

WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2018

Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

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

I take this opportunity to greet the Hon Prime Minister the Leader of the House, the Cabinet and the chosen representatives of the Parliament from Chairpersons, well done to good health this morning to God for His protection and strength upon each one of us to resume our work.

I pray for blessings upon our orders today.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Clerk read out P.P.2017/2018 No.134, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on P.P. 2017/2018 No.67, Public Accounts of the Government of Samoa for Financial Year ending 30th June 2016 pursuant to S.O.52 (5).

MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Deputy Chairperson Parliamentary Commission): Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I give thanks to our Heavenly Father for guiding us safely here today. The notable Parliament has restored energy from our break last night and the support of Samoa tuning in from home. The question this morning, *how did this happen, how did we get restoration this morning?* The Word was there in the beginning, the Word was with God, God is the Word, He had life, and Life is light to the people. Therefore, thank you God for Life this morning.

It is why I am grateful in standing before you all in Chamber as I observe the esteemed Members gathered today such as these words.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Mr Speaker I cannot go forth without greeting the Chair. Therefore, I convey greetings to the Speaker of the House. Thank you for your prayers this morning for the Almighty God of creation, a loving God whom we give the works of this House to be achieved. Thank you very much.

I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I acknowledge the Members of Parliamentary Committees and Chairpersons of each Committee. I acknowledge your efforts and commitments upon the works of this House.

I further greet the presence of the Heads of Government Corporations and Ministries. Well done on your perseverance.

Furthermore, I greet His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and Good Lady, Members of Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies. I acknowledge the patience and the support of your Parliament. Samoa is a country of significant divisions as presented this morning in our prayer, I greet you all, and thank you for your prayers upon the achieved tasks of this Parliament.

To the chosen Servants of God, that is the same spirit this morning, well done to your prayers. We engage together for our Laws, the State is also the Church.

I specially greet and welcome my beloved constituency, *Le paia aua le Aiga Sa Peseta ma lo latou Maopu oe le Tamafaasausau, le alaalatai o le nofo Usoalii le nofo a ituaiga o le Faleiva, ma upu ia te oe Matautu, o le faamaluga o Malo. Ioe o oe o le Muaautasi, o oe o le Muaaufaalele, ma o oe foi o le Muaautau.* In respect I humbly ask for your support, we have achieved so much already. Let us praise our Father for his blessings in what we do.

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 144, I move a motion, *that the Member Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT be elected as a Member of the Parliamentary Commission in replacement of the Member Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA.*

Seconded by Member for Safata West and the Member for Siumu.

Motion approved.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

MR SPEAKER: Proceedings adjourned yesterday when the Member for Aana Alofi No.2 was speaking.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Therefore, I call on the Member to continue.

Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I acknowledge the prayers and words of thanksgiving voiced by the Chair this morning, and also Deputy Speaker who continues to voice praises to our Lord. He is a God of thoughts, God of Host, God of Nations, God who continues to sustain us and reason why the dignified Parliament of Samoa is here this morning.

I greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and also the dignified Parliament this morning. Who would have thought of God's mercy upon us this morning, we have met through His Merciful Love and let praised be unto Him.

Before adjournment yesterday, I was talking about the district hospital at Leulumoega. However, I believe the Hon Minister and the Ministry has noted my concerns on the matter given the potholes affected by the rain but I shall leave that to the Ministry.

However, I hope to remind the Hon Minister that the road connection from Leulumoega to Faleaseela and Lefaga are also in poor condition. I am sure the Chamber is aware that these are the main roads towards the airport and Mulifanua wharf are constantly used by the public. Furthermore, the only inland access road in my constituency requires fixing.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture on another milestone achieved by the Ministry through the employment of school inspectors. However, some constituencies still do not have school inspectors.

Furthermore, we are in at a time where divorced couples are reunited in marriage which is one of the long term plans by the State through the Ministry of Health. Is it possible now for Polytechnic Institute to be separated from the National University like before? It seems priority is mainly towards the University than the Institute. This is an area where the strength of developing countries derives, vocational studies. Nevertheless, I leave this matter to the Ministry and the Minister.

I trust there are a lot more matters I want to convey this morning Mr Speaker however there are others who have yet to speak. Therefore, I will conclude here maybe I will get another opportunity to voice more views in the future.

I take this time to acknowledge the hard work and the efforts of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet in the previous year. We are at the start of another year, I pray blessings upon duties and the future of our country. I also acknowledge this side of the House for the contribution rendered for the future of Samoa.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my constituency in all its honorific salutations. I also thank the Clergy for their supporting prayers for the Member.

I pray for blessings and the love of God upon the Speaker of the House and his health this year. Bless our proceedings of Samoa, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you respectable member for the opinions voiced. I hope to add on to the statements by the Member in regards to the road leading to the Nuuasala College. I humbly ask the Hon Minister of Works to consider the inland roads of the constituency in regards to the High School/Colleges within the district.

Opportunity is open for a Member to speak. I recognize the Member for Falealili West, the Tofa Aumua. I call the Member to stand.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. We give thanks to the Lord for safeguarding us here this morning.

I greet His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and Good Lady, Members of the Council of Deputies and your Good Ladies, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Chief Justice and the Judiciary. I also greet the Speaker of the House and distinguished Members of Parliament. I acknowledge the support of the Servants of the Lord in the distinguished Parishes around Samoa. I greet the Heads of Government Ministries and various Corporations of the Government. I further greet Samoa in all honorific salutations.

I also greet my constituency this morning. Despite the Division of Falealili from East to West, I believe we are all one. I acknowledge the constituency for the support.

I wish to offer thoughts on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill in the hope of bringing assistance to the developments of the State. I can record the objective of the State that it should not exceed 3.5% in relation to the economic status.

Firstly, I want to voice a request to the Land Transport Authority through the Hon Minister of Works and Infrastructure in regards to the roads at the Primary School at Saleilua and Poutasi if not a tarseal road at least fix our road.

The Hon Minister of Tourism I wish to lodge a proposal through the Ministry for road improvement towards the two tourist sites at Tafatafa in Vaiula and to the resort owned by Brenda and Taito. This is an area that is mostly visited by tourists when they come to our country. Although due to heavy rainfall over the years a lot of damage has been seen on these roads.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I now come to the Fire Services and voice acknowledgements for the Call Centre and the usage of the global number of 911. It is a service that is very important especially in terms of emergencies. It was not like it used to be where people forget the number but now with one number it is easier to remember and use for emergencies.

A matter related to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour as stated in the budget there is a big amount allocated for the lease of Yazaki. I just wanted to ask is there an offer made to Sleep Well and FERO like the one we had with Yazaki?

Mr Speaker I thank you for the opportunity. Bless this Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Well done to the Member and thank you for the wonderful speech. I acknowledge the statements by Ulumu and Lefaoaseu in offering ideals for the betterment of our constituency.

I now call upon the member for Safata West.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West): Mr Speaker I thank you. I greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and distinguished Members of the Cabinet. I acknowledge the prayer of thanksgiving voiced by the Chair. I also greet all of Samoa, His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and Good Lady and Member of the Council of Deputies. I also greet our spiritual leaders preaching the word of God across the nation. I also greet my constituency in all its honorary salutations. However, I take this opportunity to share thoughts on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

First of all, I wish to address the Hon Minister of the Fire Services in relation to the recent fire at the Palalaua College. It is about time that a Fire Station is set up in the South of Upolu considering the Hotel developments along this area for Lefaga, Safata, Siumu and Falealili.

I now come to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the inaccessible roads of Sataoa which have gone up to 6 or 7 years. I hope for further consideration on this road so it can be tarsealed soon.

Also the electricity poles at Nuusuatia have yet to reach the residents residing inland. I pray the Hon Minister considers the request for electricity for our village.

Furthermore, I hope to draw attention to the drainage at St. Marys in Savalalo because based on observations and according to the contractors undertaking the job, these drains need repairing works as it is filled with debris from the tides causing blockage. Personally it appears that the initial installation of drainage in this area was not done properly given the road blockage and flooding.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

According to the contractors they affirmed that the larger pipelines will be installed. However, it is my observation that this problem cannot be resolved because of the constant flow of debris by force of nature. I trust that in the next two years more drainage works will be met adding up more costs that are not cheap.

I come now to the Ministry of Health and express gratitude for to the Hon Minister and Ministry. Although the hospital at Safata is not longer operational I give thanks for the implementation of the hospital at Saanapu. I believe and have faith in the Hon Minister to carry out this project efficiently as expressed. The Afioga Anapu has also agreed and laid support for this important cause since it has been years since a proper hospital has been constructed in the constituency.

I come to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and voice my gratitude for the progress in agriculture with reference to our taro. However, my constituency is in abundance of the *nonu* fruit tree and if Company records are observed I believe that our constituents are starting to pull back from gathering the *nonu*. The delay of *nonu* accumulation is the cause of this drawback. I pray to the Hon Minister for overseas markets that are interested in this nonu fruit as our constituency is one of the major suppliers. It is also in abundance across the country for Samoa's accumulated earnings.

I come now to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and I wish to voice my gratitude towards the Ministry for accepting the changes to our Primary School levels. As stated before, primary level is the heart of the learning process for the children therefore I am very grateful for the changes imposed. Furthermore, as mentioned by one of the Members in regards to the combining of the institute of technology and the higher education at the National University. Hon Minister I suggest that there should be a Commission of Inquiry to investigate this combination as I too took part in it. I don't intend to be demeaning but truthfully, we ought to look at the bigger picture by creating greater things. The Institute of technology is different from the procedures of University. In truth most of our graduating public servants came through the Tech Institute compared to the National University graduates.

I come to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment or the Deputy Prime Minister with regards to the common issue of sand collected by the people around the country. I ask the Minister to enforce the law for these unnecessary doing. This abusing act will cost us more in the future by requests of building seawall areas and such.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I now come to the planting of banned substances as it is widely known of the circumstances occurring in West of Upolu. The news of a deceased boy found in this marijuana plantation. I plead the Government to carefully consider the punishment for these crimes. I have come to believe that the person planting marijuana has no fear for death. Hopefully the crimes are minimized when the punishment is enforced for the sake of the policemen who are dealing with these kinds of offenses.

That concludes the pleas and comments in assistance to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for their consideration. Nonetheless he Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018 has my support. Bless this Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you the member for Safata for the speech. I recognize the Member for Salega West, Afioga Toomata Aki Tuipea.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA (Salega West): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I acknowledge your effort and commitment to your calling as I see you are sick. Nonetheless you continue to uphold your duties as per your calling in the Chamber and for Samoa.

I voice my acknowledgement to the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, esteemed Hon Ministers, Associate Ministers and dignified Members of the Parliament of Samoa.

I also greet and acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations.

Firstly, I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018. Furthermore, I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for all the major developments that have been accomplished in the country over the years. I also acknowledge the implementation of the set plans being undertaken. I further acknowledge the State's preparations for the improvement and developments of equal opportunities for all. The Government intends for its people to live independently given an educated and harmonize environment. Although we lack funds, we shall support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill set in [prioritizing unfinished business and ongoing project developments](#).

I thank the Government for the set arrangement for the Asian Development Bank and World Bank branch here in Samoa. It is an arrangement that would benefit our nation greatly not only in terms of efficient borrowing processes provided with soft interests and assistance to our local bank institutions as well as job creation for our people and development of our big island of Savaii.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

It is the dream of the Savaii representatives to be a part of this improvement process for Savaii. It would encourage Savaii residents to remain in Savaii rather than traveling to Upolu as the cost of traveling back and forth is expensive. Furthermore, Savaii residents are also looking for places to live here in Upolu; and the Government will also need to supply water accordingly. However, if assistance is granted I hope to request the Government through the Speaker of the House, to prioritize the wharf, upgrade the Salelologa township area and make good use of the lands near the wharf in Salelologa. I presume there are business and companies that want to set up new business branches in Salelologa but could not due to the hilly public lands in Salelologa. The said lands have been transferred to the Government; perhaps the Government may grant assistance and bury 100 acres of this land piece that has been strip mined. Perhaps then it will be viable for businesses and public agencies to set up here. I also recommend the major Government Ministries to set up branches in Savaii; especially the Ministry of Education. It will be simpler for Savaii residents to commute there rather than traveling to Upolu looking for transportation money and also families here in Upolu to stay with. I believe there are Ministries that set up branches in Savaii already which is appropriate considering the costs it takes to travel here for things needed to be done.

Secondly I acknowledge the Management and the staff of the Samoa Water Authority through the Speaker and the Hon Minister. Implementation works by the Samoa Water Authority is currently ongoing for our village community in the hope to carry on this undertaking for the villages of Fagafau, Samataiuta, Fogatuli and Faiaai. Most families have not yet received any water supply as water is a necessity of life for without it, we will die. A request and acknowledgement to the Chairperson, Chief Executive and staff of the Water Authority for the good works and I take my hat off to the woman who is Chief Executive of this Authority as well as those lady leaders in Savaii, well done on your efforts for true is the saying, *e au le incailau a tamaitai*, that is, women can do anything. I ask that works for Salega be completed before moving on to the next one for cost saving purpose.

I noticed that Asau bears lesser burden on their water bill now at 30% discount due to water contamination. I ask if our constituency could share the same benefit although water contamination is not the issue here however, this is no solution to the problem. What must be done is...

