

WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 2017

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayers.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Another brand day has arrived with great blessings and joy by God's grace and goodness. Although we rested without knowing what the next day may bring to our lives, *momoe i manu ae sau mala e atiae*. Fortunately, if it was not for the presence of the Lord, we would not have been able to achieve our work this morning. I welcome the dignity of Parliament in the spirit of good health. I do not need to address your Cultural respects and State respects that remain forever. In saying that, let our Proceedings be blessed.

I also acknowledge the support of Samoa as a country of divisional status and traditional respects that is retained forever. We ask for your support beloved Samoa, especially the Spiritual Servants of God.

MESSAGE FROM O LE AO O LE MALO

Mr Speaker announced the Message from O le Ao o le Malo.

“MEMORANDUM to:

Mr Speaker:

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa and in accordance with the Standing Orders of Parliament, consent is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to consider the following Bill:

1. Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017.

GIVEN BY my hand this day 20th June 2017.

(Signed): Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
O LE AO O LE MALO.”

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NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker read out the Notice from the Leader of the House.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament, Notice is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to consider the following Bills:

1. Police Service Amendment Bill 2017
2. Conventional Arms Bill 2017.
3. Sex Offenders Registration Bill 2017.
4. Energy Efficiency Bill 2017.

GIVEN UNDER THIS day 19th June of 2017.

**(Signed): Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai
Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele
Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read out the papers tabled before the House pursuant to Standing Order 48.

1. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 2, Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for Years, July 2014 – June 2015 & July 2015 – June 2016;
2. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 9, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016;
3. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 13, Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the Financial Year 2014/2015.
4. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 46, Annual Report of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
5. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 47, Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration for the Financial Year 2014/2015;
6. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 48, Samoa parliamentary Delegation Report on the Pacific Parliamentary Regional Seminar, Suva, Fiji 2017;

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Presentation of Parliamentary Committee Reports

7. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 49, Report on the 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly Conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1 – 5 April 2017.

PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Clerk read out the Parliamentary Committee Reports tabled before the House pursuant to Standing Order 51(5).

1. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 51, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on the P.P. 2017/2018 No. 1, Main Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year 2017/2018;
2. P.P. 2017/2018 No. 52, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee Report on the Public Service Amendment Bill 2017.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2017/2018 – debate on second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 132 continuation of debate of the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 will resume, I advise the Members to speak directly on matters concerning the economy of Samoa and financial policies of the Government.

This is the opportunity for the first Member to take the floor and speak upon the Bill.

With respect as we wait for the first speaker to speak on the Main Budget Statement, I wish to announce to the dignity of the House that on behalf of the participants of the Parliamentary College Program 2017, these participants are currently seated in the Chamber's public area.

This is the fifth year since the start of this awareness programs for [Colleges](#). [The objective of these programs is to inform students of the functions of Parliament especially the role of Members and Committees.](#) Part of the program today is to observe the Proceedings of the House and experience the way orders are carried out.

On behalf of Parliament I welcome the teachers and students attending this Parliament Program this year. We, the Leaders of the House pray for God's blessings upon you and your program today.

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Opportunity is now given to anyone who wishes to speak on the matter under deliberation. I call on the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela who also spoke first during the previous Budget, perhaps the role of Lefaga and Faleaseela is to lead. I call on the Member to take the floor.

Afioga TOLEAFOA KEN VAAFUSUAGA POUTOA (Lefaga and Faleaseela): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela.

The Chair has already voiced words of praises to the Lord and has mentioned the respects of Samoa including the support of the various Servants of God in Samoa for blessings upon her people.

I humbly greet the O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady. I also greet the three Members of Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, the Chief Justice and his Good Lady and the Judiciary. I respectfully greet the Members of Parliament, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the dignity of the Parliament of Samoa.

Furthermore, I greet the Government heads and students gathered here this morning to witness our Sitting.

Mr Speaker I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry of Finance for the Public Financial Statement, I congratulate you for the wise economic distribution of Samoa.

Before I speak of the Budget Statement, I wish to thank our overseas partners for the financial aid we get every year through the Government. Thank you. This constituency supports the Budget Statement together with some of the recommendations and requests. Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, thank you for the various works implemented for the village communities and districts for improvement by the Ministries you oversee. In regards to the Mataafa road I raised in my maiden speech, I remind, again, this road is becoming problematic within our district, it is also the connecting road to Falelatai and Faleaseela. Hon Minister, if possible to discover it yourself; this road is very important for those travelling around the island.

The road at Savaia, Safaatoa and Gagaifolevao further needs improvement. In addition, the road to Matareva Beach in Matautu also needs improvement given that this development has contributed immensely with our tourism industry especially people visiting this area and the filming of the well known Survivor series that took place in one of the villages of this constituency. This is the humble request to the Hon Minister.

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Hon Minister of Works I also want to convey a matter concerning the bridge between Liua le Vai o Sina in Faleaseela village, when the water overflows the road is blocked for the sake of settlers living on this side of the island. I also request the access roads improvement for Faleaseela and Tafagamanu. These villages have yet to have access roads. Moving on to the Water Authority, it has been announced that 2 million has been allocated by the Water Authority for community services or areas where water has not yet reached.

In plea of our sub-village of Vailuu where most of the settlements are discovered, I plead the Hon Minister for water supply in this area. For Tanumalala village, the State will soon undertake a new prison project in this area; therefore, water supply is definitely a requirement here.

Lastly a humble request to the Water Authority, the contained chlorine in water tanks storage is too strong and has affected the members of the constituency as it is used for consumption.

Hon Minister of the Electric Power Corporation, there is a need for street lights. As the Hon Minister is aware the villages within the constituency are quite dark and seeing that the prison will soon be opened, the village needs street lights for the safety of the public.

The Hon Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, we request for escaping roads for Faleaseela and Tafagamanu emergency situations such as when a natural disaster strikes or times of flooding and tsunamis. These are the remaining villages that are without emergency roads. In addition, the Return to Paradise Resort at Matautu may also require the same assistance.

I further wish to remind again the need for seawalls in Gagaifolevao and Faleaseela given the sea level rise that is affecting many land areas.

I wish to thank the Hon Minister of Agriculture for the markets to export our taro and other crops overseas. I also wish to extend great thanks to the Hon Minister for the prompt response upon one of the villages and the initial issue on taro virus recently. Nevertheless, we put our trust in the Lord and his power to withstand any problem in the country in relation to our taro export. We pray for God's blessings upon [the country's developments and our local farmers](#).

I humbly ask the Hon Minister if possible to get modern machinery to improve the work of our farmers. If we are able to obtain such machinery, it will greatly assist our poor local farmers to rapidly cultivate the lands and produce crops to raise the standard of our local production for overseas markets and exports. I further extend appreciation to the Hon Minister for the assisting works upon one of the members of this constituency on frozen taro.

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In regards to taro exportation, we aim to push for this development however the road of Faleaseela is very problematic. The access road for the farmers appreciates your assistance with respect. If the constituency is expected to export more than twenty containers of taro to New Zealand, then we need to improve the access road which was a request made to the Hon Minister of Works. Nevertheless, we also need your consent Hon Minister so that the process will take place quickly.

The Fire Emergency Service Department perhaps I did mention this in my maiden speech, and putting up this request again, we need a vehicle for emergency cases within the town area. We should be well prepared because we never know when accidents happen.

On to the Hon Minister for Polynesia Airlines, this constituency conveys gratitude. The Government has made a decision to get a new plane. The current airfares to Australia and New Zealand are quite expensive. It is not easy especially if the majority of those travelling between Australia and New Zealand are locals. The constituency supports this Government plan to get a new plane to minimize airfares price.

On to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, thank you for completing the Savaia School building and the project at Faleaseela. The constituency appreciates the work by the Hon Minister and Government now our children are using it which is a blessing. Another matter for your consideration is the sports field in front of the schools in Faleaseela and Savaia which need improvement. The Hon Minister has already made arrangements on the matter. Now the matter concerning school Principals, I suggest that they be assigned under contracts. This will challenge them to do better and improve their skills. If they do not do well then their positions can be advertised for those who are eligible to do the work. I am grateful to the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry on the matter concerning school inspectors. We have noted that school inspectors are now being reinstated to assist with the Ministry in the school curriculum.

On to the Hon Minister for the Samoa Housing Corporation, perhaps this organization was set up to assist our people in building new homes. Unfortunately, if we look at the existing interest imposed on the loans, it is very high. This is the humble request Hon Minister and honorable Chairperson Board Committee in regard to this 17% interest which is too high compared to the 8% interest by the Samoa Commercial Bank. This Corporation was set up to assist the people. This is a humble request to the Corporation and the Hon Minister, thank you.

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On to the Hon Minister of Health, I am grateful that we are now able to take our patients to be treated in India. This constituency appreciates this initiative by the Government. I have noted that the patients taken to India are treated instantly. As for New Zealand, the process takes time it would be great if our patients will be treated the same in New Zealand. Lastly, again I wish to remind the Hon Minister about a Sub-Centre for this constituency. We will leave the matter to you and pray blessings upon you and your duties and hope that a Sub Centre for this constituency will go through so we can attend whenever necessary.

On to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development I am grateful for the program implemented within the constituency through village committees and spearheaded by the Village Council for the benefit of the village. This is a good collaboration between the village member representatives or the Pulenuu and women committees and the faipule and a good connection for ease of work within the district. Thank you Hon Minister, and the initiative upon our traditional fine mats, *ie o le malo*. I am grateful for the several developments undertaken for the progress of our country. We pray for more developments given sufficient funds.

On to the Hon Minister of Communications, Information Technology, I have mentioned the need for television improvement in my maiden speech within our constituency. Still, some villages do not have clear coverage but as the Hon Minister stated coverage has improved. Hopefully, once cable connection is complete around the country perhaps the entire district of Lefaga and Faleaseela will get clear television coverage. I commend the Hon Minister, I know it is not an easy task but all for the development of Samoa.

I want to conclude with the Hon Minister of Revenue, this constituency is grateful for the hard work you do by seeking funds to develop our country. I believe the role of this Ministry is important especially in acquiring funds for the requested developments by the several constituencies.

Mr Speaker, these are a few concerns from this constituency, I thank [the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for the distribution of this Budget Appropriation](#). We hope to continue our support for the hard work that you do for the development of this country. Let us put our trust and rely on the powerful Hand of our Lord. To the beloved constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela, thank you for the prayers and support.

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Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet we strongly believe that Rome was not built in a day. I pray that such blessings be upon this constituency for Rome to be built wholly. May the Lord bless the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet also the Chair and respectable Members of the Parliament of Samoa. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I thank the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela. There is now another opportunity for a Member who wishes to speak, I call on the Member for Urban West, Afioga Faumuina Asi Wayne Fong.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West): Thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to continue with the speech of the previous Member and thank the Chair and all of Samoa for their support. Especially with the Appropriation Bill tabled within the House today. I also thank our Government and Cabinet and their support for the development of our country.

I wish to submit a few matters in assistance to the tabling Budget in the House this morning. I will not speak in detail of the Bill or make individual requests to the Ministries rather; I will try and put into summary by providing assistance on the Budget Appropriation. We have heard the address by the Hon Minister of Finance on the progressive state that our country should be moving forward and the most significant words herein, equity and fairness of Samoa for the future. Therefore, we should all participate for the development of Samoa and into the future. Then we have a question, who is participating and who is not? Because by expectation and in regards to the GST for everyone to take part including those who are not participating. I am grateful for the clarification given for future development. Now everyone will be participating equally in the country's Budget Statement of Samoa. The question though what is the State's assistance to the Budget? It seems our people are attempting to make improvement for the country. We are assisting the State by reducing the burden moving forward. Parliament has found and given back so much, why? So that in the future, we are able to provide assistance and work together for the State.

The Fire and Emergency Services is the most important Ministry for Samoa as a whole given its service for the public and fire emergency situations especially in the Apia town area. In regards to the advance constructions of large buildings seen today, and in comparison to the appropriation allocated to the Fire Emergencies Servies, it will only be enough for the staff and will not extinguish fire.

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What I mean is, we are getting a lot of grants from overseas through fire trucks which I am very grateful for, however most of the time, these vehicles are not used, the Government should fund bigger fire trucks that can extinguish fire on a six storey building house like the Government building. It is useless to get assistance if work cannot be achieved. This is just a recommendation to the Hon Minister of Finance to have a look into this issue that will affect all of us; we are blessed to not be caught by any fire whereas those families that have been affected by fires could not survive from the implementation of this work.

Mr Speaker I wish to acknowledge the Government of Australia and the GovernmeNt of New Zealand for the program carried out by the Ministry of the Prime Minister on seasonal worker scheme. Although it is true that we need physically and mentally strong people to undertake this kind of job. Nevertheless, the strength of a person is determined by the Lord, God's will determines one's calling instead of the motive of going to New Zealand for their families and call for extension to get physically fit. Because if physical health was one requirement, I trust none of us will pass this criteria for this job. Hence, I request the Hon Minister to consider these few concerns that could affect our target.

On to the Hon Minister superintending cable installations, I am grateful for your ingenuity you are the youngest of the Ministers yet you have implemented something great. A recommendation on this project, take it easy in case we might be hasty about it but will not be able to adhere to the changes and affects it might bring into the country. If we look at the speed technology today there is not a single student who does not have a phone. Therefore there are contents that are at times inappropriate at such young age, let us be prepared on such affects. When we did not have phones the progress in communities was good there were no such issues like today even the pastors were good back then. Unfortunately today a lot of people are affected by such modern influences which I believe affects the majority of us.

I humbly ask the various Ministries for their assistance with our Budget Appropriation and the proper appropriation for each Ministry. *Seeing this side, most of the work is undertaken by two people instead of one for some Ministries; similarly, two cars are used for one job which must be minimized.* I reside along the free way to the airport and every five minutes; I frequently see a lot of public vehicles passing by the road from Monday to Saturday and even from Monday to Sunday until 12 midnight and even up to the next day. As such, we must learn to ease the burden on our work.

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It is also grateful to see that some Ministries will be merged again and the positive changes that will come with it and therefore, a lot of public funds will be saved. If this will be the case with other Ministries, it will be unnecessary to make additional appropriation each year other than deductions.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I commend you for your bravery, and one more program being assessed for student fees. Why not lend some assistance for our school inspectors committees to assist them with their work, for a new school building, seek fund to repaint it and pay for the water bill if it is unpaid. In regards to arrears that cannot be met due to carelessness and because of the unavailability of Committee members.... have consideration into matter lest a parent pleads again that their kids could not attend school due to this issue. This is also good and if the Government no longer pays for students' fees, parents can take over that responsibility to show their true love upon their children.

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, we have known each other a long time. Most of the reports received today, I don't think there will not be anymore constituency like ours but it will be good to even try. The Catholic Church has already bought the lands at Moamoa but the road, water and lights have not been fixed. On policy, work should have been completed before the land can be sold. I humbly request the Hon Minister perhaps it was carelessness at the time, to construct the road from Moamoa to Malololelei to minimize the traffic from Vailima. This is a recommendation for future improvement.

