

**WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2019**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:13 am.*

Prayers.

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

### **PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Clerk read out Parliament Committee Reports presented to the House pursuant to Standing Order 51(5).*

1. P.P.2018/2019 No. 120, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on Electoral Matters, Petitions and Constitutional Appointments in the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018.
2. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 121, Report of the Economics Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.55, Samoa Bureau of Statistics Annual Report for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2017.
3. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 122, Report of the Economics Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.60, Samoa Land Corporation Annual Report for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2017.
4. P.P. 2018/2019 No.123, Report of the Economics Committee on P.P. 2018/2019 No.61, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2017.
5. P.P.2018/2019 No. 125, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on Electoral Matters, Petitions and Constitutional Appointments on the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2018.
6. P.P. 2018/2019 No. 126, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on Electoral Matters, Petitions and Constitutional Appointments on the Electoral Constituencies Bill 2018.

### **PRESENTATION OF PETITION**

#### **Respectful Petition from Alii and Faipua of Tafua**

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 57(2) the Member will give a brief particular statement on the petition addressing the detailed issues as follows:

- (1) The group of people responsible for the Petition;

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- (2) the total number of people who have signed;
- (3) the actual interpretation of what is contained in the Petition;
- (4) spelling out the requirements of the Petition;

I call on the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa):** Mr Speaker, we duly support your prayers of offerings to our Heavenly Father for His grace which has brought us safely together again today for our parliamentary sitting.

Mr Speaker with great humility I hereby present The Respectful Petition from Alii and Faipule of Tafua to oppose the Electoral Constituencies Bill 2018, signed by 93 chiefs. The desire of this petition is for,

For Tafua to remain in the Electoral Constituency of Palauli le Falefa as initially implemented by the Constitutional Convention on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 1960.

Mr Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 57(3) I move a motion with respect *that the petition presented be read before Parliament today.*

With respect, Mr Speaker.

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

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa (Deputy Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, it is appropriate for Manua to query. I have observed that our Proceedings have kicked off with the reading of Petitions for two straight mornings. I have been in Parliament for quite some time and this is something that rarely happens. I have just asked our office for the Order Paper, as of yesterday, there was no Petition in our Order Paper and it was read out. Looking at today's one, it also does not have it. In regards to our business orders, the question is, how are business like this carried out in our sitting agenda because according to Standing Orders, there is another article there which stipulates the granting of priority to the deliberation of the Budget pursuant to orders of business in Parliament.

Mr Speaker that is what I am enquiring about with respect to clearing the air given the procedures of our work in this Sitting House.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I commend the Member for being observant of the procedures of the Legislative Assembly. The submission of Petitions is scheduled in our orders of business according to the Order Paper.

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Moreover, and second of all Hon Deputy Prime Minister, since the submitted Petitions is not part of our Government Orders of the day, therefore, priority is granted to the tabling and presentation of this Petition before Parliament for a small amount of time, before we proceed to government legislations thereafter.

There is no discussion on any Legislation in Parliament except for the Supplementary Budget. This is what I am trying to highlight. As for petitions being submitted well you understand, and Parliamentary Committee Reports have been tabled. This includes reports on our elections and constitution. Since I feel that, and I do trust that the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Parliament also share the same view, we should not shut down the conviction of the people. Although this matter has been spoken and heard from parliamentary proceedings, public broadcastings, consultations and meeting of members and their constituencies as well as government representatives, the matter at hand has been further elaborated with the government objective to consider every view from time to time bearing the drafting of our laws according to the demands. It is you the dignitaries of the country telling your representatives, “how about two seats for Aiga i le Tai, how about two representatives for this constituency, why not just one election for a single representative”. How about if we have Samoan representatives only and remove the Independent seats. The State is looking at remedies to resolve these issues and to meet the demands of our people in light of the times we are in. Yesterday, a thought came through to recognize the Petition of Saleaula, and the proposed Petition for Tafua today. That is the view out of your mutual respect, but do allow the Committee to sort out these changes from their viewpoint.

The Parliamentary Committee have this morning tabled its report which contains their recommendations. This means the Bill has been submitted but this will not impede as life is like that and Rome was not built in one day. I apologize to the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, your opinion is correct and just, however I feel that in case the public points its finger at us and such is the intention. It is not my duty to clarify, it is only the members who are submitting these petitions who understand it themselves. At this stage it has not been seconded, it can be rejected or seconded.

**Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa:** Mr Speaker the essence of my question is not to object the petitions as provided in our Standing Orders. But according to parliamentary procedures, how we and the public know the orders and matters being discussed in each Sitting is through the Order Paper, it is this notice which provides the orders of business.

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Mr Speaker that is my point, this matter is not officially in our Sitting schedule today. I recommend through your discretion that with regards to our orders of the day, it would be better to note them all in the Order Paper for us to ponder over thoughts and share accordingly according to issues arising from time to time.

This is the purpose of my taking the floor, to understand the progress of petitions in our orders as two consecutive days have passed and still, I do not see this in the Order Paper.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Deputy Prime Minister has risen and you have given a concise notification. Yesterday I was a bit surprised when glancing at our Clerk and it seems as if he was changing gears. I thought then, well with such things there could well be a hitch. I had the same thought as the Deputy Prime Minister. Our business in this House is done through mutual respect nevertheless it is also that respect that brings about errors. We can just continue with these mistakes. However, with petitions presented here like the one this morning, that I will not take lightly. We will not shoot it down immediately no, but we will bomb it when we come to it especially with matters that have already been discussed and have been given approval. Later on I will elaborate on the numerous steps taken by the government for these huge amendments so that this matter is resolved once and for all.

We are approaching 60 years of independence. This issue always comes up regarding two, three, four seats for a constituency. The government intends to resolve this now once and for all. If you have followed the lengthy speech from the Minister of Justice and my clarification, they were very thorough. These were the solutions that were sorted by our Government for Samoa as a whole through this Parliament, made up of matais alone. That huge step has already been achieved, provided by the framers of the constitution, they have achieved one big milestone at that time, leaving us other things to do when time is appropriate. The second step for the government is to rectify this and put it back to where it once was, the trial period is over. For each constituency, there shall be one seat for one representative with one vote, that will be the second step.



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We are now in the final step which will resolve all this until eternity and never again will this matter be brought up in parliament ever again, this raising matter about constituencies, asking for two, three, four representatives. I am of the view that members raising this concern are very reckless in raising this issue in this House. We will let the Committee deal with it. If only these members were not Cabinet Ministers, it would have been acceptable. But they have been Ministers and they are well aware that these matters were dealt with by Cabinet in a very meticulous manner, particularly when all the major measures have been thoroughly sorted. This is no easy feat which previous governments refused to consider. Why? They were afraid to touch fire. But with HRPP we have an expression that goes, despite the smoke no one will burn. These are the issues we are engaged in now, except for a member that when felt, it is Esau but sounds like Jacob. Someone that joins this Party and has no understanding of what we do fails to realize the vision that is behind these long term goals.

Mr Speaker that is how it is, as I said, an atomic bomb will disintegrate these things not a short range shot.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, well the motion has not been seconded. I call on the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

**Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Mr Speaker I rise with respect and I do beg tolerance of the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, I ask for your patience and to get a hold of yourself. I note that Standing Orders 57(2) grants the right of any members to raise a matter as rightfully done.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, Members including the Deputy Prime Minister are amongst the longest serving Members and most senior of Parliament, they are always patient. The reason for us taking the floor is to familiarise new Members on policies. We make it a point to recommend that you take heed of parliamentary practice and procedures. There are only a few of us remaining in the House which is why we always take the floor with intentions that it would be constructive. There have been opinions voiced in the past that need be groomed for the sake of those who will become leaders of this Assembly and this Party. We do this groom thing every single day instead of making it a special event but every day this is done to clarify policies of this Assembly since as I have said that a lot of our exchanges are done with regard to mutual respect which prohibits the implementation of what is necessary.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I respectfully express sympathy to members regarding their views conveyed but this is how we function and the same applies to the role of the Speaker. The moment an issue raises the need for clarification it is immediately done so. I beg tolerance of members with their conviction. It is the reason for the instant lengthy clarification as it would be pointless to give an explanation when that particular Sitting day has passed. It is that very point in which our Standing Orders is applicable, whenever something needs clarification, it must be addressed right away.

I thank the Hon Deputy Prime Minister for noting this matter and I guess our procedures is understood by members.

The question is who... the thought has slipped from the Chair.

*Motion approved.*

*The Clerk read out the Petition.*

“TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA

The respectful Petition of Alii and Faipule of Tafua:

IT IS STATED:

1. We are the Alii and Faipule of Tafua, one of the village for the territorial constituency of Palauli le Falefa since the year 1962 when Samoa gained independence. This resolution was made by the Constitutional Convention on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1962, of which our ancestors whom have passed were part.

As provided by the Constitutional Convention 1960 the division of the district of Palauli and its territory thus including constituencies and the chiefs and orators selected through the Constitutional Convention process whose names are listed as follows:

**Palauli Constituency:**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tualualelei Mauri | - Vailoa Palauli     |
| 2. Toluono Lama      | - Vailoa Palauli     |
| 3. Fiso Fusi         | - Vaitoomuli Palauli |
| 4. Lagaaia Faamaga   | - Faala Palauli      |

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#### Palauli le Falefa Constituency:

1. Afioga Maposua Seilala - Gataivai, Palauli le Falefa
2. Afioga Matautia Ueni - Tafua, Palauli le Falefa
3. Tofa Toala Mulifusi - Sili/Gataivai, Palauli le Falefa
4. Tofa Mauisii Sefo - Papa/ Puleia, Palauli le Falefa

#### Palauli West Constituency:

1. Tofa Tuato Poto - Salailua/ Siutu
  2. Tofa Faiumu A - Taga, Palauli West
  3. Matale Tuugafala - Palauli West
2. The contribution of these chiefs and orators in politics and the framing of the Constitution of our Independent State is conspicuous. We are of the conviction that safeguarding our rights as provided for in the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, was evidently defended by the representatives of our constituency in the Constitutional Convention. Of Samoa.
  3. Tafua is a traditional village with honorary salutations, *Afifio ai Tau Faasisina ma Alaala Matuatala, alaalatai ai i laua igoa matua; Ulu ma Lemaota faapea le paia i le Toiloto*. Considering the importance of the new division made for territorial constituencies as amended in the Bill to Electoral Constituencies, our constituency visited Parliament at Tuanaimato, Faleata on July 2018 to meet with the Parliamentary Committee considering the matter.
  4. The village of Tafua makes up a large area of Palauli. Not only is that Tafua is within the Palauli district school zones, which also takes in Palauli West, Palauli and Satupaitea. The other important factor is Tafua being under the umbrella of the CCCS administration arm of Palauli.
  5. The main objectives of our village is the safety and peaceful living of our people and safeguarding our heritage which is our land, a constant subject of court battles between our village and Salelologa and particularly the protection of our rights provided in Constitution of the Independent State.
  6. In the 2016 election the ballot roll for Tafua was more than 400 and it could well reach 500 or more. The concern of the village is if a candidate from Tafua wins a future election, it could well raise the land boundaries and the traditional relationship of people.

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This is the pledge of the Chiefs and Orators of Tafua to the dignitaries of this Parliament.

**That Tafua remains part of the Electoral Constituency of Palauli le Falefa as initially done by the Constitutional Convention on the 28 October 1960.**

Most respectfully, we the signees below

1. Ulu Iakopo.
2. Lemaota Ailoi
3. Lemaota Faletolu
4. Lemaota Sione
5. Lemaota Faafetai
6. Lemaota Saeu
7. Lematoa Faletoi
8. Lemaota Faleni
9. Lemaota Falani
10. Lemaota Vaioge
11. Lemaota Siualii
12. Lemaota Kiso
13. Lemaota Aso
14. Lemaota Petesasa
15. Lemaota Toni
16. Fituafau Tausaga
17. Fituafau Peipi
18. Fituafau Loto
19. Fituafau Tuiala
20. Fituafau Filipino
21. Fituafau Ama
22. Fituafau Malotoese
23. Poulava Foaimaua
24. Poulava Lalovi
25. Poulava Soala
26. Poulava Ueni
27. Poulava Lotomau
28. Poulava Amosa
29. Poulava Vaa
30. Poulava Mataio
31. Poulava Aotoa
32. Fagaumanu Toa
33. Fagaumanu Akapo
34. Fagaumanu Molesi
35. Fagaumanu Metai

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36. Fagaumanu Musuai
37. Fagaumanu Pita
38. Fagaumanu Pitoau
39. Fagaumanu Laulau
40. Fagaumanu Toetu
41. Fagaumanu Foleni
42. Fagaumanu Avoli
43. Fagaumanu Maka
44. Laimoega Solomona
45. Laimoega Loaloai
46. Laimoega Upulasi
47. Laimoega Peka
48. Laimoega Sami
49. Laimoega Siala
50. Laimoega Felise
51. Laimoega Fuaiupu
52. Matautia Veni
53. Matautia Malu
54. Matautia Seigafo
55. Matautia Soli
56. Tiaalii Ta II
57. Tiaalii Matauaiga
58. Tiaalii Taufaasisina I
59. Tiaalii Togi
60. Tiaalii Togi
61. Tiaalii Tusa
62. Tiaalii Upulasi
63. Tiaalii Taufaasisina II
64. Pulusau Salevaai
65. Malouamaua Keneti
66. Malouamaua Vaelua
67. Sa'u Feaii
68. Sa'u Sekima
69. Salu Tusiga
70. Salu Taei
71. Salu Leuelu
72. Salu Misila
73. Salu Faiesea
74. Salu Toaalii
75. Salafai Tumanua
76. Togafau Afakasi
77. Togafau Pagama
78. Lefu Peni

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- 79. Lefu Kavana
- 80. Nonu Liuvao
- 81. Nonu Ueni
- 82. Taito Faamatai
- 83. Taito Malu
- 84. Faimalo Talavao
- 85. Faimalo Iefata
- 86. Ili Iese
- 87. Galu Pausisi
- 88. Galu Loata
- 89. Soso Lupe
- 90. Tautiuimalo Valu
- 91. Faiumu Faaiu
- 92. Faalogo Laloata

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 57...  
I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I need your assistance as I gather from the petition that they are in the dark and lack insight of the legislation. They are saying that territorial constituencies are affected. I rise to assure you that it is not the case. The only objective we are focussing on is removing the word “territorial” since it carries with it our traditions and culture. The only thing mentioned is electoral constituency. These are the issues which the respective members of these constituencies should have gone out to explain. It is why these petitions are being submitted inadequately. It brings me to question, what is your ruling on this matter? Are we to allow this petition through the incorrect course and let the committee correct it?

**MR SPEAKER:** My commendations and appreciations, it is my belief also that it is not a simple issue, it has been days in and months gone into explaining this due to the alteration which seems to be misleading. With the Hon Prime Minister questioning the Chair on territorial constituency to electoral constituency. There is nothing to be concerned about regarding our territorial constituencies. For your information, there are numerous understandable examples on this like the dispute concerning the strong family of Safata, with respect. It is the same throughout other constituencies, the oratory group of Tumua and Pule are listening in where it is happening, Leulumoega and Nofoali’i.

