

WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2013

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF STATE

Mr Speaker read the Message from His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo.

1. “MEMORANDUM for:

Mr Speaker:

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa and the Parliament Standing Order 95, consent is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to proceed upon consideration of the following Bill:

1. Police Service Amendment Bill 2013.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Tuesday 8th October in the year 2013.

(Signed): Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
O LE AO O LE MALO.

2. CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Pursuant to Standing Order 99(2) **I, TUI ATUA TUPUA TAMASESE EFI, O LE AO O LE MALO,** hereby issue the Certificate of Urgency to the Legislative Assembly to consider the Bill listed hereunder in its current Meeting.

1. Police Service Amendment Bill 2013.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Tuesday 8th October in the year 2013.

(Signed): Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
O LE AO O LE MALO.”

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013 – first reading

MR SPEAKER: I offer my utmost gratitude for this new morning and I welcome the members of the House present today. I acknowledge Gods guidance in allowing us to meet and happily praise his continuous love for us His children gathered here today.

I greet all the members of the House; Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, also to that side of the House, the Leader of Opposition and all the members of the House. Thank you for your patience in attending our proceedings this morning.

I would also like to greet the CEOs especially to Samoa listening in to our proceedings this morning.

I acknowledge the support of our country in all its dignified salutations. I believe that our country is praying for the success of our duties and orders for today.

**POLICE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2013
– first reading**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI (Minister of Police and Prisons): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Service Amendment Bill 2013 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

Motion approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

**POLICE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2013
- second reading**

MR SPEAKER: As I have received a Certificate of Urgency signed by the O Le Ao o le Malo, the Legislative Assembly will proceed to second read the Bill.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Service Amendment Bill 2013 be read a second time, and I wish to comment on it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Women Community and Social Development and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons to clarify the Bill.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: Mr Speaker and dignitaries of the House; Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and members of the House and the whole of Samoa; the Bill proposes to amend section 13 to allow overseas police officers as well as former police officers to hold the post of Commissioner of Police, to repeal Part III, Division 4 which establishes the position of Deputy Commissioner of Police and to amend section 51 of the Principal Act to improve procedures in relation to inquires into breaches of duty and punishments.

This Bill has five (5) sections. Clause 1: provides the short title and commencement of the amendment Act.

Clause 2: amends section 13 of the Principal Act and provides for overseas police officers as well as former police officers to hold the post of Commissioner of Police.

Clause 3: repeals Division 4 of Part III which is in relation to creation of the post of Deputy Commissioner.

Clause 4: amends section 51 of the Principal Act to improve matters in relation to inquiries into breaches of duty and punishment. The amendment was made to include the Assistant Commissioner as a member and to replace Commissioner with Assistant Commissioner to be the person to charge a member for any breach. Furthermore, a provision was inserted whereby the Commissioner has the discretion to impose a penalty based on recommendations made by Tribunal.

Clause 5: provides for a transitional provision for the smooth transition of the current Deputy Commissioners of Police appointed under the repealed provisions.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification of the Bill Hon Minister. I give this opportunity to any member who wishes to speak.

I beg tolerance of the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, I give the opportunity for the clarification by Government. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, the Bill has been laid before us as presented by the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

The main objective of the Bill is to expand the selection pool for the post of Police Commissioner. As seen within other Government Ministries the selection of CEO's is open to any applicant. There will be an opportunity for Samoans living overseas as well as former police officers to apply for the post.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

This is also the reason why an opportunity is given to them to compete for the post to ensure that the successful applicant meets the requirements for the post.

This is one of the Ministries that has had many complaints especially from this Parliament on the response of the Government to occurrences which is a result of poor management. It is also noted that there are a number of written complaints to Government regarding the selection of the Commissioner. What can the Government do when the selection pool of applicants is limited to locals? If there are only two or three applicants then the selection will be limited. We are aware that opening up the competition is beneficial and to do otherwise will produce unsatisfactory results.

Mr Speaker that is my additional comment to assist the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons. There is no other intention except that the work that is done is for the benefit of the country. We must answer to the wishes of the country to appoint an eligible candidate to ensure public satisfaction especially concerning public safety as pointed out by Parliament during its Proceedings.

Mr Speaker that is the additional explanation.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the comprehensive speech Hon Prime Minister for now we clearly understand the Bill proposed this morning. The floor is given to one of the former Heads of the Ministry – this is your vocation.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIO MANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I concur with the praises made by the Chair to the Almighty God above who has guided us safely from yesterday to this new morning so we can commence with our proceedings. Praise and worship we give to Him who owns all things. I greet the Chair and the Members of Parliament, especially the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons for the Bill before Parliament. I believe it is in a state of urgency because there is a need by the Government and the State as was reiterated by the Hon Prime Minister. We are all aware of the current state of affairs within the Ministry of Police.

I give my heartfelt thanks to the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire Emergency Services for the Bill proposed. Noticing the Orders of the Day this morning, I am grateful that the Government is not being idle in this regard as the Hon Prime Minister mentioned. This is an important Ministry within the country especially in regards to the law enforcement services and emergency response.

