

22 JANUARY 2020

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I wish to announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Well done to your hard work this morning, although the weather is bad although the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the dignity of Parliament are still able to be here today to resume our works, further acknowledging the Government Heads. May our Sitting be blessed.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read out the Papers pursuant to S.O. 49(2).

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.150, Annual Report of the Samoa Shipping Services Samoa 2018/2019.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.151, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture 2018/2019.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.152, Annual Report of the Ministry of Public Enterprises 2018/2019.
4. P.P.2019/2020 No.153, Annual Report of the Office of the Electoral Commission 2018/2019.
5. P.P.2019/2020 No.154, Annual Report of the Office of the Public Trustee 2018/2019.

PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Clerk read out the Parliamentary Committee Reports pursuant to S.O. 52(5).

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.147, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.11, Samoa Law Reform Commission Review on the Property Law Act 1952, Final Report 23/18, November 2018.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.148, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.15, Annual Report of the Samoa Law Reform Commission 2017/2018.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.149, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.70, Samoa Law Reform Commission Review of the Exchange of Information in the Public Sector – Final Report 24/18.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2019/2020 –
continuation of second reading debate – Day 2**

MR SPEAKER: During the adjournment of Parliamentary Sitting last night, the member for Faleata West was speaking and the Committee of Finance will speak after the member for Faleata West according to our records.

I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING (Faleata East): Respectfully this morning, I am the member for Faleata East to make correction for the sake of the Legislative Assembly records.

MR SPEAKER: Well east and west are related, the sun rises there and sets in the east.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you Mr Speaker for the prayer of offering to the Almighty and His blessings upon us this morning. Greetings to the Hon Prime Minister and Parliament to good health and perseverance to our Sitting this morning. At the conclusion of Parliamentary Sitting last night, a few members needed clarification of the measles outbreak which they find new to their hearing.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

At such, I bid forbearance as we reverse a little bit to remind our talk made last night, the measles disease cannot be deserted to an uninhabited island or an island where no one lives, as the measles virus does not live on water nor a dry rock nor any type of animal pardon the listeners, it only lives on a human being.

It can float on air and wind for only two hours. Therefore, if all people in Samoa can be vaccinated, then no one should have the measles anymore. So far there have been no more reports on measles cases anymore. If by the next 12 months ahead there is no more measles case, then we are measles free. The only way for this disease to recur in Samoa is when someone did not yet get their measles injection and travels to New Zealand or Australia or anywhere else in the world and end up returning to Samoa bringing back this disease. For the sake of our country, there are people that do not require this vaccination like the less than 6 months old babies, pregnant women and those that have cancerous diseases.

The safety of these people will have to rely on those people who have taken vaccinations to get what we call herd immunity. If we have herd immunity, say this House for instance, and say this row in the back did not get vaccinations due to the reasons I gave, and the measles will enter that door infecting the first vaccinating row here, therefore the measles will not infect the few people in the second row. This is the exact meaning of herd immunity which is the rightful intention of the State during our vaccinations. The query regarding the full protection for these measles injections, our program already gave its response to that, the vaccinations we had is close to 190,000 people and no one was affected by it. This goes to show that the measles vaccination is protected. Otherwise, the infectious disease would have still continued to spread.

Majority of the vaccinations made had managed to stop this disease from spreading and this proved well the usefulness of this vaccination. I will possibly move on to another part of my speech.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumaleemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, since the notice given is very important, it does not matter even if you talk about measles, pardon me we have more queries to give you.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Mr Speaker, particularly this year I notice that we have about 400 to 500 newborn infants per month. Therefore if the total number of infants is 500, including the newborns that uses the midwives in the rural areas, therefore, the midwives must be given their vaccinations first. You being a strong advocator and contributor during this outbreak, what do you think of the many mothers and fathers who distrusted this vaccine due to some cases.

During the time the health officials went to give injections, some children would jump out of the window refusing to take part due to fear and disbelief that they could die from this injection.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you very much for the question Hon Prime Minister. In terms of safety, I have already clarified it given the finished injections we have already given.

Although it is true there are several vaccines for other various diseases. Perhaps it has taken so long since the current generation has not looked into diseases like whooping cough causing breathlessness which is one disease. Another one is the tetanus which is caused when a person's neck and jaw muscles is locked making it hard to open the mouth or swallow.

Tetanus is caused by bacteria found all around the environment, such that when one pricks its foot from a rusted nail, the spores can develop into bacteria entering the body and so majority of the country are used to getting their antibiotics injections to protect them from these sort of diseases. Other diseases like lipi, mumps that swells on both cheeks, there is mumps that is specific to men which causes testicles to swell, this disease can produce other things.

There is also a vaccination for the Tuberculosis disease, which our country was able to manage well. In the past, there was separate section for the TB and leprosy within the Health Department; so far, it is beginning to lessen given the TB vaccinations that took place. I guess most of these diseases no longer exist today giving people the forgettable mindset on vaccinations altogether. Now that we had the measles outbreak, therefore, this disease has again revived the need for our people to get their vaccinations done and not have to wait until something happens. Everyone including our children should all be vaccinated in order to prevent ourselves from getting these diseases. The individual right of a child is its health which should be prioritized by parents as children cannot implement it themselves.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Mr Speaker, we must rely on God. Children rely on parents for their vaccinations to be done. Vaccination is one critical area that must be implemented well.

Another ongoing job by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, which will be clarified by the Hon Minister in a later time. We call it the mop up program or mop up service, which is currently rolling around the country to follow up and see whether everyone has done their injections and say why some are unable to do it. This information will then be reported back for the next plan of the State. For all those who have managed to get their vaccinations done, they are in compliant whereas for those who refused to take their injections, they are the ones.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you for the chance. I query the accuracy of the notice by the Associate Minister, 400 newborns per month. If I measure that honourable Speaker, it took us 8 months to get our vaccinations done in the country. Given the 400 newborns per month, therefore, 3200 infants in total were conveniently affected from this measles disease when the given figure states only 83 deaths from the outbreak. I therefore wish to ask, where is the other 3117 infants. The reason for asking is for the purpose of accurate records, is this 400 infants per month correct. That is the question for the sake of the country listening in. With all due respect.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you to the member for the question. The 400 infants per month is truly correct. This is also the question I asked Dr Fidow, who is one of the consultants at the Ministry or the maternity ward in Motootua. How many childbearings in the hospital per month. That was the number they gave at the hospital. If it is like that, as stated by the Hon Prime Minister, that is also the total number of infants for 6 months noting no injections made within that specific period. Therefore, those were the ones who were affected. The question is where is the rest of them? Thankfully no one was infected possibly due to immunity herd. Since most of the lot has been protected from this immunity herd including pregnant women.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate

22 JANUARY 2020

That is the essence of injections which is necessary to do for if everyone is injected, then so too will our children and pregnant women. That is the answer to the question.

During this question, I was talking about mop up program by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, which followed the nation's vaccinations that took place. This program confirmed that many people have not yet had their injections. There is also the question for these people on why they did not take their vaccinations. The reasons are vital, for the Measles Committee to look thoroughly into it, and what necessary action to take place next.

MR SPEAKER: The member has two more minutes. The statement is good however, our works is now in progress.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *To have five minutes extension as this topic is critical, given the accusations laid against the workers of the Ministry of Health.*

Secoded by the Cabinet.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: Five minutes extension is approved. I call the member.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you honourable Speaker, remember I moved away from measles, and had to clarify it again given the request of Parliament. On that note, thank you. I will speak again fo another two minutes, lest my time is up. Mop up is very significant, produing questions and responses. For these are the things the Committee should look at, for the consideration of future works to be undertaken. As for those who have had their vaccinations done, they have complied and are willing to do it.

Whereas for those who have not get their injections yet, well tha tis special case, maybe because they have special reasons for it. That is what the Committee should consider and create a new plan to correct this matter into what we have now. This program also prioritizes general health hygiene looking at the environment and so forth.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Another critical factor for this assessment is the repeated reminder about the symptoms of the measles disease and preventive measures to take. This is the ongoing program right now possibly it will take about this whole week. As such, if there are no more questions on the measles, I will move on to...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Since this is a good time to gain insight of the measles, the query to the Hon Minister, could it be that injections is the cause of fear for some people especially children. Because whenever we say injection, the kids would get fearful. Is there another way to do these vaccinations like converting this injection into medicine so that it is easier for the kids to take. Maybe that is one other reason why people refuse to get vaccinated. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: To save the time of the Associate Minister, I call the other Associate Minister.

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai): I wish to follow the thought-provoking statement of the Hon Prime Minister with regards to the 400 pregnant women who were not infected. During the childbirth separation period, what is the exact time to inject these maternity mothers to lessen the number. Because although it is true what we heard of the immunity herd, but if the mother is placed in the front row after giving birth during this disease outbreak, therefore, there will be no security whatsoever. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): It took us all last night listening to the speech of the member on the measles. This is again going on today. There is a saying that the rod has hit the middle directly. We say these things again when they have already happened, although they are useful as we move forward. It seems like we are conducting a seminar this morning. Now that it is finished yet again, we are asked if we have any questions. These are the policies and roles of the State that was delegated upon this member.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

What I have observed with this member, it has taken three and half years since he had undertaken the policies and procedures of the State until we had this measles outbreak, and now we are hearing the wonderful speech although, we are still in a very critical situation. Why was he not able to bear assistance on these policies, or is it because the Minister was holding him back which is now wasting our time. It seems that this disease is searching points for some members instead of pleading to God for help. I affirm that my constituency did not have any case at all, as we had our own method. Note that I too had a son that used a firearm that was being withheld by the State, although this also ruined my reputation as well, let us not go back and dig up the dead pardon me. That was the past, let us move forward with good spirit and give our hope to God for the sake of our country. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is an Ecclesia who made a decision on this, give God our hope and do not given injections, in consequence they end up dying. The meaning of this, give God our hope and take our children to be vaccinated. That is the correct thing to do. The Associate Minister's statement is very important to me. Why? Because all these funds that were brought to bring assistance is within this Budget which we are now deliberating to generally aid to provide support to the all the health services within the country on what is necessary not only with regards to this measles but also all the other diseases.

