

24 JUNE 2015

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JUNE 2015

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. I believe no words can describe the everlasting love of the Heavenly Father for He has given us strength to be able to carry out our work this morning. I officially welcome Members of the House this morning. I am certain that we all constantly think of the Lord and his kindness that is shown not only to Samoa but the Government. I strongly believe that we cannot count everyone within Parliament, Leaders of Government and all of Samoa. I take this opportunity to welcome the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

We will now commence with our work with the understanding that we will be able to pass the Budget tabled so we can progress with other matters. We have with us today some of the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations that are here to fulfill their duties to our Government. I thank you all for your patience and for your services in assisting with matters related to Government and its developments. I pray that our Lord Almighty lead our country today.

Before we concluded Proceedings last night the opportunity was given to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. I call on the Hon Minister it is now time for a clarification from your Ministry.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2014/2015 AND
APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016 -resumption debate on second
reading -Day 4**

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker I believe we have reached another beautiful new day and most of Members are in good health gathered within the House. I give thanks to the Lord for his blessings, Samoa is a country founded on God he is also the one that guides us throughout our journey. Our praises unto thee remain now until forever. I acknowledge the respects of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, the three pillars of Government and to every church for their prayers especially, *Aiga ma Tama, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I acknowledge the dignity of our country in all its honorary salutations. There is a saying that goes like this, “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift.”

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

We do not know what will happen only the Lord Almighty. As for today we should show appreciation for what we have received with our own hands, let us support together the Budget tabled.

Mr Speaker I will now respond to some of the queries raised by Members especially matters related to the developments undertaken by this Ministry. The Land Transport Authority is working together with Government, the World Bank and the Australian Government on projects in Samusu towards Lalomanu. There are road works undertaken in Lalomanu towards Lepa. These roads can be used during natural disasters with a number of three roads being constructed at Lalomanu. The works on upgrading of the main road for Vaitele Street starting from Vailoa towards Saina should have started already. Maybe by next month, the company in charge of this project have started preparation, they already have the support of the World Bank therefore they should begin next week.

Regarding the project on building the bridge at Leone, designs are now in the final stage then it can be advertised for contractors. For the work carried out on the western road going towards the Airport and Mulifanua, the design is now complete. A survey is now underway and since the design is now completed it will be submitted to the World Bank for consideration before seeking contractors to do the work.

For the project on the bridge at Maliolio, we have started drafting designs and a company has already been acquired to complete this development. There are two areas that we are trying to overlook, the location of the old road and the distance between the two rivers. The only issue is the area involves land, meaning that a new road will be established. We are currently trying to figure out these two areas and determine the costs and now many lands will be affected in building this bridge.

Since we are still discussing access roads, there are access roads that have been upgraded and opened and some are set to be opened tomorrow. I tried to inform you all that there are a lot of developments undertaken by the Ministry in relation to natural disasters and hosting events. Nonetheless the Ministry has still been able to fulfill requests on some access roads. Other problems seen....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister of Works; I will give the opportunity to the interruption made by the Member. I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga (Faasaleleaga No.4): Mr Speaker I want to thank the Hon Minister for the clarification. It is not my intention to interrupt the speech by the Hon Minister but I just want to add on to the clarification made on the bridge for Maliolio. It seems the Ministry has been visiting many villages in relation to this development. Although I own most of the land that the project is being set up on, I have given consent for it to be used for Government development.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Therefore the issue that I have noted is that most of the *matais* being consulted do not have ownership over the land that will be used. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Thank you for the interruption. I believe this matter will be clarified further once the plans are submitted on the project. There are two road layouts being considered, the decision depends on the lands used and the cost of labour. I believe we have executed the first stage but I will be consulting with the Associate Minister and those in charge of this development on the progress of the work.

For the clarification of the House most of the roads upgraded are the ones that lead towards hotels. The Ministry has assisted with this matter since this is where the majority of the economy of the country and employment accumulates, tourism. There are several requests put forward to our office and we are trying our best to fit it into our program. I recall one of the requests made by a hotel to construct a new road to their location which was more than a kilometers in length.

The Ministry carried out a survey estimating the cost to be nearly \$2 million for this road. This does not only include access roads, for clarification of the House, upgrading roads to hotels and resorts are one area our Budget is allocated to. Some estates were divided and sold a long time ago which includes areas like Siusega. It is up to the owner whether they want to subdivide to establish roads, when others buy these lands everything will be provided. Unfortunately when they ask Government for roads we cannot do anything because more than thirty families have built their homes on the road boundaries. In the past machines would dig out the roads like the roads in Siusega, it is the duty of each family to divide and evaluate their lands also to construct their own roads before selling it. If we were to add all the costs these lands would be quite expensive. Although some have requested the Government for roads, they have already been living there for more than twenty to thirty years. This is an area the Executive and the Ministry is currently looking into but it is not our priority to do this work. We have assisted the people in respect to the objective of this Party, human rights for all. This is one of the reasons why we have expanded our services to these lands. Some of the work undertaken on roads is done with the assistance from the Electric Power Corporation because of projects in the area that need the Ministry participation. Our goal is to assist with the development of electricity and to minimize costs on the work to be carried out at the same time. Some might think that the budget allocated here is only for access roads but it is not. This is another area where funds are allocated too; this will ensure that requests made are considered.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

For the road at Manono perhaps this is one road that the Hon Prime Minister recommended, the employees have already carried out research in Manono tai for a road circling the island. There are three areas proposed through findings, first a tar sealed road and costs, second a cement road and costs and lastly a road that just needs an upgrade. There is a need for communication between the two villages of Manono Uta and Manono tai, proper machinery is needed to carry out this work. Unfortunately it does not comply with our wharf at the moment. The Hon Prime Minister together with the Ports Authority already recommended the upgrade of the wharf in relation to this development program. This means that it will be the whole package not only to improve the wharf but also machinery to fix our roads.

This is the same for the Samoa Water Authority on requests submitted; the Government is not ignorant of the needs as mentioned by the Member....

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

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you for the opportunity. I apologize to the Hon Minister, there is a port in Salua where the Satuilagi le Fotu can fit through, and there is a ramp that is used by machines to be transported inland. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: The Member is well aware of this matter because he is from Manono.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIAGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Perhaps the Associate Minister did research on this matter nonetheless the recommendation is useful to review and improve the research findings. I humbly request if Members have recommendations similar to this, I ask that you share it so it will assist with the future developments of the country.

The road at Alamagoto has been long recommended for upgrades to be carried out. The difficulty though is the irregular road width with the road stretching to 15 meters in other areas and 10 meters in other, with another of just 8 meters, these are family lands yet to be divided. This has not happened since there are customary lands that are situated right in front of the road. This is the main issue, a design should be drafted because we cannot have crooked drainage, and it should be leveled to a 10 to 15 meter width. The Ministry is thinking of a resolution to this issue before any work is carried out. I agree that this road is a threat to the lives of people who use it. There is another road that I seemed to have missed which is the cross island road from Tanumaganono towards Vailima.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the Alamagoto road has created many problems through transportation. One of the reasons for this difficulty is Mount Vaea. During heavy rainfall water accumulated at the top of the mountain flows down towards the road. The drainage system is not compact enough to hold it together I am not sure who built it. I have noted that the water goes straight down to the drain and not towards the river that is closer. This water that flows down from the mountain during heavy rain gets mixed together with the Fugalei drainage system creating flood within the area.

We have consulted about these areas more than once perhaps the only measure that we can take since these are freehold lands is for the Government to take these lands. As the Hon Minister has stated there are a lot of lands owned by the people making the road narrower. It is inevitable to ignore this problem since it will not be cheap and it will affect freehold lands.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister to continue his clarification.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: The road that leads up to Tanumaganono and Vailima is one development implemented with the assistance of the World Bank, which was mentioned by one of the Members yesterday. A draft has been initiated although there is a difficulty of meeting proper road measurements. Nonetheless the Ministry is looking at ways to resolve this problem.

We already undertook inspections on the roads at Vaimoso uta and Alafua uta. The Hon Prime Minister has already confirmed that the road going inland at Moamoa that is separated by a river will need a bridge that will enable people to travel through Moamoa. I believe this will greatly assist with the traffic congestion usually seen within that area. These are some of the plans that will be implemented to meet requests made by the Member.

There was a query concerning Vaisigano, there is already a task team overlooking this matter. The Government together with the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment believes that this development should start now. We have already publicized plans perhaps this matter will be clarified further later, there is a special Committee in charge of monitoring the work and to make sure it is carried out as soon as possible.

This is a clarification concerning access roads; I am also saddened when a request made cannot be accomplished. The cost of two access roads is more than a million if it is \$4 million as mentioned by the Member then we cannot reach that amount. There are five access roads in other villages therefore if a Member has five to nine access roads that will be the limit of the requests considered. We are trying to upgrade some access roads that are yet to be tar sealed as one of the Members mentioned it has been fifty three years yet we have just started upgrading.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

We are also trying to allocate upgrades equally, it does not matter if this Parliamentary term ends the work of Government will still continue. I humbly apologize for any inconvenience implemented by the Ministry of Works to meet some of the requests made by Members of the House.