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It has happened to Fasito'o and Faleasi'u, Lufilufi and its Six council. What is happening now? Nothing at all is affecting our traditions. As such, it will mean that more work will be handled by the Committee when it has been awhile since we have been waiting for the opinion of Tafua which has just been disclosed this morning. I have been leaning towards the petition from Saleaula as it has been in the air for some time now. I thought I will allow this to go through as I am not certain whether the member for Saleaula will consult with the government again as it has been done so. However, it was noted from the speech when the motion was moved yesterday, but with the petition this morning it is now very clear that the two are quite the same except for a minor factor. Perhaps it is why it was decided not to reject right away since it was too late to do so. As far as the petition is concerned, the view of government is understood and there are two factors presented which is being afraid of the change being made from territorial constituency to electoral constituency. The government is saying it is an electoral constituency. I am of the thought that I can make a ruling on this in order to minimise the duties for the Committee since you do understand that the Committee have been asking for more time on their role as they have an overwhelming part to play given very limited time available. Due to Standing Orders, I have thought that I have the discretion to allow or reject it.

Now that the issue is understood after that clarification, I reject the petition from proceeding further to the Committee. Yes, that is the Speaker's ruling on the petition. The reason being is and I beg tolerance of members. I ask that members play their role of clarifying our laws to constituencies. You all know that there are currently Parliamentary Programmes by government representatives and women representatives which are being utilised to elaborate our role. Retrospectively speaking this did not happen, for it was just the old members going out to clarify things. The reality now is that the status of being a member is held with high regard but do not attend village councils resulting in the villages and constituencies not understanding. Please spread my messages as part of our role is to attend village councils to explain our Standing Orders. I do beg tolerance of the members but that is my ruling on the Petition before us this morning.

I call upon the member for Salega East

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East):** My apologies Mr Speaker but I rise with respect to ask why your conviction has become weakened by the intimidation from the Prime Minister.



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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019  
– second reading debate**

Standing Orders are clear, that is the process in which petitions are handled by referring them to the Committee. Although and I agree that your ruling is final but I am of the thought that such petition must be accepted and moreover, the motion has been seconded. Parliament have unanimously agreed to accept the petition. With respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, point of order. The Member who just spoke has been a Member of the House for a long time and priority must be accorded to the Supplementary Budget. Once your decision is made it should be final. The Supplementary Appropriation has now been put aside and we are considering other matters. I recommend the Chair that we proceed to consider the Supplementary Appropriation.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, my commiseration but the dignity of the Chair rest on this Parliament. I am of the view that to save time, when proceedings adjourned.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2018/2019  
– resumption of debate on second reading**

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, for it has been difficult dictating things so as to satisfy those who should be. After all, your opinion and that of the Prime Minister are both correct in regards to the various views on the Electoral Act and the division of Electoral Constituencies. If somehow they desire to pursue their rights over your clarification you should not sweep it under the mat or carpet. However, since your decision has been made whether just or not, leave it to the discretion of other villages lest they think that I have disregarded to their plea. I am pleased that we have resumed this morning and may I say that our Standing Orders stands correct that once the Budget is considered priority is given to it.

As we drew near the end of our proceedings yesterday, the Prime Minister stated that I must go to the market to shop. My life was the market, I started going to the market at age 5 or lesser than that to sell coconuts, taro and bananas.

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It is why I am keen on these kids going around the streets selling stuff, as this was my life in assistance to my parents, not only in caring for them as well as our schooling, serving the village and the Church. Such is why whenever I see these children roaming the streets with goods to sell, it is for that reason that I have coins in my car to give them as these kids reflect me when I was a kid. I know that most of the members in this Parliament also came through this path. What I do is, I did not say that I go to the market to buy anything, no, what I said was that I no longer buy bananas from the market as I grow my own bananas. So what I am doing is walk the talk by helping anyone I come across, you have to be self-sufficient. If you grew up in a poor environment you must try and generate wealth. My title at the time honourable Speaker was banana seller. A banana seller back then was someone of no regard. Nowadays a banana seller is a wealthy individual and no one makes fun of that person. When I was selling bananas, people made fun of me, why? There was no other choice for me... so I would prepare the umu, bring cooked taro, luau and coconuts to be sold at the market. Other days, I would take the raw coconuts removed from the shell and this is reason why I go to the market instead of going there to buy anything. Last week I was at the market making fun of an old lady selling pineapple punch. I said to her, “how much saliva has gone into this pineapple punch?” She says to me, Tuilaepa has just left and he asked whether people could become sick from this pineapple drink. Now you turn up and say whether saliva has gone into the drink. I said to her that is how the pineapple drink becomes sweeter and tastes good.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** We are the same since we both go to the market. A prince came from Britain, I think he was the third of Charles sons. I asked him where in Samoa he would like to visit. He said in particular, he wants to visit the market. Because in a market, it portrays the state of the entire country, if the market is empty it indicates poverty in a country. We are the policymakers where good concepts come from. It is not just the fish market where you normally sit around, you must also visit this market to be aware of the country’s status because if there is food shortage in the country, there will be nothing to sell at the market.

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The statement I made to you was very brief, and that is the picture. The visit I made to our market in Savaii, what is available in the market that you initiated? They only have table tennis tables piling there. You see the worthiness, any launching I attend, I would say, “look at these beautiful roads and this market that is only filled with tennis and potatoes. Potatoes and onions do not grow in Savai’i. The Government is hugely broke from that market, it is a market that you built.

As such, I advise the Minister before you do something, consider these aspects carefully and also make rounds around the country to see these things. If you do not go around the country, you will not see what is happening. That is reason why I go around and talk to people and become aware that the village mayor of Aeau is vandalising Government signs in their constituency.

Now that Aeau is aware due to the rounds I make through conversing with the people. It is good that we all do these rounds and visit the market after that because it is unnecessary to make these rounds if you go to the market first, as this is the place that reveals everything, it is the brief highlight and reflection of our country in the rural areas.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, thank you. I do go to the market to browse. The reason why there aren’t many people at the market is because there are no buyers which consequently causes people to drop their prices. When there is an abundant supply of say bananas, the price becomes cheap. The market and premises stated by the Prime Minister, he was the one who said it to me, when the buildings are constructed, do it for the next hundred years, not for today nor tomorrow neither next week or even next year, it should be built for the next one hundred years. The market is not broke.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recommend that you change the subject from market.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I do not recall telling you that it will be built for hundred years, I do know that after thirty years, this building will be destroyed by termites. What I did say to you is to ensure there is ample space for the public to sell their products. In other words, consider what is available, but do refrain from speaking about the market as you will continue to lose points from it.

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**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, do not build the market in Vaitele, it is looking better.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker a point of clarification. I am puzzled with these two, the market has been built and has made a loss and now they are quarrelling here.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is up to the member for Palauli le Falefa whether to respond to the member as he is breaching orders.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is the problem with sleeping away and all of a sudden wake up. The market is not broke as a lot of money is being earned from playing pool tables including the guys that are drinking ava there. The market is making money instead of loss. The only thing is the minimum amount of products being sold there which should be sold inside the market but it is not broke. In saying that, take heed of your words in the morning.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell:** Mr Speaker, a point of order. The Hon Prime Minister is absolutely right, the market is not bankrupt, we are making a lot of money as this is under my watch. The only thing I wish to correct with the Prime Minister's statement is that they are not tennis tables but pool tables. In case the Savai'i community thinks that tennis tables are set for us to learn how to play tennis. No, it is pool tables that is earning us money, with due respect.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker when I went there they were playing table tennis. It seems then that they play tennis one day and play billiard the next day. So, the Minister makes his visits during tennis and billiard days and therefore, every time I go there, they are always playing tennis.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call on the Member and do change the subject.

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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** No, whether tennis or billiard it is games which is played with balls and balls are used in both games. When the Hon Prime Minister visits well it is a ball, be it tennis or pool it is the same thing. A ball is a ball. I will move on from market.

**MR SPEAKER:** The thing is, Levaopolo will interrupt again, so do move away from this as Olo will cut in.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** The point I made carries the thought that a member does not correct another member. Mr Speaker, the point I was trying to make is that there should be ample time for working people to go home and spend time with their families, this will also allow them to plant a banana, taro, yam or any other useful products for the family. Who knows this could be one avenue to minimising violence in the homes, on children most particularly mothers and fathers. The other point Mr Speaker is that we are now discussing wages for public servants. I appreciate the State's initiative for this wage increase. There are factors which must be considered, it seems there is a disparity in the public service salary grading.

With principal levels, Ministries are on different grades whereby some are at \$45,000 and others start at \$55,000 which is a difference of \$10,000. But if you look at the job descriptions your honour, there is no big difference. If this was done before we had the reforms, say for instance the PSC, the salary of \$55,000 was reduced since the reforms and the number of staff then was supposed to be 27 or 28. Whereas now, it is 70 plus and the duties/responsibilities have been rolled out like the recruitment process done for Ministries. This is highly inappropriate, the Tribunal was queried on this matter and their response was that they have already given their recommendation to the PSC to reset similar salary grading for these jobs. With respect, the government should look at this and have it back dated or initiate this doing in July of this year.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it may true that you must look at the job descriptions however, you also have to look at the performance. Sometimes a job allocation will take up almost three pages given normal process but in reality, it is the actual outcome of the tasks being carried out. Ministries have different roles to play, there is a huge difference.

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Looking at it thoroughly, there are steps for principal officer level say from three, four, five until it reaches a maximum level. All these steps depend on your performance. That is the nature for these job structuring. The PSC in their reports is well aware of the performances of these people in various sectors including these steps and raise. This is not a contemporary concept, it is an old practise and I have touched upon it since this is how salaries differ. It stems from the steps now in place and the numerous duties being carried out with integrity. Mr Speaker, PSC decisions are not based on one single policy in terms of salaries.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I further appreciate the clarification from the Hon Prime Minister. This is a very good explanation but it is not implemented. I say it is not practised considering the high staff turnover within Ministries, it is very high, even with the principal levels, due to the fact that there is no possibility for a CEO to make a decision on this very issue. This is rightfully what should be done, raise the salaries of principal officers.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I feel that it is a very disrespectful statement towards those at the helm of Government Ministries implying that they have no imaginative vision. I disagree.

Those in charge of Ministries are well educated sons of Samoa who went away on scholarships, graduated and have returned with degrees. They have also served the government for many years. The perspective of foreign Governments granting us assistance is that the implementation of duties by our public servants is very high. In comparison to other Pacific island states, the performance of our public servants is far above. Whenever a Chief Executive Officer post becomes vacant, it is a very competitive affair because of the high number of candidates armed with degrees and the majority of them are eligible and experience. The contrast between candidates is a very fine line, like the thinness of a shaving blade. That goes to show the profoundness in eligibility, experience and the degrees within the service. So whenever people apply it is very rare to come up with just a single person. There are many of them, and in some cases more than ten people apply. Mr Speaker that is the clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well said. I advise the Member for Palauli le Falefa to address another matter so as to save his time.



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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The state of principal level has already been clarified, anyhow my appreciations to the Prime Minister.

The other thing I was looking at is contracts, particularly for school principals and vice principals. Their contracts are for three years, so for three terms that is nine years which means you have three end of contracts benefits. If changed to five years, that means you will receive two end of contract benefits from the government which I think is best in my opinion. It is best to take five years before it is reviewed. It is good for public servants as well as students as it will provide less interruptions during their exams and the likes, but will look into it as it will be cost saving for the government. Thank you.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Policies needs to be explained and that is what the member is referring to. It is not an easy subject as Government has considered it since the start. It used to be two years and was later changed to three and there is another part to this Service which is to report directly to Parliament. There is an opinion that it is best to extend the service of these people and not keep changing it after every three years for it may lose their independence. The overall objective of the State set out in the outset, is to change these contracts to three years to allow the majority who are interested in this post to apply. Therefore, these changes are good for the country at large. If somehow the incumbent is doing a great job there is no reason to substitute that person, especially when Cabinet are up to date with reports from Committees who are conducting interviews for these vacancies. The view of the member is important. There is a high number of our children returning home with very good education. That being said, if the incumbents become careless, then be prepared to face other lions at the gate waiting for their opportunity. Ultimately these actions are for the prosperity of Samoa at large with services provided.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker and also the Hon Prime Minister for clarifying this matter. The reason for raising Principals and Vice Principals is due to the difficulty of finding people to fill these positions. There was a time when the number for these vacant positions stood at two hundred due to the delay process of signing these contracts however, the explanation by the Prime Minister is now understandable, still have a look into it. The short time span for reviews is also good to allow the principals and vice principals to concentrate on further improvement for various schools.



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With climate change, this is one feature of the government's manifesto which I strongly advocate since it concerns our environment. There are two things I have observed from 2010, for CO<sub>2</sub>, the EPC had contributed 20% to that whilst more than 50% of poisonous gas was contributed by transport to the atmosphere. Which prompts me to applaud the government for the programmes on renewable energy now in progress and I am aware that EPC has so far contributed 12% of this program for renewable energy. My appreciations then to the government and the Minister. For transportation, more than 50% of poisonous gas has been transmitted to the atmosphere. I am not aware of a programme to minimise this but from what I see, gas emission has intensified from the high number of humps. We now have gas emissions and damaged vehicles. Take the hump at my village of Gataivai whereby people on a bus from Salega ended up receiving cuts to their heads when the bus goes over this hump which is very high. Even the hump at Falealupo as I too make my visits. I also travel to Aleipata and have noticed the multiple times the bridge before the road towards Lotofaga has been built, one of these days a car will plunge there killing people. I do not know whether the road at Tiavea has been done, the bend there, without the hump on the other end to protect passing vehicles, your car will go downhill. For us it is good because we are aware but for the tourists, if they go in the dark, they will surely fall there...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, do you remember Faumuina, we were the ones who initiated these humps that has resulted into heaps of them being installed around the country with one main objective, to save lives. So even if the cars are in bad conditions, the utmost concern is to avoid cars from excessive speed. You do recall that close to three months period had been undertaken for your team to be trained in erecting humps in accordance to our demand. Henceforth, whenever you see the humps of Savaii becoming too high, come and see the Minister about lowering these humps as there are still far too many speedy vehicles. I feel that these humps should be elevated higher to avoid buses from going into accidents. But do consider them still and do not withhold any good advice.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member. You have two minutes remaining.

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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. We only did four humps, and the reality now is that they are being installed on the main roads everywhere else. The hump next to the Minister of Works store was a job well done. If only all the humps were done like that. The reason why these humps were erected is to slow down vehicles and to stop at a store to shop.

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

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Mr Speaker, I do not wish to interrupt the wonderful remarks from the Member but he has mentioned my name regarding humps which were done for the safety of the public. The reality is that it is good to have them in front of schools and businesses which the public are striving to develop.