For Falelauniu, since the Member elected for Faleata West is not present, I will give it anyway. The road of Falelauniu was constructed by the Samoa Land Corporation however, a dispute argued that it should be done by the Government as already, it is being used by buses and taxis and settlements are already located in this area, still, people are fighting on who to fix it.

Have a look into this matter Hon Minister of Works. There are barely any plantations in this constituency and majority of these lands are freehold. I humbly request for such development to be carried out especially for people in rural area and Savaii who want to buy lands to be closer to town. If such developments are not completed it will greatly affect people from buying lands in this area.

Mr Speaker these are a few recommendations together with the support of this constituency, rather these are the slight recommendations and contribution for the development of our country. With utmost respect, thank you and bless our Sitting.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. It was a brief speech but it was insightful I thank the Member for his time.

I give the opportunity to any Member who wishes to speak on the Bill, it is our objective to deliberate the matter so we will be able to implement developments stated in the Appropriation.

I call on the Member for Vaimauga East.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East): Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker and the respectable House. Before I convey an opinion on the tabling Budget Appropriation in the House today I firstly wish to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, Afioga Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also welcome the dignity of the Parliament of Samoa and the support of the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, media and the dignity of Principals and students witnessing our Sitting in the House.

I also greet the honorable Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff for serving the Parliament of the country. I further greet the support of Spiritual Leaders who are praying and fasting to God for blessings upon Samoa and her people.

I acknowledge the respects of Le Ao o le Malo, Afioga i le Tui Atua Tupuola Efi and Good Lady, Member of Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies especially the Chief Justice and Judiciary. Least I will not forget the support of my constituency Vaimauga East, I ask for your support as I convey an opinion before the House.

Mr Speaker and the distinguished House, my overall observation of this Budget Appropriation, I wish to extend gratitude to the head of the Ministry of Finance and the various Ministries for your great support on this wonderful Budget. Most of their efforts are spent on this Budget day and night. And looking at the previous Budget Statements, we had reductions to expenditures by the Hon Minister's keenness for a beautiful and blessed Samoa.

From our overall perspective, I salute the Hon Minister for his heroism in submitting this Budget Appropriation without any Supplementary. I strongly believe that the Hon Minister is relying on the Lord that by the next financial year, the proper management of the Budget is still maintained.

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I have a few things I wish to raise. The Budget Appropriation about the \$2 million tax for pastors which was a controversial issue in the country. I am not afraid of speaking about these matters which regards the Spiritual Leaders of the Lord. If it concerns the Servants of God who were called by God to look after the congregation including you and me, this should not involve the Church Leaders on the \$2million allocated by the Hon Minister.

Overall, I support the Budget Appropriation. Other matters which I agree with include the increased percentage of electricity. The only matter that has my objection is the \$2 million tax allocated to the Church Ministers. As I earlier said, these are the chosen Servants of God who were called to maintain peace within the villages that deserve high respect. Such is my concern. We also see Reverend...

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker the matter I want to pursue, if the construction of the house is not safe then cover it up rather, he is announcing his church house is not safe, it should be covered.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member.

Afioga SULAMANAI FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker the message by the O Le Ao o le Malo is accurate, the house roof is done by the Church. Now that we have this tax is now falling on Church members.

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

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 can see that the Member is quite agitated over this matter. It is not me, it is the O Le Ao o le Malo, but it should be corrected. This is the reason why people rarely use this word, *faafalelemalu* or dwelling which portrays that you are not doing anything when you should be putting roof on your pastor's house.

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That is what we should do, build two story glass buildings for our pastors rather than saying the word *faafalelemalu*, it is like telling the House that you are loudly speaking it when your pastor's house is unsafe.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker I will replace the term *faafalelemalu* with God's Servants or God's Image in the world, the Reverend.

MR SPEAKER: I remind the notable Member to speak of our economy and make general comments in regards to our Budget as we are not yet discussing the consideration in detail of the legislation.

With due respect. I call on the Member.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, given the overall reflection of the Budget, I appreciate the Hon Minister. The only hiccup noted is this \$2 million which will affect God's Servants seeing that we are mainly targeting the Church Ministers; rather it will also involve his wife and children that are part of the Church.

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 just want to remind the Member that there are a lot of Church Ministers who have already paid their taxes.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, the Church Ministers under employment should pay taxes whilst the Pastor I am referring to are the ones serving in the villages. *They are fed and served by the village that they serve.*

Such is the attempt considering the purpose for this legislation; they had consultations in the villages. What response did they get from the country? Other churches objected. Rather the overall in regards to Church Ministers of God that is my major concern.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I advise the member that until we have that particular legislation then we will allow the member to speak on it whereas the chance for the respectable Member to speak on...

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Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: I support the tabling Budget Appropriation except for the \$2 million allocation to Church Ministers. I will now speak on behalf of my constituency.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I am grateful for your service. Given the previous requests of this constituency, it majorly concerns the access roads of Laulii. As requested before, a wharf should be set up in Laulii since it does not have a reef. In relation to long talks about the Vaiusu wharf, our village is now offering land to build this project. In regards to seawalls areas, the ones in Laulii are being destroyed badly and true is the saying, confronted by the sea and braced by a cliff. If a Tsunami strikes, the village of Laulii will be greatly damaged. Such is the request Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, have a look at access roads for our people to escape to higher grounds and view the lowland area for a new town set up by the State sometimes in the future.

Another request Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure is the access road for the settlers of Vailele on inner part. Most Parliamentary terms in the past, the village of Vailele has been requesting for an inner road inside the village. I submit this request with the seawall area of Laulii and Vailele and access roads of Laulii and Letogo to the Hon Minister.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, you both reside in your villages, so whenever you go pass Laulii, take a look at our damaged seawall area, why? The constituency has been assisting the Government with sand digging; otherwise this has greatly affected the seawall area.

In regards to further requests, this village wants a new road to be built on the seawall area to save them from accessing the central part of the village. The villages of Vailele, Letogo and Fagalii has constantly been requesting about the price over the past Sittings in regards to the 8,000 quarter acres for funds to assist our Budget Appropriation unfortunately the Minister in charge of lands has not given a response yet. That is similar to our village and the allocated lands in comparison to the previous years; the price per quarter acre in Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii was eight thousand. It seems this is acceptable right now, and reason for the district's petition for \$8,000 because in the end, these freehold lands will no longer be on the market. These customary lands belong to high chiefs. Hence, I request the Hon Minister of Land to look into this matter.

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If we look at this village of Fagalii, there are a lot of Government developments taking place within it. Perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ of the landscape in Fagalii is settled by its own people including the airport and the golf course. Public lands and one where the cable installation is situated, I ask how much money we get whenever we get complaints from the people from the noise of the aircrafts and that people are also fearful incase we have an airplane explosion nearby. Looking at it, the aircrafts would land too close to this settlement area. Is it possible for the Government to compensate our people in order for them to move further inland and get distance from the airport?

On to education, thank you Hon Minister of Finance for bringing up this matter on school inspectors. I support the raising again of school inspectors to assist the Ministry. I have noted over the past financial years, priority is on the health sector and the education sector. The only request, is the normal things every year and priority over the Health and Education not knowing whether ther is improvement for these two sectors. For example, the recent school festival that took place involving various activities however, there was no follow up process, it first started off with ten plus schools and now I just received an update that is it just six. What are the reasons or is the timing inappropriate, have a look into this Hon Minister and the many activities that were involved and whether possible to concentrate on one thing at a time first.

I am grateful for the great assistance in regards to the Budget resubmitted to the Hon Minister of Health. As delievered in previous years, perhaps the one where I questioned a follow up process in regards to our funds concerning patients taken to New Zealand and knowing now that patients will be taken to India. This is good. The main intention is good priority if the statement I made changed the view of the Minister on patients taken to India instead of New Zealand. This is something for our people to look out on.

Hon Minister of Prisons and Corrections this request was made during the former Minister's time in regards to the prison for my district in [Vailele](#). For clarification, these villages have people who want to sell their freehold lands. I requested a review as we all know that this constituency is made up of traditional villages like Letogo and Vailele or even ask the Police force as the village Council can inform the residents of Vaimauga that they can still vote for the urban seat. This is why I support this Bill to encourage settlers in my constituency to cast their votes for my constituency.

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Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I am grateful for the many developments you have achieved. Up till today, the constituency is still waiting for the tractors you announced will be distributed for each constituency under the management of their own representatives. Until now, this is just plain notice without receiving anything. I plead the Hon Minister that we must pray and fast together to God to remove the virus in the country seeing that we have insufficient funds.

Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development I support the authority of the village council on freehold properties. This is good as there are a lot of freehold settlers in villages that do not comply by this authority. Gratefully, this Bill has allowed this authority by the Alii and Faipule towards the freehold land settlers especially in regards to domestic violence program. The only program this constituency does not support is the *fafine nofotane* or in-law I beg indulgence to the Maota. It seems we are now trying to promote *fafine nofotane* nevertheless that is their nature. In their own families also we do not really have to clarify this matter since everyone knows it already. I just hope that the organizers will be able to benefit from it on the objective to promote it rather than enforce it. We were all allocated a place to stay, I too am an in-law, similar to you, otherwise, it seems that a *nofotane* is ruling the family; the only answer for them is to chase them out.

Mr Speaker I have seen the Appropriation Budget will have additional appropriation for the Ministry of Communication and Information and Technology for the cable. I am saddened by this because now that we have the cable but telephone bill are now increasing. If we look at the majority of our country this is the fastest way of communication, now it seems this area will be revised again...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister, pardon the Member. I call on the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker, assessing the speech of the Member carefully, I heard from his speech the mentioning of non-government organization program on *nofotane*. I was invited as a guest speaker by the organization also I have noted the Member does not understand the objective of the program. In case the significance of the program is ridiculed this is all based on lacking insight of the purpose rather, I was there as the guest speaker to convey a word of encouragement.

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I apologize to the Member if he is not satisfied with the initiative of the program I know your opinion is different from the objective the program is trying to portray. In conclusion to the findings undertaken by this non-government organization 85% of the problems seen in the country start from here. This is why the United Nations donated US \$200,000 to support women who were being abused. I just want to clarify to the whole country in case the objective of the program is misheard it is for a good cause. I do not mean to interrupt but this is to clarify the importance of the program to make peace with women who are faced with such problems. I will do not agree much with the term *nofotane* since it is degrading they are all ladies within their families. This is a clarification Mr Speaker, bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I humbly recommend the Hon Minister not to take such minor mistakes to heart. The opinion of the Member is his alone but I believe it was also just to take the floor and clarify the matter. Furthermore, to keep the significance of the program as mentioned by the Member.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAULIILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker I thought the Minister was going to respond on the matter concerning tractors rather it is clarification of in laws or *fafine nofotane*. It would have been more appropriate for a woman in law to speak in stead of a man in law to speak on this program.

Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House...

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

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: These words should not be discarded. I have thought that the Member had understood my position within the village. Yes, I am not an in law, I am a senior in law, yes. I married the girl of the village and later discovered I was a Tuliapupu within the village.

The Member should be aware of this matter. How can you know anything if you do not show any support.

Another matter Mr Speaker, the Member should not be worried about the tractors that will be here soon. I have given this response in consideration of the matter being misinterpreted also I did not want to answer too soon. I wanted to give the Member time to catch his breath.

With respect.

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

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 as you recommended the Member should move away from this matter. This just portrays both Members absurdity.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker I will now conclude an opinion of this constituency.

MR SPEAKER: Yes let us move on to another matter.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: I believe this morning has seen a lot of requests being voiced which portrays the importance of the voice of the constituency. I support the Hon Minister of Finance also let us pray to the Lord for his blessings. I can see in our Budget that there are developments like the prison building and setting up the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation or UNESCO, I see that the funds allocated is still not enough. This is the only concern in case the project for the prison starts off but ends up being incomplete. With regards to our remaining funds from previous financial years, our constituency needs to achieve so many projects. The village of Letogo situates the road into the residence of the Member and people are always talking about how bad this road is when the Member lives there. The only response I give is prioritizing the roads of my constituency than the one beside my residence. Hon Minister, have a look into this concern.

I conclude by voicing my support on the tabling Budget this morning. I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for attending the late Speaker's funeral, the honorable Tuilaupupu. The presence of Parliament was a great honor for us given his great service to the country.

I specially wish to thank the Chairperson of the Board of the Unit Trust of Samoa or UTOS, it is no wonder we have so much money, I am certain that our country together with the people of this constituency knows that those in the Board are outstanding. This is why I am grateful to the Chairperson and the Chief Executive and all those on the Board for such achievement.

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The only recommendation this constituency has is for the inclusion of two of its representatives on the Board. This was the will from our Heavenly Father, for two members of this constituency to make up the Board for Unit Trust of Samoa.

I also want to thank the Hon Minister of Agriculture for his participation as the member of the family. It is unusual for such measures to be taken in such setting. What day were you there? Thus you served because of your respect for your Elder. I also thank the Associate Minister and everyone who were part of that day, it gave great honor. My constituency I convey condolences in the sad passing of Afioga Tuisugaletaua of Fagalii. I pray that God will in time find another replacement, for you are a Tuisugaletaua in Fagalii a Tapunuu, who rules the village. I pray the Lord to guide our family in Fagalii and elect Tuisugaletaua Simi to oversee our village.

Lastly Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House the Member for Vaimauga apologies for any disrespect word; it is my intention to speak the truth. We are now a one party state with the Human Rights Protection Party, I am concerned that we have put a burden upon the servants of God, this makes me nervous. Bless our Sitting this morning.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Member for his speech it was quite outstanding. In case Members and the Hon Minister of Agriculture are offended, it is just natural for elders to say such statements. I thank the Member for his speech.

I call on a Member who wishes to take the floor. I call on the Member for Safata West.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West): Mr Speaker I am grateful for this fine morning. I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I greet the support of Samoa, His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo, Members of Council of Deputies especially my constituency, I thank you for your prayers and never ending support. I will now express a view on the Budget before the House today.

Firstly, Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, entrusting that you are the backbone of our economy and major developments in the country. We have already talked about the road issues of this constituency especially for the village Sataoa. I humbly request development of these roads going inland and downtown. At the moment this road is at a state where villagers have to rebury the road because a lot of cars have been affected by it.

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I humbly ask the Hon Minister for this favor if not you are welcome to come and see for yourself the condition of the road. This is the same with the access road at Vaiee, I am aware that there are limitations on developments undertaken but I hope our roads can be fixed. There is a road that goes through Saanapu Hon Minister I mention this area because of the filming of the Survivor that took place here both American and Australian television. Now the American crew are back again and are using the same location, I humbly ask for these roads to be considered for improvement. There is also the issue concerning street lights within the villages to aid people at night from Vaiee, Nuusuatia, Lotofaga, Sataoa towards Saanapu.

There was a time when I passed by the eastern side of Aleipata, I saw the Lady Samoa II and was not sure because we already had an auction and no one seemed to want the boat. I can see that the boat is nearly sinking at the wharf on that side of the island. This is worrisome as whatever plans the Ministry has for this boat, I am concerned because it will affect our environment. If plans suggests that this boat be discarded either way, or take it to the deep sea to be sunk or even turn it into a tourist development for diver fanatics, the major concern if the boat sunk is that it will have an impact on Aleipata wharf.

