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WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020 at 6pm.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Proceedings were set aside this afternoon while the member for Anoamaa East was taking the floor. I call upon the member to continue.

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Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: I take this opportunity to welcome to the dignity of the House in Tiafau. The respects and glory of Tiafau remains now until forever. As the country are listening in this member will try his best. I have not acknowledged the respects of our country earlier.

However, I take this opportunity to acknowledge His Excellency o Le Ao o le Malo, Member of Council of Deputy and the dignities of our Independent State of Samoa. I acknowledge as well the members of the clergy in different denominations. I have conveyed greetings once again because it might affect our stance.

I greet as well the dignity of all Samoa from the highest mountain, *afio o aiga, tama o tama ma aiga tainane foi le usoga a Tumua ma Pule*. I pray for your support as this constituency conveys an opinion on this vital matter before us.

In fact, if it had not been for the incidents that had occurred earlier this morning I would have concluded my speech, I also want to take a rest. However now that it has been clarified, as the Hon Minister of Works have stated, roads are not what brings you back. But the work is still important. However, the words we use to deceive the elders. In our village there is an old man who observes everything and judges misconduct in the village. Once the old man listens to the response of these men he would just say, these are all lies. Before you can utter a lie the old man would have already know it is a lie. This is why Hon Minister of Works this is a humble request to consider. It has been five years yet this is always the response, I ask that

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the requests of this constituency be adhered. These are the needs of our country which we have voiced.

If I look at the money earned by LTA, there are now 40,000 cars in Samoa this is noted with the license number it has reached, taxis are Government vehicles and licenses are multiplied by 200 each year. This is \$20 million altogether. No wonder Government is willing to bring it in, we do not know where money from traffic is shared. If we look at the numbers. This is just an observation since we note and follow the ways of this country. I am grateful it has been mentioned again.

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The Hon Prime Minister said we should be optimistic, I am tired of being optimistic because there are times when the elders would say you are a fool, smiling all the time. You should be meticulous in doing the will of the elders, be diligent in serving the village because once these things are not done then there are other purposes of money. They will go and buy votes, which will be the only thing in this life, money will be everything. It will be something good.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the reason why I mentioned this old man Alo, he went to the polls under your constituency. He was the one who taught me, to be optimistic; I want to remind the member this is the man from their constituency who taught me to be optimistic. Therefore, I recommend you be like Alo and his optimism, which is what, earned his his one vote. It was him who told me. Mr Speaker there are a lot of things that our constituencies judge us upon, it is not one sided. I have been in Parliament for nearly 40 years. Some of the members of this Party that did a lot did not return. This means people have different views. Mr Speaker is it not one sided.

MR SPEAKER: The matter is now understood, the member may continue

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Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: The leader of Government is right; this man went together with my father in the elections. He was optimistic then but I was more optimistic when he won. These are the differences between the two terms. Unfortunately, he has passed away. He only got one vote even his wife did not vote for him. I did not complain about the prison, I just mentioned it since a lot of funds in the Budget was stated to build the prison. However, the Hon Minister was on a different matter altogether, what he did was impolite. I want to remind the Hon Minister, this is what happens when you charge into a conflict of another family, just show support. If we look at the Prison it is very important, I am also fond of people, those who are now locked up in prison.

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Nevertheless, in those days in the country these people did not have a right because they are guilty. This is a mistake of the United Nations saying that everyone has equal rights. The righteous have the same right as the wicked; therefore, we have so much wickedness in the world. Now we are doing the same trying to watch out for those who have done wrong but ignore the good people who are trying to develop families and villages.

When I look at how this work is carried out, it is done differently, like in 2011 the process and operation of these matters was very different. We all take note of such work. This is why I want to reiterate I did not say anything negative about the prison but now this is mentioned to make it seem like I am complaining. I did not, I just mentioned there is a lot of funds found in our country, which is found in...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member, I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister for Customs and Revenue.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: Thank you Mr Speaker the member is correct on the matter that there are a lot of funds. There are a lot of funds earned by Government. However, the priority is wrong, the building of the prison and the Pacific Games we hosted recently. There are records, which is why I stood up. The priority of Government for the clarification of our elders listening in is not the prison. This is not true because priority is given to education and health of our country. As for the other matters mentioned for 2011, I do not understand it at all. The only reason I took the floor is to clarify the priority of Government, it is not

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prisons but health and education, by which the member is the Associate Minister.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now noted by the table.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: I refuse to argue this matter. If we get our official records tomorrow from Hansard, the Hon Minister can read carefully what he stated then. I understand it very well I do not intend to ruin any development. How can I ruin it when it is a good development? It is good for the country. Please listen carefully to the opinions being voiced.

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As for the funds it seems I am being blamed for complaining about the Pacific Games, how can I complain when it was this Ministry that oversaw and implemented the games. This is also the only games whereby another member was complaining about it. This is the only game that has brought in \$5 million in the Budget. If we look at how it was administered it was done very well. It was well managed as we all see.

This is why I want to say I have not denied anything about these games. We are all happy about it, if we were to talk about it again it seems we have robbed the glory of the Lord. Therefore, I will move on to speak on another matter regarding this constituency. Hon Minister of Works, I do not have much more to say on the developments of this constituency. We recently opened one of our roads, and the constituency were very grateful. This is the first time in 50 years since the founding of the country that this village of Falefa had experienced such an occasion. Look at the enthusiastic response of the people to our Government. After the Loto o Samasoni they did not get anything, but when they got to Falefa the Government was well looked after by the village. There are millions being spent in several developments in Vaimauga. But this is where the downfall of Government is seen, at Vaimauga East and in the town area. However, let us continue with developments.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Apologies Mr Speaker, a point of order.

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Vaimauga, I will not accept...it is interpreted differently by the member, therefore nothing is wrong with it

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: The bridge was not constructed in Vaimauga East but in Vaimauga West. Since my constituency is listening in I want to clarify this for the record. Since the member for Lufilufi mentioned Vaimauga East. Nothing has been done in Vaimauga East. To make corrections on our records the bridge mentioned was implemented in Vaimauga West.

MR SPEAKER: The member taking the floor has heard, the matter is now being corrected and clarified by Vaimauga East.

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Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Vaimauga is Vaimauga. However, I apologize to Tuisamau, I thought that seeing Lufilufi would have resulted in the member to show his support. He will have another time to stand and take floor while I show my support. However, this is my opinion on the matter.

As I stated earlier we will not take long, these are only recommendations made towards the Hon Minister, to review it. I was talking about levelling of the playing field, we do not have a lot of money compared to those who have more, let us play fair in the elections and not unfairly. There is an old man who had a different style of tackle during the time Afioga Loau Keneti Sio and I were playing, he looks up and not down to your feet. He tackles you until that person becomes weak and be laid down quietly. The support of the dignity of families, *Aiga Sa Fenunuivao ma Aiga Sa Alaiasa, Aiga o lo o i ai le Tuiatua faasaosao Tama Malili e fa, le Aiga Sa Alaiasa, na saili lona fale Atua i lona aao malosi.* I thank you for the support *Matua Iuli ma Moeono, le tofi faasolo o le aai, o le aai o le tupu, o le tagata o le Tuiatua.* I thank you for your prayers, I know we often meet and opinions have been voiced as well on developments for the constituency which benefits our people.

Ia, le tapuaiga foi aua le paia ia te oe le Tumua Lufilufi, faafetai. Le Toaono ma le Saofaiga, Tupai ma Seutatia ma le mamalu ia te oe le Tumua, le Tumua numera tasi ia Samoa, aemaise ou fuaiala, le matua ia Ki ma Tagata, Tai ma Fonoti, thank you for your support. A request has been made

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for the your roads, the village in Manunu is very lucky, not only will the road go through Sauniatu but with the request by Anoamaa West these roads will merge together. This will be a great blessing for our constituency. May the Lord show mercy for this Parliamentary term, it is true that we are nearing the end of the term but there is still a sense of hatred and I pray the Lord cast this aside and give us His blessings. If there has been any unruly words and behavior seen in the House and before Samoa I humbly ask forgiveness, no one is perfect. I apologize for any rude behavior and indecent words used by Lufilufi. May the Lord bless the remainder of this evening, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well. I trust the member for Lufilufi has concluded, and I believe your constituency have heard your opinion. Now I call on the member for Aiga i le Tai.

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Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: Mr Speaker I offer humble greetings to you. I acknowledge as well the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and respectable members of Parliament. I further welcome the Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations of Government.

I acknowledge the presence of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and office, I commend you all in good health this time of the day. I believe I will not have to reiterate a word of praise for it has already been voiced this morning. The word often said once the water is clear, throw a hibiscus from the land to let it float to the sea. As for night and day, one is always connected to the other as the cycle turns from day to night. It is the same for our House here in Tiafau, Maota o le Faautugatagi, it is complete with all the respects of Samoa is now gathered from all over the country.

As I stated earlier Mr Speaker I will not elongate a statement since it has been a long day. There is belief that I will not speak upon the Supplementary Budget, but that is all I wanted to hear, I was waiting until that side concludes then this side will speak. Who am I to speak on the Budget when I was the one that prepared it. I am grateful listening to all the speeches made today and yesterday, I will not respond. Perhaps I will respond when the Main Estimates is discussed in June, nevertheless the Hon Minister is ready to address the demands made by the members.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you conclude your speech if this is the case. Thank you for assisting the Chair.

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Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: I commend you for your patience Mr Speaker. How handsome you look when sitting in that Chair, I commend you. I do not mean to flatter you. The reason for taking the floor Mr Speaker is to voice a word of thanks to the Hon Prime Minister we have long been conversing on this matter that has affected our country of the measles. I sat here and observed the Proceedings of the House, in fact none of us has not changed any thoughts when the country was affected. But it is interesting to hear what the Speaker has to say, if we had worked together, this is the most important aspect.

This is why I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister the words you stated could awaken the king sleeping in the house. The speech given can be compared to that of Malietoa sitting in his high chair gaining the respect from all Samoa. I commend you for the efforts, it was not easy.

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Such occurrences like this disease is useful, it prepares us and enables us to look ahead and be openminded on such emergence. We have witnessed, there was no treatment of respect but the work was done. I commend the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and our Government for the hard work. Mr Speaker was right, this is one member who stood up to inform the village and pulenuu. This is also why I have been asking the Hon Minister to arrange a female representative. Because there are more than 5,000 people in our village inland, but there are only male Government representatives and no females. At the moment I am working as a representative of women, paying the bus to bring our people from the village to the hospital. I know that most of the time we complain but when it is time we do not carry out this duty, we are the backbone of this country when such diseases affect our children. I have noticed that the House has been in a state of turmoil, but the word of God is very clear, there will come days when diseases, plagues, floods and earthquakes occur, these are signs.

The member and preacher beside me should have spoken on such matters to make it clear to the House. Perhaps he is also a bit anxious but these are to remind us and prepare us for the Lord's day is near. If it is still far away, we do not know what will happen tonight. A word spoken to Falesalafai and Alataua, sa tu i Fagalilo le Tapaau o le Alataua. It was a mystery if we would live to this day, but praise be to God. The measles have returned peacefully and everyone Mr Speaker and the House are in good health. This is why I commend everyone for the job well done.

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I also want to thank my village and constituency listening in, words stated do not lie since the village and constituency worked together in taking children for vaccinations. During the mission undertaken by Government the number had reduced eventhough it bothered some doctors, however it was the will to do it, as it is a moral to stand and walk, also to run. Yes. Even if you do not have any money, when you do something for a good cause then that is all that matters.

Mr Speaker it is not my intention to lift our own boat, because if we are to carry our boat often it will only end up not returning or waiting for its return.

The spirit I wish to convey this evening is, if it is hard to dig the ground, the question is, why? Because there is gold. If the seabed is turbid, how so? There are pearls. When space is hard to conquer, there is shelter. When the message of the Christians is hard to follow, why is that? Eternal life is restricted. Such is our life of service for the development of our Government. But I am grateful for the economy, it is very easy.