With regards to humps, I thank your Committee for submitting humps; I will set out to oversee high speed humps and readjust measurement as required. I am not certain about the speed humps in Savaii, but as the Hon Prime Minister stated, they were constructed for the safety of the public. Recommendations made in relation to speed humps have been accepted. Thank you.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Hon Minister, do not listen to Faumuina's suggestion, but have regards for the safety of the general public. If the humps are too short, make them twice or three times higher. I am most hugely cautious of these buses given the highest number of fatalities produced by speedy and reckless driving. So, sit tight and do not be concerned of the hump in front of your place. The turn in cars do not slow down. To save lives, make sure to elevate these humps higher. Prioritise the security of the public.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member to continue, and move away from bumps.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATITA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker and also the Hon Prime Minister. What I am saying is, the hump on that side of the main road was done really well. Where would you see a hump at a bend?

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I asked LTA, and they tell me that they are only on straight roads. I said, what about the hump on the bend further up? They said, that hump is to slow down cars before reaching the one further down in front of the US Embassy. But thank you. For the information of the House...

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

**Afioga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker perhaps the Member is speaking on the state and surface of humps. I do accept the recommendation from the Hon Prime Minister that the LTA will be instructed to lift these humps higher. With greatest respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the Member for Palauli le Falefa to conclude his speech.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker our hosting of the South Pacific Games gives me much delight. I guess the Lord knew that the South Pacific Games will be held here again. Loau and Alai'asa were my trainees, they were my students and we will be using them again for these games. These gentlemen are big fishes and my commendations for the games that we will be hosting in July 2019.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call Alaisa since you mentioned his name. I call the member for Anoama'a East.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoama'a East):** Mr Speaker I see that the member is wrapping up his remarks and again readdressing this matter with us being his students. I ask that such comments be withdrawn from Hansard. No, our schooling days are over, we were actually assisting the Minister when he was in charge at the time. Despite the major loss on the 2007 games, we were able to render him support at that time. Thank you.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** I thank the Associate Minister, the man is a popular Auditor. For the information of the House, the remaining balance was \$8 million. An additional revenue of \$3,500,000 was submitted to the first Supplementary 2007/2008. \$8,400,000 was left from the games of which \$3.5 million was allocated to make up the Supplementary Appropriation 2007.

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\$4,900,000 was given back to the Ministry of Finance to cover the remaining payments for contractors during the South Pacific Games which officially closed in December 2007.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. The time of the Member is now over. I feel that...

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** Mr Speaker it has been mentioned that I am an Auditor. This is the Minister's interpretation of unused items in the budget, but these are not revenue. Every Samoan knows that the games was a massive loss. Things are handled differently, now I am talking about existing tangible things that were a loss. He is talking about things that were allocated but were left unutilized and were used for other things. That is the difference between Auditor and rambling about overriding what we do. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member, I call on the Hon Minister of Education, perhaps another loss will come from there.

**Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Mr Speaker, well my name was mentioned by the member. I stand to correct him and second him. Yes, we were trained there at the time, it is absolutely right. We then embraced the good things and relinquish all the bad stuff. We are currently engaged in the preparations of the games upholding the good things we were advised about, discarding the bad stuff. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The time for the Member of Palauli le Falefa is now over.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** I will not respond to the unfounded statement from the Associate Minister, since the Chief Auditors Report will tell you that there was no loss with the Games Authority 2007. My appreciations to the Minister and Prime Minister, and for the opportunity given, there are some issues but will leave it for another time as God is full of days. To my constituency, I thank you for your support. I wish you a great year and a happy New Year to the few villages that I was unable to reach out to during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

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I applaud your support, patience and perseverance in your duties for the village, church and the maintenance of our constituency. I wish you a happy new year. I extend the same to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the dignitaries of this side of the Chamber, the opposing side to the Government. I am so happy this morning seeing the cheerful faces of people, although the issues we are debating are serious but we are happy. The Holy Bible says “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”. May we have a fruitful Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the lady Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1 West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to Faasaleleaga No.1 West to speak on the Supplementary Appropriation 2018/2019 tabled.

Before I do so, may I say that I do endorse your invocation of the Holy Spirit in your engagement of conducting our proceedings, especially the presence of his Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Minister, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and members of this Assembly. I extend greetings and my well wishes for this first sitting of 2019. I believe that this will be the first time I will convey my condolences to the constituency of Faasaleleaga No.4 and the wife of Pa’u for his passing. It is God’s will and not anyone’s. It is our hope that consolation be upon the wife, constituency and family according to the sacred calling from God.

I also extend greetings to the CEOs of Ministries and Government Private Enterprises. Lest I forget, the Clerk and staff of the Legislative Office who are serving the Parliament. I humbly greet Le Ao o le Malo, the Member of the Council of Deputies, the Chief Justice and Judiciary and all of Samoa and Holy servants of our country for their prayers upon Samoa and the works of this Parliament.

I take this opportunity to greet our overseas partners who have greatly assisted with the development of Samoa. I convey sincere gratitude and pray all the best for this New Year.

Mr Speaker, if I may say just acknowledge my constituency, although I am seen on the daily basis and we pass each other yet we do not officially meet. Today I greet you and acknowledge your ceremonial addresses. I appreciate your support, and I duly extend my well wishes to the Clergy praying for our wellbeing and Samoa in general.

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Mr Speaker I would like to make a brief contribution to the supplementary Budget before us. Firstly, I like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for his superb distribution of our minimal financial resources. Sound financial management will ensure the resources we are able to collect meet all our demands. I know you have all received the wonderful report from the chairperson of the Finance Committee and it does show the impeccable work being done. I applaud your work, but would still like to share some recommendations for our role going forward. I do appreciate the fact that you have increased the pensions of those of us in our twilight years.

Despite all that, I did hear comments about our pensionary benefits for us travelling to and from Savai'i. If somehow a person decides not to use this discount when travelling, I ask you to please not remove it, for it seems that it will affect people residing in Savai'i. It is us making use of this benefit and for good reasons, regarding families, church and government elected appointments. Therefore, if in the future a large amount of appropriation is received for pensioners, do not remove the free travelling of pensioners on the ferry boat. It is fitting to look into other avenues in implementing this service when the resolution on drugs medicine is being overused and abused by certain people. This is the chance for me to relay the views of certain people whom have shared with me the desire to voice their thoughts on pension. This thought mostly concerns those who have served the government or State-owned enterprises for a long period of time and have paid taxes and should retire when they reach the pension age. However, they receive the same pension as those who did not pay tax. We are of the thought that they should get slightly more since they have assisted the government development through paying taxes.

The same concept applies to the Accident Compensation since contributions and levies are being deducted by the NPF for accident compensation. It would have been understandable if along the way one becomes sick or is involved in an accident which will require this contribution, but the majority of those who pay taxes they go into retirement age and are unable to get...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the matter addressed again by the Member is very important and thought provoking for other members.



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The Hon Minister of Finance has given a brief response about members being motivational. Moreover, you are constantly watching television, and some of our elderly men and women being influential, possibly brings about changes that could be adopted because once that happens, we must look into it. But everything depends on capital that is gained. At this stage, \$18million is allocated for the pension and is no small amount. As heard, the role of the Minister of Finance and Minister for Revenue has not stopped in seeking avenues regularly to procure capital as under these circumstances, we do not rely on overseas countries. We rely on ourselves and the importance of this debate is such that the beneficiaries for this matter will hear and understand that the purpose of this scheme is to grant them a modest assistance.

However, what I am hearing is that, they are coming across as that it is not enough to care for the children. That was not the purpose of the pension scheme but a mere support. But this seems like a dependency source for children and their children and grandchildren. That was not the objective of the pension. That is the significance of inspiring statements, for it allows us to reconsider whether to increase it. The Minister disclosed to me that the other possibility was to raise the eligibility age to 80 or 90. I am a pensioner myself but do you see me walking crookedly? I feel like I am only 20 years old rather, I am close to 75 years of age. In saying that, people at 75 should not be on the pension. But it is useful to be thought provoking, for when an opinion is raised, we then look at the \$18million. What shall we do then? Let us seriously look at these factors, as we now know how the member feels. This is why I am responding, these are not easy topics, particularly when another member spoke yesterday on children's schooling which are all being raised. The norm we are all used to is that parents provide the fees for their children. What is the case now? They are all looking towards the government. Why did you have so many children? Then depend on the government. I was sent home twice and so I went to my father to collect my school fee and my old man did gave me my fee.

Nowadays are different, but parents must do their part for their children. You all heard a lady member yesterday going on and on about the salaries of pre-school teachers when the government does not cover all that, it is the role of church organisations within villages. That is their responsibility. I think the government is forking \$14million assistance on that. Just look at the multiple things. \$14million for schools in the rural areas and \$18million for the pension.



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That is the state of things Mr Speaker, with one source of capital which comes from the collection of excise duties and tax, it should not be other people paying taxes for these purpose whilst others sit around. Mr Speaker that is my additional remarks.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Hon Prime Minister is right, for it seems that those who bore the most children are too lazy to pay the kids school fees. I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for elaborating my opinion. But as with most things, it is thought provoking. Hence we will leave it up to you and the Cabinet to implement what is appropriate and what should not. The only thing as he stated, why increase this many children, again, I still recall your old statement to our women to have more children to increase the population of Samoa.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** That is true, but what I was referring to is to increase in the number of people to play rugby. That is the difference. The question is, how many are there in your rugby team?

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW:** Will leave that to a mother and her capability. Mr Speaker, if I may continue my remarks on ideas which we can share on. I have heard and notice the incidents occurring in bars involving securities who should be responsible for the safety and security around these public places. I guess it is the Minister for Labour which I should be addressing regarding this point. I wonder how he feels but I think it is time that the experience and eligibility of those working in these jobs should be looked into. From what I hear, they are the ones instigating these incidents, on top of the actual skirmishes that occur around these places during the gone holidays that has resulted in the loss of lives for some of our sons and daughters of the country. It is a suggestion.

I would like now to address the topic of environment which we have placed emphasis on in every Siting. I applaud the Lady Minister for the foresight on the use of plastics and straws available in stores that are disposed of, pardon everyone. I will now come to the use of plastics into flowers which is popular in funerals. It is cheap but leaves behind a lot of rubbish which cannot be decomposed nor buried under the earth.

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I feel that we should cease the importation of these plastics in contribution to plastic banning in the country as I feel that this would be an encouragement for those business people who are making bouquets to make good use of the pandanus plants. They are so beautiful for not only are they affordable, they are also found everywhere. If we compare the two, these plastics bouquet cost around \$400tala and are only good for that brief amount of time. Afterwards, it becomes worthless filling up the house taking up more space. It would be best to give \$400 straight to the family to be used for a funeral of a loved one. Some of my community now serve their bbq in woven coconut leaves and no longer use the white plastic plates.

The feedback from people living overseas, it is wonderful to see the “mailo” being used again. It goes to show that we still place value in our way of life and it is beautiful in the view of the people that is no different from our custom and traditions we are familiar with.

Mr Speaker those are my recommendations for the Prime Minister and Cabinet to consider. May we have a constructive Sitting. Soifua.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I beg tolerance of the Member for Salega. We have now come to our usual recess hour. You will have the floor when we resume proceedings. I thank the Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West for the speech.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will now be set aside for normal recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 10:45am until 11.45am for usual recess.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed with the second reading debate of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I believe Members have found strength to resume our work. I thank you all for your patience. As earlier mentioned, I call on the Member for Salega East to start off this part of our sitting.

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### Motion to Change Sitting Hours

I beg your pardon, I call on the Hon Prime Minister for a motion, I call on the Leader of the House.

#### MOTION TO CHANGE SITTING HOURS

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I am grateful to the Legislative Office for the refreshments provided for the dignitaries of Parliament for they have regained strength to continue our duties. But I rise with respect and the intention to advance our tasks. I move a motion that *we continue our proceedings tonight from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. As for tomorrow, we shall recommence at 9.00am and conclude at 1:00pm so we can attend the funeral service of Afioga Pau Sefo Taumata Pau. We shall reconvene on Friday at the usual hour until 1:00pm.*

*It will depend on the progress of our work which may be extended due to long speeches. If by then we need to sit at night time, we will do so on Friday from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. If we still need to meet on Saturday given that it has taken a long time since we last had a Sitting on a Saturday. Back in the day Proceedings progressed to Saturdays, we shall then continue on Saturday but we shall see to it and the progress of our work. This Sitting is to deliberate a modest Supplementary Budget and if members wish to use it to gain political points, by all means. The only thing is that you may not gain points but lose them. May we have a constructive Sitting.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, the motion has been seconded as voiced by the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister.

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.*

*Motion approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I respectfully call upon the Member for Salega East for his remarks.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe Mr Speaker you have already voiced our praises to the Lord, we are all gracious for his love and kindness upon us. If it were not for his guidance we would not have such a fine day in which we should all be thankful for.

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Sadly, Mr Speaker and we accept that the will of God is beyond anyone's understanding. For the Lord has sovereignty over us all. Regretfully one of the strong post of this Court of Samoa, my beloved friend which we share ideas at most times. Let us all wish him with the same prayer that his final journey will be blessed. I say this with the respect to his status of being the representative of the constituency. My condolences to his good wife and children, and the respective constituency.

Mr Speaker before addressing the subject at hand, the State's Supplementary Budget, I take my modest being to accord the will of my constituency in all its honorific salutations to convey our commendations and appreciations for the previous year gone and the years before right up until today for the responsibilities in which the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and our government have engaged in. I applaud your courage, resilience and obligations done for the prosperity of the country. Despite facing adversities and the growing problems encountered but challenges do serve a good purpose. For it is a test of a navigator who is prepared. Such obstacles is a breeze to the skilled fisherman and the intelligent huntsman.

Mr Speaker with this New Year, I will mention the usual adage that the road to prosperity is narrow and the strive for progress is not easy for the country rendering support. Now and then, we are filled with the desire to provide plenty for the country. It is the recommendation of Salega East that you exercise caution. Knowledge has obviously spread with new technology in this modern age. For there are countless ways that our lives could become at risk and also the public at large reflecting on the freedom and happiness that must be maintained for our people. I wish you well Hon Prime Minister and the State.

I will take this opportunity to congratulate the heads of Government Ministries and Organisations on your roles to developing the country. Your task is not easy. But honestly Mr Speaker the rewards for the faithful will follow. I will especially congratulate the newly appointed CEOs who are now entering politics. You will experience dizziness right through, but I advise you to have patience. To Leasiosio, well your name means strong tornado and we will be working together. My suggestion to you is that whenever the Prime Minister and Cabinet tries to apply force to you then apply the tornado way when doing your job and do whisper to me as I said, we will be working together.

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I will also take this moment to greet and applaud the Private Enterprises for your vital contribution to the country with the revenues which you are forking in year in and year out. You are providing a lot of financial support which is funding a lot of our developments and our long term goals. In the same manner I accord my appreciations to our partners from overseas for their helping hand. If it were not for your favourable response to our constant asking. We have taken the avenue of being poor due to our need to survive. If it were not for helping hand, there would just be one option for us and that is our local banks to loan from in order to implement our plans. I am grateful also to the general public for their support which has enabled us to have all this done. If it were not for the public, the private sector would not been able to function. You are being responsible in paying service fees for Ministries services which are quite high, our government would not be able to gain these revenues.

