared. On the other hand, I am thinking that these could be leases that are outstanding and yet to be collected. If that maybe the case, it is something that should have already been done and I would think that this money has been earmarked for government projects.

You have also stated that capital from Quarantine services will increase by 15%. I think it is a good thing and I guess this service will improve resulting in the rise in exports for overseas markets in the coming financial year. To assist in this quarantine service, may I say that during our parliamentary committee inspection to the airport at Fagalii, there is a problem with the X-Ray machine used by the quarantine and customs. This we found out from that visit. If there is intention to lift the quality of this service, please look into this and improve the service. It is a similar situation with X-Ray at the cargo at Faleolo Airport. It has been out of service for a long time. This machine as mentioned by the staff during our inspection that it was brought in during the SIDS meeting. At the closing of this meeting the machine broke down and has been that way since. This very machine is used on export products. This is of importance to me as this is the X-Ray to scan the cargo bound for overseas. As you are all aware when we speak of airplanes we are talking about safety first. We must value our safety so these machines should be properly maintained so as to avoid future problems with cargo. There are also other increases as you touched on in your address, but I will now come to this part...

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I interrupt the wonderful statement by the member, we have come to our normal recess hour, I now announce that Proceedings of the House be suspended for 15 minutes.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended for its normal recess at 4.43pm and resumed at 5.23pm.*

*Debate over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 continued.*

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

I take it that Parliament has regained energy from our break. Before recess the member for Anoamaa West was speaking, I call the member to resume.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I extend my gratitude to you and the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The members have enjoyed and are content with the refreshments provided at this hour of the day.

Carrying on with my remarks, I now come to the Pacific Games which we will be hosting next year. I understand that \$11million will be allocated for the games. To the Honorable Minister and everyone concern with the preparation of this event. I fervently ask to use a large amount of this money on the private sector. My prayer is this, and as you all understand that with the previous games in 2007, schools were used to house the athletes. I recommend here whether it is possible to use our hotels, and also paid accommodation which there are a lot of around this area. I have notice that The Faleata Sports Complex is surrounded by these accommodation places. This would be a massive boost to these businesses

There are a few areas which I want to draw your attention to Honorable Minister of Finance and also the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. That is the reserves appropriated for the prison. It mentions \$3.9million to complete the first phase. This was the statement in Samoan. Yet I also note in the report of the Public Accounts Committee on page 42, there is \$3.5million mentioned for phase two.

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I need a clarification and I would think that in good time the Chairperson or the Honorable Minister will elaborate on this part in case this parliament fails to recognize this. I believe that this actual part on page 43 of the report should be clarified. I have read it and it contains the issue that was debated by some of the members and the Prime Minister. The point of having no master plan. Page 43 of your report indicates discrepancy in your opinion of the matter. Your report is firm that there is no master plan yet the government rejects it. How do you explain this situation? I am baffled as to what the actual truth is to the issue.

With the Ministry of Communication, I am looking at the sum of \$1.9million to be paid to CSL and I guess it to do with the rights and ownership of our domain name .ws. It seems that in the main estimates that amount of \$1.9million is presented to ownership and regulating our domain name in the next financial year. But in the Public Accounts Committee report, it shows on page 17 as a monthly payment. If that maybe the case, then I say that is an awful lot of money. Perhaps there will be a plausible explanation to this, maybe it was a typing error. I thought I will state that and I would think that you will clarify this matter in good time.

My final appreciations is to the Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure. Thank you for the developments done at my constituency. There were two proposals submitted to you and have been done. Therefore, it is fitting that I voice the delight of my constituency. The road to the church at Saoluafata has been beautifully done and how fitting as the church minister has been accorded the Elder title of the church. The drainage path to the river in the village of Eva has also been done. The remaining developments which we have asked for I believe you have looked at and you must now have a fair idea of what it requires. We have made written submissions and I shall wait for your favorable discretion. Mr Speaker, may the good Lord grant you good health in your calling to conduct the deliberations in this Assembly today and tomorrow. I wish for blessings from heaven be upon our country, I wish this side of chamber well. May the Lord bless the government employees. May we have a constructive debate.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well done to the member for Anoamaa West. That was a very productive statement reflecting your seniority in this Assembly as your constituency are tuning in. I commend you on your wonderful preparations, and consideration of the Budget. May God bless you in your remaining preparation for the election.

I call on the member for Faleata West.

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**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I have been longing to speak as this is my territory. I am the keeper of this court. May I say to the orator Matautu, "do not be alarm for when we go to Salafai, you shall be the advance guard but when Samoa assembles Faleata is the advance guard." This is the time when Faleata speaks, sun set right through until it rises again. Samoa you have been listening to your ceremonial addresses all throughout today and yesterday. Whether I mention it or not will not alter our honorific salutations. However, I will respectfully acknowledge the general public from the elderly citizens to the youths, and also the clergy. My respects also to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the distinguish members of this Assembly. There are five years in the term and so I give five speeches, one for every budget. Whether I do not attend a meeting during the year, I cannot miss the Supplementary Estimates.

I must voice the demands, appreciations and commendations and also recommendations if they may be acceptable. The theme of my speech is, for the bible says that if there is no theme there is no law and themes cannot decide a just resolution without official written documents. It has been 56 years since our independence and it is concrete evidence which can never be erase. It is the first country in the Pacific to hoist its flag of freedom. We are custodians expected to carry forth the freedom that was passed down to us from our forefathers. Let us be thankful for we are living in liberty in charge of our own affairs. We can never erase the fact that when we became independent, we had no international airport, there was no international port. Dirt roads with no electricity and no water in most parts of the country. That was the price for becoming independent. How are things now? What is your view of the country? You be the judge of the state of the country today. Some of the members have said that Samoa has a stable government and has been so for almost 40 years. That is another factor that cannot be erase. The recent Commonwealth Nations forum passed a resolution to have Samoa host the next one in 2022. That is another factor right there. The big nations have voted and chose Samoa. Why is that? Its foundation is solid and so as its government. The political stability that we are enjoying. When a government is stable it is cause by two factors. Political stability evolves from financial stability and social stability. These are two elements which we are thriving on enabling us to progress and enjoying happiness and freedom. The other point constantly being raised by overseas countries is gender equality. They are coming across as we are not doing enough to promote this. But the records will show that in schools the girls are coming first at every level. In the workforce the women are dominating at every ministry and business. The records don't lie.