This is vital for the statements made in this House seems to look as if though the Ministry of Health did not do anything. As you heard, work is still ongoing. Even with the new virus that is spreading around the world which is far from us, still, we are still carrying out pre warning campaigns. Holding meetings like this is true as you speak to provide wider knowledge even though works is still ongoing although there is still that nature within the country. Even though we have deaths but people are still not going for injections.

I am shocked that even though the ban is lifted yet we still have death tolls due to not being vaccinated. Why then is Samoa like this? The response went, it is due to our strong tradition and custom because there is still the existence of people who... and all of us within this House. Perhaps everyone in this House did sought the help of the Samoan traditional healers.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

So these traditional healers who were tasked with remedying these patients, this injection was only received yesterday in 1963. In saying that, all of us that were born before 1963, were all healed from the remedy sought by these mothers. That said, it was not the mistake of these mothers, they were just following our tradition and custom. That is why this is critical for me.

The significant factor to them is that they completely distrust pneumonia that came together with this disease, the pneumonia is what they lack knowledge about that killed the infant. The vaccination that was undertaken which took two weeks to work, therefore when your infant is brought back after five to six days for another vaccination, by the time this vaccination is taken it becomes useless as it will only kill the baby due to pneumonia. Mr Speaker, that is why this notice we have today is very elemental for me due to the fact that other people had faith in God and did not have injections. That is exactly what I meant by my story about a pastor who prayed God for help during the flood, two lifesaving boats came to his rescue and he refused, this parable at which point God told him, why did you come when it is not yet your time? The pastor replied, I am very disappointed in you, I relied and had faith in you and what was the Lord's response, 'faith goes together with work'. I did send you two lifesaving boats and you did not jump in it. Who else were you waiting for? That is also the word of God to the old man who died from the recent measles epidemic, "I did send you two lifesaving boats through my medical doctors, who else were you waiting for?"

Mr Speaker, that is the response to all the raising questions we have on who the injection should have started with? We can never force someone who did not believe which the member is speaking about. Let us pray to God for help and despite, abandon the help from God through these vaccinations.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I allow the Minister before the member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker, to save the member's time, since this Ministry was mentioned in regards to collective effort for the measles.

22 JANUARY 2020

Mr Speaker I speak of the mop up operation mentioned, as this Ministry is carrying out that operation. Since the two day shut down was up, this Ministry still continued its work, we had 30 teams that went to the rural areas, 10 in Savaii and 20 in Upolu. They went to seek those who did not have injections during the mass vaccination that we had which had the closing down of all public works in order for this vaccination to press through. After one week of the Ministry's work, the Cabinet managed to witness a lot of people who did not have vaccination lau Afioa i le Fofoga Fetalai, ou te tu atu ona o le mop up operation which totalled up to 1500 within this one week period. This list was therefore presented to the NEOCC while it was still functional at the time, as this was the way to find and report them to the Ministry of Health to confirm the medical records of these people in terms of names, chief titles, place of residence, age and village to ease the process for vaccinations. When work resumed, the works of the Ministry was also continued on Wednesday from the 8th of January until the 10th of January, and 275 people were found for these three days and were not being vaccinated.

Now there names have been submitted to the Ministry of Health to progress with their vaccinations. I do not have the figures from last week, although I will speak on it when I give my response statement. I have observed with essence, some people are still accepting the hard work tasked by our health officials. Since the resumption of works on the first day, I had a meeting with the village government representatives on the measles, I pointed out to them that measles does not go away directly. These people do not understand that the measles will go away some people managed to survive from it. Well I guess that is it. I have explained to them the severity of the measles impacts especially on children and the elderly which can spread up to three to five years time if it reaches your nervous system or the neural system. That is how serious it is and it is hard to cure it, it is an irreversible process.

The disease called the subacute sclerosing panencephalitis which causes brain damage for a human being. Not only can it be treated, but one man of a village stood up and said, what kind of stupid talk is that. I do not believe in those things. So nothing can be done and so what else can we do about it? Then I told another old man, work is to inform. Whether to accept or not, that is your own right, that is not ours. We are doing our job, inform, advise and warn you. If you do not accept it, that is your own right.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

The reason why children are not vaccinated is because of their parents, majority of them if they disobey, the parents would tell them will get the injection. If we say that to them, they will get scared. The vaccination is good otherwise, this is a threatening the children. Now that it is time to do the injection, no children would want to get it anymore. Then the parents feels the love towards the child and tells the doctor to leave them alone as they will have the injection the next week. That is real events that is happening within our homes, there are several reasons why injections are unrecognizable.

That is the testimony of this Ministry in accordance to the resumption of our mop up operation that was carried out last week, and perhaps a near time will come soon to complete this project. This job is implemented using these appropriations and grants from our partners. I will conclude.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I have one short question. During your reigning as the Minister of Health, what job did you do with kids who became fearful to inject? The Hon Minister had been some time to...

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: I am still upstanding and I did not hear your approval to the interjection.

MR SPEAKER: I think you do not need to respond to it.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Thank you. I am finished honourable Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I do not have any addition; let us have the member for Faleata.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Thank you for the chance honourable Speaker. We are talking about God and this event, which is very true as submitted. There are many Gods, which people believe in, whereas for the God that I am referring to, he is a God whom everyone including the Leader trusts and abides by. Because there are many kinds of people, which is said, trust in God and reject the Leader.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

My belief, anyone that trusts in God does all this wholly. Look at the Leaders, if they say inject then do so. You see your honor, since we had the three weeks notice, there was a problem. The 19 years of age below should not have been vaccinated; the 35 years above should have been vaccinated. This is the time people began to panic, the only thing I said to the people of our village, go and pray to God.

Since the recent compulsory, I said to comply and go get vaccinated. During this whole three weeks period, it is God whom we sought refuge. It is He whom I trust, that is helping us with our journey in the country. As we talk about the reason for this disease, it is stated in the Bible, there is a time for Egypt, leprosy and dropsy diseases are old diseases from God for people who disobey Him.

I will leave it to your honour, we will resume the speech of the respectable member.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoloai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: It is good to have exchanges such as this from members given the clear clarifications from the health. We will prioritize small infants who were more vulnerable to have their vaccinations first, before we got to the matured people. As you have seen, these are the most vulnerable ones whom are now at rest. We even had the badmouthed adults that went, although, small children is our main priority. There was a visit we undertook together with the Minister in the rural side area to see what was needed. We visited and touched to feel the agony the parents were going through and had a talk with them.

This is when we truly found out about what had happened. When we got there, they were trying to calm down one senior member as vaccinations towards small children was the priority. It is said that...I asked, what is the old man doing here? We are trying to calm him down as we are prioritizing young children first. That is the situation; there is also the farsighted wisdom upon officials who are engaged in this task. Only this to say, that is the nature of our people. When one becomes stingy and say, the doctors are being careless of them in this undertaking. Regardless, small children are being given priority as possibly 80% to 90% were now gone. Therefore, infants should be our major priority. That is just in time for the vaccinations at the Ministry of Health. Contacts have also been made with Organisations overseas that more vaccinations will soon be on the way for us to have a sound and good progress of our program.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

It starts with people whom are more vulnerable, up to the senior members, as immunity is sufficient. It is necessary with our engagement, and war with virus that is attacking us.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, the Hon Prime Minister's statement is understandable. It is good to hear other members' thoughts to get insight of other things for the sake of not only Parliament, but also the country. There are always people who want to understand and those that do not want to understand, although the statements of members are important. The very recent statement of the Minister is also critical.

I trust, pardon the member for Faleata, we have come to the clarification of the measles, we must put emphasis on this talk as Samoa is listening in. This is where all clarifications are made on all findings and resolutions on the measles so that it is completely removed from the country.

Therefore, I call the member for Faleata East to conclude your speech.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiili Tuivasa (Vaimauga West): Mr Speaker I rise to save time and do not mean to interrupt the delightful speech of the member for Faleata. Although I wish to share thought on the mop operation as given by the Minister of Women and the Leader of the State. The House is keen to hear the speech of Faleata on the clarification of the measles, which I seconded. Now that we have the Minister's response on this mop program this morning. That said, I am quite disappointed, as you seem to implement the mop operation instead of vaccinations. That is what I am saying, it would have been appropriate if you had gone to do this follow up process without taking any vaccinations, what is the use of that program when you should have taken along the Ministry of Health with you. Such is the plead Hon Minister; I have listened intently to the talks of the Ministry about the maiden speech of the member for Faleata, whilst all I see is the Hon Minister of Health's head being curved down.

In that spirit, I also feel sympathetic towards the Minister of Health who has the measles. What I mean is, if the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development could proceed, with the mop up operation, and to follow up with their Ministry and the delivery of vaccines. Because there is no point in conducting a follow up if...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoloai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I would like to say something. For these are political issues of our Government. So I must state the policy. That is the purpose of this Government, to work together. Working together and using common sense. This Government, it has Government representatives, representatives for men and women. The amendment was brought here, due to some of those who wanted to rule the village. But they are employees of the Government, and their job is to liaise with the Ministry which is under the administration of the Minister, who is responsible for local affairs. Then the policies of our Government will be presented. It has also been made clear by the Minister the other characteristics of vaccinations. They become scared when vaccination is mentioned, even some mothers get scared, and that is why we will use another method, to meet with the women and initiate their programs.

In a situation of using common sense and the excessive use of government funds inappropriately. They should continue their program, as it will make it easier to monitor these characteristics, and they will get the total, and then notify these results to the hospital. Then the specialised people will perform these things, now that they have all their names. Therefore, with the usage of common sense Mr Speaker. There is no need for this group or a large group to go, as when they arrive, not a single person is going to be present. How come? The psychological impact vaccines are also attending, for careful planning. That is an addition Mr Speaker.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: The Leader of the Government has spoken, as this matter needs to be clearly clarified. The statement made by the member is correct, he is one of the vigilant members of our House, and he also makes good requests. But just to explain this subject. The Ministry operation will begin, as stated by the Honourable Prime Minister, there are policies.