Mr Speaker, I particularly wish to express gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance for your fair appropriation of the budget. You are small in stature with respect to your status of Minister, but I take my hat off to you for your distribution of this meagre amount of funds for this budget. Your only fault is giving more money to Tialavea for his prison that is your only error. But will leave that to you.

Mr Speaker this constituency records its appreciations for the increase in our usual revenue. I applaud Tialavea and his Ministry for collecting this money. The progress of our economy is also noted, and I thank you. What do we do now, well we return praises to our Lord for the offerings. Mr Speaker, this constituency feels that this is not the entirety of capital we should be receiving each year. A lot of money is wasted due to our negligence, greed and recklessness and I am being straight up...

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** A point of Order. I have noted that the Member has no regard towards the CEOs of the State. He has ignored them. No the correct word has been accorded to the Government CEOs of more than 30 to prove their integrity. You have been a member and have been engaged with the works of Parliamentary Committees for a long time nonetheless, you seem to be disregarding the huge role of the CEOs of the State.

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Secondly Mr Speaker, your remarks on the prison is ambiguous. You do understand that this is how projects are carried out, however, the problem is you were not a Minister. You do not comprehend these things. When a project could not be completed within a year, it will be carried on the following year. No project can be left incomplete, it has to be carried on and until it is done. This prison has become inadequate for a long time simply because of the prevailing crimes making Tafaigata rather small. Therefore, we need premises that is secure and suitable in size.

The reason why I took the floor is to clarify how projects are implemented, if it is not done within a year, it is continued the next year. Every project must be completed. The remarks from the member is suspicious. That is the correction.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member but if I may convey the recommendation from the Chair. The Leader of the Government has spoken, and I am of the same view. Do direct your remarks towards the members of this Assembly and Ministers and not towards the government employees as they cannot respond to the contents of what you are saying. Voice your statement directly to this Parliament. I call the member to resume your remarks.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you for that statement, after conveying my gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, I will then acknowledge the Government Heads. He may have missed it anyhow I will...

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I did not slip it, still, you are speaking directly about this matter. Do not mention the names of those who are unable to respond to these matters, I have been listening attentively and there is normal saying of the country that goes, ‘*E i ai e faalele, e i ai foi e matau*’, ‘there are people who talk and people who observe and take note.’



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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, we have been...member do listen up, those politics are old. Direct your talk according to our deliberations.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker as I stated earlier it is out of compassion that I am being blunt. Whatever stage our endeavours get to will not reach the destiny unless we go back to fix problems that maybe.

Mr Speaker last year was a standout due to the many problems noting one Government Ministry after another. If I may put it in simpler terms, it is human weakness.

If are to talk about Parliamentary policies and Government policies, corruption is something that is stemming from within the Government.

Mr Speaker that is the truth, there is no...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the reason why I am taking the floor.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The Member is far too much, he is rudely making too many baseless statements. Your application of these words. Why do you not harp on about these comments? What corrupt are you talking about?

This is the nature of this member since the start. Everything done by government is never good and that is why you were placed in that Committee, for you to observe and submit your recommendation. It does not mean that when a vehicle is crashed by someone then you say that it is corrupt. Do not get into the habit of throwing words around when you do not understand them.

Mr Speaker this is why we have the auditors and lawyers, to charge things like this to the Law. Our policies are safely intact. The view of those living abroad is that there is no existence on things like this.

Mr Speaker there is an element of irony here, and it is the same with the big article he put in the Observer about the Chinese flag making a mockery of the construction of the Sports complex. There are six flags hoisted there and he went and grabbed the Chinese flag only. What is wrong with that?

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The flags of these countries have been hoisted to acknowledge their assistance. You go around and criticize this and that yet we are receiving worthwhile assistance from them for the children of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, this Member is very good at criticising others when he should really look into himself and what he has done, have a look at yourself and the businesses you operated at the State's major complex in Tuanaimato. The families around there were so unsettled with the noise coming from your business which made them unable to sleep. It is better that you look upon yourself rather than joyfully making a mockery of others when you have loads of faults. The corrupt of the State is when problems arise and no remedies are made. That is the correction. Do not enjoy accusing others when you should consider yourself first.

**MR SPEAKER:** I guess... pardon the member, the role of the Chair is to advise statements that are ironic and redirect them to the right track. Do not get out of hand citing the country and the public servants mentioning their names after all it is protected in Standing Orders. It is prohibited to cite the names of public servants as they cannot respond to the member's statements.

As for unfounded remarks, you can be asked to table these as stipulated in Standing Orders 83 which prohibits the making of ironic remarks. If a member is asked to present these corrections but cannot, provisions are then applied. Yes, this could bring about problems which is something we do not want. I call upon the member to present your views in a manner that is simple and favourable to ease your mind. The member may take the floor

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you, I will now give a statement, the country will vouch for this. These will be some of the factors I will talk about. Most of the Government Ministries and Corporations create their own vacancies which are left unfilled. None of the Ministries and Organisations is excluded from this practise in such a way to acquire money for vacancies that remained vacant.

Mr Speaker I added up the number of employees and about 530 vacancies remained unoccupied yet money allocations have already been made for it...

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



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**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow the opportunity for the Government to clarify this point to give us all an understanding.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Those plans are called government policies that vary. These vacancies are severally submitted in the Budget when under advertisement, either no one applies or applicants are ineligible. It does not mean the State is corrupt. I doubt you understand the meaning of the word in Samoan. It is corrupt. What is corrupt? Say it, what corruptible ways?

That is why you were placed in that Committee to work there. Stop abusing the opportunity you were appointed in because you can easily be removed from that Committee for abusing the information that could provide good recommendations for the State. For these Committees, they are all bounded by the law by keeping information confidential instead of disclosing them. That is how true information is obtained, those before you are aware about the confidentiality of information in your statements. However, disclosing and publicising information that are inappropriate in regards to your parliamentary-role. I doubt that you read conduct and ethics in our Standing Orders which is what I am referring to. If this is how it is, I doubt that anyone would want to make any more submission to you. The vacancies mentioned is vital, if they remain unfilled due to the shortage of applicants, why then is money being left unused when it should be used? You did not work for the State neither served as a public servant for you to understand these things. You were not a Minister of Cabinet. We need to rearrange and submit any unused money for the Supplementary Budget. The habit of the wise is to reconsider.

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

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker there are 532 vacant posts. This is a common submission for every Budget, money is then allocated to...

**MR SPEAKER:** I advise the Member, the Hon Prime Minister has already given clarification on that matter. We have been Members of Committees for a long time and we are well aware of the policies from time to time.

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The fool or Tuivalea does not exist in those who are organising these programmes for the Ministries. I must advise you that there are laws which binds the committee members to avoid them from making ironic statements in Parliament in protection of the works of the Committees who are working together with the State. I ask the member to move on to a different topic. I advise that the clarifications provided by the Government is final and no one should object to it, and until you become the Prime Minister, then you can do so.

I call on the member to speak.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I will now come to the Annual Reports submitted before this Parliament. Initially we would consider these reports so that the public understands the utilisation of government money by the Ministries and Offices of the Government. Where is that? It was recently being changed during this Term. That is no longer the case, as it is now being handled by the Committees, only five members of the Committee understand these things and the... the rest are in the dark.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this change was made in 1995 when the member was not even part of the House. That is why I say, ask those who came first before you. The practise we had in the House before is that Reports were discussed, they were not referred to the Committees. During that time, Parliamentary Sittings would go on for three weeks. Not long after these discussions were made, all reports were dissolved through a motion as there was not enough time to discuss them. Looking back, I think it was in 1997, the Standing Orders was amended to add more Parliamentary Committees to discuss Committee reports. Before 1997, we had the discussions of all these reports and the progress of this Ministry and that public enterprise for the entire year. But due to the length of time required to discuss the many reports, the government sorted a change within our Standing Orders to include more Committees. Such is reason for this change, as representatives of this Parliament, the role of these members is to read out the reports to the Parliament. That is why you must see through these things and report them back to Parliament.

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With regards to the discussion of money operations, standard and its progress each year and into the future, those are the three main factors that these Committees must take into account to determine whether to earn a profit or loss and attempt to earn dividends for the State. It is the permanent role of our newly established Ministry for Enterprises through the Minister and staff to follow up the companies and those that are making money to contribute back to the government and advise them on areas that needs improvement. You can never understand these things if your conviction is filled with horrifying things. You are only focussing on terrible things missing out on the positive things which is providing advice to improve our developments. Such is the roles of Committees, to implement and report back to Parliament. These Reports are referred to the Heads of Ministries for their response and therefore will be tabled for us and the Committees to review whenever necessary for further improvement.

Mr Speaker that is the whole picture, it would be easier to gain understanding if you comprehend my explanation. The reason why there is a problem is due to presence of devil behind you causing negativity. Therefore, this occurred first before you became a member. You must have regard for these things, the ones who came later must listen to the ones who got here first.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member to continue. I ask that you move away from this matter.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. In Parliament a Member says whatever he wishes to say. One Member does not have to listen to the other. That is how it should be...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker I want to remind the Member that Government cannot leave matters unresolved. The Member has been here long enough but does not understand the point of order and point of clarification. Cabinet is open for any discussion from any member. Therefore, whenever there is a mistake, the State has to correct it.

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

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**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker the Member for Salega clearly understands what the Hon Prime Minister is saying. Remember in those days, after a Committee prepares its report it is tabled and is discussed here.

Nowadays, these Committee reports goes to the Cabinet for their response. Have a look at the Parliamentary records and see how many Committee reports did not get any response, how many months of no response received?

**MR SPEAKER:** I advise the Member that it was like that in the past, the Government did not give any response. Nowadays, the Government is responding to all those recommendations. It is more democratic now. That is the assistance as I have been a member for thirty years now, anyhow, I recognize the State to respond to your statement if it is true or not.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker they have seen the reports and have consequently provided their reports and the government have responded. Who else has higher authority? I do not understand what the member is saying, there is a high number of reports coming before Cabinet and with every Sitting there are reports tabled. Cabinet all agree to take it before Parliament. It will be very hard for you to make a sound speech if your opinion is filled with devilish ways. You will never be able to make a good speech if all you do is make degrading remarks continuously. Look, do not forget that not everyone is stupid. People are observing, the only thing the people are keen to hear from you when taking the floor is because you are a senior member, however the contents of your speech shows how very weak you are. That is the advice, listen to those who are older than you.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister keeps talking about devil. What does that look like? Do you fellowship with that all the time? I have never seen it. Anyway, I will move on to another point, the reason why I am talking about these reports is because there are only 5 members of the Committee, 13 Members of Cabinet and they are the only ones who understand these things whereas, the other 31 members, they have not seen nor responded to these reports.

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

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** This is another reason for sending out the wrong message. I am thinking that the number of members in this Committee is 19 in total, therefore 19 members get to view these reports and support all our works as part of the State including you. I doubt that you understand it. The recommendation is given to the Ministries, 19 members of Parliament who are in this Committee are considering these reports. By the sound of things, it seems like he is the only one looking at these reports. Do not underestimate this Parliament.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** You are number one at undervaluing the country and this Parliament.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member for Salega East, I call on the member for Palauli le Falefa, let us see which one of you has a point of order whether the Hon Prime Minister or...

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker point of order. According to records, there are 23 members in a Committee, 3 Independent members and the Deputy Speaker to make 23 which almost makes up half of Parliament. With respect.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Thank you to the Member, I had only mentioned the members of this Party with the exclusion of these three members. Otherwise, if they are added, then Faumuina is right. Now look at the large number of those who are viewing these reports. After hearing the member it sounds as if he is the only one looking at these reports and the rest is doing nothing. The Cabinet gets to see these reports first before they are referred to the Parliamentary Committees. The instructions from me and the Ministers of Cabinet and the Heads of Government Ministries is that once call is made by any Committee of Parliament, we must leave aside our works and attend to these commitments to give clarifications to matters raised for these are the leaders of Samoa. You see the huge support rendered by me and this Cabinet? Do not hide anything for this State is a State that is operates on transparency and accountability. Do not hide anything Mr Speaker that is the reason hence I applaud Faumuina. I have been sitting here for a while and have been wondering when the rest of you will stand up to explain these things, as members of the HRPP, only two and this one particular member is making attempt to mislead and you should get up and make corrections.



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**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the Member has two more minutes considering your several interruptions. I ask the Member to conclude.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** The country heard well enough that there are three members of the Opposition Side, but I do not know what the other opposition side is called.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this is wrong, there is no Opposition. We do not have an Opposition, only Independent Members. This is the correction.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Member I call on the Member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta (Falealupo):** Mr Speaker a point of order. Pardon me it is not a point of order but point of clarification. The member of this side is not one, for the sake of the country and the Parliament, it is good to understand an issue. Note the importance of our small point submitted, understand it well. Even the Prime Minister does not understand this matter wholly. It is good to share thoughts so we shall resume our listening. Stop your argument and be brief on that matter, thank you.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I did not say that I do not understand, I only mentioned my Party. It does not affect you three. That is what I mean, but the thing is Olo is going on as if he is the only member including you two that understands. I will reiterate my statement that there are 19 Members of this Party in the Committee including three from your side, that is almost half the number of the House that have read these reports. However, when we hear the Member of Salega's statement, he makes it sound that only him and the two of you are looking at these reports when the rest of you are viewing them *as nothing is being hidden by the government, it is all being understood.* There is so much documents on your desks. It is no wonder the statement by Tofilau in one of the Sitings goes, "These piled up reports are close to cascading down killing some of you members" Yet we were able to go through them at that time. That was the time when we were all on the same side with the member for Falealupo. His thoughts were also good at that time. Until he left HRPP, he too became troublesome.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Salega to conclude.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** My time has been wasted on this matter....

**MR SPEAKER:** Does the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 wish to speak on a matter.

**Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers:** Please Mr Speaker, is there a chance. Thank you.

The Hon Prime Minister is right. There is no Opposition side, it is only the Members of Parliament here. We have our people. I move with great respect please Hon Prime Minister to say that I am not on the current speaker's side, however I do rise based on respect, *That five minutes be added to the member to conclude his speech.*

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** How many more minutes? Two? I will not approve this request as his time is up. I have given my instructions twice however, I will still grant the chance according to the motion. I said, if the chance is given twice, and the member does not get up to move the motion then time has passed. Nevertheless, lest the Chair is blamed given your individual rights. I call on the Member for another five minutes.

*Motion was not seconded.*

*Motion did not have the full approval of the House.*

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Majority said yes and one big loud no. However, I appreciate the five minutes, thank you to the Lady Member.