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I had recently opened a meeting on Press Freedom as the Minister was unavailable. It was about the freedom of the press to do their job in Samoa. In that meeting Samoa is placed above Fiji, Tonga, Britain, America and most of the large countries in the world. It is a known fact. So, what is the story with the doubts over these situations. Our domestic debt and external debt is within the boundaries of necessity. If we are to compare our debts to other pacific nations, I tell you there are records to show the state Samoa is in. What I am trying to say is, and the country are listening. I am trying to convey an opinion on the state the country is in, the state the government is in, the state the leadership is in. As of today there is one main factor in which we are proud of and that is the length of time the government have ruled when compared to most countries of the world. This will not be repeated the level of seniority amongst the nations of the world. This is another aspect I do not need to boast about, our stability, good standards and tranquility of Samoa. It is not the responsibility of Parliament alone, or the Prime Minister and government, no. Our democracy in Samoa is of three parts. The collective role of chiefs and orators, the respected authority of the village council under its customs and traditions which is safeguarded by religion and Christian beliefs. This is the trinity that is serving to protect and solidifying Samoa's sovereignty, and so I hereby express my commendations and appreciations. So it is, village rule, the role of the clergy and government efforts. Who's government is it? It is our government. This is the democracy we have chosen and has given us a life of freedom and peace. We all understand the common challenges and it should not worry you for there are many that have occurred in village communities. I say to you today that if these things do not happen, we fail to realize the government's position. As long as we live in peace we will not understand the reality of things. I am glad that the troubles are sorted and tranquility is restored. I applaud our collective role.

I would like to address sir, my apologies, but these are the major issues brewing. Although it may now be settle as of the conviction of government. But if I may say something regarding the tax on church ministers. I was raised in the teachings of the EFKS. The majority of members were raised in the teachings of the EFKS. My advice to the clergy. I attend the Alafua parish and my church minister is the chairman of the elders committee who has been serving as of today. To our denomination and the church ministers, the conviction of the government and the law has been laid out. To whom will the government turn to for protection? It is you. With your support and worship. A task which is supported and praised shall be achieved. As long as the government has respond and the law has been passed it is now in your hands.



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Once the Reverend Elder speaks on what must be done it must be done so. Since obedience is better than the offering that is not doubted. If I may make a suggestion to our denomination and the fathers of the church particularly when I look around at our fellowship, the chairman is a member of SCOPA which makes me proud. The secretary and the Principal are both from SCOPA. The group of elders I think perhaps 80% of them are all SCOPA. I am the president of our association and I am also the chairman of our school. The government have bestowed upon our organization a distinguish role to manage Samoa College. You have taken this approach and yet I am here. Have you no regard for me, the motto of our school is “knowledge to serve Samoa”

Sir, I will now continue with weaknesses, and are not of my constituency as this is the essence of speeches given on such days. Some members speak of submitting written request but, our constituents are not certain of that. Yet when they hear us speaking in this Assembly they will say, “how good is our representative, he is working.” There was a member from our previous term that never gave a speech during the five-year term. Where is he? He left and never came back. Yes, because the public want to hear, and if it is not a speech but at least a series of cough.

Hon Minister of Works, with our first Sitting for the Budget Statement 2016, when we did not sit I prepared two letters which were delivered to you at the end of my remarks that day informing you of some minor things. What I stressed in my letter is the fence done by the village of Vaigaga located near the church and the school. It must be annoying to the government hearing about this over and over, but I am following procedures which your Honorable ministers have spelled out. That is to write to them and keep on approaching them. How many times have we come to your office? I have come by myself, then came with matais of the village and had dialogue with you. I had even copied letters to the Prime Minister and I have even gone to see the Executive Officer of LTA, so I have done everything. What is your view on this Minister? The church congregation have done the fence without waiting. My request to you Minister is this, as there were funds available for the chain link. The congregation have a point, in your view and also the government do you think that looks acceptable? It is not a cattle fence. It is a village, where the church and school are situated. We have done the fence for Lepea, and it is a must and it is a great job which was even compensated and now Vaigaga is next up. Hon Minister, I did say to you to be prepared as I will address this issue.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the current speaker I call the Hon Minister for Infrastructural Works to the Government.

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**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, the Associate Ministers speech is rather interesting and what he is talking about is quite correct. When this actual project was in progress it was discussed that it would be done in the chain link fashion, which the funds was reserved for. However, the village rejected this proposal and so the LTA allowed them time to ponder the situation whilst the project continue. The village remained fixed on their position to reject the chain link plan for the front of the school. At this time Leasi was the school principal. I did inform Leasi on the planning of this project and advised him that if there are funds reserved for this very project I will not hesitate to use it, to enhance the fence of the village and the church. The Associate Minister did visit the site but I guess it is because his constituents are tuning in and may I say, “our representative is not saying anything about this”. I will say to the member for Faleata West to leave the matter with me. There is another project starting soon being funded by the World Bank, and this is towards the airport. If there maybe funds spared from this and if not, well you have stated that \$10.000 is required to complete the fence. I will speak with the LTA if there are funds left as the associate minister is correct and I do not want you to think that I am lying. If there is funding left or reserves intended for this very fence, we will not withhold it. I will consult with the LTA and my apologies to the member, with respect

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I advise the member to change the subject as the Hon Minister has directly address the issue. You may continue with your remarks honorable member.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** I will move on but thank you I am now content.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** The road to Falelauniu is not new and even the member for the urban seat spoke about it. Mind you, if you go to that area a lot people living there have been there for a long time. There was a dispute between LTA and Samoa Land and we approached them to leave their differences aside and sort out the road for the general public. Even if the complete road is not done but just the path for cars to go. The road at Lepea is opened and we are grateful. The road recently completed is like a road towards his residence but it is ok for he is my brother. But the road at Falelauniu is for the thousand plus people living there.

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member, I will allow the interjection from the Hon Minister of Works.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** My apologies to the member for interrupting. My fellow member also mentioned the ring road, and due to the differences between the SLC and LTA it was the hindrance factor to the completion of these roads. It is my belief that all the roads now being used by the public should be declare public roads. Since these roads were done at the time when SLC subdivided these lands. Therefore, LTA were not involve in this project and now the roads are in poor condition. It should be left to SLC but the thing is road works is the responsibility of LTA. Trust me with your request, I will look into it. The longer you speak, means you are prolonging the passing of the Budget and the longer you wait for this project to be done. So if you can wrap up your remarks we can pass the budget and LTA will start on your road tomorrow, with respect

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member may continue.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you.

**Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching (Faleata East):** Mr Speaker I seek an opportunity.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will allow the member, go ahead.

**Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching:** I have no intention of interrupting the member but I rise on a Point of order. This road going to Lepea is not the road to my house, which is actually located beyond the cement pathway. The actual road at the heart of the village leads to the coast where a lot of the public resides particularly families on freehold land. That is the road that was recently opened but is not a road to my house please.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The member has heard you and so I advise him to refrain from speaking of that.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** It is evening chat but my brother the member for Faleata East is right. May you be reelected for the good work you have done. I want to say to the Minister of Works that I have requested only two things. You have given the same respond you gave last time, to leave it you. How many times have you said this? I appeal to you to do it.

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I congratulate the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development for the programs that have been achieved. I want to bring up the issue which was raised before regarding having more than one village pulenu'u or government representative. This is gradually becoming common and you did say that you will investigate so as to give you a good grasp of the matter before laying down some provisions to improve the situation. That may be so but let me remind you again as there are now villages of significant status and traditions which have two to three representatives. This is unprecedented as we are all familiar with the one pulenu'u for each village, and exceptions of course was applied to the urban villages at the outskirts of the township where the population has soared and it is vital that they hear the voice of government regarding its programs.

Mr Speaker, the second letter I spoke about is the one at the beginning of this term that was addressed to my dear friend the Minister of Education, and here is someone that everybody wants to be friends with. He called last Thursday to ask me to go with him to his graduation. I said, well that is great, and what did you pass? And he responded that he got a certificate. I said to him, man! We sat school certificate and got our certificates. We sat UE and got those certificates. What certificate have you gone and done? I thought it was something higher. He says to me it is a Certificate of Law. I then asked him if he could represent me in my case that is coming up next week and he says no. I said to him not to call me again on those matters. Sir with our school at Vaitele can I remind you that the number of students at a school depends on the total population. Since the Electoral Commissioner has drawn new boundaries after subdividing the constituency creating three representatives which reflects a big population. Currently there is one district school which is fed by three or four primary schools. I am happy for the fact that the government has land for this purpose. However, I will write another letter asking for assistance along this line, please sir.

Mr Speaker, I will now speak on the Financial Statement which has been approved. I acknowledge the reading of the Report and the remarks of the Members voiced. I acknowledge the support of all the Members voiced in regards to their approval of the Financial Statement. Before we tabled the Financial Statement I advised the Associate Ministers not to pay too much attention to the criticisms from that side of the House implying that we are not doing any work. It is simply the politicians' wisecracking remarks.

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I note my brother the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Afioga Laauli making a statement that someone went and spilled about a plane and continues to say that he said, not to worry. Do you know who he is referring to? It is Lealailepule in regards to the aircraft and telling stories in public. Does anyone know who the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 was referring to? It is Lealailepule. Yes, because it is only Lealailepule that the Member can talk about in such a way. However, as the Member said, do not worry because it is beer talk at bars. It has been over ten years since the member and I have been parliamentarians but I have never gone out at night with him. That means the statement was made by the member for Salega East and Faumuina. But this group does not hang out with them. They mostly hang out with me and a few from this side which I will not mention as their constituencies are listening in. As for Leala, I go out, I'm a night owl. I do not worry about that. So may I say to the member, our leader has spoken that you must use our caucus to raise whom exactly that person is, instead of wasting our time when we must be discussing important matters? But our plane

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable Member but I recognize the honorable Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossi Schmidt:** There is a saying that goes, it is bitter sweet, a statement that although kept secret is carried by the wind and so it is no more, it may seem humorous but it is bad news. Mr Speaker I am not kidding around and I say this because the public are paying attention. I advise the member since I did not mention his name out of mutual respect we have for one another. Since he has gone ahead and mentioned himself, well that is what I was trying to tell you. Who safeguards our decisions and the government? This is the reason Mr Speaker and the member for Faleata West. You are well aware that you should not disclose such statement in public for it gives us a bad image. This is why I rise to advice and caution you. Who tarnishes government information? This is not good and I did not state your name due to our mutual relationship. With your point on our caucus, well that is not your business but mine. I say that because I have information which I will not disclose out of respect. I also have a lot of obligation which is why I left that post. Therefore, I beg tolerance of the member but he should speak on the subject because I did not mention him

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 has clarified the matter therefore I urge the Member for Faleata West to focus his remarks on the Financial Statement.

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**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Mr Speaker the Bible states that you shall not judge others for you will be judged, and do not put the blame on others. Lealailepule's rule is to intimidate the person that fears you and not intimidate someone that has no fear.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg the pardon of the Member for Faleata but I grant this opportunity to the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3. This is the last chance the Chair grants to the Member as I will not put up with any quarrelling while we are considering the Budget. I recommend that everyone adheres to our Standing Orders. I will allow the honorable Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt:** If the Speaker of the House pays strict attention to my previous statement it will be noted that I did not mention the name of the Member. He has gone ahead and mentioned himself. With reference to intimidation, well he should not go there but really think about what he did. Brother, if you have found refuge at where you are, then I suggest to enjoy the sweetness slowly, take things slow and think carefully. I am being calm about things and trying to play my role, and that is the spirit applied and I am not doing anything that may harm you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** With the utmost respect I say to this Assembly and the country at large. This what I am afraid of, and consequently advise the members to refrain from continuing this or I will have no choice but to apply standing orders and stop you completely. The two members are senior representatives, and you are both admirable speakers to the public and this assembly. Therefore, I advise you to focus your address on the budget, and there was no name mention.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** I apologize Mr Speaker but I have known the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 for a long time. I will say no more on that but I can say that inside chamber is different from out there. As far as Leala is concern, whatever it may be I say to you please go and do it. May God forgive us all. My apologies Samoa and this Assembly if I may have erred.

The subject of our airplane has caused a fuss resulting in members giving their recommendations and I as well advised the Minister on the day this was discussed. I did not hesitate to share my view, on the other hand some raised landing fees. May I remind you that in 2016 the Airport Authority approved the Air Services Incentive Programme (ASIP). This applies to all planes that land here.