There is a policy in place to address the emergency that we were faced with, for the measles. That is why the committee was formed, establishing a committee called the NEOC, National Emergency Operations Committee. All the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries are in this Committee. Those are the policies that were presented, as we conduct an investigation, and then the list is taken to NEOC, but keep in mind that statistics are needed, in order to record everything like that, and then the Ministry of Health is notified about these people.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

If it continues NEOC will be dissolved, and we will report directly to the Ministry of Health. This is one obligation, the statement made by the member is correct, I have been following the Ministry, contacting the Ministry of Health, if the people they were given have been vaccinated.

But there is another division that is missing, from the tally by the honourable member, the occupation known as psycho social, this division is mostly absent during the emergencies that have occurred in Samoa. Like the tsunami or like the earthquake. Like hurricanes, that has affected the lives of people, and has many psychological effects on them. So, this is a dark area, it can be seen from overseas, we did not take this seriously in the past. Since then the rise of powerful international organizations, especially WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, have seen the impact of such things, as many people have died from the disease, and we have seen how it affects people mentally, psychosocial effect, to the people of the country that have received substantial help from these groups. This task, it is a task that is done by the hospital.

There is a special committee known as the psychosocial committee that is operated by the health sector, their roles affects the mental and psychological aspect of these emergencies. At the same time, we also offered assistance to work together with the Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations that worked with the Ministry to consult with these people, why do you refuse to be vaccinated? What is the reason for your refusal to be vaccinated? Then talks will be underway on these reasons, and work will be conducted, the work to clarify and alleviate them because many of those people have not received this service. The Ministry has done a great job, not only in finding them, but also discussing with them why they were not being vaccinated, what difficulties and problems.

That is the situation, most of them are afraid, because of the psychological effects of these emergencies, and that is the dark area that is not being addressed by many countries and the many disasters that occur. Now our Government is moving towards dealing with this issue as our Government has become mature and are looking at what affects their lives not only physically but also mentally and spiritually. Bless the Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well, can the member for Safata stand to conclude. Well, I call on the Minister of Health.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Tofa Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers (Minister of Health): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I stand at this time because the member for Vaimauga East has stated that the Minister of Health is being passive. I am not ashamed to say, I cannot argue to express my gratitude to the Associate Minister because he is a doctor. As Samoa is listening when we were suffering from the measles, the people of the country understand clearly the assistance by Salausa John Ah Ching. So, that is why I cannot stand to clarify the situation because I am not a doctor, but I am waiting for the time to answer the questions that have been asked.

However, I will now give my concept, the things that have passed, have passed; we know the mistakes and know if there were miscalculations, errors and such things. But what the focus of the Ministry they are looking into right now, we should implement it now, no more sitting idly, let us move forward and to implement what we know, we were not able to take it seriously in the past, but the lesson and what we have gained from it, and that is the focus of the Ministry, as it was questioned and I stand in the past on the long-term strategic plan that should not be set aside but the important thing is that we are focusing on it now, we must stand, thank you, we must work together. We all have a responsibility in this. There is blaming who was wrong, who made a mistake. We now have knowledge, we know the lessons we learn from it, and that is the focus that the Ministry is looking towards achieving, to do what needs to be done to ensure that such a thing does not happen again in the future as explained by the doctors, thank you for the clarification. There are many other diseases, 16 in total. There will be a lot of work for the Ministry to implement, now that the year has begun it should start after the Parliamentary Sitting, and various concepts will be set up.

All these vaccines should be updated, as is the case with the booklet that was questioned by some members. This booklet cannot be completed unless all the other vaccines that are available have been updated. The booklet costs a lot of money. As it has been questioned sometimes, now we have an agreement because we are affected by measles, use the measles card in the Act that was passed and approved on the 1st January for the enrolment of students, but this booklet cannot be completed at this time, because this booklet must be fully equipped with vaccines and diseases that have yet to be...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

That is the reason why I am standing at this hour, I am listening intently and concentrating and planning for the future. Things that have passed, we know what is right and what is wrong, but thanks to God for answering our public prayers instantly, the support of Samoa and the prayers and the various assistance that have quickly ended the times of suffering that our country had endured due to the measles. With the utmost gratitude.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Again, I call on the Hon Prime Minister to stand.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Your honour whenever there is a beginning there is also an ending. There is an opening and there is a closing. The culmination of all the things that have happened, and that is the permanent solution for moving forward, the Act that was brought before this House for the vaccination of children, that is the permanent solution because some are asking about plans for moving forward, they are not thinking about what the Government has done. That is the permanent solution for the future, the Bill that was passed in this House. If there is anyone who did not fully understand the urgency of this Act, I am telling you now; those are the intentions of this Cabinet and Government, to devise a permanent solution to enforce vaccination. That is the connection and the conclusion of it all.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, I call on the member for Faleata East, to conclude your statement, we have moved away from the issue, which has now been summarized by the Hon Prime Minister, and the Minister of Health has spoken as well as the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and Government representatives.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you for the opportunity. Obey is the best thing. It is because of my obedience to the House that my statement on the measles was prolonged, thus why it was lengthy, but I was about to move away from the issue. There was no intention to set up a seminar, no, it was my response to the interference by the member thus why I am standing. But it does not mean that this member has conducted a seminar to gain colours, no, I am satisfied with my colour.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

But thank you to the Honourable Minister for Health and the Minister for Women, Children and Social Development for their assistance.

Well, I will now move on to my constituency. This is how the talks about the measles began, as every member that has already risen has started their statements with talks about the measles. And that is why I am upstanding and also talking about the measles.

MR SPEAKER: I urge the member to conclude your statement as your time is up.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: But obedience will get me penalized. Policies have now changed the electoral procedures of the country as people have to vote within their places of residence, and this will clearly indicate the number of people in each constituency that must be taken care of by the member. And the changes of such solid and serious and important policies, this means that the other policies that follow must also be replaced. It is a thought provoking idea for the Honourable Prime Minister and this Parliament, whether the policy for the allocation of the Governmental budget should be reconsidered from year to year, and the people within each constituency. As I had mentioned last night in terms of the district of Faleata No.1 with a population of 13,190 recorded in 2016. Those are all the people that should have been looked after by one member.

Another thing that is needed by this constituency, are roads. This is probably the only priority for this member as other developments can be set aside until the next Parliamentary term, but we need roads. Thank you to the Hon Minister for Works as the working road in my village of Vaimoso in Lanumea has been laid out, as well as other plans in Moamoa Fou on the way to the quarry due to those circumstances.

However, that was the situation that was witnessed during the inspection, in Moamoa itself, the conditions of the roads was very poor. For our vans that travelled there, they drove as far as the vans could travel. Then the four-wheel-drive pickup trucks continued the inspection to Moamoa Mountain and Moamoa Fou, as the vans were unable to go due to the steep and slippery roads. Well those are the roads for this constituency. That is why I am thankful for last week for the many roads that were opened in Savaii.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Therefore, this member has been thinking, maybe we should reverse these things. What is good for Savaii is also good for Faleata No.1. All the roads in Savaii are in good condition, but for Faleata No.1 where majority of the country comes in search of blessings as well as where many of the members in this House are residing, that is why it should be improved.

Well, the last part Mr Speaker, there is a philosophy on which the Democratic Government is based from, taxation without representation. Well, that is how it feels like because of the situation we are in with the current elections and the population of people in each constituency. As Faleata No.1 has a representation, but judging by the total number of people, it seems inappropriate as it is small and inconsistent, but we will re-examine it again. It is just a thought. But could you look in to adding another member for Faleata No.1 to cover the large population of people. If by the grace of God for the next Parliamentary term that a member will be elected for this constituency, I do not know how they will conduct their gifting, as there are too many people in the constituency.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker in case there are other opinions to be added by other members, there is no such thing, we are now using the one man one vote. We are just getting to where we need to be, one person with one vote, one constituency, one member. This means, you should not worry. If your constituency is too many, then afterwards there will not be four Moamoa but six. That is it. It is just an example and then the constituency will be moved around routinely in response to the population of people. But the way we did things was that if the number of people increases then a member will be added, we will not going to do what the whole world is adhering to be democracies, we would also become a democracy. The changes will vary by looking at the resettlement of the village just like what we have now.

If there is an imbalance, it will be repeated because it will not end. This is a constant process going forward to ensure it is balanced. It was a bit difficult to balance the numbers the first time but what you said was correct, there should be a balance on the number of people and their members within this Parliament.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

That is the case, lest it is incomplete at the time this Act was introduced, as we are now going by the Act with one vote per person, and one representative one constituency. If there is a change in the amount of people, then change will be made in the resettlement of villages in the constituency.

MR SPEAKER: Well, the policy that the Government has been planning is clear. I call the member to stand and conclude your statement.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Thank you to the Hon Prime Minister, as we now have the answer to this situation. This means, our budget should now be balanced. An appeal to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Works to balance the new year with the current budget which is being planned for our roads. And these roads are owned by this constituency, because the workforces here in Apia are stationed in this district. These work roads, are roads in between the houses used by workers. The cars that are also being used, they are small and low-lying and unusable on the roads they have now. The mind cries...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, all those things will be implemented. Do not worry. Look at how he compares the roads that we implemented in Savaii, and sanctified to the roads of your constituency? The road that leads to the airport which goes through your district, it is your road. So where is the road that is so great that it costs almost millions and millions, but all these roads are in your constituency, they were implemented wonderfully. But the roads in your district are better than the roads that we sanctified in Savaii.

Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING: Well, I will conclude. The request is for internal roads.