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

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** I will conclude Mr Speaker I have one more matter. I have thoroughly noted the excessive spending on petrol for public pardon the House. Vehicles that needs repairing and vehicles that are secretly hidden after they get into accidents, therefore, so much money goes into it every year amounting to tens and millions. Such is the advice to you Ministers as I am fully aware.



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According to the Ministerial contracts, they all get one vehicle each however, what we see now is that the Minister has a car and so as his wife, son and daughter whilst the public is viewing? The same for you Associate Ministers, you get the same recommendation yet, you have only been here three years for this term. The public vehicles given to you are in poor conditions. I beg of you for we should be the ones that should be setting good examples for the Government Heads and the rest of the public employees that look after these vehicles.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Prime Minister as the given statement is serious.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** There was no report submitted to Cabinet declaring anything like that. Moreover, nothing can stop anyone from submitting such report that denotes any act like that.

There are no vehicles for the spouses of Ministers, the spouse can ride the same car used by the Minister. Vehicles must be driven with care and therefore there is no such thing like this happening. This is why you were selected to Committees, to keep an eye on these things instead of submitting them without any evidence. Mr Speaker that is the reason for my upstanding, I think Faumuina and Olo are both in this Committee, so let me ask Faumuina, are these true?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** I believe the Member has been reading a different report from the one I read. I do not see anything like this.

**MR SPEAKER:** A Member of your Committee has witnessed that your statement is incorrect as there is no such thing. Go easy and move to a different matter.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Our Committee is doing well until the member of our Committee changed sides, never mind, I comply the...

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**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker I suggest that the Member speak with respect. I said that we might be looking at different reports. I do not see any report on car accidents or misuse of public vehicles. Perhaps these reports are given to the Standing Orders Committee. I have not read anything on these matters in the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report even financial statement of the State. With respect.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker there are several matters I want to cover.

**MR SPEAKER:** The time of the Member is now up.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** As you say, my statement is finished. You see, we are called the Opposition side and we are having our arguments here yet, one of us is arguing for that side because that side is looking weak which means it is why we are coming together. Despite, thank you for the opportunity. I wish the Chair and this Parliament blessings. May Olo live as no enemy nor King Fonoti can conquer me. In God's grace, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I commend the member but as I have advised earlier, always refer back to what you say, the accusations made should be done cautiously. The Government will not take such comments lightly. This constant accusations laid against the HRPP is nothing new ever since it was established. One of the Committee Members is also querying the same with the Hon Prime Minister, if these accusations are true. I advise the Members that longing for the fish should not override the net, *aua le naunau tele i le ia ae manumanu i le upega*. Meaning, do not make statements that could in turn affect you. This is similar to the rolling tides nature, it will always come back. Also similar to the saying, *Aua le anu i le matagi, e foi atu pisia ai ou fofoga*. I call on the Member for Aana No.2.

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. It seems one Independent Member is following the other. I take this opportunity to greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as Associate Ministers. I greet this side of the House, the Chairpersons and Members of Committees. I am grateful for the opportunity to voice the opinion of Aana Alofi No.2 on the Supplementary Appropriation 2018/2019.

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Without further do, I will now speak on the Supplementary Budget. It was mentioned by one of the Members the concern for Principal Officers pay grade. The only concern I have on this issue is, if we look at Assistant Chief Officers in comparison to Principal levels, there is a huge gap between the salaries. I do however appreciate the fact that the Government have increased salaries for this term. I am also grateful for the recognition of our teachers in this pay rise although they might not all get it but I believe in the will of God. Everything is dependent on the budget we receive. I have noted that another \$2million has been allocated for overseas medical treatment. No one is aware of when a disease will come. Perhaps this will be beneficial.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Before the Member moves onto another matter I just want to clarify the topic on salaries. The salary increase was implemented to meet the cost of living covering all public servants of the State.

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the clarification given on the matter. As I earlier mentioned the funds allocated for overseas medical emergencies. I am aware that there are a lot of people that need this assistance of seeking medical attention overseas, a humble request why not add another half a million to cap off the end of this financial year 2018/2019. The matter concerning Government major projects, I thank the Hon Minister for the road of my constituency. Even though the request was submitted a long time ago I am thankful that it has now been met.

Other requests of this constituency have already been voiced to the Ministers. Before I conclude, I commend the Hon Minister and Ministry because I know this was not an easy task. The truth is Samoa is a country that has a weak economy. We do not have any minerals or natural resources our economy can rely on. If we do not distribute and wisely allocate expenses to areas that need it first and last, we will be in deep trouble.

In saying that, I thank the Hon Minister of Finance and Ministry for their work in preparing the Appropriation 2018/2019. We are starting another new year hence the work of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet I pray blessings be upon you in leading our country.

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I take this opportunity to acknowledge my Constituency of Aana Alofi No.2 in all its honorary salutations, I will do my best this year. As the saying of the country goes, those who are supported are blessed. To our Church Leaders, I pray for your support as I serve you this year. I pray blessings be upon the Chair administering our work in the Legislative Assembly. May God bless our Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the speech. My apologies but I will give the opportunity to the most senior member of our Parliament, the Member for Falealupo. Perhaps this will be our last speaker on the Supplementary Budget.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA:** I move with respect to thank the Chair for the opportunity. I stand before you all to speak upon the tabling Budget, thus portraying the works of this Parliament. Whilst on the Budget, matters have been reviewed accordingly and the country has heard our opinions. Such is the normal practice of this Parliament, hence, I commend the Hon Prime Minister and the State for the hard work undertaken, pleading that the decisions we make will be good enough for the betterment of this country. Such is our sole duty, to serve our people. I give thanks to the Lord above for his guidance upon the works of this Government since the time of Independence. I know that the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet have worked so hard to achieve what is best for this country.

I wish to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister for your effort and pray that the Lord showers blessings upon you and this Government as well as the country, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Member for his speech. I call on the Member for Siumu pardon the Member for Salega West, I will give the opportunity to Siumu.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI (Siumu):** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker, firstly, I greet your honour this first Sitting day of the year and the job well done last year. I acknowledge the presence of our Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and that Side for the works carried out last year. I salute you for the developments implemented for the betterment of this country.

I further greet the Government Heads and all your works achieved last year and the start of another new year, it is a different procedure we are in this year.

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Firstly, I wish to thank the Hon Minister for compiling this Budget although it is small, everything is affordable given your wise decision. I further thank the Chief Executive and the Ministry for your support towards the Hon Minister as well as the Cabinet for your contribution to the Budget.

In specific, I wish to thank two particular Ministers, I see that their contribution to this Budget is \$4 million each, the Hon Minister of Public Enterprise and Minister for Revenue for our revenue collection. I see that both of you have contributed a huge share to this Supplementary Budget.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education and the Hon Prime Minister for attending the opening of our new school at my constituency. A request has been submitted for the furnishing of class rooms for this constituency. Another matter I wish to convey, since the Hon Minister is in charge of sports, take heed of the preparations this year and may be come in first place and win the most gold medals. I offer my support if you ever need anything, I will be glad to assist you.

I further wish to acknowledge the reviving of school inspectors. This is something the Ministry aims to bring back today. I am grateful for the reason to reviving this initiative as majority of school assessors are retired teachers and it is good to see them returning to work for this sector.

The Minister for Land Transport and Authority, most of the requests of this constituency are there regarding roads and things like that. The only request I wish to resubmit is the water. The problem with the drainage system is that it is too narrow and when water overflows, it rushes towards the people's homes destroying their belongings.

Also Hon Minister, the road contractors doing maintenance works on the road. It is saddening to see the many potholes on the road since the start of last year up to this year. This concern is taking far too long to fix and such is the reason why our roads are being reconstructed.

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

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker I do not want to interrupt the current speaker but lest other members raise again the state of our roads due to weather. The LTA is doing their job of informing the contractors that are in different zones about their maintenance work. But with this weather I do not think there is much we can do, although your request will be noted, moreover you are right that our contractors are a bit slow with the work.



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The response was to wait until we have a fine weather, then all road works can be fixed. LTA is currently doing some fixed works on our roads. Hopefully the Members contract is not included in this maintenance issue. I recommend the Member if you are carrying out maintenance I humbly ask you do it well. With respect.

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

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I am not hiding in the shadow of the tree, the statements given is the truth about what is happening now. The Hon Minister of Health, gratefully, the merge between the two Ministries is soon underway. I also heard that Prevention will be given first priority. This will mean that more public funds will be saved from taking people for medical treatment abroad. Such is the spirit of gratefulness towards this initiative that will be in place.

A humble request of this constituency to the Hon Minister, we have submitted a request for a health centre in Siumu, please Hon Minister, see if possible to add our request to the list of health centres in the next Budget?

It was stated after the merge that doctors will be allocated to the rural health centres. I suggest that attractive benefits be put in place for these doctors as not many of them would find working in the rural areas enticing. Observing this matter over the years, most of the doctors are reluctant want to work in the rural area because their children go to school in Apia and things like that. Have a look into this matter and see if possible to put in place better perks for doctors to attract and make them to stay and work in the rural health centres.

These are a few requests Mr Speaker but I want to conclude with a few words to my constituency of Siumu, thank you for your support in all its honorary salutations. The year has begun, so, let us work together. Thank you for your support and prayers. Thank you. God bless our Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Perhaps we will begin with the Member for Salega West at 7.00 this evening. I beg tolerance to the member, since it is now 1.00pm and we have reached our recess hour, we will resume at 7.00pm according to the motion.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for usual recess until 7.00pm to 11.00pm.



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*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside at 1:00pm and resumed at 7:00pm.*

*Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2018/2019.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Well done on your perseverance everyone. During our break this afternoon the member of Salega West was speaking, I ask the member to resume.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA (Salega West):** Thank you for this opportunity. Greetings everyone in your traditional honorifics most essentially the salutations of Samoa. Although we are in the cyclone season in the beginning of this year, God's grace and continuous protection has been tremendous upon Samoa and for that, may all glory be unto the Most High.

I would now like to speak on the First Supplementary Estimates 2018/2019. I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Minister, Associate Minister and that Side of the House for the plan to have a salary increase for the public servants of the State in the start of this year. I trust that this is appropriate timing as our children have just started another year of school and therefore, this is due to your far-sighted wisdom.

I am well aware of the raising salary in this budget given the formal procedures for our budgetary allocations which should not affect our economy most particularly the ongoing projects by the various Government Ministries in meeting the repayments for our external borrowings.

Mr Speaker, the main concern when looking at the cost of living caused by inflation which by comparison, if one herring costs \$1.50 or \$3 today, therefore, by next year, the price will be raised to \$3.50 and \$4.00 the following year. Otherwise, I support the Supplementary Budget before Parliament.

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We have a few submissions to make on this regard. Firstly, the estimated appropriation for the Trust Estate is significant in amount. If the Trust Estate cannot meet these payments it would be appropriate to allot 100 acres to develop an industrial zone or free zone such as the one in Vaitele to develop further business developments and better access for the constituencies of Falelatai, Manono and Apolima especially for Savaii.

Secondly, I appreciate the Hon Minister of Works for accepting one of the requests to improving access roads for the village of Fagafau whilst the roads for Fogatuli is still on the waiting list. Talks with the officials in Salelologa affirmed that the roads for another village has already been undertaken in the previous year whilst Fogatuli still awaits the improvement for their roads. Not only do we need fixed access roads for the plantations of Fogatuli, we also have a few churches in this area like the Mormon and the Seventh Day Adventist. Hence I trust that this road will bring success as we are a Christian nation and we prioritize Church in everything we do. Road improvement is very crucial. Furthermore, we put forward the roads for Samata-i-Tai and Samata-i-Uta to your list and budget for next year. With respect.

The duties and responsibilities of the Accident Compensation Corporation are very important. I thank the Government for the initiative to set up this Corporation in order to meet some of the demands that have raised regarding the accumulation of public assets such as fire trucks and three ambulances which provided great assistance in transporting patients to the airport for overseas treatment. On the other side of the coin, we are people who make contribution and part of this is our ACC reduction. Then I say to myself, this ACC contribution is similar to 'eating from the sweat of another person'. The reason for this is because the people's ACC contribution is taken by the ACC and is invested into projects or are made into term deposit to accrue higher earnings for them whilst the ACC contributors are watching.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me because your accusing statement is quite severe, I allow the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor):** Mr Speaker, the member's speech is well given until his unfitting statement on 'eating from another person's sweat' which seems to affect the rest of us in this row alongside him.

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I request your honour and the... to remove the statement that says ACC is 'eating from the sweat of another person' or 'aiafu'. For the sake of the member, the ACC has its own mandate stated under its Act which allows them to collect the people's ACC contributions. Your statement about investment is correct however there is no investment on projects or anything like that. These ACC investments are to accumulate earnings for the ACC contributors for their own benefit and to ensure that funding is available to cover the country whenever something happens. On that note, the ACC is not collecting any contributions for themselves.

That is the clarification. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I urge the member on the use of metaphoric expressions that is prohibited in our Standing Orders. Direct your statement or use other appropriate saying.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** I beg forbearance Mr Speaker, the Minister is getting at me too soon. The meaning of sweat eater is not interpreted in a useless manner. The meaning of my statement is that this money goes directly into the pocket of the ACC but what about the contributors. In saying that I move that...

**MR SPEAKER:** I advise the notable member on the use of proverbial expressions in accordance to Standing Orders. Use another fitting expression.

**Afioga Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell:** Mr Speaker, point of order as the Ministry is affected by this accusation on money being pocketed by ACC. The ACC has no pockets, money is invested into the ACC for the sake of the contributors or the public as stipulated under the Act. These investments links well and provides the necessary assistance for the security of the country such as fire services to urgently cater for emergency cases whenever they arise. Pardon the speaking member the ACC contributions are not being used inappropriately. That is the explanation.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, there is a difference between the contributions made to NPF and the ACC. The NPF will go back to the contributor whilst the ACC only or unless you are injured, then you are eligible to the ACC contribution.

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This does not include anything like injuring oneself through trickery. The use of these funds is also invested into the developments of the State. Sometimes we have the CT scans sent from New Zealand and such is the fair contribution of these investments towards these very expensive scanners that comes in very good quality. Furthermore, in term of saving up our foreign reserves, these ACC investments could assist in building international project designs such as a house design in Australia whereby foreign exchange transactions can be done locally and not have to worry about making any money conversions externally. The most important thing is accident compensation collected through the conscious mindset of this Corporation.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time is up.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** If permitted my statement is heading to a conclusion.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time is up since you had your last two minutes. Conclude now.

**Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I do not allow any more additions to your statement.

**Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow:** Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Conclude now respectable member.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Thank you for the chance to finish my statement. I conclude with amendments to the ACC Act with a note of advice but it is up to the State whether to approve it or not.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your viewpoint but not the matter upon itself.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** It is an advice if an amendment is possible. I will relay it otherwise. I recommend the ACC to record down all the contributions of its members for the sake of members at the end of every year. Secondly, impose a 2% interest on top of every member's contributions. Thirdly, disallow these investments from borrowing. Fourthly until the member is passed then a loan is guaranteed. This is like an insurance that has the entitlement of a family member.