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If the old man and woman have sugar and tea this tells us the state of our economy is good, there is no hunger or poverty. Eventhough we live in debt that is how life is. If we do not have debts we cannot survive, if we do not have debts we cannot implement the work which has taken up our time yesterday and today.

Mr Speaker come the time we leave I pray for the protection of the Lord upon us, I would like to express my gratitude to Government for the work accomplished, the House is amazed by the amount of work done. I pray that the Lord bless the Chair, may he have the wisdom in administering the Chair of the country. I also wish good health and foresight to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and this Parliament especially to Government officials serving the many Ministries of Government.

My constituency may the grace of the Lord be with you all, I am certain you have full support of this member. I am confident with your support which is a result of being given the opportunity to voice our opinion in the House, together with the services to fulfill duties. Well done.

Le paia o Aiga e Lua, Usoalii ma Alo o le Malietoa, Ati ma Lautolo, tainane le susu o Sau, Lilo ma Usoalii o oe na faletolu i ai Manono, Sauma aemaise le paia i le toafa o alii ma le toalua o Tulafale, Luatutu ma le Alo o le Malietoa, thank you for the support. Do not worry for the Lord is always present in the guiding Government, there will come a time when we will be chosen. Lastly I want to convey blessings to the Clergy, who are praying

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within their homes for blessings upon Samoa today and tomorrow. Blessed day, Soifua.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well thank you. That was an outstanding speech. I call upon the member for Vaimauga West No.1.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West No.1): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. First I want to give praise to the Lord Almighty for his everlasting love and care shown upon us and the Chair. I greet with respect the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and members of the Parliament of Samoa. I acknowledge as well the Clerk and the office of the Legislative Assembly as well as Chief Executives of Government Ministries and Organisations. Good health unto you Mr Speaker and the Parliament this morning.

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Mr Speaker since the Supplementary Appropriation has been tabled this constituency feels the need to take part and convey an opinion for the betterment of Samoa and future. Firstly I want to thank the Hon Minister and Associate Minister, the Chief Executive and Ministry of Finance for the excellent preparation and clarification address by the Hon Minister on the Supplementary Appropriation. This has made it easier for me to say on behalf of this constituency to voice our support on the Supplementary Appropriation.

Mr Speaker from yesterday until this hour we have listened to the demands made by several members. This constituency would like to express gratitude to some of the companies and those who have been kind to this constituency. First of all Mr Speaker I would like to thank one of the companies that provided assistance, I am certain the Hon Minister, Associate Minister and the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development are aware because they are at the forefront of this project taken out to communities on the development of strategic plans for each constituency. Mr Speaker the strategic plan for this constituency was announced in November 2018. The priority area of this constituency based on the existing needs is the health of people within the constituency.

Now one of the largest companies in the country has agreed to help with the problem faced by the constituency and to have access to health care. The

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company has assisted with providing equipment as well as areas that can be used for home gardening for families, the village and the church. Mr Speaker I would like to express my gratitude to the Chief Executive Officer, Afioga Seulupe and the manufacturing tobacco company in the country

I would also like to express gratitude, I believe it is the kindness of the Hon Minister of Education, for supporting the request of this village and the Moataa School Committee made to Japan for a new school building. Hon Minister Japan has responded successfully by providing funds for the building of a primary school in Moataa. Mr Speaker on this note I also want to thank the Director Afioga Sua Julia Wallwork and the ADRA office for their assistance offered on this project for building the primary school of Moataa.

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Mr Speaker Manua will only believe when asked. There is a programme titled GCF, the Green Climate Fund which is headed by the Hon Minister. I believe this Fund has the term climate. Nowadays we have witnessed rain and strong winds, we have been informed that there will be a budget allocated for Vaimauga West of approximately \$US5 million. We have heard the first round of applications for funding has been completed, and families, organisations and businesses within the constituency are open to apply for funding to assist with their projects. A response has been given and a few people were blessed while many were disappointed. I will leave this matter to the Hon Minister and those in charge of the project, is it possible under conditions to use the money to take some of the applications submitted to the Ministry through the Minister on things that need to be improved due to the effects of climate change.

First of all Hon Minister as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister this constituency of Vaimauga is mainly occupied by water, this is also seen in the names of the villages Vaimauga, Vaipuna, Vaiala and Vaisigano.

The request made Mr Speaker is to know how much amount can be given to assist. First is the area in front of the EFKS church at the four corners in Matautu going towards the sea at Vaiala, in front of the EFKS in Vaipuna. This is where the water is always present, whether it be heavy rain or little rain water is always settled there. Yesterday and this evening I had to go around because two cars cannot go through at the same time. Everyone is

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aware that the bridge at Vaisigano is now closed. The only route used at the moment is the one towards the Customs Office and the wharf and to other businesses located in that area. This is the only road. This is the same road used by trucks and heavy machines since the Vaisigano bridge is now closed.

I humbly ask the Hon Minister if possible to set aside funds to resolve this problem for now. There are a lot of potholes and some cannot be seen but there have been cars being damaged on Monday due to the big potholes. I humbly pray that this request be noted, we submitted it a long time maybe a year, can part of the funds be allocated to do this work on fixing these roads. I have heard this road is noted as an access road but if we look at it, it is being used as a main road because it is not only used by residents but the whole country. This is why we humbly ask for assistance in this matter especially for the east side of the fence in Apia Park, a few families have been greatly affected by floods this rainy season.

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The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I would like to express my gratitude since I had the opportunity to talk about this matter with you on Monday. The reason why I have mentioned the GCF, if it is not heard by the GCF the Hon Minister will have taken it into account. I left that day to meet with the Hon Minister and talked about matters related to Vaimauga No.2 and No.3 and also make this request.

After I left I felt comforted with my conversation with the Minister, he said since the list is full, our request will be noted in the new list then work for Vaimauga can be carried out.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member I call upon the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker I do not want to interrupt the speech of my brother from Vaimauga since we are now running together for Vaimauga. The Associate Minister is right he visited me on Monday to talk about the road at Vaipuna. This road has long been an issue. I have just been notified by the Chief Executive of the Land Transport Authority that this road will be upgraded as part of the GCF programme. Perhaps in time the Deputy Prime Minister will confirm this since it is her Ministry which the Climate Change Fund is under, this is a clarification the road mentioned by the member. As for the roads at Apia Park we will have to see and find a way to get assistance because it is right, there is always

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water there like a swamp that is present at the back of Apia Park. However with the increasing number of people living in this area, the Ministry will look into the matter of assistance especially now with the extreme weather conditions affecting the community.

This is a clarification to assist with the matter mentioned by the Associate Minister, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The request has been answered and the constituency have heard as well. I recommend that the member move on to other matters since Government are prepared for this purpose.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: The member beside me has whispered to me to consider it quietly. The method of Vaimauga is to consider it with certainty, I am grateful to the Hon Minister for responding to our request given.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your trust in the Hon Minister he is a son of Vaimauga do not listen to Aiga i le Tai. The member may continue.

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki: I take the floor Mr Speaker since Aiga i le Tai was mentioned, I just told the member that the list was full and leave it be but now he is on the list again.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recommend the member speak on something else.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker I now turn to the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Mr Speaker last year I had a talk with my mother, she is 85 years old. She told me that she wanted a small shop to make use of her time. She used to have a shop back then right on top of the hill in Magiagi. She stated that she wanted to set up a shop in the same location. We talked and I tried to clarify this matter with the difference of 20 years ago and now. I told her there is alot of changes today. But in truth I do not support it, why? Because there is a major difference then. Today there is a competitive price. Today the store decides whatever cost they want, there is no more price control board which allows for the same price of goods in retail stores today.

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The answer given by the old woman has given me an idea. She said does this mean those who have a wholesale now have a supermarket. Does this mean the cost of the wholesale product can be sold at the supermarket price. I answered yes this is true. There is a man that has a wholesale in Lelata. If you are to set up a store at Magiagi your business will fail.

This is why Hon Minister what is your view together with the Ministry on price control. The information that I have received is, those who have money have become richer with this arrangement. Not only do they have wholesales in the town area but supermarkets as well. It has also spread out to rural areas. It has greatly impact the efforts of the smaller shops. Now I come to believe the statement I always hear, saying Chinese is the cause why shops are broke. But it is not only Chinese it is our own people. A suggestion to the Hon Minister is it not time to review this matter and establish a division to go and measure the price of products. This is a humble request with respect.

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Mr Speaker yesterday one of the members of the House conferred titles upon me. This included my position as preacher, thank you, I do not object because where there is Jesus I also want to be.

As for the work stated in the recommendations voiced I believe the Hon Minister will respond to it later on the work of the prison.

Mr Speaker I want to voice my gratitude to my constituency. For their support and prayers given to me. The respects, *le afio o le matua ia Tofaeono, afio Asi ma Patu, afio aiga e tolu, Usoalii alalatai Tamapua ma Manogiamanu ma le mamalu i le nofo ituaiga ia Fuata, tainane Ataga ma sa Ataga*. I am grateful for all the support and prayers while your representative strives to contribute to decisions made by Government. All the same to Mr Speaker and respectable members. May the Lord give us strength this year as the year of election is near. May the Lord show kindness and give us strength and be free from illnesses during the election year. May the blessings of the Lord be upon the remainder of our Proceedings especially our journey this year. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, that was a great speech. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3.

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Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU (Faasaleleaga No.3): Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House. I move with respect to convey an opinion of this constituency on the Appropriation tabled before the House. First I want to give thanks to the Lord for his blessings upon us this evening. No matter the rain and winds the Lord is merciful to the Parliament of Samoa. Thus it is true that Samoa is a country founded on God the Father, God the Son and God of the Holy Spirit. I give thanks to the Lord, oh my soul let us not forget His gifts. In this spirit I praise God, for the support of all Samoa especially villages, constituencies and families is guided through his love for our country.

Mr Speaker thank you, humble greetings your Excellency and the Legislative Assembly. I acknowledge as well the Leader of Government, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and respectable members of Parliament. I commend you all and good health, we meet again to begin our work for this year. I thank the Lord for his blessings of good health upon our Leader especially, Parliament. I acknowledge the presence of the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries in particular the work carried out and services provided, thank you.

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I am grateful for the support of Samoa, I will not voice your respects since it has already been mentioned by previous members, it is Samoa that prays for our duties. This is a sense of gratitude this evening especially the Proceedings of our Parliament.

I stand with the spirit of gratitude. Thank you Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and this Parliament. In the past five years, we have now arrived safely at the end of this term, thank you. This is gratitude to the Lord Almighty, thank you for the wealth and strength also for the intellect and foresight for the development of Samoa. Therefore, we express our deepest gratitude to the work seen and witnessed. The Lord assists those who seek. I am grateful for this especially to the Leader of Government and Cabinet to the Ministries who were the hands and feet in serving Government. There is a lot of good and expensive work done and there is no further need to mention it. Not only for Upolu but Savaii as well. We also opened roads this week, which is a witness of our country. Work is important; it is not the words but the work done. This is why I commend Government for everything.

I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure Afioga Unasa Papalii Lee Hang, I am grateful for the all the work done. I believe the majority of us mostly ask for roads and seawalls. Therefore, I am grateful for the work done in Savaii. I know that the work is ongoing. Thank you for

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the work done within my constituency from Saipipi, Saasaai to Faga. The constituency is aware of the work that has been done. However, another request, our constituency is greatly affected by the sea, therefore we need seawalls for the villages of Faga, Saasaai and Saipipi. The Laulelei o Amoa is lush in sand but is greatly affected by the waves. This is why we request for seawalls and our access roads. Majority of the residents have moved inland due to the rise in sea level. As mentioned in the House the changes of our climate.

The sea level is constantly rising and is affecting the land. Another thing are the access roads, I am grateful for the ones completed in Saipipi, Saasaai and Faga. Again I request for other access roads for Saasaai, the road in Faga this is a big village. Needless to say I do not have to go into detail, Hon Minister please look into this village. There is a need for an access road inland together with street lights since it is too dark. These are the only two things, a few road lights and access roads because most of the residents are now working inland.