MR SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the Member but I recognize the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, due to the accusation being harsh.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker, I wish to correct the statement of the Member. The relief for the village of Asau is because of the availability of saline water. This water is treated with chlorine for health risks. Therefore, I ask the Member to have your water tested and if it has the same problem then assistance will be provided. This is for the sake of all those other communities with good quality water. Nonetheless that is the main reason for the assistance offered for the village of Asau. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Member for Salega East, Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, I wish to add on to the request of the Member for Salega West because it is true; all of Salega has saline waters. I believe requests were voiced before for relief but it was not considered. However, I wish to back up the statement voiced by my Member colleague in regards to our constituency waters. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I beg pardon but I grant this opportunity to the interruption by the Member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker I wish to add on to that list the saline waters of Lalomanu in Aleipata that is more salinated than any other water in Samoa, please.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker, our constituency too has saline water but it has already been tested and is now safer for consumption. Therefore, I believe these Members should have their water tested by the appropriate authorities. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, all matters on water have all been addressed and given responses to including the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

I call on the honorable to continue his speech.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister for clarifying the matter. I will look for someone to carry out this investigation and Report back about this water status. I do not condone the relief granted to the village of Asau because I too have relatives in Asau. But this does not reduce the issue on water contamination where precautionary measures must be taken. At least Tofa Lopaoa Natanielu Mua will be overseeing this matter. I also want to ask how long these benefits will last.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the current speaker from Salega but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I call on the Minister for a clarification.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, in regards to saline water raised by the member, the former speakers who noted the same concern still has good water quality. However, this was the only constituency with confirmed result on contaminated water received by the Ministry. That is the process for these water sample tests and if such is approved and confirmed by the appropriate authorities then the Water Authority Board will look into proper measures to solve them; however, the intention of putting forth discounts for water bills is inappropriate. But do take heed because this is the same conclusion we received from one of the Manu Samoa players. He was asked to take a sample test at the hospital and he ended up submitting the wrong test which belonged to his wife who was six months pregnant. So if this is the same mistake we carry out for our water test in the village, then I plead for take proper procedures and processes for these tests. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I acknowledge the discretion of the Hon Minister. I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker the matter which the Hon Minister mentions is very important as water sources need to be proven saline so that the constituency can be offered free water. However, the state of water sources must first be confirmed. But do take heed because this is the same conclusion we received from one of the Manu Samoa players. He was asked to take a sample test at the hospital and he ended up submitting the wrong test which was his wife's that was six months pregnant.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Hence if this is the same mistake we are carrying out for our water test in the village, then I plead to take proper procedures and processes for these tests. Because it could mean that water sample for Savaii was extracted from the Vaisigano River, nevertheless, once the water sample is confirmed that it contains saline, accordingly the constituency is delivered free water.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I acknowledge the wonderful clarification from the Hon Prime Minister and also the Hon Minister. I observe the honorable Members Faumuina Liuga and the Senior Lauofo being of great posture in bodily form, which reflects that their waters are not harmful. Nevertheless, I grant opportunity to the Member for Salega to continue his speech.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for clarifying this matter. I thank the Hon Minister and hope that the good work continues from now on. Thank you.

I now come to this other matter regarding the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I acknowledge and thank the Hon Minister for even though it was the festive season, I heard about your secret visits to the various plantations including ours. I believe you now know the status of our access roads. For us we have agreed to have the men sleepover in the plantations and leave their wives in the village in order to reduce the problem with our pigs. Most families have had their four wheel drives sent from overseas due to the terrible road conditions and the need to work the plantations. Therefore, I ask the Hon Minister of Agriculture and the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to assist in these matters. The only requirement is land extension for vehicles to pass by and hopefully on your next visit the area will be fully covered in green with taro and taamu.

I reiterate my recommendation as voiced before, and I wish to remind the Ministry that this is 2018 and to perhaps consider roads...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I query the current speaker in regards to the end of your statement I wish to get clarification, the men would go to the plantation and leave their wives behind. Perhaps if they can take their wives with them, their vehicles will make it through to the plantations.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

MR SPEAKER: Well, I believe that is perhaps the case for the waters for Salega. I call upon the respectable member to continue.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Mr Speaker it is same reason why prisoners break loose from Tafaigata because they claim they want to see their wives. Respectfully, this is why the wives are left in the village for them to finish the works in the plantation and not have to waste time.

I come now to the Ministry of Agriculture. I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister, even though your post is new, I have no doubt that you are well aware of our cocoa, coconuts and cattle supplies. I ask the Hon Minister to consider our vanilla development that has been in the making process for quite some time but has bear fruits. I have noted by observation that these vanilla stacks could possibly be worth a few story buildings. The Hon Prime Minister is one witness to this as he too used to plant vanilla but I am not aware if it has bore fruits. The intention is to save public funds.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the vanilla bean was originally grown in South America. The flat-leaved flower grew in abundance in Mexico. The missionaries from other countries came and took this vanilla orchid flower to be grown in their home countries. For years the plant was grown but it never produced the vanilla pod that they wanted and saw in Mexico. So the Missionaries returned to Mexico and observed how vanilla beans were grown. It was noted that the birds carried out the function of flower pollination by hand. Therefore, the problem was that the missionaries took the plant and not the bird, thus the people that took the vanilla bean were taught to carry out the function of the bird with the method of hand pollination. The Trust Estate and Agriculture employees are being cultured on this as each morning I would get up early and apply the same process with my vanilla bean plant. There are many people in Alafua and the Trust Estate that are aware of this process which is the reason why the plant is slowly making production.

MR SPEAKER: I grant opportunity to the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister's comment is very important. The Hon Prime Minister should indicate and differentiate which is the female reproductive system from the male one because if we have two vanilla female reproductive organs mating, we will end up with nothing.

MR SPEAKER: This is the same result with the Speaker's comment. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I have clarified the matter before. The vanilla is from an orchid flower and it is similar to a giant clam; it has both female and male genitals on the same clam. The vanilla plant is like that. It is why hand pollination is required because it allows for the vanilla pods to develop when the pollens are removed.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I recommend the honorable Member for Salega to stress the importance of the matter voiced by the Hon Prime Minister. Perhaps some time the Hon Prime Minister will elaborate more on the matter for you, so I suggest you come ready with a pen and paper to note all the things down. Nevertheless, I call on the honorable Member to continue.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you also to the Hon Prime Minister. The reason why I raised the subject is because it was said that you can earn millions from just one bulk of vanilla. However, there is no development on this area so far as it is very costly.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a training by overseas experts was conducted 25 to 30 years ago on this vanilla development. The trainer was the main export supplier of vanilla in Fiji. He affirmed that ten trucks of coconut loads is equivalent to the same income earned from an old lady's bucket of vanilla. That is the difference between the earnings made from vanilla and that of coconuts.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

The vanilla farm is very important for Samoa and the main purpose for this development by the Trust Estate. It is true that I did have the vanilla planted in Lepa however; I am looking for poles to help the growth of these heavy vanilla bean pods. We can go one day to Lepa for you to have a look.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Thank you for the wonderful clarification. Maybe one day I will visit and see for myself the state of your vanilla plants. I will move on to cattle.

The Government has intended to bring in the cattle from Australia. We currently have two to three now which is still insufficient. The problem lies with the end process to animal slaughtering by the Ministry for our family faalavelaves.

I went on a trip one year and met one businessman in New Zealand who asked if there was a 500acre land available for a lease. This man owns a huge cattle farm and several businesses including the *teropika* breed. After our visit, I consulted the respective Minister at the time in regards to this man's request for 400 to 500 acres of land lease to set up his cattle farm.

We took a visit to Togitogiga, Avele and Vaea area and from there, I told the Ministry that it be best to have our local cattle farms be taken over by this businessman in order to generate more income. However, we waited too long and ended up with nothing.

Tofa Hon Lopaoa Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker...

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

Tofa Hon Lopaoa Natanielu Mua: I did not wish to interrupt the wonderful speech of the honorable Member given the intention that I want it to make an official statement in regards to the new post I have now and to the House despite, I shall put forth a response in regards to the raising matters.

It is the Governments initiative to encourage and promote customary lands as Government lands are growing scarce. The mention of flower pollination was expressed and although I wanted to address this matter, it was not permitted by the Chair due to the terms used. However, Mr Speaker those are the terms used to express the reproduction of plants and animals.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

In regards to the other division of the Ministry located in Vaea, Togitogiga and the Lemafa; it is progressing well in our awareness programs and in promotion of our local cattle farms. It is my belief that in the near future our nation will be open to new types of breeding as mentioned before. Moreover, there was a Member who requested for cattle which he bought and paid for. It is crucial to note that all cattle must be bought and paid for because nothing is free of charge. Some Members have also received the cattle they purchased with the assistance of the Ministry.

In regards to the vanilla being exported by the Women in Business, the exception is that your land must be organically certified first before it is exported. For this process, I suggest you contact the Women in Business.

The Taga plantation also has the vanilla planting and market through the Women in Business. Respectfully that is the assistance on the raising queries.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honorable Member to conclude statements as your time is up.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: Thank you Hon Minister but I was not referring to the current but six years ago when I was being advised by the former Minister to bring this businessman to secure us better income by going ahead with this cattle farming development.

Other ideas mentioned by the man in other alternatives regarding the breeding of cattle was the concept of artificial insemination of sperm cells from a male and manually inserting them into the reproductive tract of a female. The result would be the best cattle.

The other matter is in regards to the banana from Israel...

MR SPEAKER: I urge the Member to conclude speech.

Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA: I will conclude comments on this matter with regards to the Israel banana which I initially thought was different from our normal European banana. It is not, it is the very same although it just has different names. It is not from Israel as it comes from somewhere different.

I conclude my comments and wish to thank the Chair for the opportunity. I beg forgiveness if I have spoken any offensive word, the intention for me was to clarify matters in need of assistance not only in my constituency but also the nation.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I pray the Lord blesses the Leader of Government, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and most especially the Speaker of the House. I acknowledge the Speaker for leading of the Meeting. Pray the Lord blesses you with physical and spiritual strength as you carry out your duties. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Member for Salega. In accordance to our Standing Orders we must always keep our statements to a time limit. Nonetheless, opportunity will be available when we get to the consideration of Bills. I acknowledge the wonderful ideas mentioned by the Member.

Opportunity is granted to a Member who wishes to speak. I recognize the honorable Member for Gagaifomauga No.3. I grant opportunity to the Lady Member.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I stand with all due respect to voice my support in relation to the previous Member and his statements. To illustrate more what I mean I am not referring to the matter of sexual transmission as those are the methods of the honorable Member. I want to acknowledge the Leader and the Government for the initiatives and developments incorporated through the various public sectors.

In regards to the Budget 2017/2018 of the Ministry of Prisons and queries related to the cost of labor and the construction of the Prison. Why was this budget not covered in the Main Estimates from the beginning? I observe the lapse of income in the Budget but still able to have been replaced by other areas with profits. Therefore, I had thought that the increase in profits would cover the cost of the Prison and other unforeseen payments provided by the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. Why was funding not used for the Prison Project? That is a question directed towards the Budget...

MR SPEAKER: I wish to assist the member in case the Chair is blamed by this Side of the House in regards to reminding you about our Standing Orders, never mind, that is fine. The main reminder I wish to give, is that chance will be open when we have the consideration of the Bill therefore it is best that you make your general statements about our economy in relation to our Supplementary Budget. That is the reminder. I call on the Member to continue.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS: Thank you Mr Speaker for the reminder.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: As clarified yesterday the total cost for the work done by contract is \$7.4million. This is based on procedures of the Ministry of Finance to allow the initial 50% in accordance to the progressing works of the contracts and if more money is required, it will be added to the Supplementary Estimates. The current status confirms that majority of the work has been completed, yet it is more likely that the remaining half of \$3.7million is required to complete the project.

As mentioned, part of this contract does not cover other things like the installation of the fence, roads and water installations which will be put into tender later on. The initial plan was to see if the \$7.4million could be used up for this financial year. Hence this is why the \$3.7million was included in the Main Budget as most of the job is now ahead of schedule; this is why the appropriation of \$3.7 million is being put back into the Supplementary Appropriation to complete the project by the current contract, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Member to continue her speech.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS: Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I believe the Hon Minister is certain in his views but I believe that for any project it is crucial to have a project design and plan. But given the Budget and the available funds here, I believe that is the reason.

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Chief Executive of the Ministry and staff for the efforts in implementing standard education for our children which is reflected in the results received in the beginning of this year. The increasing number of students who passed is a result of the drive and efforts by the Ministry. I pray that this positive energy and achievement will continue. The district schools still needs this drive to lift the standards for the students in these areas.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Before I move away from the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture I wish to request for a sports field for my village of Aopo. I believe there are future Manu Samoa representatives but it is very sad that there is no sports field to practice their Manu Samoa skills. There is a lot of potential in our village for the sports; I leave that to the Hon Minister.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure I wish to comment on the water under discussion. Given the Prime Minister's clarification on the assistance provided for constituencies containing saline water, therefore we too have the same problem now we understand the process.

Hon Minister of Health I applaud your work from the previous year given the health services delivery for district hospitals hence as reflected, changes have been incorporated and the service processes have shown great improvement for staff that is well acknowledged.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, there are still a few villages in need of access roads at my district for your consideration.

Lastly, given your approval, our constituency has agreed to divide the lands of Aopo to be developed by the villagers of Sasina however the main concern is that they cannot meet the payment for measuring/surveying of land boundaries. For the sake of all constituencies given this request, I ask the Government Leader whether we have funding reserved for requests like this.

That is all from me, this Supplementary Appropriation has my support. Thank you Mr Speaker and may the Lord bless this sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I acknowledge the statements of the honorable Member. The State and Cabinet has heard your requests for the development of the constituency, well done.

I recognize the honorable Member for Vaisigano No.2 however we have now come to our normal recess hour. I apologize to the honorable Member but you will be granted opportunity when we return from our normal recess.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 10.38am and reconvened at 11.16am.

24 JANUARY 2018

Motion to Amend Sitting Hours

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

Well done for we have just finished with our refreshments of today in rejuvenation of strength to resume our callings with the support of Samoa.

Before recess the Member for Vaisigano No.2 was speaking, I now call on the member to share thoughts on the Supplementary Appropriation.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No.2): I stand with utmost respect this morning in the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the notable Member, for the information of the Chamber, the Leader of Government wishes to move a motion in regards to our Sitting hours extension.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUUELOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That Sitting hours be amended from 9.00am until 1.00pm, before recess and reconvene at 7.00pm to 11.00pm. These hours will remain until the Supplementary Appropriation is approved.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labor, and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motion approved and sitting hours will be changed as moved until the approval of the Supplementary Appropriation.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed with the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Vaisigano No.2 to continue.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand with utmost respect to greet the Speaker of the House. Thank you for this opportunity. I also acknowledge the refreshments provided this morning.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

I greet that side of the House and the esteemed Members of the Parliament the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and also Associate Ministers. I also greet this side of the House. Furthermore, I greet the Office of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations lest I forget the media. I also greet all those present within the House.

I greet the support of Samoa, to His Highness O le Ao o le Malo and Good Lady, Members of Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, and Samoa in all honorary salutations. I also greet the supporting prayers of the Servants of the Lord in hopes for a better future of Samoa and our people. I further greet my dear constituency of Vaisigano No.2.

Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House, I wish to voice acknowledgement to the constituency in relation to the tabling Supplementary Appropriation and the State's objectives and proposals for all eight Ministries hence my gratitude to the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Mr Speaker, I resume to provide a brief statement on this Supplemental Appropriation (No.1) 2017/2018 which has the support of this constituency upon the additional requests beforehand which I trust is complying with the main objectives or guiding principals or procedures or Appropriate and Equal Rights. Such is a word of gratitude to the Minister of Finance and the Ministry for supporting the public projects and the necessary needs for the smooth running of works for the State. In saying that, I give my support to this Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018 and the laid out programs and proposals for all these eight Ministries, well done to the Committee for Revenue and Expenditure.

