

*WEDNESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.05am*

Prayers.

**MR SPEAKER:** I trust we are feeling the same heartfelt thanks to the Lord for safely guiding our lives again to continue our work and commitments. Thank the Lord for we are also together with our colleagues who have not been present due to sickness. I trust we are all well informed of our duties and I pray that by the end of the day we shall be done with a lot. So without further ado, let us commence.

I would also like to thank all of Samoa for prayers, patience and supporting us with our work. Pray the Lord may guide us and direct us in ensuring the best decisions for the country's benefit.

#### CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### **P.P.2013/2014 NO. 43, FINANCE & EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE REPORT ON P.P.2012/2013 NO. 18, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACCIDENTS COMPENSATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2011 - CONSIDERATION**

**MR SPEAKER:** Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned yesterday but the Chairperson has already responded to the queries brought forth.

So therefore, I will now ask the question.

*Report approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** In accordance to the Standing Order 54, the Government is to present a statement to the Legislative Assembly in response to the Recommendations put forth by the Select Committee within 90 days.

##### **P.P.2013/2014 NO. 57, WORKS, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON P.P.2011/2012 NO. 60, STATEMENT OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES OF THE ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 NO. 92, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011 – CONSIDERATION**

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Chairperson of the Works, Transport & Environment Committee):** Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House Malo and praises to the Lord for guiding us and blessing us with another day. I also greet Samoa and its many honoraries this lovely day.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

Therefore, Mr Speaker I move, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the Report of the Committee presenting its FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.*

*Seconded by member from Palauli, a member from the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him, a member from Falelatai and Samatau, a member from Vaimauga Sisifo, Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua and member from Sagaga le Falefa.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Honorable Chairperson you may stand.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** The Recommendations Mr Speaker;

**“RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Based on its Findings, the Committee recommends that the Government:

1. Provides priority assistance to the Corporation in the following Projects that aim to provide affordable electricity to the nation:-
  - Solar Energy
  - Wind Energy
  - Solar Energy :-(coconut oil);  
(patiki);  
(other plants).
  - Other hydro sources.
2. Prioritizes areas identified to the result of electricity wasted, so that in the two years to come there will be a decrease in electricity wasted.
3. Encourages Awareness Programs through television and radio in order to minimize complaints lodged due to unexpected power outage.
4. Complies with the Cabinet Directive to discontinue the supply of free electricity to its Directors and Executive Management.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

5. Continues installing functional prepayment meters. Also recommends the Corporation to look into alternative brand (prepayment meters) to replace the current prepayment meters used, due to its malfunctions in order to avoid the problems of electricity being wasted, and to reserve money used in meter reading services and transportation used in carrying out these services.
6. Replace old diesel powered electric generators in Savaii with new ones, in order to avoid the continuous problems of power outage especially during the festive season at the end of each year.
7. Prioritize installation of a new voltage regulator to the electricity pole situated close to the water pump at Falealupo, to control the power used by the pump. By prioritizing the installation of the voltage the regulator will preserve this Government asset from being damaged due to the unstable power and will be able to achieve the purpose for which it was installed.
8. Work in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to reserve springs and rivers that are abundant for the generation of electricity.

**RESOLUTION|:**

At the conclusion of its consideration the Committee resolved to recommend the Assembly to:

To approve P.P.2011/2012 No.60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the Period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the **Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.**”

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done Chairperson with presenting your Findings, Recommendations and Resolution.

The floor is now open, member for Faleata West you may stand.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I firstly want to extend warm greetings to respectable members of Parliament and also to the citizens of Samoa.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee  
Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of  
the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P.  
2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for  
the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

I express concern towards the committee with regards to their report. I know it is not an easy task to process and present but I congratulate you for your efforts. The ongoing service by EPC everyday is not easy given that people tend to monitor this service on a daily basis. It affects the whole country if a proposed electricity cost is on the rise on top of the high cost of living.

I firstly like to raise the concern about cash powers. I would like to note that even though your services to the country have ventured out to the public and private retailers, there is still possibility that someone will forget their cash power. Electricity is required in the homes on a 24 hour basis. Hence the Corporation should consider opening a 24 hour service particularly for the densely populated areas.

Last Wednesday during our sitting, I received a phone call from a person at NPF to come and see what was happening; there was a very long queue of people pushing for cash power that was only available in this particular area in the night. If you want the people to utilize this service to its extent, then it is best to create a 24 hour service to cater for the people's need instead of bearing with what you have available which is very inappropriate.

On the other hand, I commend the Committee for considering the continuous use of electricity without payment. This lack of control results in increasing the electricity bills for all citizens, meanwhile it is unfair for some because there are still people living off free range. I also commend your efforts in tracking down the villages that were living off of free electricity and having them re-pay their debts. It is not an easy task and I congratulate you for this hard work.

The continuous flow of excellent service provided to the country is well noted given the lack of power outages as opposed to the proposed increased electricity costs. This will affect the cost of living because these two things link together. The ADB loan policy and requirements states that once the tariff or cost of electricity rises so that full payment is possible.

Personally, these kinds of situations are often negotiable between the government and the international banks. Why not let the Government pay it off to maintain local electricity service? Ease up the burden of high cost of living for our people and businesses, and find other means of paying it off rather than continually burdening the country with more expenditure. We are not asking for free treatment or free electricity, but be considerate of the people's needs, especially electricity.

In addition, the raising concerns on light posts yesterday, I ask the respective Ministry to kindly look into the matter.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done to the member for Faleata West. I now ask the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I like to say greetings to the Deputy Prime Minister, the dignified Cabinet members, greetings also to the Leader of the Opposition and its members and everyone present today.

Mr Speaker I have two concerns about cash power. Two weeks ago, I went to the EPC branch with a member from my constituency on electricity cut issue. We went to the TATTE building to see what the problem was, but little did I know, this constituent was tampering his power meter without payment. The employee of the EPC had informed me of this and affirmed that there are over 200 families with similar cases that are awaiting \$1000 punishment trials each. Hence a total of 200 alleged families and over roughly makes up the owed amount of \$200,000 to the EPC.

I also queried the cause of abusing electricity and was told that the employees responsible with wire connection from the cash power machine to the power posts seem to have misconnected the lines/wires. I humbly ask the Committee to investigate the persons that are illegally committing this crime.

Secondly the street lights in our village. Unfortunately, after the tsunami, we haven't received any assistance with light restoration. Half of our village is still in the dark, and I have been writing countless letters to the EPC CEO until now, nothing has been done. Cyclone Evan took down the remaining light posts, therefore I humbly ask the Minister to look into this matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will now give the floor to the Deputy Speaker then one of the Individual Members Afioga Maulaivao Pat Ah Him. Deputy Speaker you may stand.

**Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA (Deputy Speaker, Palauli West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity, I also take this opportunity to greet everyone in the House.

I have one matter that I would like to query concerning the work of the EPC because they are the responsible for installing meters, how is it possible for these families to use electricity without a meter charge?

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Afioga Maulaivao Pat Ah Him you may stand.

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters):** Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you to the Chairperson of the Committee for the presentation of this report. I hope all these recommendations will work out well to improve the EPC services.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

However, I only have one main concern relating to cashpower. Some have mentioned the unavailability of the 24 hour service. I confirm the Vaitele 24 hour branch is always open whilst the one next to the NPF building should build a proper parking lot to ensure safety from rising car accidents.

With all due respect, I simply recommend the 24 hour service availability in Apia branch to provide cashpower to customers. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Falelatai and Samatau you may stand, followed by member for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioga Hon Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai ma Samatau):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I extend warm greetings to each respectable present today and also to the whole of Samoa listening in today. I wish to raise two concerns as mentioned by a previous member. One is the lack of EPC workers tasked with installing and maintaining the meters for the households. They should follow up this procedure involving damaged meters restoration and wires misconnections.

Mr Speaker no one has mentioned this but I believe that scratch cards are more efficient. For instance I pay for more than one meters, the Church, the Pastors house, the School, the Hall and my house, so with the scratch card, they are more handier to carry around. It can be bought and put in ones bag until the need arise. That is the assistance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi you may stand.

**Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI (Aana Alofi No. 1):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I speak the same with the member for Falelatai and Samatau, and like the member, I agree that it is entirely up to the EPC workers on how best to utilize their expertise and knowledge of this area to secure any problem and manage cashpower meters efficiently to avoid people from utilizing it free of charge. However, one culprit kills the rest of the customers; nevertheless I applaud the efforts of the EPC workers. It is a tedious job that at times the electricity is fixed and sometimes it is not, but the problem lies with no one but ourselves who take full responsibility, whenever something new is introduced, it is people's nature that they become very manipulative at times.

