

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2013

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: Foremost, I greet the dignity assembled this beautiful morning. I convey my gratitude for your dedication and participation at the beginning of our proceedings on this new day. We have returned thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for without his Love members and the Country respectively would not have gathered here on this beautiful morning.

I also acknowledge the presence of CEOs and Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations in attendance. Without further ado, we will now consider our orders for the day.

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MR SPEAKER: We took the adjournment yesterday while the member for Aana Alofi No.3 was delivering his speech. It is only fitting for the member to commence our debate and continue where he left off.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No.3): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also support the prayer you delivered on our behalf this morning.

Mr Speaker, my views will focus on the needs of my constituency in relation to the Supplementary Appropriations before the House.

Mr Speaker, there is a need for a water pump to distribute water to our secondary school as this has been an ongoing problem from the past as the water pressure from Government main pipelines does not reach our secondary school.

Mr Speaker, I also point out for the consideration of the Hon Minister of Works the need to repair the road between Satuimalufilufi and Apolima since it was damaged by the recent cyclone. The importance of [this road is that it leads to developments and homes.](#)

I now direct your attention to the damage caused by the recent cyclone. I will not comment on the extensive damage rather my recommendations are directed towards improvements to our infrastructure. During the aftermath, our poor drainage systems were badly exposed. Bridges were not able to withstand the rapid floods therefore calling a need for better designs that can repel even the most devastating floods.

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The only concern is that the water pressure is not strong enough to reach the school building and I recommend that there be a water pump as the lack of water may affect the operation of the school.

Second, I thank the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the road works carried out. After the devastation of Cyclone Evan, many roads were eroded because of the overflowing sewage drains. I therefore recommend that during the road works, the planning of the drains should be looked into and improved.

Mr Speaker, as for the cyclone.....

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3 as I believe that we have come to the time of adjournment and you will be the first to begin our speeches tomorrow.

I thank you all for your participation and support by attending this, our first sitting for this year. Thank you for your patience as the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet attempted to respond to the issues that were raised on the Supplementary Appropriation. The Chair is of the opinion that if the issues are clearly explained, there will be no confusion. I congratulate also the members of the Opposition for commenting and I also acknowledge the support of our country.

Praise God for we have come to the end of our proceedings for today.

Before we adjourn, I humbly request of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure that the lighting of the Parliamentary grounds be repaired and looked into as there is an intention to continue our proceedings through to the evening tomorrow. Some of the electric poles toppled over in the cyclone and I ask that this be fixed before we reconvene tomorrow. That is my humble request Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister to ensure the smooth progress of our work tomorrow.

Before we adjourn, I call upon one of the honorable members for Faasaleleaga No. 1; Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow to end our meeting with a word of prayer.

Prayers.

The proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1.00pm until 9.00am Wednesday, 23 January, 2013.

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In relation to our hydro generators administered by EPC, the constituency of Vaimauga was significantly affected by heavy flooding. More formidable designs are needed to strengthen the pipes used at the Hydro-Generator at Loto o Samasoni so it can withstand water pressure and floating debris.

In addition, families residing on low-lying areas are susceptible to flooding caused by poor drainage. My recommendation Mr Speaker is for the EPC to consider underground cables to distribute electricity throughout the Country.

Another noticeable issue is that some of our water catchment areas were blocked by trees such as the tamarind and other plants classified as “exotic species”. In my opinion, the Ministry of Environment needs to prioritise the planting of trees near our water catchment areas within the Vaimauga area such as Fuluasou.

Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether the Government has considered this but I recommend allocating a portion of our funds to the Samoa Housing Corporation so that families can loan to construct their homes. This will save the Government the hassle of building homes as well as minimizing complaints.

In addition, I thank our people and the assistance from our overseas partners in providing food and clothing to the cyclone victims. I believe that a small number of the country was affected. Another recommendation based on overseas practices is that the government of those countries instead of purchasing imported food; they buy locally available produce and distribute them to victims. If we apply this practice, it will assist our farming community.

Mr Speaker, my final recommendation is for families residing along river banks to relocate. As noticed during the cyclone, nothing was spared. Therefore, I recommend the Ministry of Environment to use the “CIM plans” already drafted to carry out plans for the relocation of families living near riverbanks.

In relation to the Supplementary Appropriations, we are grateful that plans are underway for the construction of the hospital at Satapuala. This will allow two hospitals to service our constituency. However, with the new hospital, it would be ideal to improve its efficiency since the existing hospital at Leulumoega hardly has a doctor on duty. Therefore, the new hospital should be well equipped not only with medical resources but with doctors and nurses.

Still on the health issue, I suggest allocating funds from the “SWAP” organization to greatly enhance the health sector and minimize spending on overseas trips by the Ministry.

Hon Minister of Communications, is it necessary to spend \$900,000 on the proposed building for Radio 2AP?

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Is it necessary to continue broadcasting from its current location at Mulinu'u bearing in mind its susceptibility to cyclones and tsunamis? Why not shift this proposed building to a mountainous range safe from the risk of natural disasters?

Secondly, Hon Minister of Communications, why have additional funds allocated to establishing the broadband connection when this same output was covered in the Main Estimates? Does it mean that the initial setup by the contractor tasked with broadband connection failed to account all measures thus calling for extra funds?

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member as I allow the interjection from the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Mr Speaker, as reminded by the Hon Prime Minister yesterday, we can only provide estimates and this is the essence of our Supplementary Budget. The aim is to account for things that were not completed with the funds allocated from our Main Estimates. We can never prophesize the future hence the reason for the Supplementary Estimates.

MR SPEAKER: To save time, I grant the opportunity to the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Minister of Finance): The \$900,000 is for the initial phase of construction for this building. The building will be completed with funds allocated in the upcoming Budget. For your information, 7 acres at Nu'u was approved two years ago which will be the second office for the 2AP during natural disasters.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu (Gagaemauga No.2): Mr Speaker.....

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

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: This is the same issue I was planning to comment on. Am I allowed to get it out of the way now?

MR SPEAKER: May it please the member; an interruption cannot respond to another interruption. It is best to wait until your turn comes to speak on the issue. I call on the member for Aana Alofi No.3 to resume.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:
Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker.

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I do not fully understand the clarification of the new office proposed for the 7 acres at Nu'u as explained by the Hon Minister of Finance. What I don't get is the saying that the \$900,000 is for the initial construction phase suggesting additional funds will be appropriated when we table the Appropriations for 2013/2014.

Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance to further clarify the matter.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: The 7 acres is reserved for future purposes. No building is planned for this land as yet.

The \$900,000 is to carry out building work in the next five months remaining for the current financial year. By the time of the next Budget and there is still work to be done, further funds would be appropriated. It does not mean the full cost of the project is to be appropriated at once. Furthermore, if this should be the case, by the time of the next Budget I am sure many will criticize why so much money was appropriated yet it was not used.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, the member to continue.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: I will not engage the Hon Minister in debate. Suffice to say, we all understand the nature of contracts, tenders precede the selection of a contractor, followed by the writing up of terms and conditions including valuation costs. Perhaps it is an unsigned contract.

According to the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report, the cost of waste water management is too high in my opinion. I support the intention for clean water supply for the Apia area which is a good incentive to make use of the expensive government asset generating this process. However, it would be ideal to lower the cost charged to businesses, Corporations and Ministries.

Yesterday, some members were vocal on the PFL debacle. The Deputy Prime Minister clarified this issue. Mr Speaker, many shipping vessels importing goods to Samoa have their own agencies. If we continue with this venture, I request the Ministry to convince these companies to use our shipping vessel. Because if we don't act, I am afraid it would cost the country dearly as a significant amount was used to purchase this company.

MR SPEAKER: I grant the interjection from the Deputy Prime Minister.

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Tofa Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Deputy Prime Minister): That is our intention. Ever since we took over PFL we not only managed to secure the loyalty of customers already using our vessel but we have also managed to expand our client base by securing deals with former customers. Negotiations are also underway in Tonga and the news received thus far is positive. Furthermore, our people in New Zealand, Australia and our Pacific neighbors are all elated that this company is now a State-owned enterprise.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification Hon Deputy Prime Minister. I call upon the member to continue.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Deputy Prime Minister. My further request Hon Prime Minister is to submit a progress report for PFL in the next five to ten years.

Mr Speaker, I query the amount allocated to our Agro Store. I seek clarification on the reason for this significant amount provided that the land which was previously used by the Agro Store has been sold for the proposed new marketplace. Is this fund reserved to pay an outstanding debt?

As I mentioned earlier, the Ministry of Environment should focus on prioritizing the replanting programme especially to our water catchment areas such as Fuluasou and Vaisigano. Now is the time Mr Speaker as many exotic species including tamarind trees have fallen following the recent cyclone.

Mr Speaker, a noticeable concern is the digging of the borehole at Vaiaata rubbish dump in Savaii. I feel that we should take measures to preserve our natural resources including this borehole as it provides water for the Faasaleleaga district.

Furthermore Mr Speaker is the need to conserve our environment including our water catchment areas. With \$100million allocated to address climate change, it is my opinion to setup a “conservation trust fund” so that villages with natural resources are able to maintain and preserve our natural resources including water catchment areas and boreholes.

Mr Speaker, those are my views and God willing, grant the wisdom and fortitude to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet in steering our ship for the remainder of this Financial Year. God bless the Fono, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui (Prime Minister): I did not intend to interrupt; nevertheless, the member raised some important issues this morning.

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I understand the member showed concern on the tamarind tree suggesting we are planting the tamarind. This is not the case as the tamarind is spawned from wind pollination and transportation of seeds by birds such as myna birds. As such, I understand the member is contracting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and my advice is to convey your suggestions during your consultations with the Ministry.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister and I am sure the member's views are well received. I now call on Saleaula.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. Before I continue I wish to greet the dignity assembled, Mr Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Opposition Leader, Deputy Leader and members of the Opposition Party.

We have many issues to deliberate on; especially we are engaged in our recovery from the recent cyclone. Not to mention the frequency of cyclone warnings we receive but thankfully our Father is watching kindly over us.

I listened intently to members' speeches since yesterday and one thing in common is their desire to develop their respective constituencies. In contrast, I believe now is the time to save as much as we can given the reduction in overseas aid.

Mr Speaker, I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Revenue and his Ministry for collecting funds since June up to this month that we are now deliberating its distribution.

There is no need to save when there are times we lapse our concentration on the prioritization of our developments.

For instance, we witnessed the devastation caused by the cyclone which was accompanied by flash floods that damaged personal properties and government assets. The bridge at Vaimoso has been repaired a couple of times since the 2007 South Pacific Games excluding the recent statement by the Minister of Works that they will again repair this same bridge, which will be the third time. The cost of each of these repairs does not fall below the \$1million mark. Therefore, I understand the Minister of Finance is the Chairman of the Tenders Board and I recommend picking the best contractor with the best design to ensure Government funds are not wasted.

Another continuous problem is water. The HRPP has been in power for more than thirty years and it is still an issue that has not been remedied. We hear millions of tala(\$) allocated to the Water Authority in every Main Estimates but still some constituencies such as the Alataua West are without water. This same project was approved five to seven years ago when the borehole was drilled and still incomplete sighting the lack of funds to purchase water pipes. It therefore begs the question, is the Treasury holding on to these funds?

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MR SPEAKER: I grant the interjection from the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker, the statement made by the member that the drilling was completed seven years ago is wrong. The drilling of Neiafu commenced last year, the reason for the delayed progress is that its surface is mostly gravel. In carrying out this project, the Water Authority hires machinery and uses workers based in Savaii to perform it. Therefore not only is the seven year comment by the member misleading but it brings the Water Authority under disrepute.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: We can build many water tanks but if there is no rain it proves useless. We have many tanks but the rivers supplying these tanks are dead most of the year.

The same with bridge designs. An engineer from New Zealand designed the Vaisigano Bridge with its many poles. What happened? Floating logs could not pass underneath causing water to rise and overflow thus affecting places such as the Aggie Grey's Hotel. We do not rush these sorts of things. We look at America for instance; the bridge in LA was not spared from the 1989 earthquake. We often see stadiums collapse killing many people. Even rocket scientists fail to save lives of astronauts who die in rocket explosions. All these inventions and designs are works of engineers Mr Speaker.

In 2011 the recorded annual rainfall was 16ml, 2012 recorded 10ml, 16ml, 15ml and come 2013, the recorded rainfall in one day was 500ml. We are ignorant of these occurrences, the best we can do is to advice engineers to come up with the best design. Meaning, a bridge that usually costs \$200,000 will now cost \$20million. If we do this, by the end of this term we can only manage one bridge. Therefore, amidst many cries from scientists to mitigate global warming, powerful nations contributing to the effects of global warming continues to turn a blind eye. This is why Samoa will host the biggest conference in the Pacific at the end of next year to tackle climate change. According to the estimated damage caused by the cyclone, \$500million is the cost of damages to both property and assets including houses, roads, electricity and forestry. The reason for the compilation of this report is to be tabled during this Conference so that countries contributing to global warming will gain an insight of the damages small countries such as us encounter because of their financial motives.