Mr Speaker briefly I wish to raise something in regards to this Report and matter with filling up vacancies for employment within various Ministries that is becoming a common problem. I query the minimum wage or the starting rate of workers which could be one factor as to why positions are vacant in most Ministries. As put forward by previous Members, isn't it time for the Government to consider a new method given the required qualification and skills to carry out the job. By sorting this, it would be more effective to collaborate with higher education level or the university to ensure that we get the right people with the right skills and knowledge to do the job. That is the comment in regards to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on this matter.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

Mr Speaker I now come to the developments of our nation. First of all, I wish to offer my acknowledgement to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries as observed, the efforts of the Ministry in working towards the development of our families, villages and constituency. I believe we talked about these plans from the beginning of the Term such as developing our agriculture and fisheries sector. I have no doubt the current Hon Minister recalls our meeting with the previous Minister in efforts to stressing the need placed on the development of family plantations for commercial gains in the hope of developing families especially the constituencies. However, I have one suggestion referring to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, with the assistance and support of the Hon Minister of Agriculture.

I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure as you may be already aware of the request from my constituency. I believe our requests are not new as they all aim for the economic improvement of our constituency.

Hon Minister I wish to extend gratitude for the borehole of Sataua. Although we have had specialists on this field, yet I too have knowledge on this matter from the past. Our constituency is very familiar with this type of water and the ingredients contained in it which is good for the health. Although very few bacteria is found but still, this water from the olden days was mainly taken by the district and chlorine treatment was inapplicable those days. Hopefully in the next eight weeks of sample water test, the water source of Sataua will obtain good drinking water (magalo) for the constituency.

On another note Hon Minister, I wish to acknowledge your visit to Savaii and the improvement works for our street lights, however we still need about three or four more. Although majority of the constituents live in the inner area, however more street lights are required.

Furthermore, there is a dire need for the inner roads of the constituency that have been densely settled over the years from Papa, Vaivaimuli to Fagasa. Thank you for considering the new road fix that will be implemented according to your talks with the Pulenuu.

I assist if possible to have machines to seal this road for easier access and in particular a borehole for this constituency.

I come to my last request to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure in regards to vehicles needing accessible roads to the plantations. Given the poor road status, trucks and pickups can only make it through but not the small sized vehicles like taxi.

MR SPEAKER: The Member has two more minutes.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: I ask the Hon Minister to consider the expiry year for small trucks that are mainly used for the plantations. I suppose there is no harm in the circumstances as my constituencies mainly relies on its plantation and sea for survival. Nevertheless, I will conclude now since my time is up.

I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Health for the plans to merge the MOH and the NHS. I believe the merge will go a long way in ensuring the health and sustainable health of our nation. Furthermore, I acknowledge the re-instatement of Committees for Women in our constituency and villages. I wish to add that these initiatives will go a long way in maintaining the health of our people. I firmly believe that that is one of the objectives of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and also the Management; for the stability of our health in our village and homes.

I recommend the Hon Minister in regards to doctors. At the moment, there is only one doctor therefore I plead the Hon Minister to have mercy that doctors are short then perhaps make it three days instead of one day. I think a day is not enough. It is best to be safe so as to prevent future problems.

Mr Speaker I need just two more minutes to comment on this please.

MR SPEAKER: I recommend the Member to direct comments to the issue instead of beating around the bush. I value your time as you speak. I ask that you conclude whatever you have left.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: No, I have high belief that the Speaker grants opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: I urge the Member to conclude his statement.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for releasing the students' exam results for the previous year which indicates great improvement.

Despite the undertaking at the Polytechnic, we hope it goes well. We must find the knowledge from this training institute for our people. Our people must learn to develop and acquire the skills and knowledge to build that desk or chair, increase the volume to the speaker which is the drive and intention and furthermore develop this country. My time is up but I put forward that our Secondary School building at Papa needs improvement.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I extend sincere gratitude to that side of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge my constituency comprising of Papa, Vaivaimuli and Fagasa, Servants of the Lord and families.

Thank you and God bless proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you respectable member for Vaisigano No.2. I have the utmost respect for the Member but we must heed our Standing Orders. Therefore, I apologise.

The Chamber is now available for further comments. Perhaps this side of the House, we should divide our work equally between the two sides.

Yes, I recognize the brave Member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker and you are not wrong about that statement. Our bravery starts from Faleata West to Faleata East and towards the whole of Vaimauga.

I acknowledge the Assembly of Samoa, Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and the esteemed Members of Parliament. I also greet the respective Members of this party, from the Senior Members, honorable Member for Falealupo and Palauli le Falefa, distinguished Members of the Party. I also acknowledge His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo, the Clergy and Samoa in all honorary salutations. Thank you honorable Members of the Government, the Leader of Government, Chief Executive Officers...

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

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Member.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker it is important to note that the number of years is not the measurement of age, but rather the wealth of knowledge. I recommend the Member offers useful knowledge. Thank you.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you honorable Member. My speech has just started. This side have already shared views and the Leader of Government stated that when Afioga Faumuina speaks, one should respond.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

First of all, I voice my gratitude to the Government, the Hon Prime Minister and all those covered in the operations for the previous year. I applaud your efforts and achieved works. I begin with the Budget Statement; we are fortunate to make decisions on this budget distribution and not have to find ways to getting these funds. Thankfully we have enough funds to push for our developments.

First of all, I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Prisons and the Rehabilitation Services for the works done in upgrading the current status of our prison. This is appropriate timing given the growing number of our population. I visited the site and have noticed the construction of the prison and its security especially for the safety of my constituency. It seems that majority of the prison breaks affects the members of this constituency. I have comforted the victims of these events and have ensured them that the new prison will be tightly secured and hopefully the prison breaks will be at a minimum level. The Government and majority of the Members of Parliament have also voiced recommendations on this regard. Hopefully the new facility will minimize the number of prison breaks. If necessary and appropriate, room number 9 should also be in place to provide fairness and safer environment mainly for the well behaved prisoners. If suitable, I ask the Hon Minister to implement what is appropriate.

Then I come to the matter regarding money borrowed. I have been in the Opposition side for ten years. According to the Hansard in the Opposition Side, I have never said anything in objection to borrowing/loan, never. This is the same advice I relay to most of the new Parliament Members, “if you wish to develop your constituency, then you must stay away from these things.” Whatever income we have in Samoa to drive our economy every day must be acceptable if all we wish for is eat, rest and enjoy. However, if we wish to develop our country then we cannot avoid borrowing money for this purpose. Besides, it would only mean we are stupid if we do not utilize the opportunity from international funding agencies on loan/borrowings with very little interest rate. I am still disappointed with criticisms against the Pacific nations and their borrowings. On a positive note, they have publicized this list of Pacific island states and their debts to China, remarkably, other nations have more owe than us to China. This means that these nations are making good use of the opportunity to borrow money to develop their countries considering the low interest and the time period for repayments.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

Therefore, I recommend that as Parliamentarians we must bear duty to inform and discuss with our constituency why we need borrowings/loans. Because starting from yesterday, until the conclusion of our Sitting, because this is the sole purpose for all thought and views, to drive our constituencies and country forward. So if we are not able to utilize this opportunity then we are unable to develop our nation to its full capacity.

The Ministry of Health, I thank the Hon Minister of Health in regards to the vision for the Ministry. There is one purpose for Government Reforms, and that is to improve the service delivery of the Ministry. Therefore, if by the end that objectives for this merge are not met, then we can use past experiences to learn from for the Ministry. The same can be said for the Dialysis unit, if the Hon Minister decides to create a Division for this unit, then so be it to avoid the many Ministries in one. But more improvement is required for the Ministry of Health based on a weekly observation I had witnessed when my son was admitted in the hospital. We cannot make excuses as we are receiving a lot of donors and funding assistance from overseas in prioritization of the Health sector which should be utilized properly.

I had a talk with the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor in regards to the shortage of egg supply which has taken two months. The Hon Minister said that the Ministry is prioritizing 30 to 60 days for egg storage. These egg supplies are also exported to American Samoa. Therefore, Hon Minister, I recommend that this matter be reviewed because it has been two Sundays straight that we went looking for eggs all over Vaitele as this is the only day of the week that we get to eat eggs. I am telling the truth it was all over Vaitele. It is important to me that we lay emphasis on these developments. If this development cannot be accomplished then perhaps look at other ways such as handing over these developments to the private sector. I fear that we may lose this market if nothing can be done about it.

On to the case of turkey tails and whether it is prohibited in Samoa or not. This food item is being made available using the black market. [People are bringing this item into the country illegally and if this decision](#) is done by the Ministry of Health I suggest you give it permission to make turkey tails available again. Since we now have an educational cooking program for people to tune in on when preparing proper meal using turkey tails.

Hon Minister of Finance, 90% of building materials in Samoa comes from overseas. Consider the Price Control Board because that is the key to getting your revenues. If the Customs declares a low price, therefore this price should be lower than the actual price.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

For instance, for imported goods, the selling price should be lower than the declaring price by the Custom. However, it appears that the declaring price is dropped in addition to the low Customs fee that accumulates the selling price to incur higher revenue which is inappropriate. Some local agents are also going through this because the purchasing price is the appropriate price than the selling price that others are putting in place for the illegal goods being imported. Therefore, I ask the Hon Minister to advise the Price Control Board to take appropriate action on this review that is very important.

I come to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture who needs no praise. I am glad to acknowledge the Hon Minister and the efforts because compared to last year and the problem with the leaked exam papers and inaccurate marking of results. I acknowledge the changes this year. I believe the Hon Minister's growl has proven effective. Hon Minister, if you recall the beginning of this Parliamentary Term you became Minister, I came to you with a letter of recommendation for a college in Vaitele. It is familiar to the public the growing number of children in Vaitele. Perhaps it is time the Government considers setting up another school or college for Vaitele because there is only one College; Faleata College. There is only one College for all primary school students of Faleula, Falelauniu and the entire Faleata district. Hon Minister if my letter is dusty I will not hesitate to re-write it. I also ask the Hon Minister to show support by traveling to witness the boxing match this March as this is a significant event for one of the sons of Samoa. Therefore, I ask the Hon Minister not to go in the ring to announce the match. Honestly I have already booked my tickets with my wife so that we can go and support this match. This is a Heavy Weight Championship hence the opportunity does not come often. Even if Parker loses, I will go in the ring and lift the name of Samoa.

I come now to the lands of Samoa. I am shocked with what these people are doing; it seems that they are the only ones who care enough to protect our lands whilst we want to throw them (land) away. The tabling Bill was put forward when I was in the Opposition Side and not a thing in this Legislation wasn't read nor covered in my statement. So I do not understand these critics and their way of thinking. As we all know, Samoa is probably the only different nation from the others, I am not sure if there is a country similar to Samoa in terms of land ownership. Samoa has 80% of its land owned by its people.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Leasing of lands is not a new concept in Samoa as lands were also leased in the past. Leasing lands does not impact the lands. What I am trying to explain is that it is important that we understand the Act because my constituency asked whether I understood the Act or not. So I told them, I understand the Act very well because I read it from front to back vice versa. Mr Speaker it is important that the security of lands is clarified for the sake of our constituencies.

On to communication technology, Samoa should not be ignorant nor pave away from the advancing world of technology, we cannot be left behind; accordingly, we must advance with technology. We attended a conference with the Hon Minister last December which made up of all the internet service administrating providers from across the globe from the Apple to Arc and so forth. The main words of the owner of the Apple company says that he is not concerned about machines wanting to be like people, he is more concerned about people wanting to be like machines and it has lost the humanity side of things in regards to technology. It is clear what is happening in our country in regards to the misuse of technology by some people that have in turn caused disruption and conflicts in our Government and its operations. The answer is simple really; easy.

Once the Government decides to turn off the internet then that will be it. However, it is not what we would do because we do not give in to simple tones and sacrifice the benefits of this factor. What should be done is to have whistle blowers that raise these types of issues as all democratic countries have whistle blowers. We cannot ignore technology and its benefits and must not give in to the internet abusers. However, it is important that the safety of the people is not being jeopardized by ignoring the illegal internet abusers. The Hon Prime Minister clearly states that if any person knows of any crime or misconduct then they should make their way down to the Government building or the Court House and report it. It is a better choice rather than resorting to using the internet to carry out malicious and defaming acts. The internet was created for the improvement of life of a person. Mr Speaker with 30 years this country has been very fortunate given its positive growth and progress. In the foreign eyes, we are praised for our accomplishments. No country is 100% but living in harmony is the praise we get from all over the world. Otherwise the main concern is our own people not only those Samoans living abroad but also those living here.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

My recommendation Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet is that we work together and let us not be bothered by such matter. The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology, the culprit should be sought and found so we can take them to court. This is no light issue as we are founded on God. The drafting of our legislations should also be clearly reviewed so that it reflects our agreement in Parliament. Samoa is founded in God; we are a Christian State.

Mr Speaker, I come now to some of the needs of the constituency. In the beginning of the Term, I wrote to the Hon Minister and also sought an appointment with him. Nevertheless, I will continue to voice my request because the Bible says that, “he who knocks, shall receive.” But if it takes a while to knock, by the time the door opens, throw a punch.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Authority, you are my brother, Afioga Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang. Note our discussion and the letter I gave you and the approach we made with my constituents to the village of Vaigaga upon the request to build a fence from the start yet the fence is now been installed and was funded by the constituents themselves which is inappropriate. Never mind, the main reason why I kept coming to you is because I am not a greedy person. This goes not only for the fence but also the roads at Falelauniu. I humbly ask that this area be reviewed. These concerns were supposed to go through last year according to your statement. As known Faleata East has the increasing number of settlers every year. Perhaps this area should be a priority by way of development building given its growing numbers.

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

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker I do not wish to interrupt the wonderful speech of my dear brother Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi. I concur with the statements of the Member in regards to the Member turning up in my office with his letter of request. My eyes hurt from seeing him all the time. However, the fence at Vaigaga was destroyed during the preparation of the four lane road. We did have funds proposed to rebuild the fence in a chain link otherwise the village were supplying the concrete white wall leading up to the school. Hopefully we will be granted additional funds in preparation for the road but we will discuss this matter further and expect to see completion for that undertaking. Your request is not dusty rather it is still shiny on my desk. And a point of order reference to the first part of your speech it seems that you have the authority over the Vaimauga constituency.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I recommend the Member not to meddle with Vaimauga, your authority is only limited to Faleata alone.

With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. See if there is clash between Vaimauga and Faleata that is causing the delay to building your fence. I call on the Member to continue his speech.

Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Hon Minister, no I have known my friend for a long time. I apologize to Vaimauga, no there is no tension because Vaimauga and Faleata are brothers. I am hesitant to continue because Afioga Loau Keneti Sio is present, who knows. Nevertheless, thank you vitally at least the constituency is listening to these raising matters. I have a few more on my list.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I believe the answer to our taro is chips making. Three years ago, the Finance Committee had this approval for Scientific Research Organisation to have frozen taro for chips. This is only done by restaurant owners but this process was encouraged perhaps by now we will not need any more potatoes but taro and breadfruit for chips. Most people prefer the taro chips instead of potato.