Another overlooking issue is the onsite meter inspection by the EPC on unfixed meters but since we now use cash power, it is good and bad in a way. Perhaps this is why the Corporation is increasing electricity costs given the numerous malfunction meter cash power machines.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

Some workers do not turn up to convert the old meter system to the new cashpower meter otherwise; it is not bad to proceed with the old meters given the delay works by the EPC which is probably due to staff shortage. The Committee was notified about this but until now, they haven't yet conducted a site visit.

I stand with all due respect because we are leaders of the country, and if there are issues involving mismanagement of funds, the nation should hear us resolving to a solution.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to the member. This is the last chance for a speaker, I ask the member for Salega to take the stand.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Greetings to the support of my district and Samoans who are constantly supporting and praying for the works of Parliament.

On that note, I want to thank the Chairperson and committee for the report; we have heard the submissions that should be adhered to by the Ministry to further improve our services.

It has been approximately four years plus since cash power was introduced into the country. Any new system whether technologically takes two to three years before it becomes fully effective after considering a whole bunch of issues otherwise, based on observations, issues tend to rise instead of reducing. It is a matter that the committee and the Minister should look into. Whether it involves meters malfunction or bribery, I'm sure the Ministry has taken these into account. The recommendation given is based on the rising difficulties including meter tampering.

Seeing the report, I thought that one of the recommendations involves electricity charges given that this is rightfully the root of the problem whereby meter tampering is involved. Never mind the high income earners, but the lot who can't afford electricity particularly the low income group, I guess this is the reason for them to resort to meter tampering to make ends meet. *Regardless of the established laws, we still break them. Why? Because people are struggling for survival.*

I thought a recommendation is directed to EPC. Although the service should meet payment but it should be laid out well according to economic sufficiency which is one vital...

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker I wish to clarify something....

**MR SPEAKER:** Deputy Speaker you may stand.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** It appears that the only reason behind abusing electricity due to being poor and insufficient spending otherwise there are plenty of other reasons why. Some simply can afford it but refuse to spend money. In the statement by the member for Aana Alofi No. 1, some people aim for free ride without having to use his/her money. You've also mentioned dishonesty which may be true including fraudulent workers in the Ministry. That should also be assessed.

Dishonesty is found everywhere. It is found in places, people and reasons like demanding free electricity. That is why I stood up your honor.

Thank you.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker if I may....

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition you may stand.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker the callous accusations about the EPC and its dishonest workers are very disappointing. The employees are hearing our talks, the question to the speaking member is the reason behind all this. The main purpose for free electricity is due to the high cost of living which is unaffordable. Do not blame the employees.

**MR SPEAKER:** Deputy Prime Minister you may stand.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** No company or Ministry is free of this offence, hence this is a collective responsibility by everyone to minimizing these constraints. This is not due to the people's low level of income. As spoken by the member for Salega, fraudsters will always exist despite the circumstance which is unavoidable.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Deputy Prime Minister for the direct clarification to the member's comment hence I ask everyone to direct your advice to the public and don't create wordings that causes the public to resort to unlawful acts when in peril. Despite the good image of Samoa that others are painting, we still have amongst us the culprits that are piling up these issues.

The Ministry is trying to iron out the problems, and if law breakers exist, they should be justly punished. The notion by those who want free electricity that is affordable by others is absurd. We must inform our people to stop these illegal actions immediately. The Ministry must ensure to execute their work accordingly and earnestly.

I believe the member is now clear hence we shall move on.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Mr Speaker since you have given your Ministerial statement, I now move on to the next matter but the issued statement were based on good intentions. Honesty is far different from bidding for survival.

The second section states for plans to utilizing other means of producing and supplying electricity like solar power energy and usage of plants like 'patiki'. Researchers have reported the difficult 'patiki' growth and the land mass required, but this shouldn't be a problem as it involves the Committee and Ministry of Environment. On the other hand, the usage of solar energy as an efficient long term plan; I wish to ask the Chairperson how long this undertaken takes place as it should now bear fruit. The solar panels should now respond to the sun's rays with the support of the petroleum fuel to supply energy for electricity. If this is a go, how is this helping with the reduced electricity costs for the general public? I believe you will respond soon, in the meantime, thank you Hon Minister as we are moving in the right direction.

Another concern relates to electricity waste with issued statement isn't there any possible solution for a business corporation to produce solar energy in collaboration with the Ministry to earn some revenue given the costly living. If the electricity cost is generated at a reasonable price, the cost of living will be cheaper as that is the main sector of our economic development given the widely utilization of this service.

In addition, the meters being proposed by the government to be changed or switched to better ones; I hope the Committee looks into this matter accurately so that there would be a solution to the Committee's problem.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, last chance to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you for the opportunity. I will be very brief. The electricity cost is hugely affecting the entire country. Some people have turned to kerosene lights while others are living on candles in the dark. Why have our people gone back to old time living? Due to \$100million debt that the country is now struggling to pay but is affordable to the government according to the Financial Report, 30cents is deducted from \$1tala. What happened to this debt now? It's been carried by the country and the people have gone back to using candles and kerosene lights.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker if I may....

**MR SPEAKER:** Deputy Prime Minister you may stand.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** How are we funding electricity? How can we produce light, is it free? Funding is required. Money must be borrowed in order for the Ministry to carry out its job. The country is crying out for electricity, but is it for free?

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition you may stand.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** It shouldn't be free but be considerate. Like I said, some have reconverted to the old living twenty years back. Hence why isn't this debt paid off from the government's Appropriation Funds?

The Minister has said it many times, it is affordable with the 30cents reduction from \$1tala. The business owners are helpless with the high electricity cost. If the proposed change provides additional burden for them, might as well close down. Let the government pay off the debt and ease the burden for the country.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Deputy Prime Minister you may stand.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** We are being reasonable and considerate with electricity costs in accordance to the business/company operators and the general public. We've also conducted public consultations and analyze statistical records to get a clear picture of electricity costs before a decision is made. That is the way things work.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The problem is not consulting with the implicated people whom are at stake here.

**MR SPEAKER:** Let us now hear a word from one of the members for the Independent Voters Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** I kindly ask the Leader of the Opposition to refrain from using the term business operators as majority of the public members operate businesses of their own and may or may not complain. I must agree with the Committee's recommendation about solar power. I don't intend to order anyone but respectfully request members to refrain from speaking this way. Thank you with respect to you honorable Mr Speaker.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Faleata West you may rise.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I think this member has the pink eye. I suggest that he should kindly be dismissed in case we might all get sick. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. This morning I believe I have given thanks to the Lord that for one of the members has been nursed back to health which I have here his medical report. So thank you for the reminder.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I declare that I am fully fit.

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition you may stand, please conclude your statements.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I don't intend to go against the business entrepreneurs as the member has mentioned. I bear witness that there is a hotel at a \$10,000 rate per month that is rarely occupied. I confirm this because we have one in the village and district whom are helpless with the high electricity costs. Hence Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I now call upon the Minister of Finance to stand.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has stated that there are no guests accommodating the hotels which should also mean that the electricity was never utilized but if that is the case the \$10,000+ is confirmed. We are talking about living in the past. But records have it that we now have 30,000 plus households using electricity to a ratio of 200 employees who are operating and fixing electricity. That is the main focus of the Corporation for improvement. 80% of the population pays for the low electricity, whilst 20% pay for high electricity. Hence the less electricity usage, the less cost for you. That is reason for government's aim to finding other means of supplying electricity through the use of wind, water, coconut oil and pafiti. With coconut utilization, 70% of Samoa's population own coconut plantations, which means that they can also sell coconut at 10cents or \$1 earning them \$100 for 100 coconuts. This is good price for our coconut market. The same goes for patiki, overseas countries are using patiki to fuel their cars because it is easy and beneficial for the economy. With all due respect.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Minister for your help.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** We only have one measure of electricity cost in this country and this country has reported to have the most expensive in the region with regards to the electricity rates.

Secondly Mr Speaker, the things called out by the Minister....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg your pardon Leader of the Opposition; I would like to call upon the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Ministers of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I wish to ask the Leader of the Opposition to present the records of his claims about Samoa being the most expensive country in the Pacific in terms of electricity, because the CEO has records of all the Pacific Islands electricity rates. It is fitting to have these records as verification of these claims to assist us with our work.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will now call upon the member for Siumu.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu):** Mr Speaker the Leader of the Opposition that the cost of electricity is too high. May I recommend a solution to this matter?