Mr Speaker, there is substance in the recommendations offered by the member for Gagaemauga No.2 this morning.

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Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: I rise to answer the member's allegation that the Treasury is holding on to funds. For the member's information, last year's budget allocated near \$230million towards developing our infrastructure including water, electricity, roads and bridges. The member does not know this because he was visiting relatives in New Zealand when the Supplementary was tabled. I also correct the member's comments on the cost of the Vaimoso Bridge where he stated millions and millions of tala has been spent on this bridge. As a point of order, the bridge upgrade of 2007 for the SPG only cost \$400,000+. If it wasn't for the 2009 tsunami this bridge would have been upgraded in that year, however, funds for its upgrade were reallocated to help the tsunami victims.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your assistance Hon Minister. I call on the member to continue.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you for the explanation Hon Minister of Finance. I mentioned 5,6 to 7 years since the SWA has administered its programmes. The Minister mentioned that the delay was due to insufficient funds. That was what the Minister said.....

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I grant the interjection from the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: It depends on our "cash flow", revenue. Similar to our yesterday's debate where members questioned the removal of \$100,000 from Agriculture, this is the case if Treasury is satisfied that such amount is not needed by the Ministry in the remaining six months and reallocates that amount to continue our priority needs. It depends on our revenue.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Mr Speaker, it appears the response by the Minister of Finance contradicts that of the Minister of Works. I also reject the Hon Prime Minister's explanation on the shortage of rainfall.....

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: You should always make an effort to attend our sittings. There is no contradiction between the Minister of Works and the Minister of Finance. Every Ministry wants to do more but we do not have enough funds. Even if we allocate our total budget of \$640million to the Ministry of Works, it still would not be enough. We have to consider a number of projects per year based on our revenue. Even if your constituency gets their road fixed in 2015, so be it. Therefore, the continuations of our developments are subject to our annual budget.

MR SPEAKER: The member to continue.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: I now come to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Some members queried the new building for Radio 2AP. According to the Report for the grants received for the tsunami relief efforts, \$2million was allocated to MCIT to mitigate the damages to the Aleipata area. This \$2million also included the new building for Radio 2AP and its new office at Nu'u. I was the Chairman of the Education, Science, Communications and Information Technology Select Committee and my Committee visited the proposed 7acres. In reality, we did not come across this 7acres. All we saw were families occupying this land where the SamoaTel transmitter pole used to be. Therefore, where did the \$2million go to?

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: I beg to differ because there is 7acres at Nu'u. Families that you have mentioned are leasing on this property and we have received requests from these families for quarter acres to relocate to. Furthermore, Cabinet has approved 7acres for Radio 2AP but I do not recall a building. I am not sure if a decision was made for a building. I don't remember Mr Speaker.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa (Alataua West): A point of order Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: Was it covered in your speech?

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Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa: I like to respond to the 7acres since I was the Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa: I support the Minister's comments regarding the existence of the 7acres. The families mentioned by the member are leasing on this property. I also accompanied the member on that visit.

MR SPEAKER: Matter clarified. You may continue the member for Gagaemauga No.2.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: I support the member for Falealupo who said the member for Alataua West is weak with numbers. The 7acres is used by people of this Constituency.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member while I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: The total land area is 16acres, it was home to cattle farms by some people who have relocated after receipt of notice. The remaining people on this land are leaseholders who have requested the Government to assist them with 1/4acres so they can re-locate. Mr Speaker, it is 36acres. With respect.

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

MR SPEAKER: Sorry, I give the first opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the problem is that the member is referring to occurrences 3 years ago. The cattle farm that occupied a great portion of this land has been relocated. The land has been subdivided. I think the problem is that these members are not using the vehicle given to them to monitor these things. We also conducted a visit to the Opposition Leader's constituency recently and they were nowhere to be seen but they were given a vehicle to spy on our developments. That vehicle has many seats and if that is not enough the bonnet and the top of the vehicle have enough space to transport members of your party.

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

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MR SPEAKER: I will give.....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: In addition, we reshuffle our developments according to our priority needs. For example, in the event of a natural disaster, a project that was planned for the current financial year can be postponed to the next year while the funds are used to remedy damages per se.

Mr Speaker, it is common sense. If we perceive a development needs to be postponed, we will postpone it to next year.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Opposition Leader because your vehicle was mentioned.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Of course, we are grateful for the vehicle given to us. The difference between our visits is that we do not inform the country that we are coming. We do not use the TV and Radio to publicise our visits. If you look at the way they conduct their visitations, their convoy is like the length of the Apia Main road. Whereas, our low key approach is that we use our only vehicle and speak directly to people affected without publicity. That is the difference Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, during the Finance and Expenditure Committee stage, witnesses from the Ministry of Communications ascertained the allocated land for Radio 2AP is only 2acres which is in contradiction to the 7acres mentioned by the Minister.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Before I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister, I intend to shed light over the issue. The member for Alataua West confirmed the land in question is 7acres because he was the Deputy Chairman of the Committee which was chaired by Levaopolo. The Hon Minister of Finance also confirmed that Cabinet has already approved 7acres. Three testimonies are enough to account for the precise size of the land in question. I call on the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, I was the Chairman of the Samoa Land Corporation Board that owns this land. The Prime Minister has also mentioned the family that used to operate a cattle farm on this land was not pleased upon receiving notice from the Board to relocate. The Samoa Land Corporation made this decision and submitted its decision for Cabinet's endorsement. Mr Speaker, my comments are based on facts. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Prime Minister to continue the Government's response.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is rubbish wasting our time. The Opposition is trying to argue over peanuts yet it does not matter if the land is 7acres, 2acres, 100acres or 1/2acre, the best thing is that there is land to continue developments.

MR SPEAKER: I believe.....

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

MR SPEAKER: May it please the Opposition Leader.....

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: The Opposition has been criticized, facts should be presented before Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.... I understand your intention.....

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: It is easy for Cabinet to give a directive to a Ministry to get the truth. We do not have access to this information Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I have already made my ruling. I am satisfied with the clarifications provided by the Government and a former member of this Committee that there is land. Whether it is 7, 2 or 3acres, there is land available for this purpose. I therefore issue the order for members not to comment any further on this 7acres of land issue.

I call on the member for Gagaemauga No.2 to resume and you have 5 more minutes.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: My apologies Mr Speaker, I rest my case on the 7acre issue for the Minister is the only one who understands it. I now come to our Broadband. The Country knows that SamoaTel has been sold to Blue Sky. If we consider the Government's intention in setting up this Broadband, it was to make communications more efficient. By looking at our Supplementary, funds are again allocated to administer this project. I therefore seek clarity Mr Speaker on who exactly is responsible for this Broadband? Is it the Government through MCIT, or the Office of the Regulator, or Blue Sky? This means Blue Sky is making money out of this.....

MR SPEAKER: I grant the interjection from the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

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Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: I was waiting for the member to lay his motive out in the open. The Broadband belongs to the Government which is administered by a Company under contract with the Government. When our Main Estimates was tabled, the tender process was underway, a Company had not been contracted to “supervise” the installation and setup of the Government’s Broadband. SamoaTel and the Blue Sky deal has been settled, it has nothing to do with this fund. This fund is to pay for the contracting Company which was not included in our Main Estimates this is why we are including it in this Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister, the member to continue.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you for the explanation. Secondly, if the Broadband belongs to the Government, will it make any money from it?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: It saves money. To give an example, if the Ministry of Justice wants to deliver a letter to the Lands and Titles Court, a vehicle is used. On the contrary, if the Broadband is used, you only need to switch on your computer, send your message and await the response. It saves petrol, lowers the cost of telephone bills and reduces electricity consumption. You asked if the Government will make money from Broadband. No, it will save millions of Government funds.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: The Minister is way off mark with his explanation. I understand this, it doesn’t mean you broadband with another’s broadband. That is pathetic. The broadband is administered by telecommunication companies through their servers. It only adds more costs to pay these telephone companies for their services. Therefore, what is the Government getting out of this deal? Allow us to continue our debate Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: Let me tell you this, the reason why we are setting up our own broadband is to prevent our reliance on Digicel and Bluesky to render this service to Government. The Government has selected a company to setup our own broadband meaning we do not have to pay those telecommunication companies for broadband services.

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MR SPEAKER: To assist the member because you have two more minutes, the Minister has clearly clarified this issue which is a government incentive to save funds.

I call on the member to conclude.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Mr Speaker, this is the first time I have heard of a broadband like this. My advice to the Minister is to consult the Regulator or the CEO of the Ministry to explain to you what it means because you are so confused.

Another issue, Mr Speaker.....

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletau Sofara Aveau: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister to speak.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletau Sofara Aveau: It only takes me ten minutes to listen to an explanation before I grasp the concept. I have already been informed by the Regulator, CEO as well as all the technicians and I fully understand this Mr Speaker. Next time I will inform these people to conduct a training specific to the member.

MR SPEAKER: The problem is that your colleague is not keen to absorb the morning's lessons, I grant the opportunity to the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: My advice to the member is to consult the member for Faleata West whom I explained how broadband works on our recent trip to China.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: May it appeases Saleaula, we are spending a great deal of time on your broadband. I call on the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of clarification Mr Speaker, I recommend the Minister to conduct a series of seminars on Mondays and invite members of the Opposition to attend instead of telling the member for Faleata West to lecture them as I am afraid it will cause a lot of confusion.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West) My apologies Mr Speaker, I never attended any training on broadband. As such, the only band I know is the "Police band".

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MR SPEAKER: It was a waste of time taking you to China (*to the member for Faleata West*).

The member for Gagaemauga No.2 your time is up.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, instead of calling on the Regulator and the CEO, request the Minister of Education to bring his “blackboard” to lecture only Lealailepule and Levaopolo and allow them pass on their acquired knowledge to the Opposition Leader and the Opposition Party after their lessons.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Mr Speaker, I can see the Prime Minister is teasing me, I don’t know why he is afraid to continue our case.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker, a minor request.....

MR SPEAKER: If you respect the time allowed to Saleaula, please allow him to continue for most of his time has been used up by interruptions.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Exactly, I rise to move an additional five minutes for the member to continue his submission because I am certain that the Prime Minister and his side are appreciative of the explanation given by the Minister on the broadband implication. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Saleaula, take the floor to conclude.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: I will move on since my time has been used up by interruptions.

At this point of time, I convey my acknowledgements to the EPC, Water Authority, and the Ministry of Works for the expedient response following the cyclone. I also thank the CEO of the Samoa Shipping Corporation for the incentive to buy a vessel to conduct maritime trainings. I follow up the proposal for the wharf planned by the Government to be constructed at Mulinuu to further enhance marine trainings for students. This is an important incentive as it will encourage more students to attend our maritime school thus improving their chances of a better future if they manage to obtain opportunities on ferries and freight ships.

Mr Speaker, that concludes my submission and I ask for your pardon should you perceive some of my comments as offensive. Ia manuia le Fono.

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MR SPEAKER: I believe your comments have been gladly received by the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. Thank you for your expressed views and recommendations.

I grant the opportunity to the member for the individual voters, the representative for Samoa, Afioga Muagututia, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters): Thank you for the opportunity, even though my title was wrongly acknowledged in the beginning, alas we Samoans are used to it. There are times we get it wrong.....

MR SPEAKER: The Chair is aware that you can be Maualaivao and you can also be Muagututia, it is the same.

Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM: Thank you for your mark of respect Mr Speaker. I greet Samoa at this hour, His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo especially the support of Religious leaders throughout Samoa. Although we often share a sense of humour in our debates, alas, we are grateful and I am sure our people are also thankful for this morning as we bear witness to this fine day which is a sign that Samoa is no longer susceptible to cyclones.

I believe that the mood of today is one of love and concern for our people who suffered dearly at the wrath of the recent cyclone. Nevertheless, our worries are comforted by the fact that Parliament remains intact with the presence of the Government and the Opposition Party.

The reason why I say love for the country is purely to offer comfort and solace to those who have lost so much as a consequence of the cyclone. Not only do we have to rally for food, clothing and temporary shelters but we must also offer our comfort by visiting badly affected areas. I believe my constituents also suffered dearly and I take to the floor at this hour not only to offer comfort but to persuade our government to act expeditiously in mitigating your losses.

Our country in my view is capable at mitigating the damages as witnessed by how quickly our roads have been repaired thanks to the Ministry of Works.

The same with cleaning up the debris around the town area in villages such as Vaisigano, Faatoia and Lelata which are encouraging signs of how quickly we are able to pull ourselves back up following disasters. This in my opinion is a gesture of our people's tenacity.

I also thank the Samoa Water Authority for restoring water supply to most parts of the country. Not forgetting our Fire Services for distributing water to parts of the country without water.

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Following our visit to areas affected by flooding, I recommend the Government to construct “river walls” to safeguard properties as most of these people are not willing to relocate and leave behind their freehold properties. If possible elevating these lands should also minimize the impact of flooding as witnessed in areas in close proximity to the Vaisigano river heading to the Fale o le Fee at Magiagi.