Hon Minister of Health I want to thank you for the services provided by your Ministry. I stated in last years Appropriation to the Hon Minister the hospital at Poutasi, Leulumoega and Saanapu which is in between the two.

Therefore Hon Minister I observed the hospital at Motootua is always full. With the increasing number of people in the district and to lessen the number of patients heading to the hospital in Apia, it would be necessary to set up a health service in Saanapu.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture I believe this is one Ministry that is being prioritized by the Government. I am grateful that our college buildings will be renovated soon with the funding assistance from America including the Primary School in Sataoa. I am also grateful for the site visits that were conducted in our schools and the additional teachers that we had by request for our college and primary schools. There was a mention of school inspectors, I am grateful for this initiative as we really need school inspectors, it was only three years ago since they were on break and again, you have taken the stand to bring them back.

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Next up Hon Minister have deep consideration into our...as I see that the pay of Principals depends on the number of students. I have noted that there are school committees that bring in as many students as they want because the more students the more grants they get from the Ministry and the Principal will be paid more. Hon Minister I humbly ask for a review on this matter as we found in our investigation and site visits that there are classes that have nearly 70 students with only one teacher. This means the Principal is quite happy because the more students the more pay earned and the school committee is also happy to get more grants. Have a look into this matter.

On to the National University of Samoa, I acknowledge the Hon Minister and the Chancellor. I have noted that it has now been eleven years since the merge of the National University and the Institute of Technology; I thank the Chancellor for this merge which was not an easy. This fulfills the saying, it is difficult to merge the sweetness of an orange and an apple, it will always taste different.

I have noted that the University now offers higher degrees like PhD and Masters Studies. As for the technical institute I strongly believe that this is one pillar that contributes to our economy. The people we need are mostly those that have attended this institute. There is belief that if this Institute is of higher standard, we will not have any more expatriate contractors to do the job for us as we will now have our own qualified people to perform it through this Training Institute. Thereby, seeking the most qualified person from this Institute requires those that have taken vocational studies from 5 to 6 years.

Currently, the University witnesses insufficient funding from the Budget to fund this sort of Institutes, gratefully, the Samoa Qualifications Authority have grants that are allocated specifically for these Institutions. Furthermore, I also trust based on personal research, this Institute has by far, one of the most efficient graduating levels and business set up for students and that graduate set up their own businesses straight after. This is why I mentioned that this is why this area contributes greatly to our economy.

I plead the Hon Minister to elect a Commission to review the merge of the two institutions as I find that some merge within other Ministries are incompatible. For improvement sake, it is good to know that the Government is taking the initiative in fixing any rising problem. This is similar to what I said earlier Hon Minister but I thank you for the hard work you have accomplished since you took office.

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Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment or the Deputy Prime Minister perhaps I have already made a request concerning seawalls. Our village of Sataoa and the current seawall were probably constructed twenty years ago and up to today it is still incomplete. I humbly ask for your consideration on the matter because there is a great effect of the sea on the shoreline within the village. In the village of Sataoa there is a waterfall that flows to the sea ever since 2012 with the many cyclones we had in the past, we have encountered so many changes. Once the water overflows, the cars cannot access the road and a lot of families are greatly affected by it. I humbly ask the Hon Minister for his great consideration into this matter given the great impact of climate change. On to the matter concerning land lease, as mentioned in previous speeches, it is appreciative to finally have a Commission. This Commission visited the rural villages and clarified the landlease matter. Because truthfully, there are so many people who are interested in land lease. They intend to settle on these lands without making any developments and later resell these lands using their shares to make up the money that was used to buy the land.

It seems they want to make businesses within our country which I believe is not easy. We must ensure that our customary land lease has set policies in place otherwise; it will have a huge impact on the landowners.

Then we come to the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor, I thank you for administering this Ministry. Only this to say, in regards to foreign investors, I note that there are investors who come here and issue permits of almost 20 years yet no development is being set up in the country. What is the measure for these kinds of people who aim to set up small businesses and end up loaning from our local banks lessening the chance for our locals to borrow? I request the Hon Minister to look into this matter, especially foreign investors who are intended to set up businesses in the country and in consequence, nothing is being done.

Hon Minister of Tourism, I extend greatest gratitude to you and your role with the industry. Passing by the wharf in the morning of last month, I saw a cruise ship docking there. Between the wharf and Aggie Grey's Hotel along the seawall area, I saw scattered rubbish along the road which is the first impression of visitors as soon as a cruise ships enters the country. This is important especially our roads and the footpath area. Most of the visitors would walk along this area which readily situates the availability of restaurants and clubs.

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This means that during the night people would leave rubbish lying around in this area until daytime. These businesses should be advised in order for them to clean and maintain this problem. This is the observation I made that morning upon the cruise ship's arrival. Another thing I noticed is that there were so many taxis and taxi drivers' attire was totally up to them. Some wore clothes that made them look like they were going to the plantation when they should be wearing the Samoan elei to showcase and reflect our nationality. These small things are important as it port portrays the first image of our country.

Such is the humble request Hon Minister, everytime I go pass the airport and through your village Leuavaa, I see the beautiful the lights lining up on both sides of the road, and sometimes I am mistaken that I thought it was the airport. Otherwise, the decorated lights are amazing to watch.

I humbly ask the Hon Minister whether these lights were from an in kind donation because we have so many long straight roads in Safata and it would be good to have these lights set up in this part of the country to make it look splendid.

Another matter Mr Speaker I heard through someone that there are lawbreakers who have...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Tourism): Thank you respectable Members. The matter concerning the beautification of the township area is under the watch of the Beautification Committee which does not come under the Toursim Authority. There is a Ministry in charge of the Apia urban area but thank you for the recommendation.

The lights in our village were our own preparations that we funded and we also pay for the cash power. The overall cash power for these lights per month is \$400. For 12 months, henceforth, a total of \$4,800.00 is paid through the funds we collected. As for the installation of lights, it did not involve any Government funds.

The purpose for this project is to serve the country and to promote and beautify Samoa especially these villages where we have our visitors coming in from the airport towards Apia. For clarification of the House, this is an example implemented by our village to encourage other constituencies. So, whoever is willing to follow through, it is up to the Member and their Committees as this will reflect the work of a good member. We must strive to do our best for the good reputation of the country especially for the village communities. With great respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well perhaps the clarification by the Hon Minister will encourage constituencies and Members to improve the beautification of our villages but it seems the Member has prepared more to say. Or are you going to conclude your speech...

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Mr Speaker I will now conclude.

MR SPEAKER: I humbly ask for your conclusion since we are nearing our recess hour.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: I thank the Hon Minister for his clarification and I have understood the matter clearly. It is not my intention to question the competency of Government on funds for such developments. I now know the strong serving spirit of the Hon Minister even though it may be a waste of electricity but beautification is also important. I heard our Government is trying to save diesel for electricity nevertheless it is important to know the spirit of the Member to serve our country.

Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I note that the Member's comment is a challenging one. Because the honorific respects of Leauvaa is tuning in. These developments is all for the support and improvement of Samoa's beautification through the services of villages. As such, because there are statements that we make that sounds small but irritating and troublesome. Therefore, it is totally up to the Leauvaa and its member, because they are paying for the cash power. Go ahead and conclude your speech.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Hon Minister that is not my intention I am commending you for the beautification of our country. Mr Speaker I heard about the matter regarding overseas criminals. I heard they have already served their time overseas and are now being deported back to our country. I am worried about these criminals entering the country because they could create problems in the country. In assistance, what is the State's measure on this, should we set another law even though they have served their sentence in New Zealand, Australia and America, in turn, these prisoners are returned to our country. See if possible to introduce another law for this sort of issue.

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I conclude with the Hon Minister of Finance, thank you especially to the Chief Executive Officer and staff for preparing the Budget. Thank you greatly for the completed Budget Statement and the \$23, 600,000 surpluses that will be achieved by next week. I see that this Budget Statement ends in June 2018, with a Surplus of \$21,300,000. Therefore, by personal estimate, a total of \$44,900,000.00 surplus for these 2 Budget Statements, I am grateful to the Hon Minister for such achievement.

The only personal concern in regards to this amount is excess surplus. However, I trust that 80% of the House is requesting for road improvement.

Hence, I plead the Hon Minister whether possible to allocate another \$10 million to assist with the development of roads. Given the current surplus of \$44,900,000, as a concern, if we do not use up, I see that we have a debt from soft term loans of \$90,300,000. This means if we do not use this money, we are still paying interests. I appeal the Hon Minister to look into this surplus of nearly \$50 million; if we look at the deficit in the Budget, it is quite huge. I trust that in order to develop our economy, given our current surplus, why not use it to implement other developments in the country? Also seeing the unforeseen estimates this year, it amounts to \$15,400,000. I wish to ask the Hon Minister whether we have any remaining funds that will be concluded by next week. If we do, including this one, I plead the Hon Minister that whatever developments we have, we still have the remaining funds...

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Member to conclude his speech for his time is up.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: These funds are for the development of the country.

Mr Speaker these are a few thoughts on the matter. Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet I humbly convey these opinions in support of our work.

May blessings be upon the honorable Speaker. Bless our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Member for Safata West.

Since we have arrived at our usual recess, I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for our normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended for its normal recess at 10:45am until 11.30am.

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Motion to Amend Sitting Hours

Proceedings recommenced with the continuation of debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

MR SPEAKER: I trust you have been energized from our break to resume work. Before I call the member, I call the Hon Prime Minister.

MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, with respect I move a motion *That Sitting hours be approved from 9.00am to 1.00pm, break and resume at 3.00pm to 7.00pm. This is to ensure that we will have enough time to deliberate the Appropriation Budget within our Sitting hour before we go to a break and support the Manu Samoa match against Wales. I also announce that tickets are available at a reasonable price for everyone to take part in this event.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motion approved.

Debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 continued.

MR SPEAKER: Before recess the Member for Safata West was concluding his speech, I call another member to speak on this Bill.

I give the opportunity to the Member for Aana Alofi No.2.

Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2): Thank you Honorable Speaker for the opportunity. I am certain the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet together with Members have been satisfied with the refreshments provided this morning. I move with respect to speak upon the Budget under debated before the House this morning.

Before I voice an opinion I first want to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet eventhough we were apart for some time, and now we are together in this House once again to deliberate the Budget for the future of Samoa.

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I greet His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, Christian respects and Cultural respects. I also greet the support of my constituency Aana Alofi No.2 Leulumoega and Nofoalii in all honoraray salutations.

I take this opportunity with respect to convey an opinion on the Appropriation Budget tabled before the House. Before I convey an opinion I firstly voice a few requests to the Ministers of Cabinet on some of the progressing work carried out in 2016/2017.

I wish to thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the improvement works by the Electric Power Corporation at Leulumoega which is part of the country that still does not have full electricity which is nearing completion. Thank you for this assistance.

Perhaps the request concerning road access for Nofoalii is still pending. I therefore will leave that request with you given your wise distribution at the appropriate time.

Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, given the request on our seawall area for the subvillage of Vaialua, implementation works are still pending and that the Ministry has already visited this site, yet nothing is being done. The sub village Vaialua is right next to the residence of Le Ao o le Malo and the Member of Council of Deputy Afioga Tuimalealiifano, if we look at the pool on the coast it has been greatly affected by strong waves. As mentioned earlier if we keep on begging, we would be come irritable. Nevertheless, I will leave this matter with you for your consideration.

Another issue in my constituency is the roadside areas which are an eyesore for passersby pardon the House. The poor scenery due to rubbish disposals is very alarming in growth particularly with plastic wastes as affirmed by one tourist who attended our church at Leulumoega who said to me that he was saddened with the way our beautiful environment has turned into, this issue is becoming prevalent all across the roadside areas due to mounts of rubbish. I leave this [matter with the Hon Prime Minister and whichever respective Minister](#) that is in charge of this issue to find a solution to this problem.

Then I come to the Minister...

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 the opinion of the Member is very important. It is important because it is addressed in the House. This issue is greatly monitored and followed up by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Samoa Tourism Authority. However, what's happening is that this specific matter involves the country as a whole especially and reason why the village mayors or pulenuu and women representatives were appointed. This is their duty. If they see that there is a problem within the village it is their responsibility to resolve it. The Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Ministry are also reminding the public about this concern. For the sake of the public listening in, your Leaders are prioritizing this concern which is reason for my gladness. This is the reminder to government representatives in the villages as well as taxi drives and buses, this is your duty. This is what happens when people eat in their cars and throw their rubbish outside after eating. We should be proud of our country and make sure that Samoa is well maintained and clean all the time. Even though there are filthy areas where this issue becomes a concern, nonetheless, Samoa is regarded as the cleanest place in the whole of the Pacific. I thank the Member for mentioning this matter in general at the moment for the respective Ministries to follow up with the villages to maintain and ensure the maintenance of villages. Every village has this kind of reputation.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call on the Member to continue his speech.

Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI: Thank you honorable Speaker and Leader of the country for paying great significance in this matter. True is the saying by the Hon Prime Minister, this matter does not involve one person alone, it involves everyone and Samoa as a whole.

By request to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, in regards to Early Childhood, this is one important level in the learning process stage of children in the country. If the child is educated well from an early age, by the time they reach the primary level, the work of the teacher becomes easier.

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However, the problem engaged and speaking on behalf of my village, by half of the year there is no fund available. Then we will urge the village to collect money in order to pay the teachers who are qualified enough and have graduated from Sogi. This is the humble request Hon Minister; we need funds to assist with our early childhood learning education.

Further on the field of education is the Institute of Technology at Vaivase. We all know that it is now under the National University of Samoa. There is a concern in this regard. Talks with the contractors about the graduates from the Institute employed with them saying, that almost all these students lack the skills in doing the job. I asked the mentors at the Institute and they responded that they do not have the funds. The only aspect taught to the students is theory but then when they get into the practical part; there is no fund to buy the materials for use. This is the request with respect Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, have a look into this matter.

We have in the House the Budget that was reviewed by the Hon Minister of Finance and the Minister for Revenue. We have thoroughly seen it and overall, I give my support on the Budget. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Member for Aana Alofi No.2 for that speech. The opportunity is once again given to a Member who wishes to speak. I call on the Member for Vaisigano No. 2.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker, firstly I humbly greet the Chair of the Legislative Assembly. I also greet this side of Chamber Leader of Government, Deputy Prime Minister Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge majority of Members of the House also respects to Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady and the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. I greet the Chief Justice and Judiciary the Legislative office and the Heads of Government Ministries present in proceedings. I also greet our guests with us this morning, the public and the media. I humbly greet the respects of Samoa and our neighboring islands in the East and the respected Servants of God and your prayers for the blessings of the country.

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I take this opportunity to greet my constituency of Vaisigano No.2 for their support in all your traditional respects. I will now make a submission on the Budget. I want to thank the Hon Minister, Associate Minister, Chief Executive and the Ministry and everyone who took part in preparing this Budget Statement. Thank you also for the assistance of this Budget and the funding assistance earned by the State and the implementation of our projects.