The Ports Authority....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister; I will give the opportunity to the interruption by the Member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu (Gagaemauga No. 2): Mr Speaker there was a brief mention of the matter in my speech. I apologize to the Hon Minister since our village of Salamumu does not have an access road since there are no flat lands for plantations. A humble request, the Government road goes straight through our rainforest which we use for handicrafts and earn a living. The Hon Minister has yet to mention this issue since we are neighbours, is it possible to adhere to my request at the end of this year. Thank you.

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

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Thank you, we will be opening the new road at Saleaula tomorrow, it is Salamumu, Saleaula in Savaii. We will upgrade the road in Saleaula.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker perhaps we should still note the request by the Member, but I heard that there is not flat land in this area. If this is the case then I do not think we should construct an access road.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker what I said was true, we do not have flat lands. Although I have interrupted the Hon Minister since he was discussing different road developments. Mr Speaker that was my request voiced.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Member, the road for Sale will be opened first then Sala. I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Mr Speaker I now come to the work carried out by the Ports Authority, they are still doing their usual work. There are a lot of important companies that have come and set up station at the wharf, carrying out trans shipment. There are a lot of ships that have been able to visit our Ports which has improved their services making more profits.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has also spoken there is a lot of employment opportunities provided. Since most of the people in our country are trying to find work. We signed an agreement on Monday for the reconstruction of the wharf at Matautu, with usual procedures....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the interruption by the Member. I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi No. 3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I do not want to interrupt the speech given by the Hon Minister, but since you have mentioned contractors who are now allowing in fishing vessels.

Does this contract include a MOU on banning the release of wastewater within the shores of Samoa because it has a major effect on the marine ecosystem especially fish, which we earn income from? There are a lot of fishing vessels that throw away this wastewater into the sea, it is true that we can earn a lot from this but there are also impacts that we should take into account.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker in saving the time for the Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: These opportunities have been advertised but yet people cannot fill in these posts. A question to the Hon Minister especially the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, are these vacancies advertised because I do not see it on television. I do not see it in the newspaper as well but there are a lot of vacancies? I have asked because this is an important matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. The opinion of the Member is now understood, I will give the opportunity back to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: The Government always advertises. This is how procurement guidelines and procedures work; it is publicized so that there is equal opportunity .There is....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker since the Hon Minister has now stated that it is being advertised, I strongly believe there are no opportunities advertised because the country is not aware. If it was advertised I believe there will not be enough space for the workers.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition, the Government has already responded on the matter. I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Lemalu Su'a Leatuavao Tuiletufuga Ropati Mualia: Mr Speaker we have been advertising constantly in the newspapers, I also told you that the workers only wanted two weeks of work then go back to their families. The Hon Prime Minister has already responded that these people get homesick for their spouses when they are away too long at sea. We still have a lot of employment opportunities, there were questions based on the excess agreement and part of this agreement is to have no less than 75% of Samoan employees. The company is still following through with the provisions agreed, although it is also dependent on the employee since some of them work for the money, once they get it they stay home. They are now looking for people from Kiribati, Solomon and Tuvalu now working on these vessels. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this issue includes our seasonal workers going to New Zealand to pick apples and onions. Some have returned in relation to this same problem. I am thinking of establishing an association like the faafafine association, but it will be labeled homesick group, anyone who gets homesick will be recorded and will not be allowed to go overseas anymore. They will just waste time if they go and are sent back. This will affect our country's chance at getting more opportunities. This is the reason for such an association because this is the types of issues that affect our people from going to New Zealand and Australia. The common issue seen here is that they tend to take younger children, when asked why they have come back they would say, the New Zealand has sent them back but it is their children. This is a surprise for New Zealand and Australia, Samoa is the only country that is affected by this issue of homesickness. They are aware that when they take their children overseas they become overstayers. This is why Mr Speaker I have thought of this solution of establishing an association for those who are homesick this will ensure that these people will not be selected anymore.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker I would like to assist with this matter. I support the opinion made by the Hon Prime Minister in initiating an association, but it should be lead by a righteous person. I recommend that you pick Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu to manage this association, because his wife lives overseas and he lives here. This means that he is an appropriate candidate to monitor these people, if they have spouses here he will be able to advise them to go to work for their families. With respect.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

MR SPEAKER: We are currently wasting time on discussing this matter, I apologize to Members, the matter is now understood. We are making jokes on this matter but it is hurtful to some of the people of the country. It seems we are again reiterating the matter like the one from the past that resulted to the employment of indentured Chinese and Solomon labourers. It is a problematic issue because it will mean lesser employment opportunities. We have heard the clarification made by the Hon Minister of Agriculture; it is quite humiliating, they have set up new companies implementing more job opportunities but they do not want to work? People of Samoa we cannot discipline you in what to do. We already have a fish market and other businesses that will help develop our country. Where else are we going? Will we be wasting the efforts made in implementing these developments, it is not appropriate to joke about it. Respectable Members and the public listening in to our proceedings, I humbly request that the Ministry take note of the recommendation made by the Hon Prime Minister on measures that will resolve this problem. We have heard that even the apple picking scheme has been made into a song. The responsible Ministry should look thoroughly at some of these issues that have occurred and monitor the project properly. I also recommend the House on this matter.

I call on the Hon Minister, I apologize but I will give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata East.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo (Faleata East): Thank you for the opportunity. Regarding the issue of employment opportunities, there are reasons why people do not want to work. There is the pay; I will clarify further on the matter when we consider the Bill in detail. The only confirmation that states employment is allocated under the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour. It has advertised only sixty positions within the Samoa Observer. There is no record from other Ministries concerning this matter as stated by the Hon Minister, on work advertised.

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister will now answer this query since he has the facts. I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Lemalu Su'a Leatuavao Tuiletufuga Ropati Mualia: Mr Speaker these companies mentioned are not under Government, they are private companies. It is similar to shops; therefore Labour does not advertise employment from within these companies. It is not also included within the Budget or under the Ministry, I believe everyone understands this procedure. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour has no right to the work carried out by a fishing company. The questions made are just childish.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member for Faleata East.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker once work is completed on the plans made by Government on these developments, it should be reported. This can be made by the company hence it should be made know for the understanding of the public. The Hon Minister has also elaborated on the matter concerning the Statistics which includes this; we should make sure that the country does not interpret this wrongly....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister for Public Enterprises.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Public Enterprises): Thank you Mr Speaker, since the Member mentioned stats which is one of my Ministries. The Bureau has not yet collected any information on the statistics of these new companies, but I support the opinion of the Hon Minister since I was present at the day of the opening. I asked one employee if there are people interested in working at our fish market and on fishing boats. The response was, once the first interview is concluded they are told that they will be at sea for three months, that is when most do not return back to finish the process. As for the pay as mentioned by the Member, it is quite good but the only problem is once the interview is completed they do not want to return back to work. This is a brief clarification on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I believe the matter is now clear and understood nonetheless I recommend that the House be considerate of our country. I also ask that our people do the same since we are now being offered more employment opportunities.

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

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Mr Speaker the matter is clear and as it was explained. The issue questioned was our wharf at Matautu. Samoa Ports Authority is ISPS compliant, meaning we are compliant with the International Ship and Port Facilities Securities Code. It is included under the IMO Regulations; this means that the work done at sea follows this code. Therefore I recommend you not to worry about it.

Another matter, I believe it is beginning of the...

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

MR SPEAKER: Yes the Member....

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: You did not mention this within you speech....

MR SPEAKER: This is the reason why I tried to appease the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3, I apologize to Members the matter is now been clarified.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

We ought to be mindful of our time, it is not my intention to disregard opinions of Members but let us have faith in the Hon Minister of Ports Authority and the Hon Minister of Agriculture who are in charge of this transaction.

I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: I will now elaborate on the Samoa Water Authority. The Authority is carrying out its usual duties on development programs that they are now implementing. One of the main concerns is the boreholes like the one at Lalomanu that is starting to produce saline water. In Savaii more than 70% of the people are reliant on underground water boreholes if the water source dries it will be a problem. This is the exact reason why the Ministry has been trying to inform constituencies to not be reliant on this water source. This water is level with the sea, once this water drops below it will be filled by sea water making it saline. If this happens it will have a major effect on trees and minerals. In case we might be reliant on drilling but maybe in the next 10-20 years it will have a major impact on us long term. As for the program we are still moving forward with drilling at Faleasiu also we have identified a location for the water at Salega. This work will be made easier with the opening of the new road that is nearly in completion.

The work of the Government in partnership with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency is being carried out at Tapatapao with two water filters located in the area. This water filter was first implemented by the European Union now it is being done by JICA.