With utmost respect.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker the member's comments are very amusing which I won't mind. But the Minister's statement about coconut oil or patiki is now shut down since its operation in Vaitele – DESICO. Why? It went bankrupt. The STEC vehicle is now damaged due to the so called DESICO oil.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg your pardon Minister and also Leader of the Opposition but I need to remind you all that Samoa is expensive. Secondly, the mention of failure concerning the DESICO and oils it procured during those years. I would caution the Leader of the Opposition to refrain from bluntly reminding us of these failures. The government is trying effortlessly to procure and perfect best alternatives to obtain full potential for a betterment lively hood. However, you are discouraging the effort of the government in finding new ways to better equipped and stabilize us to limit the expensive cost of living including electricity costs. Researchers have proven the use of coconut oil to produce fuel for vehicles.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

Leader of the Opposition, you have also claimed that Samoa is the most expensive country in the Pacific region, when however, the Minister of the Samoa Power Corporation is in possession of these records.

Please bring forth proof of these claims because if they are proven false, it would be very displeasing to ones reputation and status.

You may take the floor Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Thank Mr Speaker. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to present evidence of his statement regarding unsafe use of bio-diesel. The country is listening in and they too can judge your words; the people are not stupid. Speaking politics and campaigning is very different given in the initial speeches of the House. I ask to bring forth evidence because if we are debating on bio-diesel oil and international standards, I wouldn't know of any other records...hence I ask that evidence be tabled from the Leader of the Opposition in the House. With respect.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker this is unexpected of the Minster who should've confirmed the said claims with the CEO and the staff. That is not my job, you can go ahead and confirm it yourself if that is what you want.

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition...I beg your pardon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment; I am talking with the utmost respect. If the Cabinet was to set a motion on these claims then what? Don't be insistence as it will lead to making mistakes I beg forbearance. The country is listening in to statement on damaging vehicles due to biodiesel fuel which is inappropriate given government long initiatives.

I instruct the removal of these words from parliamentary records because they are inappropriate. The SROS team has completed high quality standards analysis on this and vehicles have long been operated for almost ten years in relation to the biodiesel fuel produced from coconut oil and yet you are raising such statements? I instruct to withdraw the following words, "*Samoa o se atunuu e taugata i le eletise.*"

I call upon the member to resume your statement.

*(Statements withdrawn: "Ua leaga taavale a le STEC ona o le suauu lea na faataitai, ioe. O le upu moni lea, o Samoa e aupito sili ona taugata le eletise.")*



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** Mr Speaker I agree with the decision however, I would just like to state that the Leader of the Opposition enjoys drinking beer. Perhaps he had gathered this information from a bar.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Leader of the Opposition to finish his statement.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I apologize Hon Minister if I have offended...however I would not have stated this if it wasn't factual. But I urge the Minister of the Finance and the government to carefully consider if the government should pay off this debt. This debt may have small additions of 5cents to \$1tala. Let the people be free of this burden by laying it on the business people...

**MR SPEAKER:** Minister of Finance you may stand.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker I am sure the Leader for the Opposition is well aware of the Airport Authority's loan the government is currently paying, a loan that was made during his time as former Cabinet Minister. The government is not stupid as we are trying our best to make ends meet and lessen the burden on everyone.

**MR SPEAKER:** Conclude your statements Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker that loan was particularly paid by the Airport Authority, whilst this loan is now in the hands of the country. So I plead to take it into consideration.

**MR SPEAKER:** You may take the stand Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, for the record and for the clarification of this matter, I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition that the \$29million tala being paid by the government is indeed the country as well. There is no difference. However, the Cabinet will look into it and make appropriate arrangement for the whole country. Thank you.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The Minister has now stated clearly that the Cabinet will consider this hence I will move on. But I need to remind that the Airport loan was paid by the 3cents deductions incurred from the revenue earning whilst electricity is personally paid.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

It is true that revenue earning is government funds but isn't this making the people and business operators suffer such as the testimony of the Hon Minister of Finance. That is submission for consideration. With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Leader of the Opposition, I believe the House is now clear of your concern. However I need to remind you that we have an audience with the whole country... *'tatou te seu foi le manu ae tagai i le galu'*. People are observing and absorbing the statements we make. Don't let politics dominate other things. We have the talkers as well as the observers, *"E iai e faalele, e i ai foi e maitau."* Whatever claim we lay on the government, who is the government? The government is the people. Taxation involves the entire country. We have taken your recommendation depending on enough public consultations. The work carried out by the EPC is not easy which is still ongoing. We have the coconut oil, patiki, sun, wind and we may seek the ocean next. Why? We cannot generate the rising costs of fuel worldwide, it's impossible. If oil overflow was found in Fugalei, it would've been a relief. In the meantime, pardon the House; let us prioritize the illegal tampering of power in the country. This main issue should be heedful to the power meter offenders before a decision is reached. Chairperson, do you have additional comment?

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Mr Speaker I wish to remind the members that the debated report is on the annual year 2009-2010. The answers to those comments will be given once that report is tabled including electricity tariffs. As for this particular report, it is reported clearly for Parliament's decision.

I extend sincere appreciation to the CEO and the employees for all the hard work and dedication. Thank you for assisting the Committee through its site visits, findings and report.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Chairperson, but I now call upon the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for further statements.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity; I would like to greet each and every respected member present here today. I believe one of the families in my constituency has a funeral, may God comfort the dear wife and children and all extended relatives and families.

I wish to share clarifications to shed light to the raising comments. Renewable energy has long been introduced into Samoa given the hydro power electric. This has been established for over 20 years including Taelefaa, Fuluasou, Alaoa and other damaged hydro powers in the past.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

This is one areas that require renovation from previous cyclones using the ADB funding assistance. These are in the designing plans - Loto Samasoni water project and the *Fale o le Fee* or the House of the Eel and part of Alaoa. If these areas are properly maintained using the potential sides, this will effectively improve and produce renewable energy.

Solar system has also been introduced into Samoa for over five years now and is currently operated in the island of Apolima. Furthermore, the secretary of the SBC arrived with the Japanese 400 kilowatts agreement will be launched next month on the 11<sup>th</sup> to assist Samoa. Branches in Salelologa, Vaitele and Tanugamanono have already been commissioned with installed... It is the belief of the Committee that plenty of oil will be saved once these Greek solar are in place. The secretary also emphasized that Samoa is the first Pacific island to have offered this project, why; due to the efforts of the Committee. It is the Committee's intention to prioritize assistance for Samoa's benefit as a whole. In addition, the New Zealand assistance of 2.6 megawatts solar power situated in Tuanaimato will officially launch in the upcoming SIDS Conference.

These programs from companies will undergo analysis procedure to ensure that they are well executed before a power purchase agreement is being sought. The execution usually takes place after two years. The Corporation also undertook an expression of interest to determine the lowest bidder for solar energy supply. Thus, this process has been ongoing for quite some time now and is currently undertaken to obtain the best solution for the lowest cost effective solar energy.

We had a company that worked in collaboration with the Corporation on the bio-mass undertaking responsible with...however we received giant grass plant. The report from the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) stated that this species is very invasive, which means if we were to bring this plant to our shores, it would affect our environment so we stopped it. Lest we strive for low cost effective things that can in turn harm the environment. So we must work according to policies and regulations. It isn't easy. It requires careful consideration and proper planning.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Hon Minister; I give the opportunity to the member's interjection.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker thank you for the clarification on these issues. We now know that hydro electricity is the cheapest and viable similarly to other Pacific nations.

Based on the Committee's report and the Minister's intention involving several areas we aim to investigate. This is why SOPAC was established in Fiji to deal directly with investigations of this sort.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee  
Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of  
the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P.  
2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for  
the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

This is where they undertook negotiations with the village of Sili and other villages with large water mass which in fact, we can only take solar energy from the sun. I think that is enough for us and leave aside plant related activities given the limited land space available.

Water is essential for consideration your honor.

**MR SPEAKER:** I get the member's view. I gave you the opportunity for clarification hence you are giving a new question that is intolerable. I call upon the member to continue the response.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker, the status on implementations and assessment is an ongoing process for lowering electricity costs as aimed by many. Anything involves...without impacting other things. We are working closely with the government.