Well, I conclude my speech for this day, with the main idea in which this speech began with from last night, the burden is shared, and that is why I would like to congratulate and give thanks, not to a single member...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

But generally to the Honourable Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister as well as Honourable Ministers with the work that have been implemented in the past year as well as the work that we will be faced with in our final year. Thank you to all the Ministries as well as the Chief Executive Officers of Ministers and Corporations for the burden borne by them over the past years. The idea is for us to continue to bear this burden, as well as a suggestion for the country, that we must endure this burden together. You latch onto whatever side of the bow you can grab, so you can carry and bear some weight. But do not just stick on to it to make it look like you are bearing weight.

I would like to thank the clergy and pastors for their prayers and sacrifices for the benefit of Samoa. And this member has also noticed, that Samoa is favoured by God in the face of many tragedies and situations that arise. But I believe these things did not happen by chance, it is not a coincidence, because Samoa kneels in the morning, kneels in the evening, kneels every Sunday to give praise and thanks to God. That is the very nature of prioritising our culture to serve the chiefs and in return the chiefs will respond. It is similar to our religious services to the one and only God in heaven that never fails to response back to us with blessings. That is why I am thankful to our clergy for their prayers, however be considerate of the flock, the clergy, to avoid the temptations of the evil spirits.

As for today, thank you so much for the opportunity. I would like to thank my constituency of Faleata East and my village of Vaimoso in all its honorary salutations, as well as my village of Lepea in all its honorary salutations. Especially the inclusive members of this constituency to the chiefs and nobles of the country wherever they reside, wives of chiefs and pastors, orators and women and the strength of the constituency. Thank you for your devotion.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. There is no need to doubt or appreciate the speech made by the honourable member. The ears are satisfied to hear, thank you. As Samoa is listening, not only to the explanation of the issues that have plagued Samoa, but you have also come up with guidelines for us to follow and live by as well as the protection by our God.

And since the process has been set for...

Afioga Amituanai Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu (Aleipata Itupa i Luga): I stand with great respect to try and make a brief contribution.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

MR SPEAKER: Well you two can debate to see who is...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui (Palauli West): Amituanai Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu, give the chance to Afoa from Palauli East to make a statement.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moanau: Mr Speaker with respect I beseech to give the opportunity to the member for Palauli West for his maiden speech. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: In such cases, our Parliament adheres by our culture. Yes. Thank you Lufilufi. That is your duty on that side of security. Excuse to the Honourable member that is standing, but give the honour to the member for Palauli West to speak on the issue, because this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, is the bill that you and the Ministers of Cabinet discussed as well...

Afioga Amituanai Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu: I obey you Mr Speaker, but if you observe because you did not attend last night, that side had already been given the opportunity. But this morning, it is the opportunity for this side to attempt to... that is what we are trying to do, but they are still trying again.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I beseech you as Lufilufi has continued on because of the respect by that side of the...

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand to ask for your permission and blessing for the speech for Palauli West or as it is now known as Palauli No.1 before the conclusion of the speeches scheduled for the day by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee. But thank you for the opportunity as the speech for Palauli West will now begin.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Thank you to the Honourable Amituanai Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu for this opportunity. I will never forget when we travelled together to Pakistan. It is a beautiful country. Thank you Mr Speaker on this beautiful morning with the grace of the Almighty for his guidance of your health and our lives as you are present today as well as the Leader of the country the Honourable Prime Minister. I acknowledge the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet...

Afioga Amituanai Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu: Mr Speaker, I can see that the member is reading his speech.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Also the members of Parliament, the Clerk of the Legislative and staff, as well as the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations as we are gathered today for the Fonousu of Samoa.

Greetings also to the whole of Samoa listening and in support this morning especially my beloved constituency in all its honorific salutations Palauli No.1.

I also offer greetings to the priests at the many altars in Palauli West and Samoa that are distributing the water of life for the benefit of Samoa. Thank you for the prayers and unwavering support for the Government

First, I want to thank the Father in Heaven for his protection on us from the problems that have slowly dissolved, because of the disease that we faced in the past month. This constituency of Palauli West would like to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, especially the Chief Executive Officers and staff of the Ministry of Health, our partners here and afar for their assistance during difficult and dark times towards our beloved country. May God bless the bereaved families who have lost their dear children, siblings and mothers.

I now would like to make a comment on the tabling issue before us in support of our work. There is an important issue that was discussed in our meeting with the Parliamentary Finance Committee regarding the TV Bingo. And there was a letter that I wrote on the 4th October, 2018, but it could not be delivered because the Honourable Minister was busy with many duties such as the plane that was returned and arrived.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

It was as if on December 12 last year, that... while we were suffering from the measles, there seems to be a prompting by the Holy Spirit to me, that the wishes and the letter should be fulfilled, in order to protect our children, from the catastrophe that will occur due to these gambling games.

And I will read portions of the letter, according to the advice of the Speaker in his letter dated 14th September 2018, to the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee under the Standing Order 62 on the above subject, I would like to ask the public, that are concerned and uneasy about the serious harm to their children.

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member for Palauli but give an opportunity to the Minister for Economy.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: There was no intention of interrupting the maiden speech by the honourable member for Palauli No.1. Nevertheless, notice that the Act has been passed. Measurements have been made, to reduce the impact of children from the TV Bingo. Because it seems that is what you are trying to talk about.

It is true that your letter was received, but as I looked at the date of your letter, it was dated 2 years ago. And so I thought that the letter given was wrong. But there is already time spared for you to come so we can have a conversation because it was a bit busy at the end of the year and during the holidays.

Nevertheless, the Act has been passed so it has provisions to reduce the impact on young children. For these things, it is the parents who are to blame. Now it has been moved back at 10 o'clock at night, the game will only take one hour, with the parent and their children inside their own house.

Therefore, if the parent is not concerned about their child going to sleep but instead let them sit and watch, well that is the responsibility of the parent. The Ministry cannot go to all these households, to ensure the children are asleep. However, it seems that there were many opportunities given to the TV Bingo, and now the Act has been passed. It will now be done within one hour, and it will also start at 10. By that time there should not be any children that are still awake.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Rather, I beseech the member, we have already looked at these areas and our Bill has been passed with due respect.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you for the clarification, I had visited your office on that day to deliver the letter and to meet with you, as I was a bit busy with forums on the measles, that is why, I left the letter there with you, and that is the situation, I thought that it would be better if it is brought before the House, because it is a very important matter, but I will complete the reading of this letter, to clarify to the country, that are listening to this issue of ours.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I do not know if such things are valid, letters that are written by Members and their constituency and the Ministry but comprehended here. If this is allowed, that would mean that in the next Parliamentary Forum, 200 letters will be read here, and the time of the Parliament will be wasted.

What is your opinion Mr Speaker but I beseech the member, the letter is no longer valid. The Minister has already spoken, this issue raised is overdue.

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member, as the Minister has already stated, about these things. As well as the address by the Honourable Prime Minister, that is the situation.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you to the honourable Minister, as I will obey your instructions as well as the Leader. I will not continue reading the letter, but I will continue with my speech.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to conclude your speech as your time is up.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: I compare the reopening of gambling games on television, radio and websites such as TV Bingo extra, as opening a path to hell, and the damnation of our children and its people. This is the opening of the gate, and the road to hell for our children and the people of Samoa.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

I have heard the explanation made by the various Games Authorities on the FM radio with questions from the public, when the TV Bingo was re-launched. This...

MR SPEAKER: Well, it seems that your issue is related, to what is in the letter.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: We have a familiar saying, the pillar is ulcer. If that is the opinion of the member, then stop Bingo, it is very simple. Stop all Bingo. A Bingo is a Bingo. That means all the congregations that have Bingos will be stopped, because we do not know if your congregation is having Bingo, stop all the Bingos on TV because a Bingo is a Bingo.

That is why I am concerned, if the intention of the member is extended to the Bingo of his constituency. Are all congregations having Bingo in case you might be hasty about this Bingo, but you know that this Minister, who is responsible for these things, whose scissors is very sharp. Lest he cuts off the TV Bingo which would also include all the Bingos that congregations are reliant on for money, then we will never meet again in the next election.

Those things are left to be carefully decided upon. Because there was also a lot of ideas presented to stop the casino. But I stated, if the Cabinet comes to a decision to stop the Casino, which is a financial game, then all financial games will be closed. There is also the.... because there is no difference. There was also a request given to me, to prohibit working on Sundays. Well I wrote a letter, to stop all the work on Sunday. Check if I have completed everything that has been written on the list. Close all the hospitals, halted from Friday because two days are reserved for the Lord. Adjourn on Friday and will begin again on Monday. All hospitals will be closed, so the patient will be taken care off at their own home because work is prohibited. The Police will also be halted, so no more policemen, the water authorities will be closed, as well as the electricity which will make our country nice and dark for 3 days.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

This is when we apply the word of our God, for we have overlooked, that Sabbath is for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

Mr Speaker, that is why I suggest, thinking comprehensively because the scissors is very sharp... once this issue is presented all Bingo will be closed, but the Law has already been approved. You should have made brought up this matter at that time.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker may I have an opportunity? It will not interfere with the speech by Palauli West.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: This member stands this morning due to the statement about... comparing the Bingo to the road to Hell. These claims are unacceptable within our Parliamentary House. As all the Congregations are playing Bingo. Now the countryman has spoken, as our listening to the speech by Palauli West is not to give chances and allow for dishonour in this House.

If we look at the situation of this member, it seems that the statement recently made by Salausa John Ah Ching is correct. Your road was recently opened but you are complaining, and so I stand to remove the statements relating to the roads, because the games are also being removed from the records of our House.

MR SPEAKER: And so I beseech the member that made this statement. Perhaps there will be a chance for us to meet during the recess so I may advice you.

