

*WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2017*

*The Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the esteemed Cabinet, Associate Ministers especially the Chairpersons and Committee Members. I also welcome the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises especially the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the support of Samoa. Thank you for your perseverance this morning.

**MOTION BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON  
UPON PERMISSION TO A REQUEST**

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee):** I bring greetings Mr Speaker, respected Members of the Parliament and Samoa.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly grants a time extension approval for this Committee to review the Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Bill 2016 as findings have yet to be concluded and report back to the Assembly in the March Sitting 2017.*

*Seconded by the Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West.*

*Motion approved.*

**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL (NO.1) 2016  
– second reading**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016 be now read a second time and I wish to clarify it.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour together with the Minister of Health.*

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**Adjournment**

We have arrived at the end of our session for today.  
Before we adjourn I call the Deputy Speaker to end us with a prayer please.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 7:09pm until  
Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 9.00am.*

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** With all due respect I call on the Hon Prime Minister for his clarification.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker the objective of this Amendment Bill is to repeal the section 41(a) of the Constitution Act of Samoa 1960, to remove the selecting of an Executive under Constitutional Appointment to prosecute those of criminal charges. This Amendment Bill also serves to amend section 41 to give the power to prosecute back to the Attorney General. This decision was made at the time when the Government thought that this country was ready to establish a new office that can only cater for this purpose. However, there were other matters at the time whereby the Attorney General was needed to take up certain criminal cases. Since the establishment of the National Prosecution Office, issues surfaced in the way their work was conducted, and Government decided to bring them back under the wing of the Attorney General to be responsible for the Prosecution Office as it was before and therefore cannot be disrupted.

Mr Speaker that is the true intention of the Amendment, to prevent having more issues in the future as we all know we are moving forward and that is why we should go back to the way it was before. This is what we do with the Bills and Acts that we make, we always address the advantages and we always forget the faults of the Bill. So by the time we move on, these people will see the faults and will address what we have overlooked and it will be the weakness of a Bill. I can still recall the chaos that happened in the year 1982 right after Election. The Government was a disaster at that time when they have learned that there were a lot of people who casted votes only to find out that most of them have died. And this happened after the Election. This only means that the Candidates Committee has used the names of the deceased to cast votes and win the Election. It is the reason why the Cabinet thought it was the best remedy for this kind of offence. The only thing that should be done that has never been done is to provide an identification card or ID to prevent this kind of reckless behavior. This way has halt people from coming in to cast their votes until the candidates brought them in.

Mr Speaker the reckless and dishonest behavior started from then even though the objective and intention of the Bill was pure. This is the same intention of this Amendment Bill, we have come up with not only one but many Bills to resolve disputes from time to time only to realize that after the passing of a Bill it has a minor issue. A resolution to it is to go back and address the issue before it gets out of hand or leading to a bigger problem. Mr Speaker that is short statement with regards to the Constitution Amendment Bill.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now that the objective of the Government is clarified, it is now time for our deliberations.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016  
– second reading**

I call upon Member for Salega East to speak on the matter.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East):** Thank you honorable Speaker for this opportunity. Before any further, I wish to support our offering prayer this morning for the love and kindness of our Lord in safeguarding our journey to this new day to resume our work.

Mr Speaker I presume that recently we had some amendments to the Constitution yet again it seems that we are going backwards. I fully consent and support any Amendments by the Government through the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet who is directing the duties of the public service. Although I must say honorable Speaker, it is too soon to make further amendments to the Constitution. The current amendment for independent lawyer is necessary with regards to criminal cases.

However, this amendment is being withdrawn. The major concern for the Attorney General is that he is the advisor to the Government and additional responsibility for him to head the Prosecution Office is worrying me. I would like to give an example Mr Speaker and respectful Members of Parliament. Let us say, one of the Ministers breaks the law upon advice from the Attorney General, the question is who initiates the charge? To answer the question, the Attorney General will have to initiate the charge. This is why I am concerned with the proposed Amendment that again, is being withdrawn.

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** The initiation of the charge will be piloted by another overseas Lawyer, nothing of the sort will happen for we have other set laws in place to bring forth foreign Lawyers to conduct this sort of cases such as the current court case that is ongoing.

This is the reason for controversy, on another thought the Director will do what it takes to protect the Ministry but he does not do it, another independent prosecutor will do this job. Mr Speaker that is exactly what I am trying to convey here, this is happening all over the world today if however bigger Ministries like Audit and Law Firms encounter problems that would break the law, they will bring in another prosecutor to prosecute, they will not take the matter into their own hands.

Mr Speaker this is not new, this has been the trend with the Office of the Attorney General, Audit Office and other professional Offices of these kinds in relation to extreme cases like this which are very sensitive matters.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016  
– second reading**

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

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you for clarifying that, but as you can see, having another foreign lawyer to assist with these matters will just add cost to the Government's budget. My only concern Mr Speaker is the fact that the selection criteria for this kind of lawyer requires a more matured and experienced person. It further has to have patience and ability when weighing options in difficult time especially in situation like this. With all due respect, the current holder of this position is too young and lacks the knowledge and ability on matters of this sort. So just an advice for the future, whoever will be appointed in this position must be matured enough. These are some of the advice and comments but all up to you.

Thank you for this opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I call upon the Member for Anoamaa West and followed by the Member for Urban West.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa Sisifo):** Thank you honorable Speaker, I will be brief. I trust the Chair has already voiced our praises to the Almighty God like the statement of Tumua, may blessings be upon this new morning. The prayer you delivered will not be contracted by anything else we say.

I stand with regards to the Amendment before the House or the Constitution of the country. The power vested in this new Amendment aims to initiate charges neither dismisses any pressed charges. This is my personal take on this Amendment.

Therefore, this power therefore stems from the Constitutional Convention or Fono Faavae that was assigned to the Office of the Attorney General since our Independence in 1962 until 2015 or 2014 when a law was passed to establish the National Prosecutions Office. In the statement by the Hon Prime Minister, it was then that power to prosecute was transferred to this Office. However, the proposed Amendment requires that this power be transferred back to the Attorney General's Office like in the several former years since the start of our Independence. This power thereby seeks to initiate criminal charges. The recent speaker spoke of independence or a body to utilize this power. The Attorney General is the rightful person that had looked into this matter and the removal of power from the Office of the Attorney General due to the reasons provided by this last speaker.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016**  
– second reading

The Hon Prime Minister has therefore responded, so I will not speak any further. The only point I wish to make is that we are heading back to the old doing and in that regard, it reflects no major change. The only real concern is the recent incident which I find correct about the recent speaker's statement that possibly has something to do with personalities and the holders of these positions and the differences with regards to their relationships and beliefs.

The reason for stating this is in regards to rights not being affected when a person wants to press charges against another party or the private prosecution. Regardless, rights are still maintained after the recent General Elections including previous ones.

This power can therefore be used to withdraw charges which I trust was only applied once by the Attorney General on a private prosecution against some of the electoral candidates after the General Elections in 2001. This does not necessarily mean that power is automatically applicable to withdraw charges. An application to withdraw must be submitted to the Court for their review if possible to consider or not. What happened at that time was that the Court had approved the request of the Attorney General to drop the charges against these members. So that is the case which perceives no major change other than attempts to withdraw charges and another point, this does not avoid the charges on private prosecutions. Even power to drop pressed charges, the Court has the discretion to the request that was under review.

That is comment on the proposed Amendment under discussion. Thank you.

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

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Nuu Tu Taulaga i Sisifo):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Praise our Heavenly Father for the good health upon the honorable Speaker and the respectable members this morning. I will be brief and on point to save time. This constituency wishes to make submission on the Constitution Amendment Bill due to disputes.

In regards to dispute, it seems that there is no collaboration between Ministries to achieve the objectives of the Bill moving forward. In regards to matter like this, if it is good we should keep going, continue, if it does not work, then leave it.