Mr Speaker the main objective set out by the Budget Address states the wording that says; equity and fairness. Personally in my understanding I would interpret this statement as, making just decisions for the benefit of our country. Mr Speaker this is one of the reason why I support the tabling Budget and therefore, I wish to make very comments on this statement.

Firstly, I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry for the awareness that there will be no Second Appropriation Schedule for the financial year 2016/2017. This confirms and gave us approval that the distribution of funds is assured.

Another matter is the general evaluation of Government Ministries. I assure the certain awareness by the Appropriation Schedule on taxes and duty and public service salary. I extend great thanks for the good, positive and achieved plans by the Ministry shown in the Budget.

Mr Speaker I support this concern by stating the importance of another raising matter. In regards to the merge of the Ministry of Health and the National Health Services, it is a great idea I strongly believe that further review and attempts by the State through the leadership of the Ministry of Finance based on proper management and good governance. The Government has revoked its decision to increase the VAGST. It is the opinion of this Member that such matters are to be monitored closely especially the payment of taxes and VAGST. This is the same with some foreign businesses entering the country sold to other local businesses. I am happy to hear that there is only a minimum increase levied on VAGST.

Lastly this Member supports the mandate and the procedures of the Ministry for Revenue that is clearly set out in the Budget, well done Hon Minister of Finance and your Associate Minister.

Mr Speaker, in regards to the allocation of funds mentioned by the previous speaker it seems the main targeting areas is education sector and the health sector that also has our support.

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In regards to the continued service by the State on school fees compensation from Primary Levels to Years 11 levels, if the priority goal is to develop our education system starting with our children through us, I wish to add in, that if possible to include Years 12 and 13, this will be a another great achievement. This is something we are all aware of, and in regards to most families in the country, there will always be a student attending the college level going downwards and both parents are unemployed. Therefore, whatever decision the Government decides, it would be good if assistance extends to Years 13. I am also certain that all of us in this House are also assisting our families with meeting school fee payments. Such is the request, whether possible to extend this benefit to Years 12 and 13.

I want to thank the Ministry of Education the Hon Minister and Chief Executive for reinstating school inspectors. Personally, it does not mean that we are still engaged with our district shools and hold talks with the Principals and teachers knowing that there are still those kinds of thoughts. It is important to establish a relationship between the Principal and School Inspectors as well as the constituencies or the village. Thank you for initiating this good idea Hon Minister.

In regards to scholarships for teachers, well everyone agrees with this initiative. In regards to more qualified teachers for our Institute Training School, truthfully we have talked about this matter before and regardless of the lack of funds, for the most part, it is also required to have qualified teachers on the theory side for these vocational subjects.

MR SPEAKER: The Member has two more minutes.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Since I am now given the red light, despite, I will try and progress with a few more matters while I still have the opportunity.

In regards to health, thank you Hon Minister of Health and the Executive Officer and the staff. I trust this is positive arrangement for our doctors to return from overseas and opportunity for our nurses to [get scholarships to extend further knowledge in their work](#). The man concern Hon Minister is the district health centers for constituencies like Asau. I appreciate the attendance of a doctor on a weekly basis. Although, there is still an issue of patients waiting from Monday until Friday for the doctor's visit, it would have been enough if it was one, two or three days. I humbly ask the Hon Minister for your consideration into this matter which I am sure you agree with in regards to providing assistance with those living in remote areas from the hospital in Apia and the Faasaleleaga area like in Savaii.

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On to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries...one of the issues we constantly face is virus diseases that affect our crops. If there is any way or a method to resolve such matter I ask that we try to apply it for future improvement. If we look at it from the health prespective the income of most families is from the land and sea. I humbly request consideration on the arrangement of bouy poles in the ocean to make fishing easier.

Since my time has been shortened, I will leave two other matters whilst I give a note of thanks given the little time left. I wish to thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and his Associate and the Ministry for the work carried out. In regards to lights, I have already consulted this with the head of the Electric Power Corporation and it will be executed by mid month. Thank you Hon Minister of Works now that the borehole of Sataua village is achieved thus benefiting the entire district including Vaisigano No.2.

Since my time is up, thank you for the opportunity. I also wish to thank all Cabinet Ministers and Government heads for their support.

I pray blessings upon the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and all Members of the House. I thank the Chair for the bit chances even though it is true that... I will finish it when we have the next Budget, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Respectable Members should be aware that they are only given two chances each when we have the consideration into detail of the Bill for each item. I respect you however we must be mindful of our scheduled time in accordance to our Standing Orders.

I call on another member who wants to take the floor. I call one of the lady Members for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker. I greet the honourable Speaker, Leader of the Government, Ministers of the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and all the respectable members of the House. I acknowledge the presence of Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations and Samoa in their support from top mountains to the lowestm, the Servants of God.

I also take this opportunity to greet my constituency Gagaifomauga No.3 in all your traditional salutations. I will now speak directly on the tabling Budget before the House. I have read it and I commend the Hon Minister of Finance the Leader of Government and staff for the hard work and preparation of the Budget Statement.

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I note that some Ministries have maintained their total budgets from the previous year whilst some have either increased or decreased budgets. This reflects how well each Ministry is maintaining their budgets by carrying out effective measurements and controlling processes in their objectives whilst other Ministries have increasing budgets like the Ministry of Health. Personally, these are the kind of Ministries that is good for the general benefit of the country by bringing good health for Samoa whereby, budget should be raised together with quality service delivery for the people.

By recommendation to the Hon Minister for the raising Budget for the Ministry of Health in regards to district hospitals and the need for a full staff. Although there is a shortage of doctors that we get only once in a week, at least there is still attempt by the both female and male doctors in the district hospitals.

The issue is the lack of equipments for practical work. Such is the advice to the Hon Minister given that you now have a raising budget.

I am saddened by the minimal fund allocation for the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture given the advance lifestyle and advance technology nowadays and therefore, the education sector is vitally important. It is important to provide full resources for our children's learning skills commencing from Pre-School level. Agreeing with one of the former speakers on the matter regarding Pre-Schools in villages, I notice that in some villages, once they have Pre-Schools, money is allotted however; they do not have the true intention of starting a Pre-School. I request the Hon Minister to look into this matter by paying more importance and encouragement to the initiation of Pre-Schools for quality learning of children at an early age.

On to the Ministry of Communications, Information and Technology, the country is currently accepting the Tuisamoa cable or whatever it is called. Hon Minister, I have voiced this before; the 2AP signal does not reach my constituency. I ask the Hon Minister please, have a look into this and find a solution for it so that we can hear the broadcastings from our constituency, as I trust until there is a huge connection of wires [then we can receive a good reception for the 2AP radio station.](#)

Then to the Ministry of Revenue, well done Hon Minister and the lady Chief Executive and staff for the achieved work in raising our revenue earning from the previous year until this Budget Statement before us, I trust you will work extra hard to achieve the tabling Budget we have on hand. Well done thank you.

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Similarly, for the Ministry of Finance and the Hon Minister and in relation to the tabling Budget. Given the previous Budget Statement, it has been observed that the controlled expenditure is reason for this surplus. Well done on your hard work and honesty in achieving this task as reflected in this tabling budget. This is just a token of appreciation for the work well done. Thank you. With great respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I thank the member; the floor is now open for any Member who wishes to speak on the Bill. I call on the Member for Salega East.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I appease the Chairperson of the Committee; I will greet Committee first for their hard work.

Mr Speaker I believe today is a fine day since we have surpassed a stormy few days through the grace of the Lord. I humbly greet Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and all Members of Parliament. I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries and those working in the private sector; I commend you all for your services.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my constituency of Salega East I thank you for the support and prayers for blessings upon your humble servant who is your voice in this House.

Mr Speaker I will not take long but I will start with a few requests from my constituency. The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I am grateful for the work carried out for the access roads at Sagone, Fogasavaii and Vaipua. The only humble request is the need for a connecting road at Fogasavaii such as the road lengths in Sagone ma Vaipua inland. Only Fogasavaii needs a few more kilometres for it to be connected with other roads if funding is sufficient.

Another issue is the swift supply of drinking water which is not a problem. The only concern on the west side of the reservoir at Fogasavaii where everyone is drinking from is a pipeline to provide further connections for further households possibly 20 on the other side of the constituency. This is the same for the street lights at Sagone, Fogasavaii and Vaipua going inland, I know that the road to the main road is fixed however, I think the light bulbs is the problem.

Mr Speaker a few requests of this constituency I want to convey to the Hon Prime Minister and the Government in accordance to their proposals.

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Mr Speaker I have noted nowadays the increasing number of accidents it is nearly everyday you hear people using empty bottles as weapons. I have recently visited the hospital and the nurses were trying to take out broken glass bottle pieces from the head of some drunks which involves only a few who are menaces.

Mr Speaker this brings the question to the Government whether possible to set a new legislation on bottles especially beer and strong spirits or liquor. I strongly believe if we ban glass bottles it will save the lives of many and will help minimize dispersed pieces of glasses on our roads. My statement relates the same with the comment of the members of the Opposition Side on broken glasses scattered on the road. We should beautify our surroundings and environment for healthy life and for the Ministry of Police to take a break from stopping fights caused by poor behaviour. Perhaps if a recycling business company was set up to recycle all empty bottles and all sorts of cans pardon the House, this could possibly create more jobs for the people.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank again the Hon Minister and this constituency for its full support. There are a few areas of the Appropriation I want to gain insight on looking at the previous Budget in comparison to the current one; amazingly, the surplus is very high. To my understanding, the Appropriation Budget over the past five years has slightly improved by normal additional funds for the Government through grants. Therefore, I commend the Ministry and Government and also private organisations for there input. I also thank the Minister of Finance and the office for accumulating funds earned from different sectors. If the statement made in the Appropriation on additional revenue is true then it means we should not increase our VAGST until forever. Secondly, services should no longer be added in response to the statement by the Minister on additional services in the country. Even with taxing of Church Ministers, this should not press through if this figure is correct. Because for Church Ministers who are taxed, they are only speaking it but the money is not theirs, this money is the contribution of the people for them or the Church Ministers. [As such, the Religious Leaders are not worried about this matter.](#)

Mr Speaker I want to speak upon these three areas, education, health and major developments considering the huge amount of funds allocated to these areas. We do not earn much from these Ministries but the important aspect is to ensure that funds given are used effectively for services. Mr Speaker as I mentioned earlier I just came from the hospital and I apologize to the Hon Minister of Health it is important I voice an opinion as I trust it is not your duty to monitor every item.

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The Report submitted to you is irrelevant to what I have seen. Hon Minister, I requested a wheel chair for my use pardon the House, and the response I received, there is only one used for Acute 7 and Acute 8. I have a picture here for you to see, this wheel chair does not have an armrest or leg rest. As said, if this is the reflection of the appropriation funding given this one broken wheel chair pardon the House and the country, this is no good. Even with the food served at the hospital, I would just sit and say to myself, what a waste of health facility. That is all I have to say Hon Minister, our hospital is not in a good state.

I see that \$300,000 is appropriated for the Motootua hospital and every other health service, I believe this is just inappropriate, funds is insufficient.

The other Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure incase I am seen it wrongly, the Hon Minister of Finance mentioned \$46.99 million has been allocated yet this fund has already been divided by the Ministry for different developments. Nevertheless Mr Speaker, you mentioned \$58.4 million was came from grants and another \$50 million from loans for our developments. If we add all of this up the total will be \$156 million. I convey this for a clarification incase we ask on this matter, this is a lot of money. What is the allocation of the remaining \$108 million from the \$46.99 allocation budget in the Appropriation Budget?

On to the Tourism Authority, I see there is a huge amount of \$4.5 million from the New Zealand Government allocated for the promotions of our country especially in New Zealand and Australia and it makes me wonder, why was not this money used to promote our country in the Arabian countries like Egypt and Isarael? We already have a lot of Samoans living in Australia and New Zealand that are promoting our country. We have seen there are programs in New Zealand like the Pacific Culture Festivals carried out every year to showcase the culture of each Pacific country. This means we should not waste our money on places that already know about our country rather, we must market and use other countries like Israel and Egypt.

Another aspect I want to know which television channels in New Zealand and Australia are our beaches and hotels being promoted on? The constiteucny of Salega wants to know which channel do we have these promotions. Ever since I have been to New Zealand I have not seen any but I have seen programs from Fiji and Cook Islands on all channels. I have noted over the years no promotion of Samoa on television.

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On to the Ministry of Agriculture Mr Speaker, noting the allocated funding, \$13million borrowing plus \$6.5million grant have all been used to complete the SACEP program. Hon Minister, I wish to understand this funding allocation knowing that a grant of \$US12 million was donated in the previous year to undertake this program together with \$6 million grant plus another \$6.5 million borrowing. Mr Speaker I strongly believe that this program should be ceased since it does not favor the whole country. You see now the effect of this, given the loan of \$6.5 million to complete this program and who is going to pay for it? It is being paid by the whole country. This is how the program affects everyone as a whole given the additional funds borrowed to complete this program.

Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Technology, the House is awaiting the tabling of the Sex Offenders Bill. I waited to see this unreached process, and the main reason behind this problem is telephone companies. There is not a single child who does not have a phone and parents find it hard to control facebook on their kids. This is the chance for old men to add young girls to their page. Even children are accesible to pronography videos. A humble request to the Hon Minister we should find a cure, we now have a legislation on prevention but it is important that we find a resolution for this matter. If it is not found within the council of Alii and Faipule and Church, then it should be the leaders of the Government...

MR SPEAKER: With utmost respect I will stop the Member from continuing his speech. Since we have arrived at our usual recess hour, you will have more to say...Alright you can conclude for this last two minutes.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker I have concluded my speech, those are a few matters from Salega, recommendations for the consideration of the Hon Prime Minister and his Government. I also apologise for any misconduct and rude words, forgive this humble servant Oloeleaeaesefili. This is the long form of my name Mr Speaker, Oloeleaeaesefili. Thank you and bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. The speeches made by Members have been quite helpful furthermore Cabinet and the whole of Parliament now know the long form of your name. Thank you and we will see if this has been registered. Since we have arrived at our recess hour as moved in the motion to conclude at 1.00pm and start at 3.00pm until 7.00pm.

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With respect I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative be set aside and recommence at 3.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 12:56pm until 3:00pm.

Deliberations resumed over the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

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

Before recess the Member for Salega East was concluding his speech. I now give the opportunity to another Member who wishes to speak on the Bill.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker a question incase no one take notes of the Opposition Side speeches. It seems that these Members are recording the comments for the Minister Responses.

With great respect.

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

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): It seems the Member is upset with us since we are just sitting here. We are not idle tree trunks floating on a river. Do not doubt us but voice your opinions because we will carefully note down everything. If it is not answered by Cabinet I will gladly respond to your concerns. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I believe I should...I apologize to the House for the Government to take note of all the concerns voiced by each constituency especially on matters related to our Main Budget Appropriation.