The rhinoceros beetle has increased in Samoa but the coconut is a very useful tree for us. I do acknowledge the Hon Minister and the efforts and all the important work carried out so far.

There have been many criticisms in regards to our country's aircraft and I voiced my acknowledgement to the Government and especially the Hon Minister in this regard. I believe no one wants this for our country. As previous members have also shared similar ideas on this but this is a sensitive issue because the loss would not be in hundreds or thousands but millions of tala. I recommend the Hon Minister to have courage in implementing the development but to have it closely monitored. The Cabinet should be reviewing the progress and the Ministry should also have records of airline traveling schedules noting whether there is any improvement for this development.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Member, but I recognize the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor): Mr Speaker I am not sure how much time is left for the Member and I am also sure that this Member enjoys listening to his voice. I wish to highlight some of the responses to the raising view.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

In relation to the aircraft, I recommend the Member leave the matter to the Cabinet, Government and the respective Ministry as this development was Government's dream. As for the monitoring process you mention, that is also being done since we are in the initial stages and with only two months now, but that is the response, all operations and executions have been in place. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I apologize to the honorable Member.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker it is important to provide further recommendation because if the company fails, everyone is affected including us who makes up the Government. Furthermore, if you do not wish to hear my voice, then I apologize but the Speaker enjoys listening to my voice as he always picks me to sing. Not only that, but my wife and kids also enjoy listening to my voice. If no one likes it then I apologize but please be patient.

The 911 number I apologize honorable Member for Gagaemauga No.2 for not having time to meet given the first house that was caught on fire in the New Year. This was the same week the 911 number was launched. I have talked to the Hon Minister since there have been a lot of issues but I apologize since this number is just now been used. As for future improvement the Ministry is listening in and will assess this problem. We cannot use this number carelessly because there have been such instances where calls have been made but it is not something serious. Then the Ministry will be fooled in coming by moreover everyone is aware of such measures to take during such emergencies. This is for improvement also this number is important.

MR SPEAKER: The Member has two more minutes.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker but you did not have to grant me another two minutes as I presume Afioga Fuimuina Tiatia Liuga has ticked my speech with an A++. I pray blessings upon Samoa and acknowledge the support, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. I pray that the Government will not be so easily sensitive and defensive in regards to the statements voiced. I also recommend to the Government to abolish the mindset of thinking that we instruct the Government on what to do and so forth; no because that is inappropriate. There should be a ban on such inclinations.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

The Assembly sittings include all Members of the House expressing their ideals on certain issues and experiences. If anyone takes offense in relation to the recommendation, then I apologize but our work is done together. I hope and wish all the best for the developments this year; our journey will not be easy. Mr Speaker I pray for strength upon you this Term and the next one. To my constituency let us keep in contact on the internet as usual. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I believe the Parliament and Samoa has acknowledged the thoughts voiced by the member. Well done on the speech.

I declare there is now opportunity for another Member who wishes to speak. Perhaps it would be nice to take turns...I recognize the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 who is the senior of this side of the House.

Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA (Gagaemauga No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker. I first give thanks to the Lord our God for the all the great things. I further acknowledge the Leader of Government, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. Samoa is a nation which has already been chosen of its titles therefore I shall not speak further on it. I pray forgiveness of the speech if I misspeak but nevertheless I thank the Lord for safeguarding us to the beginning of the year.

Before I forget, I hope to voice my acknowledgement to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet for all the works of the previous year. Whatever faults we had in the past the Lord our God is a forgiving God so as Members of Parliament I pray that we forgive one another. There is no use in having a divided front because that will avoid us from not achieving anything. We Samoans have been taught by our Christian values and cultural beliefs. Therefore, I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I have been hesitant to share thoughts and make a contribution of the constituency in regards to the Supplementary Appropriation.

It has been over 20 years since the road at our constituency has not had any upgrade Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. There are only two main roads Hon Minister, the one at Saleaula in Savaii and Saleaula in Salamumu in Upolu. I believe written requests have already been delivered but if the Government no longer has funds then I can rely on the Supplementary Appropriation. I can now sympathize with how the previous Members felt because the village of Saleaula in Savaii contains numerous agricultural harvest but unfortunately it is very difficult to be brought down to the coast; it is very far.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

I request the Hon Minister for the road to be dug up right to the area where the taro is accessible. My village of Saleaula Salamumu is always visited by many tourists. It also requested for lorry trucks to assist the constituency in upgrading the roads so that when the tide is out the roads can be constructed. I humbly request the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to consider our village. I firmly believe I will be coming back for the next ten years to serve my constituency as God continues to bless my life. Therefore, with the utmost respect I stand to voice my humble request to the Hon Minister to consider my constituency.

Hon Minister of Health I am not sure the mindset behind the building of the district hospital at my constituency. At first it was initially constructed in the village coast where most villagers are situated, but now it is being rebuilt in the bush. This is the concern for the Hon Minister taking into point distant patients. Furthermore, Lava village is available to build a new hospital if there is no other space. This village is offering land space to build the hospital.

Hon Minister for the Tourism Authority I heard the Ministry stating something along the lines reference to my village that it is nice except for a few reasons. Therefore, I recommend the Hon Member that if there is a potential development for the village then we would always agree for such a prospect. The village is an attractive spot for tourists to rest and relax. I recommend the Hon Minister to consider our village and to prioritize these plans. I wish to return in the next Elections if all these developments are completed together with my requests.

Thank you Hon Minister of Prisons and Correction Services I acknowledge the works for the new facility. However, there is one matter that I hope to voice. The cattle farming at Tanumalala has been awaiting water installation for the cattle now that the Prison facility is yet to press through. How can the Prison have better water access yet we do not have stable buildings. It is not as if the tourists will own it but nonetheless you are the authority. However, I only wish for consideration into this matter. I recall saying that I will not be running in the Elections as I am very old. However, the insistence of the constituency is the reason for my being here and so I am here and I am strong and the constituency must be prepared as I will be vying in the next Elections. Perhaps in the next few years we have a Minister or even a Prime Minister.

Bless the Meeting.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Member I believe the constituency has heard your speech. Well done, the Member has voiced opinions for the support of the constituency. I grant opportunity to any Member who wishes to speak before we conclude.

I recognize the Deputy Speaker the honorable Member for Gagaemauga No. 3.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Mr Speaker I believe this is an appropriate time for me to share my thoughts after the speech of the Member for Gagaemauga No.2; Gagaemauga No.3. Before I proceed with my speech, I acknowledge Saleaula for the speech. In our co-existence I wait for the time to share thoughts hence I shall make additional comments to our cause.

Mr Speaker I believe there is no offense if I do not formally address the Chamber as Members before have done so already. Nonetheless I voice my acknowledgement of the support of the nation for the Parliament. I greet and acknowledge the support of the nation in all its honorary salutations. I further greet my constituency in all its honorary salutations. We have come to the year 2018 in good health thanks to the constant prayers and support. I also acknowledge the support, the advice and prayers of the servants of the Lord in our constituency. We give thanks for the support and prayers in our work as Members of Parliament.

I believe I will now address the Supplementary Appropriation 2017/2018. Thoughts on the matter have been slightly delayed due to the thorough consideration of the Supplementary in regards to the reasons behind the initial appropriation. The words of the previous year implied that there will be no Supplementary Appropriation. However, I have observed and given my full support of the Supplementary Appropriation. I have seen the reason behind this appropriation of \$24.4 million tala for the works of January to June and therefore thank the Hon Minister of Finance, head of the Ministry and staff.

The main thing to note is the budget allocation for the key priorities. Another main issue is the salary scales for public servants. In the review of the Parliamentary Commission and Public witnesses the main reason for failing to achieve this objective is due to the inability of employees to fill the vacancies. Such is the recommendation to the Hon Minister of Finance to consider prioritizing these Government vacancies in order for Government objectives to be achieved.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I comment in regards to the responses given in the review to which I voice recommendation on the Supplementary Appropriation this year. Perhaps consider reviewing the minimum hourly rate for the Government employees and especially the casual workers and those who are paid on a weekly basis and daily paid workers. The Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor this is the perfect time for the Member to consider the rate increase for employees considering the acquired surplus.

This is our duty to make better decisions in response to the many criticisms on the cost of living and insufficiency to provide for our families and the number of working people in a family. The minimum salary range is the only means of supporting families, villages and also church donations. Therefore, I hope to remind the Hon Minister of this to be considered.

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

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the honorable Member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker I am a Member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, I wish to address the concerns of the honorable Member, the Deputy Speaker regarding the wages of experts.

The matter is the main responsibility of the Public Service Commission or the Human Resource Division. Salary scale is based on the range of performances, tools and skills of the personnel.

The minimum wage is arranged by the State whilst the employer has the discretion whether to raise the salary of his or her workers. Therefore, if this minimum wage is increased this will mean that the employers will resort to cutting off some of its workers in order to secure the wages for the other workers. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I acknowledge the honorable Member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: I acknowledge the statement of the honorable Member as this is nothing new because these types of services are being implemented. It is why I am voicing my concerns.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I agree with the Member's comment that the employer has the discretion to increase the salary for their workers. We must have a balance if the minimum wage is increased in relation to the existing cost of living, thus, isn't it time to raise it according to the surplus of \$29million or something like that?

The current minimum wage is \$2.30 and perhaps a raise to \$2.50 for all income level groups to provide a balance from low and middle income earners to executive positions. The essence is to inform and advice Samoa as this is our duty in advising and informing our people.

That is general comments going forward; we are starting to talk again about changes to our policies and good things that were appropriate at that time. And today, like the Ministry of Health, the merge will undertake under the objective of promoting and providing the best health service delivery. However, these changes come with the concerns of the employees and as given in comments, some will also lose out on their jobs. Such is the recommendation to the Attorney General to look into given these effects on the public if we were to allow these changes. I too support changes for the better however we have to consider the consequences that we should not overlook.

Although we have had the approval of the new law for married couples at the Ministry of Police but for the benefit of this new law and its new amendment on married couples where one stays and the other goes and the concern of leaving without some compensation or benefit for their service. That is the concern.

And if these police officers have loan commitments and repayments to meet, it will be difficult to seek employment which is no different from applying a visa to verify an offence, when...

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

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the honorable Member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, the matter that the honorable Member addresses is very important. Separation should come with reward only or unless it involves a misconduct or an offence. Separation without reward or benefit in the International Law is prohibited, with respect.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4): Mr Speaker...

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I grant opportunity to the honorable Member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: I stand with respect in regards to the concerns raised by the Members. The Hon Minister is not present and since I am the Associate Minister I feel I must respond to the concern raised.

The approved law is adopted from the Principle Act of the Public Service Commission or PSC to prohibit couples and/or family members from working together in the same Ministry. This is reason for enforcing this law which has existed for a while. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I thought the Standing Orders only allow for point of clarification yet the Associate Minister has given a response, nonetheless the Chair has the authority.

I will move on. For the sake of the Attorney General, the law is not complete in regards to married couples and de-facto relationships because it is baseless to implement and enforce the law when it is incomplete. That is the intention but I will await the response tomorrow. I will move on in case my time is up. Then I come to the...

MR SPEAKER: The Member is running out of time.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: I will be brief. I come now to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure; I trust the request for the access roads for Avao and four other villages like Lelepa, Vaipouli and Saleia is on your table. I plead with respect that you please have a look at that access road. You also have an invitation to our school opening and take a visit if possible to do so.

I come now to the Ministry of Education and I acknowledge the efforts of the Hon Minister and Ministry. Since the Ministry has reserves, we hope to have this launching earlier than March; hopefully by then everything is in place from the school building to the hall. The Ministry of Police also has reserves which could assist in developing our sports field.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

The honorable Member of Gagaemauga No.2 has also spoken about our district hospital in Vaipouli; however, that was then, presently, it is costly to seek health care in Vaipouli, Safotu and Tuasivi. The cost of going by taxi to Tuasivi is \$5 tala this excludes medical fees. The same can be said for the Police station to be located inland so that people can access it easily hence these community services should be readily available and easily accessible for the constituents and the public.

A matter regarding the Samoa Ports Authority, during the festive season I have observed with a caring heart the traveling public and a plea to the Hon Minister whether it is possible to get another ferry to assist and take turns with the current Lady Samoa III to cater for the passengers travelling between Savaii and Upolu.

Perhaps this is a time to recognize this assistance as we heard the Salamasina ferry now has a new replacement in the pipeline. I acknowledge the new changes for the Mulifanua and Salelologa ports as before the vehicles are always stuck in queues for hours. Thank you for the improvement at the wharf.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member; I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, I apologize to the Member for the interruption and I suppose your time is up. I wish to clarify that the ferry traveling to Savaii is not called Salamasina, it is Lady Naomi. The replaced ferry upon Japan's approval will in turn allow for the renewal of the Lady Naomi that will assist with the traveling public to and from Savaii. This is the plan we hope to implement soon.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member, my deputy to conclude since we have arrived at the end of our recess hour.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: I would never object the Chair, if you command it, then that is what I will do. I just want to assure Salafai what the Hon Minister has stated. However, I had thought that it was going to be something new, nevertheless I recommend the Hon Minister that even though you reside in Upolu, you also have family Afioga Unasa in Savaii. Therefore, I recommend not bringing in a second hand ferry for Savaii.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

I conclude my statements Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the Chamber. I pray for forgiveness if the Member has spoken words of offense. The Member merely wishes to voice recommendations for the betterment of the nation and also the constituency. Government intends for the betterment of the country, I wish the Members of Parliament all the best for this year. Bless the Speaker and Samoa. Bless this Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your speech. Tutuila has heard our decisions loud and clear in regards to our work this afternoon, with the support of your constituency and also the Parliament. I applaud and acknowledge the efforts of all Members whilst the Cabinet takes note of their concerns and submissions to assist all the constituencies.

However, we have come to the end of our business hours, I remind the Members of the approved motion. We will suspend our proceedings at 1.00pm and resume at 7:00pm until 11.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended until 7.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 1.00pm and resumed at 7.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed with the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018.

MR SPEAKER: I greet everyone this evening with all due respect and I commend you for your patience and attendance. We have received strength to continue with our Orders.

I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has resumed. Before we went on our break in the afternoon, the Deputy Speaker, also the Member for Gagaemauga No. 3 was concluding his speech. The floor is now open to any Member that wishes to stand and comment.