The water catchment at Tapatapao will generate water supply for Falelauniu, work is now underway. If you travel through that area you will notice that pipelines have been constructed within Falelauniu, Tapatapao and parts of Siusega. This project was made possible with the assistance of EU also it is now starting another phase for Alesia, hence there is intent that it will soon be implemented in Faleasiu Uta and parts of Fasitoo Uta, pipes are now in the process of being connected as planned.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, perhaps the Hon Minister has forgotten that I mentioned the borehole at Gataivai. I was informed by the Samoa Water Authority that water improvement will start from Faleasiu, Falelauniu and Gataivai but there was no mention of Sagone since it is not included in the list. Thank you.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: There are some errors in the list that I am calling out but do not worry once we get to Savaii we will fulfill all the needs requested. One of the ongoing projects is the water catchment at Vailima heading down towards Apia.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

All these developments are made possible with the collaboration of the Government of Samoa and the Japanese Government. There are already plans made to pump water inland towards Magiagi, Vaivase uta and Moataa uta. These upgrades are expected to be completed by the end of 2016. As for those who raised the matter concerning the pipelines at Tapatapao, it will go in a different location; there are two different projects for Tapatapao.

I now come to elaborate on the issue related to our Shipping Corporation....

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker I do not want to interrupt but since the Hon Minister is now moving away from the matter clarified. The Hon Minister mentioned last night the water supply of our villages inland starting from Utufaalalafa, Saleaamua, Lotopue, Mutiatele and Satitua in respect to the House they are still waiting for the rain. The water was drilled but that was the time a former Member was representing this seat and now he was not voted back and this project was not carried out to completion. Even though we still got water I just wanted to enquire feedback on this issue, please.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA: Mr Speaker I will elaborate on this issue as I go, since this is one important aspect why the road at Samusu uta and Lalomanu was constructed. The road outlines the path for pipelines towards the coastal shoreline all the way to Tiavea. The completion of this road will make it easier for the Ministry to implement other development programs.

The work carried out by the Shipping Corporation remains the same, I am just proud that some of our services have reached other Pacific countries like Cook Islands, Tokelau and Tutuila and Manua. The Lady Naomi will be absent for the next three weeks and will be used by the Cook Islands to take people from Pukapuka to the main island to participate in its festival. This is one important service that is now provided by the Shipping Corporation.

Regarding situation of our wharfs at Mulifanua and Salelologa, we are still carrying out developments. As for the suggestion on sea points, the ticket system has been computerized this means that we will be looking at frequent travellers, perhaps the machine will notify the individual with a beep or with the greeting, 'Afio mai,' hence there might be other benefits.

For the Electric Power Corporation, they are still working on renewable energy projects in collaboration with companies known as Independent Powers Producers (IPP) chosen for the Electric Power Corporation to buy electricity. We will be receiving three new generators this week for Salelologa to improve services. We have also closed the tendering for 100% renewable energy for Savaii; the Government does not take lightly the progress of development programs in Savaii.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

The only companies that offered was Solar, there were plans for other companies to participate although they did not turn up. The Corporation has implemented a valuation on what is needed for the island of Salafai. Perhaps those are all the issues that were mentioned....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister; I will give the opportunity to the Member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Thank you Hon Minister for the many developments accomplished, I thank you for the work this year. Since you have mentioned the matter concerning Solar, I wanted to ask the Hon Minister, I have found out that there is a difference in pricing of solar electricity within Ministries. It is 70sene, 59sene and 59sene, would you kindly elaborate on this issue? First it is quite expensive, if this will be the cost, I believe the price spent on hydro is 30sene a unit but fuel is 90sene a unit, if it is more than 70sene for solar then the Hon Minister should consider whether this is appropriate.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Individual Voters): Mr Speaker in saving the time of the Hon Minister since I came late this morning I move with respect whether the Hon Minister mentioned the road at Malololelei where the Catholic Church School Divine Mercy is located. Are there plans to tar seal this road? With respect.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: The issue concerning the road is now within the future plans of the Ministry together with water supply.

I have already clarified the matter of costs and it was already advertised to the public and bids were submitted. Solar panels are quite expensive. We cannot fulfill the responsibilities of the project. We are currently being assisted by overseas companies that have made progress in this area. The costs I mentioned as examples are the same prices of renewable energy overseas. If you are \$50 cash power and get 40 units say for the last two years, now \$50 will get you 55 units. There is a huge change between this and the first one if we put it in percentage. There is a 20-30% difference from last year and now. Once a review is undertaken it is given to the Cabinet to consider, there is a lot of commotion on whether the price will decrease, this is what you will have to find out for yourself the next time you buy cash power. We are trying to make sure there is affordability and that prices are appropriate to the resources used.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker what the Hon Minister and Corporation are trying to do is to not put all the eggs into one basket.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

This means that different companies contribute if one fails there is the other to supply the electricity. The methods they use are not all the same. Others start producing solar energy when the sun comes up and some once it is daylight they start harvesting electricity. This is why there is a difference between prices, the Government is trying to encourage companies to have different methods, and this means different prices. The only issue is that the Corporation should ensure that prices do not increase but decrease since we cannot be dependent on fuel that constantly changes in price. We are now producing electricity from the sun which is from nature meaning it does not have a price.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker I will clarify the matter. The issue mentioned by the Member is quite important because we thought solar electricity will cost less. To illustrate, if we need 2 mega watts of power for the generator and it costs more than \$4 million but 2 mega watts from solar is \$10 million that is the difference. A lot of money is spent on setting up this project although it is not only for today but for the future generation. Maybe in another two to four years, these prices can be decreased. This is a clarification on the matter.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: I just want to inform the Member for Faleata West if he wants to understand the issue ask the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 to clarify the project.

Moving on to Airport Authority, we are carrying our upgrade works at our airport in Maota and Asau, which is now fully equipped. There is already a company that will be in charge of the Terminal Project at Faleolo hence we have now started with this program especially the upgrading of the runway and airport. This project is expected to start at the end of the year together with other programs to improve our airport especially to develop the economy of our country.

We are currently working together with the Pulenuu of Aleipata regarding the airport project planned and they have responded very well since they are quite happy with this development. I talked with Members from that rural constituency and now with the improvement on access roads going inland where most have now settled this will be the next program. The coastal area will be made available for tourist attraction sites, people can now work the plantation on lands inland and they can also go to the seaside. This portrays the many developments that have now been established within the village and now with the airport. We have already marked areas where the airport will be located and we will also be talking to families nonetheless they support this project a hundred percent. As for....

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

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The matter discussed of the airport at Aleipata is quite important. It is very good that you are now starting to research the area together with the assistance of Pulenuu. I have been thinking of this development, if it takes us five minutes to travel to Tutuila and two hours to drive to Apia, then I do not know why we are setting up an airport at Aleipata. It takes five minutes to go to Tutuila then it is a two hour drive back to Apia, this will mean more time is spent on driving just to go to the airport. I am not sure where you got this idea from but it is not cheap and it not safe for the drivers...

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker we only have two types of planes, one holds nine to twenty passengers which only travels between the two islands. This means that most of the upgrade done for this airport is done for planes that travel between Samoa and Tutuila.

This means the airport planned will be the same size as the one at Maota. There were two plane crashes that resulted in the loss of lives; the last plane crash was a result of fog. The plane could not see Fagalii due to the fog then it re-routed to Faleolo airport but the same thing happened, it was too foggy. It then returned back to Fagalii, which resulted to a crash because it did not take its usual route of flying over the sea but it flew inland. Since there are many tall trees inland it crashed against a coconut tree inland at Moamoa. The account given by the surviving co-captain was, he told the captain to use the sea route but he did not listen which led to this crash inland.

The reason why I am elaborating on this event is to clarify that we need another airport as a secondary option for our airports which will save lives. There is a possibility of accidents happening when there is a busy schedule. There are church conferences for the Methodist and the Congregational Christian Church where most of the people travel from America on Hawaiian Air. If there are people from Aleipata, Lepa, Lotofaga, Safata who wish to travel more quickly they can land at Aleipata then drive to Safata and Falealili rather than going all the way to Apia. We are looking at the future and we cannot change what has been set maybe by the next thousand years Aleipata will be one of the main capitals since it is much closer to Tutuila. The closer distance is a benefit for the two countries and it will save us more money through travel in both sea and air. There have been so many explanations given on this matter; I believe the Member for Faleata West understands it well. Do you understand Tofa Lealailepule Aiafi? You do understand, I recommend that you explain this matter to your leader.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker since there is...the Hon Prime Minister is right.

I advised our Leader that when he speaks on the issue concerning the airport he should not speak about economics, since that is the area of expertise of the Hon Prime Minister, but to talk about safety since he is the Air Traffic Controller. This was his area that he specialized in because once he talks about economics he will not win. This was the recommendation but yes I do understand the clarification.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, this is the reason why I took the floor on this matter concerning airports, I already have the knowledge and understanding in aviation.

Mr Speaker the Member has spoken....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker if we talk of safety which is the presumed area of expertise of the Leader of Opposition we consider methods that will save lives. I just finished clarifying this matter or have you forgotten. This is to save the lives of people when there is fog and when it rains. We all know that not every day is sunny, there are rainy days which means this airport will be important. I am talking to you about safety. Therefore I recommend that you not talk about issues concerning safety or development. However I ask that you talk to me about education.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Leader of Opposition the matter is now understood.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The Hon Prime Minister is talking about the next thousand years but maybe by then we will be connected with Tutuila considering climate change. He should be thinking of the next few years and now. I am talking about the essence of the Budget presented.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the problem with that Party is they do not instigate any plans, it ended with the previous elections. As for this Party it lays down strategies for the developments of the younger generation now and in the future. We are not like the Leader of Opposition who only thinks of now, we look at what will benefit us in the future.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I have one more matter to discuss, I thought the Hon Prime Minister would learn from what already happened, look at the wharf situated there at the moment....