My main concern, if the amending Constitution is derived from dispute between Government Ministries, they should work together. If dispute arise, it would be bothersome to amend the Constitution and the legislation. I personally feel that if problems occur, leave the Constitution and legislation alone but replace those that are involved with the problem. What is important is that the Member before me has already mentioned this in his speech which has my agreement because if we look at it, it is important so that public servants work together in compliance to the law.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016**  
– second reading

The main objective is to seek the benefit of the country and our economy. If it does not work, then leave the Constitution and the legislation and let them rest at home until they are mentally fit then they can resume work. Otherwise, I extend appreciation to the Government for resolving this problem early that has taken up quite an amount of time. It is good to have opportunity for these amendments to go through for the benefit of the Office of the Attorney General especially the Ministry of Police that is working together with this office in order to attain the objectives and further obtain clear clarifications. This is the minor submission, thank you honorable Speaker.  
Have a blessed day.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you respectable member. I call another member to speak of the Constitutional Amendment. We have the member of Anoamaa East.

**Afioga ALAIASA MOEFAAUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East):** Praises before the Most High have been offered this morning for His glory and exaltation. By observation the members of the Opposition side do not have any comments rather, I wish to make a short submission on this Bill.

The intention of the Bill and any other Bill is pure and positive. Just like the Amendment put forward, it serves as a solution to the disagreements happening today. The Prime Minister has already spoken on the matter such occurrences has encouraged us to review the Bills and make amendments. The mentality of parents, if something is not right and have affected peace and harmony, they will not wait, they will just act on it. If we reflect on what had happened then I support the Amendment. The problem is not the Bill but those who are endorsing the Bill. If we look at the outcomes and the decisions of these matters by the court, decisions made were either dropped or dismissed and then when another lawyer comes along it is always the same thing. I personally believe that those who know the Bill are using it to their advantage while the whole of Samoa listens in nevertheless it is not only Samoa but overseas countries as well; it deeply affects the reputation of the country.

This is why this Constituency strongly supports this Amendment Bill because we want to put an end to this, and so that something like this will never happen again, as some people will make it a habit to take notice of everything that happens and will happen. As I have mentioned before, it might seem like it is a joke these things that the people are fighting over in court but the outcome may not be the outcome that we have hoped for, a dismissal or a withdrawal.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016**  
– second reading

I fully support if, recruitment of new people for this job is what we are aiming for. Choose those with the ability to do the job, because recruitment process is always the downfall of hiring professional and applicable people for a job. Three or four people assigned to the recruitment process and at the end of the day, something will pop up regarding those they chose, and this happened because they did not see it through all the details.

I strongly support this amendment and that is just my opinion with all due respect.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I give the chance to the State.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I wish to express great appreciation to the respectable members for their contribution to this Amendment of the Constitution. First thing Mr Speaker, we also have solid foundation in place for the selection of Chief Executive Officers for the Ministries, so the Cabinet does not take this matter lightly, to be consistent of the guidelines and the procedures of selecting a CEO to advertise publicly and also the choosing of the panel for the position.

Also if we look at the records of experience in this area of prosecuting, it's the person who has been serving in this profession for a longer period of time, from there initiates advice for the Cabinet, then the Cabinet based their decision on the advice given so it is not a matter that we take it lightly, we put effort in these matters. I can still recall the selecting of another Attorney General long ago, there were 4 (four) applicants. Then we looked at the oldest person, because that person would have the experience, so afterwards this was the person of choice. After choosing this person, another lawyer walked in and said "Did you know that this person has not served 8 years in the public service?" but these were the things that the panel have talked about and discussed when they had the chance. So I summoned this experienced lawyer and asked him directly "I have the report here and it states that you have not served 8 years in public?" and he replied, "I am only a few days short" so then, I said "you will not be hired because the law says otherwise". Then we looked at another lawyer who have been practicing for 50 years and lives in New Zealand, he is one of the Big Fishes, meaning, he is one of the intelligent ones. We then chose him and a letter was tendered to the New Zealand Law Society for a report on this man and when we got the report, it stated that he was awaiting court hearing which was not good since he could be going to jail soon and that his name will be removed from the register books of the Law Society of New Zealand. So then, we moved on to the youngest of the applicants and then we thought he is too young and knows little but to my surprise, he was one of the prominent lawyers. He is also smart and knows the job well.



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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016**  
– second reading

Mr Speaker this is an example of how we deal with decision making. We also have the ability to put our own children and people who have the ability and the experience to do this job, however, if we know that they are not ready, does not have the potential to do it then we will do our job as well despite all the bad comments and complaints from the public, that will not stop us from doing our job. We have heard Members speaking on this matter and it has made it more understandable especially making a point that we are not changing anything as I have just clarified. It does not stop the fact that people can charge other people and not just the Attorney General.

As pointed out by one of the Members, the reason why we came up with the decision is because Police Officers have been affected as well. These two things are related through processing, and the selection, which is why we need to protect decision making of the Government in order to keep the peace. It can wait, we can wait but if something happens questions will be asked and fingers will be pointed, the Government is just sitting on their chairs and this happens? Do they know how serious this is? You have the ability to be responsible and to make a change for peace and harmony for Samoa.

Mr Speaker this matter, we have not taken it lightly, because we know it is better to be prepared because it is a great deal. It is better to go back to where we started because we have witnessed that this has caused us more problems. The objective of the Bill is positive but we cannot measure the number of challenges we have encountered from it. As we all know, the world's greatest plague is the World War II.

If we seek out how Hitler stood on the top of the board, well, he went to the top because of democracy and because of the Law. Once he made it to the top, he used the law against the people and there were millions and millions of the deceased that time because of it. What this means, there are people who attempt to take advantage of the law. This is what the Government is trying to protect, to act now than to regret later and it is good to be prepared. Mr Speaker that is the Amendment.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, the matter has now been clarified by Government. I have noted with respect that there are members who were upstanding after the Government gave the clarification on matters raised. I want to remind everyone and I appease members that our work cannot be delayed also we cannot wait for members who do not let the Chair know that they want to convey an opinion on the matter. I apologize to members who wanted to take the floor nevertheless the Bill will once again be considered by Committee. We must carry on with our orders.

*Motion approved and the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2016 was read a second time.*

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.1) 2016 will be referred to the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee for consideration and report back to the Legislative Assembly after 90 days since the Bill was tabled.

**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2016**  
– second reading

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

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI  
LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE  
MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2016 be read a second time and I wish to clarify the matter.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Education Sports and Culture, Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor and the Minister of Tourism Authority.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I respectfully call the Hon Prime Minister for his clarification.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI  
LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE  
MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, one of the discussions carried out after the General Elections was pertained to the duties and responsibilities we will undertake and findings had it that we have received thoughts on some of the drawbacks in the Constitution. These are the downsides that we are talking about, Samoa is a country founded on Christian beliefs and cultural values. However, these words are not written in the content of the Constitution, it is in the back cover of the Constitution. The foreword therefore is not part of the Constitution and if matters pertaining to Christian beliefs were raised in the future, none of this is specified in the body of the Constitution. This is significant, the court can never use any view point quoted from the cover of the Constitution, regardless the incorporation of these words under the Constitution were in fact raised during deliberations of the Constitution.

Otherwise, it seems that it is pointless to incorporate this Christian wording within the body as this is not a major issue to the public. On this note, even our ancestors lack insight of why this wording was put in the back cover, or why the foreword was put in the back cover and now that these words are stipulated, even still it is not incorporated in the Constitution.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

Such is the deliberations we had and more thoughts by the Cabinet, that God created everything on heaven and earth. He created us, and even embedded thoughts in us. So from God's perspective, every time we deliberate, the Constitution has it that God is founded on God and then God would be smiling down and say, '*are you fooling me*'. It has been over 50 years since we have been fooling God, He is the Constitution, and somewhat these words are not incorporated in the Constitution.

Such is the intention of the Cabinet and this Side made up of 47 members, we should correct and amend the Constitution by inserting these words. If the legislation was amended, the objective of this Bill is to insert these words in the body of the Constitution, Samoa is a Christian country. This is to verify that we strongly uphold religious beliefs and values in Samoa. Clause 1: '*provides for the short title and commencement of the Bill, which will commence on the date of assent by Le Ao o le Malo, amends first part of the Constitution by inserting new clause 3. New Clause 3 reads, Samoa is a Christian state founded on God the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit.*' The inserted wording under the body of the Constitution is the entire purpose of the Bill.