Overall, upon the launching of renewable solar energy from the sun this will immensely assist with the distribution of hydro power diesel. We have the 24 hour service at Vaitele to sell cash power which is a cost cutting matrix or scratch cards to reduce high expenditure. That was quite costly regarding network links between the retail shops and the financial institutions or banks. This is based on an annual contract review with one particular bank to seek the most effective way to use this system.

With regards to cash power scratch cards from New Zealand Company, we've received complaints about it hence we have changed to more convenient, effective cash power cards from China. It isn't easy to lay confidence in the hands of foreigners who could also bring problems. '*E asa lava le faiva ae le asa faaletonu*' hence the intention is to reduce expenditure costs. The meter takers also have loopholes in this undertaking. The aim of installing cash power was to minimize the consequences arising involving the turning in of various families to the Police due to unpaid electricity bills and so forth. 70 families are being investigated by the police for tampering with their power meters including 200 cash power faulty machines. Therefore, the committee is looking at forming a special division to handle the cash power system in particular. They will conduct a mandatory task to minimize the system loses. According to cash power updates, there was an estimated 3% delay in the cash power system. This is now in the hands of the police for further investigations.

The case with the street lights and posts improvement is executed and funded by the CSO through the government. I believe I should also shed some light on the issue concerning the increase power rate since the CEO of the EPC and the staff has already launched it. The increase will not impact the users utilizing 50 units, however the users using 50-100units and above will incur a 2%, 7% charge which is how business operates.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

A discount will also be applicable for the businesses that are able to pay off their bills ahead of time, 2% will be deducted from their fees. The success that is to be expected of these outcomes should rise by 5% if things run smoothly. Furthermore, the division should also aid with managing power costs for efficient purposes.

The Power Sector Expansion Project commenced in 2008 and should be completed in 2016. The aim is to raise standards with quality service given the new change with the Fiaga project. As witnessed lately electricity is hardly problematic. The oil price is still maintained, and varies at times. The persons who are consolidating these prices take into account the price rise. The work is currently undertaken and by the 24 of April, these will go into effect with a public notice for the information of the House.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker if I may....

**MR SPEAKER:** I would like to remind the member that I will not be allowing any more queries.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I want to ask about surcharge that I raised before. I wish to know the difference between the surcharge tariff fee and surcharge. Is this surcharge still effective when the fee is imposed? This new tariff increase will be very costly if the surcharge is added given that currently, it is almost 33% surcharge in total. That is burdening the public. Or is the surcharge removed once the tariff increases?

**MR SPEAKER:** You may rise.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** That is the situation. Another arrangement includes the 28% increase. This involves the fuel charge instead of surcharge that is consistent involving rising and dropping price rates for one year. This will commence in April this year. If the solar supply builds up to produce the hydro systems taking the Corporation's appropriate analysis on system loses, then will see good change. The work isn't easier as you can play fire but not electricity. It's a field that can be harmful killing the workers. Hence we must work together. The aim is to distribute power services throughout the entire country through your invaluable contribution.

The allegations involving the EPC employees are being investigated by the police. But we must work collectively to minimize these issues from rising. Otherwise bear with us. Thank you Chairperson and the Committee for the report. Thank you also to the Parliament for the suggestions for improvement of the EPF for the country's benefit.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 57, Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on P.P.2011/2012 No. 60, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Electric Power Corporation for the period 2012-2014 & P.P. 2011/2012 No. 92, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Consideration**

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. I trust everyone is well understood with regards to this electricity matter.

*Report was approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** In accordance to the Standing Order 54, the government is to present a Response to the recommendations for the government on the Select Committee Report within 90 days since the report has been approved by the Legislative Assembly.

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 58, THE WORKS, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P. 2011/2012 NO. 65, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009 & P.P.2011/2012 NO. 90, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010 - CONSIDERTION**

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative of Assembly considers the Committee Report that presents its Finding, Resolutions and Recommendations.*

*Seconded by the member for Aiga i le Tai, member for Independent Voters, member for Palauli, member for Falelatai and Samatau and member for Vaimauga Sisifo.*

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** At the conclusion of its Findings, the Committee recommends the Government:

**“RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Provides financial assistance to the Authority in payment of loans due to the impact of its revenue.
2. Considers the function of collecting Airspace fee whether is it equitable if given to the Authority due to their responsibility of controlling aircraft movement as a requirement of this specific operation.
3. The Board should control its travel expenses and budget allocations for staff overseas training & workshops. If it is costly to fund these travels, consider if it's economical to send a Specialist from overseas to conduct these programmes and workshops in Samoa.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 58, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P. 2011/2012 No. 65, Annual Report of the Samoa  
Airport Authority for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 &  
P.P.2011/2012 No. 90, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority  
for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2010 - Consideration**

4. Supports the Authority's renovation work plan include:
  - Part of the Runway which started damaging;
  - Departure and Arrival Terminals;
  - The VIP Room
5. Recommend the Authority to comply with the Act in submitting of its Annual Report to Parliament.

**RESOLUTION:**

At the conclusion of its considerations, the Committee resolved to recommend:

That the Assembly approves the P.P.2011/2012, No.65, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 & P.P.2011/2012 No. 90, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010."

**MR SPEAKER:** As most of you may now know, this report is based on the year 2008/2009 and since it's quite behind schedule nevertheless we must resume our proceedings. Therefore, I believe the report is clear and concise, involving no further mention of this matter. Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang, you may stand.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker and I apologize for disturbing your speech concerning the report. I would also like to thank the Chairperson and also the committee for the report. However there is just one thing I want to be clear on. There is mention of the Airport Authority taking over the Fagalii Airport again and I was wondering how this is going to affect the Polynesian Airlines. Statistically speaking, the Airport Authority is not gaining much. But if Fagalii Airport is under their authority, both the Polynesian Airlines and the Airport Authority will go bankrupt. That is where I need clarification Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Respectable Chairperson I believe you have further reports to be received.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** The concern raised by the member is not included in this report nor the following year. Perhaps future reports will include the issue that is troubling the member. As for the relationship between the Airport Authority and Polynesia, we haven't yet received any reports on this. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Member for Faleata West you may take the floor.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 58, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P. 2011/2012 No. 65, Annual Report of the Samoa  
Airport Authority for the Financial Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 &  
P.P.2011/2012 No. 90, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority  
for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2010 - Consideration**

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Mr Speaker, in truth the Fagalii Airport is not bankrupt. That had never existed given the light traffic congestion. But bankruptcy could be declared due to the heavy government capital and assets that produces depreciation. As the member for the Individual Voters knows, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang, the other reason why people claim Fagalii Airport as bankrupt is because less travelers are using the international airport instead of this one hence the CEO of AAA was responsible for managing all ports for security purposes.

**MR SPEAKER:** Member for the Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang you may take the floor.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, I've been mentioned, I did not say that the Fagalii Airport is broke, I simply wanted to be clear of its unfixed operations. I know Fagalii Airport is good for business but the issue I raised concerns its operations. That is all Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Member for the Individual Voters, your statement is well taken given government's move to incorporate different sections to manage the civil aviation corporation. Hence let us leave it with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and government security policies. Please take the floor Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker, the 2011 Report and its outstanding loan was during the member for Faleata West's time but works have been well executed. The Cabinet hasn't yet given a report on the Fagalii Airport. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*Report was approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** In accordance to the Standing Order 54, the government is to present a response to the Legislative Assembly on the Select Committee within 90 days since report was approved by the Legislative Assembly.

I believe we have come to our normal recess, parliamentary proceedings will continue when we return.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess time at 11.21am.*

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee Report on the P.2012/2013 No.73, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 - Consideration**

**MR SPEAKER:** I now declare the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I trust you have all been refreshed and replenished with sustenance as per usual when in our parliamentary sessions. Therefore, I wish to extend a word of thanks for your patience and serenity. We have come to the second part of the Report and Regulations as stated by the Orders of the Day.

We shall now continue our work with the next report mentioned in the orders of the day.

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 59, THE WORKS, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO. 73, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010- CONSIDERATION**

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Mr Speaker I stand to express gratitude for the breakfast preparations on behalf of the Parliament and also yourself. Thank you to those who prepared the refreshments for the Parliaments proceedings.