But the Legislative Assembly will set aside its work for its usual recess, and the conclusion of the statement to not mention that issue.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was suspended for its normal recess at 10:47am and resumed at 11:33am.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. And I presume that the Leaders of the country have gained additional strength to continue our work.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Before our recess the member for Palauli West was making his statement. The member does not have much time left and I advise the member to not mention the things that have already been decided by the House concerning the Bingo as it has been passed by the Act that was approved by the Parliament. But move onto another issue of the constituency, if not then conclude your statement so we can proceed with our work.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to restart my speech. Before I begin I would like to explain the issue mentioned by my brother from Vaimauga. No, this member does not object to this Bingo... I support all these Bingo games being played because they are being done in good houses, to be done in houses that have been initially made for Bingos. But the intention that was shown, not only the Bingos but to the various gambling games that are shown on the television and radio and websites.

This is what I was talking about, but not the ongoing Bingo games, which has my strong support. They are quite good, for it allows the senior folks to go out and enjoy themselves. However, I am talking about the live broadcasting of gambling money games on TV, radio and the internet.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, and I suggest that you speak on something else for the sake of your constituency but drop the issue of Bingo.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: That is what I am trying to explain, but I do not disapprove of Bingo games. I am talking about Bingo and other gambling games shown on TV, radio and the internet.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, but you continue to address the point made by the member for Vaimauga, which is not a topic of debate. So, drop that argument, as the Government must provide laws to allow churches and organisations to support their developments. Would the member for Vaisigano No.2 assist the member for Palauli by pointing out where he is so far with his speech.

22 JANUARY 2020

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020

22 JANUARY 2020

– second reading debate

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: I think that live broadcast of games of chances on TV radio and the Internet is truly insensitive, as it does intrude the privacy of people. That is why I am emotionally charged. Because it is not just TV Bingo but text to text, free text and there is also a game on smart phones which is the other one. What I am trying to say is I would like children and youths to be protected. I am not concerned with people over 21 years old.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu: I would like to assist the member, by informing him that he needs to use his earphones for it seems that he is not hearing the Speaker's instructions correctly, with due respect.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: I can hear, thank you. I am trying to wrap up my thoughts. It seems that I am being attacked when I am trying to get to the main objective of my speech. I have unheeded the notes, which contains the scion of my speech, which is important, so I am trying to contemplate my next move. However, I will say again that I do not object to Bingo, but games of chances, which affects our children, since currently children under the age of 21, are all exposed to it due to the insensitivity of broadcasting money games of chances and the likes. In my view, it has a huge effect on our children.

MR SPEAKER: Let the government ponder over that thought but do move on to another issue.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: The measles has just passed, but I think the effects of this issue will be more detrimental than the measles. I ask the Minister to please look into this situation if the future of our children is influenced then it should stop. The truth is it is not consistent with the law and I mean the management or the people operating bingos are not able to check and ascertain whether people are actually not watching these contents from 10pm onwards. That is what I am saying but as far as bingo and gambling at the selected venues, they should continue, as the authorities are present to monitor the presence of children.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate

22 JANUARY 2020

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Works whether he has a point that may be of assistance to the matter.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): I do have a point to assist with. I want to ask the member whether a survey has been done to determine how many children have been influenced by TV Bingo. Since a recommendation will be submitted, moreover he has already stated that a law has been passed. So his argument is based on his own personal opinion. Instead of doing a survey to establish what the degree of influence is. Instead of generalising his suggestion when he is not certain. However, the TV programme is beneficial to churches. The member's personal view is taking up time.

MR SPEAKER: I know what you are saying, as a member and colleague, I beg of you to stop talking about this, but instead talk about something else, like conveying your well wishes to your constituency as the general elections is not far off.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you. Although for the information of this House, these are the kind of issues that are deriving from such activities, particularly our children. It will make our people poor especially the less fortunate folks; it also affects the children's schooling. That is what I am trying to point out, so as the government would consider protecting the children. To avoid the repeat of another disaster or an outbreak like the one that had just passed. I know that there will be a huge toll on us with our children becoming very slow in learning in the future and they will have a gambling mentality, there will be a lot of...

MR SPEAKER: I think I must put a stop to the member's statement. I have been allowing you opportunities yet you refuse to accept it. Since we are progressing through the course of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I am afraid I have to instruct the member that his time is up.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Mr Speaker, how about allowing me the opportunity to finish my speech. I will now conclude as you have instructed me, and I will no longer raise anything else.

MR SPEAKER: Conclude your remarks.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: I convey my appreciations to the dignitaries of this Assembly with you Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and members of this House. I also acknowledge the country at large tuning in and finally my constituency. May the Lord of providence continue to provide blessings in all you do this year 2020. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: You have won our dispute. I beg tolerance of the member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga but I have decided to give preference to members from Savaii as their location is further away. I would like to know how many members that have yet to speak so I can note them down before allowing the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I note two members, so you all would like to speak. Very well, I advise that you make it brief since there are so many of you. I will allow you 5 minutes each to speak. I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga to use your 5 minutes.

Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU: Thank you Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to share a brief statement regarding the Supplementary Estimates and it will be short.

I will firstly acknowledge the dignity of this place here at Tiafau, the court where grievances of our people are sorted. I recognise the Speaker, who is the mediator of this forum, I recognise the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. I acknowledge the Associate Ministers, and Chairman's of the various Committee's on that side of chambers and distinguish members of Samoa's highest forum. I must also recognise the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries; your outstanding service for a prosperous future for the country is appreciated.

Mr Speaker, my contribution will be very short, just two minutes.

I will firstly convey my appreciations to the Minister of Finance for this Supplementary Estimates, which is simply to continue our government programmes for our people. To cater for their demands, and so I am grateful to the Prime Minister and Cabinet for their accommodating stance at this final year of our term.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

I will firstly say to the Minister of Works, well done on the airport at Tiavea. I am very proud of this wonderful government initiative. Although incomplete, it has begun. Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the airport at Tiavea. We should all feel fortunate for this project to be implemented in this period in time, which will pour in benefits for the people of Atua area when it is complete. On behalf of my constituency, we request for the extension of the airport, after hearing the views of some scientist that the airport at Faleolo is no longer safe in the future. Since there is a massive plate beneath it which can easily affect that part of the country when an earthquake strikes. So that is the recommendation from this constituency whilst the project is currently underway, to enlarge the airstrip in case of unforeseen circumstances in the future but we have this airport to fall back on. I am always concerned about the wellbeing of the contractors working at this project due to the terrible weather but what is important is the fact that constructions at Tiavea is going well. Although have a look into this plea.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Since our statements is recorded and the country is listening in. The airport at Faleolo is almost a hundred years old. The Marines constructed it after a survey was carried out on it. I know quite a bit about this. What I would like to know is who exactly is the consultant that advised the member. Or is it Peseta that is advising him? We should be careful when discussing these kind of issues.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.2): Pardon me, the former top man at the airport at the time whilst working there has spoken. I too have a bit of knowledge of the airport as I was working there when the member who has just spoken was chief at the airport. If you do not understand, since the circumstances referred to did not eventuate during your time. The member should ask as to when exactly the tone and trench took place before talking about this issue. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the Minister of Works.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you for the opportunity to assist in the matter. The member is quite correct about the plate underneath the airport. If an earthquake, hits like it did in Tonga it could affect us according to scientific studies. However, I do believe that it is still a long way off, but the Airport Authority will still be prepared to enlarge the airport at Tiavea as suggested by the member. These are long-term plans, which must be implemented in the case of earthquakes that may possibly damage our airport consequently disrupting travels.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, I seek an opportunity to speak, the member is a close colleague but I raise a point of order towards his statement...

MR SPEAKER: Whom exactly is your point of order for? The member for Aleipata or...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiili Tuivasa: The member for Aleipata. I thought I will take the floor as I have been silent all along regarding the airport at Fagalii. I have accepted the decisions of the government and the developments it proposes. The member is showing compassion towards the company, saying that they are under stress and over worked. As if they are working for free. They are not offered seashells but being paid with money. Seeing the member's pity when our constituency is hurt with the closure of the Fagalii airport is unacceptable. Did we make a fuss about it? Here he is asking for it to be extended and showing sympathy for the contractors being stressed out and over worked. Nevertheless, it is not done for free, they are being paid with public money.

That is why I am taking the floor, since the airport was quietly closed before us. We still remained loyal to the government, wherever the government goes the state of Vaimauga East follows because we support the HRPP. We do not know the state of that airport, it could possibly cause planes to crash and yet this member is asking for its runway to be extended. I say that is enough, how can you ask for that when Fagalii is still waiting. Who knows they may return to find the lands of Vaimauga still available to land their planes. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I will not shy away from arguing this issue. This is not novel. The member has spoken about government change and it is closer to the east. So, when a tsunami strikes that is the area that will be greatly affected as that is where the swells begins. With the plates the country's rural area is sitting on the oldest one, the one around this area is moderate. The one beneath Savaii is small. We must think before speaking as we did not become parliamentarians out of the blue, we all went to school. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, the member will continue. The House has gone into a bit of a tussle because of you. We do not know whether what your saying is true but has caused pain to the stomach of the old man from Fagalii. Your speech to him is good...

Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU: Thank you Mr Speaker, I will not address the interruptions heard. My thoughts are of gratitude to the government for this development. It is not for today or tomorrow but the prosperity of the Atua area. Thank you Mr Prime Minister for this initiative. My only prayer is for it to be extended but the benefits will be for Aleipata and that side of Atua...

MR SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the member addressing his speech to me is wrong, since the Minister of Civil Aviation has already responded to him. Stop directing your remarks to me as it is causing the old men to take the floor venting anger.

Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU: I will no longer speak of airports. Coming now to access roads at my constituency. It has been 5 years for this term. Every time I speak with the Minister of Works and Infrastructure, he will say to me to speak with his Associate Minister. Mr Speaker let me say today, to the Associate Minister, what is the story with my access roads? When this year ends and nothing is being done, something will happen to you and the Minister.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Works will take the floor.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker I will not interrupt the wonderful speech from the bald guy behind me. However, I have spoken with him concerning his roads and have advised him that the last year of our term is when his turn will come. Since they are small roads which had been done but were not complete.