I call on the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): I am grateful that we have had a rest so that we can return to resume our Meeting. I greet the dignity of Parliament this evening. There are only three matters I wish to comment on.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Like the prayer meetings we conduct, we first pray for requests, second, we pray for works that are in need and we apologize to the Constituency for our misgivings and the delay in works proposed. First however I will recommend on the Supplementary Budget. This Constituency will be brief as it is only 24+million. I wish to query the Hon Minister on the grants from overseas because the project has not been implemented after four years. I note from the Committee Report on page 19 I think it was, there was a statement that it has been four years since the funds were released but there has been no implementation. The project in question is the road from the village of Saina to the Airport. I assume that the issues are land related with the proposed extensions but I feel it is better that a direct response from you is better.

On another matter, in my opinion, the Land Alienation Act is clear and understandable but the only problem I see is that there is not enough public awareness. It is not like, when the legislation is enforced that all the families including the High Chief (Sao) of the families will flock in to register their lands or make known about their leased lands, this is not the case. The Government should initiate awareness programs because the legislation is only a guideline and it does not assume that it will be compulsory for everyone to lease their land.

Second, I think that public awareness is useful because there are misconceptions about the legislation. The Attorney General and the Office understand and there are legislative professors as I see amongst us the honorable Teleiai. The important question I have asked both the local and senior lawyers abroad about this legislation, and they explained, it is not...

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Member. In case I am at fault for not acting out my Speakership role in conducting of our Proceedings. The legislation you are mentioning has not been second read. Wait until we get to it, then that will be the time...it is better that you comment on the economy and financials.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you. Your point is noted. It is true but I am only making a recommendation now in case someone is hospitalized overseas at that time.

I now come to the Immigration Act. Last year, the conditions for becoming a citizen were clarified. The concern of this Member and my Constituency, we would always discuss with the senior men in the village, and their advice, what's happening now, with this proposed Bill and if a person comes for three months with capital to invest in Samoa.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

It is enough time for that person to marry a Samoan citizen and become a citizen automatically. When that person becomes a citizen, they will also have the right to purchase land. That is a serious concern. There should be difficult provisions for them to purchase land. We should protect our lands and the Bill should have provisions that restrict those who have only been here for one to five years from purchasing land. Perhaps mention at least 10 years after it has been confirmed that the investor has established their investment within Samoa. That is the kind of investor who's right should be permitted to land. With respect.

On another matter, I wish to remark on the proposed benefits for a long serving Head of State or Prime Minister such as Susuga Hon Tuilaepa, or the then spouses of the Head of State, Prime Minister and Members of the Council of Deputies. We should reconsider the legislation and perhaps amend it so that after five years perhaps an additional five years can be added and after that term there can be a provision for the end of term and a vehicle and assistant be given to the person or perhaps remuneration. These are distinguished positions in our country, we should consider this.

There is a minor request. We are all aware of the proposal for the merging of the National Health Services and the Ministry of Health and my concern is an imminent redundancy. On Monday, we heard that there are about twenty people that will be made redundant. I wish to reiterate the request of other Members in that these people can be compensated well. They are not foreigners; this is the same for the Police. I believe this will be considered.

In addition, while on the topic of the Police and hospital, perhaps the responsible Ministers would now consider a review of the Police and medical staff salaries. It would be better if the entry code be lifted. At the moment, the entry level is year 13 for the Police academy, perhaps it can be at Diploma level in consideration of the more than 200 graduates from the University each year. It would also help in creating employment for our recent graduates. It will not impact on the Police currently in service. This is the humble request for the Hon Minister.

It is now time that I present the requests of my Constituency. I begin by expressing my appreciation for the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology; Afioga Afamasaga. With respect Hon Minister, perhaps you can mention when you make your response, while my Constituency is listening in, as to the reasons for the issues with our television and radio transmissions in the past. I am grateful for your clarification to me that the issues to the transmissions were stemmed from Tutuila. Perhaps they are listening in and they can address this clash in the reception which affects our side.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

To the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, there is still a shortage of teachers for our college as well as the Primary schools. There is a primary school in Tiavea, Samusu, Saleaaumua, Lotopue and Satitua. These are five villages affected.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, thank you for the road leading to the Satitua School which was badly deteriorated. Thank you for your consideration of this road because there were rumors within the Constituency that the Member did not care for this road. The last time this road was constructed was when the Governor General of New Zealand visited and was hosted by the Satitua School. Helicopters landed at the field and that was the last time this road was fixed. Again I am grateful for this completed project however there is still the road to the Saleaaumua Primary School which is not more than 400 meters. It is a dirt road and the same goes for the Lotopue School and the College in Vaisuli, Aleipata. I do not think that road is even 100 meters. I humbly ask that these areas be considered.

Also Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I have spoken many times regarding the villages that were affected by the tsunami. There were five people from our village that were killed and the Government recommended that the residents move inland to live. Many residents have shifted inland and there are two access roads of about a kilometer each in length. The problem is that another road has been constructed but it does not reach one of the heavily populated areas inland. The road is approximately 600 meters in length. I ask that if it can only be smoothed out so that students can walk on it.

While still on the matter of roads, I appreciate your speech touching on the Tiavea road which caused the deaths of three or four people in the past. Thankfully we now have the funds for this project. Maybe next year or the following year, works will commence and I commend the Hon Minister for this.

Again addressing the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I hear that our very own Laauli Joseph Parker will be fighting in March this year. I support the other Members that stated that you Hon Minister should attend this bout along with the Hon Prime Minister if he is available to represent our country while we support from home. There is an additional matter regarding the examinations. There are students from Aleipata that were the overall dux at the University as well as a student in the College too. I am unsure if there were two students or just one but there has not been any award given to the student and I am uncertain as to who is responsible for this, with respect.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, our discussions on Monday were thought provoking for our hygiene committees. In those days, if a woman goes to the hospital, only \$5 allowance is earned but if there are no committee meetings, it is \$10. It is a sort of incentive to perhaps revive this initiative. Our committee buildings are also very important when there are visits by mobile clinics to places such as Lalomanu, Falealili, Lepa and Saleapaga and other rural areas. The only request Hon Minister is that the visits be twice a week perhaps Monday and Friday because currently it is only one day a week. It is a needed service. These services will also revive our committee houses where children can be treated.

I express my gratitude to Afioga Laauli when he served his term as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. You were vocal in the Infrastructure Committee hearing. Our issue, which is not specific to our Aleipata, is the rhinoceros beetle. It is a persistent problem nowadays. I acknowledge the project appropriating \$3,000, almost \$4,000 grant to get rid of this pest. Perhaps if the untitled men could go around and collect these pests, they can receive an allowance. It would be an incentive not only to eradicate this pest but it would assist in saving our coconuts because the pest has caused much damage.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Minister responsible for the LTA, the Committee notes a conflict that I overlooked. Hon Minister of Finance, the same submission is made to the Committee that there are issues with their Budget especially when it comes to road related matters. They submitted that the Ministry of Finance drastically reduces the budgets of these public entities. I ask that you consider this issue because public grievances on rainy days are specific to potholes. When the Authority is queried on these, they respond that the Ministry of Finance slashes their budget greatly. Other public entities include SOEs such as EPC, SWA and LTA. I only request for any assistance in relation to their budgetary woes.

My speech is now coming to a close. Before I sit, I wish to address my Constituency. I humbly seek your pardon Samoa if I have exhibited any offensive behavior or uttered any offensive word.

I humbly greet my Constituency with appreciation. I thank you all for your support and prayers especially the Servants of the Lord. I will see you this coming Sunday as we gather to pray for the educational journey of the students in the beginning of this year.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I conclude my work of appreciation to the Leaders of the Government; Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I recognize also the CEOs of the various Government Ministries and Corporations, the Attorney General, the Clerk and all the public servants present with us. Thank you for your continuous work as well as your patience in dealing with the issues from our constituencies. The intention is that we cooperate. There is no you and us, we stand together and work as on. I am grateful to the Chairperson and senior Members of the House. Let us begin this New Year aiming for success. May the Lord bless the Chair with health as I see that he is ill and we will pray for a speedy recovery. God bless the support of Samoa listening in, God bless this Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech Aleipata Itupa i Luga. The floor is open for a Member that wishes to comment. I call on the Member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga ALAIASA MUAGUTUTIA MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East): First and foremost, I greet the Chair and the dignity of the House. As this is a new year, I also wish you all a Happy New Year not only the House, but also the country listening in.

This Constituency will attempt to contribute to the Supplementary Appropriation addressing the economy of our country. However before I do so, I first address the traditional salutations of our nation and acknowledge the support of Ole Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, and the dignity of Samoa; *Aiga ma Tama, Tama ma Aiga, Usoga a Tumua ma Pule*. I also recognize the support of the Chief Justice and the Judiciary as well as Samoa in its entirety.

I believe there was no Supplementary Appropriation last year and I was concerned because it is needed as a check and balance system. Public monies cannot be expended without it being passed by Parliament. I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Finance as it is noted from the Bill that there are Ministries with readjusted budgets and others with grants for the development of our nation. I commend the Government on this front and their persistence in all good things because we have limited funds as we are all aware. We not only rely on our own strength but also the grace of the Lord.

As there was poverty in the time of our Savior, there is also poverty in our time. It cannot be eradicated. I believe it is a mental decision to live in poverty. We should replace our poverty mindset with prosperity mindset because it is a mental decision.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Our country has many God given blessings such as agriculture. Many countries are trying to eradicate the problem of starvation and scarcity of food supplies but we have many blessings from the Lord. As the Bible says “we sow with tears, but shall sow with happiness”. We should not be idle. It is a combined effort with everyone lending a helping hand then we can battle such issues as poverty.

There is a solution that I propose. Now that we have our own airline, we should ship all of those that complain about poverty to countries like India and leave them there for three to four weeks and they will want to return to Samoa. This is so they can witness what it means by poverty. I read that India’s population of 1.5 billion comprises 50% of the rich and 50% of the poor this would equate to 750million of the population being under the poverty line. No matter where you turn there are poor people. Samoa is better off.

It is not easy but the success of our nation is in our hands. We have seen the Report from the Central Bank outlining the reserves that we have for trade. There is nothing to worry about it. In our Constituency, the economy is good because the administration is good. Despite the many complaints about the influx in cars because of the new legislation, there is no shortage in petrol. Although we do not have fuel as a resource, we still have it available. Why? Good administration of the economy. That is the current state of our country so we should not worry. Administration is good as well as the development of our economy.

To the Leader of the Government and the Cabinet, I ask for your patience with our remarks. The policies have been set out and whatever we put forward, I ask that you take what is useful and utilize it to build our boat.

When the fishing expedition is successful, the fishermen would thank the supporters from the village and the community. I spoke on the aircraft in the last Appropriation and I am grateful that now we have a local airline. I am proud that this has become reality. Hon Minister, I only ask that this project be transparent and that the public should be made aware. I recall 10 years ago, there was a budget for \$10million but there was no aircraft, no employees and the business closed down. This is why I advise that the country be made known of what is happening so that they can follow the progress and there will be no complaints if they understand. If there should be a problem with the project, the public will bear the brunt. But if it is successful, we will all be happy and praise the Lord.

I have a brief comment on the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Hon Minister, we have been impacted by many applications that have been presented to the Lands and Titles Court involving matai titles. It seems having rights has resulted in the overload of work for the Government. There should be more effective procedures and policies in relation to this matter. There are decisions that were made after many years but applications are still being accepted by the Office and matters revisited. I ask that this matter be considered.

There was the march and then I saw that there was a call to legalize marijuana in the newspaper. It is a suggestion that I personally think is weak and there is no justification for such a thought. Many village councils meet almost every day to try and resolve this issue. The purpose of the march was on land but this was somehow added into the discussion. I do not understand how the march was about customary land but the discussion swayed in a different direction. It should not be considered by our country but the world is changing and we should not complain but we should not be complacent.

Regarding the roads in our Constituency, I hear that the road to the airport will be reconstruction but I do not know the last time our road was reconstructed but this road is most travelled by tourists. I make a request for the road from Luatuanuu to Falefa. We constantly hear about corruption and I know this exists in the construction of our roads because if it were not, then the roads would be constructed as per the specifications.

These are just some of the brief matters on behalf of my Constituency listening in as well as my village. I greet you all in all your honorific salutations and would like to use this opportunity to commend you for your support and prayers that has resulted in the success of our work. Your requests have been presented and I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for accepting this Constituency.

Hon Minister of Health, the villages from Tiavea, Fagaloa-Uta and Luatuanuu are dependent on the hospice in Lufilufi. Presently, I pray that there be a supervisor there at all times, 24 hours a day to at least answer to the needs. I know that there is a proposed plan by the Government to *renovate the hospice. I only ask that there is someone to attend to those* who may visit the hospice especially in the late hours of the night, with all due respect.

That is all. I pray that the Lord bless you Mr Speaker and this House. We gratefully await the blessings from the Lord on our duties and responsibilities. Some stood and expressed their appreciation to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Ministry but last year, most of the Members reprimanded the Hon Minister and the Ministry.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

The fact that you are now expressing gratitude to the Hon Minister is evidence that there is progress in the service not only to our country but also to the students who are the future of Samoa. There are times that you may see me driving around; it is because I am working in those areas.

May the good Lord be gracious to you all this evening. God bless you Mr Speaker. I see that you are not ill but still strong and in good health. God bless the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the House, in Jesus name, amen.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the Member for Anoamaa East. You have concluded your speech but I still want to listen to the recommendations you make.

I see that the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 1 West, also the Chairperson of the Committee is upstanding. You may take the floor.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA-GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No. 1 West): I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity awarded this Constituency to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation.

Before I do, I greet the dignity of the Parliament, Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Associate Ministers and that side of the House. Although we sit on opposite sides, we are still one. I also greet the Heads of the various Government Ministries and Corporations who are the hands and feet of the Government. I also greet the Clerk and the Office.

I also greet the Chief Justice and the Judiciary as well as His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo, Members of the Council of Deputies and Samoa listening in. Your honorifics are eternal and cannot be changed by a word and I will not address it as the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 1 West may err and offend.

I greet our Parliament this New Year. I recall that there was a comment that there would be no Supplementary Appropriation but I had faith Mr Speaker, that the Hon Minister, a child of Faasalele is not a coward and he has the courage to do what is necessary. I thank the Hon Minister and the Minister. Despite our limited funds, you try to meet our needs; the needs of this Parliament, the needs of our country. The only request is that despite the division of our Constituency, do not forget your neighbor; Faasaleleaga No. 1 West.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I am certain that you have received the requests from this Constituency. As I said, despite the limited public funds, every effort is made to respond to our needs. There are requests for the access roads. It has been a long time since assistance has been received on this front. Access roads need to be developed for constituencies' economic development. There were also requests presented for seawalls which would help considering the rising sea levels which I am sure the Hon Minister is aware of.