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The hospital at Tuasivi. At the moment we are working together with the Ministry of Health. But it is good to state an opinion. Tuasivi is seen as the center of Savaii and there is a need to upgrade the building especially the mortuary. This is one important aspect, I am grateful to the late Tofa Sefo Pau for the mortuary perhaps this is the only mortuary which is very useful for us in Savaii.

I request for an upgrade of the mortuary at Tuasivi, and other buildings, there are too many employees especially a good building to use for meetings maybe a hall. I know there are plans to move to Salelologa but this is for now.

I take this opportunity to thank Government especially the Hon Prime Minister, during the measles outbreak for the work carried out in facing such crisis, however the Lord showed mercy on Samoa. We cannot neglect this, eventhough some of our children and others died, it is the Lord Almighty that is in full control of our lives. I am grateful for the efforts of our people as well as the support of constituencies. In our country I am thankful that everyone worked and assisted during this disease I will not reiterate since the House have already addressed it. I want to voice my thanks to the Ministries involved. The only aspect now is to be alert, especially the winds maybe there is also good in it, it can drive away diseases and rain. Let us

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have faith in God with the situation faced by Samoa and problems. Once again I thank Government, the Hon Prime Minister visited Savaii and carried out site visits and the work attest. Work well done to our Parliament and the many Government Ministries. I also thank the Hon Minister of Finance, the Chief Executive and Ministry. I am grateful for the work which is not easy especially in the distribution of funds, also the division since this is what we are dependent on, I am grateful priority is put on education and health. I know these are important for the country, the good health and education of our children for a safe and knowledgeable Samoa. I thank Hon Ministers for the developments done for our country.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my constituency, *i le paia i le Taulagi ma le Maopu faapea foi le tapuaiga i le Falefitu ma tatau tainane le pule ia Segi, le pule i le uu ma le matua fetalai ia Segi faapea foi le falefa ma le Faleaana ma le mamalu ia Salemuliaga*. Thank you for the support. There are no problems and this member is well through your prayers, I thank the clergy and hold servants of God for prayers for the blessings on this constituency and Samoa.

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I know this is the only speech of this constituency, I heed appreciation and acknowledgement to the State and the various Ministries, may God bless all the endeavors that will be undertaken this year and may He be with us in our journey. Bless the support of Samoa. With all due respect. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done to the Lay Preacher. The House has heard you, I give you courage. The floor is now available for another speaker.

I call the member for Gagaemauga No.2 which is now No.1, the senior member of the House.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA (Gagaemauga No.2): I am still No.2. Thank you honorable Speaker. I have sat and thought of what should be...then I thought again, I should sit and extend gratitude. I convey thanks to the honorable Speaker, thank you Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet for all your good works. Your honorifics I wish not to speak on, I trust you grow within your own home. I thank God for this chance for us to deliberate a good share of thoughts. Because I am getting old lest I say something mistakenly then you view me as disrespectful to the old man. I beg your pardon if I have offended anyone, I

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plead to God. The only think I wish to thank for is God and the outbreak we had faced.

I have thought that this was the end of the world which began with our children. Thankfully we praise God that Samoa is a christian nation, we knelt and prayed in our own corners as we do not need these plagues within our Christian beliefs. I wish to thank you Tuilaepa and your government and the Cabinet. Although we have little things being removed from our constituency, do not worry, a village does not stay in the dark forever, there is a time for your Cabinet to make changes with our pleas to God, as Samoa is a country of divisional status from our descendants. Thank you for the current changes we have.

The only appeal to God is for us to work together for it is not the constituency or village but the entire country together so that we may gain the spirit of sharing so that all constituencies receives the same share for the better.

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To my constituency, wherever you are, it is the same thing, our constituency is very good. You have heard me, I have given our acknowledgement to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, for all the good things done to our constituency. We are not weakened, regardless, I trust we have achieved many good things due to the current government. I have one small thing to say to the Hon Minister, about our village that is in need of assistance, about the water supply that is being cut from the ocean. Such is the request to your Ministry to have a look into this matter to see if there is a remedy as this is now blocking the water supply for us. That is all. I thank the State for our roads.

I believe you are doing everything for the betterment of the country. I also believe that we should not make campaigns, rather I ask our constituency that I want to come back for the next five years. I have strength to achieve more developments for us, and I trust you are with me on that, we will not have any election, it is easier, we feel for the Cabinet and Tuilaepa, those are a few things we need out in the coast and our seawall area as witnessed as the tide is getting higher.

Those are a few things I wish to reveal to our constituency, God is aware of everything and my thankful heart, I pray for God's blessings upon the

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Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet so that we will all come back in the future election we will have soon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you and well done. The old man's wisdom is delivered calmly through a plea. May God bless the event that the old man has spoken about.

I call the notable member for Sagaga le Usoga.

Susuga SEIULI UELIGITONE SEIULI (Sagaga le Usoga): Thank you for the chance honorable Speaker. I beg your pardon let me put on my suit jacket worn last night that was stated by Tuisamau. Let me speak like the old gentleman as spoken by Saleaula. Thankfully we have arrived at this hour of the evening. I greet all the members who have spoken and have greeted the honorable Speaker. I further greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers and the dignity of that side of the House, honorable Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and respectable members of that side of the Parliament of Samoa.

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Greetings also to the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises gathered here, the media groups Television and newspapers, greetings to good health to you all this evening, during the moderate showers from the weather conditions.

I further greet the House, the dark house, it is the House which said that is filled with nobility and is covered with respects, foresight and respect for Samoa. I acknowledge the respects of Samoa and the Servants of God who are tasked with praying for blessings upon Samoa today and tomorrow. I did not intend to make a speech, I did give a maiden speech at first and even did a final speech at the end of each parliamentary terms. Lest the constituency thinks that I am being deceiving and pretentious. Let me talk about the Budget first which is the main focus for this Sitting.

Mr Speaker then I come to the tabling Budget before us. Thank you to the Hon Minister of Finance, Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry of Finance, for your contribution and distribution of funding where necessary for the wellbeing and welfare of Samoa and her people. Aua e fai foi o le silasila i le lauamanu, ae ao foi ona mataitu le faamulioatu. Thank you for the submitted Budget, which has the full support of this constituency.

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Many of the comments made were on access roads. As stated by the Minister, the village of the Prime Minister, it consists of 50 members within this district with 6 to 7 villages in total. There are several representatives that need access roads along this area. I thank the State for the new road that is now fixed from Toamua to Malua. This is the State's priority. There are statements that this road will further improve by covering it with asphalt to enhance it like the road from Vaitele toward the town area, it is neatly fixed.

There are also statements to resume this road from Malua to Faleolo, and all the way to Mulifanua, these are all good works for the wellbeing of the public and Samoa.

There is also hope for the State to launch the Vaisigano bridge this year as well as the Maliolio bridge, these are huge infrastructural developments for the benefit of the people of Samoa. Thank you hugely to the Government for undertaking these major projects and the Cabinet for monitoring these great projects whilst Samoa is faced with the difficulty of obtaining revenue earnings for our country at this period in time.

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If I want access roads, electricity or water, hear me out, if I ask my Minister that I want access roads, perhaps I am being stupid, as all these utilities are under our supervision yet I am asking the Hon Minister to do it for me. That said, my constituency does not beg, it is very patient as there is time. There is time like the game of cricket, they all rely on the last two persons who are the last to play to earn points. I too am waiting until all your roads are fixed, then I can have my roads fixed lastly for my constituency.

This is the brief word of thanks in accordance to the continuation for this year. Allow me to thank my constituency for their support lest they think otherwise of me.

To the dignity of Sagaga le Usoga, you are now called Sagaga 2 it is no longer Sagaga le Usoga. Listen up Tuanai, and your honorific salutations.

These are the honorifics of my constituency which I am now blessed with here at the House of Samoa.

Well done thank you for your courage. I am blessed and so as the Sitting of Parliament, the first sitting of the year, we will have another chance when we have the final Parliamentary sitting, thank you and may we find blessings upon this meeting.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done to the respectable member. The constituency has heard you, well done to their support.

I call the member for Palauli East, this is your chance.

Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISIUAO PALEMENE (Palauli East): Honorable Speaker I rise to make a contribution of Palauli No.3, in the deliberation of our Budget today. The honorifics of the House and Samoan listeners, I trust all speakers have voiced their today.

The view of Palauli No.3 supports the Budget. There are a few submissions I wish to make before each Ministry for this term. I ask the Minister of MNRE, especially the seawall area, have a look at one for my village of Faala, this request has been there for some time, the coastal area has been greatly affected, especially with our tourism developments.

This is highly witnessed in Aganoa resort which is one tourism site that has our support that generates a lot of income. We have our foreign exchange. This is the only tourism site in Samoa that is very unique.

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I trust the revenue earnings is recorded especially for our tourism industry. This was also included in our Pacific games in the past. As such I request, this development is very important in support of our revenue earnings in the country.

Then I come to access roads, to the Minister of Works, I remind you about our access roads in Vailoa and Faala. This constituency of Palauli No.3 has a huge contribution in our country. This constituency has water which perhaps half of this House drinks from, even the Minister of Finance, the health ministry and the market in Salelologa, this is where this water source comes from connecting from Palauli. Other road requests we have, I do not think the State is earning anything from it. Whereas the services I am giving, it is worth it to boost our economy.

Then we come to our Tourism services. This constituency also has a tourism development. In the month of February, we will have the opening of another tourism sites that is different. The Prime Minister has spoken of various types of tourism sites. This site will be launched on the 14th of February in Palauli district, the only thing with this site, is rocks. It is a star mound. This is where our people lived and this is the story of Samoa. The

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main thing about this is the story behind it, clean the site and create a story about it.

The story should tell it all and should be a good one. It also creates employment for the youth and old men too. I plead the vehicles used during the Pacific games, if possible to get a van for this site.

I thank our University, who supported the Minister of Education, and its endeavors towards this development. This is the first development which is different, perhaps we will gain more people from the rural area that will come forth and get a chance to experience this type of development

The advise to our Ministry that oversees the township area and traffic. All of us are affeted by the traffic when we come from Vaimoso starting from Lepea to Taufusi in the mornings and in the evenings. The only advise of Palauli No.3, there should be no more roads fix during this time.

There is belief that we must do mini bus stops in Vaitele for buses to go to, and another bus stop in NUS, Vaivase as majority of people from Vaitele, come to the town area and go to Vaivase. What to do is to take the bus directly from here to pick up the college students, NUS students, Vaivase Primary School students as that is the main area whilst majority of the people live here in Vaitele. What is happening now is that all the students go to Savalalo in Apia, where other issues arise.

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That is where students would brawl, with the presence of the police, taking up their time. The police would waste time in the mornings in the traffic when already the lights are there to direct the people. When our buses go from Motootua to Vaivase and NUS, whilst another bus comes through Vailele at the district of Tuisamau where another bus stop is situated. That bus can come straight from Vaitele, Vaivase and Vailele instead of going to the town area where there is fight filled with policemen as this is where a lot of trouble is found due to social issues within the town area.

This is the advise to the Hon Prime Minister who oversees the traffic area, to make good use of the Vaitele market that was set up by my colleague Faumuina which was one good achievement he did. That is what the State is deciding upon, to do a market in Sogi. Use the current market in Fugalei, which is rarely used. The bus can go directly to Motootua as all people would want to go there to get medical check up and take their measles vaccination, and then take the bus to Vaivase, Malifa and Maluafou college for the students. And another thing...

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member I ask that you take a short rest. Thank you for your view.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, it seems the member is about to dance. Thank you. You see that the member is speaking and looking at me as if I am the representative of Vaitele, approving your will.

Leave me your will, thank you as you have been the General Manager for Vaitele, you should be titled as Tuivaitele. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I resume the statement.

Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISIUAO PALEMENE: Thank you. The reason for stating Vaitele is that this is where our revenue is mostly earned from, because if Vaitele was left alone for the people of Savaii to reside, there would have been no trouble there. As such, the people from Falefa came and lived in Vailele, because majority of these people...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Palauli, I allow the member for Vaimauga.