On that note, Proceedings of the House will be set aside for five minutes, on the approval of the Cabinet. With great respect.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for five minutes to await Cabinet.

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MR SPEAKER: I announce Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I believe the Cabinet was engaged with a few matters, pardon everyone.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I apologise. The Cabinet will meet this Wednesday. For clarification of the House there is not a minute that can be wasted for this day. During adjournment of Proceedings, we were accessing the corner and the Member who questioned this knows very well that I have four radios, two pockets underneath and another two on top. I do not miss anything. The important aspect here is Cabinet is seated so let us now progress with our Sitting. All the speeches delivered this morning are similar to those voiced ten years ago so it is nothing new.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. This is how it is and how some duties are undertaken for the benefit of today and for the support of Samoa.

I call on a Member who wishes to speak in consideration to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet who are now seated for the sake of your constituencies and the Budget.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is why we delayed in hope that this House has the chance to voice their opinions however if you had given me the chance and to the Cabinet, we will respond starting from the first part, and by then, other members will find thoughts on matters that they can bring forth.

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

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Vaisigano No.1): I humbly greet the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet present here in resumption of our session which should have commenced at 3.00pm.

Mr Speaker you have already conveyed greetings to the respects of Members today. I take this opportunity to greet my constituency of Vaisigano No.1 in all your traditional honorifics.

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I also convey greetings to all Church Ministers and partners, the various territorial constituencies, village representatives from women committee to the youth members and children. I also greet the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the Opposition side according to the Hon Prime Minister. I greet everyone in the spirit of good health.

I thank the Minister of Finance for the tabling Budget. Thank you to the respective Government Ministries for your engagement in putting together the Budget this year. I have a few matters I wish to convey, assist and recommend to the Hon Minister of Finance on behalf of this constituency.

First up is the matter concerning roads, in one word I wish to remind Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure about our access roads and drinking water. These are necessities to people. This constituency is grateful to the Minister for approving the request to decrease the cost of water as it contains saline. Thank you also for the changed pipeline works done for Auala village. Water is now available for some residents that could not have water due to so much water waste underground and the poor maintenance of pipelines. As mentioned in the previous Sitting, the Ministry has yet to address the bacterium that is affecting the water supply within this constituency. For clarity and reminder to you, if you look at the Financial Year Statement for the Samoa Water Authority in 2014-2015, \$8 million is in the Bank; and \$11 million in 2015-2016. And the cost for treating this virus contained in our water supply does not reach \$300,000. The question here, there are a lot of villages in the country that need drinking water including our constituency. Does the Water Authority have a Savings account and reason why the necessary service is not provided for the country? This is a question put to the Hon Minister for his consideration on funds to be allocated to treat the water supply for this constituency. I am grateful for the improvement of pipelines at Auala and the changes in water fees considering water salination in the constituency. Gratefully, water was still available even though the village has been boiling water it is still not good for drinking....

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member for Vaisigano No.1. I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: I do want to interrupt the speech by the Member but a point of clarification. The amount mentioned of \$8 million and \$11million, I want to know where this amount is mentioned please?

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: It is stated in the Annual Account of the Ministry which you sign before tabling in Parliament. I have it here with me from the previous sitting 2015/2016. It has already been reviewed by the Committee in 2014/2015. With respect to the question conveyed.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, some time in the past when either the State or the STEC had introduced the plant lusina. If you look at the bushy side within my constituency, this plant lusina covers most of that area. It is like the growth of the mile a minute plant covering majority of the rainforest. I humbly ask the Ministry on a method that can be used to kill this plant from destroying other trees in the rainforest. It has greatly affected the rainforest of the constituency. Once this tree lusina is grown it overtakes everything. I plead a solution into this matter Hon Minister or perhaps spare a chainsaw to the young men of the district each to help terminate this plant with respect.

Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, crops available in this constituency are rarely found elsewhere. In regards to cocoa and mandarin oranges, I wrote to the Hon Minister in the beginning of the year however, I have not received a response whether possible for the Ministry considering the shortage of funds, from the period of May until August; this is the season for orange growth. If research was done and assistance was rendered it would be great help, we are currently trying with other private companies to find a way to make good use of these oranges because this fruit is abundant in this district as well as in Falelima. There is another issue in the Budget, I am not sure if it was overlooked or mistaken. In regards to the detailed overall achievements of the Ministry, they had a witness saying that for 2015, they have assisted with the revenue earning of the country or 15% to 20% contribution to the GDP.

Mr Speaker, it is believed that this figure is from something else, as this was the exact time where the contribution of the Agriculture Sector toward our national economy had a deduction to .6% on that year within the Report of the Central Bank and the Bureau of Statistics.

The reason for stating this is based on the just and accurate findings that should be verified again. Because it does not give it like that, part of the Ministry's Report writes, 20 pig sties were visited, pardon everyone.

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The number of new pig sties is none similarly to the old pig sties. Which pig sties were being visited? When plenty pigs are still seen roaming around. The reason for saying this is based on the appropriated budget of the Ministry, 47% budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture is on payroll. If projects underneath are repost on top, we will have 55%. What I am trying to explain here, are we getting the value for money? I am saying this as a reminder. As mentioned by previous Members, SACEP also covers cocoa. In our constituency, majority of the people have cocoa plantations but at the moment we are unsure what benefits we get from this cocoa program. I will leave this matter for the consideration of the Minister as attempts to finding revenue for our country these days is very difficult as evidential in our Budget. We are lucky to have gained financial assistance from grants and soft term loans that is offsetting our Budget.

Hon Minister of Revenue, I want to thank you for the improved works done to our duty tax collected for the State, well done. The only explanation I wish to make is in regards to the signed agreement with the PACER Plus. If we look at this agreement and the statement given by the African gentleman and his clarification to this Parliament, he said only \$600,000 revenue will be affected. But if you look at the Report on the New Zealand foreign affairs website, the total export from New Zealand to Samoa is \$NZ11 million. The total import from New Zealand to Samoa is NZ\$4.8 million. If we change this \$11 million to Samoan tala it will come to \$15 million duty. This is why Mr Speaker if you look at it even if it takes three years to process reducing basis affects on duty, I still believe that we were coerced by those who brought this PACER Plus agreement considering the effect on our \$600,000 revenue. If we look at it \$11 million are imports from New Zealand noting our duty earning, this means that tax may come to \$15 million.

I ask the Hon Minister and the Government to reassess this agreement based on the rules of origin. How about the products coming in from China to New Zealand and then to Samoa but New Zealand now has a TTP that includes China. This means once these Chinese products arrive in Samoa there will be no more duty. This is just a reminder but I know this matter is under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Commerce we should be aware of the effects it will have on our revenue in regards to trade with international agreement.

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The Ministry of Communication, Information Technology, I note that \$50 million grant was given for the submarine cable. Last year a total of \$75 million was approved from the Appropriation now it is \$125 million. I want to ask how is this done? Because the service provider company for this submarine cable is a private company working together with UTOS, SLAC and NPF. Even though these Government Ministries have bigger shares, 27% will be held by these private companies and what about the money outlay by Government, do we gain any benefits from it because I do not see it in the Budget investments of the State. The only thing I see is the approval of the appropriated amount of \$125 million for the submarine cable. Isnt there figures to forecast how much investment and how this \$125 million is done whether it involves any interest charges as this is not clearly outlined in the Budget. With respect.

Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture, your Ministry has accomplished a lot for our college, although the only problem is our distant location. There are times when I think it is out of sight out of mind and we are too far and usually forgotten. We had an incident where we had public exams on June 12 which was the day a decision was reached by the Ministry to transfer one of the teachers to Mataaeveve College. I was aware of the reason and solution, however, I could not question the decision of the Ministry as they are the authority. What happened was that during the week of examinations followed by the marking of these examination papers and the transferral of this teacher. I will leave it to the Minister. If this matter was happening to us, then how many others schools are affected by it. Have a look at the procedures and policies of the State on how these matters should be carried out for proper review of these issues. If the future of Samoa stems from our educated youth, we should set appropriate standards. And one other important matter, if a teenage girl is pregnant, the current policy states that the pregnant student can still pursue education. As I clarified to the Lady Principal, allocations have consequences, human rights is fine however too much freedom should **not affect others including their protection of freedom.**

The Ministry show reassess this matter, if continued, pardon the House and the listening public, until the baby is well and healthy then she can return to school and pursue Year 13 or Year 12 as we had a lot of parents complaining about this issue.

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However, the Principal has already responded to this matter, otherwise, I am still concerned with this matter, if possible to impose a small penalty by waiting until the year is over then you can continue school, because what happens next, this policy will create a harmful relationship between the parents and their children.

Mr Speaker, as recommended, a lot of good things have been achieved by you and your Ministry however we still need more. I and Aliimalemanu started off from Asau area, nowadays there are barely anymore students unless they come to Apia to gain success due to poor education standards in Savaii. I therefore ask the Hon Minister to look into this matter as the children of the constituency also want to become intelligent, they want to become engineers, scientists, lawyers and teachers because whats happening now, if they cannot succeed in the nursing field, they become teachers and again return to teach in our district. I humbly request that this matter be reviewed for currently, we only have two Science teachers teaching 400 students from Year 9 to Year 13.

On to the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, or our development money where mostly is spend on Upolu and less on Savaii. I humbly request the Leader of the Government and the development of the Asau wharf. Looking at the statistics by the Visitors Bureau or the Samoa Tourism Authority, everytime a ship docks in Apia, the number of visitors rise. But if a cruise ship were to arrive in Asau, it would greatly be enough for our people in Asau and our pawpaw sellers, coconut sellers and we may have our dancers perform on the wharf and near the fau tree to earn us income for the people. Not only that but...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Major works was carried out at the Asau wharf in 1970, the reef was dug deeper and dynamite was used to blow up the seabed to make it deeper. They tried blowing it up but it was too rocky it did not budge.

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A diver expert was brought in from Holland to dive under the sea and his decision was that no dynamite could break the ocean floor. This means it was too shallow, this is one important wharf however the main issue is the harbour. The material that was removed from this area was used for the airport. When cyclone Ofa struck, this was all destroyed and is back on ground.

I spoke recently with some experts from China and some companies told me that they now have the machinery. They will not use any dynamites anymore whilst this machine will crate the bed rock and crush it all down.

There is already a request in place to deepening the Asau wharf. If it reaches projects process, we could gain assistance from China then I can say that the member has gained points to his long speech. As for the figures you stated based on the Report, only \$3 million was used to implement the project. If you look at the cash flow this is where to find expenditure and revenue and the remaining \$3 million that was used to fund this water project. This is the correction incase the Member might think that we have lots of funds whilst the cash flow clearly gives expenditures and the remaining balance. The organisation must ensure to have suffiient cash flow for its increasing staff so that by the end of the week they are able to get their pay for the work they implemented for the country.

In regards to water, we should be cautious of water. Mind you, water sucked from underground can put a hole in the ground. Whilst other parts of the world, water drainage can result in a sinking ground or collapse leading to people's death. This is why we should be cautious of things like this knowing that sucked water leads to water soak into the soil and reaches the layer of rocks through which water cannot easily move as it is now filling the empty spaces and cracks above that layer, whereas for water sucked from underground, once it becomes salinated, then you will find no water left except seawater. This results to more problems which is not an easy job for the Minister and the Ministry but do bear with us.

MR SPEAKER: Very well the matter is now clearly understood I ask the Member to conclude as his time is over.

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Hon Prime Minister this is the first I have heard of this water process. For your information, I have drilled 21 boreholes in Samoa. You do not drill this above the air, you place it towards the fresh water lens and then suck out the...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I am responding rightfully to what you are talking about in regards to saline water. Once water becomes salinated, that means there's a huge hole on top whilst that water has reached the core of the ocean. I have taken this with a scientist, we are both engineers.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Member to conclude.

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: I will not argue any further as I have drilled more boreholes than you, nevertheless at least the district has heard that, the only correction is that this fund is under fixed deposit for this water incase you tell them to...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: If you look at this report, note to see whether it is June 2015. If you have a look at any report, look at the date, from the current year 2017. This is the reason why it was a fixed deposit for the work to be carried out as for now it is now in a different stage.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member to conclude his speech.

Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you to the Hon Prime Minister's response; finally, in regards to the Land Transport Authority, it seems that the fuel levy being collected by the Ministry of Finance is regulated under the law as approved by the Office of the Attorney General. The Land Transport Authority also has a regulation although; the main concern for me is the amount of fuel submitted by the Ministry of Revenue in 2013, 2014 was 150 million litres fuel, 2014 was 189 million litres. If 182 litres is multiplied by the current rate, I am not sure but that is the question, as I see that \$11 million is mentioned for fuel levy. I will leave the matter to the Minister of Finance perhaps a clarification will be given once a response is voiced and that the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure is faced with road improvements for our constituency based on minimal funding perhaps further assistance can be acquired on this matter.

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Mr Speaker I want to conclude by thanking the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Members and Heads of Government Ministries gathered here today. I also thank my constituency and their support I pray the Lord bless everyone with their duties until the end of the day.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I thank the Member for the speech voiced, it is now time for another Member to speak on the matter deliberated. I call on the Member for Falealili East.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO (Falealili East): Thank you Mr Speaker I believe it was last year that you chose the speech for Falealili East. Thank you for the opportunity for me to present my speech.

First I humbly greet the honourable Speaker of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and respectable Members of Parliament.

There's a saying in the country, '*a faufaupue galu feai o le sami ona faailo mala lea o peau o le matasaua*', there are instances where the roughness of the sea can be calmed by the winds; this is how I perceive this morning. All Members are here in good health to deliberate and consider the Appropriation 2017/2018.

The district of Falealili East has a short contribution, these are just a few reminders nevertheless I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance; I thank you for your services and patience. I trust you are working hard in trying to accumulate funds for the development of Samoa. I move to support the tabling Appropriation on behalf of my constituency and voice recommendations. Perhaps a week or months is not enough to read the Appropriation in detail.

In regards to the queries put forth in relation to the surplus of \$21 to \$23 million. I wish to ask if this figure is correct, whether this is an accurate figure or is it a loan interest. I was happy to see this funding that the Hon Minister of Works could have allocated for the **developments of the country**. Unfortunately, it seems that this funding comes from loans or aid and grants allocated for our major developments. This constituency of Falealili East supports the tabling Bill for the sake of other Ministers, this is the same statement you heard last year and now I have reminded again and that I will not sing the lyrics to the song except for the chorus.

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Thank you Hon Minister of Works for responding to the request, I assure the roads for Salesatele and Siuniu are soon to be undertaken. I believe this matter will be prioritized given the current Appropriation Budget, thank you.

The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, just reminding about Sapoe and Utulaelae that were affected by the tsunami, to date, there is still a need for seawall improvement to protect the shoreline and beach fales for the sake of visitors entering the island including the road of Utulaelae.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I will be brief perhaps there was a misleading report on our taro. Thank you for the quick response from the Ministry and the solution in regards to this issue. It is unfortunate that this taro disease within this constituency is something from the past with our first taro name “u”. A lot of the elders love eating this taro.