Some people suggested that we also insert customs and traditions. The essence, those words do not have to be inserted as our inheritance is all from God. If God is mentioned, that is covering everything else. Go created the heaven and earth and Samoa, and our tradition and culture which completes these wordings. This matter will have to go through the Committee, and whatever the Committee decides, that is what will do. Whether addition can be made generally, that is fine. The most important thing is the incorporation of this wording in the Constitution and the correction that we all overlooked.

Mr Speaker, all the wars and fighting in the world falls majorly on religious beliefs. Such is the importance of this Amendment that was discussed in the Fono Faavae that is being changed now after the Elections. Mr Speaker, this Amendment is therefore not new to the House. Have a blessed morning.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you, the objectives of the State is now clarified pursuant to the Amendments of the Constitution.  
This is the chance for us to...speak. I call the member of Salega East.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker I do not plan to take much of your time, just a short view on this matter. My constituency fully supports this Amendment but if I put it in percentage it just adds up to a 90%.

The reason is because this is not... clearly defined from the incorporated clause, "The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit". Biblically, I do not have much experience; in the meantime, these are the thoughts from God that is enabling me to speak.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
 – second reading

Reason being is due to the different Gods for other Church. If the words, The Father and the Son Jesus Christ, were markedly indicated, because other churches worship and believe in only one God but when it comes to the Son, they have different beliefs in this area.

So this is why, if we believe in the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, make sure that it is specified and indicated in the Bill because “The Son in other Denominations are namely, Budda and Allah, and so forth.

Also be aware of the Anti Christ such as the intention I aim to point out. The Anti Christ to date speaks about Jesus which is mistaken according to the belief of the Church. This is what the State should be well aware of considering this regard. It would be appropriate if the God of Jacob, Isaac and Abraham were recorded underneath to clearly specify the structure starting from Jesus Christ the Son of God and so forth.

The Holy Spirit will always be the The Holy Spirit whereas that is assistance to further clarify the definition on our foreword on God, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the legislation.

That is the support to the Hon Prime Minister although this is insufficient; at least I have given assistance.

With great respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call the member of Faasaleleaga No 1 West.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1 West):** Thank you honorable Speaker for the opportunity provided for me to speak on behalf of my constituency. I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister or the Leader of the Government for this Amendment to the Constitution before the House, which is not an easy matter to deliberate. In regards to the relationship between a person and its God, it is inundated, a person does not want to reveal its beliefs because they feel ashamed or refused lest they are discussed and complained about. Rather, I salute the Leader of this country for having the courage to speak on this matter. These are the kinds of people we need, people who are brave and courageous and are not ashamed to speak up to the world about the authority of the Most High where we all come under.

I feel this regards no explanation given the countless times we sing and say, thank you God for protecting Samoa from natural disasters, why? Because the only time we sing and praise is when we are free from natural disasters. When things run smoothly in the country, our entreaty would have been partial to God to safeguard Samoa and lay priority where it is necessary. Otherwise, as stipulated here, priority should be the The Holy Trinity.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
 – second reading

I trust that is where Christian belief is whole and no other religion in the world worships the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Other beliefs are based on the second coming of Jesus Christ, crucifixion on the cross because of us.

Specifically, the Constitution has now been clarified, God is the Holy Trinity we worship, prioritize and where Samoa is founded on. Other than that, I take this opportunity to add on to the prayers of the Church Leaders made specifically to bless our people, taking into reconsideration, that if any, God must come first to avoid the rising number of crimes and many conflicting views that aims to disturb peace and the appearing antichrist we recognize.

Samoa is no longer safe and peaceful. We should exercise our beliefs, no one is perfect, the main thing is trying, because people were put on earth wholly, we can be whole if we follow the will of God.

Mr Speaker, that is addition in support of this amendment, thank you Hon Prime Minister for your courage and bravery in speaking up to the entire world about Samoa and its foundation which is the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Have a blessed Sitting, bless the honorable Speaker. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you respectable member, I now call the member of Vaisigano No 1. Go ahead.

**Tofa LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Vaisigano Nu.1):** Thank you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and their Associates and notable Members in our presence today.

I speak of the anticipated Amendment on behalf of our constituency. If we mean serious here then I trust this amendment is inadequate as freedom of religion should be amended to Christianity. I trust we are making these amendments without envisioning the future ahead of us. As for the religious beliefs we have today, perhaps a special provision should be stipulated to accept other religious devotions in the country. Because we never know if sometimes in the future, we would get a religious worship like the “Dragon Religion” because the one in the Constitution can always be established in the country. I feel that if we want to maintain Christianity then this Amendment is inadequate. For the label on Samoa being a Christian country, we should consider the clause on freedom of religion which involves other religious beliefs entering the country. Seeing the youth of Samoa and the future, a lot of warfare is witnessed around the world. However, some of these people have access to guns and other weapons. We must therefore uphold our duty and protect our future generations. Although it is difficult given our involvement with the United Nations Organizations, regardless, may God’s wisdom be upon Samoa to stand up for good decisions today and the future.

This is our comment with respect, thank you. Have a blessed Sitting.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
 – second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call the member of Anoaama West.

**Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Thank you for this opportunity. I further appreciate the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for the Constitution Amendment Bill. We have your explanation and although these words are also in the preamble of the Constitution, it is now placed underneath the body of the Constitution which is an enforceable part of the Constitution meaning this is a good proposal. It seems to me that the proposed Amendment lacks the power to cease any non Christian religious beliefs in Samoa. I trust there are other sensitive issues such as a particular wording set out in the Constitution but all depends on other clauses of the Constitution in regards to Church policies and whether it is discriminatory.

Personally I feel that the State's intention is not to avoid the setting up of new religious denominations in the country, rather I feel that given the advance technology today in regards to social media and facebook, it is the same with these new religious beliefs entering the country. So, we do not need to establish anymore new religious beliefs that are non-Christian in Samoa. The children are also being educated on how to use the computer and even the Christian and non-Christian Churches are now using the Television, radio, internet to spread their spiritual beliefs. I was watching the Australian news lately and one of the problems faced by the Government of Australia is the usage of terrorists groups to deliver spiritual principles and messages. It is hard for us to stop these practices. However, I appreciate the Government for inserting this new provision which will strengthen our Constitution.

Seeing the Explanatory Memorandum, if the objective is to promote dominance of Christianity in Samoa, it is agreeable however, the only reminder, if this dominance of Christianity in Samoa does not refer to the words written in the Constitution neither the Law. It is dominance of people based on the spiritual beliefs within their hearts and minds and the Gods they worship. This is the depiction of Christianity in the country and submission from me, have a blessed Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright. I call the member of Alataua West.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** Mr Speaker, although we are sitting in the Opposition side, there are ideal matters that should have our support and comments.

The proposed legislation before the House has our support and concern on matters pertaining to terrorists that are witnessed on television on violence and starvation in overseas countries. This settles the grace of God upon Samoa.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

As voiced by former speakers, it seems that power is not really solid enough. It is true if we say that we are a Christian country that is founded on God, however there is still chance for new terrorist related religions to enter the country. The essence if possible is to add the phrase by which, only Christian beliefs are allowed in Samoa. I believe this is the sole responsibility of us leaders in search of ways to protect our lands to prevent this persecution from reaching our country. Although these countries have strong economies, however life is ruled by turmoil and uncertainty and the time for tribulation has arrived. This is our thought on this Bill with the intention that power be strengthened a bit more in order to stop non-Christian countries from entering Samoa. With great respect thank you for the chance.

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

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban Seat West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity given to us to speak on the matter. I further appreciate the Government for the amendment put forward. I want to address that the Constitution should include Christianity that is founded on the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit with the advice that there should be provisions that must be incorporated. If these provisions are in line with the Constitution, I must say that there are Ecclesia's that have Ministers who say the prayer but do not follow it. The proposed provision should therefore reflect that we are a Christian country Founded on God and the Father because the world also exist a father that is no good. That is advice to the Committee to consider in regards to these provisions that are...