Hon Minister responsible for the LTA, we have witnessed that there has been increase in vehicles which has enabled accessibility to developments inland. However, there should still be some restrictions because now many of the vehicles are automatic and only need to be in drive gear and the vehicle goes. There was not such an issue when there were manual vehicles because they can be changed to a lower gear and no many drivers could drive shift. Hon Minister, perhaps there should be training for drivers for the safety of those that will use our roads. Also Hon Minister, in relation to our ferry and those travelling to and from Savaii. There is an additional \$29 to a booking if you do not use it. I ask if this can be removed because there are unforeseen circumstances which may affect the ability to keep the booking. I seek your kind consideration in this regard.

I reiterate Mr Speaker, I am aware of the limited public funds, but there is always an effort to meet the needs. I continue to persist for the creation of employment opportunities for our people in Savaii so as to keep them from travelling about and allowing them family time.

Mr Speaker, I greet my Constituency this New Year that we have come to because of the grace of God. I acknowledge my dear Constituency in all its honorific salutations.

I use this opportunity to also express my condolences to the grieving family and community for the passing of Tofa Afoa Ite who was an upstanding leader in our village and congregation. May the Lord comfort the grieving widow, Pesi and congregation. That is the life. The Lord gives, and he also takes away.

Mr Speaker, I will conclude with a word of encouragement to the Leader of the Government and your sailing crew; Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers. It is true that many are called but few are chosen. Being subject to criticism and condemnation is not easy but it is tolerated, why? It is because of your appointment to serve. May the Good Lord bless you all abundantly as you carry out your duties. The complaints in the past years will not compare to the ones this year but I pray God bless you with patience and wisdom. I have no doubt these are traits you all possess because the Lord equips his chosen ones.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I also express my appreciation to the Chair. It is not an easy task you have especially as I see that you are ill but the Lord is also the provider of strength and His will is the only way. I pray the Lords blessing also upon all the Members of Parliament and their endeavors and I pray for wisdom as we consider whatever legislations that may be tabled and that we may make constructive recommendations with God's grace and love.

I acknowledge also all the Heads of the Ministries and Corporations of the Government. May you all endeavor in honesty and patience.

To the Clerk and your Office, may you be blessed with the knowledge to carry out your work.

That is all Mr Speaker. God bless this Parliament, soifua.

MR SPEAKER: I commend the Member, also the Chairperson of one of the Parliamentary Committees for your speech not only mentioning the needs of your constituency but also encouraging the Executive despite the criticisms and complaints. Thank you for your words of support.

The floor is now open to any Member that wishes to take the floor to comment on the Supplementary Appropriation.

I call on the Member for Anoama West, Tofa Hon Lauofo.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: I am appreciative Mr Speaker for the opportunity and I commend your patience in conducting our Proceedings this evening. I wish a happy new year to all the Members of the House and the public servants as well as Samoa listening in.

I believe many of the speeches have concluded this evening and I applaud the Members that have already taken the floor. I stand to also assist with recommendations to the Government and their workload as we progress in to the year 2018. Criticism is also useful Mr Speaker because they can be thought provoking, a reminder, an initiation or a guide for our work as we sit and serve this calling which was sought out by our forefathers. My wish is that this calling is not squandered and that it is used for the benefit of Samoa and its journey forward.

I came today with some queries as did other Members. But I am grateful to the Ministers for their clarification of the matters and now I also understand. I had a query on the Tanumalala prison but now it has been clarified that the project is in progress and it is also dependent on the funding. I express my appreciation for this project. There are other phases, as I heard, and there will be a tender for expressions of interest when the time comes.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

The Government has committed \$10million to the project. The Hon Minister of Finance has also mentioned that there is \$20million without variation. Personally, from what I hear, the project is progressing well. However, Mr Speaker, we cannot evade our duty of offering recommendations. I have seen the blueprints of the project. The design is good but I recommend the Hon Minister of Finance and the Minister responsible for the Prisons that if there are variations that are necessary, now is the time to make them while the project is in its infant stages. The Government has committed and there is no need to do the project half heartedly. There is a substantial amount to be expended on this project. That is the recommendation Hon Minister. The prison at Tafaigata is overcrowded with the increase inmates and the timing of the project is perfect. I know that a consultation on a new prison is not new and it was also done when the current Speaker was the Minister of Police and Prisons. Praises be to God that now we have the funds for this project. We have witnessed the smooth progress of the works. Yesterday, the Hon Minister of Prisons explained the phases remaining for the project which included the Administration block, the cafeteria area and the kitchen as well as additional cells. Hon Minister, I saw the design and I recommend that rooms for training or educational purposes be established. The slogan mentioned yesterday by the Hon Minister, a Place of Rehabilitation is well-suited. If this is the motto, we cannot just lock up the prisoners and then release them. Their time served should be fruitful and that is the reason for my recommendation, that rooms for training and education be built. Consider other rooms or spaces for technical education so that this motto can be achieved, that this place be a place for rehabilitation. When the sentence is served, they can return to their families and be of use to them and serve. They will be of use to the village and the congregation. This slogan should be achieved so that their reintegration into the community is smooth and that is why I advise that the work is implemented at its full potential.

There was a concern about the project. I asked myself that if this Prison was to be bigger, more funding will be expended in the operation of the prison meaning additional expenditure. However, listening to the Hon Minister yesterday, I caught a word that he used which is being done at the Vaiaata prison and that is commercial farming. This is one venture that should be revisited in the prisons especially now with the modern ways of farming. As the Hon Minister mentioned, these farms are bearing lots of taro and they can be sold for the prisons revenue as there is a workforce but the operation of this should be monitored and revenue used wisely.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

The point I am trying to make is that the prison is self sustainable. If commercial farming is well operated in the prisons, the public purse will not appropriate a substantial amount to the prisons.

If the Executive is considering this, I am grateful and I support this one hundred percent. This is what I wanted to emphasize Mr Speaker. We should not focus on the buildings and the costing but we forget that there should be education. We should prioritize the rehabilitation of the inmates. The buildings are important but, more important are those in the building. We should recognize these people and their life after prison so they can contribute to society.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to hear that there will also be hosted quarters for the staff because there are multiple shifts. There should also be a gym so they can train for the work they do.

For our new aircraft, I am in great support of this venture. There are many advantages to the airline not only for tourists but also our economy. The only matter I wish to put forward is the issues with the online booking system as it was difficult for me to use it during the Christmas season. This is one useful tool for efficiency and it should be addressed. As other Members mentioned, this is not a simple industry as it is very competitive. I support the views that the operation of the airline profit, we should get a second aircraft. It would be beneficial for the service especially when one aircraft has to make maintenance stop which is necessary as we should also value safety. That is the advice on this matter.

Also Hon Minister, I recommend that for State travel, we should use our airline. At this point I wish to query the status of our lease; how much is it, is it paid monthly or annually? The public want to know.

Mr Speaker, there are many of us that rely on pills and we have become dependent on it especially for non-communicable diseases. The mindset has now become fixed on treatment instead of prevention. It seems that we eat not worrying about the effects because we know that there are pills that we can take to treat diabetes or high blood pressure. We should be emphasizing prevention. That is the first step.

Hon Minister of Health, for our Community Based Health Programs, there should be nurses to collaborate with the women in the villages and make site visits for the primary health care of children and new born babies. Another Member mentioned the revival of the women's committees. These women can also work together with the nurses in the villages.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

A final word to the health sector, what is the status of our national public cancer screening initiative? Is this program circulating our country? I hear the promotional messages on the radio. There is screening equipment that can be used to screen for breast cancer and maybe these can be offered as a mobile service. I hear that there are members of the public that request for these during the programs. I know that there is an initiative for checks but remember that many are not able to travel to the hospitals in Savaii or Upolu.

Mr Speaker, I will conclude my remarks with some of my Constituency matters. Hon Minister, perhaps you are aware that there are written requests to the Office for our road at Sauniatu. I will leave that for your consideration. I recall that there was a time that the Executive approved our request but it has not been implemented. For our seawalls, we are still requesting for these infrastructures. Not only to protect our public roads but also the environment especially in Eva, Salelesi and Fusi. The Member for Anoamaa East spoke on the road heading towards Aleipata which is in a degraded and worn condition. We are in the rainy season but we understand that the task is a difficult one and we only remind the Hon Minister of this.

Mr Speaker, may the good Lord bless you with health. I see that you are still strong. May the Lord bless all the Members of the House with strength and health as we journey in to this new year. To the public servants, I commend your hard work, well done. God bless Samoa and her support. God bless our Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I thank one of the elderly Members of the House. Samoa has heard in clarity your remarks as have the Constituency and this Parliament.

We will proceed with our speeches. I call on the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I acknowledge your patience in conducting our Sitting. I greet and acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet and all the Members present. I am grateful for this opportunity to make recommendations and also provide critiques on the work we are doing together.

I first commend the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for the work implemented since the beginning of this Parliamentary Term which is two years running.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Thank you for the good efforts and your ceaseless efforts. The Good Word says “if you call out for insight...and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God”.

Thank you for the implemented developments more specific the airport and other projects we are spending a substantial amount on as we invest in our families.

First, I will begin with the works that I mentioned in one of our Sittings. Although the tenders board approved the construction of our road and work has still not started. Papalii, our road construction still has not commenced but it was you who confirmed it when we spoke. I have made three speeches and still nothing has eventuated. It is okay because you are busy doing other work you are prioritizing. I remember I told Manualesgalala, if you do not construct my road, I will not lose and that is the same thing I will say to you.

The only thing I am disappointed in is that our road was passed to be constructed in this financial year costing \$61.9million. This is a large amount but I am constantly hearing each Member say that there are limited funds. I will tell you where the money is. There is a great issue. Note the substantial amount being expended on developments and I have mentioned solutions. Let me mention first the developments of my Constituency.

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

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

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: There was no intention to interrupt the Members speech. The road that is being mentioned was passed by the Tenders Board during the Term he was the Minister. I do not understand anything on that front because the works during my time are new. I will review the status of your project. This was during Manua’s time and I recall that this was when your work was approved. I ask for your patience as the work is progressing, with respect.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you. Any Minister should be vigilant and consult the records of the works in progress. But a Minister that is oblivious will be prejudice towards whatever he wants.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, a point of order. When I stepped in to this Ministerial seat, there were no records to consult so I am unsure where I am supposed to find these records you speak of. As I said, leave your matter with me, the works are progressing. Also, I think you are one of the Members that have had a lot of road works being done. Perhaps in the final year of this Term the road works will get to you.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: The problem is that you will not reach the final year, your time will end before that. But thank you for your remarks. There have only been two roads constructed within the space of twenty years. Now I am requesting works for another road with all due respect. Maybe if you ceased work on the road going to you and Faasootauloas church and do my road instead that would be better. The issue is that you have started works on the road going to your church and ignored the access roads.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, it is not my church, it is the church of the Lord. The road also is in the town area, it is a public road. That is the point of order.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: You are aware of the policy, any access road leading to inland and the lands and have not been constructed is the priority. You have started with the road to the church you and Faasootauloa attend. I am surprised at how you can both attend church knowing that the road is being constructed with public monies.

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: Mr Speaker, I am saddened at these remarks. Have some respect! I thank the Hon Minister for prioritizing the Lords work which is being criticized by the Member.

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I will move away from that matter because the elder has stood to respond. For national development, the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure was right in saying that tar sealing the roads is the best option and it is cost effective.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

However, I have seen the tender for the road at Malua and it is to be chip sealed and this material does not go well with water. This is why it easily deteriorates. No matter what the foundation is, after two years it deteriorates. We did this test during my time. The road from Lepea to Tuaefu was constructed in 2004 and to this day there are no potholes. Another road is the one from Pesega to Alafua. There are no potholes there as well. For the road from Apia to the hospital, that was where we tested asphalt. It is expensive but it is worth it in the long run. Afioga Hon Sili and Susuga Hon Papalii, you should change the specification for the roads because it will not last because the chip seal does not go hand in hand with water.

Beginning from Saina going westward, it is all coastal so no matter what foundation you use, if you chip seal the road, in two years there will be potholes. The bridges in the Aleisa area should also be reconstructed. It is a shorter way to the airport if you use that inland road and it is easier because it is public road. As for the coastal roads, in five years the funds were available but nothing eventuated.

What happened? It was costly. There were grants and soft term loans but they were not used. Last year, \$240million in grants and soft term loans were available. Only \$92million was used so what happened to the remaining \$100+ million? Where then is the issue? It is because the Minister has taken on the CEO responsibility and is becoming involved in the process. You take on the CEOs responsibility so what then is the CEO supposed to be doing?

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

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

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: A point that needs clarification. I do not know if Afioga Hon Sili is also taking on the CEO role but for me, I am taking on my ministerial role. I want to understand what exact responsibilities of the CEO we are assumed to be taking on?

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you. The tendering of the road to Malua has been advertised four times. Why? It is because you direct it because you are both on the tender's board. Why are there so many changes? This just indicates that it is inefficient. Why were the specifications done then in the beginning? If you advertise every two months and it was advertised four times, it is delayed by a year. What happened...

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

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

MR SPEAKER: Please stand...

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: I understand now the point made by the Member. This is not our responsibility. The CEO does the evaluations. As for the re-tendering, it was so because the specifications of the jobs were not satisfied. Perhaps Afioga Hon Sili has a different response to this matter. We are not involved in the CEOs decisions. We accept their recommendations but we do not involve ourselves with the decisions or try and change the recommendation of the tender board. Maybe that was how you worked when you had this portfolio but for us, we follow the process with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I do not think this matter needs to be debated between the Hon Minister and the honorable Member. Please stand Member.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I would like to clarify that during my time, the opportunity was not opened to local companies to compete for tenders by the World Bank. This House is well aware of this and so is the private sector. The works to the airport was divided in to three parts and the World Bank responded that our local companies are not qualified. I persisted and one section was awarded to a local company on certain conditions. Many of the requirements were eliminated. I wanted to develop the market to allow local companies to compete. The CEO is well aware that I persisted vigorously on behalf of our local companies. If I had not, all the contracts would be awarded to overseas companies. Donor countries of the bank usually demand that companies from their countries are awarded to them so they can get a return. That is the difference between us, it is a large difference.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I call on the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: My understanding of this matter is that when a grant is received, the donor also chooses the contractor to use and there is nothing else that can be done. We do not get the grants with conditions that we can change what then will we gain? They will pull out their funding.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Member. Your remarks and explanations are both commendable but we have come to our recess hour. Perhaps other matters will be discussed outside.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 8.43pm and resumed at 9.17pm.

Deliberation resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1) 2017/2018.