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Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker I do not intend to interject as this is a true colleague. The only thing is because it is Savaii where he resides permanently, the assistance to the member, the market that mentions the name of Faumuina, please there is the Coin Save there now. That is the reminder to my brother, your view of Vailele is alright as we have our lands there that you can give your support. As for the market in Vaitele, there is no more market there as Coin Save is now leasing it. With all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the member to resume.

Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISIUAO PALEMENE: Thank you, that is one way to ease things is the traveling of people. That is to reduce the expenses for the people by changing bus routes as majority of the people work in Vaitele, and are from Falefa and Laulii and Vailele. They all go to Vailele to catch the bus to come to Vaivase, to drop the kids in NUS, then to Motootua before it arrives to Vaitele.

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That is the advise to Palauli East, to review our traveling route to reduce traffic congestion that we see everyday, as this poses an impact on our jobs, and thus I request the State to look into these recommendations.

Then I conclude my statement by thanking the Minister of Health and the impact they went through. I trust it was the health services of Satupaitea and Palauli during the measles outbreak, the support of the lady Minister and doctors during the measles epidemic was witnessed and the huge contribution was made within the district and no one was affected. These are a few topics before your honor, but to my constituency in your honorifics. Bless the Sitting of Samoa.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done thank you for the recommendation, the Cabinet has heard, leave aside your view to the Cabinet for their decision in the future.

This is a good chance for another speaker. I call the member for Falelatai ma Samatau.

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Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker. The name of the fine mat we say in this region we are from is take and leave. That is quite the essence, there is slight addition to our Budget. The Clerk had asked me whether I will speak, if all the Associate Ministers will speak, I will use the chance to wish our constituency all the best for this new year.

Mr Speaker, perhaps comes the middle of the year when we have the last Budget for this Parliamentary term which will be the budget for this Parliament throughout the next year and the end of this year and works engaged by this Parliament. Even though I will use this chance to say something. I greet the Parliament from the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and the respects of Parliament, the chosen ones, the representatives of all constituencies of Samoa.

I further greet the Le Ao o le Malo, Member of the Council of Deputy and you good lady, the prayers of the clergymen for Samoa's wellbeing, Samoa in all your honorifics. Mr Speaker briefly, many have already voiced the comments I have, such is the support I rendered whilst they had their turn. The main topic that has been countlessly voiced is access roads. The

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example given in the morning is very good, for Falealili, if the roads have reached 100, for 50 constituencies, that means 500 access roads altogether. If 10 roads can be fixed within a Parliamentary term, or something like that, then I have no idea when the entire country will be covered with access road fix though the main assurance, it may not be during our time. This is for sure. There was view that your Hon Minister of Works will submit and lay it out before the State, the road maintainance, because if we leave it for some time, it will have a great impact on us and the inaccessibility of road will become more problematic. See if possible to maintain our access roads, improve them so that our people are able to access the plantations. This is nothing new to the Hon Minister and the State. See if possible to undertake this doing for now so that work in progress can be continued to seal it as we move on, which will cost millions, whilst the road maintenance will probably cost around \$100,000. This is my view on this matter although Parliament and your honour have the full discretion on this development.

Another matter during our break, is teachers forms that were filled up for registrations at the teachers association. Some of these teachers have held this position for about 20 to 30 years yet they require references or confirmation letters for these registrations. This is an ongoing task at this time. See if possible for these teachers to take on this profession without the need for these references considering the many years of their service.

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Have a look at this matter for teachers and also consider some teachers from abroad or teachers from mission schools to public schools. This may be good way to consider and review this process for teachers.

This is my advise as some of the teachers are very matured. Perhaps some of them may be way older than those sitting in the teachers council. These are the two topics that were not raised before honorable Speaker.

To the respects of the constituency and *Aiga Tauaana ma la outou Tama*, God's mercy is greater, our Father is sitting in this Chair, this is the State's bestowment upon this constituency and the country at large.

To my constituency and support of *Samatau i le afifio o le Falefa o Alii faapea foi le Saofaiga ia te oe Leulumoega*, may this new year bring you blessings as we embark with this year, prepare steadily as time will come for us to meet and talk. Have a prosperous new year, may this Parliament have a blessed Sitting this evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have thought that clarification on this part of our work must be made clear; our work is done on a collective manner. The

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respect between the Chair and the dignity of the House. My intention is to fast track our work. You have spoken of this, the authority of the member is on himself whether to speak or not. As for the chances I give, we heed the sake of our constituencies listening in and that our Sittings is live on TV. We heed respect, works needs to progress to the Chairperson and the Committee of Finance before the Cabinet gives its response.

Regardless, that is the assistance, the main intention, you are aware. Whether you speak or not, the constituency is hearing us. Well done to the speech of the member for Samatau and Falelatai. I call the member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No.4): Well done honourable Speaker of the House. At this time of the evening, I greet the honourable Speaker, Leader of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and members of Parliament. I further greet the Heads of Government Ministries and the support of the country. Mr Speaker, perhaps my constituency is listening in, well done to you, although it has take a while since we have not met, God will provide a time for us to meet. Well done to you, now that we have arrived at this last year of the term, let us put everything in God through hope.

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Mr Speaker there have been plentiful views in regards to the disease outbreak in the country. There is a hymn of the church, things happen for a reason. There have been several reports in the newspapers against the State especially the Ministry of Health. As said by one of the members earlier today, this is what the Lord said will happen in the world. We will face trials and tribulations. Diseases, hunger, earthquakes, nations will rise against nations, and based on observations with concerns we had in the country, I have thought that if we did asked God about the reasons for all these problems, this is the answer. Let us not pick the frangipani and cast stones against the doctors, the Ministry of Health and the State. All these are the laid out plans of God in the book of Luke read the book of Luke. I said it, this is God's plan that has already been set out in this world for us to live. We will have earthquakes, we have felt it so many times the so many earthquakes in the country. We had famine; in 1962, we had the worst famine in the country.

I will talk some more about what had happened in my village. The Prime Minister had often talked about this word, kopai, and I trust the rest of the

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country is right about it too. We had the kopai or pingpong soup in the morning, afternoon and evening. What is unbelievable about our descendants, in our village there is a lot of yams I do not know if many knows it. This yam pardon me, we do not eat it, why? I call it the weedkiller chemical. Even human beings do not consume it.

Our village is listening in, we had tried searching for food and we ended up with this. This is exactly what it means to eat with tears especially our elderlies. Because even though rice and pinpong soup is given, they do not eat it. Even the yams they used to eat, they do not consume it. Now that famine has arrived as mentioned in the Bible, look at the will of God, like I said with this yam, it is a weed killer. It is a weed killer although, they were still eaten by my village. They ate with tears, God's love upon our nation, no one died, crops was in abundance such is what we hear in news around the world today. Like in Iraq and Iran the yam digging all the way up to the ridge is getting scarce. This is what we are seeing now around the world, as proclaimed by our Lord and Saviour. This is what we will see in this world, famine and now diseases. In saying that, this disease is not new.

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In the nation of Africa last year, we had over 6,000 deaths in Africa from the measles disease. Although, I thank God for his creation even though we had some parents whom had lost ties with their children, may God bear them more children and newborn babies as this is his creation. We have witnessed the truth in him. This is what Jesus had declared upon his disciples before the coming of the end times. We have seen it and have witnessed it. In light of that, let us not blame and point fingers, as this is the works of God. I have also heard one view stating the setting up of an Inquiry Commission, I advise, why do that when it is the works of the Almighty God. Do we search the will of God through this disease? A living being cannot do all this. This is the authority of the Lord.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the speaking member, I allow the member of Salega.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Just to bear assistance towards the Prime Minister I mean the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prime Minister wholly supports the doctrines of the Bible. Now that I hear, this is very lacking as you do understand it too Deputy or Assistance Prime Minister?

Disease belongs to the devil; it is not God's will to bring diseases to harm the lives, which he created in his own image. That is the assistance I want to bring to you, you are wrong on that part of the Bible with respect.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker point of order. The member of Salega is correct; sickness is that of the devils, if God allows it. That is why God said to Satan; go to Job, if there is no protection I will harm him severely. That is what he did, if God did not allow it, Job would not have been sick, with respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it seems we are having Bible studies, leaving aside our main topic, pardon the respectable member, I also advise the current speaker, move on, your statement is finished.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Just to share some assistance, this was the only person, which had a trial. It was like Jesus's message, only Job, and that was it, no one else. Therefore, as I said, every disease, it is all from the devil to harm the works of the Saviour. With due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the current speaker...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker it is not just Job, Jesus also said, use my name to flee the demons to heal and make the crippled walk and the deaf. Job did not give up and Jesus continued it. We too are continuing this too. With due respect.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: In the name of God and Jesus...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member, this is fully clarified. We too studied the Bible; let us put aside this topic. I beg tolerance, move away from that issue, and talk about other matters.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, I have thought that I would be granted a chance to respond to these two members, because my district is tuning in, the same with the country. Because the disease that is affecting our country is not easy. The country and church ministers in particular should hear what I have to say. Because our sworn in oaths was based on the Bible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wanted to give a question whether he came with a Bible.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Our thoughts is based on the doctrines of the Lord. Mr Speaker we have it from the interjection of my fellow colleague Olo, read the Look carefully from the beginning to the end, the same with my colleague Faumuina.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The notable members are now receiving it. I beg forbearance to the current speaker, do abide by the Chair's orders. We all know what you are speaking about, move on to another...

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Thank you for granting me the chance to say the name of God and his will. I heed appreciation to the Minister or the Hon Prime Minister. I have thought that I will go to his office to give a word of thanks. I thought the Hon Prime Minister was no doctor. It has been 12 years since I have been diagnosed with psoriasis disease, I was taken to New Zealand and America and there was no treatment. Then I travelled with the Hon Prime Minister and Tafua to New York I think it was 2013, and I was taken to the hospital by emergency. The Hon Prime Minister affirmed that there was no treatment and talks of one of the doctors in America said that there is treatment but will have to await the outcome of a research undertaken for this particular disease before its arrival to New Zealand and other nations near the Pacific. The problem with the pills I am taking is that it can affect the liver, perhaps you have read the report from the doctor your Hon Minister of Health, it is also before the Hon Prime Minister.

The report from the doctor states that my liver have been affected and treatment has now arrived, the problem is that it is very expensive. I say this

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with awe, these are top and highly qualified medical practitioners, then I came across this very experienced doctor Asiata Viali, he said Peseta I know it is best that you consult the Government for some assistance, then the doctor wrote to the lady Hon Minister and had the Prime Minister copied. The day the Hon Prime Minister received the letter was the same day he called me in for a talk. He asked me about my sickness, and I elaborated everything to him and told him there was no treatment. Note that liver is blood and no treatment can be done to it. What shocked me is that as soon as I explained myself, the Hon Prime Minister responded, Peseta this is the only remedy, if you get injected today, I pity you, many of these injections have affected so many, otherwise I will tell you this remedy to cure your sickness. Come and drink this water, then I saw, now the Hon Prime Minister has no water. Now that I have seen this water, it is called kangen water or whatever it is called.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member you have two minutes remaining, I beg tolerance to the member, go ahead Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I did instruct the police to lock up this person up from selling this water which is making people sick from the measles. This is the only person whom I allow to be treated with this water, it is only him lest you complain tomorrow, because my remedies is purposelessly and this is the only person that has lived from it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The respectable member can conclude now.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Your honor, the talk I am giving is very important, this is also the intention from the Prime Minister not to do what the doctor said, rather it will be good to go ahead with this water and drink it.

The Prime Minister indicated that he takes three litres a day. He said to me, go and find this medicine then take it and you will ill no more. I say this as I have seen about 20 specialists taking all sorts of unbelievable medication.