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In the first year it is free then 30% landing fee is charged in the second year. It goes up to 60% in the third year and by the fourth the full fee is charge. It is quite lenient to the country's purse. If we are to look up the records of the airport operations you will find that Lealailepule has been a regular traveler. We all have the desire for it to prosper but at the same time we must not hesitate to give advice when it matters. Our Financial Estimates is described in the English text to be The Right Path, on the other hand the Samoan text goes Filifili Toa.

Mr Speaker my interpretation is that the English and the Samoan texts are completely different. I believe that the English text is accurate, but not the Samoan. If it may be that the Minister is bold may he remain to be so because all the members of this Parliament are brave. But as far as the Budget is concern it has no real change for it has dropped. I have been here for 13 years and I thought that our budget will reach a billion this year. But never mind as we still have a few years remaining in this term and hopefully it will increase as it is currently falling. Capital is going to developments. There are two parts emphasized in the budget, it states that tax will remain unchanged and that is appreciated.

The reason for not raising taxes is as they say, compliance or those not paying tax. I applaud the Minister for Revenue, although you did not achieve your target for this year, but the previous two years before you raked in way more than it was forecast, way more. But I guess the expectation this year was too high. The ministry seemed to have tried real hard to match that achievement as it was fairly high. Let us hope that you will collect enough this time. I want to touch on this compliance topic, and before saying so I want to apologize to the Minister of Revenue. I have spoken often about this, that from 1990 a whole bunch of reforms started flowing in for the government and the Public Sector. It introduced a new idea called Decentralization Outsourcing to hand over government projects to the private sector and downsize government ministries to ensure their role is done right and so it happened. At this particular time, we note that it has not really worked. There have been some good results but the bulk of it has been useless and it teaches us a lesson. I personally believe that the revenue ministry, and I beg tolerance of the Minister since his ministry is the main source of revenue for the government. Why not consider dividing the Border Control, for it is a huge operation. It is an International obligation with many functions such as the airport, port and the likes. If your honor could look into this so as to accommodate the compliance factor that the Minister of Finance talked about. Although they are systems that seem incompatible and do not connect. Yet business license can exchange data in order to assist in their monitoring.

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May I remind you that in Papua the same thing happened and after a few years it didn't work so it went back to subdividing in order to merge the services that were necessary, after all these are the sectors that our government depend on. It is my suggestion which I will leave with you as I have heard that ISP or reforms of the PSC will be done again. I appreciate the Minister of Finance for prioritizing the PSC reforms...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg the pardon of the honorable Member, but I recognize the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. SaileleMalielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, I suggest that we keep patience until the new year then we will look at it again but we have a lot of concepts like that. The other problem we have is detecting items that are brought into the country in disguise. It is the purpose of this type of machine that we are talking about now and we should be getting them soon. These types of machines can detect every content on the ship before it reaches the entry point at the port. So the problem we are encountering is, the naked eye cannot see what is actually brought into the country. It is our people's habit to cover up things with other things. Now these types of machines were used in wars. Whether the target is 10 miles away you can spot them. This is what target shooters were using, it is all they do they sit tight and whatever distance the target may be, they will see it then fire and the bullet would travel all the way and descend hitting the target right between the eyes. Those target shooters hardly miss, now those machines are yet to be received but we have already ordered them. Once we get them, I tell you when ships enter our port the machines will tell us every contents inside the containers. That is the only thing missing, these types of machines. I thought I'd tell you in advance, and I was tempted to share this with you earlier when the debate was on this and that. But it has already been planned out, let me tell you to prepare yourselves for next year when we get funding then you will see the machines.

However, the speech is rather good for it is indicating the reason for the drop in our capital due to the completion of various macro developments. We have our large port which will be opened on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month, I also note that \$80million appropriated in the previous year. That was for this development and telecommunication services. So those developments have been done and we managed to secure \$81million for these two macro projects, yet it has now dropped to \$20million plus, how wonderful is this Budget. The reason for the drop in the figures for grants from overseas is because they have gone ahead with the implementation of these projects.



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Other projects have begun including our bridge in Vaisigano you can hardly see the ships at the wharf due to the size of the huge machines constructing this cemented pathway. We should also be starting on the road that the Savai'i residents were fussing about. The road at Mali'oli'o has been in the pipeline for sometimes now. Everything is explained in the Budget but I think the problem is forgetfulness, so I ask you to exercise patience. Our Budget is going up not down, but that is the story, projects were done which took up a lot of capital and some are on the way. Who knows by the coming year our budget will reach \$2billion. May we have a constructive debate.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I applaud the remarks from the Leader of the House. I call on the honorable Member to continue and a reminder that you have two minutes remaining.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** I am eager to speak still but am a bit tired so this will do. The cost of electricity is very important Hon. Minister as it is closely related to the cost of living. Could you look into this as it is uncertain at this time since we have acquired solar panels which is supposed to cut down electricity cost but it seems it has jump. Would you please review this?

The Finance Committee Report stresses the situation with LTA and MWTI Regulatory role in terms of their operational duties. It is an old issue as the LTA does not have machines for road works. They are playing their role which is monitoring the road works. It is said that there is friction between LTA and MWTI. But if LTA is removed who will perform their role? This is emphasized in the report.

Mr Speaker, I have quite a bit of preparation but the important thing for me is that I have shared the demands of my constituency as well as my general contribution for the economy of Samoa and the necessary inputs for the running of our country, the ship we are sailing. I beg the country for forgiveness if I may have erred. I extend the same to my fellow member for Gagaifomauga No 3, you should be familiar with men talk, forgive and forget these things, tomorrow will be a new day, may our meeting be rewarding.

Thank you and bless this Meeting.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable Member for your speech I believe this Assembly is familiar and so is the whole of Samoa. I thank you for accepting the Chair's advice. There are still opportunities for Members to share their thoughts. I recognize the senior Member of the Chamber, the Member for Falealupo.

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**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA (Falealupo):**  
Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, distinguished Members of this Assembly.