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

I thank all the Members for your patience. I believe that all the Members of Parliament have regained their strength from the meal especially the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet/

Before we went on recess, the Member for Palauli le Falefa had the floor. I call on the Member to continue your speech. A word of advice, the Cabinet has heard your recommendations on the works to be improved but we must progress with our work. Please take the floor.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. We are satisfied with the meal provided. I acknowledge the support of the Heads of the Government departments as well the Office of the Legislative Assembly. I only wish to clarify a small matter before I move away from my debate with the Hon Minister. Grants and soft term loans belong to us. The only reason the donor countries demand is because they also want a return. But if we strive hard and allow the policy exemptions from the World Bank, we would be accepted. This is why they approved one local company. This is why I tell the Hon Minister of Finance and the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to not be cowards, this is your responsibility. When you see the man has white skin, then you become afraid.

MR SPEAKER: I advise the Member to speak mildly. The Ministers are considering your matter. I believe you should move away from this matter and comment on the improvements needed for your Constituency.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker, I have already made my statement on our needs but now I am on the part of making recommendations. I recommend that we use the remaining funds.

MR SPEAKER: The Member should remember that that is your personal view. The Cabinet and Minister have their own view. Perhaps your time was different and now the times have changes. I only remind the Member of this.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, it is not my personal view, I am speaking from the records. There are solutions to our problems. The previous Budget and this Budget estimated a surplus. There is a surplus but still it seems there are no funds. Goodness, there is a lot of money at your disposal. The problem is the management and leadership. As I was saying, the process and the leadership role should be separate. If you look at the Budget, most items above the line are controlled by the output managers. The problem is that they do not cooperate. If an output manager decides to maintain their own component they will not look at the needs of other divisions. This is the reality. There is more than \$10million above the line that is not being utilized.

MR SPEAKER: You are also the President of your church and there is a saying “these thoughts are not to instruct but to recommend” incase you are instructing the Cabinet.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker I mentioned that these were recommendations.

MR SPEAKER: Alright.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I know you did not hear it because it seems that you are ill.

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon it is an illness with my bones.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Conclude your speech.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Other responses from the Minister are that there are positions that have not been filled. This is the same response every time. I do not understand why these positions were established if they cannot be filled because it is always being advertised but there are no applicants. These just inflate the Budget without the funds being expended. Also...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: These are not new thoughts. These are the same issues when you were in this portfolio and that is why the Cabinet advises the Heads of the Ministries. The Minister is also cautious in the relationship with the CEO. You see that the Ministers are not responding to your remarks because of this caution. These are the same things that happened during your time. I thought you would quickly move away from this matter and present the needs of your Constituency. Again, these matters you are raising are not new.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member. Move away from the matter you are persisting on. Your recommendations have been noted.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. You are correct and I know that the discretion and wisdom is with that side. In the last Sitting I recommended that there be one central PMU to control the implementation of the projects. This is one division that has funds but are not being used and they are left with nothing to do. I know that if the PMU was centralized under the Ministry of Finance, it would be effective.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: I would like to clarify that there are delays in implementation because of the consultations with the World Bank and the ADB especially with procurement, financial management and monitoring and evaluation. The contracts have commenced and funds received by the Ministry of Finance to implement the projects. It is being implemented. The Cabinet has accepted your recommendation. Thank you.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Hon Minister. I also express gratitude to the Chair for the opportunity. I extend my appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Our work is a collaborative effort, we are not of different objectives. Our work is the foundation for a stable Samoa. We went on a site visit to the prison and I commend the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. The project is a large scale one and it is not east. I recommend that road works begin for this area because it is in poor condition and it would also benefit the residents in that area. I commend your work and your courage.

I acknowledge the Cabinet, the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. Last year I mentioned the issue of school leaver who left school at Year 8. Many of the parents have expressed their elation at the programs now implemented. However, as some Members mentioned, there seems to be some issues with the merging of the NUS and Polytechnic programs because there is less focus on the trades but more on the academic. The level should begin from the lower level using simple language and making simpler presentations.

God bless your duties Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers and Associate Ministers, may your burdens be lightened. I also acknowledge this side. Our work is a collaborative effort. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: The Cabinet has heard your recommendations and remarks. That is the nature of our work where we share and advise the Cabinet and Executive for the development of Samoa. Thank you for your speech. I give the opportunity to the Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee, the Member for Alataua West.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): Thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker and the Members of Parliament, I thank our living God for this wonderful opportunity to comment on behalf of Alataua West on the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2017/2018.

I humbly greet my Constituency and wish them a happy and prosperous New Year. I acknowledge the dignity and honorific salutations of my Constituency; *Afio o Tapaau ma nofo a Faalupea, lau fetalaiga Folasa o le Fofoga o Papa. Afioga Gisa ma le Usoalii, afio Seiuli ma le Aiohupotea, alaalatai lau fetalaiga Momoemausu ma le Lauti na Laulelei.*

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Afifio Tapaau ma le aiga Samoaleoi, alaalatai a laua Tamaigoa, le mamalu o le nofo a Pule ma Faleauga ma upu ia te oe le Alataua. I commend our journey and you can never be forgotten neither can I forget your words that our voice be heard in Samoas Meeting House through your humble Member.

Mr Speaker, there were speeches by the honorable Members that touched on some of the matters within the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report and I must respond to them. However, before I respond to the queries and present the requests of my Constituency, I wish to make a general overview on our standard of living these days.

Many various requests from the constituencies have been made and this reflects the standard of living nowadays with the increase in needs and our constant comparisons to overseas countries. On the television we see the disasters happening in other countries with the wars, abuse and starvation. This is further proof for my Constituency that Samoa is truly a blessed nation. I offer my congratulations for all the work implemented last year. Before I entered Parliament, I would listen to the proceedings and my skin would crawl when I heard Members say that the Government has many loans. Other speeches stated that we were bankrupt and that we could not make our repayments. Now that I have sat in the Committee and considered the Appropriations, I am quickly put at ease after I read and understood the Budget. I applaud your work and I comment you for our economic development. Some of the Members mentioned the loans but I do not know what state our development would be in were it not for the loans and grants.

The Budget Statement 2015/2016, there is a noted \$49million decrease in our loans. I acknowledge the Minister and Cabinet during the mentioned year. I know that this will also be the case for 2016/2017. The most important thing is that we are able to make our repayments from the revenue generated. I emphasize a speech made by one of the Members that it starts with us Members in educating our constituencies on the Budget and the countries financial state. I am beginning to do this and I started with Neiafu and there are two other villages left. This is why Alataua West does not have many requests. They understand that there are many projects funded by our soft term loans, grants and the ordinary revenue is used for the operations of the Ministries and the outputs.

Mr Speaker, there are certain financial matters I wish to speak on. Alataua West gives importance to the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister during the induction seminar for the XVI Parliament in March 2016.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

The emphasis was on the Oversight of the Three Arms of the State; the Executive scrutinizes the Parliament and Judiciary, the Judiciary scrutinizes the Executive and Parliament and the Parliament scrutinizes the Executive and Judiciary.

As the House is aware and Samoa listening in, this scrutiny process is a checks and balance system whereby one body scrutinizes another as per democratic governance which we have followed since our Independence in 1962. This reminder is important so that we remember that one Arm checks the other. I am not ashamed to make recommendations because our work depends on our collaborative effort. Alataua West cannot evade its scrutiny responsibility through the Parliamentary Committees and the scrutiny of the Executive.

Hon Minister of Finance, I assumed that this Supplementary Appropriation would have a provision for our new Airline. I applaud the realization of this dream but I reiterate the queries by the other Members, what is the entire cost of the aircraft? I believe that with our economic state, we do not have the financial capacity to purchase in one go such a large scale venture. If it is on a finance payment lease, how much is it? It has been two months since the aircraft was received and I believe all the operation of the Polynesian Airlines has been investigated and the beneficial components can be transferred to this new airline. It is the dream of Alataua, such as the other speeches mentioned, that we have two or three additional aircrafts. This will enable one aircraft to take on the route of another aircraft should there be any technical faults. It is a dream only as we are allocating our funds.

I now come to the Hon Minister responsible for the Prisons and Correctional Services. I applaud the new prison facility at Tanumalala and the desire to relocate at the earliest convenience. The new facility is exceptional. As for the queries asking whether the \$3.8million appropriated in the previous year was expended accordingly. The response from the consultant during the Committee site visit was that the funds are being utilized prudently and regular visits are made to ensure the construction is up to par. It was mentioned that an estimated cost for the project would be \$20million. The request is that there be realignments in the funds because I note that the project is funded with our own revenue and there is no international financial assistance. The assumed concern is that the facilities would be over extravagant resulting in many opting to stay at Tanumalala. The question though is whether this will address the increase in inmates because if this problem is not solved, there will be additional infrastructures to be constructed in the next 20 years.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I believe that commercial projects will help with employment and in addition the programs to strengthen the matai system spearheaded by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development will help reduce the number of inmates.

Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment, there is no Appropriation for the Ministry but this is the passion of this Member; environmental protection. When I look at the piles of papers and documents on our tables and on the floor I am dismayed because I think of all the trees that were logged for this purpose in servicing this Parliament. The Cabinet has spearheaded the efforts to use technology in their caucus meetings. Now that the Cabinet is in the forefront of these efforts, perhaps Parliament would follow suit in the next three years. When we first arrived into Parliament, we were given laptops and I was pleased thinking that we would use the laptops to read Parliamentary Papers. This initiative is cost effective and environmentally friendly. The Office will save funds and the staff will not have to make so many photocopies instead we will use the technology. This is a humble request so that we will move away from a paper based Parliament in the future.

Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology, thank you for now the television coverage is available in our village albeit a few minor issues that need further improvements.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I believe that the gist of the praise during these two days was directed to the Ministry. Alataua West also lays great importance in technical trades such as the Marine Maritime School. There are 8 students from our village that graduated in this field and now they are sitting at home taking care of the families because their qualifications do not qualify them to be seafarers. There are no employment opportunities for these students from my Constituency. Now one of our own has been appointed as General Manager of the Samoa Shipping Services, perhaps there will now be employment and the trade will be improved.

I will conclude Mr Speaker by responding to the queries on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2017/2018. The response has been made in regards to the prison and the Committee visit. There was also a query on the salary increase using the surplus. For your information, if you refer to the Bill, the surplus is a result of the soft term loan which will fund the project payments and cannot be used for a salary increase because it is not sustainable. When the loan is finished, we will not know how to continue on to the following years. Just because there is a surplus, we cannot use it. This comprises the soft term loan and the budget support.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

As was mentioned, it is better that we understand and then we as Members should educate our respective constituencies so that there is no misunderstanding and uncertainty about the financial state of our country.

Another query submitted was on the delay of more than four years and the Appropriation for the Saina to Malua road project was not expended. I suppose that the answer was mentioned in the response by the Deputy Chairperson.

The final query was on the savings from Yazaki of \$600+ and whether such assistance was afforded to existing companies. I believe that these were special conditions afforded Yazaki because they employed more than 3,000 and now there are not many working there. They are now paying the lease at a low rate.

Mr Speaker, there are only two requests on behalf of my Constituency I wish to reiterate. To the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, you had a lot of praise yesterday so now I ask that you turn your sights on a district school for Alataua West. The land has been cleared four times awaiting the works. That is the only request for now in case the allotted location is overgrown again.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, it was probably three months ago when the surveyors came to survey our road and perhaps that is an indication that the works will begin soon for our Constituency.

Mr Speaker, that concludes my speech and my final remarks on behalf of Alataua West, if we have caused any offence, we ask for your leniency. May the Lords grace be upon you Mr Speaker and may you have the strength and wisdom to conduct our Proceedings. I pray for the Lords blessings upon the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers as well as the representatives of the Ministries present here tonight.

Alataua West, may God bless you. In conclusion, I express my sincere gratitude to the Clerk and the Office for your service to this Parliament. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Samoa and your Constituency have heard your speech. Parliament has also listened intently to your response as Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. There is no need to address your honorifics or mention your work as the Chairperson of the Committee as we are all aware.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I believe that this concludes the speeches from all the Members as per our procedures. The final speech is that of the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee to respond and assist on matters raised by the Member. I now believe that it is time for the Government to make their response.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister for the progression of the Governments response.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I stand to commend the honorable Members for their speeches on the Supplementary Appropriation. This is one Meeting that has dredged up a richness of views which is indicative of deep understanding of the Budget and financial management. Who then would not be proud? I say this because it is your speeches that mention these things because if it were the Cabinet that made these explanations, we would not be trusted. Why? Because we are directly involved with the implementation of works. Anyone listening can say that a Ministers explanation is false. My elation is in that fact that the funding of our projects are from ordinary revenues, grants and soft term financing. We are not in the open market of borrowing from commercial banks as is the practice in other developing nations. These nations are dealing with the issue of repayments but Sāmoa, since the beginning, utilizes assistance from the large international banks established by the large countries to assist in funding the projects of nations with weak economies. The House has made their remarks and it has made our task lighter. The Finance and Expenditure Committee has made their speeches. They are the ones that the Ministry of Finance and the Auditor reports to. Myself and the Cabinet will not second guess your work because of the in-depth knowledge being shared by your Members.

I will not take up more time as the Cabinet is prepared to respond to the matters raised. We will begin with Afioga Hon Afamasaga and move clockwise and I will conclude our response should there be any other general matters not addressed by the Cabinet.

Mr Speackr, that is the order we will take.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. It would be advised that the response is directly on the matters raised for ease of our work.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communication and Information Technology): I am grateful Mr Speaker. I believe that there is no need to address the dignity of Samoa this evening as they have been acknowledged by the previous speakers. We have come to the end of the day with the Lords grace still upon this Parliament. I recognize the Chair in conducting our Proceedings as well as the Members elected from the various constituencies to consult on the development of our country in all its various sectors. As for the Supplementary Appropriation that we have been deliberating on, I pledge the full support of this Constituency. No Member commented negatively on this Ministry or its work except for two Members who expressed their gratitude. If I were to interpret this from a teacher's view, our work would receive 12/10 in marking Mr Speaker. It is necessary then that I commend the Chief Executive Officer of the Minister and the Ministry, the Regulator and her Office and the General Manager of the Samoa Post for carrying out your duties to the best of your abilities and at a high standard. As you have heard, there have only been expressions of gratitude from the Members this evening.

As for the query from Afioga Tuiatua Nofonofu seeking a response on the interruption in the frequency. There are times when our frequencies overlap on that side of the country with those from American Samoa. The Regulator travelled to American Samoa to investigate. The request was made that they change their radio frequency however it was not probable because of the policies of the United States. They have resolved instead to turn it down low and now the Constituency can watch television and listen to broadcasts more clearly now.