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I get the exact point now. You mean to say that the Constitution should have instructions on how a pastor should behave.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Exactly honorable Speaker. Instructions should also be specified so that Church are worshipping God with the right heart. That is the practice today where people are also worshipping material things such as the Muslim religion and their own policies. I reflect back to the statement by the Hon Prime Minister in regards to the population of Samoa and our economy.

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In comparison to the Muslims, they have provisions that are in line with their economic growth although it is inappropriate with us given our small population. Never mind about these provisions, let us pray to God every Sunday and everyday and let us abide by the Godly ways every day.

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** There was another high official from Indonesia who attends this religion you have just mentioned. I asked him, how do you manage? Do you honor your religion beliefs? The official replied, we have provisions in place such that if I want to have five wives in order to increase the population, there are two conditions I must consider, first, I must have my wife's written consent and secondly, I must also have the consent of the church president. And then I asked him again, have you tried these consents? The Indonesian replied, that is the dreadful part I am going through right now, perhaps I may have the consent of my family but definitely not from the president. That is similar with the Bills of Papua New Guinea which have similar provisions. Therefore, if such spiritual beliefs were to enter our shores, it will never be allowed in our Constitution, and we too have legislations like this.

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

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you, I will not argue any further because I know we have limited land space for this purpose. I refer to our court case and the statement on our genealogy comprising of 5 to 6 houses/clans due to our insincerity to achieve it these days whereas in the olden days the old men were able to do it. So looking at it, almost everyone is related and today, our fellowships are now considering the Godly ways. So with a few amendments possibly it would be useful so that...if you were to become a church minister, you must follow these principles to sustain our foundation on God and leave aside other thoughts. Not all ministers are bad as some of them commit sin with the members of their own congregations hence directly speaking; we need to insert a few provisions to protect the Christian belief we aim to encourage in seeking better ways to guide the Christian foundation of the State of Samoa. This is the viewpoint; bless the honorable Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Until we have the statement of the honorable Speaker then will have the turn of the member of Faleata.



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**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No.3):** In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I pray that this Parliament sustain peace throughout the day. Well done.

I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and the respectable members of Parliament. I further greet the support of the public and the importance of this amendment specifically our constituency who is the main reason why I am sitting in this Seat.

Mr Speaker, I cannot watch from the sideline without saying anything in regards to this amendment. Our ancestors are well known for the Samoan translation of the Bible and how this country knew about the true meaning of the gospel. Such is our attempt and the laying monument with the Samoan Bible translations on it, *'thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path'*.

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister for this Amendment. Other amendments were raised by other notable Members of Parliament and I agree with them. Otherwise, the essence of Gagaemauga No. 3 is to applaud the shedding light upon this amendment regarding Christian beliefs.

As aware, the main reason for chaos in the country and the entire world is due to religion beliefs. Respectfully, we wish to extend our word of appreciation to the State for the good intentions in raising this matter. In regards to previous matters, the sooner we address these matters the quicker we find a solution for the peaceful living of the public.

This is the purpose of our submission Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The village of Avao is situated in this Constituency of Gagaemauga No.3 where the words in this proposed amendment lies. As such, we support this new step by our Independent State that Samoa is Founded on God, the Son and the holy Spirit. The Committee is also awaiting this amendment or rather our Committee. Such is our words of appreciation. Otherwise, the only thing I wish to comment on is the Holy Trinity. True as other comments suggest, the God the Father and Jesus Christ is the Son and the Holy Spirit. In the Hymn 9 of the Methodist Church - *Ja tatou viia le Atua le Tama, viia Iesu le Alo, viia le Agaga Paia*.

These are the slight changes in addition to the remaining Amendments; the essence is amending the Constitution which has our total support. Thank you honorable Speaker for this opportunity. Have a blessed Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member for Faleata West followed by the Member for Gagaifomauga No. 3. Go ahead member of Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Anytime we amend the Constitution, I believe the members should be given a chance to express their thoughts because this is very important. The Constitution is rarely amended and does not happen often. The only time to amend it is when the Government and Parliament feels it is necessary/appropriate to amend it.

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I therefore thank the Hon Prime Minister and the respective people for this amendment which is based on new change that is heading our way; as majority were expressing views on it today. The mindset of many regarding the new Government is for them to stop other religious beliefs otherwise, it is now understandable from this amendment that it is all about affirmation of the Samoan belief as a Christian nation by shifting/including this amendment into the body of the Constitution. This is a progress for a country that is moving forward.

When I got to New Zealand around this time, we had a talk with some of the Church Ministers and the media. I told them, Samoa is moving forward, there is no turning back. I believe that there is no way that we would be stopping other religions from coming in the country for I know that Samoa is moving forward and moving on. We also have to honor our country and to keep in mind that Samoa is another host country for big conferences of the world.

We should therefore be cautious of stopping other religions like the Muslim beliefs and others. In a way it shows that we are not a Christian country as this is the Christian values and principles. It does not mean that we sing praises as a Christian nation rather; we must also showcase these values and principles. And if we were to draft our Policies, it is clear; whenever we draft our Policies in Samoa, we must make sure that it does not contradict with our Christian values because we are now being recognized as a Christian country.

If people were to visit our country considering that this is one source of revenue earning, regardless of what religious belief we have in the country, the main thing is that we are a Christian country. They must respect our Christian belief whenever we have our worship. Whenever we too go other countries, because there are countries where we find closed airports because the people are praying and there is nothing we can do about it and therefore, we too must respect the religious culture of the Muslim countries. That is the main intention for me and I support the proposed amendment. We tell the whole world that we are a Christian country, and this is it. We also have what the United Nations and other Organizations of the world have about the mandates and their policies and what is required of them that contradict with our Christian beliefs. They know very well it is not practiced in Samoa. We can never allow gay marriage and lesbian marriage and so forth. It is stipulated here that Samoa will never allow this practice because we are a Christian nation, we do not need to tell them but we can assure them of the...

This is my word of acknowledgement for the appropriate amendment we have to the Constitution rather we must be mindful of other members' comments about prohibition which we are not. Since Christianity came into existence, the world could not break this religion hence personally, we cannot govern the way the church Ministers, religious beliefs and services are carried out. I therefore give our appreciation and support, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I recognize the member of Gagaifomauga No. 3.

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**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3):**

Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. At the start of our sitting this morning we gave thanks to our Heavenly Father for his presence in the House. Also every sitting carried out within this House starts with a prayer and ends with a prayer. These are the customs and traditions of our country. This is 99.9% unless the other .001 are from the constituency of my brother beside me. Overall this is Christianity and it depicts how strong Christian beliefs are within our country.

My constituency fully supports the amendment of the Constitution that the Government and the Cabinet have implemented. The provisions that have been voiced out by the other Members, I believe that it will affect our relationship with our international partners. I also believe that our God will find a way to make it work and bring understanding to this Parliament. As the Member before me has mentioned Samoa is moving forward. And the Lord will always find time and a way to make this subject understandable for everyone and to give us strength to go through with the amending of the Constitution. My constituency supports the Bill with respect thank you.

Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. At the start of our sitting this morning we gave thanks to our Heavenly Father for his presence in the House. In belief, every Sitting we have must start with a prayer and ends with a prayer. This is the tradition of the country. 99.9% unless the other .001 is from the constituency of my brother beside me. This depicts how strong the Christian faith we have in the country.

My constituency fully supports the amendment before the House that our Constitution is heading hence we wholly support this amendment by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and all the respective people who initiated this amendment to the Constitution. In belief, there are many provisions that could affect our foreign relations. However I trust that God will make a way for our Leaders and this House to strengthen the power for this Bill before the House. As the recent speaker just said, Samoa is moving forward. This is also the start of this provision in the Constitution about Christianity and we still find a future time to gain the Lord's will, and fitting time to strengthen power for this part of the legislation.

This is the comment in support and to strengthen this Bill, with respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member for Palauli le Falefa before we have the member for Falelatai and Samatau. Malo.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa):** Thank you honorable Speaker for the opportunity.