With the utmost respect I rise with my sincere gratitude and acknowledgment of our working hours in the past Mr Speaker I am overwhelmed with the vision of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and most of all our Parliament. The public are following our deliberations. Our Parliamentary proceedings which is their guiding light. They rely on us for the future of Samoa. How are things now? It is good news. Why? It is because of this Chamber with his Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet the policies for the roles which is managing the country. I rise with humility and due reverence to observe, being supportive and acknowledge the progress of the country with your management. Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet from the past years to the present. It is the reason for my standing now. Holding on to the belief and trust which was laid down by your Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. I commend you on your diligence. We are all in this circle, there are those implementing the work, the heavy load. There are also the advocates, and I guess I am in this group, being supportive and praying, why? Because the fountain of blessings for Samoa prayerful advocating stems from here. Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, my appreciations. We are now in this day and age. What is the verdict? Not only from our people but the Pacific. Sustainable form government remains and is progressing due to good governance. This is what Samoa is thriving on and proud of amongst the nations of the world. It has sound management and with every country, management is reflected in its governance. Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet let us all bear humility for we are flawed servants and so let us return the glory to God. And with all honesty, our fellowship is admired and triumphant, thank you. Credit must be accorded to where it is due, the endorsement from the community. On behalf of the people let me be their mouthpiece and express gratitude and delight in your leadership for this nation. There are many nations in the Pacific which boast about being big, but Samoa remains ahead for it has been. Let God be praised for that. To the dignitaries occupying that side I congratulate you for your role. My delight is sky high, why? Because we were elected to develop this cause. Hon Prime Minister it is fantastic, to your colleagues thank you praise God for what you have achieved. Mr Speaker that is the overwhelming feeling within me; the feeling of gratitude and joy for all the accomplishments and projects completed. The nation elected us for this task and glory be to God for it is complete. I believe the nation continues to pray in support of our duties for the future of Samoa.

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I stand therefore, to voice support for the Government and the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and that side of the House. I pray the peace of God may reign over all of us always, so long as we abide by His will. In earnest Mr Speaker I voice acknowledgment on behalf of the constituency for the never ending support shown. The constituents are listening in and I voice their gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Parliament. Let us continue to silently pray for thanksgiving for Samoa is blessed.

Mr Speaker those are my thoughts, may we be blessed by the grace of God.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My commendations to the statement from the Honorable Member for Falealupo. The feeling this evening in the Assembly has somehow change. The speech from the most senior member is deeply felt in the body, blood and in the flesh. The Prime Minister and Cabinet Associate Ministers and members have witnessed and heard your statement, suitably on the achievements and of encouragement and well wishes for their role. Therefore, allow me on behalf of this Assembly to wish you the grace of God and may you find longevity in the remaining days of your life. Thank you for that fatherly speech. That is also the last of the general speeches and fittingly for the old man to cap last the finale speech that has filled this Assembly.

I respectfully call upon the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** Thank you for the opportunity. Greetings Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers of Parliament, I also greet the Chief Executive Officers and representatives of Ministries and the various Public Corporations and Enterprises serving this Parliament who are joining us tonight and Samoa listening in. I wish to voice the submission of Alataua West regarding this Budget Statement 2018/2019 and the Supplementary Appropriation Second Schedule or the Main Budget 2017/2018.

Greetings to my constituency of Alataua West congratulations on the journey. I never lose sight of why I am here, which is to voice your views in Samoa's prominent Assembly. Mr Speaker, during the debate on the Financial Statement, members touched on the report of the Public Accounts Committee, I must respond to them.

The first question was why Government assistance for our University dropped to \$1 million? It was noted that the revenue of the University has had a huge increase of almost \$900,000 in its forecast for the financial year 2018/2019. It is the reason for the reduction in government assistance on this.

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Another question was why the grants from our partners have decreased, I believe this has been clarified by the Prime Minister, so I will not go there.

The other question was how will we make up for the plunge in our capital as indicated in the budget? I believe this is exactly where the record achievement by the Ministry of Revenue comes in, as that will fill this gap. There is the desire for cooperation in collecting tax and other sources which we are expecting this year. When there is a surplus that will lessen appropriations which is noted to have dropped. If not, then we shall continue as such for there is funds in the Financial Estimates to balance that.

With regards to the question on the prison, funds which were appropriated in the Main Budget now ending was \$3.8million. If you will remember the first Main Estimates in January of this year in which \$5.2million was available. Of that sum \$3.7million was allocated for the first phase of the prison. The other \$1.5million was for the administration block, and I believe the Ministry will get to advertise that project. If you would recall \$7.5million has been appropriated for the first phase of the prison at Tanumalala. I have mentioned earlier today that we have money left over from this. It is close to \$7.4million used for the first phase, so the money that was left from this has gone to other purposes. I believe then that the \$3.5million indicated in the Main Estimates 2018/2019 is for phase 2. Perhaps there is a typing error in the statement by the Hon Minister of Finance but do correct this in due course. Since there was a query that \$3.9million is for the completion of the first phase. The Finance and Expenditure Committee believes otherwise. The \$3.5million in the Budget is for phase 2.

The other query about the report was that there was no master plan. The report was drafted based on the submissions of witnesses that came before the committee. Those who were invited to submit clarification and which I have attempted to divulge after having understood the explanation from engineers and those people. Their statements presented to us were compiled in the report. But today during recess I received the master plan from the Ministry. I guess it was a break down in communications within the Ministry. This should have been handed to us much earlier. I will hand this over to our committee and it should be in the next report when the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) is presented.

The other question is the \$1.9 million payment to CSL which is said to be a monthly payment. I think the truth of the matter is the total payment for the year although payment is made on a monthly basis. Yet the statement has been quoted out of the Main Budget Estimates. Mr Speaker this is a wonderful Budget for it raises only a few questions.

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Whilst I still have the chance, I want to make contribution on behalf of my constituency on the Budget Statement. At the same time provide my view on life in general in this day and age. I have been all ears during the Prime Minister's statement and there are no new ideas, It is all old stuff, but we must caution and remind you. It is convenient to keep reminding. Some of the Ministers said to me. Why is it that you are only expressing appreciations yesterday instead of presenting some challenge? I thought to myself, maybe the Ministers have boxing in their minds. Give me your attention as I will give you some challenges applicable to the Budget Statement.