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The advice of Dr Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi to take kangen water and thought to myself, wow! This could possibly end my life. But I did take the advice.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wrap up your remarks as we are now on our usual recess hour. Please conclude your statement.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: So I went to find this water, and I have this friend who is a neighbour who tells me that he has a friend who is a member of Parliament that claims this is the number one water. I asked him, who is this member? It is the Hon. Alaiasa. I am not lying. Your Hon member from Anoamaa East, I guess you do not know my friend that came to procure this water for me to drink. I thank God for your assistance, now I am not certain whether it was your son or your wife that gave this water. This water you gave me made me think of the name I was given, Vaifou. I knew after taking this water that I have become well, I am coming back.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Acknowledge your constituency then conclude. I beg tolerance of the member for Lufilufi but he was merely expressing gratitude. Alright, I beg tolerance of the member but the member for Anoamaa East will speak.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: The notification from the member is important for the information of this House, as it is our nature to not disclose a stroke of luck which one has attain. But he must first acknowledge the Dr which informed him. But as far as I am concern, I was delighted to share this with him and so I said to my children, let him have free water so the gentleman's ailments maybe cured and I hope it will remain that way for some time. If as he claims that my friend is back, well then do remember me when you strike luck. May we have a constructive meeting.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I shall not be long Mr Speaker. The importance of what I am saying is the benefit on myself of this

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precious gift from the Prime Minister, which has given me, renew strength. Perhaps my revelation would be beneficial to us all as we are not certain of the numerous treatments available but God provides the necessary treatment to make us well, just as we experienced with the measles. Despite of its magnitude God provides the time for it to gradually disappearing.

Mr Speaker, I have a lot to be grateful for towards the Ministers of Cabinet, but I will congratulate the Minister of Finance for his sound financial management and allocation. Since all the access roads to plantations at every village of my constituency are done. We should not focus our energy on returning but we must also prepare ourselves to not making it back.

Mr Speaker this constituency do support the Budget Statement and I commend Cabinet in your performance. I must also acknowledge the members on that side of chambers, I do salute you in your role with our collective responsibility. All of our obligations is from God. May the Lord bless you Mr Speaker and members, as well as the Chief Executive Officers present.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since we have come to our usual recess hour of 15 minutes. I pronounce that the House Proceedings be set aside for its normal recess.

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The Legislative Assembly proceedings were set aside at 8.11pm for its normal recess and resumed at 9.07pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I pronounce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be now resume. Before taking our recess, the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 had completed his speech.

This is the opportunity for the Deputy Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. I call upon the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity accorded to contribute on behalf of my constituency on the First Supplementary Estimates. You

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have expressed our prayers to our God this morning and I commend you on your role of directing our proceedings. I am certain that Afioga Leaupepe is tuning in at this moment as he led us earlier in prayers. Today is a day that the Lord has made for us to share ideas for a prosperous Samoa. I acknowledge the prayerful support of my constituency of Palauli le Falefa throughout the distinguish denominations. I do appreciate your prayers.

I will firstly congratulate the Government with the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the wonderful major projects done and still continuing for the welfare of our people now and the future. I will foremost acknowledge the Ministry of Health and I think this is the appropriate moment to say something to the Minister. I applaud the Prime Minister and Cabinet for their role in controlling the recent epidemic that we experienced. Everything that happens evokes a message. Any Government which is divided will not last and a Government that collaborates will have the people's best interest at heart. My gratitude to the Director General of Health, the Minister and Associate Minister.

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I also recognise the Associate Minister of Women for the dialogue, which evokes a sense of cooperation and particularly the offering of condolences to the families who lost children to the measles outbreak. The message taken from the measles is that there are so many other contagious diseases out there, which we must protect ourselves from. A legislation is now in place, which serves as a guideline of the steps, which we must take in future to protect ourselves. We do not know but only God realises what the future holds.

Mr Speaker, I want to express my appreciation for the projects done at my constituency.

I apologise for postponing the dedication ceremony for the newly installed water supply at my village of Gataivai. This development is not a project that was recently devised. It was initiated during the previous term when I was at the helm unfortunately it came up when we were two months away from the general elections of 2016. Which prompted me to ask the management to delay the project as it was not a good idea with elections looming. For it will make it look as if I have intentions to attract voters

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within my constituency. It was gladly accepted and so the project was slowly developed. My advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet particularly the Ministers engaged in projects done at rural communities is that they should consult the member of the respective constituency first. If I had not heard about your coming on the ferry, I would not have been aware of the plan of your good self and members coming around to initiate this proposal. It would be ideal to at least advise us two weeks in advance, for it will not be taken lightly by a member. The member and prominent figures of the constituency will take delight in holding a reception upon your arrival in recognition of the wonderful work you do for the general prosperity of the country.

I extend my gratitude for the access road now proposed for my village of Sili, which could possibly be done next month. I will be sharing with you the other projects but will tell you about the other things that will help you Papali'i, and you should implement everything that members are asking to do. Since we have loads of money, which members are not aware of. I do believe that the Minister will disclose this information.

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Thank you Sili for the Budget, I take it from some members that there is very little capital. However, if you do look at the numbers presented I would think that it is over \$200million or \$300million is the total amount collected from the country. I will say the following to support my argument. The Budget under consideration contains serious numerous benefits not realised behind the figures presented. For instance, the \$64,000 for office materials to go into the Australian office for the RSE, which is hugely useful. Not only it upgrades the liaison officer's office but it is a go to for our people looking for employment opportunities thus creating more openings for our families. That \$64,000 is not only going to good use by increasing employment but it also provides a psychological service for those that are missing home. As long as there is this fatherly service available to these people, otherwise after two, three months they would be asking to return to Samoa because the kids and their mother are missing him.

The other vital sum here is the \$92,000 for the upgrade and relocation of the Courts from Tuasivi to Salelologa, which will save people a lot of money. Since they will no longer be catching another bus, as it will save

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time to catch another bus to Saleleloga, so that is one benefit for our people. This type of assistance from the government will save people from having to pay \$3tala to get to Tuasivi and the other \$3 to come to Saleleloga. It will also enhance the state of the market in Saleleloga, with restaurants, shops and the likes will be the centre point here. The other factor to look at is increasing the number of Land and Titles Judges. This is another benefit, and Parliament is following its manifesto, which is enhancing this pillar of the Government Triangle. What I look for here is the advantages for our people, for the country. The doctor that was hired for the Tanumalala prison is 48 to six months. In other words, \$96,000 per annum. This will minimise the constant movement of automobiles to transport prisoners back and forth and the possibility of anyone absconding risking the lives of the general public.

The other factor which is proof of the benefits brought about by this budget is the \$10,000 which to buy the machine which records the daily transactions of a store. The government is now interested to assist in the recording of these information and to increase our revenues.

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The other factor, which I normally ask the Ministry of Health, is how much of the medicines, which go to waste? Their response was that they were not sure. With the state of hospitals, there is no hospital in the world without the fact that there is waste. However, it must be known. There is now a person appointed to be in charge of the dispensary unit where the medicines will be store. Therefore, this person should be on the alert so as to minimise the quantity of medicines being thrown out when expired as they cannot all be used. The situation with estimates is that there are times when it becomes short and other times when it is over. The other blessing shown Hon. Minister of Finance is the \$250,000 to cover scholarships for low-income families which have qualify or have met the criteria so they should look into this and take advantage of it. The police academy is another development. The appropriations indicated for the police is very small. Five to ten years ago it was very easy to become a police officer. It was known back then that those who could not find work would end up becoming police officers. It was a career for those who found it hard to get into employment. However,

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the reality now, is that the level of recruitment will become much harder for those going into police training called the people's guards.

The importance of this factor is such that when a high volume of recruits is taken the level of training will improve. The number will increase and it provides numerous opportunities for peace keeping missions. This is a factor which is contributing to Fijis increasing foreign exchange due to the high volume of its force since they have a high number of recruits in the police force and soldiers deployed in peace keeping missions throughout the world. The other point Honourable is the garden we went to look at. There is a promotion under the sum of \$250, but this garden has been earmarked for a sum of \$253,000. These are very good developments. I am telling you all this to confirm my statement that although the budget is small but the benefits coming from it which generates prosperity pouring into the country is well over \$200million. That is the value added on top of this budget. My commendations to the Minister of Finance and the Ministry and also the Chief Executive Officer for this budget is not trivial. The benefits yielding from it is substantial hence this constituency supporting the Budget.

I want to say to the Minister of Finance that as I read through the Budget statement of 2017/2018 it shows a lot of money that was not used which is a good thing. In 2017, \$101.1million was the surplus that was to cover estimates of \$23million. Meaning \$77million is the total unused capital.

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So during the period 2017 to 2018 the total of the accounts which I am talking about is \$31million surplus and capital generated locally it is \$67million which was unused. Why not allocate half of this money to Papalii to cover the demands of constituencies, since there are reasons. There are access roads, which should not be covered under access roads but climate change. We visited the road between Vaiaata and Patamea, and also this road should be funded under climate change, the reason being is this road could be used when relocating people from Faasaleleaga and the community at Gagaemauga No.1 since there is a gradual rise in sea level. The other road that could be funded under climate change is the road at Faleaseela, from the river to the inland area of Faleaseela, since people should move inland due to the erosion from the rising sea level. I know that funds will be rolled out...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will allow the interruption of the member from Salega.

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: My apologies to the member for his statement is quite good. However, I am pondering the \$100+ million the member talks about. My question is, are you talking about real money or simply unused estimates? When you talk of \$100 million, it seems that... but we do have a lot of projects that needs attention, with all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, the deputy Chairperson will take the floor.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you to the member for Salega East. The member sat in the committee during the review of this matter and his signature is there. The estimates that I am talking about is \$23 million which was speculated, is capital that remained unused. After the accounts were audited \$101 million remained unused, so the accounts have been audited. You have your signature on it. Respectfully.

What I am trying to say Honourable Minister of Finance, it would be good to appropriate more this year than required and repeat that in the final year. With these two estimates, there is currently a lot of money saved here and what will we do with it? The good side with appropriating more is such that it makes the cost of projects cheaper.

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On the other hand, saving it with the intention of using it later will only incur higher cost, and that is the problem. It will also encourage our local farming projects. The Minister of Agriculture is present and he is keen on getting the access roads done so as to increase production locally which will result in increase of export. One of the Associate Ministers has stated the various markets opening yet there are no products to be exported. It is why it is vital Papalii that you get the road at Sili done since our village are concentrating on organic food, which does incur high prices. This alternative has a very high productivity due to the fertile soil and the people are dedicated workers.

Mr Speaker I understand that it has been about 30 years since we have been receiving donors from JICA, Japan, the European Union and other donors brought to construct school buildings. The only amount shown here is \$300,000 however, with the many existing changes with the construction of school buildings, the \$300,000 should now double and let the village community come up with the remaining funds to complete the project.

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I recommend that you collaborate with the Minister of Finance since you must approach the donors again to increase the assistance, as \$300,000 is no longer enough for a school building at this stage. There are now rooms for computer classes and for teacher's offices; in fact a lot has been added. It is a must that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance work closely together. We also visited the road at Tanumalala and consequently advised the Minister and management to do up this very road, as it is more convenient and closer to the destination when going there. It also minimises the usage of government vehicles and reducing stress on employees. It is almost ten minutes when taking this route rather than going around the other way towards Lefaga. The good thing is that the road done has assisted the community of Lefaga residing around that area, but the road I am talking about will reduce the effect from usage of government vehicles and will be of benefit to the employees. It is short and it can be done. Now there are two ways of doing it, first is that SLC do not to take out a dividend and let the SLC do this road. The other option is the sharing of the cost to go to SLC and the Ministry of Corrections. Since SLC has tenders process in place. If not give the funds to Papali'i to carry out that project and use the LTA in the process since LTA has lost the LT but has only the A. It also gives Papali'i more work and so he can respond to the demand of members. As long as our roads are in good condition the better our travelling becomes. It is why we keep saying, do it well as there are a lot of potholes along the roads.