It is very simple and it would be ideal to leave it to the last year of this term. He will see that the whole constituency will vote for him. He has not accepted my advice but instead have gone and spoke with the Associate Minister. I did not tell him to speak with the Associate Minister. Since he has done that, the Associate Minister will deal with him. I will not do anything to the roads he is talking about.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Sagaga le Usoga.

Susuga Seiuli Ueligitone Seiuli (Sagaga le Usoga): Mr Speaker, since I am mentioned, let me say that the Associate Minister was advised to find a wife first as he is single and his road will be sorted after. With respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Aleipata itupa i Luga.

Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU: Mr Speaker what I said may possibly be true, that by the end of the year and my road is not done, something will happen to one of these two. Yes, but I will still plea to the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer to please have consideration for my roads at Lalomanu, Vailoa and Ulutogia.

To the Minister of Justice, I appreciate the appointment of new Judges whom are prominent members of society. My recommendation on behalf of my constituency is that it would be good if you could initiate prayer meetings to seek Gods will to instil into these ladies and gentlemen the essence of integrity. Since there seems to be shortcomings in their service due to a lack of integrity. These are the cherished inheritance of families and communities yet there is a lack of integrity in the execution of their service and callings.

I want to congratulate the newly appointed Commissioner of Electoral Office and the new changes adopted which has stressed the importance of the voter casting its vote at the place of abode when voting in the election of members for this House.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will allow the Prime Minister to take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, sometimes our statements though may come across in the light way but does violate a provision of Standing Orders in accordance to statements made in a general manner but does concern members of the government public service whom cannot be here to defend themselves.

There are avenues taken for this particular sector of the government to implement their role, just like this branch of government and the decision we make on those who have been proven with the lack of honesty in fulfilling their duties. We must be mindful of statements, which may affect those that cannot be here to defend themselves.

That is my reminder regarding our remarks during debate.

MR SPEAKER: The view of the Prime Minister has my support. I want to stress to the member to be cautious of statements, which does concern the dignitaries of our three pillars since they cannot be present to respond. Although you are making a general remark, but we do have a saying that your own hand will cause your own eye to be sore. There are those who speak and others who are attentively listening. Be mindful of that, the member will continue.

Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU: Thank you Mr Speaker, I will now come to our hospital, and I shall not say a lot about the hospital in Apia during the time of the measles. However, I think this is the opportune time to convey my appreciations to the employees at our health centre at Lalomanu as we did witness with sympathy the commitment from our male and female nurses at the time of the measles outbreak. If you are listening, may I convey congratulations on your efforts since there were no fatalities. It was realised here that our community have been immunised from the beginning right up to the period when the measles struck. My sense of gratitude stems from the display of dedication shown throughout this time in their endeavour to curb the problem.

Mr Speaker that completes my short address on matters, which I was keen to share.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

At this stage, I wish to acknowledge my constituency from my villages of Lalomanu, Vailoa and Ulutogia in all its ceremonial and honorific salutations pertaining to the villages. I also acknowledge the clergy for their prayers seeking Gods providence for our constituency. We often meet and it is pleasing to see that you are in good health. May the Lord pour his blessings upon you Mr Speaker, and the Prime Minister and distinguish members. I extend the same to the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and public Enterprises, may you find patience and perseverance at the beginning of this new year. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I appreciate the opportunity accorded to me. I did not anticipate that I would speak at this moment but thank you anyway. As members have relayed to you Mr Speaker, this is the last year of this term and the constructive views of members is important at the beginning of this new year. I am pleased to note that you have regained good health Mr Speaker. Looking at the photographs behind you, it shows you to be the only person with two portraits. My interpretation is that you are the most impressive person in this Samoan Parliament. However, may I encourage you to be courageous for I want you to have three portraits. You are still strong, yes, other than your limbs, your body and hands are one hundred percent.

Let us praise Thee for this new year we have reached in good health. When we look back at the year gone, it does gives us a sense of appreciation for the various projects this government have achieved. There were also many world forums held here and all went well without problems.

The South Pacific Games was a success and we should all applaud the significance and the wonderful outcome of the games.

At the end of the year the measles as discussed struck and the emphasis now given to it. We should all be thankful to God for the numerous projects and blessings upon Samoa. Let us not dwell on what has happened because the inevitable will occur and cannot be stopped. Nevertheless, we must be content with the fact that when it did hit us our country were prepared for it.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

I for one Mr Speaker was ahead of myself and was taken by surprise as I thought that our country will not experience such encounter. When you reflect on the struggle and our accomplishments now, I was ahead of myself. I do not need to remind the country of such situation as we have become use to it.

In 2014, the status of Samoa was elevated from Least Developed Country to developing country now. Why? It is due to sound economic management and good leadership. We all contributed to this effort. However, when this disaster happened, I thought to myself, how sad. As far as my family is concern and the majority of us were not too concerned as we were all used to the fact that our children must be immunised from diseases.

We should no longer be discussing criticisms and point fingers as to who is to blame. I want to focus on the government's response at the time. How was the response when the problem surfaced? It is a lesson for the whole world and us. Our reaction and counter measures taken to contain this plaque we experienced so it will not happen again in the future.

It was the reason behind the public service taking leave to implement immunisation and therefore, we have enacted a legislation to ensure this does not ever happen again. The difficulty is the contrast of opinions and there will always be strong-minded people and those at the other extreme. There are also people that are influenced by the government and the Ministry as to programmes that must be adhered to. On the other hand, social media is making a huge impact with conflicting concepts, which does mislead people.

However, I am happy with this law, which I did want to speak about although it was unfortunate that I did get an opportunity to do so. Last year I travelled with my wife to the United States to take our son to take school in America. The school asked us to be sure to bring proof of immunisation, to which we did. I want to record my appreciations to the Ministry for the immunization records, which is very much acceptable in America.

However, the school doctor informed us of a vaccination, which needed to be done which is MMR. My son's document only showed MR and the vaccine that he was required to have was for Rubela. It was only done here in 2014, 2004 around that time. My son was born before this time, which was why he needed to have this done in America.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Nevertheless, the striking thing Hon Minister was the fact that we were charged US\$100 for the vaccine, which is done here at no charge. So we paid for two jabs which cost us US\$200 and if you transfer that to our money it would be about \$500 or close to \$600 Samoan tala, yet there is free of charge here.

Now even when services are free we cannot convince everybody and those that do not understand. Children are being schooled for free for quite some time now. Although, how many children are not attending school? It is a struggle we are in but let us show resilience. The lesson for us is to continue our duty for the future. The legislation is in place and the point I have been arguing about to the Minister since becoming a member is that we should return to Public Health. Let us go back to the old practise we have been doing.

We are now certain that we are responsible for our people and we should implement our outreach programme throughout our communities. We should not be complacent but commit to what we used to do. My appreciations and commendations for the commitment of everyone who took part in this. Our leadership roles had been practical and the form we applied to counter the problem was effective moving forward.

Let me refer you to the disaster faced by the Boeing airline company and their planes. This is the undisputed airline company that builds planes, which is over 100 years, however, look what happened to it. There will always be hiccups and faults in everything we do. This is a debacle, which has eroded the wider community trust.

What I am saying is the world will always mistakes, which we learn from as we move forward.

MR SPEAKER: The member has two minutes remaining.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I beg your pardon, I have just started my speech. Thank you very much. It is times like this when you understand the kind of leadership at the helm. Where is our government heading? We are progressing forward. I think I will stop here, what I have said is enough for us in order to advance.

As far as my constituency is concerned, well from the outset we have a few requests for certain projects. My colleague Faumuina Wayne touched on the road, which we both requested for Falelauniu. Mr Minister how about giving us a favourable response and let me say that a project rest mainly on the number of people that depend on it.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate

22 JANUARY 2020

As the member for Faleata No.1 has alluded to, there is quite a huge number of people living around this area and the road was constructed a great while back. The funding for the Public Utilities around this area has been paid for and I do believe that is currently happening.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister of Women for something wonderful that has happened during the measles outbreak and other crisis we had. Which we have always given advise on. I have said my appreciations to you Minister and the lady Chief Executive Officer for the programmes you have initiated throughout the community. I think in due course this year and this is something the community at Vaitele have expressed ideas on is the establishment of a Council for the communities at Vaitele and the various villages around the city fringes, like Falelauniu, Vaitele and communities further inland. So there will be an authority to control the peace and security and to advocate for the economic wellbeing, education and other areas.

There was a workshop done during the time Leaula Amosa was in charge of this at the Ministry, which is quite a while back, and we were all involved and we also discussed this very idea. However, that time passed and that was the end of that. But I believe that this was continued, it would have been very beneficial up until now. There is a piece of land, and so an application should be submitted to the Minister and should start in a future time. It will be of great importance if a Health Centre is to be established here for the general wellbeing of the community. There will also be a centre for the elderly and as you are aware this is the kind of environment that will suit the retiring age people. Although, consultations must be conducted with the Minister in discussing this matter for the future.

Constituencies have different demands, for us in the urban area although there are a few roads to be done but it is electricity and water that the community needs. But it is social issues which priority must be given to. With education, may I say to the Minister thank you, you have received many accolades and rightly so. We had several conversations and I have forwarded 3 letters of application, in fact yesterday you said to submit another request telling me that you are losing your marbles since if I do what you have instructed that would be the fourth letter from me. Yet you do understand the importance of this matter. You stated that it may be better to devote this to a bigger project like a college since there is only one College in Faleata.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

But I believe that it may be too late for that change but since you are now in charge it would be great to pursue this Primary school for it is vital to do so.

I appreciate the hall for Faleata College as they have not had one since the establishment of the school. It will be officially open soon and you will be invited to attend and cut the ribbon. Another aspect in which I want to applaud the Prime Minister and government is the initiative to allow Samoa College to be operated by the association in partnership with the government. It is a wonderful model and I said to our association that there are a lot of intelligent people and more of those who think they are smarter.

MR SPEAKER: The member's time is up.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI: If we do not do this right, the government will never respond favourably to anything we ask for. Therefore...