I congratulate you Hon Minister of Finance on your speech and setting out the state of our developments and our future plans. I will pinpoint briefly part of your statement together with some recommendations. The minister has said that it plans to achieve \$1.8million from the economy this year due to the effect from the closing down of Yazaki. Yet it plans to reach economic growth of 3.3% in 2018/2019. This will come about from utilizing the buildings that were used by Yazaki for the production of goods that will be exported overseas. At the same time creating employment and also major infrastructural projects like roads and concrete bridges. It is also said that the economy could well reach \$3.7million from the growth in tourism and the impact of the Pacific Games in July next year. Hon Minister I will convey some thoughts in light of your clear submissions. I will start off with the plan for a robust economic status, although I said there are no fresh ideas, I would still like to remind you. I have noted the growing dependency of our economy on employment opportunities and the prevailing number of tourist. But where is the development of our agriculture? Every member has raised the demand for access roads towards their plantations. Doesn't the agriculture sector have any positive plans to strengthen our economy? It is the same thing with the outlook for this financial year almost ending, there is nothing about agriculture contribution yet every member has spoken about it demanding the construction and maintenance of access roads for their crops. As far as I am concerned, the numerous access roads completed and the amount of money going into it, yet there is very minimum contribution from them for our budget.

The Hon Prime Minister has stated that economic growth now heavily depends on tourism and this is a good thing. We have been popular in the past and were heavily dependent on our agricultural products for export. Yet we no longer give it our priority due to the many challenges faced by farmers.

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I have also notice that the Development Bank have given 64% of its money to help tourism and only 11% towards the farmers. This is a challenge to the Minister of Agriculture in your tenure to endeavor and increase the percentage of our contribution to our economy, particularly with the utilization of our huge land area so as to make up for the large amount of money gone into access roads to plantations. Promoting agricultural shows as well as granting rewards should be encouraged. I note that less than 2% is appropriated for the development of Agriculture and Fisheries. I feel that emphasis should still be given to agriculture and fisheries. When tourism fails as we have noticed with the closing down of Sheraton Samoa Aggies Hotel, there are other sectors the economy can fall back on. I hope the economy will not be affected by the closing down of this hotel which has had a massive contribution to our economy.

Hon Minister of Finance, my commendations. As noted by several members and I join them in delight with the drop to 49% in our borrowings for our economy. I applaud your bold decision on choosing the areas in which emphasis should be placed on, so as to meet the public's needs. I have noticed a gradual reduction in percentages of money payed out on projects from 23.7% to 21.6% and a further dive to 21.2%. But with the percentage for public servant's salaries which went up by a fraction. I think if this pattern continues with further reduction for projects then it will be just the salaries for some ministries that can be paid out. There will be minimal works to be carried out as there is no money to implement the projects that were earmarked. I mentioned the salary of public servants due to the gradual increase in foreign reserves for the public service. The committee holds the view that every ministry has money left over for every year which is reserved for its employees. Every member understands that once the budget is passed funds reserved for salaries is locked until the end of the financial year when a new schedule is sorted subject to being approved. It raises a question, does this mean that our operations can still be done by the current workforce? We do not need more people. If this maybe the case, we have money to spare and it begs the question. Is this not a sign that it is time for a salary increase? The Prime Minister mentioned earlier that the Salaries Tribunal are currently looking into this, so thank you. My understanding is that when a salary increase is to happen a legislation is schedule. That piece of legislation seems sacred and is regarded with respect by the Public Service Commission and the government. I thought I will remind you of this as it is not new, but consider it when you make your bold decisions.

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Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology, this wave of technology is rather important as it improves the ministries service. There has been a dramatic change in our lifestyle due to computer usage. Our committee made it a point to make good use of our laptops which were given. To draw up the pictures that were in the contents of our report. It is noted in the budget the completion of the Tui Cable and yet your Ministry is talking up the Manatua Cable. What is happening is the broadband is slow and expensive. I would compare the Tui Cable to a newly done motorway and all the fast cars are waiting to use it. But the problem is, the racing is done by the speed drivers. The trouble is it is like having tractors on the motorway. I recommend that you check up on the service providers whether they are compatible and find out if their systems are suitable for this motorway. This Tui Cable was sorted and implemented to improve our systems of communication. I also feel that the Minister for the Public Service should assess whether the knowhow of our public servants is up to standards in terms of adapting to these technological systems.

So as to build our capacity to lift our standards of service. If not, it will be a waste of money that went into installing the Samoa National Broadband Highway and Tui Cable. When I mentioned the vitality of having these technological change it reminds me of the initiative of my brother the Hon Minister of Education in his distribution of tablets to rural schools particularly Savai'i. These are now used to conduct learning for Years 1 to Years 8. The programs installed into these tablets have been very useful for teachers. These kids are really blessed to be growing up with such opportunities in technology. I advise the Minister to check on these as I understand that in Savai'i the teachers are taking the tablets away from the school and leaving them home for the enjoyment of their families ignoring the purpose this device was made for the students. At some villages the teacher would turn on the tablet and watch it all day long with the students totally lacking any communications whatsoever with students. The initiative is wonderful as it helps the teachers prepare their lessons for their classes and also when they may be away from school but I believe that a time limit should be in place when using these gadgets. Oh, and what happen to the school for our constituency with Hon Aeau? Yesterday my Minister's friends who has been here for a while said to me never to show appreciations and do not submit demands for your constituencies. We minister once we hear expression of gratitude and immediately tick you off and you will not be remembered until you raise that in the following year. Therefore, I will not be making appreciations but to remind you of our school in Falealupo

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I will now come with the Hon Minister of Prison, I have already mentioned and clarified the state of things. Earlier today I was intending to pass on my gratitude for the works but when you and Olo started raising your voices I immediately sat down. The purpose of my gratitude regards the Committee Inspection after the Supplementary Estimates which prompted this occasion. At the time there were three large buildings and not yet four for inmates including another building that was recently built in January. When we visited that site again last week, we were very satisfied, as there are now four buildings for male inmates, one building for senior prisoners, this is for your information as you hardly visit. There are two houses for rehabilitation programs which will be used in due course as the prison population has grown. There are two houses for women and two houses for those awaiting court sentencing. There is one house for medical service and the three story building. That was the only adjustment done. So in all, 12 buildings have been done and afterwards a warden will be sorted including registration and a tour. That is my appreciation for this work which is 99% done for the first phase.

Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, some members have realized the importance of this district development plan which members must see and take the lead in. What is happening is that plans have been put in place, and the villagers go ahead with part of this plan which requires minimal money. The rest of the plan is dropped as no one knows where to go for funding. They are lost as to what should be done first. For example, village ponds for bathing. I am of the thought that there should be a certain group which should deal with plans from constituencies and identify them to consider which developments are similar and are also on the priority list for constituencies. Then draft up just one proposal for that particular constituency rather than us taking up all these plans for the donors to see us knocking at their door striving for these wonderful plans laid out. I feel that there should be a section that deals with proposals rather than members having to seek funds for their plan. I am almost done.

Hon Minister of Health, I note that in the Main Estimates Second Schedule, there is \$5 million allocated for drugs and medicines. The Ministry was queried as to why this large amount was appropriated for drugs and medicines compared to previous years which is significant compared to other years. The response was due to the fortnightly shipment via air which is costly. I advise the Minister whether it is not appropriate to put in place a procurement planning to utilize the warehouse that was opened a year ago.



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We know that a lot of medicines expire after three months, and if this is the case now with medical supplies coming in every two weeks. It is just costing us more if we do not plan well. Could it be the merging of these two Ministries which is creating hiccups for the staff? Which worries me when considering the statement from the Minister of Finance that this arrangement will cease in three years. I do not know, for it could be another typing error in the statement.

I will now address the demands for my constituency, since I have been a parliamentarian it has been only two. I am a bit shy to share my shopping list with you since our government is trying to allocate our funds. But I believe it would be convenient if it be only one or two. Minister of Education you must know that this school will be the reason by which you will not see me again in 2021.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I recommend the Member to conclude, you have covered the report and now you are continuing with the demands of your constituency.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** I am nearly done. Hon Minister of Works, may I remind you of our access roads, which according to my constituents was done 25 years ago and in only 7 days. I believe it is the reason why very soon after cars could no longer use it. To wrap up my remarks on behalf of my constituency we do support this Budget. Mr Speaker the opinion of my constituency is now before this Assembly and I beg tolerance if I may have erred.

May the constituency of Alataua West be blessed. I wish the Speaker good health and I extend the same to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. Cast away ailments for members and my well wishes to the public listening in. May I have life to support this Parliament. Soifua.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is said that the mature taro satisfies the palate. The speech from Alataua West is commendable as it is well prepared. This Assembly have been all ears without any interruption and we applaud you. We have now arrived at the finale of this debate where the government will respond to the demands of each constituency.

I respectfully call upon the Hon Leader of the House for his statement.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker let me extend my appreciation and commendation to all the Members of the Assembly. I think everyone here gave a statement which is quite outstanding in Sittings like this.

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We gather that your remarks are a mix of recommendations and complaints. What we actually want is not praises. We would rather hear your opinions so as to assist us in our role. Why? That is why you were selected to be in Committees, to confront the Ministries and all their management. You are to ask them directly as to what the problems are, you do not mince words. You also wait until you are in the Assembly to present such. Whatever problems you encounter inform the Minister about them.

Let me share a story, there was this particular year when a copy arrived of a letter about a disgruntled chairman I think it was the Finance Committee, towards the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture. This came before the committee with the intention that it be speculated by them. This is when the Chairman became unhappy as the recipient of the letter, the CEO could not attend as he was having breakfast at a restaurant. I called him in and told him, why he went to town and how terrible his behavior was. When Parliament calls, you should attend. That forum is important, for you will know whether there is progress or are we going backwards and you accordingly report on that. There will be times when CEOs do not share with you a plunder, but you will find out about it at Parliament if you do your research. I know these things as I am a breed of the system, I use to do this, sitting out front.

On Friday evenings, I would be there when the Committee calls me, and I would see those making telephone calls. I would know that they have accidentally called me yet they are trying to locate committee members. Some are getting drunk at RSA and others at Mt Vaea. Come Saturday they would call me again and off I went again to explain to the old men the progression of the system of government. That is why Cabinet advises the CEOs of Ministries that when a committee summons them. They must go and tell them the answers to all their questions. The objective is so that when their reports are tabled, the Ministers can comprehend points that could not have been understood when disclosed directly. A Minister and its respective Ministry have realized that the Auditors report does not even highlight any other problems. Whilst attending a Commonwealth leader's forum in London I gather from the majority of leaders the topic about capacity problems. Here we are going on about the need for money and they will turn around and say. Whenever we give money, the problem is the capacity of public servants. It is necessary to have servants of integrity, servants that do not steal, servants that are keen to do what they are told.

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Such are the problems encountered in all developed nations. When they do come to Samoa and compare us to other Pacific countries, the view of this foreign organization is that Samoa is at a much higher level in terms of implementation of public duties. That means when you speak in relativity terms, which is comparing us to Fiji and Tonga. No countries come near Samoa in terms of the level of its public service. But in our view, there is still a need for us to be at a slightly higher level since there are problems faced by us, and I thought I have covered this once or twice. With the concrete road or bridge at Maluafofua, it has been 5 years since the funds came for this until it was built and completed. Why? The numerous problems, it should have gone through the design area, then the advertising before the actual construction. The bulk of projects takes three to four years, but Cabinet wants it done in one time and so it should, five years.

With the Maliolio River in Savaii, it has been a while since people from overseas came to look at the location for the road and have already drafted designs and we have been informed that it will not be long before constructions begin. I think it has been over five years since the government made its resolution, Cabinet decisions are quite quick. The problems we have is the process of implementing a project. So you are right on the mark with this, and the government have decided that the whole process of implementing the public service is to be changed. Taking away some of the roles from PSC like hire and fire. PSC will instead concentrate on elevating the knowledge of servants in fulfilling their jobs. It has been six months since PSC were informed of the law change to completely alter the foundation of their role. This is the system that we have been operating on since 1962 and we have come to realize that it is no longer applicable to this day and age. It should be changed and they should focus on in training service from January to December. Such are the major changes now in the pipeline and there has been dialogue with PSC, and there is currently the process of amending the Constitution which will be presented in parliament for your information.

Mr Speaker that is the nature of our debate, and do not think that Cabinet are in a sour mood because such is the style of politics. If you hear us being loud then soft, high then low that is how we function. There is a common parliamentary saying that we do not come here to speak in a mild manner as if doing a massage with oil. No, we came here to make fiery speeches because that is the nature of Samoans. We are discussing the distribution of food. You are all aware that when it comes to the sorting of food within villages, it is a much noisy affair especially when a pig is distributed the whole village makes a lot of noise as to ascertain a justly portion.