It is nothing to worry about; however, the main concern of this constituency is the insufficient markets to export our taro. Secondly, there is concern over individual exporters; however, some of them are selling it at a lower price without having a set price for exported taro. It was hard to make an arrangement with one businessman in Auckland yesterday because there was another exporter selling it at \$35 for 20 kilogram. A request to the Hon Minister why not collect all the companies and individual exporters information and standardise a price so others will not have a higher or lower price. The matter of concern is that someone is already selling taro overseas at \$35. Now members of the church are asking if they can export the container at a lower price. This is what worries me, there is no control on containers that are exported overseas. The Ministry has visited this constituency and have witnessed our crops, you can get 10 containers a month from our taro. Perhaps everyone have also noticed how the taro is so growing in abundance in the country, but the problem is insufficient markets. I heard the Hon Minister is travelling to promote our produce to America and other countries, I hope it all goes well so our farmers could bear assistance. Some local farmers end up with the same selling price at the market and they would sit around feeling discouraged about developing anymore taro produce. The most important aspect is the availability of taro supply everyday for our consumption.

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

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Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: A point of clarification Mr Speaker I do not want to interrupt the Member but there are questions that need be answered. The Ministry is currently carrying out research on the matter mentioned by the Member.

I want to ask the Member, who is this businessman? The Ministry has collected all the information on exporters for the past seven months which meets every month. Although it seems there are some business partners coming in from New Zealand who are spreading these stories. I humbly ask the Member to tell me the name of the businessman since it is important for the records of the Ministry. If we were to dispute this matter outside of Samoa, it will not help our farmers at all, it is best to tell us who so we can assess the matter. Whether it is an Indian or a Fijian. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU FUIMAONO: Thank you Hon Minister but after this session, I will give you the name of the Indian I am talking about, there is a farmer in our country who is currently exporting this taro to India.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: Mr Speaker the reason I want to know this is because I have received the Reports from the Ministry and the joint employment of our Trade Commissioner in New Zealand. This is why we have disputes with the Fijian Government, with much respect to the Fijians, they are also trying to initiate a propaganda in regards to our taro that are now in the market, however, it is now known that no exporter is allowed without signing from the Samoan quarantine. That is the main concern. That is the matter of concern for us to be aware of as the Ministry is well aware of the esteemed members' thoughts. With great respect.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU FUIMAONO: Thank you. *If it brings light burden in the supply of taro from Falealili East, then I will gladly give the information about this business entrepreneur. If not then I will keep the information incase my constituency does not reap the benefits.*

Well...

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Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt: I am in good relations with the Member. This is just a recommendation but priority is given to the constiteuncy of Falealili, once the disease was noted the Ministry has been monitoring this issue. It seems that he is the one that is hiding these illegal businessmen from entering the country. The purpose for clarifying the matter so that it is easier for us to provide assistance.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoloai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker we are not the only ones exporting taro, Fiji is also exporting its taro. This market is open to everyone. If you are the shopowner receiving this taro supply, you would buy it at an expensive price, you would buy it at a cheaper price. Therefore, we are selling good quality taro and suddently, an Indo-Fijian steps in. So, this is the disadvantage, because we are not the only ones exporting taro, this is a competition. This is why we aim to ensure that our taro finds a market but I am certain the Member for Falealili knows very well what he is conveying. If we look at his statement it seems that he wants to tell us, but is hesitant. It seems he already has someone overseas checking the prices so that he will have cheaper taro leaving our taro export in crisis. This is a major problem honorable Speaker, as the Indian shopowners are also aiming for survival. It is therefore difficult to supply taro that is expensive because they aim for something cheaper. That is why if we do not keep track of our exports, we would end up like Lauili, once they see that their taro remains unsold, they make up their own pricevalue such as what Falealili is trying to hide.

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

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUEL TEO: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I am not trying to hide anything, Falealili East is also aiming survival which is why we are withholding this information. By assurance, it is us. This reminds me of the ad by an overseas tourist, we fail because of our own people, '*koe oki a kakou ia kakou*'. It is us who are making taro cheaper. In regards to...the matter regarding the Minister of Agriculture has concluded, hence we will await the tractors mentioned by Vaimauga East that will perhaps develop farming for Falealili East.

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The Hon Minister of Finance I have a concern with the Samoa Housing Corporation in regards to aid for the people in building their homes. Unfortunately, all that is through even in statements, as currently, the interest has gone up adding more pressure on the people. If 4% is borrowed from the Central Bank and rather, they charge 17% or 18% interest, this means the interest is double triple for that borrowing at the Housing. Since you get so many help from those who are guaranteeing these loans for you, I beg your consideration into this matter if possible to lower the interest rate for the Housing as it is getting too expensive please. This is the same with the Development Bank perhaps this Bank was set up to assist our farmers and small farming businesses.

Unfortunately, those criteria are quite difficult, a farmer has to go through many borrowing processes and in the end, they get nothing due to too many requirements. This is the only request Hon Minister of Finance.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture I am grateful that there will be school heads and inspectors. I am not sure if some Members are aware but Principal and Vice Principals are now put under contract employment as we are still getting comments on this matter. I am not sure about some Principals but for this constituency and in regards to the recent Faculty of Education or FOE graduates, there is a need for more young teachers to assist the old teachers. The problem is too many students and very few teachers. Another problem with rural schools is that even the Principals, they take their children to attend other schools whilst they become Principals for other schools. This reflects the low standard of schools that they supervise as Principals. This is the question, why are they taking their children to other schools when they are Principals to that school, they should be attending the same school. Such is the plea Hon Minister.

Thank you Hon Minister of Communication Information Technology. I ask for speedy time for the Tui cable to be up and running so that we will have cheaper phone data services and better communication. Some [commented on the view of Falealili East](#), I am aware that there are firewalls to block such content from being accessed by students. I am not sure if there are still filters to block these sites from students and those who enjoy these sites including our....we had the Samoa Broadband proposed for the Government Ministries to get access using this link.

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I am unsure about the latest on this proposal as the queries are pointed to the Ministry, some Ministries are new, rather, the only Ministries that are using this service is the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. Even with Government Ministries, they have this mindset or unwillingness to share information. They are using other Internet Provider Services leaving this \$20 million service that is already funded by the Government for this implement it which however, this broadband is still not fully active or accessible.

Lastly I wish to conclude with the Hon Minister of Health, shortly I have brief thought plus a few reminders. Before I forget, I came across a car accident in Falefa last month and upon my arrival, a couple was badly injured. A drunk driver ran into their vehicle and got them injured. I assisted them to the hospital in Lufilufi. Whilst waiting outside, the driver of the van came and told me that I had to bring them to Apia because there was no doctor.

Something for the Hon Minister to look at to see what days the doctor travels to the clinic in Lufilufi and whether there is anyone looking after the Health Center there particularly in regards to emergency cases and accidents. Luckily, the woman in the accident was able to get help from first aid training until they reached the hospital.

This is a humble request Hon Minister of Health. Bless the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister especially the hard work engaged by the Cabinet Ministers, do not be troubled by our many comments. The intention is to ensure that our country gains all the benefits. Bless our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I thank the Member for Falealili East. The floor is now open for another Member.

It seems the Member for Salega West wants to speak. I call on the Member for Salega West.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA (Salega West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I take this opportunity to formally greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet. I also greet the Associate Ministers and respectable Members of Parliament. I acknowledge the Heads of Government of Ministries and Samoa listening in.

I acknowledge His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, Member of Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. The respects of all Samoa Le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti, Tama ma Aiga, Aiga foi ma a latou Tama.

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I also take this opportunity to greet my constituency Salega West, Faiaai, Fogatuli, Samataitai Samataiuta and Fagafau in all honorary salutations. I thank you all for the support, I humbly ask for your support while your Member conveys an opinion on the Appropriation 2017/2018 tabled before the House.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Leader of the Government and the Deputy Leader, and Ministers for the Appropriation Budget tabled of \$934.2million which is not a small amount. If compared to the previous years this is a major addition. This portrays how much this country needs assistance.

Also the Budget indicates the Government purpose to improve services through Ministries and Corporations, it is dependent on funds because this is how needs are met. If we look at the Budget, revenue has increased for daily services for this financial year 2017/2018. We also have assistance from overseas donors which is insufficient to finance our needs. Great thanks to the Government for their enthusiasm, if we were only reliant on revenue earnings alone, there would not be enough funds to meet all our needs. Our country has many needs as revealed in our concerns and the pending requests for our constituencies. We also need assistance for access roads. As voiced in initial speeches, these are the main needs that we wish to achieve for our constituencies. This is because we have a lot of plantations further inland and the roads are in very poor conditions. As I stated earlier, most of the vehicles cannot access this road due to the rough roads as most of the village is hilly. If the road is too expensive to tarseal, I humbly ask Hon Papalii Lee Hang for your assistance into this matter. With respect I ask on behalf of the villages of Fogatuli and Fagafau. There is the Mormon and Seventh Day Adventist Church beside the access roads in Fogatuli that needs development; conditions are quite poor resulting to so many people not attending church. This is a humble request please, if those roads are fixed for this financial year, I bid to extend the same assistance towards our other villages that you know, with respect.

Secondly, water supply. Because this is what the district needs. We do not need seawalls as God has already built some in the village, we have high rocky cliffs and unless a tsunami strike then it can be destroyed. I have already contacted the head of the Samoa Water Authority possibly about two or three times, requesting them humbly for water supply for the residents of Fagafau and Samata-i-tai as water has not yet reached them.

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Why not give them the Civil Society Organisation CSO assistance to help with these families who do not have water for consumption. They have yet to access water nevertheless services have not reached these parts of the village.

I am still on Coporations that are under the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, to the Electric Power Corporation, thank you for the street lights within the constituency that are still working. The only concern is that we need more lights in dark areas especially for school children who live further inland, say one or two lights. I will make a list and submit it to the Hon Minister.

There is a piece of land under the Metrology division that has underground reservoir. I just want to voice this matter in Samata-i-tai I put forward this request for overseas assistance to drill boreholes maybe in future but not this year. I only hope that it can be achieved within the 5 years ahead.

The Ministry of Education Sports and Culture, I am grateful Afioga Sola Keneti Sio is standing at the helm of this Ministry. I know you may be rude at times but you always do what is best for the country. You know very well what needs to be done, with respect I humbly request....

MR SPEAKER: Since the Member mentioned the name of the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

I call on the Hon Minister for a clarification.

Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker I want to thank the Member for Salega. The Member is a good friend of mine. First I wish to correct that my first name is Loau not Sola. Second I am rude, it is not that I am rude but I am very rude. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well the correction is clearly noted.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Apologies Afioga Loau Keneti Sio I know you are a person with many prestigious names. I have thanked the Ministry for adhering to the request of the constituency we have received for a school building that was put through JICA or the Japan International Coporation Agency. With the support given by the Ministry on this project I am happy the opening will be this Saturday. There is another school building in Samata-i-tai and Fagafau that are both in poor condition. If you have time we can go there this Saturday to see.

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I also need a letter from the Ministry to assist with this request for funding. The first school building built by JICA was in 2004 but at the current, it is leaking, the field should have been dug to build the school's sports field. Our constituencies are very remote and we seek your assistance by way of financial support from China or Japan to construct a new school building. In the old days we would walk to school from Samata to Salailua and nowadays, buses are available, but do not ignore our constituencies for those reasons, nor forget or put us last on your list. This is our prayerful request Hon Minister for his consideration.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I am grateful that we now see a lot of taro at the market also a lot of containers have been sent overseas. Nevertheless, I do not think these containers are enough considering the number of taro being sold at the market. Currently, there are no crops from Savaii because of these factors because at times, the prices are up sometimes, the prices are down, other times, we get different variety or even specific taro, rather we need to be specific on the kind of taro needed by overseas markets as there are so many different varieties of taro that are now available.

I see that our Budget has a funding allocation for reducing the coconut beetle problem. This is an appropriate investment because this is the core of the economy for us to fall back on; it is our crops namely our coconut and cocoa. Although we have other food crops, it is only available for a limited time whereas for coconut, so many generations will pass and it will still be there. Constituencies should also I recommend that each constituency should start growing coconut trees again even though we have forgotten how useful it is and so we must go back and replant it. I am grateful to some of the private businesses who are marketing this produce which has assisted our people to earn money.

We used to have a lot of Solomon cocoa that was tasteless. I ask the Hon Minister to please implement a program to fully remove this cocoa and have only the Samoan cocoa grow in our lands as usual.

I remember a man named Vaai who used to work for the Australian Government Office under a man name Ken Newton who targetted the replacement of Samoan cocoas with Solomon cocoas on his farm and was strongly rejected by Vaai. This is when I took employment with the Development Bank in Savaii and talking with this old man, he said that he wholly did not trust this cocoa.

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If we look at it today, there is a big market where we can sell cocoa for chocolate and this was the cocoa that was needed. It is best to get rid of all the other cocoas and keep growing the real Samoan cocoa that tastes good and marketable to keep our farmers positive.

In regards to our banana plantation, as soon as we heard about the Israeli banana variety, we went straight away to get it. It is understood that this banana is nearly the same as the Samoan banana. However, it is starting to be affected by a disease. Taking care of these bananas were not cheap. We must ensure that this banana is good lest we push to buy them and later on find a virus. Hon Minister, I am grateful for the efforts by the Ministry to develop livestock farming for the benefit of our country. With plentiful cattle supply from Australia one time, we ended up with insufficient cattle.

In the meantime, I do not think there is enough farming stock for farmers. Is it possible to find another way to bring in more cattle supplies into the country from Australia given our similar tropical weather. I trust that if we can get some more cattle, it will greatly satisfy the needs of our farmers. Overall I want to thank the Ministry for their efforts in assisting our farmers with cattle slaughtering from the ruralside areas and setting plans for a mobile slaughtering unit. I hope we will benefit from such developments.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor, I heard the Ministry is trying to attract overseas investors into the country. I trust this is good however, the only concern is that it will bring the country good and bad people. What I meant to say, recently we had a few Chinese men in the country who vandalized an ATM machine. I do not blame the Chinese people, rather, I blame their purpose of entering the country and whether the Ministry had assessed these people, investigate their background whether they are criminals in their country. Furthermore, the crime rate for foreign business people around the world is growing rapidly. I do not mean to complain about these foreign investors for coming here, rather, the Ministry should have taken full responsibility in dealing with their procedures and policies in place in protection of our people.

Historically, if we look at the beginning of this country, foreign business people were the first to have set up developments in Samoa, until later on, our own people started were encouraged to to set up businesses of their own. Time has passed and a lot of Samoan businesses were established in Samoa which was a success for many.

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Currently, the policies for some businesses are beginning to go down. The problem is not with... the difficulty is competing with foreign business people as we have different cultures. This is the reason why no matter how hard we try, the Chinese businesses will climb faster whilst we crawl from below. Such is the intention for the Ministry to look into lest we have future generation take over and lead our Government and therefore...because they do not believe in God and could nonetheless overtake the foundation that we are proud of today.