I also thank the progress that has seen the streetlights along the cross-island road restored to assist hotels along this stretch of road leading to Siumu.

I wish to draw your attention to the national cemetery at Magiagi. I have witnessed the poor condition of this cemetery in comparison to overseas cemeteries. The reason why I value the Magiagi cemetery is because the people who have been laid to rest there are people of standing and respect in our country. It is appalling to see the behavior especially the youth who congregate and have drinking sessions in the evening as well as reports that there are people who use this sacred ground to commit indecent acts. Therefore, I pray to the Ministry responsible to construct a fence around the cemetery and to beautify its environment like we witness in overseas cemeteries.

To comment briefly on the PFL debacle, I fully support this incentive to have the Government take ownership of this Company which in my view should assist our exports.

Secondly, it is not like Samoa has a market for the production of commodities, most of our goods are imports.

Most recently, freight ships were delayed by three weeks which led to a shortage in the supply of some necessities. I thought at that time, if only the PFL was operating it would have provided assistance. Therefore, this government decision has my full support not only will it assist our trade but the “manpower” would comprise of our own people. Job opportunities.

I now come to the Ministry of Police and the decision to have a special investigation unit to deal with public complaints and internal complaints against the conduct of police officers. I deem this as a right move to ensure transparency and accountability in how police officers conduct their responsibilities.

I also congratulate the LTA and the Ministry of Health. The Hon Minister of Health with his Ministry has gone from strength to strength as evident in members being less vocal on doctor shortage.

My only recommendation to the Hon Minister of Education is to see through the construction of school buildings to the end. I say this because many school buildings are left unfinished while some schools have no water. Therefore, I humbly request the Ministry’s assistance to build water tanks to trap rainfall and make it compulsory for every school to have water tanks for storage and rid the using of gallons to store water as it is an unhealthy practice.

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Last but not least, I call on the Hon Minister of Works to take into consideration road repairs within the Aleisa area such as “Abbigan Road and Harrington Road”. I also mention the road heading to Vaitoloa next to the petrol station for your consideration.

Mr Speaker, I know that we all feel compassion for the victims of the recent cyclone. It would be a nice gesture to offer our first salary payment for this year to the victims. Withdraw our salaries and donate it to victims.

Mr Speaker, that concludes my remarks and I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry for a job well done. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since we have come to the time of our morning recess, I will now set aside our proceedings. Upon our return the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 will take the floor.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its normal morning recess at 10:45 in the morning.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 11:20 in the morning.

MR SPEAKER: I once again welcome members to the continuation of our proceedings. I also thank the Office for providing our morning tea. Before we continue with members submissions, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister for the motion.

MOTION TO CHANGE SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, since members are jovial to comment on this small Supplementary Appropriation to add to the Main Estimates that also caused members to comment at great lengths.

Therefore, pursuant to Standing Order 31, I move the motion, *To change sitting hours as follows, adjourn at 1:00pm and re-commence at 3pm up to 7pm. This will enable members to take an early rest instead of having an evening session as we never know what the night brings.*

That is the motion with respect.

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

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Motion carried in the affirmative thus changing sitting hours effective as of today from:

9:00am – 1:00pm.

3:00pm – 7:00pm.

Debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012/2013 continued.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No.4): Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker. I am also grateful for the morning tea provided by the Office. Suffice to say, given the small minutes allocated to members' speeches I will go straight to the core of my views.

Before doing so, I greet the dignity of Samoa beginning from His Highness, the Head of State, and the member of the Council of Deputies, Hon Chief Justice and Judiciary. I also greet the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament.

I also acknowledge CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations in attendance. Last but not least, greetings to you Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I believe that my Constituency seldom hears my voice for the only time I speak is following cyclones and thunder.

Mr Speaker, my main concern relating to the Ministry of Health is the increase in the number of homeless people. There are people who see people of unsound mind making money from begging and all of a sudden they imitate those people so they can make money themselves. We witness these people loitering in front of supermarkets and behind Government buildings. Therefore, there should be a stable building to house these people. A common scene I always come across during mornings is that they stand next to a rubbish bin either they are looking for empty bottles or plastic bags. Some even eat leftover food found in these rubbish bins.

From my observation, this adds more responsibility to the Ministry in terms of treating these people and the likelihood of an epidemic spreading because of the unhealthy lifestyle which these people are exposed to. That is the essence of my recommendation, is for a suitable building to house these people of unsound mind.....

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member. Allow the interruption from the Minister of Health.

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, this is the third member to comment on this same subject. I therefore take the floor to respond to this issue in case another member comments on the same subject.

I am sure all area aware of the recent incident that caused the death of a visiting Samoan mental patient which stirred a lot of controversy from the media. Supposedly this incident is the reason why members are talking about this issue. I remind the House that as members we share a collective responsibility to ensure the comments we make are for the greater good of the country. The reason why we interrupt is to correct views that appear to be based on hearsay or information obtained by word of mouth. As per the member's views, it has substance. To respond briefly, the Ministry is still conducting medical checks for people of unsound mind.

We have a clinic at the National Hospital to examine people of unsound mind. This same clinic also examines patients referred from private practitioners. In practice, the clinic does not serve as an asylum; its main function is to examine a person who has been suspected to be of unsound mind. Once satisfied, patients are referred back to their families to love and provide care for them while medical staff conducts visits to their homes to monitor their progress such as ensuring they are up to date with their medications. As part of this visit, the staff administers injections. I also would like to mention that the clinic also has a room to restrain people who have lost complete control. Once a person has calmed down, he/she is discharged back to his/her family with the staff conducting follow-up visits.

As for the male mental patient that died in prison. The staff and the special room could not contain him because his strength was extraordinary. Despite the efforts of the staff to nail the door back to position, he still managed to knock it down. We must also make sure that caution is exercised when dealing with mental patients in case they cause harm to themselves. This is why the decision was made to refer him to the police who then transported him to prison where he died.

The police in their explanation are correct to the extent that they are not trained to handle mental patients. As such, I have given the order to the Ministry of Health not to repeat this incident. There will also be a training course involving the Police, teachers and the Fire Services conducted by a New Zealand psychologist to address ways of handling mental patients. The course will provide techniques on how to restrain and calm mental patients when they have fits or seizures. The importance of this course.....

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

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MR SPEAKER: I call on the Opposition Leader.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I believe the Minister has spoken for 20 minutes and I wonder whether this is his Ministerial response?

MR SPEAKER: I understand that this matter has been mentioned about four, five times and the Minister is responding at length in case another member mentions it. Hon Minister, your clarification is sufficient.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, I have about half an hour left....I will keep it short.

MR SPEAKER: It is hard for lay preachers to understand these technical matters, only you Hon Minister possess such knowledge.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, the sight of mentally ill people roaming the street is not new. I witnessed this during my schooling years. They pose no threat to society. They are useful in some aspects such as picking up rubbish around businesses or in front of family homes that in turn provide them with food or give them money. As I said, there is not enough space at the hospital to house these people. The new hospital will have a Mental Unit that will provide assistance to mental patients but the main responsibility rests with families to provide care for them. The only instance we have to exercise caution on is those mental people who run on the road like the man who was hit by the car of the member speaking.

That is the clarification, and should another member comment on this issue, I am more than happy to further clarify.

MR SPEAKER: Before I call on the member to resume, I grant the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I ask the Minister since he is the only one specialized in identifying mental patients. Do you see anyone in this Chamber to be of unsound mind? Because there are people who appear normal and talk like normal people but there appears to be something wrong with them. Like this one person who often tells me to buy him a car and I asked him what type of car and he said, the one I am driving. Therefore Hon Minister of Health, do you see people like this around? (*to the Opposition Party*).

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Can I have more time to respond to the question asked by the Hon Prime Minister please Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER: Of course, but mind you Hon Minister, your initial clarification has settled the former issue and I give you the opportunity to respond to the Hon Prime Minister's question.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Next month February, the Ministry of Health will conduct a survey. Inclusive of that survey is the identification of people with mental illness. We often see people roaming the streets and conducting out of the ordinary actions. However, there are also people who have mental illness they do not know. This is the core of this survey because I see in this chamber people classified as unknown cases of mental illness.

Tofa Motuopuaa Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai (Vaisigano No.2): Mr Speaker, a point of clarification..

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Minister to allow the opportunity to another doctor.

Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu): Can you please point your finger to the member you intend to speak because you are pointing to one of the member's for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi and myself.

MR SPEAKER: It also includes members behind you. There is no need for alarm as there are other members behind you and Toleafoa.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Therefore Mr Speaker, the government is placing the emphasis on identifying the ratio of people affected by mental illness spearheaded by a specialist name Lisi.

Since members compared the Main Estimates to a cake, it is my view that once this survey is completed and results are published suppose it will lead to a bigger piece allocated to the Health Sector in terms of expenditure.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to conclude for your time is up.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am a bit disappointed that the Minister has taken up most of my time with his clarification. On the other hand, suppose that this survey in turn will identify one of the Minister's to be of unsound mind.

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In addition, there is no need to blame a person for hitting a mental person on the road. No matter the maneuver a person takes, if a mental person obstructs a vehicle.....

MR SPEAKER: My advice is to leave information relating to your Court Cases to the Court of Law.

The member for Faasaleleaga No.4 to continue.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA: Thank you Hon Minister of Health for responding to my query.

Hon Minister of Environment, I raise the rubbish dump at Vaiaata as a risk to the contamination of the water boreholes that are abundant in my constituency. According to the “water table” the boreholes of my constituency are right up there in terms of supplying water to many of our neighboring constituencies; therefore it is important to consider this facet Hon Minister.

I cannot thank you enough to the Ministry of Works for their assistance. I believe that the Ministry is engaged in the recovery efforts following the cyclone and it is important to take lessons from such occurrences.

Following the cyclones of 1990 and 1991, the main water pipeline from Alaoa to Magiagi always breaks. I know this because my company was tasked for its repair. I gave the recommendation to the Hon Minister back then to have the main pipeline go underground. In almost every cyclone and floods, the floating logs from fallen trees impact on these pipes causing it to break. Therefore, having it go underground will solve this problem. Cyclones, flooding and big trees falling on top of this pipeline will never end thus adding more expenses. Although the cost of implementing this strategy is quite expensive, its benefits in the long run will save Government a lot of money.

I now come to our Ministry. Thank you for the decision to allocate funds from this budget for the construction of school buildings for my village of Asaga. One more request Hon Minister for Works, the ford crossing the Lano River poses a safety risk to the travelling public during heavy rainfall and flooding. We have three years left in this Parliamentary term and I would not know what to tell my Constituency should we finish our term and still no work has been done to this ford crossing.

In conclusion, I have many remaining requests but since our country is working with limited funds I thank the CEO of Finance, Afioga Lavea and staff for preparing our Budget which we fully support.

God Bless you, Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader and Members of Parliament. Soifua.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your recommendations. I will give the first opportunity to the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 to be followed by Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Foremost, I extend my greetings to the dignity of Parliament Assembled, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary support staff and the CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations in attendance.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of my co-representative and our Constituency of Faasaleleaga No.1, I convey our gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. Members have already given their advice and recommendations on the distribution of the limited funds at our disposal. Suffice to say, I am grateful for our Government's discretion to prioritise our recovery efforts ahead of the activities that we planned from the outset of the financial year. The Lord gives and the Lord takes, for He is the only One who knows what the future holds. Our role is to pray and ask for His mercy to spare us from re-occurrence of natural disasters such as the recent Cyclone Evans.

My constituency, all our developmental needs have been lobbied to the Hon Minister of Works for his consideration. As for now Mr Speaker, it is my view that our priority should be diverted to the victims of the recent cyclone. From the Prime Minister's announcement only one ninth of the costs of damage have been collected through financial aid from our close overseas partners, meaning the remaining nine tenths has to come from our own coffers. Therefore Mr Speaker, the intention for today is one of sacrifice. We sacrifice our needs for now and replace them with the needs of the victims. On that note, I thank all the Government Ministries and Corporations that are working hard to bring Samoa back to prosperity.

To conclude, in spite of the limited funds, it is pleasing to see that our Government is doing its best to satisfy requests conveyed by respected members of each Constituency.

God Bless Mr Speaker and God Bless our Parliament. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you solitary maiden from Savaii for your wonderful speech.

I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo to take the floor.

Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity granted to Aleipata Itupa i Lalo to comment on the Supplementary Appropriations 2012/2013.

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Foremost, I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Finance for preparing this Supplementary. Given its meager amount, I believe we all know how to distribute \$10 or \$1,000.

At this point, I take the floor to remind the respective Ministers of our yet to be done developments as previously requested. Like the saying goes “e tupu le faatuatua i le taalogologo” (faith grows with constant reminders).