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

MR SPEAKER: I thought we already elaborated on this matter.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: No we did not... I thought this would be an example if we do set up another airport, the same thing will happen, the money spent will be wasted.

MR SPEAKER: The response given by Government is quite clear, I will give the opportunity to the Member for Aiga i le Tai.

Susuga Ifopo Matia Filisi (Aiga i le Tai): Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe the Member for Aiga i le Tai rarely interrupt. Hon Minister your speech was quite outstanding therefore I am thankful for all the work that has been done. This Constituency is also aware of the projects undertaken for the island of Manono including water, roads, seawall and the wharf. I was waiting for the time when everything was settled, but I just want to remind the Hon Minister that the Samoa Ports Authority with the assistance of the Member Afioga Faumuina worked with us to put together the report on the wharfs in relation to roads, they have the report. As stated within the report the only harbor that is not shallow and does not affect the big boats is located at Satuilaagi and Apai. I thank the Hon Minister, my Constituency has heard developments proposed thus it was our prayer which was voiced through the speech yesterday. I am aware that a lot has been spent on these developments but it would be helpful if we could do it in different phases. We can start with phase one then move onto phase two; bless our Proceedings, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I apologize to the Hon Minister but in saving your time I will give the opportunity to the Member for Alataua West.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa (Alataua West): Mr Speaker perhaps the Hon Minister is nearing the conclusion of his speech and it is not my intention to interrupt. I appreciate all that he has done, but just a reminder on a humble request made yesterday for my Constituency, it is very dark during the night both inland and at the coast. Perhaps you have forgotten or perhaps you did not want to note it down.

These road lights may not cost more than \$10,000. The lights that were there were taken ten years ago by the Corporation and I do not know where they took them. Ever since then we still do not have any light. Hon Minister this is just a reminder to consider my request maybe not for now but soon.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: I seem to be forgetting what I was supposed to talk about to conclude my speech because of the interruption from the Opposition.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Nonetheless it seems the Leader of Opposition is focused on Apia. He is worried that when you land at Aleipata you have to drive all the way to Apia. How about Aleipata? If your flight lands at Fagalii and you travel to Aleipata it will also take two hours. We are both residents of rural areas therefore we should be supporting this project for our benefit.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker a point of clarification. How come there will be a new airport at Aleipata but how about all of Samoa? It does not matter whether it will be from Aleipata to Apia. It does not make sense and there is no logic.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Mr Speaker, the Member is not thinking of the travel from one place to another, the goal of this development is for our tourists.

The matter concerning our street lights this issue will be put under the Electric Power Corporation. The request can be submitted to me and you should specify where exactly it is needed. We cannot fix anything if we are not notified because the distance between Neiafu villages are miles long, we need to know so it will make our work easier. There are site visits that are reported to the CSO Committee who makes decisions but if they are presented to me without understanding I cannot write this down. It is much easier to voice a request and I will give in my full support on the matter, this concludes my speech.

I take this opportunity to thank my Constituency and their support. I thank the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Ministry for the assistance given to the people, now everyone in my Constituency owns a wheel barrow. This also includes other tools for working the land of the people.

I thank the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture and Ministry for the work done for our school in Mulivai also the school at Vaiee is nearly complete. The school at Lotofaga is now in progress also there is now assistance with the school at Saanapu. Thank you, it is expected that by the end of this year the Government is planning other educational programs for schools and our college at Saanapu.

I also want to thank the Hon Minister of Health and Ministry, Saanapu now has a hospital not only will it be useful for Salamumu, Saleaula, Lefaga but also going to Siumu. I believe matters have been settled with Afioga Anapu for his land together with the support of Saanapu for upgrading the hospital. This will benefit all including those living out of the Constituency like Saleaula. I am grateful for everything done for my Constituency and I thank the Government for all the developments for Safata which I will not mention. I pray that the Lord bless the Hon Prime Minister and Government for the continuation of the programs implemented. Thank you.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker before the Hon Minister concludes his speech, I want to ask about the access roads that is under his Ministry. I recommend that he speak on the access roads at Sataoa, Lotofaga, Niusuatia, Vaiee and others, you can thank yourself that they will soon be upgraded.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA MATI TUIGAMALA ENOKATI POSALA: Mr Speaker the Member clearly told me to give the opportunity to others first. He was the reason why I have put other constituencies first, I believe the Leader of Opposition is thinking of this differently he should not think of the Constituency but of the Opposition. We have witnessed that most of the elder Members of his Party from Savaii supports him but he does not support them. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well I suggest that you two prepare your partnership. I thank the Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure; I believe the Hon Prime Minister did not lightly elect you since you have the ability to do well. Therefore I thank you for your patience and hard work since this is one of the largest Ministry in Government. I also want to thank the Ministry and Executive and private corporations that are under your management for the developments undertaken for our country.

The Chair also wants to thank you for the road of my Constituency at Aopo which I now see in the list of developments noted. An advice to the Hon Minister, this constituency does not have an access road however I believe this road is about four to five miles long.

I call on the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU (Minister of Education Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker I respectfully seek your consent that we now take a break then I will speak on my Ministry when we return.

I believe the praises and dignitary speeches have already been made by the Hon Minister therefore I will not reiterate. I welcome Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. I acknowledge the Leader of Opposition and Deputy Leader and all respectable Members of Parliament.

I welcome as well the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Office. I acknowledge the support of all Samoa especially to my Constituency.

I want to thank Members who mentioned this Ministry in your speeches. I was listening to some of the recommendations voiced and these reminders are important to me especially to develop education in our country. This is also based on the development of our economy through education.

It is important because I believe there is not a single Member in Parliament that has not faced challenges during their education. Each one of us has a humorous story and struggling story.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

I also believe that the children of some of the Members have been awarded a scholarship, say one to nine children of these Members were lucky. This is why this area is important to me. Overseas countries are hearing how important this sector is to us. Our country emphasizes section 26 of the Declaration of Human Rights 1948, which states, Education is a fundamental right, it is not a privilege. If I look at Members of Maota I strongly believe some will think why would I care about my neighbors children? Why would I care about the children in my village? Why would I care about the children in my Constituency when I have achieved much already? I have heard the speeches but this is not what is happening, nevertheless what we are supposed to be doing is to encourage our children and their right to education. It is not only a right for those who can afford school fees, uniforms and other schools obligations. There are 49 Members of Parliament, what is important to me is the news that is heard from overseas, and then they will say Samoa is leading this initiative. I ask Members to assist us with this initiative. I hope that the Lord bless us and ensure that we all return back to Parliament after the Elections so we will be able to carry forward with our plans. These plans include the development of rural schools, so that the children of your neighbour, village and constituency have the same opportunity as our children, we do not discriminate.

Mr Speaker the key to developing the economy of a country is education. The key to developing income for families and individuals is education. This was the theme of the speech presented at the World Bank at the International Education conference where the Chief Executive of the Ministry and I were part of last month. This is also the belief of this Government and Parliament. We have noticed the many changes some were not easy but we have come together to signify the importance of this initiative.

The changes that we implement is to give children of the country opportunities, how do we monitor this? How do we know that Parliament is putting education first? This will be determined with the GDP. It is measured on public expenditure. In the evaluation undertaken by the United Nations in the Education sector it stated that every country in the world including developed countries should contribute 4-6% GDP to education. As for Samoa 5.1% of our GDP is now allocated to education. This means that Samoa has achieved the objective implemented by the United Nations. Another objective of the United Nations is that all countries of the world should allocate 14%-20% of their public expenditure to education. At the moment Samoa has allocated 17.06% of its public expenditure to education. This means that Samoa has also achieved the United Nations objective on public expenditure, why? This is a result of Members working together, the Opposition and Government to reach our set goals. We will soon pass the Appropriation 2015/2016, this side is not the only benefactor, in the history of education all 49 Members have contributed to support the initiatives implemented by the Ministry.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

As for the international standards on our teachers, thank you all for your patience. The Government is trying its best to improve our teachers with consideration of the number of teachers but also their skills and knowledge by graduating with higher degrees. There have been scholarships offered for overseas studies and there is the program at the University of the South Pacific. A number of 63 teachers are taking Mathematics and Science subjects. There are also subjects pertaining to theology studies. I thank you all for your patience on changes made in this area. It is important to make sure our teachers are well prepared; Samoa College will not be higher than Faleata, Vaimauga, Mataevave and Palauli anymore. Every graduate from University overseas and those from rural areas will be educated equally. The students will no longer give preference over which school they want to go to because of education standards. There is a shortage of teachers. It does not matter what strategies the Ministry will implement to resolve this problem on Science teachers it will surely happen again two years from now.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize Hon Minister I am aware that everyone is eager to hear of the response from your Ministry, but since we have reached our recess period.

The response of the Hon Minister of Education will continue after we return.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual morning recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 10:45 until 11:24am.