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That is the initiative that should be set by the State. The reason for this is because this Corporation...

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the member's speech.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** I conclude by greeting my Constituency of Salega West for your support and prayers that has given me courage. I pray for blessings upon the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and both Sides of the House and the support of Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. The intention is to fast track our business given the set motion for our night sitting not attempting to discredit your comments although we have processes in place for those submissions. I permit the member of Anoamaa West.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I wanted to second the amendments presented by the member. Since I have not yet given a statement never mind I will commence my speech.

Thank you I see that our journey has arrived safely into this New Year 2019 and that you have already delivered our prayers this morning.

Mr Speaker, in relation to your notice yesterday, one of our dear friend Pau Sefo is now gone. I pray for God's comfort upon his wife and the entire family. Mr Speaker, I greet everyone in this House as well as Samoa this morning. According to the Hon Minister of Finance's clear clarification on this Supplementary Budget (No.1) last month, he mentioned some of the major projects we had in 2018 such as the renovations of the International Airport at Faleolo, the Matautu wharf and the road extensions towards the southern part of Apia. Such is the country's saying upon a successful fisher's voyage returning to the land, this is called, 'well done fishers or *tautai a'e*'. With that said, well done to the House and the Cabinet. Bearing success from the land expedition has the proverb, '*Se o se togi le seu ua lagatila ua faapulou le tualima ua faamalo le fai o le faiva*'. Meaning, well done to all the good works achieved and the support we share in various committees by all respectable members, I trust that through collective effort, we can sustain Samoa's welfare.

Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister of NPF or the Hon Minister of Finance for the raising pensions for our senior citizens from \$135 to \$145 on a monthly basis.



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The NKF building has very limited space considering the increasing number of patients of about 120. In regards to the families of these patients, it would be appropriate to shift or develop a wider space to the old health facility on the other side of the hospital for NKF...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg indulgence to the respectable member I allow the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health):** Mr Speaker, I wish not to interrupt the speech of the member however I feel the need to respond to this matter. This matter is now in progress, the old laboratory is now being renovated and very soon, the NKF will move there. At the current we only have 20 dialysis units but for the existing renovations given Cabinet's approval, a total of 60 more units will be made available to rightfully suit the intention of the current speaker. I extend sincere appreciation to your support and recommendations towards the works of this Ministry. Respectfully.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call the member.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I also thank the Hon Minister for plans to increase the number of chairs for the NKF in Motootua, however, also consider the clinic in Savaii if possible to increase some chairs there for patients who have the dialysis disease.

This does not avoid us from giving awareness programs to minimize dialysis patients. The main cause for this illness is food. This is why treatment and prevention go together through these awareness programs for the sake of everyone. I see that there is an allocated amount in our Supplementary Budget for those who will lose their jobs when we have the merge between the NHS and the MOH. What is the clarification on this Hon Minister because by observation, there will be those who will be redundant and a proposed Bill for this merge will press through?

We have a small amount at the Development Bank to clear the debt of the Medcen hospital in Vailima. This matter has taken up many years yet it is gradually going well. Such is a word of thanks Hon Minister as this facility is now available perhaps, some of our development partners can take over to pursue further developments in this area. There is concern on some of the alarming issues happening today regarding murder. This is nothing new as it has existed for a long time.



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The main concern is that this is becoming a grave case given alleged reports on drugs or ice. I trust the Ministry of Police is doing a good job however they need more collaborating efforts. I trust there are advanced technology that the Ministry could use to avoid and get a hold of these culprits more efficiently. I hear this case is spreading too fast in the country as this type of drug could however, be grown in one's home. Nonetheless, confirmed reports from doctors verify that the outcome of this drug could seriously affect the brain which is very dangerous. Therefore, the State should consider looking at penalty charges including other serious crimes.

I remember the Narcotics Act was tabled in the House in 2007 which supplemented more severe drug cases raising penalty charges for those who develop, produce and supply these drugs. The sentence is now raised from 7 to 14 years however this is a good time to make further amendments as cases of this sort in international countries can reach up to 20 or 30 years behind bars. And given the ongoing undertaking for a new prison facility, hence it is time to insert a new unit in specific for the drug abusers noting the requirement for mental capacity.

Given the total allocation of \$20million to \$30million to build this new prison facility stated by the Hon Minister of Finance and the Minister for Revenue last year, by observation so far, \$14million of that amount has been spent plus \$2million for this First Supplementary Estimates, therefore, the aim is to push the completion of this project and all the required units.

The Hon Prime Minister has reported earlier that some of these prisoners have escaped and such is the dire need for these facilities to be completed for the security of the public and their properties.

Mr Speaker, we need another bigger aircraft to make up two airplanes in the country in support of our people but will leave it to the Hon Minister as all depend on the finance. I hear that other airlines have costly operating costs however we should also note the marketing purposes. Regardless, we must have another airline.

Mr Speaker, no employee neglect salary raise whether in the State or the private sector, everyone needs it to sufficiently provide for our families. I too use to work for the State and the private sector had better salary than the State. However after many years and salary increase has been made for the public service which is very good. Regardless the respective parties have clarified this raise taking into account the partnership between the public sector and the private sector for over 20 years and the push of the private sector by the State to work towards stabilizing the country's economic growth.

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All salary scales and levels from the public sector, private sector, business levels and companies to farmers have had the consideration and review of Salaries Tribunal Committee. In this regard and thoroughly taking all these into account, bearing of salaries have been well maintained so that all sectors have equal balance.

The salary increase is 5% for this month of January 2019, 3% for the coming year in January 2020 and 2% for 2021. Members can only take up this raise for the 5% in 2020 and 2% in 2021. Hon Minister of Finance, note that January 2021 is a time when we are nearing the election which means to say that only those Members who will make it back will take this 2% benefit in January 2021. But do note that you have more than enough generating income given the several tabling bills you submitted in the House on increase excise tax on the following sugary drinks, smoke, alcohol beverage, salary of the public service and Church Ministers. What is your intention? 2% plus 3% equals 5% commencing in January of the coming year, 5% for this month and everything will be a balance. Lest we... because it's a pity for all of you sitting on that Side not to get this benefit whereas the entire row on this Side will all be coming back and not only will we return, we will all be sitting on that Side.

Mr Speaker, those are the recommendations for the consideration of the Cabinet and that Side of the House all for the wellbeing of the public.

Have a blessed Sitting, bless the Speaker, both Sides of the House, Public Servants of the State and Samoa tuning in. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. These are good dreams as the member submitted. Well done on your recommendations to the State. I call the member of Gagaemauga No.3.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No.3):** Mr Speaker thank you for the chance. The honorifics will not be repeated as the mention has already been made, pardon me.

Mr Speaker, before I make comments towards the Supplementary Budget 2018/2019, I first of all wish send sorrowful words to the passing of Sefo Pau Taumata Pau. Where is he? As the Chairperson of the Standing Order Committee, the question to the Clerk, where is Sefo Pau? On a serious note, as part of the Committee, this is one brave member with constructive views. Where is he now? On this note, our words to Ana and the kids, may you find peace and comfort from God and may Sefo Pau find a good place in heaven. May one warrior fall and another one rise to resume the works of nurturing the families, village and the constituency as well as the State and its people.



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Mr Speaker I wish to note a word of appreciation to this First Supplementary Estimates as in the foreword, “the right path”, such is the direct statement reference to this Supplementary Statement we have. Well done to our priority works that needs implementation. Well done. Such is the salary raise for the public service. Regardless of what we do the most significant matter is the reward that we get. Such is the word of appreciation Hon Minister.

One of the members stated that the salary scale is now scheduled in divisions of three, one for January of this year, another in January 2020, and January 2021. This reflects the right path given priority on some of the major projects of this State. The only concern is the late payment for the past lease.

Moving on with the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the appropriation of \$284,900. The intention for this fund is to pay the rent at Tuanaimato up to June, however, for the sake of everyone, the Office of the Legislative Assembly has now been relocated to Mulinuu. On that note, there is so much work that needs to be achieved including the service to Parliament and the opening of the new House hence there is a need for a house for the Members to have their breaks during recess hours like the Luafatasaga Hall we had in the past. We do not have to rely on grants from overseas, we can always use our money to begin this undertaking. That is the submission for your consideration.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg indulgence to the Member I permit the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, your view is vital in relation to funding these sort of projects using our own money. Whenever we say pay tax you say do not, however, the intentions of the State is to build these projects. It is embarrassing to have our buildings be constructed by overseas countries. That is what we call common sense. If we seek and find insufficient funds other than our people being lazy enough to pay their taxes, then we can seek other avenues but do take into account your support upon our legislations as you are the Deputy Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member to resume.

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**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** The Hon Prime Minister's advice is very important, however, these thoughts are thought provoking, have a look into this for the improvement of our house for the sake of the Members. In plea, if the National Prosecution Office or NPO can move to...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, there are plans to set up a bigger house to service this doing. If you had time to talk to me about those things, I would have clarified it to you because I too am the Minister of Works and I oversee those matters. This building is about to fall due to your loud tone. Bring down your heart to the affairs of the State.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** Thank you. The main concern is for us to work together.

On to the economy of Samoa, I second and third the motion about the status of our airport for our benefit of us in Savaii. We also support another aircraft to assist our economy and travel plans for the country. Hon Minister of Ports Authority, we plead once again given the connection between here and us in Savaii and the airport, take note of the shipping services. I normally take weekly trips to and fro from Monday to Friday and by the look of things, the service of vehicles is not going well for boarding passengers who feel unease due to loaded vehicles in ferries that is quite dangerous. This was never the system in the past. These matters need to be looked into for improvement.

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

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

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker I speak of the traveling schedule between Mulifanua and Salelologa. For the sake of the member, a new ferry is proposed to be in soon in addition to the existing ferry and is much bigger in size than the current one. This proposed ferry will have a bigger capacity for both passengers and transportations. As for the concern on squeezed passengers on the ferry, during the trip, notices are broadcasted for passengers to go up whilst vehicles are stationed at the lower part of the ferry, however, the problem is that people do not comply with these notices for their own security.

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These announcements are always aired for the public when the ferry takes off either from Mulifanua or Salelologa wharf. But as you pointed out, our people are used to rushing to catch the bus and that is reason why they come close to the vehicles. So the problem is the people themselves because they do not abide by the rules given on the ferry. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. Go ahead.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** Thank you for that clarification. However at first the passengers were also held back until the vehicles are on board, then they are permitted to board the ferry. For the sake of moving forward, this matter needs be taken care of.

I respectfully seek your assistance Hon Minister of Work for the road improvement to our villages in Safai and Satoalepai. One of the manifestos of the HRPP is to give priority to those areas where churches and schools are located. One of these roads situates the Laumei site. And observing from the time of the festive season we had several visitors sightseeing this site, however the roads were very problematic. These are not access roads but inner roads and such is the need for assistance.

On to the Education Sector.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done, I remind the member that you have two more minutes.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI:** Thank you Minister of Education for the new school building at Avao, we are yet to receive a contractor to build it yet thank you Hon Minister for this undertaking. Now that our time is up, we await the Ministry of Agriculture for the assistance upon our mangrove development.

Mr Speaker thank you for this opportunity, may blessings be upon this Sitting and may we find strength from our good Lord.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. I allow the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Pardon me member of Alataua West I call the member of Faleata West hopefully his view will be short as he is the Associate Minister.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West):** Thank you for the chance Mr Speaker. I see that you are moving on when we have not yet given our submissions.



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This Budget is important and when I came here this evening my mother said, “Have a good Sitting Leala, I will tune in.” I replied, “Mama turn up the volume of your radio and tell the old man to sit near the radio, because I will give a speech.” I told my mom, “Mama thank God for the constituency for bringing me a chance to voice a say in the decision-making of Samoa.” A person who comes in this Parliament and does not voice anything is just a waste of God’s gift on behalf of the Constituency and for coming here as we are the only people whose speeches are recorded in Samoa’s Parliament until forever and because other generations will search our choice of words that are significant for the development of this country. We are the leading generation for Samoa today. Hence Mr Speaker I thank you for the chance.

I also take this chance to express my sincere condolences to Ana and the family, this is the only notable figure in the House with vital contribution not only to the country, but his attempts to make it to this Parliament. How many times has he tried, succeeded and failed and now that his finally made it, although his first Parliamentary term could not be achieved. Staying alive for long is not important but the works that you do is the most important thing. Have a safe trip (to Pau). Thanking the State for the past achievements is not critical however noting a word of encouragement, blessing, and gratitude to this new year for the engaging works that will be implemented is what counts. For any Budget Statement, I always say this, we give thanks by coming here to distribute funds for the wellbeing of Samoa. We see America as the richest country in the world, over a million people do not earn any salary. With rising conflicts in politics as a result of no wages for the people. What about us, we are living liberty and peacefully earning a share of our income distribution. I support this budget with recommendations.

Hon Minister of Works well done for the finance allocated for our village of Vaigaga. The fence has been under request for so long, thankfully we have \$25,000 for this undertaking. Many thanks for this. My fellow colleague Faumuina also contributed his share towards this assistance as it is our district together and will contest from this district in the upcoming election.

Road extension is a must with regards to the existing narrow roads for all our main roads specifically the rural side of Savaii. It was applicable when we had limited transportation however road extension is a must particularly the road edges which should be prioritized including new fixed roads that are currently under construction because personally the condition of these roads starts with a crack from the end going inside.



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This does not apply with fixed roads with footpath areas that are properly done. The cutting roads for water installation including our roads with Olo has taken months and I had to get assistance from the Chief Executive of SWA which had the undertaken that they can cut and fix the road. Why not allow these workers to cut and maintain the roads instead of waiting because they say that the SWA is cutting the road and expects the other Ministry to reseal. Is there a problem Hon Minister?

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me I allow the Hon Minister of Works.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, for the matter on road cut for water installation the person in charge pays the amount to the people doing this job including the SWA who then contacts the contractors to maintain this task. However, the delay stems from the breakdown communication between the SWA and the contractor. But true as you mention most of these jobs are delayed producing more troubles to the potholes in the roads for the traveling public. That is the explanation thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Very well thanks. Since the person is paying for this road cut however in regards to the road maintenance itself, it would be easier for them (SWA) to maintain it since that is what they do every day. I will leave it to you.

The roads toward the airport should be a priority as it is frequently accessed every day. The road to Aleisa needs upgrading however the opposite roads is being done particularly the connecting road to Falelauniu using the short cut to Aleisa which is the most accessible road, but do keep note of all these roads in Falelauniu given the increasing amount of residents there please after the upcoming Games event.

On to taxis, it is troubling to see the so many taxis around the flea market area. I thought the Act on taxis should legally have them all in taxi stands, however it seems that there are taxis in taxi stands and the private taxis here and there. This is ultimately why properties are lost due to these taxis that are not stationed in stands. In stands people are also querying the extent of this law because even under the Government house it would be better to remove some of the taxi stands under this area.

On to MNRE and the Deputy Prime Minister, the tent opposite Eveni Store further down the NPF Plaza is an eyesore, however we do have the flea market setting for these sellers to place and sell their items in.