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Thank you too Hon Prime Minister for this amendment of the Constitution which has our full support. I still recall one church Minister's statement that said "Satan attends church now". The presence of Satan is within this Parliament Sitting. We have amongst us Satan somewhere here or in the back. The reason why I... The member for Salega East has also mentioned Antichrist. Antichrist is someone who has not yet accepted salvation. Anyone who does not accept salvation is the antichrist and therefore, he opposes salvation prepared by God for us. These beliefs I have talked about in the world comprises of over 90%. The reason for saying this is because we have only one God the Christians worship which is the living God. Other Gods have decayed bones. They believe in... I have also given a Bible to a Communist who is very... he is strong in spreading his belief and I did the same with him so I ended up giving him a Bible to read. Two weeks later after reading the Old Testament, this Vietnamese came and said, the God you worship is a Vietnamese. I said why do you say he is a Vietnamese? He said, lad, the God that you worship exists everywhere is a God of success. Finally I said, that is exactly the God I am talking about. If you read the New Testament, then you will know that the God I am referring to will overcome the fear in you, fear in the world as well as death. Because the God I worship has resurrected.

This is what the Apostle Paul is saying "*I have believed, therefore I have spoken. We, too, believe and therefore we speak*" for this is what I preach I know that many of the Members have preached it. You will be saved. If you believe in your heart, you will be saved by the grace of God. Paul spoke to... if we read 2 Corinthians....

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, a Point of order and clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** I was not going to allow your interruption but since the Member has already taken his seat I call on the Member.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** The Member talks of the Apostle Paul and clearly forgot that when Stephen was martyrdom in Damascus Paul was the one who did it.

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the member; you are pointing to Ili Setefano. I call again the member.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** This is what happens when a Member does not go to church. Setefano or Stephen was not killed in Damascus, he is a Deacon. This is the only deacon who did ministerial works for the Lord. His testimony and preaching was to bring salvation to the people of Israel.

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Mr Speaker, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3; you show that you are the result of our ministry'. For any Christian, it is not about going to church but how you live. The Bible states the fruits of the tree. The Bible further gives an example, leave the wheat and tares to grow together. I support the Amendment but it is inadequate. My only concern is, I fear that Samoa will end up like Sodomy and Gomorrah addressed by Members a while ago, and once we have this practice, it will be wiped out from the world. What is happening now? We now have a dead sea, salty sea that is being wiped out. That is my major concern. I believe this amendment should include further changes to make it whole and leave aside the rights of the people. We should also know that if we start pointing fingers and judge church ministers then we are being judgemental and will always live our lives that way. The bible teaches us not to judge others or else we will be judged. A matured Christian is a whole Christian because it is filled with the Spirit of God.

**MR SPEAKER:** I appease the member, we will continue with our Bible study as soon as we return from our recess, nonetheless, the Parliament and everyone gathered here is pleased with the statement of the member although some are opposing it and some are supporting it. Regardless, it is now break time, Proceedings of the Assembly will be suspended for normal recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was suspended at 10:42am and resumed at 11:47am.*

*Debates over the second reading of the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016 resumed by the Legislative Assembly.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I see that we have been re-energized from our break to resume our work for today.

Before recess, the statement of the member for Palauli Falefa was drawing to conclusion in regards to our Theology subject this morning. I therefore call the respectable member.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you honorable Speaker, and the breakfast to increase good health upon our Prime Minister, Cabinet and the notable Parliament. Mr Speaker, i am just half way through my presentation, whilst the topic we are discussing regards eternal life.

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This life will end whereas thankfully, the Kingdom has provided us with the key that will give us another chance whereby you only say the name Jesus Christ, your name will bring us success, the success of the honorable Speaker, the success of that Side and the success of this Political Party.

Mr Speaker, another matter is the Holy Trinity, which is a very important amendment. We were sharing thoughts with the Muslim people and they said the reason why they dislike us christian people is because we have divided the name of God into three. I replied to them, we are not divided God into three, God has three names which are the one and only God, the Father which became flesh, and the Holy God.

The flesh became God because of His love for you and me. Because if God did not turn into flesh, you and I would have not seen it. This is why God said to Moses, *“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”*, *“Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”* That is how powerful God is as no man can see the Almighty Father. This is shown by His mercy and why He stayed in the farmhouse due to His love for Samoa and the members of Parliament. I hope you have accepted salvation. My plea is for you not to be judgemental.

Mr Speaker, thakyou for accepting salvation, you will applaud and rejoice this is the expression of someone lived by humility. These guys are saying, ‘an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, this is why the children of Ishmael are fighting with the children of Jacob.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member of Aiga i le Tai if you have anything...

**Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai):** Respectfully I wish to request the member that we have already had our prayer this morning but get on with your point.

With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The motion has been moved, you have two minutes left.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** This brother of mine had all my support and all the votes in Manono is no longer yours, find yourself a job... this is not a church service, it is the Bill.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I wish to query the member if this man he is talking about is the same one who came to me. I am confused if the one I had was an Israelite or an Arabian.

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The Israelite who spoke with me said he was really happy to come to Samoa because we are worshipping their God. Whilst the Arabian said, you have different teachings in your book, what you have translated is wrong, Ishmael was the one that was used by old man to give the sacrificial offering not Jacob. I have thought of going to Israel to ask my question. I went and asked their Ambassador and he said what is the question? then I told him, you always say that this is where the honey and milk flows.

Meanwhile, the only honey and milk hat is left is the oil which is flowing towards Jacob. This is why I asked which of the two were you talking to and capture him so that we could meet with him.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Member to continue with his speech you have two minutes left.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Thank you honorable Speaker, during my trip to the middle-east I had enough time to speak with the Arabian people especially the lineages of Ishmael. I agree with the Hon Prime Minister's statement. I have also talked with the ancestors of Esau who had the blessings of Jacob together with the descendants of Jacob. Importantly, this Bill should therefore have our support as Samoa is a Christian nation. Not only is it stipulated here but we should live by it. Reading the bible is not important rather it is living the word that is more important. It is hopeless to quote the bible rather we must live by it.

Mr Speaker, that is it. These guys are asking if we could make a calling for people to come and receive salvation...Never mind, may God bless you Hon Prime Minister...

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe that there will be a time for us to have our sharing of the Bible, all I can say, I am very impressed and very touched with the statement of the member of Palauli le Falefa.

Since the member's speech is now concluding...

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker. I gave a speech on Church Ministers to walk the talk and this situation suits that advise for them to put into practise what they preach in church. In plea, if the Church Ministers can walk it, that would be wonderful, thank you.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, this is not christian teachings in the Bible, it is forgiving. *'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons and daughters of God.'*

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**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister has already spoken, forgiveness does not happen here except for factual matters. With all due respect thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Since the name Faumuina bears great insight of the Bible and theology, therefore you are both correct.

As such, I respectfully call the member of Falelatai and Samatau, well. Why do you shake your head when Faumuina is speaking, let us have your view.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai & Samatau):** In the sacred name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Mr Speaker I voice my sincere gratitude for this important matter. Greetings everyone and God for this year. I convey greetings to my constituency, gratefully we support this Constitutional Amendment.

It has been over 4,000 years since the establishment of Christianity in Samoa and the whole world. The life and planet earth we live in is over 10 million years. So, if we refer to religion, we can say it is something from yesterday, and not something from millions years ago. This is my personal belief and agreement on this purpose.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member we have an interjection from the member of Faleata West, be brief, you may go on.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I wish to assist the respectable member, the year we are holding this Sitting is 2017. This is the assistance to the member, the 4,000 refers to further years in the past, we do not know how to prove this. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The interjection is also useful, pardon the member please refer to the latest years as you speak of expired years.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Mr Speaker, it has been 2017 since the birth of the Christian Church in the world. The next 2000 plus years had the creation of Abraham and so forth. Such belief is the intent for this Amendment. Towards the end of the 6th century and the start of the 7th century, the Muslim religion was established. These religions were originally worshipping things like air before they had Abraham and forefathers before we had the Christian faith we have today.