MR SPEAKER: I believe Members of the House now have the strength like that of the Opposition this morning. I want to thank all Members of the House for your patience. We have now arrived at the second half of our Proceedings this morning. I believe everyone has found the strength with tea provided. I thank our Heavenly Father for His love and strength bestowed on us to fulfill our duties.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture it is now time to continue with your clarification speech.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU: Mr Speaker I am thankful that you have found strength together with Members of the House with refreshments provided.

After Cyclone Evan the Ministry undertook a project to rebuild school buildings that were affected. The Ministry lead by the Chief Executive came to me and said, “Is it not time to merge other schools?”

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

The first school that was on that list was Mulivai, Safata there are only sixty students. What if after the new neighboring school is completed could students from Mulivai Safata go there? This is the same for Faleaseela. This was a recommendation made by the Ministry. I apologized to Adam Smith since my response to the query made by the Ministry is different. My reply was, I am grateful for the opinion but it is not something we should be thinking of now. Schools are the pride and joy of every village and no village wants to close their school, especially the one at Mulivai. I am worried about the door of my office because I am sure that Afioga Palusalua Faapo will come and kick it down. We will look into this matter later but for now merging is only a term used by economic experts.

Our pre-schools are very important. I am very happy to talk about it since this is one area now emphasized by Government. It is included together with primary level all the way to University and the Institute of Technology. This is one goal of the United Nations that by 2030, every child should attend pre-school since it is an important step towards primary education. The first pre-school staff meeting with the Ministry took place last week together with the launch of the guidebook for preschools in Samoa. I already instructed the Chief Executive and President of Pre Schools to undertake a review of remunerations for teachers and submit it for Cabinet recommendation so that we will not ignore important development for pre-schools. The Government is collaborating with the Ministry to improve this area. Also for vocational studies this is another area now emphasized especially for youths that fail the system. A project has been implemented to give opportunities to these youths that have other skill sets. As for other studies such as maritime this is one of the reasons why we set up facilities at the Ocean Campus so that it will have everything needed as mentioned by one of the Members. The ranks for our maritime students range from officer, senior officer and higher this is made with reference to the school in Kiribati.

A portion of our budget has been allocated for our sports fields which will assist our schools and players. A huge portion of the budget allocated by Government is for the participation of our players to Oceania games and sports within the Pacific region. The Ministry of Education submitted a request for Cabinet to review the percentage of grants allocated to schools to ensure there are enough funds for other resources. I have noted by the end of the financial year most schools still have a lot of unused funds. This portrays the intelligence of the School Committee in looking after funds and how to distribute it wisely.

There was a mention of the Science and Mathematics subject on television. We are in the final stages of a project in relation to this issue titled School Net, implemented in schools. It has been implemented in all our Colleges and it is progressing to primary levels to teach Mathematics and Science. This also includes English. The program teaches a student by watching and listening to lessons.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

I recommend Members of Cabinet to visit the schools in your constituencies to observe this program; I believe some of you will want to go back to school once you see it. It simplifies Mathematics and Science and it is very effective, do not forget we also have a program on television that was broadcasted before on the radio. It is now broadcasted on television for schools and it is quite informative. There was a mention for a University of Samoa in the last two years to be set up in Savaii. I asked the National University for their answer and they responded that we are not yet ready.

This is good since there is no use forcing them to go to Savaii when they are not prepared. We already have a University of the South Pacific branch there. I have been informed by the University of the South Pacific that ever since their satellite improved, a lot of the students from Savaii want to go back to school. There will come a time when there will be enough students from Savaii to establish our University.

I requested the University of the South Pacific to hold their graduation ceremony in Savaii at the end of this year in December. Therefore the graduation will be held in Savaii, this will encourage students from Savaii to attend the centre in Savaii. Our National University will follow later once Savaii is prepared.

I thank the office of the Chief Executive and Ministry for the hard work and resolving challenges faced with our schools. I have always said this every time I meet with school principals and teachers, the Minister does not count. The most important person within the classroom is the student you are teaching. The office of the Chief Executive does not count but the person within it. I recommend that you emphasize their work, and for you to serve them well. We have open communications with email within every school for Principals. There is also the telephone. When you need assistance call the Principal. Do not be ignorant but be active, there should be no more excuse about the Ministry. The use of email and phones is a way that will resolve and assist with any problem.

Mr Speaker these are some of the matters. I want to thank both sides of the House, bless the Chair and all Members of Maota. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I am confident that everyone has heard and understood the clarification made this morning Afioga Magele Mauiliu. I also believe that no one will justify it since action speaks louder than words. We have witnessed through media a lot of the programs implemented by the Ministry especially for the future development of education in the country. I salute you for your hard work.

I take this opportunity on behalf of Parliament to convey our thanks to the Hon Minister for your duties; we have noted with satisfaction the many changes. There is change with policies but also with implementing Bills that will improve and acknowledge the service of our teachers.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

I thank you Hon Minister for the knowledge especially for implementing programs that will benefit our children in the future, this is one of our goals; an educated country is a wealthy one.

I also want to voice my thanks to the Chief Executive and staff. I compliment you on your duty and there is no iota that will be left unappreciated. I also praise our teachers for your services will be greatly acknowledged. Keep up the good work in teaching the future generation of Samoa.

On behalf of my Constituency I also want to thank the Ministry. Development on our sports field has now commenced. There is a request submitted by the Aopo village council, I witnessed that machines have started working on the field last week during my visit. I thank the Hon Minister, Ministry and those in charge of the project once again; my Constituency gives its support to assist with any work needed by the Ministry.

We have now arrived at one of the other important Ministries, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. I call on the Hon Minister it is now time for a response from your Ministry.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Mr Speaker I move with respect to convey a response in relation to some of the queries made by Members to this Ministry and organizations under this sector. Before I move onto this matter, I take this opportunity to thank the Chair for conducting the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. Even though some of the Members have been aggressive on some of the issues the Chair has been patient, thank you.

I want to thank the opposite side of Chamber, the Leader of Opposition and Members of his Party. This side of the House to the Hon Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet especially Associate Ministers I commend you all for duties.

I will not go further to reiterate the respects of all Samoa but I take this opportunity to acknowledge my Constituency of Gagaemauga No. 3; *Aiga Sa Peseta, Afio le Nofo Matua ia Suisala, Afio le Maveve, Afio Lilo, Susu le Maopu ia Leota, mamalu mai Leusoalii, faapea le Faleiva ma upu ia te oe Matautu, o Oe o le Faamalumaluga o Malo, o Oe o le Muaautasi o Puleono i Salafai. Ua paia foi Saletoalepai o lo o afio ai Maiava ma Susu ai Mataia, alaalatai Mauigoa o le Aitutagata ae a le lavelave o Satoalepai.*

Least I do not forget Aiga Sa Levi and Holy Servants of God in various church denominations for your prayers and blessings upon our Constituency. I will now take this opportunity to clarify some of the issues mentioned by Members towards this Ministry and its organizations.

Mr Speaker, the first matter is the one regarding employee salaries. This is stated in the Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 relating to how services are provided.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

I quote a remark made, 80% of the funds allocated to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment are for employee salaries but only 20% is for services. An accusation was made saying, “perhaps this is the reason why services are quite poor, there are too many employees but not enough resources to do the work.”

Mr Speaker the figure mentioned of 80% in the Appropriation 2015/2016 allocated to employee salaries is wrong. The right figure should be 36%, mathematic calculations made by the Member is wrong, 64% of the budget is allocated to services not 20%.

Mr Speaker, research scientists are cautious about figures. I apologize if I cannot respond to these accusations because everything is now wrong.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister since it was a matter mentioned by the Member, I give the opportunity to the Member to correct his figures.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: First of all Mr Speaker perhaps the Hon Minister and I are looking at two different Budget estimates.

There is only one matter that I wish to speak upon before the Hon Minister continues with his clarification. The small amount stated in the Budget for services provided by the Ministry is \$10 million, from this total \$8 million is allocated to employee packages, output 1 to 11. I have noted that the Hon Minister allocated other expenses including fee payments for organizations resulting to a total of \$25; perhaps he has mixed this part with overseas costs.

I am talking about where the expenses of the \$10million are allocated to within the Ministry. I am not making an accusation or criticizing the employees. Mr Speaker my recommendation was to review this matter although this is not the only Ministry, I also mentioned other Ministries. If we look at most of the Ministries, between 30% to 80% of their budget is allocated to employee salaries. The mere concern of this Member is to review these areas for future development so that we will have enough funds to do the work. This is a clarification on the matter.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALIAULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: I thank the Member. The Budget is quite simple. We can add up all the items allocated to employee payments less the total funds for SROS, this easily results to the figure given. If you look at the budget I am not sure if the Member looked at the salary packages of other Ministries, it is the same and it is consistent. This is why I am saying that the figure mentioned by the Member is wrong, with respect.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker we do not blame any one of you two who are arguing over the figures.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

The concern voiced in the beginning is yet to be resolved, we are yet to receive corrections on the right figures where both of you are wrong. This is the response. The corrections on the wrong figures within the Budget are yet to be tabled.