I thank the EPC and SWA through the Minister of Works for the expedient restoration of electricity and water to my constituency following the Cyclone. It is a fact that the beaches of Aleipata are among the top ten in this part of the world thus one of the most famous tourist hotspots. During the cyclone, many tourists were in Aleipata and I take my hat off to the EPC and SWA for braving the weather elements in order to restore these essential amenities in a short amount of time. I specifically acknowledge the SWA for providing a standby generator to operate our water pumps when electricity was interrupted. Hon Minister, it would be nice to leave that generator at Lalomanu to serve as a backup when electricity is interrupted.

Furthermore, I congratulate the LTA for clearing the blocked path at the Le Mafa pass in less than a day which ensured the commuting public and tourists alike did not experience delays in travelling to Apia and back.

Moving onto the Ministry of Police, I thank you for your exceptional services during the cyclone. However, the police post at Lalomanu that I always speak of needs a new building. The building is rundown as it was formerly used as a nurses’ home.

Hon Minister for Education, there were no students from Aleipata that made it to the top colleges in Apia last year because the student to teacher ratio is too high. One teacher teaches three classes and it does not comply with the policy of providing quality education for all as publicized by the Ministry. Therefore, allocate more teachers to my constituency to expose our young ones to quality education. We have many sons’ and daughters’ teaching in Apia and it is recommended to conduct a survey so that they can be transferred back to our constituency.

I now come to the Ministry of Health. I know that travelling after the cyclone was not easy but that did not deter doctors from carrying out medical examinations at Lalomanu District Hospital. I also went to see these doctors for examination and it proved to be of no convenience since I had to travel to Apia to obtain my prescribed medicine. It is pointless for doctors to carry out their visitations when they do not have the required medicine they prescribe on hand. It means our people are required to travel to the pharmacies in Apia.....

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MR SPEAKER: Since you have mentioned pharmacies, I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Health to clarify this matter.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: For the member's information, pharmacists travel together with doctors. Following examination the patient gives the prescription to the pharmacist. It is only for cases requiring medicine that is not with the pharmacist that requires a patient to travel to the pharmacies in Apia.

MR SPEAKER: I trust your issue has been made clear, move on to your other important views.

Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU: Thank you, Hon Minister. Lastly, an ambulance to transfer serious cases to the Main Hospital is needed.

Before I conclude Mr Speaker, I wish to request the Hon Minister of Environment to allow for a rubbish dump similar to Vaiaata and Tafaigata for our area. This was done in the past but was stopped by the Ministry citing environmental risks. Our people then constructed rubbish stands but the rubbish truck that used to collect rubbish every week is not consistent with its schedule. Therefore, permission from the Ministry of Environment is sought to allocate a vacant land at our constituency to serve as a rubbish dump.

Mr Speaker, may our good Lord continue to grant you wisdom to lead our Parliament, God Bless the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers to make decisions for the betterment of our Country and grant good health and resolve to CEOs in serving the people of Samoa. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the representative of Aiga i le Tai.

Afioga IFOPO MATIA FILISI (Aiga i le Tai): I believe that the traditional, religious and official salutation of Samoa cannot be changed in a single iota by anyone as it will forever remain intact. As for this hour, I take the floor to convey my views on the Budget before the House.

Before I go into detail, I firstly congratulate the Hon Prime Minister for his words of comfort to the Country following the Cyclone.

From the seven letters I sent to Hon Ministers detailing our developmental needs, only one received a reply. I therefore will not rest my case if a Minister verbally responds to leave our requests to his future consideration. Aiga i le Tai is simple, we accept any assistance by way of developments for my constituency.

Following the cyclone, I visited the Vaimauga and was taken aback by the extensive damage caused by the cyclone.

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This in my view is the priority at the moment but I owe a duty to my constituency nonetheless and will speak of our needs for the awareness of Hon Ministers that our constituency also suffered damages.

Hon Minister of Works, my request is specific to our roads. We need to tar-seal the road leading to the Aana Alofi No.2 College at Apolima which is also used by students from Falelatai and Samatau.

I also support the seawall request lobbied by my colleague including a seawall from Salua uta to Sualo which is approximately 500 meters in length. Time is not of the essence as long as it is done for you have already received our written request.

Mr Speaker, a company called the “Chinese Son” has agreed to construct a school on Manono Island. The Samoa Ports Authority has already conducted a survey for a wharf but it has again being delayed suppose it is due to the lack of funds. If the Prime Minister stated that we can only manage one bridge per term, why not construct the Manono Bridge now?

MR SPEAKER: I allow the Prime Minister’s interjection.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The member did not understand my earlier explanation. I said, if we are looking to build an exceedingly tough bridge that can withstand cyclonic winds at a speed of 2000 miles per hour and rainfall of 3000ml per day. It means, only one bridge of that kind can be built in a single Parliamentary term. Furthermore, we are doing what we can and there is no need to get animated in ordering government to go ahead with building your bridge. If the government decides that your bridge would be built in the current Parliamentary term that is the answer.

As I said, people tend to forget the developments that are done during the first years. Remember our term is five years. It is preferable to do our developments in February 2016 before the General Elections in March because that will gain votes. However, the member is correct to some extent that a road circumventing the island of Manono is needed because there is none at the moment. As for the bridge, I am in the dark whether it is a bridge from the mainland to the island. The Minister is always open to receive your requests.

That is my assistance to the member for Aiga i le Tai. Paul said in the book of Philipians, “Se aua le popole , pau lava le mea o le tatalo i aso uma” (do not worry but pray every day).

MR SPEAKER: You may resume.

Afioga IFOPO MATIA FILISI: I am grateful that the Prime Minister supports a bridge for Manono.

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To conclude, I congratulate the Ministry of Finance for the distribution of funds to every Government Ministry.

Mr Speaker, may God bless His Highness, Le Ao o le Malo, the Member of the Council of Deputies, the Hon Chief Justice and Judiciary. God bless Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, the Opposition Party and Members of Parliament. May God also encourage the CEOs and public servants in the performance of their services for the country. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for Aiga i le Tai for a clear submission. I call upon the member for Satupaitea.

Tofa LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Satupaitea): Before I comment on the Supplementary Appropriations before the House. First of all, I extend my greetings to you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Opposition Leader and Members of Parliament. I also acknowledge the CEOs in attendance this afternoon.

I also greet the dignity of Samoa listening in; last but not least, I pay respect to my constituency listening in.

Even though Satupaitea was not seriously affected by the cyclone but I together with my constituency are grateful to the prompt response by our Government in providing assistance to villages and districts affected by the cyclone. The importance of this prompt response by the government through its various Ministries and Corporations is the restoration of confidence in our people that there is still a government they can depend on.

The police services together with the fire department per se put their lives on the line in order to save our people who were caught unaware of the flash floods that accompanied the cyclone. Even the EPC during periods of heavy rain did not take a backward step in re-connecting severed power lines. The same with the SWA in their swift action to repair broken pipelines and restore water supply to many parts of the country in a short time. Like I said, Satupaitea was not badly affected and the same can be said for the island of Savaii. Our most notable damage is our school building, other than that, our woes is nothing compared to the loss suffered by many villages in Upolu. Therefore, I acknowledge all the public servants for their efforts in alleviating some of the damage caused by the recent natural disaster.

In reference to the Supplementary Appropriations before Parliament, I do not have any problems with it. I am always happy when we discuss the Supplementary for it is a clear indication that Ministries requesting additional funds are doing so in order to complete their activities presented in the Main Estimates earlier in the year.

I do feel that a new building for Radio 2AP is warranted regardless of its location.

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This assistance is long overdue when we consider the unsuitable state of the building they are currently broadcasting from. I am sure that our people were grateful for 2AP in updating weather bulletins during the cyclone thus a more stable building to continue this vital function is more than justified.

My understanding of the broadband is that it is the way of the future. Like it or not, it is what the world is currently using and it is only academic for Samoa to follow suit. The importance of the broadband is that it enables a teacher from Apia to communicate lessons with students in Satupaitea. A doctor in Tuasivi can also treat a patient at the hospital in Satupaitea as well. That is my understanding of the broadband and I will not elaborate since the topic was discussed by “broad minded people”.

I feel the financial assistance requested in this Supplementary is justified. However, by looking at the \$5.1million allocated to the Ministry of Environment under the “cyclone rehabilitation project” is not enough. Hopefully miracles can happen that will gain more funds to provide assistance for our people.

A valuable lesson learnt in the aftermath of the tsunami was a need to construct seawalls along coastal areas which is now evident. We now ask among ourselves, what are the lessons from the recent cyclone, can we do anything to minimize the impact of cyclones given that man has no control on the direction the wind blows nor can man predict the changing weather patterns. Nevertheless, what we can do is to come up with ways to mitigate its impact such as constructing bridges. The Prime Minister is correct in a sense that it would take the government years to provide solid bridges for every constituency. Durable bridges that can withstand even the most devastating flood. But we must be mindful that building only one bridge of that kind jeopardizes the construction and repair of bridges in other constituencies. The best we can do is to satisfy as many people we can because extreme weather like the recent cyclone is not a monthly or weekly occurrence but the reality of the matter is that it is bound to repeat itself.

The tamarind tree as mentioned by a member is not of much use in my opinion. From my observations following the cyclone, many waterways such as Vaisigano, Lelata and Alamagoto were blocked by tamarinds swept by the water currents. The tamarind grows easily but its body is fragile making it easy to break especially during a cyclone. I am not sure if there is any other useful purpose for this tree but I highly recommend the Ministry of Environment to categorise the tamarind as a pest. I draw reference to Aleisa where I am residing, many freehold properties are abundance with tamarinds and these tamarinds fall on top of electricity lines causing it to break as was the case during the cyclone.

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Therefore, the onus should be on the property owners to cut down the tamarinds that grow on their land especially freehold property owners that buy land in Aleisa and leave it idle while they enjoy the comfort of their homes in Apia.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I allow the member's interjection.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: To clarify this matter, the Ministry of Environment in 2005 identified the tamarind as the number one "invasive" species in Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Right on the point that is why the Prime Minister encourages you to share your knowledge of the environment.....

Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Ulatino Faale Tumaalii (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Mr Speaker, I was about to respond to this issue but the Prime Minister has already answered it.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Ulatino Faale Tumaalii: The Prime Minister has already commented that the tamarind is an invasive species.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that settles the issue. Does the Minister of Health have anything further to add?

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: The correct identification should be "invasion plant" but not completely useless like the member alluded to because the tamarind is used by village to build canoes.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Satupaitea to resume and be reminded that the time of adjournment is almost upon us, therefore conclude your submission.

Tofa LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: I thank the members for their contributions. Even though the tamarind is categorized as an invasive plant, it should not limit the encouragement to our people to cut it down and eliminate it once and for all. I will now move onto my remaining matters.

I appreciate the Minister of Health's explanation on mental patients. I also wanted to talk about this issue given my work experience at the Mt Eden prison in New Zealand.

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At that time, a Samoan male who was of unsound mind was transferred to prison and I do not intend to reveal what happened but that case changed the entire New Zealand system by separating mental institutions from the prisons. Nevertheless, I concur with the Minister that the best treatment comes from the family environment. Therefore, when the construction of the Satupaitea hospital is in progress, I would like to offer my insight as to the design for a special room to restrain mental patients.

I do not want to pressure the Hon Minister in to continuing the repairing of our roads but prioritise the areas that were worst affected by the cyclone. Satupaitea can wait.

Mr Speaker, that concludes my speech and God bless this Parliament in its honorific salutation. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for Satupaitea. Since we have arrived at the time of adjournment I wish to remind members that we will re-convene at 3 in the afternoon up to 7 in the evening. The reason why we are extending our sitting hours is to allow members who have not spoken to do so before the Government responds tomorrow. I believe that this is our last evening sitting and I urge members to keep it brief so that our funds are dispersed as soon as possible.

I pray that you all attend the continuation of our proceedings in the next two hours.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were interrupted at 1:00 in the afternoon until 3:00 in the afternoon.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 3:00 in the afternoon.

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Debate continued.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the continuation of our proceedings. We have now arrived at 3:00pm on the dot pursuant to the motion where we will continue up to 7 in the evening.

I once again congratulate members for your patience and dedication to continue debating our Supplementary Appropriations.

The floor is available for any member who would like to comment, I grant the opportunity to the member for Vaisigano No.1.

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Afioga TUFUGA GAFOALEATA FAITUA (Vaisigano No.1): Mr Speaker, I believe the dignity of Parliament has been restored in strength following our recess. I also acknowledge your perseverance at this hour Mr Speaker as I extend my greetings to the Hon Prime Minister and Members of the Legislative Assembly as well as the presence of CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations. I also wish to acknowledge His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo, the Hon Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary.

Foremost, I congratulate the Ministry of Finance for preparing our Supplementary Appropriations. It is only \$14million and almost half is allocated for the cyclone rehabilitation. In reference to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, only 2% of our total budget is allocated to this Ministry which in my view is not enough. Suffice to say, the Ministry is mindful of our limited funds for we have to work with the funds we are able to generate through government receipts.