I am grateful for this Budget which is huge. Looking at our revenue earned, we aim to gain soft term loans to offset the requests and developments of the country. Great thanks to foreign finance institutions for the knowledge through you Leaders especially the Hon Minister of Finance in getting funding assistance from overseas donors. I pray for blessings upon our country's journey given the \$10 million unforeseen circumstances, for once a tsunami strikes or stronger cyclones strikes, this \$15 million will be very beneficial.

The only request I have for the Minister is to look out for unused funds. This is why I believe is the reason why there is no Supplementary Appropriation because the Minister is confident the majority of funds in the Main Estimates 2016/2017 will not be used up. There is also unforseen funds that still remain unused so, why not allocate it to upgrade the Salelologa wharf? Do not be afraid, do what is appropriate for the Salelologa wharf. This wharf will open the door for Savaii and benefit the existing problem of people from Savaii moving here to find places to live. It will not be long now and we will experience what is happening overseas with people living on the roadside. We are growing in number and there is a limited public land space as even Government has limited lands available. I feel sorry for our people from the big island who might come here and live in tarpaulin houses on the roadside areas. Bless our Sitting. With great respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I know there is a Member who wishes to speak but since we have arrived at our usual recess hour we will now set aside proceedings for recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 4:50pm and resumed 5:42pm.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed with the second reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed, I believe Members have restored strength from our recess. Before break, the Member for Salega West was concluding his speech. I call on another Member to take the floor.

I call on the Member for Siumu.

Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI (Siumu): Thank you for the renewed strength upon the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Members of Parliament. I take this opportunity to greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and respectable Members of Parliament gathered here today. I also greet Samoa and your support. I also greet the Church Leaders of the Christian Church in Samoa listening in.

Lastly, I greet my constituency of Siufaga to Faletele I will not mention your respects for they remain today until the end. I will try my best to voice the requests of our constituency on the Budget on hand.

I firstly wish to thank the Hon Minister of Finance for preparation of this Budget as well as the Ministry of Finance for the huge task in compiling this Report. I know everyone is aware that seeking funds is very hard but spending is easy. The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am grateful for the work carried out for this constituency. Thank you for the working lights we have now on the roadside. Thank you also for the initiative in allowing vehicles from America into the country. I am glad that we have once again given our people the opportunity to bring in these cars especially for the farmers. For this, I ask that our access roads be improved. I know Siumu is not the only village with poor access roads which is inaccessible today. There are four sub villages in my constituency and with that, four access road needs improvement. It would be good if the arrival of vehicles from America can access these roads towards the plantations. Another request is the drainage that was mentioned in my other first speech; this drainage is situated next to our district school. I will entrust this request to the Hon Minister together with a small bridge construction and a cemented ford to avoid problems whenever we have floodings.

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The Hon Minister of Health I am grateful that our patients are now being taken for treatment in India which is something we could not do in the past. Perhaps this is great assistance for many patients referred to New Zealand.

I further request the Hon Minister if possible for us to have an Ambassador in India for the sake of patients we take there as we do not have families in India unlike New Zealand patients; they have many relatives that could help them there. I request the Hon Minister if possible to set up our own Embassy in India if the current partnership with India will take a while. Another issue is alcohol factories within the country because I am suspicious that this is one reason why we get other diseases. Furthermore, I appreciate the merging of the two Ministries which will hopefully save us a lot of funds.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I appreciate another set of fishing poles that will be set up in Siumu reef. This will be useful especially for this constituency because a lot of them are fishermen. The only request I want to reiterate is a ramp to anchor fishing boats and be able to pull up boats during bad weather.

Another matter I want to point out is the coconut rhinoceros beetle that is destroying many plantations not only for coconut trees but also other trees. Have a look into this Hon Minister because I know there was a method used in the past, something like a biological control that could minimize this problem.

The Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture I know we will soon have a sportsground. I request your assistance for Palalaua College within this constituency, not only with the school building, but also stationeries like computers and so for our school.

The Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration, I request given the frequent rape offence on young girls, have a look at the law if possible to review and increase penalties on those who commit this kind of offence. This week, a case involving two young girls were being raped was broadcasted on the radio. I am saddened by this act, I entrust your honor to review this matter. I believe another way to address this issue is to carry out awareness programs in rural villages and constituencies. We should encourage solutions for the people to know that there are severe penalties for such crime.

The Hon Minister of Revenue, it is good to see that our revenue earning is increasing. It is also good to hear that we the VAGST will not increase for another two years, thank you if this tax will no longer be increased.

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Concluding my speech, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for their efforts in serving our country. I also thank Associate Ministers for their support upon our Ministers. I also want to thank Government Ministries for their service contribution for the country. Thank you honorable Speaker for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Very well I thank the Member for Siumu for that speech. It is now opportunity for another member to take the floor.

I call on the Member for Falealili West. I pray blessings upon your speech.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity at this hour of the day. The respects of Samoa will not be said again as they will remain forever. I acknowledge with respect the Hon Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

I also greet the members on this side of the House. I also take this opportunity to greet the O Le Ao O le Malo and his Good Lady, Members of Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies. I greet also the Chief Justice and Judiciary. I acknowledge the respects of my constituency of Falealili West. Even though Falealili has been divided into West and East, we are still one. I pray for your support upon me, I will now express our view in regards to our Budget 2017/2018.

Mr Speaker, first I want to convey sincere gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Government for the Budget tabled. I call this Appropriation as the Sacrificial Budget. The reason is based on the amount of funds the Government aims to acquire which is \$852.3 million. I thank the Minister of Revenue and the Ministry of Revenue and Customs in collecting this amount for the implementation of our Government projects. In comparison to expenditures of \$934.2 million, we will have a deficit of \$81.9 million; with the addition of a soft term loan from the World Bank, we will get a surplus of \$20 million. The most important thing for me in this Budget Statement is the reflection of what the Hon Minister of Finance was saying in his Budget Address.

First our threshold on zero tax has increased from \$12,000 to \$15,000 this year. This means those with the minimum wage of \$12,001 to \$14,999 do not have to pay tax that we used to do. The new change if we pass this Appropriation Budget starting in July; is those with a minimum of wage of \$15,000 and below will no longer pay anymore taxes.

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For our developments, I will first start with the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Land Transport Authority, just a small request on your side. As requested in previous years up til today, the roads are in very poor condition. This is the only access road in Saleilua. With respect I ask if time permits, the drainage needs digging up and concealing and the road can be sealed later if possible with you.

In regards to water supply, the entire Falealili consumes water is connected from the reservoir in Sapunaoa. This village Sapunaoa has three sub-villages, they are Sapunaoa, Faleulu and Piu. For the information of everyone in regards to water supply, Piu is not a traditional village, it is sub village of Sapunaoa.

For your information, water contains a little strong chlorine smell. Can the Water Authority look into this concern, because the smell of the chlorine is too strong there are times when this water is undrinkable.

The Electric Power Corporation, as recommended last year, I request that electricity must reach our access roads please so that people living on coastal areas can be able to relocate back to inland areas. This will assist them especially during natural disasters.

The Minister of Agriculture, thank you for the awareness programs in seeking markets for our crops like taro, breadfruit, taamu and pawpaw. Other root crops that should also be exported are cassava and yams. The program implemented needs the approval of the SACEP, personally, I think this process is a bit delayed. If the process starts from the Ministry, it will take a whole month before money reaches your office from the Ministry of Finance. This process is too slow but the service provided by the Ministry under the SACEP project is doing very well.

On to Fisheries, the village of Poutasi has a cement for anchoring boats, however, there is no quay to dock fishing boats for the village and other nearby villages to ease travelling.

In regards to taro plight, it is aware that this is an issue we have been facing in the past, especially the taro from Salani and Fusi. This is where most of th taro plant was available, and people would buy it off from them together with the bad taro shoot which is reason for the availability of bad taro today. If the farmer knows how to pick the right taro shoots there will be no problem. The disease found in taro is known as “u” taro u.

The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labor I want to thank the Minister for Samoa signing an agreement that helps promote the work of the Labor office for the next millenium. The only request I convey is to review the legislation of Labor Act 2013.

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This Act stipulates the licensing of an employment agency. This provision allows the Ministry to issue 10 licenses to those who have the intellectual knowledge to operate an employment agency. This is also where we will get employment opportunities for our people. If one agency is created we do not know if it can employ five people. With ten licences obtained, we can get fifty employment opportunities.

The matter regarding Samoa signature to be a member of the PACER PLUS, I appreciate the Government for this initiative. The most beneficial part for me is to ensure the continuation of seasonal workers program for Australia and New Zealand. This means that these two countries cannot withdraw from this agreement from us in the future.

The Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology, I thank the Government for the Tui Cable. A humble request to the Hon Minister and the Regulator, have a look at the unfixed services by Digicel on the coastal parts of Falealili West starting from Tafatafa to Sapunaoa. This means if you want to make a phone call through digicel network, you have to go further down the main road to get the signal. As for Bluesky, the network works everywhere. Please Hon Minister, have a look into this matter.

The Ministry of Education Sports and Culture, a request for a sports field for Falealili College please, we have an agreement from the landowners to dig up this land, build a fence to surround its assets.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, we need seawall area constructions for the villages of Iliili, Saleilua, Poutasi, Vaovai, Matautu, Tafatafa, Satalo and Sapunao. The village of Malaemalu is currently undertaking a seawall construction project from America that is nearing completion. With respect I ask that we look into the emergency roads that we had for tsunami emergencies for the three villages Tafatafa, Poutasi and Sapunao. The village has already started excavation for these roads for accessibility.

The Ministry of Health and the merge between the Ministry and the National Health Services. The question that comes to mind, why merge again, the Regulatory and operation was separable. If we look at it today, the Government is trying to save funds by merging these services. By request Hon Minister, have a look into the health service of Poutasi as suggested by former speakers regarding the need for doctors. There is a doctor posted at the current however, they only come in on Friday. I request if possible to have a doctor twice a week maybe for Tuesdays and Fridays to minimize the number of patients coming to Motootua.

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The Ministry of Police, I wish to thank the Ministry for the service carried out at the office in Poutasi by way of serving our people especially those drunk drivers on the roads and offenders. I am grateful for this service provided for the safety of our community.

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development I humbly ask the Hon Minister to look into the approved Village Fono Amendment Act 2017, and whether possible to conduct village trainings for their awareness in regards to new changes taken place. This will further make aware the natural justice and opportunity for the offenders in the village to minimize this offence. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the State Owned Enterprises and Government Ministries for their services to the country and for the general public.

Mr Speaker this is a brief opinion, blessings upon us the rest of the evening.
Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Member. The Member for Falealili West who has concluded. I call on the Member for Gagaemauga No.3, Deputy Speaker.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No.3): As the words of the country goes, there are those who speak and those who take notice. Mr Speaker, I have seen a different Government this morning and right up to now I have witnessed different actions. This signifies the importance of this Sitting and the deliberation of the Appropriation 2017/2018. I want to thank the Leader of the House, Cabinet, Associate Ministers I have noted that everytime a name is mentioned there are two hands that always respond. This portrays how well prepared the Government is especially in clarifying the Budget. I have also noticed the body language of Associate Ministers whispering to one another to discuss matters and assist in responding to queries made by Members.

Mr Speaker I have noted the many queries and requests by Members of this Parliament. I take this opportunity to convey an opinion for this constituency Gagaemauga No.3, in contribution to the Main Budget 2017/2018.

First I take this time to acknowledge the respects of this Parliament, thank you Mr Speaker for managing our Proceedings. I humbly greet the Leader of the House, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. Thank you for your patience and hardwork in ensuring the development of our people.

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I greet the dignity of Chairpersons of Parliament Committees for their efforts, further greetings to the Finance and Expenditure Committee., well done on your review and assessments. The Member for Gagaemauga No.3 now clearly understands the Budget tabled before Chamber.

Mr Speaker I also want to thank the Heads of Government Ministries especially the Ministry of Finance Tofa Lavea. I commend you for the effort and hard work put into preparing our Estimates received by the Members. Well done to you, the right hand man of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Government. Thank you.

I also take this opportunity to greet our country, O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, Members of Council of Deputies and their Good Ladie, Chief Justice and Judiciary. Today is a good day with all great things I hear in relation to good health and spirit.

Least I not forget my beloved constituency who entrusted me as their voice in this Parliament. The respects of *Aiga Sa Peseta ma lo Latou Maopu, Nofo Usoalii le Faleiva, ma le Igoa Mamalu o Matautu o Oe o le Muaautasi, ao Oe foi o le Faamaluga o Malo. Matou te afe atu e faatalofa atu, le Afua mai i Fanuatanu ma Asofaatau, Siliga ma Falefaamaoi, Malae ma Tulaga seia oo i Malo Amata, ae Matua le Tuu i Fale Fagamalo i lou Malae*. I thank you for the support. I have been blessed for as the saying of the country goes, 'e le sili le tai i lo le tapuai', support is greater than performance. I pray for your support while I take the floor to convey an opinion of our constituency in relation to the Budget tabled.

Hon Minister of Finance, well done to this Budget, you have clarified all aspects regarding this budget and your statement on its policies and procedures and its main objective, equity and fairness. The theme for this Budget outlines that everyone should participate in the development of our country. We should adhere to the provisions provided by the Ministry in the Appropriation, thank you Minister.

There are a few matters this constituency wishes to speak on for page 3. The future outlook which mentions IMF meaning this budget was not only assessed by the Minister and Ministry. This confirms that the IMF carried out their assesement in Feburary this year. This compiled Appropriation signifies good management. It is the good management of funds that should not be based on more or less revenue; that is not it; such is our word of thanks. It is all to do with good management of funding as voiced by other speakers and the returning of funds at the end of every budgetary year, so well done to the previous year until this year.

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With good management of funding, there is always an issue, as the country is well aware of, *soo se faiva e sii e le asa ma se maumau*. Then we say thank you Hon Minister, we recognize and fully support this Appropriation 2017/2018.

The only concern Hon Minister; is the development of Salafai please. Some have already mentioned these requests, the development of the wharf and the township area in Salelologa. This is an area that should be considered I am aware that there are major developments in the future like the wharf in Vaiusu but the Members of Salafai cannot be silent.

If Salafai is well developed I know that the Hon Minister and Members are aware of the many changes seen by the travelling of people from Savaii to Tumua, it should be minimized to create lesser crimes by avoiding Savaii people from finding places to live here.

It is my intention Hon Minister of Finance that this matter be assessed especially with the long term future. I strongly believe that it is about time to develop Savaii. Develop it properly based on funding have a look at this issue that is beginning to fade. The main expectation of this constituency is to consider the development of Savaii. What is good for Tumua is also needed for the people in Salafai.

Overall Mr Speaker we just want to say to the Hon Minister of Finance for such manner to continue, you have done it without a Supplementary Appropriation. This means everything is well prepared for your Ministry as well as other Ministries of Government. This was not an easy task. Not onl does it deal with evaluating expenditure, the service should also be high in quality. These are the measures that are agrued at once fortunately with the prayers to the Almighty I hope blessings be upon you and the Committee. You are the motivator and strength of Government as leaer, first and in addressing these matters.