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Sometimes I would go up to Papalii and whisper to him to fix our road as there are tourist going that way towards the Tradition but there are so many potholes. You have to inform the Minister and it is usually about five months until the vehicle simply cannot handle the poor condition, then attempts are made to fix it. It is the also the case with rural villages. Falelauniu was mentioned, and there is a commercial that goes, the reason for roads poor state is the people's representative. What can the member do if there are no funds allocated to do it? It is just impossible for a member to argue, you have heard today, members those are the very roads members are demanding to be done. But they can't do anything more if there are no funds given to Papalii and the LTA to get it done.

The other point is historical sites, which we have gone, and plant trees there, which is ok. But the historical sites at my constituency contains legends which are just extraordinary, for instance, the rock where the kings of Samoa were nurtured, but also the taboo pond that Tiatia brought from Manu'a. It is the very one which killed the Tuitoga as the Tuimanua did not

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allow him to take it. The water from this pond is practical and I know that it would be a better treatment for Peseta's sickness. So therefore, I will go with my brother to give him this water and I know it would yield a faster favourable response. He will no longer require kangen water but Tiatia water.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Palauli le Falefa, but I will allow the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Mr Speaker, my brother Faumui's speech is wonderful. But, I am no longer concerned about this matter of water, as the water from the Prime Minister which was actually from my brother Alaiasa has given me life. Yes. I am also pondering talking to my Minister that when we contemplate retirement, we could open up a clinic to sell this water and perhaps we would get a lot of clients raking us more money than we do here in Parliament.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on the member for Anoama'a East.

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Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Mr Speaker, let me cut in the member's remarks. It does come across well though it includes bits that are not necessarily true. There was just one blessing bestowed upon this pond and is located in the inland area of Falefa. Tiatia never claimed a pond; this pond was brought by Tuimanu's sons for a gentleman of Falefa. I must point these out as it is contained in our historical legends. The other thing that springs to mind is the road at Falelauniu; Faumuina when he was Minister of Works was responsible for this road at Falelauniu, which was not done properly. Now that the road is covered with potholes and he is complaining, yet it was his doing. I advise to be cautious of what you say and bear in mind your past actions. This was the actual division of SLC when this guy was Minister, but is now putting the blame on the government, but if the contract process was good, the road would still be in a good state, and cars going at speed. It has not even been ten years, and I do say this with respect but I feel that I must assist with the remarks.

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As far as the water is concern, they have vouched for it and am happy with that, my brother Peseta is a testament that the water has benefit him, but do not take the water Faumui is talking about as it may quickly alter the fine state you are in now.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue, but do no longer speak of the subject of water.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you, I will first address Peseta by saying that with the life we are living, there will come a time when we die. My question is, have you accepted salvation. If you have not, I invite to come and I will pray for salvation upon you. Because if you do leave here and die tonight you will not receive everlasting life. Do accept salvation and you shall go to heaven. We do not remain here forever, we all came to this place and will all return to the everlasting place.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to remind you that the member is the only one that always has the bible in his bag.

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Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: You should remember Jesus sermon where he states that what he tells you to do must be done, but their ways you should not do.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Mr Speaker, there is just this last thing

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member may take the floor.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Jesus also said, do not be ashamed to tell people about me. I too am not ashamed to tell my Father about you. It is why speeches begins with the God our Lord.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, we have just all heard the wonderful remarks from Peseta and his claim that the only saviour in his

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heart is the Prime Minister. We all heard him, “I am alive because of the Prime Minister” Meaning he does not believe in Jesus and is not reborn. On the other hand, Tiatia is speaking about himself and his doctor whether they are prepared. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a point of order or clarification?

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: It is a point of order. Since my brother Leala has spoken, but I just want to say that our Lord’s final statement was to abide his laws. That is all; it is for us to conform to his commandments. You know the laws; I do not need to tell you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, let us proceed with our budget since our approval for it is due.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I advise the member for Palauli le Falefa to no longer go into matters of the bible. There is a place for that dialogue, but let us deliberate our budget since the government needs to proceed with their business.

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Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I shall do so. Although we are discussing the budget, Samoa is founded on God. Meaning we are defending it so as to incite blessings. I was speaking on benefits, which stems from this budget. If we are to convert into capital the benefits within the budget it would add to close to \$300 million in benefits. \$23 million would yield prosperity for Samoa almost totalling \$300 million if you are to reflect on the figures and the advantages on individuals and the country as a whole. That is what I am saying; when God blesses a country, it shall be done. That is also why I am saying...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now gather what you are saying now move on to a different matter.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: My colleague Alaiasa is a pastor at the Worship Centre, a person that is in a habit

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of judging, Mathew 7 says, do not judge for you may be judge. The sons and daughters of God do not judge. I will not judge you. May God bless you.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: May God also bless you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us discuss our role, the honourable member.

Afioga FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Sir, with the tourism sector I think funds from the budget now under deliberation should go to them directly, or even the Supplementary or the main budget for the roads to historical sites. The trouble with allocating the money to Papalii is that once he becomes short he will surely use it on access roads and roads where are potholes all over. However, allocate the money directly to Sala and his Ministry to fix these roads. I tell you that the wonders at Gataivai and Sili is unbelievable, we are the only constituency with trees that talk. I heard a member talking about the fau tree that has a lingo, now this fau is at Sili. It talks to you. Another member talked about Taemanutavae, he is a gentle man of Sili. These are legends from my village and you go on and speak of them when you have no business to do so. Allocate the money to Sala to fix these roads to the historical sites. It would benefit the...

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member whilst I allow the Minister of Tourism.

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati: Mr Speaker, I agree with Faumuina. I understand from the line of remarks presented, this \$300 million It is true with the allocation and appropriations by the Minister of Finance. If say, \$50 million is allocated for tourism to upgrade roads and if as the member stated that \$300 million, well anything could happen.

I can fix all the roads of Savaii with this money including hotels and the need for sea wall constructions and the likes. I can help my colleague Papali'i because the truth is, we do have many demands however, we have minimal funds at our disposal, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

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Afioga FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I have voiced the contribution of my constituency of Palauli le Falefa. I thank you for your support. Following on from our get together during Christmas and New Year, I want to wish you a Happy New Year again. I appreciate the prayers of the clergy, which I believe has accorded me success. Mr Speaker I also commend the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Associate Ministers and this side of chambers. May the Lords providence be upon us all. This year will be a year of providence. In the name of Jesus Christ, I bid you farewell.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I congratulate the member for his remarks. You are a senior member of this Assembly. Your constituency have heard your remarks and I commend you for your perseverance and leadership. I will now allow the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of Finance & Revenue Committee): Thank you for the opportunity to contribute on behalf of my constituency of Alataua West to the Supplementary Appropriations No.1 2019/2020. I gather that our Deputy Chairperson has taken the floor already. I do not need to go into detail then on the Supplementary Estimates as the deputy Chairperson has given an outline. However, I will acknowledge the dignitaries of this Assembly with your honourable Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister who is the Leader of the House.

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The Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet, Associate Ministers. I also recognise the members of Parliamentary Committees, where the Government's trust has been placed upon with the role to oppose the State in keeping watch over the State's Administration.

We are also joined here by the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises, management force of the Executive and the media officials, and the Office serving the Parliament. Such are the dignitaries pertaining to this place, which rests here.

I would like to greet my constituency of Alataua West by saying I commend you on our journey. I want to ask everyone first not to interrupt me until I am through and then it is all up to you. Mr Speaker and this Assembly before I voice the demands of my constituency let me firstly give my general view on our way of life today.

Samoa is a blessed country. This is the firm belief of my constituency from the time I entered Parliament until now. There have been so much said with

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well wishes and appreciations from the leaders of government, the Chief Executive Officers, the Minister and all public servants, and particularly the Clergy whom are praying for the peace and security of Samoa. Such is the stance and feeling of this constituency. Mr Speaker, when life challenges confront us, we say to ourselves, life's tribulations are upon us; our journey's misfortune has struck. It poses a question, who is responsible? Who shall be blame? I believe that we as leaders of the country should carry the responsibilities. Why? Our peoples demand for good things and security continues to grow. As well as the comparative lifestyle to countries abroad. Often we forget that we are a blessed country. When we view on television the natural disasters and the various diseases affecting other countries. It is a testament that Samoa is a prosperous country.

Some of these countries are quite powerful economically and can easily recover from the blight of natural disasters or diseases due to their strong economies. Compared to our very fragile economy, it is difficult to bounce back when disasters like these happen as we have witness with cyclones and epidemic with the rearrangement of where government's priorities should go to ensure the vital public services continues whilst fixing the damages. This is the exact point in which I say that we are a blessed country and it is the solid belief of this constituency.

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Whenever we watch on television the countless lives lost from natural disasters and the lives stricken masses through poverty caused by natural disasters, it is the exact testament of Gods miracle of compassion upon Samoa as we are quickly returned to the normality of a peaceful life we are in today. There is a common adage pertaining to my father's village of Taga, which goes "Salemuliaga's kava went well without any problems" Such are the feelings I have after the problems we encountered.

The experience we have been through due to what hit us brings with it the message to us leaders to be vigilant. To safeguard our country and ensure that such epidemic does not strike again and that hunger does not ever reach us. Since we do not know whether we can beat it next time. Which brings me to the point whether is it not the opportune time to introduce and finance a quality parenting programme for new born babies to 3 years old before starting school.

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One of the members emphasized ECE or Early Childhood Education and I do support this view. This programme is to assist mothers and care givers in parental care through appropriate means. Such appropriate ways are to safeguard them from factors, which could threaten their environment from physical danger. To give them a healthy balanced diet, that the living environment is clean, that immunisations is done, teaching parents with the appropriate language in front of the children, respect and the different types of behaviour which must be taught that will embrace the growing up of children. To give them the best start in life. It is said, teach the child at a young age, for when they are older they will not deviate from it.

We are also seeing in newspapers every week on the daily basis notifications for assistance for low-income families. In which we see images of families living in small cramped up dirty environment. Showing young children amongst a huge household of people within a small house. These kinds of quality parenting program would avoid and address this kind of problem, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or UNICEF is currently initiating such programs. It is our duties as leaders of Samoa to seek avenues to protect our country so as to be in line with objectives and successful outcomes as we have in place our guidelines for developments. This is the required result for a healthy and prosperous Samoa and our other desired outcome of lifting the state of village and community development.

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I believe that it is also important to bring the health services together, as there will be the revival of the Women's Committee again. I believe, even though the main focus of the Minister of Finance is on financial matters for this year on the theme, Weaving a prosperous and secure future for Samoa together. However, I think these are all aspects of life, a common vision for a prosperous Samoa, which includes a secure and peaceful future for the youth of Samoa in any needed situation. This is our calling through the leaders of Samoa, to prepare, strengthen and secure Samoa for a better tomorrow. The purpose for this forum, and opportunities available in the Supplementary Appropriation, is to see how the works implemented is measured towards achieving the economic goals and objectives.

It is important to be reminded about the trade, so that both sides can check on each other. Thank you for your hard work Hon Prime Minister and fellow Ministers as well as Associate Ministers. It is noted from the financial policy

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of the Government, as provided in the guidelines for the development of Samoa, that it is progressing, not only our budget, but also the money spent or actuals towards policies. It is estimated that the economy will account for 35% of its total expenditure and it is expected to grow by 2.2million.

This is another situation in sustaining the debts and loans at a minimum of 50%, thank you to the honourable Minister. It is observed that our debt from the economy is now less than 46%. We also note that the allocation of funds for salaries of employees, which in turn reflects the importance of service to the Government, service delivery, as a lot of our funds are prioritized for salaries for employees as this is priority area by the Government in all areas and to improve the economy of the country in particular.

Most of the six policies that should be included, will be further improved and upgraded to the best of your ability. Thank you to the Finance Secretary, thank you to the staff as well as the Minister in charge of the Ministry.

To the Hon Ministers, that is the summary of how we look at our economy as well as the Budget, and the Appropriation Budget. It is going well and there is no reason for complaints except to convey gratitude.