I believe that now I will address my Constituency of Aana Alofi No. 3 from Fasitootai, Vailuutai to Faleatiu, Satapuala and Satuimalufilufi. I greet you all in your honorific salutations; *Le paia aua le afifio o le Aiga Taulagi ma le Maopu o le Tuiaana, ae tainane le mamalu i le Falefitu ia te oe le alii o aiga ma le mamalu i le fale Fasitoo, ae tainane le afifio i le paia o Aiga ma lau fetalaiga Talimatasi ma le mamalu i le Faleaana. Lau Afioga i le Saoalii, le paia i le aiga Sa Tuala, lau fetalaiga Vaili o le Laau na Fausia aemaise le Faleaana. Afifio o Aloalii, le Tamaitai e tasi i Aana, lau Afioga Letelemaana, ae tainane foi lau fetalaiga Peipeigamalie ma le mamalu i lo outou Toafa ma le mamalu ia Satuimalufilufi.*

I express my sincere gratitude to the various congregations and clergy praying in support. Thank you for your prayers of blessings on this ministerial appointment as well as the work of the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Executive not forgetting the House. Thank you and I pray for the Lords blessings upon you all.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

There are many times when I am often targeted by some Members comments because of the disturbances in my Constituency especially with regards to drugs. Do not be anxious. I ask for your patience. The Police are working tirelessly to address and resolve these issues.

My dearest Constituency, we are a blessed electorate. We are the first point of contact for those travelling from overseas. The concern of this House and the Government is the increase in disturbances and I pray to God for His merciful grace and blessings on our land so that our Constituency can be one that is profitable to our national economy.

Our speech is now coming to end Mr Speaker. We pray that the Lord look kindly on this evening. I thank that side of the House for the recommendations and acclamation of our work. The body feels warmth from your remarks and it is likened to a soft breeze guiding our sails throughout our journey. May the Lord keep you and bless you all.

MR SPEAKER: Aana Alofi No. 3 has heard the remarks and we seek your support of the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

I call on the Hon Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister of Justice and Court Administration): Mr Speaker, my response on the matters raised by the Members will be brief. I greet everyone at this hour of the evening and wish you all a Happy New Year Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers and the dignity of Parliament present. I noted that none of the Members commented on the Minister of Justice and Court Administration or the Office of the Electoral Commissioner. The only Member that commented on the Ministry was the Member for Anoamaa East querying the application process with the Lands and Titles Court and whether it is only the matai that can submit the application. My short answer is no. The Act provides that any Samoan citizen can lodge an application to the Lands and Titles Court. Perhaps soon the new Bill for the Lands and Titles Court will be tabled for your comments and consideration. That would also be the time for your matter to be discussed Alaisa.

The second query was on an observation by the Member on cases that had already been ruled on and yet applications were still being accepted. This practice is inconsistent with the law. After a court ruling, an application cannot be lodged on that same case.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

If the Member is aware of such a case, then I advise him to contact the Chief Executive Officer to address the matter. These are the only two queries submitted by the Member.

I would now like to use this opportunity to greet my Constituency of Vaimauga West No. 2. I am grateful to you for your support and prayers. I acknowledge the honorific salutations; *Afioga o Alosina, le Fuaifale o Salevalasi, afifio Matua o Usoalii ma Alo o Malietoa ae puipimalu e le fetalaiga i le Igoamatua ma le Vainalepa ma Tuisamau.*

In regards to the Supplementary Appropriation, I pledge the support of Vaimauga West No. 2. On behalf of my Constituency I acknowledge the Chair, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and all the Members. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I acknowledge the speech of the Hon Minister and his direct response to the queries raised which saves the time. Thank you.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): I am grateful to the Chair for the opportunity. I beg tolerance of the House this evening. I stand with all due respect to greet the Chair as well as Samoa in all its honorific salutations which I will not address as they have been acknowledged. I am of the opinion that I will directly address the matters that were raised by the Members of the House. Yesterday, many of the comments were those of commendation. While listening to these comments I recall the famous comedians Petelo and Sumeo saying ‘Please put me down’ humor aside, I am grateful to the acknowledgement as well as the recommendations put forward for our Ministry. We are all aware that this is the heart of our future and the success of our nation. I applaud all the Members for their remarks. Whatever work we do, let it be used to praise God and not ourselves.

As for the matters that were raised, they are not new. Even before I became a Member, these were the same issues I heard over the radio which I recognize because we are all eager to develop our education sector.

For school buildings, the projects are in progress with assistance from JICA, the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government. Schools are still being built all over. Alataua West, your prayers have been answered and soon the works will begin for your College.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

Two colleges were approved by Cabinet; one for Faleata and the other for Alataua West, in addition approval was also given for two primary schools; one for Faleata and the other for Salelologa. The works will commence soon depending on our funds.

Regarding other matters such as NUS and Polytechnic, this same matter was raised in previous years. A Member commented that the language being used is complex and compared it to the CEO level. Are you aware that the CEO is also a mathematician, that is her profession. As for me, I am a VLM. These two go hand in hand, that of the professor and the 'Valea Le Mafaufau'. So we use a language that we can both communicate with.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, thank you. Thank you Hon Minister for the response. I did not query the language used between you two but the language used by the teacher in instructing the students. Many teachers do not understand both of your languages, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Mr Speaker, there has been a noted improvements in the results. This indicates that the teachers understand the language we use. There has also been an increase in the students' examination results. I asked the Vice Chancellor and he explained the state of the Polytechnic and University to me. The Polytechnic has raised its standard and so have the students. The objective of the University is that the education standard is at a quality level because when you graduate, you graduate from the University rather than the Polytechnic. The programs at the institution have also been upgraded by the SQA. That is the response from the Vice Chancellor. There is still however ongoing review of the programs but there is no need at the moment for change because the University and the TVET and vocational schools are operating well.

MR SPEAKER: It has not been answered; the Hon Minister is proceeding to respond...

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker, I raised this matter and I assume other Members as well. I commend the Hon Minister for the response and explaining the issue. It has been more than 10 years and I beseech the Hon Minister that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate the issues we have presented. The reply from the Vice Chancellor has been heard but we should aim for greater things for our country and its education system. Other than that, thank you Hon Minister for the development in the primary and secondary schools. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: The recommendation is accepted Mr Speaker and I will look into this matter. This is part and parcel of our checks and balance system. Thank you to the Member for the recommendation.

On the matter of sports fields, there were visits carried out and it is true that there are many sports fields in need of improvement. We often plead with the Government to develop our sports programs and we cannot if our fields are in poor condition. Looking back to when I was playing for Manu Samoa, the field I trained on had a breadfruit tree in the middle, a grave on one side and a cement foundation of a building on the other but the score post was on a drain. These were all obstacles to avoid so we could reach the score line. So there is a use of these landmarks and stones to act as obstacles to side step. I ask for your patience as we address these issues.

It is true, there is a shortage in teachers. This is a continuous issue every year. Currently, if the primary school is in Samusu, the teacher comes from Falevao, this is a big problem. Why? No one from Samusu attends the teachers college. There is a saying ‘It takes a whole village to raise a child’ so it is a collaborative effort. If the Member sees that there are only three teachers, you go in yourself and read a book because it is easy for the 1-3 levels. It is a collaborative effort; include the pastor and his wife. I ask for your patience. I have spoken to the Vice Chancellor and the CEO to seek out the villages where there is a need and enroll them in the Faculty of Education.

Mr Speaker, for Vaitele, the Cabinet has approved a primary school and a College to cater to the increase in population.

That concludes the matters raised Mr Speaker. There was a Member that mentioned the upcoming bout of Laaulilemalietoa Joseph Parker. Leave that at the discretion of Cabinet, thank you.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I will now address my Constituency listening in Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Ok, you may acknowledge the support of the Constituency.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Tuamasaga only offers support and praises to God on whom we receive our calling. Mr Speaker, after I was elected to the seat, praises were returned to Fogaa and therefore I must acknowledge my Constituency of Sagaga le Falefa, from Aeale to Aleisa, thank you for your support. I also recognize the support of the leaders of the various congregations praying for the success of our nation especially our Constituency. Your Member is still in good strength and during times of illness, there is still strength in heart. God bless you Mr Speaker, Leader of this side, heads of the various Ministries and the Clerk and Office. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your speech Hon Minister. We have all listened to you response and commend you for the work of the Ministry.

I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Thank you Mr Speaker. First of all I wish to thank all the Members that commented on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2017/2018 and I have noted the majority support.

There were many matters raised regarding the work of the various Ministries and I will leave those specific matters to be answered by the respective Ministers. As for the work of the Ministry of Finance and the preparation of this Supplementary Appropriation, I extend my appreciation as we now see the progress of our economy and there is nothing to worry about.

There are plans for the consultation with IMF to be underway in the end of January or beginning of February. They will consult with the various Government Ministries and Corporations in review of our economic state. They will look at the areas that need improvement, areas that need assistance and ways we can prepare for the future of our economy as well as our fiscal management.

As you are all aware, to respond to the requests from the constituencies for roads, water, schools, healthcare and other infrastructures, the Government relies on its revenue. It is not only the ordinary revenue but also grants and soft term loans. There is a great interest from our partners to assist us financially.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

There were issues with the delay in the implementations of our projects. As was also mentioned, our partners have agreed to make changes and assist with additional expertise assistance which is much needed as the delay in our projects is also due to the lack of engineers to design the roads and big infrastructural works as well as financial management. There is a proposal for a project management unit to be established in the Ministry to work with the various Ministries in preparations of designs and speed up procurement.

Regarding the query on loans and our ordinary revenue, as the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee mentioned, everything depends on our economy. There is nothing to worry about regarding our loans or whether it is difficult to get a loan. In comparison to our revenue, only a small amount is allocated for repayments. There is a reason why we are part of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It allows us the assistance to our infrastructure.

There was a query on the closing down of Yazaki and whether there is assistance also for Fero Samoa and Sleepwell. There is assistance given to them. There is no lease payment in the first year. Also, an application has been granted for funds to divide the building for safety of the occupants. New Zealand will be funding this so that both companies can use the building. There is also an opportunity for any other company to apply for the use of this same building.

Many of the queries were on the funding for the construction of the Tafaigata Prison. As I have mentioned before and has been reiterated by some Members, this is an essential development. So whether it is \$15million, \$20 million or \$25million, it is money well spent because it is an important investment especially as we are trying to address the increase in escapees for the protection of our tourists. This project is a priority because of our reputation. I believe the work of the Tenders Board is progressing well. Perhaps in the Appropriation next year we will be provided with a balance of the funds remaining to complete the project.

There were some queries and recommendations on the Salelologa town area. It should be known that the work has progressed on...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, there is a matter that needs clarification before the Hon Minister moves on. Thank you for the explanation on the matters raised by the honorable Members. Hon Minister, you spoke on the prison but we should also be mindful that this project will not be a reason that the prisoners would no longer want to leave because it has been noted that when a prisoner is close to the day of release, they reoffend so that they can remain.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

There should be a preventative measure to deter prisoners from wanting to remain in prison because it is not a hotel. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: That is the case at the moment. It will not be entirely comfortable. A Member recommended that there be training skills and the like so that they may be assimilated into society. As for the Tenders Board, I assume that there are delays in the progress of the road works is because of the incompleteness of surveys and compensation. This is the reason for the delay in the road work for Malua and Motootua to Vaoala. But this should not be a concern because the World Bank has site visits and consultations are continuing to resolve the issues and use the funding. There are those that want the funds to be returned if it is not used. There are still visits being made three or four times for consultations.

Many of the recommendations made by the Members of Parliament regarding the roads and other works will assist with the structuring of the Appropriation in next year. The Ministry of Finance and Central Bank are currently reviewing the Macro Economic Framework for the next Appropriation. They are currently calculating the estimated revenue. It will be next month when the Management for each Government Ministry and Corporation will be called in for Budget talks with the Ministry of Finance. This is also the opportunity for them to present their requests and they will also understand the plans of the Government. This will also help in deciding what develops should be ceased and the funds can be used for other developments within the constituencies. For now, that is the response on the general procedures. As for the specific queries they will be answered by the Ministries and Corporations.

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for conducting our Proceedings. I also wish to acknowledge the Members of Parliament for their recommendations that were submitted. In addition, I wish to greet my Constituency of Faasaleleaga No. 1 East. Thank you for your support and prayers. May the Good Lord bless you all. Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Finance. We have now come to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

24 JANUARY 2018

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
 – continuation debate on second reading

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The night is late and I commend your patience in the guiding of our Proceedings. I greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet, as well as the Associate Ministers and all the Members.

I also greet the Clerk and the Office servicing the House. I acknowledge the presence of the heads of the various Government Ministries and Corporations. I commend your work. I also greet the dignity of Samoa listening in. I know that no one is watching television at this hour but instead they are listening in.

Your Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo and your Masiifo, Members of the Council of Deputies and Samoa in all its honorifics, your dignity remains forever the same.

I acknowledge the support of the Servants of the Lord in all the various congregations praying endlessly for Samoa.

I also use this opportunity to address my Constituency of Gagaifomauga No. 1 in all its honorific salutations. I am grateful for your support and prayers which has seen us through a successful journey in the past year within our families especially our Constituency in Safotu and Manase. I pray the Lord look kindly on our journey this year.

Mr Speaker, I noted that there were no comments directed towards the Ministry except for the Member for Aleipata i Luga who mentioned the women's committees and healthcare. This is one initiative the Ministry will support not only in the area of healthcare but all aspects of the village to ensure a harmonious and safe Samoa.

I wish to use this minute to alert the Members of Parliament of the growing issue of domestic violence and abuse which is a result of the abuse of illegal substances and the neglect of the youth. The Ministry is currently carrying out programs in Savaii in two constituencies this week and I ask the honorable Members for your support of these initiatives. I firmly believe that the success of one family will also be the success of the village and constituency because this is the Lords work that we are doing.

Mr Speaker, that is the humble request. Thank you for your patience and I also applaud the Members for their resilience this evening. We should confront our families and village councils for the success of Samoa now and the future. Thank you Mr Speaker, God bless our Proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

24 JANUARY 2018

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018
– continuation debate on second reading**

I believe we have now come to the time we should retire for the evening and continue tomorrow beginning with the speech by the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Before we adjourn, I wish to make it known that I saw from the corner of my eye that the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, Afioga Pau Sefo was upstanding to speak in case the Constituency may question your attendance. However, the opportunity was not given as I had made my ruling. For the information of the Constituency, your Member stood to make a speech however I was quick in my ruling and I apologize to the Member.

I wish to thank all the Members for the progress of our work and if there was any offence during our time, I ask for your forgiveness. The intention of the Chair is that we complete our work according to our Standing Orders.

Before we adjourn, I call on the Member for Aana ALofi No. 2 to conclude our Meeting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 10.55pm until 9.00am Thursday, 25 January 2018.