There are further existing spiritual beliefs today. The greatest number of spiritual believers stems from the most powerful works and extensive expansion for any religious belief.



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There is belief that there is no peace in regards to the Holy Trinity and for any Spiritual belief. Statically speaking, spiritual beliefs has the highest number of casualties in the world than the victims of the wars.

Mr Speaker, that is exactly my intention and in regards to the future. I appreciate the State's purpose on this Amendment to clarify which God we are worshipping although 54 years has passed and now we just had it. The pathway set out by our forefathers was very pleasant in regards to us worshipping the Holy Trinity which is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Because other believers believe in the Holy Trinity because we Samoans do not wish to live the life lived by other countries.

Such is my suggestion, for Samoa to worship either Christianity or Muslim I do not... at least one, to avoid any spiritual conflicts in the next 50 or 100 years in the future. Otherwise, I believe this is the initiation of something today. I support the Constitution Amendment to incorporate the God that we worship in the main Part of the Constitution. Have a blessed Sitting.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO (Falealili East):** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I believe that the Members are supporting this change. I believe that this amendment is not so much of a big change but it is very important to us and also the ancestors that have set the bar for Samoa, that we are founded on God. I apologise to all the Members to please keep your speeches short to save us time so that we can conclude this day. I call upon the Member for Falealili East.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO:** Praise God for His good strength upon us this morning. I wish to make a submission today. For me, I am most grateful to this Parliament for sustaining their true heart and spirit of worship in God.

In the country's saying, *o le tuigai mataputoa o alii pe a pale i tiaseu, e le maeu le silatoa a tautai aua o maga seuvale ia o faatamasoaliiga* meaning, whenever something is good, there's always a way for the bad to destroy it. Although we may joke about it, however, it is a subject that is important for the various preachers who are spreading the word about repentance.

I wholly support the current Amendment to its entirety. I object any Amendment that regards limitations due to the following reasons, if it is prohibiting any other religious belief hence; we are limiting human right which is also specified in the Constitution whereby, a person has the right to worship a religion of his or her choice. In regards to the written words in the back cover of the Constitution, Samoa is founded on God that is again highlighted in the body of the Constitution to show the world that Samoa is a country of significant divisions and is Founded on God, the God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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Hearing the comments on the Holy Trinity, there are Churches that believe in Jesus Christ alone when otherwise, it is specified in the Constitution the Father and the Son. We also have Churches that do not believe in the Holy Trinity otherwise they worship the splendor of God who is also Jesus Christ. As aware, the Jehova Witnesses belief worships Jesus alone. The Bahai belief or Bahaula means the glory of God. When it comes to the Constitution and the prohibition and set boundaries for other religious beliefs, then we are impacting the freedom of religion when we are worshipping the same God. Although we have various and different thoughts and beliefs, it all aims towards one thing. Gratefully and based on personal observation, this Parliament is still maintaining peace.

This is the main objective of this Bill is to protect Samoa so that it can live peacefully and harmoniously. We are not at war because of religion we are amending the constitution so that we can solidify our beliefs and our culture. Furthermore, I appreciate the many good expressions and comments gained today especially from the appointees of the various Churches, I leave you with one teaching from Paul which is, *“Even though I speak in human and angelic language and have no love, I am like a noisy brass and a clashing cymbal”*. The most important thing is what Jesus our Saviour did for you and me. It is love, if love is present in this Parliament, then that is it. The same love on for amending the Constitution.

Bless this Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thanks. I call upon the Member for Safata West and then followed by the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo then then we move on the Government. As well as the Member on this side.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West):** Mr Speaker I stand to voice an opinion of my constituency.

I wish to thank the Leader of this country for this amendment of the Constitution. We fully support the amendment however, the Prime Minister have spoken on the matter in saying if we could discuss the amendment and add in traditions and culture because I believe that peace comes from culture and the traditions of our country. Even within the Parliament, we are being honoured because of our culture and our traditions.

**MR SPEAKER:** I want to remind the Member, perhaps you understood the clarification given by the Hon Prime Minister that this amendment will be referred to Committee for further consultations especially for Members and the public who wish to convey an opinion on the matter. This will be carried out after deliberations within the House, Government believes in equal opportunities to be given to everyone. This is further clarification on the matter.

I call on the Member to make it brief.

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**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, you touched on the point that I was talking about, to include our traditions and culture in the amendment. This is similar to our relationship with the Court under the Commission of Inquiry, our method used derives from our cultural tradition which is where we find peace. This is a further explanation on the matter Mr Speaker, I pray we have a blessed Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Thank you. I call upon the Member for Falealili West. Malo faafetai.

**Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West):** Mr Speaker I am grateful for this morning. I believe the Hon Prime Minister has tabled the amendment of the Constitution. This constituency of Falealili West gives its support on the amendment.

I want to thank the Prime Minister for tabling this amendment. Just a recommendation, can we generalize the meaning of the term Christianity in the amendment.

Not only that but it includes freedom of religion. There should be provisions in this section for people to choose the religion they want to worship.

This is a humble opinion on the matter again we thank Government in regards to the Bill amended, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for considering the advice of the Chair to keep speeches short as possible.

I call upon the Member for Anoamaa East.

**Afioga ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for your patience this time of the day and also to all the Members of Parliament. I move with respect to voice a brief view on this change to the Constitution.

Although it is short but deep and has significance. This is my interpretation of this Bill. Thank you to the State for taking the first step. Other concerns by Parliament are being considered gradually. I also take this opportunity since we are mentioning the services of the servants of God, even though they are not present here today it is our duty to protect them. I also apologise for those who are listening because Church Ministers are those who have been ordained to preach the word of the Lord. As heard in the opinions voiced it is not our duty to judge others but that of God.

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I quote Deuteronomy 28 about God's blessings upon a country that believes in Him. Further wonderful blessings are, *you shall be the head and not the tail, blessed art thou in thy coming and blessed art thou in thy going out shall you be when you come in and when you go out. Blessed shall be your baskets and your kneading bowl* and on the other side of the coin, *if you do not obey him and his commandment curses shall be in your city, curse shall be in your field. You will be cursed with whatever you touch.* This is what happens when a country opposes God.

Individually, it is important that our plead on Samoa being founded on one God is stipulated in the Constitution. The spreading of the gospel in Samoa has also brought prosperity to our lands. The only plague I am now witnessing is alienation which is similar to the one in the book of Deuteronomy. It states that you will reside together with gentiles and then you will borrow from them and then they will take over your home and I see that happening in Samoa. As such if we were to redirect our path to Jesus, we will get His blessings again. Furthermore, the God we worship is the God in the Bible, the God of Israel. I also advise the State to support and follow the Israelites and their God because that is the God we are founded on, the God of the Bible.

If we were talk about Theology, the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, and coming to the genealogy of Jesus and all the way to us. This is why we face difficult challenges at times due to us being at the wrong side of the road. Thank you to the Government for this thought provoking amendment, in the name of Jesus, Amen and Amen.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, may the Lord bless you with wisdom from the Bible and His good grace. I call upon the Member for Aiga i le Tai followed by the Member for Alepata Itupa i Luga.

**Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI:** I bring greetings to the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Members of the Parliament.

I believe that we have voiced our prayer to our Heavenly Father this beautiful morning. We have also heard the statement by the Hon Prime Minister which provides a clarifying concern on the subject matter on hand, the question is for what reason?

In accordance to the wise decision by the Hon Prime Minister and the Government and envisioning the future whereby, today's decision can in fact affect tomorrow. Respectfully, and in the saying, *ua tupu matagi i liu o vaa* like the words referred to the ship of Tagaloaalagi, thoughts occur when issues are addressed, and another, *ua logo foi i tino matagi lelei*, meaning, it is a good feeling to hear about it. Thank you for the wise knowledge because in truth, it is like....pardon the language, it is like an exterior paint of a house when in fact, the interior is very problematic meaning, we have placed what's important on the back cover of the constitution when it should have been placed inside the body.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016  
– second reading**

I believe this morning; we have filled that gap, to solidify the foundation of our Constitution, and it is like praises and music to my ears having heard the opinions from the Members this morning. I believe that this is the root and the core of the foundation of Samoa, especially knowing why Samoa is love and blessed and Aiga i le Tai fully supports the amendment especially my representing of Faleu and Utuagiagi and your comments about Paul and Stephen and the many preachers, well done. The spirit itself is that we amend and add a few provisions. In assistance to the first speaker and the comment about defining Jesus Christ that is incomplete. I only wish to assist that this Jesus died and resurrected and that was it. Yes it did not stop after His resurrection, because there was a Jesus who died and resurrected, whilst the one we worship not only resurrected, He went to Heaven and sat on the right hand side of God the Father, a counselor for you and I. This is particular assistance to other speakers who have not completed their talks on Theology this morning.