Still on the Ministry of Agriculture, I believe that breeding livestock is a component that needs to be managed in order to ensure the best quality breed is available for our local cattle farm owners. I therefore recommend the importing of live cattle from overseas to inter-breed with our local cattle to achieve this. Because if we do not do this, the size of our cattle in the future will look like small pigs, pardon my language.

Furthermore, I advice owners of fishing boats to heed bad weather forecasts and not let greed supersede common sense for that is the cause of many fishing boats being lost at sea. This mirrors the recent incident in which an owner of a fishing vessel sent his crew out to sea despite the cyclone warning.

My recommendations for the SROS is to conduct research on the best type of coconut that can produce more oil since the common type of coconut growing in the country has more juice but its flesh does not produce a lot of oil. The same with researching the best type of avocado and other produce that we can grow for wine production. In totality, SROS needs to immerse itself into identifying products that in turn provides financial gain for our people and a positive contribution to economic growth. Those are my recommendations for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I then come to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. I congratulate the incentive to improve media services by widening its coverage. Hopefully the 5% allocated to this Ministry will enable my constituency to receive TV coverage.

I do not have any recommendations for the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for they are performing exceptionally well in their respective fields.

For the Ministry of Health, an incident which lost the life of a member of my constituency was due to the poor communication between doctors in district hospitals and the main hospital at Motootua.

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This person was referred for further diagnosis to the main hospital. On arrival the doctors had no idea of this patient's medical history thus the patient was referred back to Tuasivi. At Tuasivi, the patient was again referred to Sataua where he subsequently died. This poor communication needs to be addressed to avoid similar cases occurring in the future.

People suffering from mental disorders were discussed to great lengths earlier and there is no need to comment on it. Suffice to say, there is a non-government organization called "Kosena" at Sinamoga or Moamoa that operates as a mental institution. However, there are reports confirming that some patients escape from this mental institution and it is recommended that the Health Ministry collaborates with this Mental Institution in the administration of this valuable service.

I also congratulate the Ministry of Finance in allocating a significant amount from this Appropriation to the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Works for the Cyclone rehabilitation Project. On that note, my constituency did not suffer serious damage during the cyclone. My only request is to prioritise the Vaimauga, Safata, Faleata, Lefaga and other parts of the country that suffered extensive damage.

I also convey my gratitude to the assistance of the Ministry of Revenue in collecting funds that has enabled this budget to take form.

I also thank the government for the establishment of a Fire Department at Asau that will assist our constituency in cases of bush fires which is a common phenomenon in our constituency. Our only request should it be feasible is for a Land and Titles Court House close to the Samoa Land Corporation Office so that these services are accessible to our people and those from nearby constituencies.

I also thank the Ministry of Works for the recently constructed seawall. However, we do request the repair of our access roads at Auala and Matia together with water pipelines to distribute water to three access roads within Vaisala.

Our final request is for a seawall on the coastal side of the wharf to protect what is left of the government road which has been affected by coastal erosion. My intention is to finish this project before the end of our Parliamentary term so that I can gain votes in the next elections. Mr Speaker, that concludes my views on the 2012/2013 Appropriations and I repeat the words of Falealili for you Mr Speaker to put the Question because we fully support the Bill before Parliament. God Bless the Fono.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the paramount orator of Matia and Matia Ituau for your profound remarks.

The floor is available. I grant the opportunity to one of the representatives for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lenatai Victor Tamapua.

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Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West): Thank you for the opportunity. I extend my greetings to you Mr Speaker and the dignity of the Legislative Assembly at this hour. I also greet the dignity of my constituency and the entire country tuning in to our proceedings.

Before I comment on the Appropriations tabled before Parliament, I deem it necessary to extend our word of thanks to the Government Ministries and Corporations that provided the first response during cyclone Evans. I also extend our gratitude to businesses, NGOs and individuals who expressed their love through monetary and food donations to the victims from my Constituency. God bless you all for your assistance and good will.

I also thank my constituency for your patience and courage amidst the distress and adversity we encountered. May God have mercy on us.

I support the gratitude of my colleague, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster to the government for the expedient remedial efforts towards the badly affected areas in my constituency. Thank you so much.

My recommendation to the Ministry of Health is to consider flood affected areas which in my belief is infected by diseases originating from the mud. Therefore the Ministry should be vigilant with these areas as the people are at risk not only from insects but by breathing the air around these areas.

Those are my only requests for now. My intention is to provide assistance for my people as soon as possible. My other requests will be lobbied during the Main Estimates later in June.

God bless the remainder of our proceedings. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Town-area type speeches dive straight to the point thus making our works less complicated.

I grant the opportunity to this side of the Chamber. I call upon the member for Sagaga le Usoga.

Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUIMATAGI PETER AH HIM (Sagaga le Usoga): Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. I also extend my greetings to the dignity of Parliament Assembled this hour.

Furthermore, I pay tribute to my constituency. The honorific salutation to Saena and the Family Sa-Saena, the dignity to the heirs of Fuatino, Tuitea. The dignity to Tupailasa and the house of Alataua. The dignity to the family of Gauilefaleai and the two brothers Fata and Maulolo, the circle of Orators and the dignity to Tuisamau. Afio Maualaivao and the paramount Chief Faamausili, the title Taito and Seiuli and family Sa Maualaivao and the seven pillars of the Malietoa and words to Auimatagai. Greetings, I believe you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a safe start to this New Year.

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I also acknowledge the prayerful support of His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and Her Highness, the member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady as well as the clergy.

Foremost, I congratulate the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Finance for preparing our Supplementary Appropriations before Parliament. I wish to share my experiences of the recent cyclone because my house is in the Vaimauga constituency. I am sure you saw images on TV of my containers adrift by the strong floods that affected Lelata where I reside. Luckily I was able to recover my containers between two coconut trees and one was found between two houses. My losses are minimal compared to most of our people whose houses were swept away by the flood including casualties and injuries. Let us be patient and allow the Government to continue its programmes of providing assistance.

I also wish to acknowledge the EPC and the Ministry of Works for clearing the debris left by the cyclone. Furthermore, I am grateful to the Ministry for the construction of the access roads heading inland of Malie. We have a couple more left and it is best for the Ministry to visit these areas leading to Aleisa that is still without electricity which in turn generates government revenue.

Mr Speaker, I also support the new building for Radio 2AP because the current building is infested with rats the size of dogs. Thank you.

The health of the nation is the next issue I wish to comment on. The Ministry of Health should extensively promote the prevention of diabetes and hypertension amongst our people. Diabetes is the number one killer in the country. Diabetics are tied down to that illness for life once contracted. Therefore, if you love your children do not become a diabetic because you do not wish for your children to carry you around places. One of the side effects of this disease is weight loss meaning when you die you are buried in a small coffin.

Finally, I am thankful to the Met Office for the weather bulletins. Although we secured our homes on Sunday in anticipation of Cyclone Gary or Curry as predicted, luckily cyclone curry missed our shores and headed towards Manua. Hopefully, Gary's strength will be depleted in its change of course. It is good to receive cyclone warnings as it keeps us alert even if such cyclone never happened.

Mr Speaker, those are my views and God bless our Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the Prime Minister and Cabinet have taken note of your concerns. I grant the opportunity to the member for Vaa o Fonoti.

Afioga TIALAVEA FEA TIONISIO SEIAFOLAVA (Vaa o Fonoti): I thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity to voice our opinions on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for this year. Before I do, I extend my greetings to the dignity of Parliament Assembled at this hour of the day.

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Following the cyclone, many houses were ruined; roads were covered by falling trees and dirt from landslides. Amidst the damage our Ministry of Works did not deter from ensuring our constituency was back up and running even if it meant they had to exhaust long hours and sleepless nights. For this, I express my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Works.

I understand that the government prioritized the Apia area suppose it was due to the extensive damage it encountered. Suffice to say, our constituency understands this and now that most of the damage to the Apia area has been remedied perhaps it would be fitting to extend this assistance to my constituency. Therefore, I point out the need to reconnect the road adjoining Musumusu and Salimu that was severed during the cyclone. It would also be of great assistance for our people to have electricity restored.

Another issue I like to raise is the inter-school fighting amongst students. With the school year about to commence, there is that risk of violent brawls repeating. We ask amongst ourselves, what can be done to eliminate this social problem? I believe that our culture is embedded in our village lifestyle and religious values. We already have laws in place that I fear are not effective in curbing the tendency of our adolescents to commit ill-disciplined behavior. We draw comparison between our time and that of the current generation of youth. There is no starting point because the world has evolved with its technological advancement as we see on TV almost every night images depicting foreign culture and popular culture. In my perception, in order to address this issue, we need to create legislation emphasizing the authority of our cultural traditions. Students should understand that the teacher is the master of the classroom, but even teachers are victims of assault the same with police officers. Therefore, I voice this concern for the Government's consideration.

Before I conclude, I do not have any comments on the Supplementary Appropriations since I had the opportunity as a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee to question and listen to the responses provided by CEOs and Management Staff of Government Ministries and Corporations. As such, I thank you all for your dedication into preparing our Supplementary.

Mr Speaker, those are my comments and God Bless.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give the opportunity to the member for Palauli to be followed by Anoamaa East.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS (Palauli): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity to comment on the bill before Parliament. As per usual, we are grateful to our Heavenly Father for guiding us to this hour.

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Our Country is deeply rooted in its traditional history passed down through the ages. As such our country's honorific salutation will always and forever remain intact. I extend my greetings to our people listening at this hour. I also thank the continuous support of my constituency.

Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Finance for preparing our Supplementary Appropriations.

I also share the gratitude of previous members to all public servants who contributed to the assistance provided to the victims of cyclone Evans. Mr Speaker, I need only remind the Government of our previous requests such as a new school building to replace our building that was devastated by fire. We will await the government's assistance.

Mr Speaker, I do not have anything further to add for I fully support our Supplementary Appropriations. May God Bless you Mr Speaker with the wisdom to conduct our proceedings. God Bless the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Opposition Leader and Members of Parliament. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your contributions. I give the opportunity to the member for Anoamaa East.

Tofa ALO FULIFULI TAVEUVEU (Anoamaa East): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. According to formalities, I extend my greetings to the dignity of Parliament Assembled. I also acknowledge the support of our listening public from all corners of Samoa. I also greet the heads of Government Ministries and Corporations because if it were not for your dedication our Country would not reap the benefits from our developments.

Mr Speaker, I believe that most of Upolu suffered the wrath of the cyclone. I also believe that the response Committee did not take a backward step in ensuring the worst affected areas were restored to its former state even if it meant braving not only the weather elements but also exhausting long hours. I also thank companies that provided foodstuff for those affected. I also thank the EPC, SWA and the MOH just to name a few.

Not forgetting our overseas partners and donor organizations such as the Red Cross. I also acknowledge the assistance of the people of my constituency in clearing the debris that blocked our roads after the cyclone. It only took them a couple of days before transportation through my constituency was re-connected.

In reference to our Supplementary Appropriations, I do not have many views since it is not a significant amount. However, I feel sorry for the Ministry of Works in particular since they have a lot on their plate which our available funds can never satisfy. As such, we must be thankful for what we have and place our faith in God to give us opportunities.

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Mr Speaker, I have requests to the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Works. However, with the damage caused by the recent cyclone, perhaps I will raise them next time. As for now, I thank the Ministry for tar-sealing the road at Lalomauga as well as cementing our river that runs through our village. The villages of Sauano and Saletele suffer tremendously from the river that flows on either side of the road closest to the sea which is very hard for vehicles to pass. Lufilufi residents have relocated inland and it is troublesome for them to commute considering the damage caused by the water flow during the cyclone. Even the road at Manunu was not spared and it is covered with many potholes. Our other requests are with you and hopefully by the end of my tenure all our developmental needs are completed.

Mr Speaker, those are my contributions to the Supplementary Appropriations and hopefully our prayers for assistance would be responded kindly by our overseas partners.

God bless the remainder of our proceedings and God guide us in our journey throughout this year. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for Anoamaa East for your comments. The floor is open for any member to make a submission.

I grant the opportunity to the member for Sagaga le Falefa.

Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA (Sagaga le Falefa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Foremost, I greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers. I also greet the Opposition Leader, Opposition Party and Members of Parliament.

I also greet the CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations in attendance. Not forgetting the support of Samoa in its entirety, the dignity to Aiga ma Tama o Tama foi ma Aiga, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti and to everyone from the highest mountain to the youngest child.

I also acknowledge the efforts of the clergy and servants of God spreading the Gospel throughout Samoa. We are grateful that the good Lord has spared our country from the threat posed by subsequent cyclones after Evans and this is a testament to your endless prayers.

Lest I forget, I acknowledge the support of my constituency of Sagaga le Falefa. From Fogaa at Faleula to Toetaufanua of the Malietoa. Susu alo o Malietoa, Maopu a le Tui Aana aemaise lau fetalaiga le Tagata fou Laupa mamalu o le Faletolu. I call on your support while I endeavour to speak on your behalf in relation to the Supplementary Appropriations (No.1) 2012/2013 before Parliament.

I also wish to acknowledge all those involved in the first response team to offer assistance to our people affected by cyclone Evans. I extend my sympathies to families who lost loved ones and families that have become destitute as a consequence.