To the Hon Minister, I would like to voice some requests from my constituency before my time is up. Thank you for the implementation of the roads in Neiafu which were opened this week. Thank you also to the Ports Authority and Shipping Companies, noticeably for their hard work in distributing vehicles not only during the festive season, but also for weekly commute as the number of people and vehicles has increased on island.

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It is noted from your statement that there will be another ship, thankfully if there is a plan set out between Savaii and Upolu. Hopefully this ship will arrive before the election.

My thoughts on the election now, I beseech the Hon Minister, if everyone can travel on the boats free of charge during these 2 days of the election. Even if they do not vote, because we do not know how to differentiate between those who go to vote and those who are attending family functions. That is a request to begin the desires of Savaii while we still have time.

The honourable member for Salega mentioned his road which is within the Appropriation 2017/2018, but if you examine that list, because the Ministry used to state its projects, the Land Transport Authority, it used to provide a list of village names that needed road fix, with Falelima in 4th and Samata in 6th. I also went and showed my constituency, that Falelima is now included in this list. I trust the village of Falelima will benefit from discussions

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regarding the Climate Fund. There is a need to relocate inland as there is road erosion in the coastal area due to no people living there because of the sea. These funds will be very useful for this relocation of the village towards the inland area.

The Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, if you recall, I only had one request since I came, the school building for my constituency, since the member for Falealupo is not present, but Falealupo and my constituency have been persistently making requests. If you look at last week with the opening of the new Fagasa School, which is exactly located at the halfway point from Neiafu heading towards the Asau side. I do not know the genius that put the school there. It would have been better to build the school at Aopo.

Well Neiafu is fair but the other villages of my constituency of Falelima, it takes 30 minutes to travel to the wharf. However, when I come from Neiafu to go to the school in Asau, it takes 35 minutes. That means, when the children from Falelima come to school, it will take 40 minutes. That is a huge distance, and the children have to walk all the way to our district school in Asau.

Please look into this matter, it has been noted that there.... the Hon Minister since we are on this issue, our debts have gone down. It is now 46 and that 4% is enough to reclaim our loans to build all the schools in our constituency.

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Another issue your Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, it was disclosed that most of the time the teachers would leave school grounds to get their payments, it is true and it also affects my constituency. I beseech if possible to make a request to banks, to set up a few ATM machines in Asau because there is only one bank which is the Samoa Commercial Bank. But most of the teachers I have noticed would queue up at ANZ. I therefore would like to request to you directly as I know it would be a lot easier this way, Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, to set up a few cash machines to resolve this issue of people having to go all the way to Salelologa to draw pay every Wednesdays.

To the Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Technology, thank you, there are three families in my village that have Digital TV that are working. Thank you for this service, I am confident that before the first half of this year is finished, my entire constituency will be covered with

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these services. The coverage in our area is very clear.... during the recent rugby game, because for the first time these three families are able to watch it, and it seemed like it was back in the days when crowds would gather outside and inside the houses to watch television, teenagers and a few elders of the village. Thank you and hopefully by the end of the year, this service will reach the entire constituency.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the evening lunch and water bottles. But I heard this evening the benefits of this Kangen water, and so it would be good if we can get water bottles like this for our Parliament during our Forums. That is an opinion, in that regard, at least a foolish statement from this constituency is submitted.

If Alataua West has said anything unpleasant, I bid your forgiveness. May God bless you with strength and wisdom to guide the House of Samoa. God bless the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as the Hon Ministers of the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. May this side of the House also find good health, as well as representatives of Ministries and Corporation, and various services that we are interacting with this evening. Let Samoa sail smoothly, my constituency of Alataua West, it has been 4 years since I have made a statement. Whatever weakness, I ask tolerance. God bless our constituency, lastly I want to thank the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the services towards Parliament.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done and thank you, the House has now heard the wonderful speech from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, I offer congratulations and gratitude for your hard work, well done for your services and your work.

I believe that all the members of the House have made their public statements in terms of the Supplementary Appropriation No.1 2019/2020. I feel that this is a good opportunity for the honourable Leader of the Government, for his speech, and then the Cabinet Minister will begin their response on the issues raised from the statements of members. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I respectfully rise to congratulate all the

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members of the House and their statements on the Supplementary Appropriation. I commend you for the thought provoking ideas for the Cabinet, many issues were raised in support of the ongoing plans of the Government.

Before I get to the Budget let me say something about the Kangen water. This water, the only thing that is important in the water, is alkaline. That means that the alkaline water can break down the acid in our bodies that are toxic, which is derived from the meat of cattle and other animals. So the alkaline water works to weaken those toxins within the body. That is the only purpose of the water, but this water is produced in machines. The important thing about this water is when you wake up in the morning, you drink two glasses of water, and within 60 seconds it is able to remove all the toxins in the body. But if you are taking any pills, then after you take your pills, you have to wait for half an hour before you can drink this water.

These pills, when you take them you will have to wait for 6 hours or 4 hours or 8 hours before you can take another one. That is why it takes 4, 6, 8 hours, because the pills are absorbed by the water that is there to cure your illness. Thus is why you wait for 30 minutes, and then you can drink this water, because if you drink this water within 60 seconds, it will circulate throughout the body and it will dissolve all the pills and making them ineffective. It is important, that is the only thing this water does.

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You can also reach that level of toxic, which can also be filtered by drinking some lemon juice. Lemon also contains alkaline, but the problem is that it takes a lot of work to cut the lemon and squeeze the juice, but for this water, you can just go and fill up the container and drink it straight away. However, it does not cure measles. That is why the job carried out by this man is wrong. This water cannot stop pneumonia.

Mr Speaker, I just need to clear this bit before I get on with my speech.

There is a fight, I normally tell this story, I am guessing it was during the 1960s when Tivoli was present. A man from Apia and a man from the rural area, and it was the final bout. As the first round began, there was a ramp on the ceiling filled with people, because it was the final bout. That is why whenever there is a final match like this it becomes crowded and even people from Savaii would come and watch. It was a close match and half way through the round, the man from the rural area got a lucky punch and shook

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the man from Apia, the referee made the count but the man from Apia was bleeding profusely. The people cheered with uplifting spirits, “Get up, Get up”. The man heard the cheers and stood up. The man from the rural moved in and punched his ribs and the Apia man fell down again while the blood was still gushing out. The people called again, “Get up, Get up” and the Apia man got up again. As soon as the Apia man stood up the man from the rural right crossed him and down he went again while blood was still gushing out. Then again the people called out, “Get up”. The man got up and looked towards the people, and yelled angrily. “Do you not see my mouth is all covered with blood....”

The moral of the story, there is a huge difference between playing from outside the ring and inside the ring. When you are playing from the outside, you have a lot of ideas, but when you get inside the ring you do something completely different.

Our Budget, which we are currently busy with, it, is meagre. It is only a small amount of \$23,800,000 and is also called the Supplementary Appropriation. In addition to the Main Estimate...The Main Estimate, which we will pass in June. The financial year from July to June in the new year. Meaning, all developments and activities have been set out to be implemented until June for the new year. Therefore, the Government is ambitious to add \$23,600,000 for new additional work. Our work will then carry on until June of next year.

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These are that changes from the year 1989 when I was the Minister of Finance at the time, so that our financial year is in line with the financial year of our foreign partners, to make our budgeting easier, and so that aid is received directly on time. The financial year we have been applying from 1962-1989 for the calendar year from January to December. It has now changed from 1st of July to the end of June. This is reason why there are new jobs required by the Government so far. These are the nature for long-term planning.

The economists are the ones that make plans for the economy. What they usually want to do is to have one budget, with no extravagant additions. That is the deficiency, as there was never a time when we had a single budget because of unforeseen events. This is a plan made by a moneymaking person with potential. When it comes to the course of the year, the level of income often varies, either more or less. That is the goal due to the great work

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achieved by the two Ministries, the Ministry of Customs and the Ministry of Revenue, as well as the funds from overseas, brought in by the taxpayers from our partnerships with other countries. If we combine the two small supplementary appropriations that we are exaggerating with the amount already set out in the Main Budget we get a total of \$848 million, which is less than a billion. Therefore, \$848 million is the total budget or the main estimate. It is now being distributed by our Government. This is the common plan of our Government from the beginning for planned budgeting of public funds. Government is attempting to pay off the debts first. Secondly, to have enough money to operate the Government, that is how our partners and foreign organizations measure us, if our financial plans are dependable. So remember, majority of our funds are from our foreign partnerships.

Another portion are from donations and small loans. The Minister for the Ministry of Finance has proposed these two things. The first has been achieved, there are sufficient funds to repay loans and secondly, there should be enough funds to operate the Government, current expenditure. The aim of any good government is to conserve some funds for development. Why? These developments create jobs and grows the economy. We do not have more funds of our own to implement our developments. The surplus is \$80 million. Therefore, the debts have been paid, as well as funds set aside to operate the Government, leaving \$80 million to carry out our developments.

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Congratulations to the Minister of Finance for being attentive. This is what our partners are closely observing. Then we look at our developments, the development we have now is not \$80 million but \$117 million, which means the development we are implementing is far greater than \$80 million. If you look at the document that shows the \$140 million summary, which is to fund projects that has already been considered as donations, it has already been discussed with our partners.

The other fraction is \$26million, that portion is funded from our small loans with interest. That is the whole picture of our Budget, which is currently in operation, for the many project plans made by the Minister for the economy, to spend our funds on. If there are disruptions from other plans underway, it cannot be funded because the budget has already been passed, but all the income goes to the Treasury then it is forwarded to the Parliament, and approved from overseas. So if our Forum concludes and an unexpected

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development occurs, what will be the situation? Because the plans for the expenses have already been set out. Then the Authority provided by the constitution will be exercised, to allow for its usage... then the Government will reach out to use it as such for unforeseen emergencies. Only then will it be brought before Parliament in final, and money will be allocated to fund it, like the measles where the Government had exercised that type of authority. Foreign aid was received later on which was used to balance these funds.

Mr Speaker, the reason why I have mentioned these, because I have noticed that the recent debate is being generalised. We must bring this, we must bring what? That is not how things are done, because we are still getting money from overseas and it goes straight to where it is supposed to go, just as discussed with our partners. For example, the building that was recently built. I do not know if the Court House took five years to be completed. This means, when the money is received, it will be allocated throughout the whole year until it is finished. But now it is being brought from overseas. So when there are funds leftover, it cannot be used for anything else. It is subject to the proposed project, as signed by our Government and foreign governments. That cannot be misused, to use funds from other projects on another project. But these foreign Organizations, they visit from time to time to do inspections on the missions. All the organizations that come on missions and interview to check if the money is being used properly.

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That is why Samoa is still highly regarded by foreign Governments because it follows the principles of good governance. These are guidelines for a good government. What are these guidelines? Accountability. Whatever is being spent, it should show that it is being spent accordingly.

That is why it is important to make reports. That is also the instruction of the Cabinet given to Chief Executive Officers, to immediately make reports and to be given to the Parliament, so that the leaders of the country are informed on how the money is being spent. The second principle or rule of transparency is to make everything clear and free from corruption. So if anything, it will be clearly stated in the audit. That is why it is being enforced, as the auditor in other countries is neglected. It seems that more than 20 people are working in the Office of the Auditor. While the auditor is filled with people with masters and Bachelors, and are also members of the New Zealand association, perhaps this is the most highly qualified

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auditor ever to hold this position, and reports directly to the Parliament to exercise the independence of the Office of the Auditor. If there are any drawbacks, then the Office of the Ombudsman will step in, this is the only Government out of many Governments, that not only has a strong Office of the Auditor but the Office of the Ombudsman is powerful as well to re-investigate the government on flawed decisions.

Mr Speaker, I feel that these are the things that our Parliament should be aware of, as there have probably been more than 80 or 85 Parliamentary Sittings on the Appropriation since I have been in this Parliament. There are years when we have two Budgets. Some years and especially since the beginning there have been three Supplementary Budgets. And I always hear these kinds of debates that go on and on. It is like a record that keeps playing over and over again, because these are the things that we all value, prioritize our roads and water supply, because these are the two important things. But the order of the development of a country, for any country these two major things should be balanced. And what are these two? To balance economic development with social development. What do they mean? To balance the key development to assist the other developments. Like what? Like roads, working roads, ports. It should be balanced with social development for the well-being of our people. What are the social developments? Education as well as health. These are the things that are prioritized by Governments.