MR SPEAKER: The Member did not mention this matter in his speech nonetheless I recommend a response.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to respond to the Member that he did not mention this issue in his speech.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker I just want to reiterate the issue for clarification \$10 million is allocated to the work undertaken by SROS.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the problem here is that we are leaving the shore but going to the reef. They are starting to deliberate the Budget in detail but we are yet to progress. The Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee has mentioned that the Committee has already amended some of these errors. It seems the Members now want to consider the Budget in detail, should we consider it now?

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee. I apologize to the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker with all due respect I just want to assist the two Members debating on these inaccurate figures. I have been calculating the figures and it seems 31% of the total budget is allocated to Ministry personnel. This means 31% of the budget given to the Ministry is allocated for employees. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: There will not be further debate on the matter. I appease Members on this matter, the response given by the Government is the one we should accept. We will be able to deliberate the matter later on when we consider the Bill in detail. I call on the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Thank you Mr Speaker. I just want to remind the House that resources mentioned in the budget are not only ones used by employees of this Ministry. There are several other projects that we are working on that are funded by our overseas development partners. There is no shortage of tasks where the knowledge of the staff can be applied.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Mr Speaker there was a remark that 1¼ of \$8million of the personnel is spent on paying Principal Officers and Assistance Executive Officers. Another concern voiced was that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has too many employees and it is top heavy. This is quite a pathetic opinion. Mr Speaker the truth is all divisions of this Ministry were created for future strategic plans so that it will correlate with the International Convention guiding principles. This involves the protection of natural resources and the environment in case of accidents and natural disasters from climate change. An example, the rainforest and water is an area under the Ministry of Natural Resources since these are some of the areas that are mostly threatened by climate change.

Mr Speaker the projects implemented benefit Samoa with the funds brought into the country from overseas....

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I apologize to the Hon Minister in case he might have thought my opinion was wrong. I only want us to all work together for the benefit of Samoa. I just want to mention again. I have noted that there are about fourteen ACEOs within the Ministry, each one is paid \$80,000+ if we add them all together this will total up to more than \$1million. If we include the Chief Executive Officer who is paid \$100,000, I predict that expenses round off to about \$1,250,000. This is not an opinion of a group, I did not say anything being top heavy, perhaps if anyone did hear it then I did not mean it in that way. I do not understand the work carried out by some of the divisions in the Ministry. Mr Speaker this is a mere concern on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. The opinion is now noted. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: I thank the Member. The Member mentioned that the Ministry is blessed with so many projects from overseas partners, this is true. This portrays that the Ministry is fulfilling its duties very well. The work is on track together with the organization chart it has at the moment.

Mr Speaker regarding the Scientific Research Organization. One of the Members mentioned that 50% of the budget for the year 2015/2016 is allocated for personnel, this figure is incorrect. The right figure is 44%, all the posts at the Scientific Research Organization are under contract, and this includes the Senior Research Scientist, Principal Research Scientist, Assistant Chief Executive Scientists and the Chief Executive Officer. The question here is why is this organization structured differently from other Government Ministries and private organizations?

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

The answer is that the Scientific Research Organization requires those who are experts, adamant and are happy to indulge in scientific research which will be innovative to the development of the country. The projects undertaken by the Organization are mostly funded from overseas....

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker one more thing.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I will give the opportunity for the interruption of the Member.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Hon Minister, I am not trying to lie about the Ministry and the Executive. I strongly believe the Hon Minister is right; those who work for the organization are only individuals who have the knowledge about scientific research. I just want to assist the Hon Minister, it is stated within page 326 and 327, that \$1.6million is allocated to personnel and \$3,119,000 is allocated to this organization thank you.

MR SPEAKER: It would be best if we let the Hon Minister finish his clarification. I recommend that Member refrain from interrupting and I believe the Hon Minister is yet to clarify the depth of the matter. Leader of Opposition?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: For the clarification of the House especially the Hon Minister, the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3 is the shadow Minister for Environment. We have initiated what you recommended to have shadow Ministers to thoroughly research the budget of their assigned Ministries. This is why these are not wrong figures; the shadow Minister has been researching your budget Hon Minister. This is a brief explanation.

MR SPEAKER: I am aware. The Hon Minister has already responded to the queries made by the shadow Minister, although the shadow Minister is more confused with you constantly interrupting.

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

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Thank you Mr Speaker, it is quite alright for the Leader of Opposition to assist his Member. The Budget that I read states that all personnel is divided from 33,480 which are the figures I mentioned – it also correlates with other Government organizations. This is what I am trying to clarify but I apologize to the Member if I have been too harsh. There are a lot of projects and there is no shortage of staff to fulfill various duties implemented including research.

24 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation
Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4**

Another area Mr Speaker is renewable energy, I know that there is also renewable energy projects under the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Nonetheless there are also renewable energy projects under this Ministry. There was a question on whether energy audits are being carried out on Government buildings so that we can use energy efficiency appliances to minimize maintenance cost on these buildings. A response to this is yes, the Government has been doing this for a long time, and there are a lot of projects undertaken by Government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Energy audits are done for electrical appliances to save energy. An example, there is a project on trial that includes five Pacific countries including Samoa. It is titled PEEP 1 and PEEP 2 which is Promoting Energy Efficiency in Pacific. We have completed Phase 1, all funded by UNDP and we are now starting Phase 2. There is also another project Technical Assistance Addressing Climate Change, or TAACC, which is funded by the Chinese Government. Most of these projects have gone through Phase 1 and have started Phase 2. We used those Air Cons that do not release greenhouse gas that pollute the atmosphere; also they do not use much electricity. Last week we got the second shipment for phase 2, we got 2,500 LED Street Lights, we still use the grid to feed it but it uses less electricity but its more brighter than the other street lights.

We are also getting solar street lights, why? So we will be able to minimize greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere and minimize costs. This is where savings of participating Ministries and private organizations are generated from in the project.

I now come to the issue concerning seawalls and water drains. First I want to inform the Members of the House about the project titled, PPCR or Pilot Project on Climate Resilience funded by the World Bank. The focal point of this project is the Ministry of Finance but is spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; it is based on communities within the constituencies. We have already elected the Project Management Unit and we are now reviewing Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans. There were Members that requested seawalls asking why it is taking so long? I do not know whose assault is worse towards the staff; the Members or mine. I usually call them into my office and ask them why there is a hold up? The usual response is that there are procedural requirements especially for projects that are funded by the World Bank; criterias should be met before the project commences. I asked if we can cut off these red tapes and go straight to implementation. The answer is no. I advised the Ministry that they should involve Members of constituencies within consultations of what should be carried out first within the project. I apologize to some of the Members. All due respect Afioga Tusa Tupuola, I already checked the priority list and Matautu is on it, I just hope the work will be implemented before the end of this Term if not there is always next Term.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Do not worry I am confident that you will be back. This is the same for Lalomanu and all other Members who requested. I will check which funding your project is allocated too and the donors on these projects.

As for Vaisigano, the Hon Minister for Public Enterprises stated that this project is now undertaken by the Kramer Company. They are in charge of drafting the designs of Vaisigano, using various models like the flooding model, so that the height of the drain levels with the bridge will prevent overflow. If all goes well it is predicted that the work should start by September this year and that is the report that I received. Mr Speaker I now come to the matter concerning the maintenance of Government buildings....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister but I will give the opportunity to the Member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta (Falealupo): Thank you for the opportunity, the Hon Ministers list is interesting. I humbly ask if Falealupo is included within your list of developments, because it is also affected. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: I want to let the Member know that your Constituency is included.

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Clear water projects a calm tide.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Mr Speaker regarding the maintenance of Government buildings. For Samoa Post as was mentioned, with a budget of \$150,000 to renovate the upper story building still in use, the building at Tamaligi is still in good condition.

There was a mention of taxes that should pay for Government lands to assist our budget. I respectfully respond that there is already a stamp duty paid by the Ministry of Finance once land is sold. A formula is used to determine stamp duty on the value of property. This method is employed by the Ministry.

Another issue mentioned was, rubbish pollution. The people of our country are very hard to control despite rubbish bins being everywhere in the town area. Some have headed to destroy and steal bins creating a mess everywhere. There is a law under the Waste Management Act 2010 where an individual can be charged for pollution in Samoa.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

The penalty is dependent on the severity of the crime and the impact it has on the environment. There were people who went dumped poisonous rubbish up at Malololelei. We took photos and the Ministry had to clear it.

One of the Members mentioned property in Salelologa where the wharf is located saying that the property is a nuisance to the wharf. The Ministry is now working on evaluating this area.

On the west side are Government lands but in the east are customary lands. I recommended the Ministry to value Government land so that we will be able to develop the wharf at Salelologa.

There was another query to merge all the lands, Government, customary and freehold land under one authority. The Government has considered this plan and perhaps in the future we will establish a Ministry of Land and Development so all these assets will be included under this body.

There was also a query in relation to the car park at the church in Taufusi. I asked the Ministry to submit a report in relation to this matter; they told me that there is a car park at the back of the church going towards Amau wholesale and the tire shop. So they already have a car park.