We are grateful on the measures taken to protect the assets of Government. This constituency accepts the Appropriation 2017/2018 tabled.

A few requests of this constituency, for any human being, they have [wants](#). [Wants depends on the financial resources of the district](#). This is managed by the Ministers. I will start with the priority areas of the State.

The Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture, a humble request of this constituency, there are two Primary Schools in Gagaemauga No 3. I met with the village council and they need more teachers please. Laumoliapi Primary School in Avao has 8 classes with only six teachers. I bid the Hon Minister to please consider an immediate assistance to this matter, we need Primary School teachers.

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Similar to Tuutaga Primary School in Fagamalo, it has 8 classes but 7 teachers. As a reminder we need another teacher. For each class, we have a total of 20 to 30 students. Therefore, with the shortage number of teachers, the ratio would be forty or more students to one teacher. This is a humble request of this constituency with respect.

In query Hon Minister, where exactly does the Peace Corps program come in? This program offers assistance through teachers. This is one request of this constituency because the Peace Corps have the knowledge in Science which is exactly what the Principals need. Therefore, have a look into this matter.

I trust the Minister is aware of the situation in Vaipouli and the location of the old College. This is one great location and I plead if possible for the Government to set up a Technical Institution in this area for the students to learn cooking, sewing, capentary and other skills or pilot program in Savaii. Considering the APTC, I am unaware of your agreement with the APTC, but I have already talked with the Principal for a chance to set up a branch in Savaii. Looking at today, it is wonderful. As mentioned by one member, if this school is good, it will be of great assistance to the State. Because afterwards, the person will have a chance to set up its own business to assist their village, district especially Gagaemauga and Gagaifo.

The main thing I am trying to say here is that there are a lot of empty buildings today other than the hospital. The constituency is well prepared and for whatever time or day in the future for the Government to carry out with these developments, it is our intention to develop our young people in business traits and develop our country. The Budget clearly states everyone has to contribute and this is another way of achieving it.

Lastly Hon Minister I have noted that there are some students that finish year 8 and once they reach Year 10, they do not have anymore motivation. Does the Ministry have a long term goal to develop these students to achieving other plans like encouraging students from Tumua to attend University? I trust there are a lot of processes involved. There should be a program for school drop outs. This is exactly where violence comes in given the mindset that they have been abandoned, reach out to them your honor, you know these things very well. I have also talked about boxing federation that is still empty. We already have a building and ropes, we only need a few more equipments and contenders in the ring as this is one sport that we are famous for. The Itu O Tane in Fagamalo and Avao are number one in this sport. Hence, have a look into these few requests Hon Minister for your consideration, approve one and forget the rest if that is your will.

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The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I commend you for your patience. I do not agree with withdrawing the SACEP program. I am grateful for this program for without it, we would not have any cattle to develop our country. Our constituency needs it. I will not speak of processes and other matters. Hon Minister, be brave to continue. Why? if it useless to other districts, it is useful to others. Therefore, you must have courage to undertake this program. The only main concern is the problem with filling up the application forms for entitlements. When we had the SACEP team to bring awareness and deliever the message across our village, it is very clear. But once the people come in to fill the form this is where the problem occurs. Have a look into this issue to ease the process. This is also reason for the delay use of funding that we get and the huge unused money left, that is the essence given the difficult process. Otherwise, it is the person's fault and the way they change the conditions for these grants given to assist them.

I know everyone knows about the stream in Satoalepai, this is where the village is trying to breed the tilapia fish. I humbly ask the Hon Minister to look into this development and encourage people together with the help of the Ministry to visit, train and improve how this is done. In the research I conducted, I found out that this tilapia fish is highly required in Tutuila. Therefore, if it is developed well, it can be another source of income for the constituency. Such is the appeal for this tilapia development...

MR SPEAKER: The Member has two more minutes.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: May the Lord bless Satoalepai and their preparations.

The Ministry of Health, I want to convey through the Hon Minister a word of thanks to the Director in Salafai for the task of assigning doctors over on a weekly basis although it is on doctor a week, but we are grateful. It is the effort that counts and is important and with that, I [acknowledge the Director in charge of the Tuasivi hospital](#). Even with the issue on short medicine supply, it is now fully stocked. I pray blessings upon the Director.

The Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure we now have websites and I have seen on your website the list of developments. I am grateful that this constituency is now second on the list, I pray blessings be upon you.

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I wish to recommend the village of Safai who have moved inland, the roads are in really bad condition and very dusty from morning to evening. I request that the access road be set aside until a later time and focus on this road as it really needs improvement, we appreciate your consideration on this matter. As long as we are second on the Ministry's list.

MR SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the speech of the Member perhaps you have responded to all matters therefore I call on the Member to conclude for your time is up.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Mr Speaker I will now conclude.

The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, this is just a reminder, I know there is a website that has a list of constituencies that has us first on it. Therefore, I salute you this constituency has long ago been without a seawall area as the sea has hugely affected Fagamalo because this is one constituency that situates various resorts such as the Le Lagoto, Le Lagoon with beautiful bungalows for visitors. With high expectation, please have a look at the list as I have already given a written request, I commend you Sao Faapito.

I conclude with thanks to the Chair for the opportunity given even though I have exceeded minutes, thank you. May the Lord bless the final part of this Parliament Sitting. To the support of my constituency, you have heard that I have tried my best to voice our requests. Bless Samoa and this Sitting, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. A well grown taro satisfies the hunger with respect to the country listening in today. I thank the Deputy Speaker for the opinions voiced in regards to the matter.

It is now time for another Member to take the floor. I recommend that Members make good use of our time so that orders are in line with the Prime Minister and Cabinet responses and that our work will....so that they can be put forth quickly to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to implement the requests to improve the constituency's development.

The number of speeches delivered by the Members is enough for the Government and never know if the State can respond and bring satisfaction to all your requests for the benefit of the constituency tuning in.

I note that one of the oldest Member of Parliament for Palauli le Falefa wants to take the floor. I call on the respectable Member on that side of Chamber to proceed.

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Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker. I think it is best to conclude as no one wants to hear me anymore as they are growing weary which is fine.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers. I was waiting for an Associate Minister to respond, anyway and after me, the Chairperson will conclude, then we can break whilst the State will give its response tomorrow. Well done for your support and patience.

My constituency I pray for your support while I move to convey an opinion on the Budget tabled. First I want to thank the Hon Minister and Ministry for preparing this Budget. I am aware that you have viewed the Report of the Committee which has been submitted to the Government to continue the execution of their works for the financial year commencing on the 1st of July next month.

Mr Speaker I support the Appropriation tabled. I wish to voice gratitude to the decision by the Cabinet to relocate the services in Tuasivi like the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Police. I thank our Government for recognizing and putting value in the development of the township in Salelologa and making it cheap for those travelling to and fro Salelologa.

Thank you also for the funds allocated for improving the services of the Ministry of Justice; unfortunately, I do not see any additional funds for improving the Police services.

I am unsure as the Ministry was occupied with matters that this House is aware of. There is a need for 4 acres land for Police and 2 acre for Justice in order for them to execute upgrading services in the coming years. We have also heard the intention of my colleague from Savaii for assistance in regards to the works by the old men and women in Savaii and the costly importation of crops from overseas in Upolu.

Such is the intention; fortunately, I have an explanation to make on a method for funding this project to avoid any concerns, through the use of the Budget. With respect to the Hon Minister of Finance, the method that I am thinking about is the PPP concept, the NPF has an investment of nearly \$50 million and they will seek partnerships. The SIFA and ACC also have funds which can recover the cost when using the wharf.

The advice made for the quick setting up of our wharf; the containers are cheaper when brought to Savaii directly from New Zealand and straight to Australia without having to come through us. It will also minimize the taro plight as the process takes longer when it comes through us.

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In advice, I am sure you did not get the right advice from the Ministry; I was very surprised when we had no Supplementary Appropriation, the reason for this concern is because funds is travelling from one Ministry to another. We need a legislation for money transfer, hence, there is also reserves for the Budget ending in the coming week. These guys are happy saying that there is still unused funds when disappointingly, we still have requests that needs to be met. We have the prison project that has long been pproved by Cabinet as well as the outstanding renovations of the UN building that was also approved by the Cabinet. These are some of the projects that we have been aware of for some time and should have properly looked into by you and your Ministry. I am sure your Ministry did not give you the proper advice, and a Supplementary Appropriation Budget should have been prepared, because there are a lot of necessary projects that needs to be undertaken. We did ask the Ministry and they said there was only \$50,000. We are aware that these developments need more than \$10 million. What worries me is that there is still huge amount in the Appropriation that is yet to start lest it is included in the current Appropriation 2017/2018 or gets mixed up with the previous financial year and the current budget. This is a recommendation to the Minister so that funding is properly managed and for lawful purposes.

Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure, Papalitele, just a few areas for improvement, I have talked with you about the road passed by the Tenders Board in the previous Parliamentary term. You told me to make a statement on it, so now I am speaking about it. The Tenders Board and the Cabinet have both approved this however, it has not been undertaken.

This is very disappointing; the constituency is now calling me a liar. I am not a liar, if the Hon Minister was saved, I too am saved.

I have betrayed my constituency because of this; the Sili road has been approved. Sili has been certified with no use of chemicals and organic farming which is 100 percent. This has already been legally approved by companies from Australia and New Zealand.

Hon Papalitele, if my constituency or the village of Sili is being penalized for no road construction, make it 4 to 5 kilometers for the sake of the old men in the village and to increase taro supply to take to New Zealand that is organic. Everything in Sili is organic including the coconuts.

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There was request made to the Chief Executive of the Land Transport Authority for a site visit to be conducted however; that did not happen. I told them about the public roads used by buses. The road of Falelauniu is much better than the road between Gataivai and Sili. This was constructed in 2002 and today, there is no sign of tar seen anymore and I have been making constant requests.

Hon Papaliitele, have a look at the road from the school in Gautavai to the old village of Sili. This is the same for the road between Puleia and Gautavai-uta, I have already written to the Ministry.

My friend Afioga Loau Sio, I am not happy with the statement that says you are very rude because I respect you. I speak of school buildings which I will not talk about instead I will look for sponsors. In the Annual Reports of the Ministry, it says 43 to 44,000 students from Years 1 to Years 8 for public schools excluding Private Schools. Therefore, it would have been better if Private Schools were added. By the time we have Year 9 to Year 13, we will have 17,000 students left. So, where did the other 20,000 plus go to? Where are they? I hear that a new legislation will be drafted for child street vendors. How can this legislation be drafted when these children do not want to go back to school? Even if we take a horse to the waterhole if it does not want to drink, it will not.

Lacking money is not the problem, the brain is being slow-witted. If the brain is slow then find something to function it. Therefore, I recommend that trainings must be carried out on things like counting money, selling soaps, ear buds, matches and other things. This is your duty because if children are chased out, where will they go?

I used to do this because I loved my parents. Why? There was no money for bus fare and to pay for our school fees. It was done because of my love for them but not to enslave. The Europeans are forcing us to stop as this is the life that we grew up living. If a regulation is to be in place, the main thing is to limit the roaming time for these kids to 5 or 6 in the evening. If we stop these children from doing what they do what else can be done? Be part of the young men and women...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: There is an interruption, I call on the Member.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: As the Member stated, he and the Minister of Works do not lie otherwise, he just did. Matches were not important those days when the Member was young.

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MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: The recent Member we just had said to find companies to recycle cans and bottles, this is the reason why he broke his leg. He was walking in the dark at his club next to the horse racing field. This is where he got hurt and broke his leg. He did not attend our Committee's meeting. I have tried explaining him the Budget.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Member since you are pointing to a lot of Members especially to the Member for Salega East. I call on the Member.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I have forgotten I think it was Olo something was the name...

MR SPEAKER: Pau Sefo Pau is also included on that pointing, no it just Olo Fiti...

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Oh, no it is Olo Fiti. He is a close friend and also a very rude person. Therefore, the statement I made is no lie.

Because the things I have done, I also sold coconuts and juice. I also used to make umu luau and sold them under the posts at the wharf in Salelologa in the old days when we had the wooden boats. I used to do that, I loved my parents I was not bounded to do it but I did it to get an education to assist my family. We should not stop someone from doing something as that is the way we used to live. I am aware that only Fonotoe did nothing of this sort.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member...

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: I also sold coconuts in the market. I am well aware of this situation, I know it very well. But let us hear the speech of the member continued; I will give my speech soon.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

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Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I am sure my speech will resume tomorrow, on that note Loau, there are a lot of students. In our village Sili, once a person does not go to school they are automatically part of the young men and women in the village. When I got there, we had 12 and 13 year olds in this group. And when they take part in the Ava ceremony, they are doing very well because there are still some who get nervous when asked to be part of the Ava. This is one way the village council is teaching these children, to be well versed with the different aspects of the Ava ceremony.

This is one area of learning, not that they can attend Year 9 or Year 13, because we too are beginning to take on this task, as Samoa chiefs in the future. They are not fools, thank you to the Government for educating these students from Year 11; it should have also covered Year 13 students for them to be aware of what rudeness is all about.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture, I commend you for finding opportunities as the Budget here states, equity. This means there should be equality between Savaii and Upolu. It goes in line with the HRPP mandate which is, “what is good here is also good for Savaii.” Let us build Savaii then our load will be lightened as voiced by some Members, it will help bring fewer students here and less breaking into houses and roaming in the streets. It will also enable them to stay in Savaii and develop the town and lands there. Also if a wharf is built in Savaii, the Cruise Ships will be able to dock there and the people of Savaii will see for themselves so many white people and they can sell them pawpaw, coconuts, cucumber to earn income for their families.

Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, it would be beneficial if you can acquire funds for a commercial arm for the Scientific Research organisation. This organisation has been set up for 10 years yet, it has already developed products however, and they are yet to achieve high standards. There is no Private Sector that requires these products, so better to set up a Commercial Section for SROS and move it to Savaii, as Savaii has more landspace and produce. We could give them 100 acres of land for avocados next to Pau’s, and plant more crops there for [development as Vaiaata has bigger land and good soil and that there is a lot of public lands available there.](#)

Another matter I forgot to mention Hon Loau Sio is the National University of Samoa. Salelologa now has an NUS branch but we need another 50 land acres near the coast to relocate this University. Perhaps in the future, this will be the Head Quarter in Savaii and the branch will be in Vaivase. Because Savaii should also locate some of these main public projects given the availability of more landspace and that an unused land of 300 plus acres is still available in Salelologa.

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Only 100 acres has been surveyed including the one where Don Bosco is located which is 8 acres, another 8 acres has been allocated to the Congregation Christian Church to set up their Vocational School. I ask that you seek assistance with a 50 acres piece so we can start cleaning and find sponsors for it as this is no easy job. Comes the elections in 2021, I and Sili will see and find that this area is well developed.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Member since we have arrived at our finished time. I therefore give the member another five minutes to continue his speech tomorrow. I take this opportunity to thank all members who gave their speeches today.

I also thank the Leader of Government, Cabinet, Members and the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations as well as the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Before we end today, I will conclude our Sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 7.00pm until 9.00am Thursday 22nd June 2017.