Furthermore, I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly of Samoa considers the Committee Report presenting its FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS and RESOLUTION.*

*Seconded by the member for Faasaleleaga No.4, a member for the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him, member for Aiga ile Tai, and member for Palauli and member for Alataua.*

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Mr Speaker the following are the recommendations of the Committee:

**“RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on its findings the Committee recommends that the Government:-

1. Recommends the Authority to monitor the performance of the successful Road Construction Contracts, to ensure the achievements of quality performance, to minimize expenses on road maintenance with regards to torrential rain and heavy load trucks.
2. The Authority should work closely with the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation in constructing maps of underground electricity lines and water pipe lines to avoid road destruction when relocating underground electricity lines and water pipelines.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

3. Conducts public awareness programs on the community's role in maintaining village access roads. Having the public to play their role will save public funds.
4. Considers Dealer Plates which is illegally used by some Car Dealers to register their sold cars.
5. Recommends the Board and the Management to consider the registration of vehicles in order to ensure the compliance of registration requirements for the safety of road transport.
6. Reconsiders reduction of speed humps as road switch project is smoothly continued. The Authority should also continue its Awareness Program on road Signage, in order to assist traffic transport. Road signage also should be both in English and Samoan version.
7. Recommends the Authority to submit its Annual Reports to Parliament in compliance with the Act.
8. Conducts staff training to improve public relation skills with regards to receptionist's role, as the Committee noted public concerns and complaints to the Authority.

**RESOLUTION:**

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly:-

That the P.P.2012/2013 No, 73, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be approved."

With all due respect Mr Speaker I would like to announce that the recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8 have already been implemented by the Transport Authority and this is their first report since the development of the Ministry of the Government.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to the honorable Chairman for the clear explanation. Thank you for clarifying and saving us all the queries regarding the contents of the report and its progress. This is number 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, however in accordance to the Standing Orders it is mandatory to give the opportunity to members for comments.

Therefore, I give the opportunity to the member from Faleata West.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, Chairperson and also the Committee for the clear and well presented report. I also thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the wonderful efforts put into implementing the well developed transport and infrastructure and the many good changes, I congratulate you all.

But I wish to comment on a few issues with regards to the report. First of all I am grateful that the road humps are included in the report. These humps have become a nuisance because at first they were installed hurriedly given the road switch in the past to ensure public safety. But now that the people are familiar with it, it's becoming a hassling. Secondly, some speed humps have faded labeling producing road accidents. For example reports on the radio confirmed a deceased man from head injury whilst crossing the road and was hit by a bus. Another road hump disadvantage are the different heights and width labels. I hope the Committee will look into this matter. We also have an illegal crossing area by pedestrians from the SNPF Plaza to the DBS building that causes road accidents to vehicles. People would also cross the NPF building from Amau which is illegal and unsafe.

Another thing is road signage. One tourist mentioned the lack of road signage around Samoa and I am unaware of the respective Ministry whether it's the Samoa Tourism Authority or the Ministry of Works and Transport. However, road signs are very important because it guides and gives directions to the visitors, for instance, a sign should state the location of hotels and reserve areas. Moreover, some are confused with the two lane road as some usually take the middle road instead of moving in one lane, creating difficulty to another vehicle.

Therefore, I recommend the committee to provide awareness programs to educate the public with the use of the road lanes. Government also initiated a bus stop project on the roadside that had suddenly stopped. This is increasingly becoming a pressing problem as some buses would automatically stop in the middle of the road blocking the traffic. Another matter is the re-amendment law in New Zealand; I think we are the only country left in....

**MR SPEAKER:** Will the Sergeant of the House please pick up the member's bible.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Honorable Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Bible should not distract you whilst speaking. Please stand.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** The legislation I am talking about is the give way rule as we aim to be in line with New Zealand and Australia for security purposes. Legally speaking it can produce accidents if we don't practice it now Hon Minister.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

Another thing is the stop sign. Drivers should learn to adhere to the road signs and stop instead of driving slowly. This is the cause of road accidents especially in Vaitele area given the many connecting roads. I think Vaitele now consists of 40 or 50 four way roads. Hence road signage should be enforced to reduce road accidents not only with stop signs but the roadside area that is hard to view given the overgrown grass. Please take this into consideration.

Lastly Mr Speaker, the road situated near Amau. With the upcoming conference, I think it is best to prevent pedestrians from crossing alongside here as majority cross it every day. I wish to congratulate the Committee and the Ministry for the enhanced and improved works done on the roads. I also recommend an increasing fare rate for the bus and taxi operators given the costly business they conduct. But on a reasonable scale we should also consider the passengers.

May the good Lord bless this meeting. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Malo. I now give the opportunity to this side of the House. Member for the Independent Voters Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang you may stand, followed by the member for Siumu.

Member for Independent Voters you may stand.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I extend appreciation to the Chairperson and the Committee for this report. Well done. Mr Speaker there are only two concerns I wish to clear on. First, recommendation 4 states for illegal use of plates by car dealers. Is it illegal to import vehicles that are driven directly to the Car Dealers Company using illegal number plates? That is the question.

For recommendation 5, a request to the Ministry to consider the arranged vehicle policy under government mandate on tinted windows. This is in regards to the many government vehicles seen around with tinted windows. This should be reviewed in compliance with government policies and procedures.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Siumu you may stand.

**Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe there is high expectation for our reports to be approved urgently but I stand to voice important issues.

First of all I must agree with the concerns of the member for Faleata West regarding the double lanes given that majority drive slowly in these lanes whilst others drive speedily due to their busy schedules. Hence I ask the Committee and the Ministry and consider this thoroughly by creating awareness programs and perhaps avail the inner lane for the fast driving vehicles.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

Secondly, it is recommended to conduct trainings for huge vehicles particularly buses and tell them to be mindful when on the road. We are aware of the negative impact regarding road accidents hence we must take heed of this matter.

In addition to that, the roads at Tiavi to Siumu, Safata and Falealili are usually blocked by these large vehicles traveling at a very slow speed resulting to traffic jam up to Apia. So is the urge to the drivers to make way to other vehicles and clear the traffic congestion. Those are some of my concerns, but if I may, I wish to greet my constituency as today marks one milestone for the launching of the district's Primary School in courtesy of the government of China.

I render my apologies for not being there to witness this very remarkable achievement given our Parliamentary sittings, however, I convey heartfelt gratitude to the Government of China for the generosity and kind assistance through funding this project. To the Honoraries of Sa Asomua and Aiga e Lua ma lau Fetalaiga Tuuu and your Aiga Sa Tuuu, the Falelua of Tulafale, the Fofoga of Alataua, Utaileuo and the distinguished of the Faletolu I wish you all the best and pray for support and wise decision. Sincere thanks to the Chinese contractors for completing this task. May the Lord bless the work and may he continue to bless our district. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now ask the member for Sagaga le Usoga to take a stand.

**Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM (Sagaga le Usoga):** Thank you for the opportunity. I wish to contribute pursuant to our report this morning. Congratulations to the Chairperson and the Committee for the well done effort. Thank you also for the good undertaken to taxi vehicles labeling to reduce illegal doing at the time. This helps locate the taxi stands easily particularly with committing illegal acts such as Togo Aasa Number 74.

I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and LTA for accepting the Ministry's advice to work collaboratively with the taxi operators. The new give way rule to your right by New Zealand is again changed and is now effective in Samoa but giving way to the left. For instance the Lalovaea road to Lucky Foodtown intersection, I will have to give way to the vehicles on my left.

Currently, New Zealand is banning this rule as it produces numerous accidents. That is the plea for a review on this given that its inappropriate for now. We've deliberately taken this into effect when perhaps it's not in our Road Code book. Thank you to the Ministry for the road humps improvement for efficient and effective transportations. Last week, I noticed that some road humps still unfixed. The vehicles in Savaii are devastatingly destroying these humps. Considering our visitors from abroad and the traveling public, this area requires improvement.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

I also request the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure about the power shutdown on Saturdays. You see, we operate a small printing business on Saturdays but the power shutdown commences fixing work from 11am delaying the printing work for the pastors. We ask to have the power cut from 1.00pm or 1.30pm in order for us to meet our scheduled tasks. We don't have much to purchase any power generator machines. That is the request with respect. Have a blessed meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. We get your concern. Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo did you want a chance?

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA:** I think my neighbor is looking for a power generator, I had one from Tutuila, if my friend here wants to buy it out of me, I can do so at a 50% discount. With respect.

Firstly I congratulate the Chairperson and the Committee for the report. Perhaps this is one of the very outstanding committees given the good recommendations given. I guess this is to do with the different backgrounds they hold. Comprising of the member for Aana Alofi No3, member for Gagaemauga No. 2, member for Faleata West, member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga, and member for Palauli. This is a well prepared report and I salute you for a job well done. I stand only to support and stand by the presented views raised. Firstly, recommendation 2 states the collaborating efforts of the SWA and EPC in laying out power lines and pipe lines which should've been conducted by government in the past.