Another matter of concern is water testing which was mentioned by the Member for Falelatai and Samatau saying that this is the only organization authorized for testing. This is true. I am certain that it should not be undertaken by the Ministry of Health or any other Ministry. It is a conflict of interest especially if there are litigation cases, this is where SROS comes in, and they are the accredited authority who can testify to results.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister; I will give the opportunity to the interruption by the Member. I call on the Member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker I thank the Hon Minister for the various developments implemented. The Hon Minister is the one in charge of matters relating to land, sea and air. The reason why we live every day is because of this man, the scientist. I already advised Susuga Toeolesulusulu Schuster and he is the only candidate who can partner up with the man. I mentioned earlier the testing of water and food. The Hon Minister is quite right but the Scientific Research Organization is not mandated under your Ministry. We have witnessed the resources used to carry out the work in the organization but we should not only focus on water but also food from overseas. There are a lot of problems seen in this area. It should be under the mandate that any overseas food products brought into the country should be tested by SROS. We have witnessed this with herring and corned beef therefore food products should be tested because it has caused health problems for our people. With respect thank you.

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

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: I thank the Member for the interruption. The second recommendation in the report of the Finance Expenditure Committee for MNRE recommends the Ministry to comply with legislation, legislations regarding the submission of Annual Reports to Parliament, due to its noted non compliance. I want to clarify that all annual reports of the Ministry are now up to date. There is one more report that is in the editing stage before all requirements are met. I thank the Ministry for its services. Well those are matters in relation to my Ministerial duties, I now take....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister. I will give the opportunity to the interruption made by the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you Mr Speaker. In respect to the Hon Minister, since he mentioned the recommendation of the Committee yes we have observed this preparation. Although we implemented this recommendation so the work undertaken complies with legislation. This is one reason why we reminded Ministries about this. Also, most of the Ministries prepare the reports but do not submit it on time so that it will be audited before tabling in Parliament. This is the case with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Chairperson. I now call on the Hon Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAIULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: Mr Speaker, the reason why I mentioned the second recommendation is based on the fact that it is figurative; it affects the Ministry and its performance. It was also mentioned for the clarification of the House nonetheless I thank the Chairperson for the explanation.

Lastly I want to conclude my speech with my Member duties in Savaii. Mr Speaker I gladly support the notion that we should instigate a big loan for our developments. I am now speaking through a Members point of view. I recommend that a bridge be built from Savaii to Manono Uta, Manono Tai, Apolima, and the island between Apolima towards the Salelologa peninsula. If we look at the alignments between these islands all of them are aligned. We can construct posts and build a wooden bridge. I believe it will also earn us a lot of money with the tourists. They will rent cars to go around all of Samoa, when they return home we have already earned a lot from them. This is why I humbly request that....

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification in relation to the speech given by the Member. I just wanted to ask, will it be a wooden or cement bridge, because a wooden bridge will break easily.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

MR SPEAKER: It is the same thing.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: It will break if the engineers do not do the work well. If they are good engineers nothing will break. I travelled to one of the bridges crossing the deep sea of China which was 350 meters long. It was sturdy and beautiful....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is nothing in this world that can stop someone from their dreams. We could also construct it with long metal poles towards the sky or it can be hung from a rope. If we were to use ropes from Mulifanua, once a car is late they can just swing all the way to Savaii.

MR SPEAKER: Leulumoega, do you have a better idea?

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Thank you Mr Speaker. The opinion voiced by the Member for Gagaemauga No.3 was quite interesting; he has put aside his status as Minister. I am worried that the manifesto will now be known by Tautua with their Minister and Associate who will later voice it to their Leader. Do we all see the connection here? It looks like every strategy will be revealed to Tautua. All Members have heard about the bridge we are proposing. With respect.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker this could be another option, because we will be bringing in machinery to dig the tunnel from Falefa to Fagaloa. This will be another option for Savaii. The tunnel will go underground then go through Manono, Apolima, Tafua then end at Salelologa. How great would that be? It will be safer to have it underground considering natural disasters. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Good. Afioga Aeau Leavaiseeta do you want the tunnel to reach Falealupo?

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: Mr Speaker I move with respect to second the opinion made by the Hon Minister to construct a bridge. The only negative aspect of the Ministers dream is that it will not come true while you are on that side. It seems that they want to develop Aleipata first but come to our side it will make the work easier, so we will get our bridge. Am I right?

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

MR SPEAKER: In order to save your time Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to one of the Members for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola. I call on the Member.

Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola (Falealili): Thank you Mr Speaker. I do not move to speak on the bridge for Savaii. Since the Hon Minister is now stating requests as a Member of the House, I just want to voice sincere gratitude for acknowledging my Constituency. I have heard that you mentioned this Constituency and its request; I hope development will happen sooner than later. Thank you.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the only advice I want to give the Member for Savaii on his dreams is not to listen to Afioga Aeau. The cave monument where dead people are buried is quite enough. Let us not do anything that will kill the living.

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAU LOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: I thank the Member. I conclude with a vote of thanks to all Members of the House for the recommendations and queries made to this Ministry. It has been useful. This is the truth therefore the Ministry will review some of its plans together with its organizations for the development of Samoa. Bless our Proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I thank the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for answering the queries. I thank the Hon Minister for the work well done. I do not think anyone would undermine the developments that your Ministry provided and the development of new methods through scientific research. I pray that you have the strength to carry them forward. Matautu you are the strength that has given our people hope in overcoming certain obstacles. Even though you were constantly interrupted by Afioga Levaopolo Talatonu, but it is fine. I also take this time to thank the Ministry, the Management and office for the work done.

I just want to remind the Hon Minister about the drinking and bathing water of this Constituency at Sasina. I requested this long ago. I think this request was made during the time Faumuina Liuga was there. Once the tide comes in salt water mixes with fresh water. There is also the problem faced by the Committee building, the water usually settles there when it is high tide. Hon Minister these are a few needs of this Constituency, I humbly request that you consider the seawalls and water drains for Sasina. We have now arrived to another Ministry; I call on the Hon Minister of Health for his clarification.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): I respectfully greet the Chair of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

I also greet the other side of Chamber the Leader of Opposition and Members of the Opposition including the Heads of various Government Ministries and organizations and also the Clerk and Office. This is the dignity of the House. I also want to acknowledge my Constituency for your support today in all your honorific salutations. I want to thank the various church denominations within the Constituency for your prayers. I humbly ask for your support while I try and fulfill the duties given to me as the Minister of Health.

Mr Speaker, out of the thirty two Members of the House only seventeen mentioned this Ministry. And from that seventeen, nine of the Members thanked the Ministry for the services provided for the country.

This means that eight Members asked questions and wanted to understand the services provided by the Ministry. I will now try and respond.

Mr Speaker, there are a few Members who mentioned waiting times. I think there were about three to four Members who mentioned the same issue, which I believe is important. This is not the first time I have heard people saying that they wait long hours to be served. There is no other option for patients unless it is in Outpatient. I will now try to explain. In the past with the service provided by our hospital in Apia, general patients were served together with critical patients, even those who were in accidents were served in the same area of the hospital; the Outpatient. This is one area the Ministry looked into once the new building was completed. There was also the issue of people visiting being too loud, complaints were heard throughout the hospital. There were others who said, “Our patient died before the doctor could see him,” or “I came in at 8 this morning but the doctor just saw me at 3pm.” Perhaps some of these complaints are true nonetheless it was not taken lightly by the Health Administration and Ministry. They reviewed policies on how to resolve this issue which has now reached the House.

At the moment Mr Speaker, after the completion of the new hospital the management decided to divide these areas where patients check in. We will now divide general patients from emergency patients. We now have a big waiting area labeled General Outpatient and another area for Accident and Emergencies for critical patients. A clarification on the matter will perhaps assist with the matter from continuing. The staff we have at the moment consists of 47 doctors and from this, a total of ten are private doctors who support the services provided at the hospital. They not only assist with Outpatient, but some of them are Specialists. These private practices are contracted under the hospital; they assist with special cases. These doctors are allocated within the hospital in areas that are in high demand. For instance, surgeons are the ones in charge of pregnant women, children and medical patients who are treated with medicines.

Our employees have been divided into different areas to develop and improve their skills; they will not be stationed all over the hospital because they will not learn a particular skill that way. There is also the opportunity given to them to go overseas for trainings to enhance their ability in their field of profession.

24 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation
Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4**

Mr Speaker other complaints were made about the Outpatient when it is busy with those who are waiting to see doctors saying things to the effect, “Even though they know the Outpatient is busy but they keep walking around.” This is wrong, those doctors have a different field of expertise and they already have a sector where they work. The public should understand this division in case some might think that some doctors are relaxing and others are busy. This is the reason the doctors have been appointed to different sectors of the hospital. For further clarification, the Outpatient area has been scheduled for day and night shifts so the staff will be utilized equally. There are three doctors that cover the day shift that is from 8-4pm. This is the same for the shift at 4pm -10pm. As for the Emergency area they work 24 hours because they do not know when there might be an accident or a critical patient, doctors are available at all times. There is also a doctor that works in the Accident and Emergency Unit. An example is seen in the number of patients during the last two months, the figures show the service provided for the understanding of the House.

Mr Speaker in April the number of patients seen in Outpatient was 9,546. In May there were 9,494. This means the average of patients seen each month is 9,500.