As for the Member for Palauli Falefa, I have interrupted your speech because you are sweating and I see that this side is crying. That is reason for interrupting you lest your thought is destroyed when the strength of our constituency is being maintained.

May God bless our proceedings today and may we find wisdom in our discussions this morning. With respect, blessed proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I see that we have only three Members left. I call upon the Member for Vaimauga East.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East):** Thank you Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, vitally on the topic of behaviour under our discussion, can we get his name and the name of his Church and whether he makes any financial contribution (alofa)?

**MR SPEAKER:** I think this is fair enough since this is one emphasis for some who makes long talks in here without knowing if they are making any contribution/service to their church. Make it short as we have various people who have not spoken.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I wish to comment on this matter before the House.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

Firstly, I appreciate the Hon Prime Minister for the far-sighted wisdom and the courage in regards to the tabling Amendment. Reflecting on the various issues including the latest matter that is being referred to the Attorney General, I am very stunned due to the anointing of God through the Hon Prime Minister, and now we are on the Constitution, praise God.

I support the amendment on one regard and Section 11 on freedom of Religion. I am still in awe with the State's administration by the Hon Prime Minister in relation to the various amendments. Thankfully this amendment is finally in the Constitution which is something that we are proud of. This country is a Christian nation that is founded on God and seeing the word Christian, christian is a not a part time job, its a full time job.

I also see that some of us here are talking about Christianity when most of the times we do not abide by the principles of Christianity. That is the sole intention of Christianity, you speak and walk the talk, you live it everyday by the way you talk, walk reflects the real you.

The only addition that will have my support for this amendment is to include Samoa is founded on God the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit. The only request from this constituency is the addition of Amen to make it complete. Amen means that the Lord has heard everything, and if we dont put in the Amen it means that other religions will take over Christianity in Samoa. And this is our prayer, insert Amen and then its complete. We support it with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call upon the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I will not take long. I beg indulgence to the House, we have been discussing this matter far too long now although the amendment is short.

Firstly, in regards to the respective Minister on this legislation saying taht we are deceiving God and therefore all our prayers are floated above the ceiling of this house. With respect, the success of this amendment is determined by the prayers the State delievers any time. Just this morning, I see that we have so many preachers in this Parliament as well as historians. Listening intently some of the statements and references dating all the way to as far as 4000 years ago. Regardless, my only concern is the english version of what we are changing I quote "Samoa is a Christian nation to declare the dominance of christianity in Samoa", and the Samoan version it states the solid foundation of christian beliefs in Samoa.

The main concern for me, whenever or duing the review of the Committee, whether it is inappropriate when we say, Samoa is a Christian country which has the majority of Christian beliefs in Samoa.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

That is all honorable Speaker, otherwise I wholly support this Bill. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call the member of Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA (Falealupo):** With respect I have listened thoroughly on the comments of this Parliament in relation to this Bill. Briefly, in regards to the Constitution, God is the Father of Samoa, now that we are saying that Samoa is a Christian nation that is founded on God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Personally, it is somehow automatic, the God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In query, is it really necessary? It is necessary to add this bit. Just a thought. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member of Vaimauga No.2.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this last opportunity given to me. I wish to thank the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and also the Members for the wonderful deliberations on the Bill. I am thankful for bringing this forth to the table because this is a matter that needs to be specific to avoid other situations. Article 11 of the amendment, I believe that it is enough to state that Samoa is founded on God. This is not new to the Government and the Prime Minister, whatever is set to be tabled for the betterment of Samoa, I am sure that the Government has carefully thought of this before it is put forward. And from what I have heard so far, it is like different views stating its view of the various kinds of spiritual beliefs which does is conflicting. I still think that we should leave the work of church Ministers to the religious leaders themselves.

Lastly, I fully support the amendment and i have no other opinion on Article 11 of the existing Constitution. With respect honorable Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I see that both Members of Palauli East and Faleata East are asking for another chance and as much as I think we should move on to the Government I know that they also have a right to speak on the matter. I humbly ask both Members to make your speeches short.

I call upon the Member for Palauli East.

**Afioga TUIFAASISINA MISA LISATI LELEISUAO PALEMENE (Palauli Sasae):** Mr Speaker and all notable Members, and Samoa who are tunning in this morning, I stand to express opinion of Palauli East on this very important matter. In respect to its salutations, *O le tofa molimoli foi lea i le paia ia Faasisina ma Sa Lilomaiaava ma le Levaleva ia Safaleletaua ma Palauli na potopoto, ma oe o le uluai Pule.*

The constituency of Palauli East wishes to express sincere thanks to the Prime Minister, for initiating such vision for the future.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

Mr Speaker, there is a Samoa saying that goes like this *e fua le kupa i le tai kupa, e sa i liu le u i le tologa ae fana le manu i le aufueta*. Which means, our actions depends on what happens on daily basis. There is also a saying from the famous Napoleone of France *after you determine your enemy you look at the width of the battelfield*. Nothing happens without a reason, good thoughts only come after what happened. I am thankful that we are able to address this in this sitting, because it is our duty to protect our Country from the unknown. Above all these, it is the fact that we stand to say that we are a christian coutry. It is not right to praise God and say we are a christian country yet we allow other religions in the country.

Mr Speaker Palauli East supports the amendment tabled, thank you for the opportunity.

Soifua and God Bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call upon the Member for Faleata East.

**Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING (Faleata East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. Since we are the ones who initiated the amendment, I just want to add on to the Members' statements in support of this amendment. The second step is that this amendment will be referred to the Committee for further review and opinions before it comes back to the Parliament. Such is the reason why I am up.

The most shocking thing about this Amendment is that I have thought that is included in the Constitution, when we have longed talked about it from the beginning. It is stated in the sign behind you Mr Speaker, "Samoa is founded on God" and when it comes to the Constitution, it only states Samoa is an Independent country and secondly, Samoa is located on the other side of the globe, and that is it. Nothing in the Constitution states Samoa is founded on God. As such, this new change is central making it a good substitute, "Samoa is founded on God, God the Father, God the Son and God of the Holy Spirit." If we think back to when the first churches came to Samoa, the first one believes in the Holy Trinity, so as the second and the third one. This will further solidify and strengthen this amendment.

As such, by reading this, these words are only printed at the cover of the Constitution in regards to Christian and that is it. As for the definition and the history of Samoa it seems that it has just been implemented. These are a few concerns in support of this Bill.

Mr Speaker another thing is other religions should not be concerned especially the citizens of Samoa. In case some might think that there are restrictions on the types of religions, it is not because it is clearly stated in Article 11, people have the freedom to choose their religion. This is a part of the Bill that I really appreciate. Blessed Sitting.



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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Point of order, the amendment is “Samoa is a Christian country founded on God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit but not God the Father, God the Son and God of the Holy Spirit. There is a slight difference on how the people will interpret this phrase. This is the correction.

I call upon Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and the esteemed members of the House for the shared views on this Amendment.

As made aware, this proposed Amendment is to be inserted in the body of the Constitution as the only stipulated word here is Christian, after the preface, those words are not part of the Constitution. Therefore, if the Constitution is being raised in Court, the only vital part is the body of the Constitution, anything else before or after the body is excluded. That is the entire Amendment.