In addition, *'o le tele o popo e sua lelei ai le lolo, a tele sulu, lelei e maua ai foi figota lelei.*" Meaning the more help earned the better the work. This doesn't only involve fixed pipe lines, electricity and telephone lines underground, the MCIT building also situates attached oil pipes connecting towards the government building main road. Internationally, these pipelines are labeled in colors underground for easier identification. Pipeline installation involving a 3 feet diameter sized pipe attached with other government sector pipes and the private sector pays a lease to the government. This saves the road destruction from frequent digging. Hence a map design for installing these pipelines underground must be obtained to identify the exact area for pipes installations. In further, recommendation 6 **concerns for road humps. The two damaged humps in Aleipata area including Lufilufi and Faleapuna** are too rough and too high. These humps can harm the motors. Humbly requesting the removal of these two humps either way or improve it for public traveling.

Lastly Mr Speaker, the mention of slow vehicles considering the upcoming SIDS conference and the busy traffic. I suggest the Hon Minister and the Committee to consider an additional lane for speedy cars particularly roads leading up to the airport, Safata and Lefaga. This new overtake lane may comprise of 50-100meters speed limit for the busy vehicles. Thank you Mr Speaker. Good day.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga you may now stand.

**Tofa FAGAAIVALU KENRICK SAMU (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance to make submission on the report.

First and foremost, thank you Chairperson and the Committee for the report. Similarly to the Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure for the great effort on our roads to maintain security for the public around the island.

However, I wish to ask the Hon Minister about the road at Tiavea. I wish to know about the road construction progress, the use of the temporary road and a signage fix at the sharp turn at Tiavea. This particular road involves several incidents in the past. For awareness purposes, it is good to properly locate this road for the public sake.

Secondly, when is the road fix completion given the number of visitors traveling in this area?

Additionally, incurred late fees on registration vehicles. The purpose is to minimize late vehicle license registration on a monthly basis. Take for instance, if your vehicle registration is due in March, an extra \$100 is charged on top of the registration fee if March is passed. I speak of damaged vehicles and delayed parts which are reasons behind these late fees. Another example involves church ministers residing abroad and during the annual Malua conference in May, they tend to pay late fees for their vehicles. This should change to two months as I said before, the main reason behind late fees is to encourage drivers to license their vehicles on the scheduled months. That's all with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will now give the opportunity to the member for Falelatai and Samatau followed by the member for the Independent Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

Member for Falelatai and Samatau please stand.

**Afioga TAEFU LEMI:** Thank you. Mr Speaker the three corners behind Vaai property to GST at Taufusi needs fixing. Recently a new solid line is labeled on the road; hence I suggest the labeling of unused lines. The problem is the old labeling lines that are covered with new paint that could eventually fade altogether.

Mr Speaker I support the views on conducting awareness programs for the new give way rule including the roundabout at Togafuafua given some drivers do not comply with road policies at this roundabout. Some have mentioned the new crossing from the old Agriculture store to NPF Plaza, I request the installment of traffic lights along this area before crossing.

Finally I wanted to ask the Chairperson, what is the size when cutting the road for pipelines installment? How long before the road is sealed? If it takes three months then that's fine, because the cross in front of the Catholic Church at Siufaga Falelatai remains unfixed for three months now.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

Those are the views. One final comment concerning the road to Falelatai involving areas where pipelines are installed although they have been sealed, but potholes still exist. That is the submission for improvement. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is the last chance before I give the chance to....

**Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to talk about road humps from Malifa to the airport comprising of 24 in total. I take it that four have been removed leaving 30 behind. I ask the Hon Minister if some humps can be omitted. The worst hump is the one located at Malie. I hear that this was installed by a member of this constituency and am relieved to see that some have been removed.

Furthermore, road digging for pipelines lay out. Mr Speaker, there are several reserves along the roadside area for pipelines installations without damaging the roads. I ask the Minister to consider this to save expenditure costs.

An advice for drivers at night considering night vision, it has come to notice that most vehicles have one good head light whilst the other is very dim. I advise the LTA to consider this when passing the vehicles. This is common as we all drive in the night. Furthermore, the road labeling in night is very difficult to locate especially when it rains heavily. These lines are vital for drivers to guide them, I the urge the Committee to look into this issue.

Moreover some breakdown vehicles or flat tire are fixed in the middle of the road. But we do have tow-car or tow-trucks services for security purposes. Personally I think this is inappropriate. Lastly I speak of road signage which is very important. Proper road signage must be fixed in areas like Lelata, Faatoia and Magiagi.

I remember one incident involving a friend from overseas who drove to the four way road at Saleufi near the new market. This road didn't have any road labeling, traffic lights doubtlessly two, three years ago. As my friend was driving, he drove ahead because there was no light. The police came and asked what had happened, the man said he thought he was free to go since there was no line and the police said, "Do not be smart." This is what happens if don't have road signage to direct and guide us safely on the road. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe we have more members wanting an opportunity. Member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua, followed by the member for Aiga i le Tai.

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West):**  
Thank you for the opportunity.

I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the new speed hump at Maagiagi to Vaivase requested in previous sittings.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

Thank you for installing this much needed speed bump for the safety of vehicles and also school children.

I also wish to thank the Ministry for the road improvement from Apia Park to Moata'a. Perhaps it would be better to erect extra footpath areas as the current one ends at the Apia Park before resuming from Fagalii to Samoa College. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. I ask the members whether the nature of your speech is to thank the committee because we really need to move on with our work.

Member for Aiga i le Tai you may stand.

**Susuga IFOPO MATIA FILISI (Aiga i le Tai):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I stand to express gratitude to the Chairperson and the Committee. This is probably the fifth time I've raised this with the CEO and the Hon Minister regarding the vehicle queue at Mulifanua. It's been reported that there have been accidents in the road from Falelatai to the wharf pulling down the passenger waiting area by some vehicles.

A humble request to the Committee to consider large trucks carrying dirt, boulders and sand. We must establish a rule concerning these vehicles because they tend to drop piled dirt, sand and rocks along the way troubling other vehicles in line. With respect Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I now call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No. 4):** Thank you for the opportunity. I trust we've absorbed other members' opinions and despite being part of the Committee, I still wish to raise the road at Vaitele for everyone's protection. As I watched the workers digging up the road drainage from Vaitele Uta near Vailima OTT area, I noticed that the drainage was terribly deep, almost covering one's body if you were to stand in there. Now I am unsure of the responsible contractors/company, how is this done on road shoulders. I request the Hon Minister and the staff to consider these areas for improvement to avoid accidents on the road. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I now give opportunity to the Deputy Speaker before passing opportunity to the others.

**Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to voice a word of thanks to the Committee and Chairperson for the well prepared report, regardless of previous reports, well done on your efforts. Thank you to the Minister and Ministry for the road constructions at Salailua.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

The speed humps around the big island of Savaii is well built. However, if plans are in place to remove these speed humps I also advise the removal of the road signage. Sometimes I don't see any humps but the humps signage are seen in Savaii and Upolu. It is frustrating because I follow the signs on the road.

Hon Minister and Management (LTA) I pity the uniform used by LTA on the road. I see that it's fading out. Why not cater for a new uniform as these are the first people we see every day on the road if budget permits.

It's becoming irritating to hear the subject matter regarding loaded trucks. Recently there was one incident involving a truckload in front of my residence. The right side of the lorry got stuck off the side of the road while the left side was still on the road because it was raining. It took a whole day to remove the lorry toppling over the load from a disjointed load carrier. Hon Minister I simply want to remind you of these issues, because accidents are bound to occur from the removal of latches or covers that contains loads.

And lastly, a new road at Falelauniu hasn't been in use recently but is poorly maintained (i.e. dirty) given the sun. However, with regards to the report, I wish to thank the committee for the work well done. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to the member. I now give this opportunity to the member for Vaisigano No. 1 and then to the member for Anoamaa West.

**Afioga TUFUGA GAFOALEATA FAITUA (Vaisigano No. 1):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity, and the Chairperson of the Committee of Works, Transport & Environment for the LTA report.

A word of advice Mr Speaker on road widening; I have observed the usual road blockade at Lelata after dropping my kids off to school at NUS given the single lane. I recommend the construction of a new lane here to avoid the road blockage. Travelers to Apia are often blocked behind travelers to Vailima. Perhaps if the Vaisigano Bridge was finished, this would've reduced the traffic congestion.