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On to our water falls, whenever we have heavy rain, water floods produces water flow from the severe rain and there is no water catchment area to counter this problem. There are various companies interested in this soil and with appropriate price they can clear this soil for improvement.

Well done to the Ministry of Police on your efforts in securing our roads during the festive season. In support of one of the member's concern regarding the number of serious cases including murder that is on the rise today. I did hold talks with the Commissioner given the many thoughts on drug abuse that if suspects are found, they would go through a blood test because despite how many times ice is being consumed by these suspects from three to six months, results will be found eventually. I agree that priority should be in place for this type of crime that has the involvement of youth, and impose appropriate measure and charges because the penalty for this type of crime in the Asian countries is death.

Another issue regards street vendors, whenever you say no to these little kids, they end up begging. And even into the night from 10 to 11 they are still seen patrolling around the town area. In the past, we would sell items from the sea and land whereas nowadays, children are using items from the Chinese shops which are not good. A curfew should be in place, all vendors should be prohibited from selling items in the town area or on the streets at 5.00pm.

When you see the youth of Tufulele selling ulas, this is seen as their trademark from their village which is something that they grew up with and we respect them for that. As such, we would encourage it, however, what is seen today, I bid your Hon to have a look into this concern. I thank the Ministry of Police for the Act on the returnees given that there have been recent cases on this that had the involvement of this kind of people.

Hon Minister of Justice, please consider appropriate penalties for severe cases. Moving on to the recent Act that specified the limit age of 68 to 70 years and see that if they are still fit, have a look into this. Noticing this, some are still fit enough to resume work given the proposed plans of the State for a Court of Appeal to make good use of these people including graduating judges from overseas who are eligible to take on this type of job.

Hon Minister of Education and your Associate Minister, do make good use of the Fire Service with regards to what you have learnt from Faumuina which you are now good at. The only matter I wish to note given your new sector plan review 2013-2018 is your recommendation regarding our poor history rate. This is what Samoa was so proud of in those days which was almost 100%.

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However, the reports received is very saddening for the following subjects, English, Maths even Samoan, do prioritize these areas Hon Minister.

I do not mock SQA and their role but based on personal belief, I think their mandate is wrong. It seems that they are trying to regulate the post-secondary level when it should start from the first grade level. Why focus on the secondary level and its credentials when they should look at the primary levels first? They should focus on extending this mandate from Pre School to Primary School which should be the main priority. I have come up with a new name for SQA, why not rename it SQEA or Samoa Quality Education Authority. They should start from the Pre School level.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have two more minutes.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Because what is happening now is that we, members are also getting the blame. We want to set up this college and that college as that is the mandate however most of these colleges do not meet the minimum standards because they have no libraries, labs and teachers before they are officially called district colleges. This is where the SQA comes into play in regards to standards so that schools are eligible under this requirement.

In conclusion, from the global perspective when they see Samoa, we are a nation that is peaceful and free. What I mean is that whenever we want to object, we can, it sets no boundaries. All illegal acts within the workplaces and the State are also found in other countries. The only objective of the State is for all public offices and public bodies to secure itself from future happenings. Sometimes I am disappointed with some of the existing public bodies that are looking after these things, we now have the Ombudsman, Judiciary, Police, Audit given the set boundaries we have for all the works we do because as citizens of this country, one has the right to press charges against another person that is deemed to be involved with illegal doing. Everyone is entitled to their own individual right. This is reason for voicing my thanks towards the freedom and peace we now endure.

I appreciate the Ministerial level for your commitment this year. Seeing the entire row in the front, I whispered to Lenatai, I feel sorry for them, the second row in the back, I feel for Loau because when he first entered this House, his hair was black and now, all his hair is being covered with white. The only one with black hair is Afamasaga which means to say, that I am the only good Associate Minister we have. Have a blessed Sitting Samoa.



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**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you, this is the final speech for the night, member of Anoamaa East.

**Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUO  
MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East):**  
I greet everyone in all your honorific salutations.

I take this vital opportunity on behalf of this constituency to make a contribution in relation to the tabling Supplementary Budget. This budget is brief but involves great things.

This is the only Budget that has satisfied the mind. Given the major developments, this is a blessing for our people. Furthermore, we have long pleaded for salary raise for the public servants, finally we have the response. This is a good point for the current Government of the day for Samoa. Salary increase has been in the pipeline for ten years yet finally, we have it, well done to the State. I also give credit to the service of the public servants. Although we make the final decisions however these are the people that are mainly tasked with most of the work night and day. I further agree that our share of the pie be put to last whilst priority be given to the public servants in regards to this benefit. The senior citizens and teachers are all sharing this benefit and therefore, so many are gaining from this budget. This reflects good administration of the Government. Seeing the policies since the start, the public can respond to that. We just had our general election and what is Samoa's response to that, we are on the right track.

Thank you Hon Minister for the preparations towards this Budget which has our full agreement and satisfaction. The recent speaker has mentioned his story about him and his parents before he makes his speech in this House whereas for me, I speak to my constituency by voicing their view in the House of Samoa. I agree with the poor roads we have at the current given the rain conditions. This also includes the roads leading up to the airport which have recently been fixed by New Zealand partners and Swell yet they are being redone. For the sake of LTA because vehicles license are all being paid. I do not get why we still have poor results in comparison to the State's initiatives such as free education, compensation for teachers and so much more in terms of raising quality teaching and learning. For the interest of parents, do consider your contribution towards your child's education. Because the teachers are also putting in a lot of effort in improving your child's education however several distractions comes with it. Some kids would abuse the internet the entire night just to be on face book and in return teachers are given the blame.

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Parents have a responsibility to play in this too, they must check their children to see if/whether they are doing the right thing. Based on one factual statement it states that 70% of people's time on the internet is mainly viewing bad things. I do not mean anything else but that is the reality of things and reason why children are failing from school these days. We are not blaming the teachers, principals or anyone else because this job is everyone's business. As explained by other members, when we have our two weeks break, we would weed the grass of another neighbour to seek financial aid to pay for our school fees. We are used to problems along the way and what now, we know now it is bad. Without toil and hard work we will never succeed. Today children are given free education and free food however we are not gaining anything from it.

Come to think of it, I too am one of those affected by this Electoral Bill, now that Tafua and Saleaula have brought in their petitions from their Constituencies, I too have thought that our constituency should have brought in something like this too. Never mind, this is where the committee comes in because the committee is falsely making these two members submit their petitions yet they are not doing any job. This is reflected in this report because these members are doing this under the intention of our Standing Order yet the Standing Orders does not have any legal authority or power on these things, however these committees all come under your supervision Mr Speaker. You see how this is done mainly because of the false leadership of this Standing Orders Committee, otherwise the intention is for Samoa to maintain peace. Go with what the Government says whether we all fail from it, let us all fall together but let us recognize what is given today.

I have just returned from taking traditional gifts to the late Pa'u, we wish him well and may he find a better place in heaven and pray for God's comfort upon his family. To my constituency all's well on this end, by request continue your prayers for the good health of the Prime Minister to achieve the developments for our constituency. That is all from me with respect. I seek blessings upon the Speaker, Prime Minister and Cabinet and everyone on that Side and may we find good health from the Divine's mercy. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. Well done on your speech. We have arrived at our normal recess, I have thought that when we return, the chance will be given to the Chairperson of the Committee of Finance or the respectable member of Alataua West.

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*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was put aside for normal recess at 8.47pm and resumed at 9.38pm.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I thank all for your patience and dignity in fulfilling our business of the day. I beg indulgence to all the members who have not had a turn to speak as we are on schedule. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee will now take over.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of the Finance Committee):** Happy New Year and welcome back. Mr Speaker the statement on this report will be short as the queries made upon it regards a few minor issues. Nothing is new, I shall first of all speak on the overall picture regarding our standard of living seen today. Mr Speaker good thoughts are the most important aspects for me alone. Our task is to advise which is vital and all good thoughts are critical to building something good. The tasks of the three pillars of Government are vitally important. The Executive monitors the works of the Parliament and Judiciary, the Judiciary likewise monitors the works of the Executive and the Parliament and Parliament also monitors the works of the Executive and the Judiciary. The provisional reminder towards the monitoring one body of another body or checks and balances of one body over another is the sole reminder from our end given our collective effort. I cannot avoid the set duties of this Parliament tasked with the Parliamentary Committees in scrutinizing the works of the State.

Our task is to reflect back on previous budget statements and its achievements in relation to the current objectives for our economic welfare. On the overall, we have six principle objectives of the State. It is appreciative to note that these objectives and strategies are continuously being carried out by the State.

For the sake of the House the first part of this policy has it that the normal total expenditure for our services should be in the range of 35% - 38% so that sufficient reserves for our private sector and job opportunities is maintained. With additional appropriated expenditures of \$708million noting the 2.2million hence the targeted percentage is now achieved for our economy.



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The second policy is that debts and borrowings are to be retained below 50% for the Budget Statement 2016/2017 whereas, 2017/2018 is yet to be received with a recorded amount of \$1,094,000million that has our 50.4% owe. The reason for mentioning this is because most of the public is concerned with the piled up debt that is now making up some of our State's developments, yet the 50% debt target has been achieved which is our debt limit.

The third policy is the 40%-50% range for allocated expenditure for public service salary to be in line with Government's vision to raise performance level. Although the appropriation is now given in this First Supplementary Estimates, gratefully, with this \$8.9million appropriation it will make up \$242million expenditure for the salary of public servants. By percentage for this expenditure this year, so far we have achieved 42% for the targeted 40%-50%. Perhaps it is good that we have this raise from the First Supplementary Estimates to meet this policy that was not met as the salary percentage was way below.

Fourthly, retain 3.5% surplus to expenditures other than revenue. By record we have .1% surplus for 2017/2018 although it has not yet reached this Parliament, the previous year has recorded a surplus of 3.5% for expenditures over revenue.

The fifth policy is maintenance works for Public Corporations given the provided the assistance of \$4.1million stated herein this Appropriation Schedule through dividends which makes up this First Schedule Estimates. All these five policies are met except for policy six given our main objective.

Plans to improve the revenue status of the State, although income collection is going well for 2016/2017 in order to meet the set requirements however I still have doubts given my personal audit experience. The 2016/2017 reports has the outstanding debt of \$92.7million that is not included in this budget schedule submitted in the Audit reports. This was the first challenge we made with the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance. I believe that given the knowledge and understanding, we can resolve this issue during our time in office. This is not a problem from 3 to 5 years ago, it is an issue that has been sitting here for a long time and nothing was decided upon it. If we are to allow the next generation to this issue in the coming Parliamentary terms it would be a disappointment as the Auditors cannot handle these reports year after year. By recommendation get all the outstanding leases/debts from 20 years ago whether it involves companies, individuals and write them off through normal procedures because never know whether leases to some companies have been closed down. The target is to form a solution now.

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Hon Minister of Works I see that works for our roads at Neiafu have begun, hence I have some recommendations. Whenever I go to Savaii I notice that the lawnmowers contracts maintenance of the footpath areas has me this notion, ‘distribution of wealth.’ Why distribution of wealth. Then I thought why not delegate this task to the village community because from that, we can then find out that roughly three to four villages may not do the job and the contractors can do it for them.

**MR SPEAKER:** Go on Minister of Works.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, I wish not to interrupt the constructive speech of the Chairperson of the Finance and Revenue Committee however with respect the matter concerning the LTA is now on a two year contract and is currently ongoing. Your recommendation is also on the move to conduct a survey in communities whether they can implement these works particularly in the front side of community houses whereas the scrubland area will have the focus of the contractors. Whilst what you speak about is all undertaken, thank you.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** Thank you Hon Minister for the update of our set plans and the aim we strive to achieve through funding distribution that is shared amongst our people.

On to access roads, there is a recommendation about road digging works that is getting nearing our district, an agreement is made that maintenance should be prioritised by the village members because after the completion of road fixed, the village would expect the State to come back and do the maintenance work for them. Ownership should be handed over to these villagers particularly to be able to carry out maintenance work for these access roads and not have to run back to the State for assistance in the future.

This is the same intention for our road lawnmowers contractors. We have the procurement of services and the quality of works that comes with a price. Also, there are several guide plans for these services using our foreign partners but we must comply by their requirements. This is similar to other small island states.

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

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

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I applaud the member for addressing some good points, particularly the recommendation on village communities to maintain their access roads so that they can last long. A submission has been put forth if possible to maintain these areas by the village themselves. The key man here is the village majors. These representatives have a responsibility to play for the State.

Our Cabinet has met with the village mayors yet I have given them some fatherly advice in assistance to executing their role. The problem with these representatives is that most of them are getting old and are at retiree age so we do not need them, I had a photo taken with them and looking at this picture and that is what I saw, most of them are old. However, these men are given a role to play as intended for by the State.

During my former years as Minister of Finance, the government was able to provide some monetary assistance to the villagers in order to maintain their access roads. Not only had the State provided monetary assistance, the State also managed to distribute money to the untitled men to maintain their access roads. What happened next is that the village are murmuring amongst themselves, that if money was not enough, they would not do any work.

It seems that the Government is expected to fix the road and give money so that roads are encouraged to be maintained. This practice eventually came to an end. It was just a waste of money being thrown into the sea. Therefore, leave this matter to us because most of these solutions were taken before however, matter will never be resolved if the Sui o le Malo refuse to change for the better. If we want improvement, we must make a change to our Pulenuu and Sui o le Nuu representatives for both male and female. I have clarified, it has been 10 years since two meetings were scheduled for these representatives and the State. There are works pertaining to women such as maintaining the village and nurturing the children through health care, fine mat and tapa cloth weaving.

This is rightfully the reason why we met previously to make good use of the allowance we give you instead of putting it to a waste. Mr Speaker, members must attend these village fono and relay the messages we are addressing here to them and not have to wait until it is near time for the election.

Mr Speaker, that is the assistance but well done to the current speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call the member to resume.

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**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** Thank you for the additional insight upon this matter. I guess it was applicable back then, thus I agree with this statement, change must be made today and must change we attempt to make must be recognized.

The main subject I wish to speak on regards the provisions of our foreign partners that pertains to the procurement of services. We are used to the various requirements by our foreign partners as they have more money. I too used to work for these foreign companies, and these are the conditions in compliance to their policies and procedures.

Speaking for the entire globe, these requirements have donor restrictions and some requirements could not be met in order for them to compete or obtain employment. I do not have the answers but personally I think that it is best to review the policies to our economic objectives in order to expand the welfare distribution by providing equal opportunities for those in the rural and the urban side otherwise known as the wide distribution of wealth. That is the explanation.

Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor thank you for choosing the right path and I trust that this is one of the most consistent interpretations we can give in getting another aircraft. As voiced by the majority, we must have two or three aircrafts to bring a balance whenever we come across difficulties or when one aircraft is unable to meet a route. The increasing inflow of airlines will have a significant impact on our economic growth as statistically recorded the tourism sector was by far one of the leading revenue earnings for our economy.