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Mr Speaker, I congratulate the DMO and the NDAC and to all public servants. May God reward your unyielding services.

I now come to the Bill before Parliament. The important lesson learnt from cyclone Evans is the need for proper drainage. Proper drainage for the Apia vicinity is long overdue as exposed by the recent cyclone and in times of heavy downpour. I believe our government should seriously consider the town area because of the impact flooding has on the business community rendering services for the country.

Furthermore, I support the decision to buy the PFL because of the trade opportunities it will provide.

I also support the new building planned for Radio 2AP because this is the only radio station that we receive its frequency during cyclones.

Hon Minister of Works, I direct your attention to the access road leading to the AOG Church at Faleula in addition to the need to repair access roads for our villages of Utumoa, Levi, Lotosoa, Nonoa and Utalii.

I believe you have receipt of our written requests and we will await your response.

In conclusion, those are our views in support of the Supplementary Appropriations (No.1) 2012/2013. Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker and God bless the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your contributions. I give the opportunity to this side of the Chamber to one of the member's for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Utu Salele.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTU SALELE (Salega): Thank you for this opportunity, Mr Speaker. It is fitting to acknowledge the opposite side of the Chamber to the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Associate Ministers. To this side, I acknowledge the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and members of the Opposition Party.

Not forgetting the presence of the upstanding members of our country leading Government Ministries and Corporations. It is a tradition for Salega not to continue unless the Country is accounted for because it is hard to forget the prayerful support of His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and her Highness, the member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady, the Hon Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary.

I also pay tribute to the ongoing prayers of the Clergy and my constituency of Salega because without your support, my role as your mouthpiece would fall on deaf ears. Not only do I raise our developmental needs but also express our opinions for the good of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, my focus is now on the Supplementary Appropriations before Parliament. This bill is written in the language of prophets.

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I believe you all know the meaning of my statement and hopefully it was written and prepared by veteran prophets and not young and inexperienced prophets.

Development needs for my constituency includes the access road at Sagone that I mentioned in the recent Main Estimates. This access road is vital because it leads to our peoples' plantations. In addition we also call on your help with the roads for Fogatuli and Samata should you have funds to spare.

Hon Minister of Environment we do need your assistance regarding the walkway leading to the beaches at Fogatuli right up to Samata i uta and Samata i tai. These villages are situated on high ground and the poor state of our walkways is a risk to tourists and also our people intending to go out to sea to fish. In addition, these areas are abundant with water sources but I believe that our constituency has reliable water access meaning these resources are yet to be exploited.

I have already told our village elders that a police post will soon be established in our constituency given Salega is at the center.

Our final request pertains to the \$18million appropriation to the Ministry of Agriculture. The reason for my inquiry rests on the promises I made to the farmers of my constituency that a training programme facilitated by the Ministry is in the pipelines. Therefore, when will the Ministry conduct these training programmes? I value this proposal because our people are keen to work the land to assist with our country's developments.

Our Supplementary Appropriations as I mentioned is one written in the tongue of prophets. It was not easy for our side to analyse the bill given its meager amount. Nevertheless, we have also noticed some Ministries returning their unused funds so that it may be allocated to another Ministry. The bottom line is that these funds are not enough given the challenges we now face.

The Stimulus Package incentive is not that effective in my view because of the lack of employees to drive this programme. I recommend hiring more staff because our people are enlisted under this programme and they seldom receive a visit from the Ministry to monitor their progress. My only concern relating to the proposed new building for Radio 2AP is the amount allocated for this purpose. Is it enough? My friends in Tokelau told me that 2AP is the only channel they listen to and it also reaches parts of Tutuila as well. Therefore, a new building is justified but we need to take into account whether the facilities are up to standard and we must also ensure the building itself is safe for those using it. That is why I ask if the appropriated amount is enough.

Now I come to the PFL issue. Is the Deputy Prime Minister aware of the developments that we missed out on because the government has opted to buy PFL?

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MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity to the Hon Deputy Prime Minister to convey his clarification.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Before I respond, I ask the member to give examples of the blessings we missed because of government's decision to buy PFL?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: I will not say Deputy Prime Minister since the government has gone ahead with buying this shipping company. Besides, I hope PFL does not succumb to a similar fate to that experienced by the Agriculture Store which has added more financial pressure on our people in repaying its losses. Things like these are bound to happen.

MR SPEAKER: Do you have anything further to add Opposition Leader?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I respond to the Deputy Prime Minister that the blessings we missed out on is the NZ\$5million for buying this ship whereas, it could have gone into something more useful.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: It is the member for Salega who made the statement Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: To shed light on your incompetence, that is my brief response in relation to the blessings we have missed out on.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Speak to your colleagues because it contravenes our Standing Orders.

MR SPEAKER: I was about to give the order. The member should have responded to the question by the Deputy Prime Minister.
I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: It is apparent that even members on that side are also confused.

MR SPEAKER: In my view, members should refrain from the practice in which one loads the gun and the other pulls the trigger. It is apparent from the recent exchange that the country did not miss out on any benefits. Opportunity granted to the Minister of Finance.

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Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: I take the floor to correct the member who said the Agriculture store has gone bankrupt. This is not true because the government is in the reforming process meaning it could not privatise the Agriculture store because it is situated on government land. This is why the building has been dismantled with the intention of privatizing its assets apart from the land.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member to continue.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: I will move on. My recommendation to the Ministry of Health is to come up with a medical insurance policy to assist our people with the cost of medicine and treatment.

It is a fact that 80percent of medical treatment is government funded as evident by the cheap consultation costs our people have to pay at the National Hospital. However, if we setup a medical insurance policy, our people can choose to visit the public hospital or consult private doctors. In my view, this will save significant government funds appropriated to the Ministry of Health.

Our pharmacy.....

MR SPEAKER: I see the Minister intends to respond and I am sure it would take up a lot of time. Therefore, we will now take our recess and upon our return, the Hon Minister will respond.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its normal recess at 4:43 in the evening.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 5:10 in the evening.

MR SPEAKER: I am of the opinion that members are gathered to continue with our proceedings. I also express my gratitude to members who have managed to complete their submissions earlier in the day. I can see that we still have members on this side such as the Opposition Leader and Deputy Leader who have yet to comment. As such, we will resume with the clarification by the Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: The reason I take the floor is to respond to the direct question posed by the member which is different from a recommendation.

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I recall back in the year 2000, I was an appointed member of the special committee including representatives from NPF and an accountant by the name of Mr. Boyle to conduct an investigation on the possibility of having medical insurances for all employees. This consultation spanned over six months and many positive feedbacks were received from the public. It was initially decided by the committee to cut .5sene from every tala, however, it was not feasible. It was later reduced to .3sene and it still did not cut it. Therefore, it was resolved by the committee that even if this proposal went ahead, the targeted population which is the unemployed will be disadvantaged because employed people have the financial means to pay for medical consultations. This is why this incentive was set aside thus the reason why Parliament has not discussed it.

I was surprised to receive an invitation to a WHO Conference to be held at the end of this month on the theme of “Universal Health Coverage”. A representative from the Ministry of Finance will also participate in this upcoming conference and I suppose it is an attempt to uniform everyone on receiving medication and medical treatment more cheaply. It is good that the member has commented on this issue because it has been a matter contemplated by the Ministry of Health over many years.

The Ministry’s primary focus is NCDs as coined by one of the member’s as the “number one killer” in the country. I support this view because of its widespread ramifications in the Pacific Region. Note to south, it is a common disease among people who do not have the financial means to support a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, the Ministry is devising plans to address this issue in Samoa.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the member for raising this issue because it has fuelled my desire to attend the upcoming conference which I did not plan to attend in the first place. Upon my return, be prepared for I will introduce a bill for us to research. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. To save time, I grant the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the Cabinet Directive back then was made when the Opposition Leader was a Minister of Cabinet. The reason why the plan did not take form is due to Cabinet’s resolution that it would be too costly. Whereas, it was more affordable to have our seriously ill patients undergo treatment in New Zealand.

The Government also plans to hire overseas doctors to conduct major operations at the soon to be opened hospital which is more affordable than sending our people overseas.

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Moreover, the National Kidney Foundation for instance now treats more than 60 patients and the cost is cheaper than sending 6 patients to undergo treatment in New Zealand. The government also decided that medical insurances will only make insurance companies make a lot of money from it and at the end of the day it is fruitless.

We know this from experience where many people opt to discontinue paying their premiums before their policies mature and when problems arise, they do not receive any payment because they have discontinued their policies. It is good that the Hon Minister has decided to take a vacation to the upcoming Conference and it would be an added boost if the WHO agrees to fund our medical expenses. That is why, the government's ideas are the best practice and it is only a matter of time before we can conduct expensive surgical operations in Samoa instead of transferring our patients overseas. This will be an advantage in reducing government expenditure.

That is my assistance on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister, I call on the member to conclude.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the Hon Minister for his clarification and also the Hon Prime Minister for his not so clear explanation.

Nevertheless, when we take over as Government we will do what is right. I now focus my attention on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Let me point this out for your information. Your recommendation is suitable for countries such as America where a single minor operation costs millions. My advice is for you not to jump at every opportunity without thinking thoroughly before you speak. Medical insurances are suitable for countries such as America where a small operation costs millions. On the other hand, our Government is able to cope with medical expenses as part of our assistance for our people.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: Why are you so concerned if we do not have money? We can do it. Mr Speaker, moving on.....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the member is correct. He is correct because they publicized during their campaign that should they become the government they will repeal all taxes.

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Come the next Elections, if the Opposition Leader lobbies to repeal taxes and VAGST to lower the cost of living, you should be the one advising him that it is not possible because if you sever government revenue, how do expect to fund these activities?

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

MR SPEAKER: I am surprised Palusalue for taking offence on such trivial matters. You may take the floor.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The member is a doctor of economics. I believe the Prime Minister is mistaken with other Parliamentary terms but our manifesto included the increasing of pensions. Our goal is for pensioners to withdraw their pensions on a fortnightly basis. That is this doctor's farsightedness.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Unfounded. You said, when you take power, you will reduce the cost of living by repealing taxes and increase pensions. Where will you get funds?

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

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I feel pity for the Hon Prime Minister because he is having hearing problems. The gist of our ideals is to save funds so that pensions can be increased but we did not say anything about repealing taxes.

MR SPEAKER: I again call on the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: We recorded all your publicity stunts in which your driving pitch was to reduce the cost of living by repealing taxes and increase pensions. Our elders contemplated your recommendations and thought of your ideals as very stupid. Our people are educated. Where are you now? You are still on that side.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member for Faleata West.

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Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: A point of order please.

MR SPEAKER: You should not be involved in this argument. I call on the doctor of Economics.

One of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Utu Salele, move on to a different matter, it is my opinion that we continue our proceedings. The member for Faleata West, be patient you are next after the member for Salega.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTU SALELE: I apologise to you Hon Prime Minister for you are the father of the Country. Let us move forward because our time will eventually come.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order, I am not your father. I am also not the country's father because we have His Highness O le Ao o le Malo. If I am your father, that means I have many wives.

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

MR SPEAKER: Sorry Opposition Leader. Allow the member to continue.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTU SALELE: No matter what you say, you are still my father. My concern relating to the Ministry of Environment is the need to conserve our Rainforest and aquifers. A significant portion of this fund should be allocated to conserving these natural resources so that our water sources are not completely depleted in the future. Like the Prime Minister said, the population of Apia will amass the one million mark sometime in the future and it is only fitting that the government negotiate with the Church owning this land so that it may be protected under the Ministry of Environment.

Mr Speaker, I therefore conclude by conveying my support and thanks to the Ministry of Finance for preparing our Supplementary. I also acknowledge the Ministries that did not request funds from these Appropriations.

I also convey my sincere apologies to our people tuning in should some of my statements sound offensive for it is normal Parliamentary dialogue. God bless the Fono.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your expressed views one of the members for Salega.

The opportunity is granted to the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

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Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker.

Foremost, I greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and also Associate Ministers, to this side of the Chamber to the Opposition Leader, Deputy Leader and members of the Opposition. Not forgetting the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly and heads of Government Ministries and Corporations.

I also greet the honorific salutation of Samoa, the dignity to Aiga, Tama ma Aiga, Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua. We are also grateful that the good Lord has spared us from Cyclone Gary that was forecasted by the Met Office. I also acknowledge the prayers of the Clergy because I am sure they prayed for rainfall during the dry season and God responded abundantly.

I do not have much to say in reference to the Supplementary Appropriations because I am a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee that had the opportunity to listen to the clarifications provided by Ministries and Corporations. As the Minister stated, our budget is based on a weak economy influenced by external factors beyond our control. Samoa is not the only country affected by this; we look at major economies such as Germany and the US. Like the Prime Minister said, the US Government tried to borrow \$7trillion to stimulate its economy but that plan has been abandoned for whatever reason and we need only ponder as to where the American Economy stands.