Hon Minister, my village has already submitted a written request concerning our roads. The road at Matavai to Utulua is not wider enough to cater for two vehicles unscathed. We've already given a written request but once again I beg of you for your consideration.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is the last opportunity. I now call upon the member for Anoamaa West to take the stand.

**Tofa ALO FULIFULI TAVEUVEU (Anoamaa West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I will be brief.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

The issue is the parking vehicles on the roadside particularly during the busy road. It's an issue as some vehicles take the whole day from 10am to the evening that can likely produce accidents.

Secondly, there's a crooked coconut tree at Luatuanuu village where the Hon Deputy Prime Minister resides and I am not sure whether this is a good time to mention this, however this coconut tree is situated at the hilltop and is grown over the road. I've always wanted to cut it down that can likely cause car accident.

Therefore, I recommend the responsible persons, whether it is the Minister of Works or the LTA to look into these concerns for the safety of our people.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the assistance.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** Mr Speaker I would like an opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Are you offering assistance to cutting down the coconut Toleafoa?

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** That is exactly what I am going to do Mr Speaker, because I am from Luatuanuu.

This coconut tree is reserved, if observed carefully, it is tied up tightly to avoid road accidents. However, I will ask the family owner if the coconut is in jeopardy of accidents before I have it removed.

Thank you.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker I would like a word please.

**MR SPEAKER:** I now call upon the Father of the Constituency.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** I rise to announce that the coconut in question is mine and it is indeed stable and invisible to any accidents on the road. Additionally, I am thankful that my fellow member from Anoamaa West is volunteering to further look into this matter. Perhaps we can go together and assess the state of the coconut tree. But I appreciate the reminder.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the member for the reminder. We received news on streetlight posts falling on one of the vehicles in Vaivase. Therefore, I thank the member for this reminder. I now call upon the Chairperson before I give the opportunity to the Minister.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Thank Mr Speaker. I wish to thank the members who raised the LTA report. With the utmost respect Mr Speaker I shall respond accordingly with what we discussed with the Committee. As for the other requests I will leave it to the Minister.

The issue concerning road humps as mentioned by the member for Falelata West according to the report is now being removed.

Currently some road humps are still maintained for the school children's safety and church locations near the road; however the spirit is to remove a number of humps.

The unsafe crossing as mentioned in front of the SNPF Plaza by the people is something the Ministry of Police has been striving for years. This cross is swamped by people short cutting to the market, bus station which is a huge concern. As the House and member are aware of now, it is not an easy task. We have thought of installing a gate to stop this from happening but there are also the businesses and company's interests to take into consideration. In addition, a sign has been posted to notify people that it is unacceptable to cross this side of the road but sadly it is ignored. However, Police Officers and LTA are patrolling this area for the safety of the public.

The road signage installation is currently ongoing. This is witnessed from the airport to Falealili, Lefaga and the Aleipata area. Road signages help guide the drivers for road safety. Despite useful attempts, these road signs are usually destroyed by the locals.

Education awareness programs are continuously conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Police with regards to protection laws for security reasons on the road. The use of road lanes policy according to the recent approved law is no difference. Similarly to arrow signs considering a person without a license and he/she is confused with the road signage, they ought to be taken by the Ministry of Police and LTA when caught.

The raising matter on car dealer plate by the member for the Independent Voters Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang is purchased by the car dealer owner and is resold in the country. The number plate is used to obtain new imported vehicles. This dealer plate is only allowed when transporting the new vehicles from the wharf to the car dealer location; it must be removed as soon as it reaches the car dealer company. But the problem is that these new vehicles are unlicensed which is illegal. But according to the law, tint windows and wind screen are prohibited for taxis and buses except for private vehicles. Unless there is a proposed legislation in the future then that can change.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg your pardon honorable Chairperson, but I give this opportunity to the interrupting member.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Please forgive me Chairperson for interrupting your wonderful speech. With all due respect I stand with regards to government vehicles pursuant to government policies and regulations. I do understand the taxis and buses regulation according to the clear recommendation on prohibited tint windows and government licenses.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Chairperson you may continue.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Thank you to the member for the query. I believe the Minister understands your concerns and I shall leave it to him to respond with regards to government vehicles. However the vehicles I mentioned involves taxis, buses and private cars which is given in the report. Regardless I thank the member for the reminder.

The case with the large transports taking up the entire road from Falealili, Siumu and Safata is true. I absolutely agree with the member for Siumu. I suppose it must be a mental health problem that comes with the job or something else entirely. Either way, the Authorities are working towards improving this matter.

The topic raised by the member for Sagaga le Usoga about taxi labeling. Although this is a good initiative to easily identify lost items and issues involving illegal acts. In addition the Committee and LTA are working towards producing ID cards for taxi drivers so that the upcoming SIDS conference would employ suitable taxi drivers for the delegates.

The issue on give way rule is gradually put into practice in compliance to the new regulation, but perhaps the next report from the LTA will consider the proposed actions based on your recommendations. The humps in Savaii are probably the most perfectly built humps in the country. But the essence is to improve and repair road humps for security of pedestrians particularly the children.

I wish to thank the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo for submitting the speed humps in Faleapuna and Lufilufi but as given, the Ministry is currently undertaking this task as discussed in the report.

The issue by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo regarding the late fees; it's true, this practice started I think in 2009, 2010 until now in response to unlicensed vehicles specifically buses and taxi vehicles. Money is not important but the security of drivers on the road is essential with legal licensing hence if complied accordingly with the rules, then work is lighter.

Moreover, the member for Falelatai Samatau talked about round about areas...which I'm sure everyone is aware of according to the regulations. The first vehicle to reach the roundabout area must give way to all sides. At first we gave way to the left and when we had the road switch, we give way to the right including this roundabout rule...but this is promoted in our education awareness programs for everyone's benefit. I suppose most of the issues have been....



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the member to stand.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I wish to ask the honorable Chairperson on the matter raised by the member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafai Tamapua. The cliff at the Magiagi has encountered car accidents twice already. I wish to understand the rule when traveling from the Samoa College and another car travels from Faatoia to this Magiagi intersection, which car travels first and who gives way? I'm sure the honorable Chairperson is familiar with these public awareness programs from the road switch.

**Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA:** Mr Speaker with all due respect, a new hump has been erected in that area to indicate slow down, stop whilst moving downwards is a free way all hence traveling upward is a right off way hence the signages are there for assistance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I think it is very important to take heed of this considering the moving vehicle from Lelata to Samoa College which is fine but a vehicle taking a turn to Magiagi, that is exactly where the signage should be installed regardless of the fixed road humps, it is good to be mindful of this central concern.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Chairperson has spoken; you slow down and stop when driving from Samoa College and free way use the brain when turning to Magiagi. That is done. You may stand.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker I believe it has been clearly clarified....

**MR SPEAKER:** I now give the opportunity to the Minister's response since we only have two responses. We still have chances. Hon Minister you may stand.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** The members of Parliament have spoken with regards to the contents of the Committee Report. As noted this is the first report of the LTA since 2009/2010 and I suppose it is also why there are numerous concerns raised to enhance this service. It is clear that the number of humps all around Samoa has reduced by 70% and if observed correctly the construction of the four lanes from Lepea to Vailoa cease to entertain any humps on these parts of the road. Due to environmental impact restrictions, the Cabinet has decided to omit all humps in these areas.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
- Consideration**

By records since the new change on additional humps was implemented from Lepea to Vailoa, we've had five to six incidents in front of the Vailoa gas station. The last incident killed two small children which is severely terrifying. The purpose of installing road humps is to ensure safety on the roads otherwise now that we've removed humps, road accidents is experienced. That is government intention; we plan accordingly for the people's protection. But we shall continue improvement work from Vaitele to Saina to be completed by the end of the year.

The crossing in front of the RSA is less than 100meters from the SNPF Plaza to the Flea Market hence additional crossing is unnecessary. We now have regulations to comply with to ensure security maintenance for everyone.

The district of Faleata West appears to have the most damaging signage hence we continuously urge the public to be considerate of these resources. The signages are there to minimize road accidents. However, the continuous destruction of these resources increases expenditure costs. Small issues can be remedied immediately through normal procedures such as written requests to the Ministry and the Minister for improvement.

The give way regulation is assessed and reviewed according to six training programs conducted in New Zealand and Australia.

There is a temporary diversion road at Tiavea for the time being. But the proposed monetary request has been approved by World Bank to carry out this project.