Nowadays crime rates are increasing and I believe that after monitoring the state of the Ministry, if the Management and the Ministry are efficient, then these problems will be easily resolved. This is why I am thankful to the Hon Minister for the Bill before Parliament.

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- second reading

I understand the intention of the Bill...the Bill suggests that the requirements to apply for the position of Police Commissioner should be open to enable new ideas and initiatives to emanate throughout the Ministry to ensure changes to the status quo.

I personally note that perhaps this should have been considered by Government for the benefit of the Ministry.

As I recall, it was probably in the year 1970, I do not know if the members recall Sir Angus Sharpe from New Zealand who was appointed as Commissioner of Police and his appointment was of great importance. He was appointed when he was nearing the age of 80 years and his contribution at that time was very important for the Ministry and it initiated many changes. I believe that the Bill being proposed could have been proposed at that time, but it was not. The Government has the power and authority to appoint an eligible candidate for the position especially the position of Police Commissioner. Therefore this type of appointment is not new for it has been done before and the country witnessed the many changes that took place. I believe this amendment will result in many new changes.

The notion that I wish to clarify is that the Ministry should uphold what is proposed by the bill. They must be proactive in carrying out these changes and not wait for something to happen in order for them to carry out their duties. It is very important for the Ministry to implement strategies to address potential offenses before they are committed. I believe this change is beneficial and the foresight will ensure a decrease in criminal offences through communication and effort. Those are some of the matters I believe must be looked at for improvement and the Bill is set according to the needs.

I believe Mr Speaker, respectable members of the House and Hon Minister that the changes made will give us the chance to make improvements. I support the Bill however the only matter that is unclear is the retirement term. As I previously mentioned the New Zealand Commissioner who was about 80 years old but whose duties were very well performed. It seems that this matter is not clarified within the Bill despite that I greatly support the Bill proposed, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the member for Faasaleleaga for the remarks.

I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata East because he was the first to stand then I will give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

I call upon the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister especially the Cabinet and all the Members of Parliament.

I would like to thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the Bill proposed. This Parliament and the country are aware of the importance of the duties of the Police in safeguarding our country and we are reliant on the Ministry to ensure safety within the country.

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There are some issues that I wish to comment on regarding the Bill. Firstly on the appointment of a Police Commissioner as stated by the Hon Prime Minister, the post is now open to former police officers residing locally and overseas. I seek clarification whether this includes non-Samoan candidates overseas. Is there a section within the Principal Act that addresses this matter? The Act provides for the years of service for the applicants but are there provisions for whether it is only Samoan born officers overseas that can apply for the position.

Secondly under the Bill in the provision for inquiries into breach of duty, it seems a police officer is charged twice if convicted under this clause. If there is a breach of duty and the Courts impose an imprisonment term, under this Bill, the Tribunal will also impose a penalty if the charges are proven. My question is why this is included within the Bill? If there is a breach of duty and it is referred to the Courts and the penalty is imprisonment, I believe that is the appropriate penalty. However, it seems that the Bill also provides for the charges to be investigated by the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Thirdly, it is stated within the Bill that an Assistant Commissioner may charge a member, other than the Commissioner with a breach of duty. Who then may charge the Commissioner? And can a police officer charge another police officer because the Bill only states that the Assistant Commissioner can charge a member for a breach of duty? These are some of the queries I wish to put forward on the Bill. I congratulate the Hon Minister for bringing forward such an important Bill, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the comments. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. I greet all the prominent members of Parliament this new day. This is a very important Bill for us and I would like to comment on it.

I foremost thank the Hon Minister responsible for the Bill. Before I start I would like make known my support for the Bill based on the following reasons. As we are all aware, within every institution or in the family, no matter where we are, everything is dependent on leadership. This is how we know that institutions and societies are performing well; it is because of good leadership.

I thank the Ministry and the men and women in the service. It is not an easy task however they are striving for the safety of the country. In those days, when I was younger, we were frightened by the concept of the police, but today it has changed and children are taught that the police are friends. In the past when we went to Apia Park even if there was one or two police officers, you felt secure and safe. This does not imply that the Ministry is unstable but it is very understandable because there have been many changes. It is because of these changes that the Ministry has taken measures for improvement.

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Regarding the changes made, I support the provisions for the advertisement of the position. This is not to say that the Ministry lacks eligible candidates although I was under the assumption that the position would be open to anyone and not only police officers and those who have served within the Ministry. The Act stipulates that officers begin from lower ranks and works through the ranks and these are perhaps the candidates with the knowledge in the field that the Ministry is seeking.

I am one of the Members who often speaks against the employment of overseas applicants to head Ministries in Samoa because there are eligible candidates locally with the knowledge to fill these vacancies. However, there are different Ministries. The leader of the Ministry of Police must use the experiences from University and during the time of service because there is a specific working culture that is inherent in the service. I am pleased to hear the proposal by the Ministry, the Hon Minister and Associate Minister to establish a Police Academy to train the officers. This should have been initiated years ago however I hope that the implementation will be soon to train our police force to be well equipped to carry out their duties not only locally but also overseas to earn a living.