Our Supplementary Appropriation is only \$12.56million and it is taking a long time to debate. Suppose the reason for our lengthy debate is the tendency of members to have their voices heard. In that case, I will use this opportunity to speak to my constituency.

For your information, I have already written to the LTA regarding the road pass at Tiavea which needs to be upgraded to safeguard the lives of the travelling public. This road has deteriorated to the point that it poses a risk to commuters and I have identified all those risks in my letter to LTA.

I believe the Prime Minister noticed six streetlights that were overturned by the cyclone during his visit. I believe that the depths of these streetlights were too shallow and I give the recommendation not to award any more projects to this contractor.

Another request Hon Minister of Works is the widening of the waterway at Le Mafa Pass. The lesson learnt after the cyclone is that mudslides together with trees that fell blocked the drainage causing water to overflow onto the road. Our concern is the continuous damage to the main road caused by the excess water that cannot be contained by the drainage system in place.

There are also villages that do not have water access. My advice to PUMA is to incorporate water tanks as part of the building code to assist the SWA with its water distribution.

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The meaning of my statement is to make it a compulsory element in the building code to have water tanks for families living in areas that have yet to receive running water from SWA.

Another important idea I came across in Brisbane when reading their newspaper is the statistics recording \$11million from weddings conducted at Surfers Paradise. In my view, the deacons and lay preachers such as the Opposition Leader should apply for marriage licenses because it would also be a pulling factor for tourists.

My only recommendation to the Government relating to the purchase of PFL is to convince major companies such as Ah Liki and Chan Mow as well as farmers to contribute as stakeholders. It is an incentive that would benefit this company and ensure an effective trading system is maintained.

Mr Speaker, our villages of Samusu and Tiavea are still without running water. On this same note, I extend my gratitude to the SWA for installing water to Saleaamua. My only concern is that it does not reach the other side. Once this has been done, I will not raise this issue anymore.

Another issue I like to raise for our consideration is the term of Office for the Chief Justice. We have set the tenure for every high ranking post such as 12 years for the Auditor General, 3 years for the Attorney General and CEOs and 5 years for Parliamentarians. Although the Constitution stipulates a life term for our Chief Justice one begs the question as to its appropriateness at this time. What if a person is appointed CJ at age 30? That means he/she will have many years in Office. I hold the utmost respect for our Chief Justice and my recommendation is based on the tendency to set terms for Government Officials, even the Head of State gets a five year term. Therefore, is it necessary to continue with this?

It is time to change since we have recently celebrated 50 years of our independence. We also have the provision in our constitution to amend the constitution by 2/3 majority vote of the House before Royal Assent.

Hon Minister of Works, is it possible to hold a consultation with the residents close to the Vaisigano Bridge? It is important because the holes under the bridge are about to be sealed not only by Juliana Rentals on the other side but also Aggie Greys with their land reclamations. All in all, the bridge needs to be replaced or upgraded.

I believe that concludes my requests and recommendations. I therefore thank everyone involved in the salvaging mission during the flood. I also point out that there were also people that took advantage of the flood to ransack properties such as an incident I reported to the police regarding a group of teenagers taking goods from Salanoa's store.

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Fortunately, the police were able to apprehend three or four of them and it is a call to our police force to be extra vigilant during times of natural disasters as there are people who take advantage of these occurrences to commit unlawful acts.

In conclusion, may God continue to bless you Mr Speaker with the wisdom to lead our proceedings. May He also bless the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Opposition Party with the performance of their duties. I also congratulate members of the Tautua, namely Lealailepule and Afualo who are members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee for briefing the Tautua Party on points to attack the Government as these are the same issues raised during our Committee proceedings. It is a testament to the effectiveness of your meetings. As for the statement made by the Opposition Leader that we as Associate Ministers are scared of Tuilaepa as the reason for being silent, that is not true because our party exercises freedom of speech which is a principle of democracy.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity and God bless the Fono.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to one of the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: A point of clarification Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: The member has concluded his remarks.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I know, I need to make this point.

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Our views are based on the contents of the Supplementary Appropriation which was tabled some time ago. That is why the Prime Minister should be alert at all times.

MR SPEAKER: Even though some of your views are incorrect but I believe having members of the Opposition in Select Committees is one way of ensuring that this Government adheres to democratic principles. I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILLEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Even though I am not ready with my submission, I will oblige nonetheless.

Foremost, I greet the dignity of the House. I also greet the dignity of Samoa to His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and the honorific salutation of the country in every facet.

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We are forever grateful to God for guiding us here this day. Amidst the difficulties and challenges recently encountered by our people, it is true that mankind will always prevail because of our faith.

I also extend my gratitude to the Government and all our agencies such as the DMO for the relieved efforts during the cyclone. Not only did the DMO provide temporary shelters for our people affected but they also provided them with food. As a matter of fact, I see the recent damage caused by the cyclone as exceeding the loss we experienced following the tsunami. And according to the Prime Minister, times such as this is when the Government reaches to our allies for relief, “global funding”.

I am also delighted with the news that the government intends to construct a wharf at Vaiusu. This proposal was discussed in the past when the Prime Minister was head of the Treasury Department but because of politics at the time this plan did not get the green light.

I also congratulate the Met Office for the cyclone warning that did not eventuate. Even if the cyclone is a thousand miles away from our country it is still good to know about it so that our prayers can be answered to divert the path of the cyclone which was the case with cyclone Gary. My other recommendation is for the SWA to exploit the boreholes scattered throughout the country to build standby water tanks should our main water lines be interrupted.

Furthermore, I recommend the EPC to draft a legislation governing **overgrown trees in front of families' homes that affect power lines** as evident during the cyclone with many electricity lines being severed as a result of falling trees. Three weeks before the cyclone and flood, the CEO of the SWA publicized the shortage of water in our water catchment areas, alas, when the cyclone struck these water catchment areas could not contain the significant rainfall suppose it was due to deforestation. Therefore, these are some of the lessons we need to take note of.

On another note, are our public utilities that were affected covered by insurance? If not, we should do so because events such as the recent cyclone will only become a more frequent experience.

Mr Speaker, I will now discuss the Supplementary Appropriations before Parliament. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance because I thought that these funds will further increase our national debt but fortunately they are funds remaining from other Ministries that did not use them.

As for the \$5million appropriated for the cyclone relief efforts, it is not enough. Before we took the Christmas break I raised before Parliament the need for NPF to assist our people by paying out a portion as a dividend. I believe the NPF should give out dividends for its contributors because this natural disaster coincides with the start of the new school year. On this same topic, I recommend the NPF to lower the interests charged on personal loans.

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I have no problems whatsoever with the current administration as I believe these funds are secured and it circulates within the local economy and eventually end up with the NPF.

We do not ask for much. I repeat our previous requests to the Hon Minister of Works for the repair of the access road at Toamua uta. Our people are beginning to relocate inland but those plans are hindered because of the poor road access. Secondly, water access for Falelauniu. It is quite unfair that the new brewery has water access perhaps it is because they can afford it but the people living next to this brewery do not. This is not a new matter and I pray to the CEO of SWA to distribute water because the boreholes have already been drilled.

When I look at the current CEO of SWA, he reminds me of Moses, Moses who hit the rock and water sprung from it for Israelites to drink from. My advice do not hit the rock but make sure water flows from it.

Hon Minister for Agriculture, is there a way we can export some of our sea species overseas? Sea species such as sea urchins, giant clams so forth.....

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member as I give the opportunity to the interruption by the Minister for Agriculture.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Mr Speaker, I thank the member for raising this matter because plans are in the pipelines to do this.

Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Hon Minister. There were concerns that our country would experience a famine following the cyclone but thankfully taro is still abundant at the marketplace apart from bananas which is in short supply.

Secondly, the importation of live sheep, I was a bit skeptical at first but suddenly I have become fond of the animal. Therefore, if the Ministry is planning to import more sheep, import them in their thousands to ensure that the country has sufficient supply of this food source.

I can see that \$470,000 is allocated by the Ministry of Environment to cover internet costs for weather reports obtained from the internet. If we consider the cost of the internet in general, it is too expensive. In a conversation I had with the Regulator, he said that the high cost of the internet is attributed to the "greediness of internet providers". I do not have proof of this statement but I replied to the Regulator that the reason why he was appointed was to monitor the cost of such services. Therefore.....

MR SPEAKER: I grant the interjection by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

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Afioga Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: I believe the four month research by the Regulator is nearing completion. Once completed, our people will witness a drop in internet costs. Be patient.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. There you go, be patient.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: If that is the case, thank you because I was about to recommend buying our own satellite dish to make communications more convenient especially for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

I now relate my comments on the Ministry of Health. First of all, I congratulate the Hon Minister for the many positive achievements for our Health sector such as the soon to be opened hospital. However, during a conference I attended with the member for Alataua West, I was shocked to find out that our country is among the top countries with recorded cases of STDs. I was a bit ashamed to have discovered this fact and it prompted me to visit the doctor heading this division and revealed to me it was true. Therefore Hon Minister, do not to be too concerned with NCDs but also consider addressing STDs and its appalling rise.

I also raise for your consideration the reason why our national morgue was closed for more than three weeks now. I say this because I received a call from a relative one Saturday night informing me that the morgue was closed. That is how I was able to find out about this issue.

Furthermore, why has it taken so long to appoint a manager for our Pharmacy? I say this because we have many qualified pharmacists but they are not given the opportunity. Some when qualified, work for private pharmacies, others setup their own.

MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Health to respond.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: This is the third member to raise the Pharmacy issue and perhaps members are not satisfied with the explanation I gave yesterday. Mr Speaker, once again I take this opportunity to clarify the matter.

MR SPEAKER: I remind the Hon Minister that there is an opportunity for Government to respond. As for today, this is the only member to comment on our Pharmacy and it is my belief that your clarification of yesterday was sufficient.....

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I will move to another subject, Mr Speaker.

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take your advice.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for contributing to our work. I call on the member for Faleata West to conclude.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I now come to the SPAGHL, the special Select Committee. What has happened to it?

MR SPEAKER: To save your time, this is the problem because you do not attend our SPAGHL meetings. The reason why we have not convened is due to other commitments. For your information, we will hold a meeting to discuss our agenda after our Fono for this month.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I now come to the NUS. In a conversation I had with the Dean of Science, he said that the NUS is facing a “dilemma”. You may have come across the vacancies advertised in the Sunday Newspaper for lecturers in the Science Faculty which is a big concern. Mr Speaker, this needs to be remedied. In the past, Samoa College excelled in mathematics and science because they solicited the assistance of Indian teachers such as the Jacobs, Phillips etc. I believe, if we are to do well in these subjects we need to invite Indian teachers and send our current local teachers back to University so they may be well-equipped to carry out their duties.

I second the views by the member for Vaa o Fonoti for stricter measures to curb the out of control behavior of our youth. Ten years since we have adhered to this measure and nothing has changed.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member, I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Can the member give one method?

MR SPEAKER: The member to continue.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Corporal punishment. If the Prime Minister was smacked by Priests in the past, I was also subjected to such treatments. Where are we now? Samoa has become successful because of our disciplined upbringing.

I need not query the PFL decision because it has already been made. This is not the first shipping vessel bought by our government. We used to have the Forum Samoa that was damaged because it went atop corals. Suffice to say, how much money was used for its purchase?

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MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to respond.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Deputy Prime Minister): A point of order. The Forum Samoa was not involved in an accident; the reason why it went atop corals is because of the cyclone back then.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There was nothing in my speech that was corrected by the Deputy Prime Minister because stranded on corals is the same as....nevertheless, I am happy because of the job opportunities available to our people. I understand that the government contributed \$1.48 million; another amount was obtained from UTOS. Therefore, no matter how much we query this decision, it has already been made; PFL is not the property of HRPP or Tautua. It belongs to Samoa. We will all contribute to this venture which is compared to the Poly Blue and Virgin Blue.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: That is the reason why you are involved in Select Committees. You had the opportunity to summon witnesses to respond to your queries instead of enjoying yourselves without doing any work and when we have our Fono you begin to ask questions. Try and do some work because that is the primary reason we adjourn our proceedings so that Select Committees can carry out their investigations.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Individual Voters): Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairman.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: In case the integrity of our Committee is questioned. I assure members that we conducted our investigations such as calling witnesses from the Ministry of Finance to explain the PFL deal. All our queries were answered by MOF and I believe it is just the tendency of the member for Faleata to seek further clarification but he was present during our deliberations.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your clarification. I grant the opportunity to the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I correct the Chairman because he is a big shot of this Parliament. As for the member, he is a small fish no wonder he is vocal.

Tofa LEALAILEPUE RIMONI AIAFI: I feel pity for the Chairman because he is caught by the disease of confusion. The Chairman should note that the stuff I asked MOF regarding PFL were not presented. They only gave the explanation regarding the \$1.48million inclusive in this budget, nevertheless Mr Speaker, leave the matter as it is because I care for the Chairman who is beginning to get sick.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairman.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: The \$1.4million as explained were dividends paid to shareholders. Our Committee were also made aware of the \$2.8 million borrowed from UTOS to make up the cost of the purchase. I do not understand the reason why the member is asking all these questions because it is making our Committee look ridiculous.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I will explain it Mr Speaker.....