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Mr Speaker, I rise with respect since this has got to be one of the best speeches today. It is thought provoking and I note on my right hand side that the members for Falealili and Vaimauga West are nodding their heads in approval.

In saying that I move that 5 minutes be added to the member's speech.

MR SPEAKER: Since we are trying to follow up with our work, I believe this is the reason an opportunity was given to the member for Faleata No.1 because of the disease. It is the reason why the Leader of Government moved a motion to revisit and clarify the matter since the member was part of the work that was carried out.

As for the motion moved, I will not accept it, the motion to add another 2 minutes for the member, please since we have a lot of work that needs be done, pardon me Hon Minister.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker can I get an opportunity? The member for Vaimauga dare not interrupt the speech by the member. I just got a chance to check my phone, the member for Vaimauga was just reminded by my constituency that the member spoke on the matter, to set up a Council at Faleata which now includes Vaialele.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

With all due respect the member has no right to speak about my constituency, this is the constituency of Vaimauga East made up of traditional villages. As for the constituency of Vaitele, now Vaitele fou, Vaitele uta and Vaitele? It is only Vaitele, these are the villages where majority of our people have moved to reside but not Vailele since it is a traditional village. I recommend you focus on your own constituency. Do it is to those people as they are non-traditional villages.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Vailele is indeed a traditional village but there are more non-traditional people there. Vaitele also has an honorary salutation, for your clarification, there are the respects of Sao Mataia, afio ai Galumalemana, and Lealailepule. So what other salutation do you want?

Mr Speaker it is not disrespect, it is a mere request, no one has the authority but you alone. We only ask for an opportunity to convey an opinion on the Bill proposed on measles, I humbly request another opportunity for us. The term is nearly finished and it is not certain who will come back.

MR SPEAKER: If the member had concluded already it would have been done.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, we have a major problem...this is one of the biggest challenge in the world, climate change. A humble request, why not let Government invest in bringing in a machine to crush old cars. There are alot of old cars piled up everywhere and we do not know where to put it. This is one issue that has risen, it will be good to invest in this, Government should bring in this machine if not establish a partnership with the private sector to bring in a machine to crush these cars and return it overseas, this is easier. Not only that but the maintenance of our country. We have witnessed the strong winds, there was a lot of damages which did not even take 10 minutes. What I mean is work should still continue for those who maintain and cut down trees, drainages, waterfalls espeically when it is near the cyclone season. These are the matters that should be overlooked.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order, this is not difficult we already have machines, we can just take two rollers put the car in between and crush it, done. We already have machines, what I want to correct the member on are the changes of climate change, saying this is one challenge faced by the world, the mistake is, this is the biggest problem and it is not one. This is the biggest problem because if it is not resolved in the world there will be no us.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: It has now been amended. A request to the Minister in charge of our planes, there should be a review for the island of Savaii, rebuild the airport in Savaii. It is very much needed. It is now possible to partner with airlines and make a commitment to maybe fly over once a week. This should be done for future improvement, also the airport should be serviced, we already have planes that want to fly but it just needs improvements.

The Hon Minister of Finance, thank you for the tabling Budget. The matter that should be looked into right now is the issue heard today of our country being blacklisted by big countries. France submitted last month that we are now blacklisted under SIFA. What I want to know is, have you asked them whether they have gathered evidence to verify that this is corrupt money, I am concerned because this money funds terrorism. I believe there is no such money that can come into Samoa, SIFA should look into it if it is hard then we should have an Off-shore Stock market. It has long been mentioned by previous Ministers but it would be good to start it off with an offshore from there we can further advance our Budget which will assist you and all of us.

Mr Speaker my thoughts seem to be forgotten because of the interruptions. But it is alright, the best part is...another matter, the building that was behind Parliament that we used, what a waste. It is a shame it was taken down. One of the members stated we have been moved around because of the rain but the building that was here was not that old. If not, why not make other arrangements, it would be great if two Samoan fales stood together, one circular and the other non-circular which can portray the image of Samoa. This should be considered because it is a very important aspect.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Lastly Mr Speaker is the Registry Office, this is the core development of every country in the world. This is the reason why it was removed from Treasury so it can be independent to ensure services provided are done independently and accurately. I want to speak on the use of the SNBH, Samoa National Broadway Highway mentioned by some of the members. It is used for communication between Government Ministries which is important. What happened saw the inadequacy of information prepared. I went this other time to find a death certificate requested by one of my relatives, when I got to the office the girl told me they do not have the death certificate as it has not been submitted by the hospital. I went to the hospital and asked those in charge and the lady replied that the family took the original and they were not able to make another copy. This is a true story, I am not joking. I then responded, man this is a big problem.

A recommendation going forward, these are things that we do not have to go and inquire about since Government has already implemented the infrastructure to use as communication. Once the death certificate is done submit everything to the Registry office. I came this morning and heard the announcement on birth certificates, what I want to ask Hon Minister is, it stated that baptism certificates are no longer valid to process a birth certificate. Mr Speaker this is a very important document. How can we not use the baptism certificate? This is the document we all had to go and find. There were no records found there but it is found here. This document is useful to help us. There are other documents needed before you are able to get a birth certificate.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Is there anything further member for Salega?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker I would like to ask the Associate Minister whether the SNBH would be useful to connect the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education in the processing of vaccination information rather than having elderly women queue up at the hospital to get it. Because it is still seen today. With due respect.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker this is now in use today, thank you. The member Susuga Laauli Polataivao Schmidt mentioned the use of this for schools, the answer for all of us is with Hon Afamasaga Rico Tupai. Yes.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

If Government uses the SNBH wisely we will not have to worry about the lack of doctors and teachers in going forward and records. Data is important you have to hook up all systems and look into it. This is what Government is trying to accomplish together with digital transformation which the Minister and I are working on. There is a lot of work to be done and there is a lot of engagements faced by the Hon Minister through my advice.

MR SPEAKER: The member may conclude.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I want to thank you, I will conclude here perhaps I will get an opportunity another time. I just want to thank and encourage the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers and all of us. As stated by my brother from Faleata No.1 our work is done together. Let us not be greedy and try to find what suits us best. If the Government fails it is our duty to give recommendations for improvement. I am grateful to the Hon Prime Minister for his keenness to bring clarifications all the time. There is only one person I look at when it comes to handling issues like this. Thank you for your courage and patience, we have given a lot of information which will assist in our success moving forward.

Blessings upon Mr Speaker may your life be prolonged and may you gain wisdom in administering our Parliament, especially Government officials, the support of Samoa and respects may this year be prosperous to all of Samoa. With respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call on this side of Chamber.

Tofa SOOALO UMI FEO MENE (Gagaifomau No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to convey an opinion of this constituency on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill tabled before the House. Mr Speaker you have already voiced praises to the Lord, for his guidance upon our work especially in consideration of our relationship with the Lord.

I am grateful you have conveyed a word to the heavens and for blessings on the work of the Parliament of Samoa, and the support of Samoa. Glory be unto the Divine Mercy for the magnificent works through his holy servants who have prayed for blessings night and day for our Parliament and for all Samoans who are living and thriving in God's world.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate

22 JANUARY 2020

Mr Speaker if we look at our journey this year, from the previous year to now, we have travelled rough seas and have encountered many problems along the way. What about today, who owns it? It is the Lord. It is Him who has given us strength and blessing for you to sit in that Chair whereby Samoa listens to you. Hon Prime Minister I commend you for your bravery together with your crew you are the forerunners who shield both the good and bad.

I acknowledge that side of Chamber, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, members and Elders of Parliament gathered here this morning. I also welcome the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, thank you for your patience. Mr Speaker there is no other warrior that can divide Samoa as the saying goes *e talatau Toga ae talatofi Samoa*. Therefore I will not reiterate the respects of Samoa since all have gathered here in Tiafau *malae o le faautugatagi*, the dignity and respect of all Samoa is now whole. This belongs to the orators and chiefs and their service from the yellow seas of Tuimanua to Fili and Puletuu, where the light of victory was shown over Samoa through christianity whereby Samoa is founded on God in Tiafau.

Mr Speaker I have noted this morning there is no one that has not said anything on the measles outbreak faced by our country. This constituency wants to convey sincere condolences on families affected whose children were called upon by God. We convey our condolences and pray that the peace and love of God bring comfort upon you all. There is also alot of talk today in terms of the psychological impact and affects on our economy, it is noted in the Budget that quite an amount of funds was spent to ensure that this disease and any other will not happen again in future.

I want to thank Government and our Leader, you have not avoided any misfortunes, through rain and sun, the Ministries, Corporations and everyone who have worked together especially the Ministry of Health, Communications and all those who partcipated in order to resolve this issue quickly.

Lessons are important, events are important to teach us as well as many have stated to re-evaluate our stance to ensure that such problem will never occur again in the future. I am grateful to everyone who contributed their time for such cause.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

The Hon Minister of Finance, I express sincere gratitude and this constituency is very happy to see priority put on our health sector so it will never happen again and the promotion of tourism who greatly affected by this disease. Not only that but scholarship opportunities for our children who are smart and intelligent which benefits our families, villages and the country. Also our environment which is a priority. I understand this is our duty, it is to protect. There is \$23 million in reserves, and 1.2% is fixed on expenditure based on revenue. This portrays how vigilant and brave we are especially during times of emergencies. I express gratitude not only to the Hon Minister but also the Minister for Customs and Revenue, Ministries and Corporations all have greatly contributed in funding our Budget. In particular the use of funds must be carefully planned so as not to overspend and to meet provisions set out in the Budget.

Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, I will not mention each of your names nor your duties. I will convey a note of thanks to you all on the many developments undertaken. The majority of members have spoken on the good developments even for our constituencies. I will not praise, because I believe you do not want a song or an anthem to be sung, it is your duty as leaders to serve Samoa, thank you.