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Whether the guy that was responsible for the distribution took a larger share since villages allocate certain people for the role of distributing. That is how it is and you should not hold back when sharing your views but really give it to us, we are listening. We are about to start our work and will begin from that end where it usually starts after your song, It is now our turn to sing while you dance. There was a boxing match which I did not attend but Tofilau told the story. He said that back in the day of the Tivoli there was a heavyweight boxer from Apia, and it was the final bout. It is a long time ago, I guess 1950. He was fighting a guy from Saleimoa and it was packed as it was a title fight filled mostly the people of Apia. You will remember the Tivoli having cross timbers below the ceiling and it was a full house as there were too many people screaming inside the house which was too small to accommodate the crowd. So the fight began, and most of the crowd were betting on the guy from Apia. When it got to the final bout, the Saleimoa guy punched the guy from Apia and he went down squatting. People called out, “get up, get up.” He got up and threw a punch at the Saleimoa which missed only to be countered by an uppercut that got him down again. You all understand that after being down three times and he got up , people calling, “get up, get up” He got up threw a right to the Saleimoa, the Saleimoa guy moved to the side and hit him giving him a bloody mouth and fell down, people still shouting out “get up, get up and hit”. He got up and said, how I can I punch I’ve got a bloody mouth? That is what will happen, the spectator calling from outside is a different experience when you are inside. Once inside the ring that is what will happen to you. Blood gushing and more blood gushing. When you are outside your knowledge is different, yes. We want you to share your wisdom for when you come here, you will only be getting blood pouring and more blood flowing. Your recommendations have been noted.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the member the statement is ending.

**Susuga Hon TUILAIPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** But Cabinet will now embark on disclosing information. The issues which you shared are very important particularly on Agriculture. Right now there is a lot of taro exported overseas and it could well create scuffles between taro sellers when filling the containers. It is all funded by the ministry. I mention this as your statements did not address the importance of developing agriculture. There is a lot of taro around now, with consultation done with Tutuila consequently the market to Tutuila will open again.

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Organic farmers are well on the way and there is funding for them as well as funding for people who are not use to growing cabbage. Because Chinese they...what is the situation? There is a lot of cabbage farming now than before as it seems it was never really thought of. There is so much farming now on the organic model, there is plenty of taro. On top of that fisheries is proving to be fast growing in their developments. They are contributing to those from overseas with the quantity of their exports which is counted as ours and consequently contributing to our foreign reserves which is misunderstood by this guy. Foreign reserves is not listed in the Budget. No, it comes and goes straight to the Central Bank. Now you have seen the statement before us. That is our number one product with the highest figures. You must remember that agriculture and fisheries go together, which is the reason they are put together. SROS is currently doing research on flour, whiskey is now being produced from taro. Those products for export is gradually improving in volume. When it goes overseas it will not be affected by the laws relating to ailments from the first phase or the unspoiled product. In other words, there is a lot of work involved as you the committee members which the Minister of Agriculture is preparing for. The overall summary of the state of things and regarding the statement that we have yet to reach the billion mark. The truth is it is well over a billion. The total amount of capital spending of the government as well as its private enterprises put together. What is only presented here is money that we are appropriating. The majority of government organizations put together will go over a billion. Our GDP or the total amount of capital which Samoa receives is \$2,200,000,00. If we are to action the 3.7% it will well go over this amount and it will be like \$2,30,000,00 to \$2,400,000,00. This is the capital injected and circulating our economy ever year.

Mr Speaker, that is the state of things but as far as the budget is concerned, the focus is on this particular time. Bear in mind that our outlook on the capital which we will getting at this particular time, but we do not realize the additional amount. Why? All these things are subject to speculation, who knows by June and additional \$3million is realized or \$4 million or \$5 million. That is why our supplementary estimates are done. In some years there is a supplementary estimate's first schedule, there may be a supplementary estimate's second schedule and third. When it is all added up the amount is great. This is the nature of the Finance Ministry and its Minister. Do not make it bulky but let us start here then speculate, that is the essence of being cautious. As we go along, when the machines arrive, which will be targeting the shores and will know every item inside the containers. Who knows our revenues will increase giving us more money for our operations.

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The only thing is, there should be sufficient funds for the people serving the government. The problem is we want so much but we rely on the implementation. People are different, as some can do so much to push them along but it is just how they are. It is the same with rugby you will become frustrated with urging them along but continue to run towards the direction that they should not be going. Let us hope for the future, but they will now begin to elaborate on issues, but I was merely giving you a glimpse of some minor points but the bulk of it will be addressed by Cabinet Ministers.

My commendations this evening as there has been a load of recommendations. This is how it is in this Assembly, there is an adage pertaining to Faleata, “despite the countless different tunes, it all ends well” This evening I extend to you my appreciation, for tomorrow morning we shall resume. My advice to Ministers, present only the important matters, do not disclose everything for it will make that side smarter. That will ensure our work will be quicker. May we have a blessed evening.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My congratulations to the Hon Prime Minister. The Assembly have been all ears. I believe that is also the finale for this evening. Thank you for your patience. I guess that is the end of our work for the day. To be honest, I do not take lightly the respect and regards for the Chair in my rulings. I am humbled by your respect which is the essence of our traditions which retains our dignity. Such is the grace of God in which Samoa is founded upon. From the beginning of our deliberations His compassions is grounded in this Assembly and so let us return praises to God Almighty forevermore. I commend you Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Associate Ministers and all the members of the Assembly. I applaud you all for the patience and vision shown today. I appreciate the opinions and your concepts laid out here in this House for it has created a peaceful debate.

I further acknowledge the support from the CEOs of Ministries. Your patience in attending this sitting is recognized. You have heard the Prime Minister, your attendance is important. That extends to Private enterprises. I acknowledge the support of the general public and the clergy for your prayers. May the grace of God be upon you all as you travel to your respective homes. Let us pray for His mercy to allow us back here again tomorrow if He pleases for the Ministers to respond as the Prime Minister has said.

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I now call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No 3 to conclude our business in peace with a prayer. Respectfully.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 7.23pm until  
Thursday 21 June 2018 at 9.00am.*