Talks with the Tourism Office confirmed that the occupancy rate for hotels is 56% which is also recorded by the Statistics Office, well done. This is good change shown in the report of the Bureau of Statistics. It is good as this speaks for the high quantity of produce made available at the market and the amount of people staying in the hotels and their contribution to our economy. Back to occupancy rate or those staying in hotels, specifically the bigger hotels like the Taumesina, Aggies and Tanoa whilst the occupancy rate of 40% for small hotels, it is quite unachievable. The main reason according to the Tourism Office is because these small hotels are too costly and do not meet the accommodation standards. Some tourism business developments would only make known of their businesses after constructions and therefore, this a good recommendation for the proposed tourism developments. In belief some of these tourism developments were set up with the target of making a contribution to our economy however that target could not be met given the low occupancy rate. I suggest that we find other avenues for these small tourist developments to push this target through in order to meet the contributing earnings for our economic growth.

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I appreciate the seasonal working opportunities particularly for us in Savaii. Although it may sound funny to you but for us in Savaii as soon as the eleven members returned, six vehicles, five house renovations and one new house were seen in our village that very week. The most grateful thing is seeing these benefits being earned by some of the most underprivileged families in the village. Thank you for these positive programs.

Hon Minister of Public Enterprises, there has been a lot of changes with the Chief Executive Officers and the Assistant Chief Executives levels. The normal saying by the Methodist Church when they make change to their pastors, the changes of plants in the garden. It is good to see the pastors changing from one village to another by making good use of their knowledge. What I am trying to say finding a way to better utilize the knowledge and experience of former Chief Executive Officers who have made a lot of investments to the Government because it is good if some of them have turned over to the business world but what those who are still sitting around doing nothing, we must find a way to capture their wisdom and skills. On to Health and the PEN that had some of its plans being implemented by Digicel. One of the queries regards prevention program for patients being sent abroad for medical treatment, the total spending cost has gone up to \$10million, it is recommended that this program be outsourced seeing that the normal tasks are blood tests, sugar test level, give pre-warning advice and doctor referral whenever a sickness becomes serious. Under this program, the committee groups can be taught with these type of things in order for them to handle and utilize their time given the lack of doctors other than the National Kidney Foundation people whom are tasked with the NCD's awareness programmes that has killed a lot of our people.

In conclusion the dream of Alataua West for future generations is to mobilize our resources by producing a wider distribution for our people through various services using quality knowledge and capability in the next 20 years.

I wish to remind our old requests to the Hon Minister of Education and the Hon Prime Minister, the school building for this district although your first priority for now is the upcoming Pacific Games event, however, that will not avoid us from giving reminders on what needs to be done.

That is it honourable Speaker. If I had spoken any offensive language, I bid your forgiveness. I wish to respond to a few raising matters.



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The query on the supplementary appropriation of \$5.7million for the health sector and its merge, the answer is no. \$3.7million is for the salary raise of the employees of the health department which is 1,022 whilst \$2million is for patients seeking medical treatment overseas totalling to \$8million.

The report on the Labour Act 1972, this is what happens when we have advance technology and perhaps, the Clerk has forgotten to insert the Labour Act 2013 given that there is an amendment in that Labour Act. Someone also queried the brackets to \$165,000, well that is the reduction to expenditure for the programs of the Ministry of Finance. It is a typical typing error.

May God bless the Speaker and may you find good health and wisdom in managing Samoa's Meeting. May God bless the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Ministers and Associate Ministers, that Side of the House and Government Heads. May Samoa sail a good journey.

To my constituency of Alataua West, may God bless you. Thank you to the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff for your service to the Parliament. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you honourable Chairperson of the Committee of Finance.

This is the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister as it is the State's time to provide a response according to the raising matters. With respect.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I congratulate everyone in this House now that the Cabinet has noted your submissions and recommendations. I also note that Cabinet has already given responses and clarification to some of the addressing matters.

On that note and given normal procedures, the Cabinet will now progress with its responses in regards to some of the raising concerns, we will commence with the Minister of Communications and Information Technology. I also see that this Main Budget is thin. I will respond to the few addressing concerns. The Cabinet will thoroughly look into some of the submitted thoughts and recommendations. This is also reason why we have the Chief Executive Officers to hear your direct statements so that appropriate responses are provided, importantly, this is the vitality of their callings.

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Some of them were supposed to travel this week but I have stopped them as they must attend these Parliament Sittings. No one is above you, your Constituencies have heard you loud and clear hence the Cabinet will now progress with its responses in accordance to the specific issues raised on this Supplementary Budget.

In saying that, Afamasaga will start first. Any remaining matters will have my response and if not, we will proceed with the consideration of the Budget. Have a good night.

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright thank you, the House has heard hence let us proceed.

I call the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

**Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communication and Information Technology):** Thank you Mr Speaker, well done everyone on your part this evening.

The Hon Prime Minister has commence a statement in regards to Government response. Thus, we exalt all praises to God for His mercy in support of the First Supplementary Appropriation 2018/2019. That being said, we only had two submissions in regards to the role played by this Ministry. Seeing the report prepared by the Office of the Regulator last December, from June 2018 to December 2018 in terms of improvement services, a total of 101 new telecommunication posts were installed in Upolu and Savaii. Perhaps this is reason for this raising concern given that telecommunication lines have currently covered all parts of the country. In terms of speedy internet access within the country, that is the spirit of thanks to the available technology that is adding further benefits to our economy today.

For the first six months since we had access to the Tui Samoa Cable, 5% contribution from this technological services went into our economy. Such is the good reflection of having these communication connections under the sea. The Hon Prime Minister's statements are being heard on the 2AP or TV through a weekly awareness programs. He is also the Chairperson of the Communications Committee who aims to provide progressive updates about our communication services during his weekly talks on the 2AP radio and television for everyone's information. For advanced internet access, we are awaiting another connection from our Manatua Cable links from Tahiti that should arrive by the end of this year.

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At the same time we are being vigilant of our children and their security when accessing the internet. This is also a message to the parents at home to take heed of your children when using internet and cell phones. Make sure they have a time limit and make sure that they are accessing appropriate sites. The same goes to businesses and Government organisations in regards to our national security or Shada Security, although internet access has advantages, there is also disadvantages that comes with it. Other than that, internet provides a lot of good information pertaining to health, education such as noting down notes at school to gain wisdom. It is also useful to seek employment online.

I also request everyone from parents to village councils to protect your children from abusing facebook that is destroying the villages and the State. The post near the 2AP radio station is now fixed at Mulinuu for those of you who complained about not receiving the Prime Minister's radio talks. I apologize for that. This post can now reach our live broadcasts from our 2AP station to as far as American Samoa, Tokelau, Niue, Manua, Hawaii and Tahiti. Sometimes in June or August this year, this project will come to a completion. In the meantime, we are using the temporary post for our live broadcasts. We are also trying our best with the State's proposal in relation to Digital TV, given our commercial announcements about the new change for our television to be switched from analogue to digital. We are hopeful that by June of this year, phase one for this Digital TV will begin with the township area towards the rural area gradually. Hopefully by the end of the year the entire country will be covered with this new change. The main objective is to provide better access and be able to capture quality broadcasting. Currently there is a slight delay with our work due to issues with some land ownerships regarding digital posts that are required to be installed on their lands.

Further to that, I humbly request the landowners for your utmost support and permission so that we can fast track these posts installations for efficient communications within the country and thus, your contribution to our economy. Mr Speaker those are the only matters brought to the table at this hour. I now take this opportunity as this House is aware, the services of former Chief Executive Officer Lealiiee Tuaimalo Ah Samu is now up. On behalf of the Chairperson of the Communication and the Associate Minister, we extend our sincere acknowledgement for all your services, contribution and knowledge shared the entire time you undertook the leading of this Ministry.

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We wish to note our word of thanks for all the good works you have done. We pray for God's well wishes upon you and your family and your future endeavours to the church and village. To the next chosen candidate and your new thoughts in resuming this service, may we rely on the Spirit of God.

I wish to greet my constituency of Aana Alofi No.3 for your support and prayers. While tasked with the duties of the Government, let us heed God's blessings and merciful love and also pray for this Government that the spirit of God be upon its leaders for the prosperity of this nation.

Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House and Samoa in particular, that is the conclusion of our statement, thank you for the chance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. No we have the Hon Minister of Justice.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** I greet all this part of the evening honourable Speaker. Well done on your commitment and perseverance everyone. Greetings to all the Government Heads present here today. Mr Speaker, the response will be very brief.

Only two members made comments to this Ministry. The third member is not present here today. The member of Faleata West gave his advice on the progress of court cases. Before I proceed with my response, I offer my sincere sorrowfulness to Ana and the family for the passing of the late Sefo Pau.

As reiterated, the member of Safata West queried the eligibility of persons submitting requests for an Interim Injunctions under the Lands and Titles Act. In reply, anyone is eligible to request an Interim Injunction under the qualification that confirmation before the Registrar is required with your name or customary land. The penalty for breaching an Interim Injunction is a minimum of \$500 or six months imprisonment. The Ministry has introduced a new amendment in the new legislation to raise the penalty fee to \$1000 and 1 year imprisonment. So far this penalty is not enough. This recommendation will have the review of the Committee to see whether this is appropriate or not. The member of Faleata West has advised the use of...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister, I recognize the member of Faleata West.

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**Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini:** Thank you, I do not intend to interject the good speech of the Minister. Now that the clarification is precisely given on Interim Injunction whereby everyone is eligible to Interim Injunctions. The query I gave earlier was in relation to lands, if four sides are opposing and all four are eligible to provide an injunction, is there a contradiction to these four injunctions. Because all four parties will proceed before the court for this one subject matter on land or title. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Go on Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** Mr Speaker, the spirit for this Interim Injunction is to stop the bestowal of a chief title or construction of a house or/and plans like that so either you go ahead with it or not. That is the whole purpose of an interim injunction. That is the meaning, it temporarily awaits the court's decision until it becomes permanent. Hence the period for an interim commences from the time the interim is presented to the court given two ways, either press the interim through or not, that is all. Therefore, for instance, when you apply for an interim injunction to stop a construction of a house from pressing through, those are the factors you must present before the court.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. I see...are you done...

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** Those are some of the matters we have for this Ministry. I see the member of the Faleata West has removed himself. As recommended, use our Samoan Judges to make decisions on the new court cases.

**MR SPEAKER:** That is good, if any member lacks insight, go to the Ministry of Justice to get clarification, but the statement of the Minister is vital.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU:** May God restore you energy to carry on your calling the same with the Hon Prime Minister and Members of this Parliament. I wish to thank the support and prayers of my constituency of Vaimauga West No.2 that has blessed me. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. We now come to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.



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**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** I see that the night is getting late lest my loud noise awakes the ghosts of the land nevertheless I will use 15 minutes to respond to the matters raised by the respectable Members.

Mr Speaker, we only had about six comments, meaning, that the other lot is gratefully thankful to the works of this Ministry and the education sector. We have three components, the NUS, SQA and the MESC which makes up the education sector. The member of the Urban Seat West addressed the raising registration fees for the NUS which is wrong. The correction for this raise is the tuition fees at NUS. This raise according to the decision of the Council is due to the many resources used by the NUS students to pay for the teachers' salaries. Such is the intention for this raise that is held every two years. If this raise started in 2010, it is now 2018, therefore, so far, there have been four raises made after every two years. That is the correction whilst registrations are retained. That is the statement I received from the Vice Chancellor.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member of Urban West Seat.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban West Seat):** Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister, at least there is a raise according to your word. For registrations, I think last year it was \$200, this year it is now gone up to \$235. By request this registration has come down to \$200 in order to give parents the chance to pay up the \$200 fee instead of the \$235. Respectfully Hon Minister.

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

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** I do not know who to listen to. The advice has been relayed to me that the registration raise is only for the tuition fees or programs available for students learning. And hearing the member's statement seems like he is guessing this raise. Never mind I will check to see if the records I have are correct from the NUS.

The burned school building at Vailoa currently has the attempt of the Ministry and the Ministry of Finance for this undertaking given the statement of the Prime Minister, this is all covered under Government's insurance. Insurance companies are also getting smart with these processes such that they prolong the matter and end up giving no insure. Otherwise the process is ongoing in the hope to implement a new school building.

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The 30% accorded by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 for teachers' salary is correct. Just to note this is the first time this year that all grants and funding assistance all come under the government branch at \$14million with 30% being allocated to teachers' salary, however we will look into your request. Hopefully the Ministry of Finance will approve the 50% raise which is excellent. But that is the nature of things, we accept all recommendations although we too cannot do it alone, sometimes we make mistakes but with your recommendations, we accept them with respect.

Member of Vaisigano No.2, gratefully I hear that your school building at Papa has now progressed, however there are requirements for JICA which primarily focuses on primary schools of the State. This also goes to my sister of Alataua yes I cannot forget. The Hon Prime Minister is also aware that colleges are the State's assets. We have the Cabinet's approval however we are seeking funds in order for your school building to press through hopefully during this Parliamentary term which is also my objective.

Member of Safata West, I also enjoy listening to you because you always bring good advice to challenge us. In terms of technical issues, I will relay all responses from the Vice Chancellor and SQA which are very good responses that will satisfy you when we have our break. As for the accreditation standards for the apprenticeship training, this is a new program which takes time before the accreditation is awarded possibly after every five years. The technical issue for students meaning to graduate but were later called that they were not is true, if I was one of the parents, the Vice Chancellor would have had it. This matter should have deeply looked into for a response to be given. To the member of Siumu, your sports field is completed. Right? You see now?

**Afioga Faalogo Iosefa Sopi:** Mr Speaker...

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** This is about it...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Minister, the member of Siumu is finishing is statement.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** To the member of Faleata West, you all know the views of Lealailepule are very thought provoking. Lealailepule until you become Minister then you can do all that.

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As of now the SQA has its Act to mandate its roles and responsibilities which are prohibited from overlapping the works of other departments because what then will the MESC do? Mr Speaker that is it, thank you for the recommendations put forward.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister I recognize the member of Siumu.

**Afioga Faalogo Iosefa Sopi:** Thank you. We had a request I relayed on the day we had the launching of our College which is the need for resources for our new school building. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Do you get it Minister the need for resources for the school of this district.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** This is one member who does not visit his district. That has been done, do check again. I have just been notified that they have just been delivered. Yes. Do make an effort to go and see your districts gentlemen.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Minister has advised all to try and make time to see your districts.

**Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO:** I think that is all. To our Constituency, thank you for your support that has given me full strength. Respectfully thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I cannot give up hearing all your good speeches however we have arrived at our adjourning time, it is now five more to 11. Pursuant to our work, the opportunity will be handed over to the Minister of Finance to speak when we return tomorrow God willing. On that note, I thank everyone here for your dedicated efforts and patience although it is getting late. Thank you dearly to the staff of the Legislative Assembly for your great service upon this Parliament.

Before we adjourn I call the member of Aana Alofi No.2 to end our Meeting with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 10.58pm until  
Thursday 24 January 2019 at 9.00am.*