Mr Speaker I am nearing the end of my speech therefore I wish to convey a word to my constituency. To faleula, Safune and Samauga thank you for your support, the battle is not important if not supported. The spear and the club are not important but those who carry the altar of worship are important. I take this opportunity to convey condolences on the passing of our late father Tofa Soalo Faatoafe. You were the symbol of stability within our village and you guided us, our faleula and standing in Gagaifomauga.

It is spoken, *a lotaluta le gataifale, ona sala lea o la fala ae tiu i la afa. Ae a fisaga le matagi, sala lea o le la afa ae tiu i la fala.* Alas that is the nature of life and existence, we do not forever contend with the will of God. This means that the omnipotence of God is supreme, especially the preservers, the respects of Aiga Peseta, especially Falefa and faleupolu of Samauga. Condolences to faleula Tofa Tuua Tugaga, orators and their spouses, respects of Safune and Taulauniu, and respects of Faletagaloa. Condolences to Tofa Lelio Leitu, and Tofa Lavea, king of the district and sceptre of Finao, thank you for the support. Condolences to the grieving mother and family especially the ordained servants of God, thank you for prayers.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Once we concluded the opening of our school the Hon Prime Minister asked me, who was the old man that spoke, I told him your name and he said, this is the kind of wisdom we need. Sadly, we cannot do much, let us have courage and have faith in God, for this is the meaning of our services there will come a time and day when it will end in the hands of God. Praise the Lord Almighty for your services.

Mr Speaker I pray many blessings upon you from the Lord. May you have good health to continue with the work, I ask you not forsake this House, when it is bent it will not break. When it cracks I ask not to do things indefinitely. This is a humble request.

The leader of Government and Cabinet, no matter how many good things that have been done there will always be criticism. Keep the faith, do not be weakened by mistakes, such occurrences are useful and recommendations given are useful to build more ideas. New incidents can build something better. Members of Parliament this is the last year of this term, let us work together, whatever we can accomplish let us thank the support of our country. Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations we thank you for your services. Be wise and prudent in serving our country, serve with integrity, compassion and not so to be rewarded, there will come a time when the Lord will reward you for the hard work. May the Lord bless you all and we pray for the blessings upon all of Samoa. Soifua and God bless.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech. We have now reached the member Anoamaa East.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIA SEPULONA MOANANU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. We also want to convey an opinion on the matter however it is difficult since you have advised us to be prompt. I will not question your authority for you are the ruler of the House. Therefore, it will not take long.

I take this opportunity to wish the country a Happy New Year. Even though it has been a while I have just now have the opportunity. This year is a year of blessings, we are now in 2020. Let us look toward the blessings we will receive. We are now at the end of this Parliamentary term. The opinions of some respectable members have already been conveyed. They have conversed and voiced opinions for the betterment of Samoa.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

We are not here to find blessings; the main objective is to represent our constituencies. Blessings upon Samoa for your support. There is no intent to threaten the Government and we will not be cajoled since we are a one Party state. Such statements will not persuade us because we also have our own opinions. There is one leader that leads our country which makes everything easier. Although there are times when mistakes are made and when we try to resolve it is too late. The water has been spilt; this is also a feeling we have in this meeting. I will not reiterate the effects of the disease that we encountered. We should look into the future, as the Lord Almighty has been very good to Samoa and our journey.

I just want to take this opportunity to convey condolences to families who were affected, may the spirit of the Lord give warmth to those who lost loved ones due to this disease. If it did not affect this constituency then it is not something to be proud of but to be thankful for to the Lord Almighty. This also signifies the importance to always visit the constituency. Go there and pray on the land for the Lords blessings. In case the constituency might think I am just passing by but no I pray for success. This is what we call a prayer walk.

This is what you do if you truly love your constituency. If it is not answered then all we can do is thank the Lord for everything. Because no matter how advanced knowledge is today, we have seen the answer given. However, let us forget about it, let us move forward because we are nearing the finish line.

An overall take on the matter, we have to give advice, the economic status is now tabled and it is good. There is only one threat to the economy and that is corruption and collusion, this is what brings about misfortune to developments around the world. If found in a Government or an organisation it will be difficult. This is where hope fades. Working together will bring good fortune not only for the country but families. Such things have different faces some are beautiful and others not. This is why I advice the Hon Minister, to look carefully into such measures. Once these things are consecrated, we will only encounter good fortune. This is just a recommendation, nothing will go wrong with the economy unless these two terms are present.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

The Ministry of Education has long made a request regarding the matter of Early Childhood Education together with the Hon Minister and how to perceive it. This is where blessings lie for the education of children. This is also where the perception of the country can be removed, considering the poor preparation of mental thinking that can assist in decision making. The school year usually starts in January and I thought it would be first on the Supplementary Appropriation, however it might be emphasized another time. These are the priorities we should look at, our priority on education of children, herein lies the blessings for our country to move forward.

The year 2019, our journey progressed well from the start with the Pacific Games then up to end I think it started with the World Cup and later there was the measles everything was in disarray, however let us hold onto our patriotic spirit. Let us come together because if we keep dwelling on it we cannot progress forward. This is why we should re-evaluate our plans for further development of our country.

I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. We might be standing at a distance but we are always ready for the call. However, it is you who bear the burden. It is your shoulder that we are dependent on for the hardwork that you face. We do not have much to say. These are a few requests of this constituency. The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, perhaps you have tire from the constant visits of the elders of this constituency to your office for our roads. As you said it will be put to the last year and we have accepted that answer. Hopefully it will happen because the last year will determine the candidate continuing or not since nothing has been done. If I look at our Appropriation, we are doing well with funds. We are not poor, after all we funded the prison with our own money. We also funded the Pacific Games with the revenue we earned. We are not poor but we have a different priority. We prioritize things differently, we still earn money from the revenue in Samoa. Therefore, I humbly ask to the Hon Minister this is our only request, for access roads from the one side to the other and seawall. The Hon Deputy Prime Minister who is in charge of the seawall...

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

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate**

22 JANUARY 2020

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: I do not want to interrupt the speech of the member, but since he has mentioned roads. The road he requested is now going to be done in the last year. However, I often reminded the member when discussing the Budget. We do not win with access roads, but with the relationship we have with the constituency, this is more important than such things. Since it is the duty of Government to do these things, we have to distribute funds so that each constituency has a share, it is not only one road. Other members have five roads, but the distribution we are trying to do is for each member to have one road within the Budget, so all requests submitted are granted. This is the distribution of access roads. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: This means the last year will be next year. I call upon the member.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker the last year starts in July which is the half of this year. However, if the requests of members are successful it will progress into January or February on the election year

MR SPEAKER: Being close with the constituency is the most important aspect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this matter is very important. There was a member that spoke last night, who has seven access roads in their constituency. Perhaps if we were to categorise these big constituencies for example Falealili. Falealili based on how big, probably is made up of villages and sub-villages and might have less than a hundred access roads. Am I right? It is less than a hundred access roads if we calculate a hundred with fifty members there will be five thousand access roads. We have heard the exceptional speech by the Associate Minister for Faleata East, West and Central on this, in his perception the road that goes through Vaimoso to the airport is an access road.

22 JANUARY 2020

Then there are other roads going inland these are called access roads. After access roads there are other smaller roads going between houses. If we are to count all small roads between houses there are more than two hundred. This is why I will expand our approach. This means over a thousand access roads need be constructed. It is now being progressed I appease members leave the matter to the Hon Minister. The Minister has stated to leave the matter, there would have been a matai name given, I made a speech at Sataua. That is what makes the constituency of Sataua beautiful. They keep asking and asking and eventually you cannot hear it. What should be done is to be active in knocking, I am saying you should knock here but knock and go to the Minister. If you knock here once and knock again in the next Sitting. The request will slowly be forgotten while the other request that keeps knocking and knocking gets recognised. This is the important lesson this morning, keep knocking and knocking, but not knock once here and then knock again in the next session. This knock is noted by the constituency. There are constituencies that needs a lot of work done, but later the member will not come back. Because there are a lot of things that they are judged by.

There was a year one of the members told me. I feel sorry for the members. Why? I feel sorry when I see them doing this and that, but there is one thing that is always missing. I asked what is it? It is optimism that is missing. I am sure everyone knows and there is no need to clarify. This is what he said to me. But later he ran for the elections, this was seventeen years later. Two days before the elections he came to see me. He asked me for blessings from the group, he said that was the only matter he was trying to convey in the two days left. In those two days you will see the candidate for Opposition will fall. I then said why? He responded I just need assistance because I am certain the candidate for Opposition will lose. I told him then, do you know what our Party will do? You can go but no funds will be given to assist you since we do not have any. Do you recall our conversation seventeen years ago, you said all that is needed is optimism. Then that is what you should do be optimistic. After two days the election took place. I got to Tiavi at 7.30 pm and the poll reading was broadcasted. The wife and I were driving down the hill when the call came, I stopped the car and got out to hear it. Then it was called out, Alo polling station, number of votes, 1.

Mr Speaker this is the complexity of elections. There are different aspects by which people make decisions upon. Although one of those things is optimism. Mr Speaker this is further clarification.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020
– second reading debate

22 JANUARY 2020

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister for Revenue): Thank you for the opportunity, there was no thought to interrupt the member speaking. But since the member has mentioned the mistake of Government priority on developments. This includes the prison project. The clarification made by the Hon Minister of Finance on the Appropriation that I know always prioritises health and education. There is a mention that there is enough money, which is a benefit of the revenue office.

As for the prison, this is one important project, perhaps it is noted that \$20 million from Government was spent which should, but it is small. This is a place that will safeguard the security of the country. If the Pacific Games was prioritised I am certain there is not a Samoan who was not proud of the recent games. This is the reason for taking the floor to clarify to the country incase they might think the priorities of Government are wrong. Thank you.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: Mr Speaker I am looking at the time therefore I will respond to this when we come back from recess. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I commend you for your foresight. Since we have arrived at our recess time the member for Anoamaa East will continue his speech when we return this evening at 6.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1:06pm and resumed at 6:00pm.