During the day approximately 144 patients are examined by three doctors, therefore the average of patients examined by one doctor is 40-50. This is minimized to one or two during the night with less staff. The issues seen by Members of the House at our hospital is a problem from the past, this is due to the lack of staff members working today. The Government has been trying to implement a method that can resolve the shortage of not only the staff but doctors. This is also the reason why we have inquired the assistance of the Oceania University of Medicine. The expectation is to gain more doctors upon the return of those who are undertaking studies in Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and other overseas countries. The Government has initiated our own medical school for our doctors especially to increase the number of doctors; we have now established this faculty in our University.

It is expected that some of our doctors will graduate from the University next year, if more than ten doctors graduate each year this means by the next five years we will have more than fifty doctors. This number will exceed the current number of doctors now and the number of doctors when I was a doctor which is 47 seven. This was the number of doctors that this hospital started with and we have yet to reach a number of hundred doctors working at the hospital and in the country. Nonetheless these are some of the methods now initiated to resolve this problem. Mr Speaker this is the response to the query made in relation to the long waiting hours at the hospital.

There were recommendations made by some Members on the issue of bringing in high tech machines questioning why we do not bring into the country modern tech machines like the ones overseas to assist with the services provided. Well this query is justified and I thank the Members who mentioned this issue because this is one area considered by Government.

24 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation
Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4**

I believe Members of the House are aware that after the opening of the new hospital the costs of new medical equipment was stated in the budget, \$13 million was spent on buying new machines for the hospital. Mr Speaker and Members of the House these machines cannot work by themselves, there are people who specialize in working these machines. We need specialists to work these machines; they are quite expensive although some machines were given as gifts from overseas Government partners to assist with our development. There are several other overseas partners of the hospital that have greatly assisted us with these equipments. This is the only difficulty for the understanding of the House. For instance, an expensive machine that is used to scan a persons organs has to be operated by a specialist. They should know how to use it and the exact part of the patients body to scan. Another area is the maintenance of the machine, this is a duty given to those who specialize in cleaning the machine after it is used. There are techniques used to sterilize the machine, these machines are not the same as the ones used for cars where it is only wiped with a rag. These machines are used for health which means it is sterilized; there are ways to learn how to take care of these equipments so it will be in good condition and be used for a long time.

Mr Speaker the Ministry is quite aware of such issues but since we do not have experts who specialize in these areas we have been trying to contact those who are able to assist us. We are working in partnership with the Manukau District Health Board to bring in specialists to work in our hospital. There are also opportunities for our doctors to go there and learn specialized skills through this partnership. We have been in partnership as well with another specialist Hospitals in Auckland such as Ascot. This hospital employs only specialists where most of our patients are transferred too. Since we have no professionals who specialize in using these machines most of our patients have been sent overseas to be treated which is costly. At the moment the Government is looking at ways to reduce this problem and to improve the services of our people. We are now in contact with Ascot and we will start communication in May as we were waiting until our hospital was completed. We were looking at a place where these skills could be learned unfortunately there was a change of plans and everything was put on hold until the hospital was completed. We are now using the hospital as a base for this training. I requested in May this year a meeting with the Manager of Ascot, I got the opportunity to speak with him during my latest trip. They visited during Independence and they came to observe our hospital taking into account areas that needed their assistance. I now have the list of areas where assistance will be given. Their request was to equip our hospital before their specialists come to fulfill their services. This will be much easier than sending our patients overseas. Our people will not pay airfares to go there also their families there will not be burdened with accommodating them and it will be much easier. If the doctors are able to come into our country to treat our people it will resolve this problem and cost less.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

It will be much cheaper for our people and also a benefit for our doctors to work together with these specialists to improve their skills. This will help them to do the work without the assistance of overseas doctors. This issue correlates with one of the concerns stated by another Member regarding the exchange program by Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Mr Speaker the issue voiced is interesting....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the interruption by the Member.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Would it be possible to let me conclude my clarification before you speak, because I have yet to address the issue you raised. I recommend that you take your seat.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I will take my seat Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Do as you wish.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I will take my seat because I have great respect for the elder Member. I was just concerned for him; he should take a break and drink some water since he will soon get to the issue that I mentioned regarding mobile clinics. Is this service still ongoing because I have noted within the budget that they are trying to stop it. I strongly believe that we should continue this service.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker as I was telling the Member earlier I have yet to clarify that issue, be patient.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Alright then you shall proceed.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Member for Faleata West I pray for your patience. Mr Speaker I now arrive at the important matter of education specifically upgrading doctors. This is an important aspect of the work which is also an area why we came into contact with Manukau. Papua New Guinea was a colony of Australia, there partnership is still strong and opportunities are available for medical training in Australia. We are also given assistance from Australia but we do not have the same partnership like the one they have with Papua New Guinea.

We have partnerships with New Zealand, but the problem is that it is difficult for our doctors to take part in these education programs for higher degrees. This has been a challenge for some doctors. This is the reason why some doctors want these degrees so they will get fellowship. There are a lot of our doctors who go to New Zealand for two year attachments, and then they work in hospitals there. They can be registered and work by themselves without monitoring. They have already learned a lot over the two years.

24 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation
Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4**

Once they return they come back with no certificates or a diploma, an accreditation to assist in improving their status, this is a problem with the new careers in Samoa where everything is dependent on a degree. Unless you have a degree then you can accelerate to another level. When these doctors come into the country they work in higher levels but they do not benefit because their pay does not increase since it is based on the career factor. This is one reason why some of our doctors are hesitant to go to New Zealand, even though they improve their skills and knowledge the pay will still be the same and they will be at the same level. It will be either Register 1 or Register 2 level, but not consultant level. But they are working as consultants based on their skills. When our doctors go to Fiji for courses it takes two to three years to return with a Diploma or a Master. Once they return with a Masters their pay is recognized accordingly. This is the difference that I am trying to explain. If it were the same, New Zealand would not allow our people even if they have general knowledge, they can only enter under the fellowship program unless they start from the beginning like other New Zealand doctors. Who would want to go back and start from the beginning when they are already consultants at the hospital? This is not appropriate and I strongly believe that no doctor wants to do it. It is much better to go to Fiji and return with accreditation to recognize the degrees that they have completed.

Mr Speaker this is the current situation. The Ministry is trying to establish quality assurance. There should be a body that observes the performance of duties whether it is done accurately or dishonestly. There should be a division that can monitor this work. We now have a division like this within the hospital that monitors service performance. This division should have been established a long time ago within the National Health Service. I have witnessed now that they have started doing this since I asked them what they have been doing to address the quality of their work. This shows accountability. Now they have a division that is in charge of such matters under the policies and code of ethics. I have spoken to some of the staff but the problem encountered is the individual and you cannot report on their performance.

This is done through observation undertaken by someone else, they assess your performance and note whether it is done correctly. If you were to examine yourself everything will be right. This is why the Ministry has implemented this initiative, there are those who supervise and oversee overall performance and the quality of the work carried out. They have also implemented a grievance policy which I mentioned has already been passed by Cabinet.

At the moment we are in the progress of implementing the grievance policy and relevant forms that can be filled out. I advised the Ministry that after these forms are completed they should inform the country.

24 JUNE 2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – resumption debate on second reading – Day 4

If there is a service the public are concerned about then let them fight for it, fight for it so that work will be done right, and the turnaround time to get a response should not be more than a week. This is the accountability that should be carried out within the Ministry so that after complaints, work will be assessed and investigated for a response. Then you can be informed on the results of complaints put forward.

This is one of the reasons why my office is always full. Some of the Ministers are aware of this problem; people from their constituencies have come to them for assistance on such matters. They do not know who to turn to. They make complaints in relation to the National Health Services....

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the Hon Minister since we have now arrived at our recess hour. I strongly believe the clarification made has been understood by all Members with the details and thorough responses given to queries stated by Members. The response of the Ministry is much appreciated. Therefore Hon Minister you shall continue with your clarification when we return for our next sitting.

I believe the orders scheduled for today have been accomplished hence Government has other matters that cannot be suspended; Government duties need to be tended to tomorrow. Therefore we will now set aside Proceedings and we will return for the next sitting at 9 am Friday morning. There are Government duties that are to be attended to in Salafai. We will be opening major Government developments tomorrow in Salafai. This is why we have resolved to set aside our Proceedings to attend to these duties, so that Samoa will witness that we are not only talking of numbers on paper.

We should also witness the official opening of major Government developments that have been passed on to Ministers and fulfilled.

This is why I have resolved to take recess for today, let us find strength for this evening because I believe there are Members who wish to travel to Savaii tonight. Nonetheless I will give these hours for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to prepare especially the Hon Minister. We shall resume Proceedings on Friday morning and complete our deliberations.

I thank all Members of the House for your participation with our work ever since Tuesday until today. I believe the response by Government will be completed soon together with the clarification from the Hon Prime Minister. I believe we have accomplished most of our work already. Let us now take a break and adhere to our Member duties before we come back for the next sitting.

Before we conclude today I call on the member for Faleata West to end our Proceedings with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1:01pm until 9:00am Friday 26th June 2015.