Even with the Amendment on hand given in simple language, those words will be submitted to the Committee and the members of the public and qualified theologians to come and make contribution on this bill. That is the short objective of the Cabinet, nothing more or less, it is easier to clarify. We will not go back to the Constitutional Convention or Fono Faavae, our ancestors and former leaders have already discussed and have accepted the State of Samoa to become Independent. Another important issue is the unified view of our leaders to accept one religion because we would not have gained self-government due to the various spiritual beliefs in the world that have existed over thousand years ago that is far older than the Christianity faith. This includes the Hindu, Buddha and the one raised by the member of Falelatai and Samatau. The Islam is new to us, initiated in 600BC and was established by Moameta in Mecca using the Old Testament. If you look at the Quaran, it is all in the Old Testament inclusive of additional words.

The first part of that religious belief states that love is paramount for Christians and Jews. The reason for this principle stems from the Jews belief and the teachings of Moameta otherwise; this is the exact time where the minority Christians were enslaved specifically the Jews both within and outside Israel. As a result of this, Moameta fled to the west and established the capital Medina. It further initiated impious writings on new beliefs that the only ticket to heaven is by killing the Christians and the Jews. This was the birth of another branch and sacrilegious writings. Henceforth, there are two types of Islamic beliefs in the world we should be aware of. I say this because the decision and wordings of the Constitution of the State of Samoa by the Leaders were not easy to make in order to be recognizable. I have clarified that this was the former intention of the elders in the past, to include these wordings in the body however the advice by those who drafted the Constitution, the State was in an establishment stage which was not easy.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

Therefore the wisdom of our forefathers was reason for the given wordings until today. The only thing that is missing is the inclusion of these words inside the body of the Constitution.

In 2001 to 2005 a request was tendered by the Council of Churches seeking my opinion to amend the Constitution to prohibit other religions from entering Samoa as there was already enough in the country. So I sought recommendations and have advised that Amendments such as this is not easy to make particularly when it is stipulated under the Constitution. At that time, the amendments to the Constitution could not press through due to the lack of quorum. So, a meeting was called with the Council of Churches including the lawmakers for a discussion.

The lawmakers made some very strong arguments. This could not... the Constitutional amendment should not be amended due to appropriate and complex reasons considering the relationship with the United Nations. In further we should also reflect on Jesus and the initiation of Christianity faith which started off with only thirteen people. It seemed unreal for Him and His disciples, however, what happened in the end? The prosecution of Jesus and His disciples led him to victory and the beginning of Christianity growth raising the population to billions. In thought, if we were to do the same, this could be a way to increase the number such as what they had in the Christianity belief during the time of Jesus and after. The matter was laid to rest since then. In further, the Constitution protects the church congregation, non attendees including atheists. Given the paramount position of our Constitution, it remains impartial. From there, the Cabinet initiated a Commission of Inquiry to deal with issues being raised by the Council of Churches whereby Oka Fauolo was Chairperson.

A meeting was conducted here and Savaii, I patiently waited to implement the recommendation from the Council of Churches. The meeting took a while and after the meeting, the resolution had it that the Constitution be left as it is avoiding any amendment. Such is the Constitution we had until today. In the previous year where we had the former Cabinet, some of them voiced and raised the protection of Samoa in regards to conflicts with other religious beliefs when entering Samoa. I have gradually thought of these concerns by former Ministers and since the start of this year, the Cabinet have come to terms that it is about time that this matter be considered especially now that the new Cabinet has full insight of the matter on hand. We keep saying that Samoa is founded on God but in actual fact it is not in the Constitution of Samoa. We cannot hide anything from the eyes of God, as the bible also says, *“For where two or three people are gathered together in my name, there I am with them”*. This means that the Lord knows what we are doing every day and the wrong statements we voice today. This is the objective of the Amendment, which will be referred to the Committee for further consideration of this wording or another suitable wording to undertake the testament to its entirety since the beginning of Samoa being founded on God before it is brought back to the House.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016**  
– second reading

Personally, the amendment is easy; however it seems we are just making it harder. We need more time to discuss this matter even though we all know God of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one and similar to the Holy Trinity. The disciples challenged Jesus several times, we want to see your Father, Jesus replied “*He who has seen me, has seen my Father. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me*”. The indivisibility of the Blessed Trinity remains unseparable. The heavens opened up three times and the Lord spoke, “*That is my beloved son*”.

Three times. This is nothing new for us to keep reading and understand, and I guess that is why God keeps clinging on to Samoa and make correction. The only thing that fears us is not knowing when to become affected, it is stated in the Bible, “*he who blasphemes against the holy spirit will not be forgiven of his sins of blasphemy.*” What is this blasphemous act to the Holy Spirit? Not believing that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and gave birth to the Son who gave us salvation, excetra, to disbelieve is a sin to the Holy spirit. So it worries me when I see that things do not fall into place because the Bible is well versed about everything, however the problem is us, some choose good things while others not. One businessman who is also a church member said, you are trying to teach me your religion, what exactly is your religion? The longer you talk to me, I will stand on one leg. The old man stood on one leg and said, “My faith is based on Christian belief comprising of the history from the New Testament and the Old Testament, that is the entire purpose, it can be summed up in one word which is love.

The Old Testament narrates the events in the New Testament but the New Testament speaks about the love of Jesus Christ who died on the cross so the whole world could have salvation.

Mr Speaker, that is the conclusion of this statement on the tabling Amendment this morning. Soifua and God Bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*Motion approved and the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016 was read a second time.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to the Standing Order, the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2016 will be referred to the Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Committee for consideration and report back to the Assembly after 90 days.

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**CORONERS BILL 2016**  
– third reading

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister for Justice and Courts Administration):** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *To omit the numbers 2016 and replace thereby with 2017 to allow the Coroners Bill 2017 to be read a third time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology and the Minister for Education, Sports and Culture.*

*Motion Approved and the Bill was read for the third time and passed the Assembly.*

**VILLAGE FONO AMENDMENT BILL 2016**  
– third reading

**Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minisita for Women, Community and Social Development):** Mr Speaker I move, *To omit the number 2016 and replace thereby with 2017 to allow the Village Fono Amendment Bill 2017 to be read a third time.*

*Seconded by the Minister for Education Sports and Culture and the Minister for Revenue.*

*Motion approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.*

**POLICE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2016**  
– consideration in detail

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 107, the Legislative Assembly must first approve the report of Committee on the Bill before consideration in detail.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand with respect to move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approves the Report of the Committee which recommends, That the Police Services Amendment Bill 2016 progress with Amendments.*

*Seconded by the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.*

*Motion approved.*

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**Police Service Amendment Bill 2016  
– consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that the Legislative has approved the Report of the Social Sector Committee on the Police Service Amendment Bill 2016.

The Assembly will now consider the Police Service Amendment Bill 2016.

Pursuant to Standing Order, consideration in detail of the Bill will commence with Clause 2.

**CLAUSE 2: Clause 55 amended.**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 3: Clause 56 amended.**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 4: Amendment**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 1 AND THE TITLE**

**CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.**

**TITLE: Police Service Amendment Bill 2016.**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Committee has an amendment on Clause 1 and the Title. I call upon the Chairperson.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW:** Mr Speaker I move the Amendment to Clause 1 as follows:

**“CORRECTION:**

*To omit the numbers 2016 and substitute thereby with 2017 to be read as:*

**“Police Service Amendment Bill 2017.”**

*Clause 1 and Title were Corrected and Approved.*

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**Motion to Set Aside Standing Order 108(4)**

*The Police Service Amendment Bill 2017 progressed with Amendments.*

**MOTION TO SET ASIDE STANDING ORDER 108(4)**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Prime Minister for the motion.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I move the motion, *To set aside Standing Order 108(4) to allow the third reading of the Amendment Bill that were considered today.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor.*

*Motion approved and Standing Order 108(4) was set aside.*

**POLICE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2016  
– third reading**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Service Amendment Bill 2017 be read for the third time.*

*Seconded by the Minister for Commerce Industry and Labour and the Minister for Health.*

*Motion approved and the Bill was read for the third time and passed by the Legislative Assembly.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Since we have come to the end of this Sitting, I call on the Hon Prime Minister for the motion.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That Proceedings of the Assembly adjourned until Tuesday 7th of March 2017 as approved.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Health.*