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The Governments do not prioritize just a single matter, but they look at the bigger picture, general vision, so it does not mean the roads are the only priority. Nor just the water supply. It is broad. And the government does not have enough money to implement all the work we need because the Government cannot do everything we want. That is why we promote. This means that our Government is encouraging stakeholders and organizations to come to Samoa and set up offices in Samoa to support us.

The truth is we do not have enough money, because all these foreign funds are bound by covenants so we cannot overuse the money we receive. That is why we have JICA. Thanks to other organizations, ADRA, these organizations are partners of the Government that provide assistance for us. There is also other direct assistance from the Government of China different from the assistance that comes through our Government, the European Union. The Government hopes that, if the things that were planned by this

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Parliament are not enough, then we can depend on some of these aids, so we should not sit idly but instead we must make requests for support. This means, when the matter is given to JICA, you will sit down and read it because that is one part of our Parliament. In addition to the many things that are being done now, many members have made speeches about this matter but they do not talk about the important things for their own constituency, those are the things done by the Cabinet.

In 2006 the leader for the SNDP stood from that seat and said this, your Hon Prime Minister, I beseech you and your party, as you are doing too much and are moving forward too hastily. We have longed to be in your position. However, how about this, postpone some things, slow down until the next election and then we will be able to take over and sit where you are sitting right now. Mr Speaker, then I stood up, and said okay, the Cabinet and my party are listening. Then I turned to the Cabinet and the HRPP backbenches and advised them. In addition, I said, as you heard the incoherent statement made by the Opposition Party, saying that we should slow down and not to overdo it. Nevertheless, my advice to you, whatever strength you have left, it should be increased four to five times faster, you must move as fast as you can. That is the situation on the work being implemented by this Party. That is why the Cabinet is being active because it does not believe in just sitting idly behind a desk. As I mentioned earlier, the Ministers went on inspections, and some went to Savaii and others in Upolu, they travelled around and observed those who were suffering from the measles and to experience their pain.

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That is why after the work is completed, the Government as well as the Chief Executive Officers will journey to observe if the work was done well, we will worship together with the pastors to deliver thanks to God, for he began the work spiritually and he too concludes a successful work. That is why the Government does not sit still. And to me and my Cabinet and the whole HRPP, action is more important than promises.

Therefore, we should value the work we do, we should not sit leisurely and pretend to work on the projects that we already implemented and say things to lower its values. Why? Your reputation will decrease with your constituencies because they are watching. Let us not take our constituencies lightly, they are also politicians. The view of foreigners on Samoans is that when a Samoan is born they instantly become politicians. We should not speak carelessly in this House and take the work we have done within our

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constituency lightly because there are those that do not notice and those that are watching carefully.

This word that I heard on this issue, the one party state, it is not a good thing, but a word of ridicule to this government because there is only one official Political Party. Mr Speaker, this thing known as a one party state, they use force on those who make up the Government, and that only happens in countries that are under military control, martial law. This means it is not good in the eyes of the country. However, if the country chooses a single party through freedom of choice, that is not a bad thing. Why? It is because that is the will of the country, and we obey the desires of Samoa and not our own.

That is why I am empathetic towards those who always say these words, as it seems that they do not completely understand Samoan politics. But there is an important law after the election, the Political Party will then meet and debate as well as making decisions that is agreed upon by all members of the Party, the party should look at situations to continue implementing parliamentary attitudes and values that should not be controlled by the Government in all its areas of parliamentary governing. The Committee will then be appointed and will come up with their own recommendations, and this group will move away from the norm, to choose the Cabinet, the Prime Minister and his 13 Ministers, and not all of whom are appointed Ministers will become Associate Ministers. It is a process that will not seem to have check and balance, which are people who are responsible for advising and to maintain the acceleration of the Government.

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Then there was an idea, for those that were not chosen to be Associate Minister, they will become the opposition to the Government. They are the Opposition of the Government. However, you do not receive vehicles to drive like the Associate Ministers, no cell phones or such things. Mr Speaker, the decision came as a surprise to the Australian scholars when they came to conduct their seminars as they heard that a different type of democracy is taking place here, where the Laws of govern is being recognized.

When you bestow power onto a single person or a few people, it is human nature to abuse it. The decisions of this Party are based on this foundation, in case there is an abuse of power as the Parliament is almost completely here, that was when the party agreed to move others to be seated on that side without benefits received, and I feel that is a very important sacrifice for the

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country. That is why authority and power are divided into three parts of the triangle, to entrust a piece of power to the judiciary, bestow a piece of power to the government in which I oversee, as well as the cabinet and the entire public service and the other fraction of power to be given to the Parliament. If a problem occurs, then the other power will check on the other power and try to control their recklessness. That is due to the idea of power corruption, as absolute power corrupts. And what needs to be done about it is to have a system of checks and balance. That is the system on which the Government is based, the constitution of the United States of America and all democracies divide the powers in three, but Governments that are ruled by a royal family, they only have one has all three powers, only the king or a military leader which has all three authorities.

Mr Speaker, that is the reason why.... If you look at the exchange of non-existent views, the point made by the member for Anoamaa East is very important in terms of collusion. It is noted that there is no collusion within this Parliament. As the country is listening, debates are always underway, and that is a very important way to show that democracy is alive in Samoa.

Mr Speaker, the structure of our work, I am just initiating it before we begin our work as there is enough time, we will start from that side and move on to the next one, and with the few points left I will ease it up a bit and we will move on to the details of the Supplementary Appropriation. May this House be content with the opening statement on our work, as the Cabinet have been falling asleep and have been eager to respond to the matters that you have requested. May our debates for this evening be blessed.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, I ask for an opportunity....

MR SPEAKER: Well, the honourable member, it would be good to clarify what you want to talk about.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I was hesitant to interrupt the clarification by the Honourable Prime Minister, it is clear and I believe it is complete, because he has cited the matter that I had already mentioned in my speech. It is just a small issue that I want to explain. The word that I mentioned in my speech, this Parliamentary Term is a different Term due to the election of Samoa. That is what needs to be made clear. The rise of a political party within this Parliamentary House, it was the decision of the

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country, one party state. Moreover, we cannot continue like that, only one party is administering the Government. That is why I wanted to clarify because the statement you made is written in the records, the selection of the country. That is the intention, there is no misconduct intended with my explanation.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member as the Hon Prime Minister will speak.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I did not proceed to consider in detail the issue, I will evaluate at the end when it is my turn, and now I will finally analyse my opening statement that I had made. It is important that you stood up, because there is more to be said before I conclude my speech. Yesterday I made a speech to the rugby sevens squad, and our team that was going to participate in the tournament in Fiji were also present. All the coaches were there and I gave them advice, I am.... for us that are attending the forum of the world rugby committee or the world rugby union. During a debate of opinions, it was then that I found out that there was a difference in the situation of world rugby, which was supposed to be a sport played for the enjoyment, but now it has changed since the year 1997, and the game has changed worldwide into a profession.

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At that time, we could not afford to continue. Thus, why I tip my hat to Laauli who sponsored the team, as he paid for everything, and he covered all the expenses for this sport. However, when Laauli was unable to continue the sponsorship, then the committee at the time bought the Manu Samoa, they bought all the rights as well. That was when Brian was still playing. It was given to two millionaires Fay and Richwhite; these are the millionaires that bought the rights. Therefore, it may seem that it is under the Rugby Union; however, they do not have any business or connection to it anymore. However, since I was the president of the Apia West rugby team, I was able to join and become a member of the rugby association. I was able to move up the hierarchy when Laauli resigned due to health issues, this is when discussion with Sir Michael and Fay Richwhite began for the rights to our national team to be returned to us. Then it was agreed upon to be returned at

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a price. In 2003, 2004 the Manu Samoa Sevens team was returned. Sir Michael and Fay Richwhite almost made a tragic decision to remove the rugby sevens team from world rugby because they were reluctant to waste money on rugby because it is profitless.

Well, we talked and I told them that they do not have the right to remove the national team of Samoa, if you cannot do it, I ask that you return it, and now we are able to manage it ourselves, also after our discussion the Manu Samoa was returned but at a price of nearly a million. That debt will be repaid to buy back Manu Samoa but it was paid little by little by writing their names on the jersey, which was another way used to pay the debt. Perhaps it was five or six years ago, that Samoa finally got the rights to their team. This is the reason why we were included, and then I went to observe and listen to what has become of the world of rugby, as we are following the old systems while the world has moved onto prioritising the safety of players. This means that, every dangerous tackles will end in being penalised, hence why our players are always penalised and why we always lose. If you tackle above the shoulders it will automatically be a yellow card, but if it is above the neck then it will be a red card. The association of referees had agreed upon it. That is why we keep getting frustrated by the referees, but the instructions are from the higher-ups to ensure the safety of the players. There are some players that have been paralysed, and some have died, as we are focused on tackling hitting the head by it is affecting our brains.

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If I recall the recent tournament, the Rugby World Cup in Japan, our team had the most yellow cards. Now times have changed, a forum was held, and I gave them a warning, because we should have won against Australia so that we can qualify for the Olympics next year.

I think we were ahead by 14, so we should have won, but two of our payers made an illegal tackle that sent them off the field. A team cannot win if they have five players against seven players. That is what is happening right now, as we attempt to discipline our players, those are some difficulties faced by the coaches we have now. In addition, I have talked too long about the situation of our coaches to find effective strategies for the sport. My speech will be long on this matter, for all coaches especially the game that was played in the recent world cup where South Africa became champions. If you noticed the strategy they used, it was simple, they just kicked the ball

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every time, and when they got close to the line, England started to panic and were unable to perform their game plans, and South Africa took advantage by applying pressure in which they scored a try. However, it started from the kick. Even for New Zealand. If you look at the New Zealand team, they chose their kicker. Most of the victories by New Zealand are from kicking, there are times when they win without scoring a try but all the points are from kicking. That is why our coaches shocked me. For many years, we do not have anyone well known for kicking. When I talk about kicking, if there are seven tries then there should be seven successful conversions, but do not think that only two successful conversions are good enough.

Mr Speaker, since some have been asking about rugby that is the situation. We are still trying to improve, for us that play and understand rugby, but those who do not play rugby cannot understand. Bless our Parliamentary Forum.

MR SPEAKER: I congratulate the Hon Prime Minister. The Chair believes that this matter is now clear, and everyone fully understands the wonderful clarification made. I offer congratulations and thanks, as the House is in witness, as well as the honourable members of the House and Samoa listening in support. The picture has been made clear, since the hard work done from 2016 until this day. The country is spectating, good work, as some of the issues, which the country has been asking about in terms of the developments of our Government, have been explained clearly.

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There is 5 more minutes before we arrive at our usual adjournment time but I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Communications, to begin as stated by the Leader of the House.

The member may speak.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communication, Information Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker, I thought that you were giving me the opportunity to say the concluding prayer this evening. Because there are quite a few issues that were brought up by the honourable members of the House, it is their responsibility. Moreover, I had reorganized them earlier; I will finish my statement in 21 minutes and 10 seconds. However, if your will is for us to initiate properly

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tomorrow. As I can see that the member for Falealili and Vaimauga West are signalling me...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair believes that this would be adequate, for I am empathetic, as the House has been working hard the whole day. We should get some rest, and to replenish our strength for tomorrow.

Before we adjourn, I believe that I should offer congratulations and thanks to all members of the House. Good job, well done, the Forum today has been successful because of your virtue, and your consideration of the support of our country. May God bless you all. When our forum is concluded and we depart for tonight to rest. May we all arrive to our homes safely with the protection of our Lord.

I call on the honourable member for Salega, the honourable Toomata Aki Tuipea, to conclude our forum with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assemble adjourned at 11:00pm and will resume at 9:00am on Thursday, 23rd January 2020.