These are the responses to the queries. I thank you for the recommendation and well wishes for the Management and its efforts. I urge you to have faith in us as we aim to improve all requests.

With utmost respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the additional response. Anything else member for Individual Voters? We now have....

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** I want to be clarified on something. Thank you and to save time I did submit some recommendations to the Committee and am not sure how that is done.

Nevertheless, correct me if mistaken, the Chairperson stated the roundabout at Togafuaafua saying that you must give way on your right. He also stated that the first vehicle to reach the roundabout, that is the basis. Because if you are heading from Vaea Street to Tufuiopa, do you see your right or are you willing to proceed when you see another vehicle driving closer to your right side? You must give way. Do correct me if I am wrong. But that is the statement as the country is listening in. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Deputy Chairperson to assist.

26 MARCH 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No. 59, The Works, Transport & Environment Committee  
 Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 73, Annual Report of the Land  
 Transport Authority for the Financial Years Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
 - Consideration

**Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS (Palaui):** Thank you for the opportunity, I shall give our Chairperson a rest. However the answer to the question is very simple. The first vehicle to arrive at the four way stop must stop before proceeding whereas the first vehicle to arrive at the roundabout area must give way to the right hand side.

With utmost respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** Mr Speaker I stand because my constituency is listening in relation to the good news presented by members on concerning road humps in Salafai. The Chairperson has also spoken of these improved humps; nonetheless, Parliament is unclear of the persons who fixed it.

Therefore I extend sincere congratulations to the tremendous work done by the member of this constituency.

With sincere respect.

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

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker I suppose the humps are inappropriate for Savaii, the same as Lufilufi, the Authority will remove them if inappropriate.

*Report was approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** In Accordance with Standing Order 54 the government is to present a government response to the Parliament in response to the recommendation to the government from the Committee of the Select Committee within 90 days since report was approved by the Legislative Assembly.

The previous debates has taken up most of our time, however the main focus is to progress our work. Nevertheless I have observed the contents of your speeches mainly focusing on the years 2008, 2009 when we are now in 2014. I have asked the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to incorporate all these reports.

Hence the reports for one Chairperson will be coordinated into one and will be presented at the same time to go in line with your views and comments during deliberations.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 62, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2011/2012 NO. 34, ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION OF  
SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010  
- CONSIDERATION**

**MR SPEAKER:** I now call upon the honorable Chairperson to present the Findings, Recommendations and Resolution for the three Reports so that a summary is made by the Chairperson or the Minister when giving the responses. This will also ensure the speedy process of our proceedings.

Respectable Chairperson you may stand.

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly considers the Findings, Recommendations and Resolution of the Committee Report.*”

*Seconded by member for Vaa o Fonoti, member for Palauli and member for Sagaga le Falefa.*

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

**“RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Based on its findings the Committee recommends that the Government:-

1. Approved Proficiency Results of research projects should be launched at earlier stage for the public to be aware of, especially the Business People whom they can afford future operations of these projects in terms of local goods production. The Corporation should also look at possible ways to work closely with some local private businesses for market expansion.
2. Considers appropriate conditions in establishing a life insurance benefit scheme for the staff especially those who involve in conducting scientific research work.
3. Encourages the Organization to work in partnership with Samoa Water Authority and the Ministry of Health in testing drinking water and canned food products imported to Samoa.
4. Supports funding a new electric generator for SROS for the reason that most of the laboratory machines need to run within 24 hour.

**RESOLUTION:**

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly:-

That the P.P.2011/2012 No. 34, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be approved.”



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 64, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2011/2012 NO. 56,  
CORPORATE PLANS OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION OF SAMOA FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2014  
- CONSIDERATION**

**“RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on its findings the Committee recommends that the Government:-

1. Encourages collaborative strategic research work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in order to ensure the availability of raw materials such as breadfruit, avocado, cassava etc, for its future research projects.
2. Promotes Awareness Programme on approved Proficiency Results of research projects conducted, for the Private Sector and Individuals who can afford to proceed with the operation and management of businesses through applying these results.
3. Develops partnership with the Samoan Healers Association at its Medical Herbs Projects and to recognize and consider such natural medicines pursuant to International Accreditation Standards.
4. Promotes Technical Service Program and Local Research Development through working closely with Government Ministries and Corporations, in terms of revenue.

**RESOLUTION:**

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly:-

That the P.P.2011/2012 No. 56, Corporate Plan of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Period 2012-2014 be approved.”

**P.P.2013/2014, NO. 123, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO. 11, ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OF  
SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010 - 2011, & P.P.2013/2014,  
NO. 39, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION OF SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2011-  
2012 – CONSIDERATION**

**“RECOMMENDATION:**

After consideration by the Committee of the reports given, the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee recommends the following to the government:

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014, No. 123, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 11, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2010 - 2011, & P.P.2013/2014, No. 39, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2011-2012 – Consideration**

1. That the Scientific, Research Organization of Samoa establish programs that will promote goods that have already been researched and produced by the Organization out to the public for awareness. As well as to notify the public on resources that the Organization would need the public's assistance so as to ensure that we continue to have an immense supply of natural resources to be able to produce goods for exports which in turn minimizes the flow of imports into the country;
2. The Organization to work with Government Ministries such as the Samoa Water Authority, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in offering its scientific research services to ensure clean water and improved health of the public.
3. The Organization to seek avenues in which they can form partnership ties with other countries to be able enhance scientific expertise to further develop the services of the Organization;
4. The Organization is encouraged to establish and host conferences and gatherings for the Pacific to focus on enhancing scientific research skills. This will not only improve and develop its services but is another source of revenue for the Organization
5. That the Organization review its processes regarding its advice given to Government Ministries and Corporation as well as the private sector in order to increase its income to assist in providing its services and support annual Government Grant.

**RESOLUTION**

At the conclusion of findings by the Committee, it is recommended that the Legislative Assembly approves:-

That the P.P.2012/2013, No. 11, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the financial year 2010-2011 & 2012/2013 No.39, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the financial year 2011-2012.”

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you honorable Chairperson. As clearly clarified, one Ministry, one Committee and one Chairperson and a total summary for all reports. All share a common goal but the only dissimilarity is different years. In order to save time, you are only given one time to provide a clear presentation covering all concerns which is the main purpose of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and myself.

26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014, No. 123, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 11, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2010 - 2011, & P.P.2013/2014, No. 39, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2011-2012 – Consideration**

I extend appreciation to everyone in the House as we come to the end of our sitting. All thoughts and views are crucial given past reports. Regardless of time saving, we cannot disregard the significant comments given in your recommendations to the Minister and the Chairperson. Considerably, we still have 70 plus reports that we strive to complete. This House is full of thanks which cannot be avoided given the support of your constituencies. We've also seen the good works of the Ministry which isn't easy. This Ministry is government current priority considering security reasons every day. Hence is the appreciation to the CEO and the staff for performing such a huge responsibility.

Thank you also to the Hon Minister for the responses. We have program change given our Friday sitting. Due to unforeseen circumstances, pardon the absence of three Ministers traveling on government business tomorrow. The Deputy Prime Minister is also engaged with the duties of the Prime Minister this whole week. However, pursuant to our Standing Orders, Thursdays are specifically for question time from the Opposition, however due to unforeseen circumstances I am afraid we are unable to proceed.

Nevertheless answers will be presented although they may not be the final government responses, but the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Clerk will assist in every way possible to meet your queries. Do not fear the Lord will provide many more Thursdays for you to query on. Matters concerning the market have also been presented hence no need for further queries.

Before we adjourn, I give this opportunity to the....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapoo II:** Mr Speaker with all due respect I am shocked at your last minute notice because the Standing Orders are well defined concerning our rights to obtaining clarifications to some of our questions. Next Thursday when we have our sitting, we'll have numerous questions such is the plea your honor, we must comply with our Standing Orders.

With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Hon Leader of the Opposition, I thought you won't be stunned. I've made it clear that next Thursday won't be the last sitting. Furthermore, you waved your rights as the Opposition lest you forget that I too have rights as a Speaker. And if I use my right as a Speaker no other voice may over rule that.



26 MARCH 2014

**P.P.2013/2014, No. 123, The Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No. 11, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2010 - 2011, & P.P.2013/2014, No. 39, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa for the Financial Year 2011-2012 – Consideration**

I respect you however you must pay heed of my orders when managing our meetings. Most of the times you overstep your rights but I let it slide out of respect, however let us move on.

I call upon the Tuiatua Faanofonofu to end us with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1:07pm.*