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: A point of clarification since I am also a member of the Committee Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: The fund included in the Supplementary is not the full amount. This is the reason why we query the Deputy Prime Minister since he is the one who made the decision to buy PFL. He should state the exact amount of purchase, the amount of loan borrowed as well as the amount paid as dividends.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: The boundaries governing Committee enquiries are unlimited. You should have summoned heads of Government Ministries to answer your questions. You were given a vehicle to “spy” on us but it appears you are not good at it. Why are you acting this way?

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Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: What is your issue the member for Gagaemauga No.2?

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: It is the vehicle mentioned by the Prime Minister, the Opposition Leader keeps his vehicle to himself.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I pray for another eleven vehicles for the Opposition Party.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: That is why the vehicle has six seats.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to conclude.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I hold the utmost respect for our Chairman. However, a point of order, the amount borrowed from UTOS was to pay off the outstanding amount owed to SSS, in case you think I am stupid but I am not. Leave it as it is, I though the “deal” would go down similar to Poly Blue, Virgin Blue and others.....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I advice the member to calm down, he is losing breath at a rapid pace making us more confused. Calm down.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker, I am preparing for my next fight meaning you are next in line.

MR SPEAKER: I advice the member not to challenge the Chair. “Don’t ever, ever lui me.” Even though we jest about I feel it is necessary to give this ruling. The reason why there is so much commotion over this issue is due to the lack of information collected by the Committee. Our *Standing Orders stipulates the ability of Select Committees to summon any information including figures.* This is the reason why the Chairman and the Committee member have different views because they did not obtain all the information relating to this matter. Let this be a lesson for the future.

I call on the member to conclude for your time is up.

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Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I will no longer speak about the Committee issue. I thank the Chairman and your word of advice Mr Speaker, our Committee is not negligent. I apologise to the Hon Chairman; “you are the best Chairman ever.”

The Deputy Prime Minister compared this venture to Virgin Blue. Does he understand how it would be done? It wouldn't be easy. It is not like we call for partners and automatically we get partners. I understand that people from the IFC were asked to draft the deal because of their knowledge. I also know for a fact that the Prime Minister is aware that there were members not happy with this but luckily they were able to reach a consensus thus we have bought this Shipping Company.

Deputy Prime Minister, all the best. Should you need assistance, give us a call.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: In response to the member, the Government is still open to suggestions. We have companies expressing their interests to become stakeholders. As for the time being, we are in negotiations.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member, your time is up.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Suppose our Leader will cover this issue in his speech.

My other point relates to WTO and its implications for us. It appears that major countries producing goods have subsidies on their products. In my view, there are good and bad effects. The good one is that it makes goods more affordable and the bad news is that it causes a disadvantage to our local businesses as the goods manufactured in China are cheaper, unfair competition. Secondly we have the Immigration Act which stipulates that foreign companies can only enter the country with three personnel only, including the CEO, Financial Controller and a technical person with the labour force comprising of our local people. What is the situation now? We have foreign businesses bringing in its labour force at the detriment of our people. Therefore, I urge the responsible Minister to consider this issue.

To conclude, we are in the preparatory stage for the new budget, we noticed imported vehicles.....

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

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: If you consider YAZAKI, they bring in their own people to handle managerial designations with our people providing labour work together with those who have been promoted to management positions. That is the overall model we are trying to emulate.

It is good advice and I assure you the Ministry is doing its part in case the people are misled into believing the Government is not doing anything.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Prime Minister. The member to conclude.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: As I said earlier, we are preparing our Main Estimates and it was noted by our Committee that Ministries proposing to purchase new vehicles always prefer the four wheel drive double cab type. CEOs and the Ministry of Finance should consider using two wheel drive vehicles and smaller cars such as the Suzuki to run simple errands, not only it costs less to maintain but it does not consume a lot of petrol.

Another matter.....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker,

MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: That decision was made a long time ago and it is recorded in yellow documents.

I will give you a copy of these yellow documents for your information.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: No wonder, you have yellow copies but we don't. Mr Speaker, one vehicle is not enough, this is not the Kirikiti team for Lepa that travels in one vehicle. 11 Prados would be enough for us.

God bless Mr Speaker and Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your submission. I call on the Deputy Speaker.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA (Palauli West): I once again acknowledge the dignity of Parliament assembled. I also extend my greetings to His Highness, the Head of State and Her Highness as well as the whole Country.

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I also greet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Staff not forgetting the CEOs of Government Ministries in attendance at this hour. I also acknowledge the endless prayers of the Clergy and to any person of my Constituency listening in to our proceedings.

I believe the discussion of our Supplementary Appropriations is the usual process of Parliament. The \$14million Appropriations in my view are sufficient to mitigate the losses of the recent cyclone that preceded the tabling of this budget.

There are two reasons why I support the current budget; one is due to the effective allocation of funds and secondly, it is attributed to the well prepared Main Estimates of June for the current financial year 2012/2013. If it were not for the well prepared Main Estimates, our Government would go to extended lengths to come up with funds to cater for the losses of the recent natural disaster. Because of this, I extend my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry for it was not an easy task. I also support the outputs to Ministries funded under this budget. Members were vocal over the \$1.4million output to make up the cost of purchase for the PFL. I was also in doubt but after travelling to Savaii, I contemplated the time when Ecuador was planning the exportation of its bananas. Not only did they take into account ways to preserve their bananas but they also strengthened their shipping links and trade routes.

I believe MPs from Savaii will support my statement that our taro plantations are abundant. Our government did not invest in the research on the different types of taro without a plan; our government had a vision for it to be exported. Now that we have our own freight vessel and shipping company, it is only a matter of securing overseas markets to export our taro and I therefore congratulate the Hon Prime Minister and Government for this initiative. I now focus on the requests for my constituency. Foremost, I extend our gratitude to the Hon Minister of Health for providing a new vehicle for our district hospital. The only issue is that the double cab vehicle did not come with a hood for the tray which is important to protect medicine during community service obligations. We raised this issue to the Ministry and what we got is that the 2012 double cab was replaced with a 2006 van. My subsequent request is to replace a new vehicle with a new vehicle. If we were given the latest model double cab, we deserve to have a van of the latest model as well and take back the old van we were given in exchange.

I am also grateful for the initiative that has seen doctors come to our district hospital to conduct circumcisions. Before this initiative, our children had to catch two buses just to get to the Tuasivi hospital and two buses to get them back to our constituency after their operations. This is no longer the case and it would be more convenient if the cost of circumcision per child is less than the current \$80 fee which is a tad too high for most Savaii families.

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I thank you Hon Minister for Education for the recent construction of the playing field for the Secondary School at Gagaemalae which is in line with the Ministry of Education's mission to promote sports in secondary schools.

Hon Minister of Agriculture, you spoke on the incentive spearheaded by the Chinese fund to promote the planting of vegetables. We in Savaii are still waiting for this programme to arrive because of the fact that the vegetables sold at the Salelologa marketplace are from Upolu. Meaning, a cabbage originally priced at \$2 is sold at \$6 in Savaii.

Furthermore, we also need to research different types of yams to supplement the diversity of taro we have.

Hon Minister of Environment, I remind you once more of the seawall we requested for Salailua.

After our proceedings yesterday, I arrived at my house and there were people of my constituency waiting for me. I found out that they came to get copies of their birth certificates because the computer system at the Savaii Office had malfunctioned. The process at the Savaii Office is back 20 years ago when searches were done manually. So, if a person urgently needs a copy of his birth certificate, the delay is unfathomable and it is more beneficial to catch the ferry and come to the Apia Office. I understand that the Statistics Office is conducting its ISP and hopefully before its conclusion the computer system in Savaii is restored.

Hon Minister of Works, I once again remind our request for the access roads for my constituency. Only one access road has been repaired in the last 20 years and that is for the village of Foailuga.

At present, water connection to Salailua has taken two months. Last week, no work was done because the road was very slippery. Works are also in progress for the repairing of our water reservoir and I know that electricity is also required for the operation of the reservoir. Therefore, if it meets your budget, it would be convenient to also have electricity access to this area Hon Minister.

I then come to the Hon Minister of Women. First of all, I would like to convey my gratitude to the Ministry of Women for upgrading our independent water as part of the Independent Water Scheme. I must say that there is an air of confusion on the implication of the term "vai tumaoti" (independent water). My duty was to clarify to our people who held the view that being classified as independent water makes it separate from the services offered by the Samoa Water Authority. They thought that the Ministry of Women was responsible for its administration. I told them even if the names are different it is still funded by the government under the Independent Water Scheme administered by the Ministry. And should there be any financial assistance from our donor partners those funds go into Treasury and from there it is allocated to the improvements of water sources in the country through the Ministry of Women.

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I also came across an issue which was raised by my people in that the draft plan in which they agreed upon for the upgrading of water pipes using black pipes was not followed as the pipes that were provided were white pipes. Even the old men from my village understand the difference between black and white pipes. Upon further enquiries I conducted, I was informed by the engineer that the initial plan as agreed was subsequently altered.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, a point of order pardon my interrupting the member's submission.

MR SPEAKER: May it appease the Deputy Speaker, I grant the opportunity to the interruption by the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I thought the Hon Minister for Women would have taken the floor to correct the member. It is just that our constituency also has independent water and it is not under any Minister. There is a Board, with its President; I thought the Minister would have corrected the member in case it complicates things.....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is way off track. It is now apparent that it was a complete waste of time when the Opposition Leader was a former Cabinet Minister. Independent Water is under my portfolio and it is my signature that grants contracts. If I do not sign a contract, it means no independent water across the country would be upgraded. No wonder the people of Lotofaga and Sataoa are misled because the member is incompetent. If they are listening, I urge you not to listen to the Opposition Leader because he is confused. In reference to Independent water, your role is to inform me the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development if a contractor is not doing a good job.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I still hold firm on my statement that there is a Board comprising of a Chairperson and Members.....

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Opposition Leader to allow the Hon Minister to conclude.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: There is no difference between the Opposition Leader and the fish that swims in shallow waters, once injured it becomes restless and eventually flips onto the sand and dies. That is why.....

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Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Speak with some dignity.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: You see? You do not understand the Samoan Language. A fish of the deep is not restless. Those were the words used by our former leaders, fish of the shallow waters flips restlessly and eventually ends up on the sand where they slowly perish. The Opposition Leader does not know this.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Do you recall the comparison Tupua made to your name? Do you remember? Don't speak like that because I hold the utmost respect to your position.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Your traditional accolade is that you are the strong family (Aiga Malosi) but it is now clear you are weak and lowly because you are restless.

MR SPEAKER: I appease both members, there will be no debate. The reason why I did not give you the opportunity is because I know that you will respond later.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: I apologise to the Opposition Leader if he was offended. I also apologise to the dignity of Satunumafono because we have a linkage in that you are the fifth family I look after. I therefore appease the Opposition leader to calm down as I attempt my clarification.

In accordance with your comments Deputy Speaker, the village has a duty to submit the estimated cost of a project to the Corporation. There were issues that happened before when the estimated cost was given to the Board as mentioned by the Opposition Leader. Because of those issues, it was deferred to the Ministry to administer.

That is the clarification; the aim is for the government to oversee all transactions in order to safeguard our country's independent water.

With respect.

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

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: I also point out that the channel of communication is through the Minister and the Ministry should there be any issues relating to Independent Water.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the matter is understood, the Leader for the Opposition. Do you have anything further to add?

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Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, this is not the first time the Minister of Women has attacked me with disrespectful remarks. I therefore pray to you Mr Speaker to order the Minister not to talk to me that way with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Of course Opposition Leader, no one questions your traditional connection with Leulumoega.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker, the Opposition Leader is different from the Minister of Works in terms of common sense. At least his constituency is listening.

MR SPEAKER: Be patient.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: These are the comments I am referring to. I will not respond with water, it is not funny.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the matter is settled. This is not a new conflict, even during the last Parliamentary term up to now these two have been going at each other suppose it is due to their traditional bond. We have an upcoming charity boxing event and I feel that the bout between the Hon Minister for Women and the Opposition Leader would make an enticing Main Event.

Nevertheless, I appease the Deputy Speaker for we have come to the time of adjournment. You will continue when we re-convene tomorrow morning and hopefully we will agree on a date and venue for the upcoming bout.

I convey my congratulations to each member who spoke during the day's course. It is true that there are times when we jest and there are times when we appear to argue but it is all for the sake of fulfilling our responsibilities as the representatives of our Country. I also advice members not to be over emotional in case a member suffers an attack to the nervous system, alas, we have many doctors in Parliament to provide the first response should that happen. As for this hour, I also extend my gratitude to the CEOs for being patient. We have now come to the exact time of adjournment and I call on the member for Faleata East to conclude our proceedings with a prayer.

Prayers.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were interrupted at 7:00 at night until 9:00am on Thursday, 24 January 2013.