The reason I mention this is based on the case of SamoaTel. A European was the Manager for the company upon the agreement that the position was only for one term and during the tenure he would train an eligible candidate within the Corporation to takeover. He had a friend carry out the trainings and after the tenure, another European was employed and another which defeated the purpose of the agreement. I believe that this should not happen within the Ministry of Police if such terms are implemented.

I was thinking along the lines of the view of the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 who was in the Service. Perhaps a knowledgeable retiree can be employed as a consultant to train those in the top management level for about two to three years then a selection can be made. This is my opinion on the matter because it is a culture within the police service to start from the lowest rank and work your way up. Whether you are a newly recruited police officer or in any Ministry, no matter your work ethic, I believe you can be influenced and follow the old office culture.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will give the opportunity to the Government for a clarification.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker it seems the Member understands the culture of the Police but because he is speaking in English, can the Member elaborate the meaning of culture? There are many different kinds of culture. Can you just elaborate on the culture mentioned so that we can understand it, because you seem immersed on the matter?

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Member for a clarification on the matter.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker, I had an appointment with the Hon Prime Minister yesterday. I arrived at 5pm and when I arrived he was sitting there in the same clothes he wore to the sitting yesterday. I felt compassion for him then I said, “Hon Prime Minister, I will leave you because you need rest from the many headaches you have encountered today.” Therefore Hon Prime Minister, if you have any spare time at 5pm this evening I will come and discuss with you the meaning of the word culture.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I gave the opportunity to the Member for a meeting. I have also arranged a meeting with others from 6pm to 12midnight. I arranged an appointment for the Member but he said “I am concerned for you because there are many people waiting outside.” This means he only came to make an appearance of keeping the appointment and he was tired so I assisted him, “You know what the solution is, come tomorrow when you have the strength.” I have given him the time for us to meet today. But I was not tired; he was the one who was tired. As for me – I recently had a doctors check up for my heart and instead of a comparing it to a heart of a lion, the doctor diagnosed that my heart beats like an elephants.

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West, you have not elaborated on the meaning of culture for the progress of our orders for today. I ask you to discuss the culture of police you alluded to for the understanding of the House.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: If I elaborate on culture Mr Speaker, then allow me an hour to discuss the meaning of culture.

MR SPEAKER: It will not affect our Standing Orders.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I will not speak on the matter again Mr Speaker, I believe it is understood. The Hon Prime Minister is correct; he is the only person with a youthful heart. But as I was saying these changes are positive and we must cooperate with the Hon Minister and the Ministry so that it will be achieved for future development. Hon Minister and the Ministry, I am not making these comments and giving you the responsibility, these are comments to simplify future improvements of the Ministry. I believe this is enough Mr Speaker but I will leave my discussions for the Hon Prime Minister when we have our appointment. Bless our proceedings.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Pardon me – we will continue and conclude with the Leader of Opposition. I call upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to be followed by one of the members for Salega; Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA (Falealupo): Mr Speaker and respectable Members of Parliament, I will be brief on some of the matters not mentioned by my colleagues.

I support the Bill proposed and the explanation by the Hon Prime Minister, for opportunities to be open to everyone. The issue I wish to pursue concerns the opportunities for our own police officers. We do not have to bring in people from overseas. Why? These are the reasons; firstly Samoa has been independent for 50 years and we are prepared. As is written in the Tusi ‘Oti of my Religion; “Every boy wants a chicken”. I feel for those who have taken up the difficult task of being a police officer and the aim is to be at the top but there is only one spot at the top. This is why it is very important. The question is whether there was enough time for the Government to train officers for this top spot? The Government's duty is to make sure that there is ample training. If the training is for three years and the position of Commissioner can be the incentive therefore it will be a competitive edge for everyone locally instead of allowing overseas applicants.

The purpose of taking the floor is to disagree with this provision. As I mentioned, there is no one in the country that does not have a profession in any specific area and the aim is always the top position. I believe that there is not a single person in the Ministry of Police that does not want to obtain the position. I am grateful Hon Prime Minister but the position should only be available locally because we have matured as a country.

That is the assistance on the matter this morning. Bless our sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Leader of Opposition for the speech. I now give the opportunity to one of the members for Salega; Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele who will be followed by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega): Thank you Mr Speaker. Salega cannot ignore this important Bill before the House and we would like to comment on it. First of all we give thanks to the Hon Minister of Police.

In the scripture there is a story of the disciples who were fishing all night. When it was morning they had not caught any fish and they complained to the Lord for the lack of a catch. Then the Lord spoke, “pull out to where it is deep and let down your nets for a catch.” Then they did as they were told and the catch was abundant that they got tired of pulling in the nets.

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Thank you Hon Minister for the important amendments on the Bill because they are through the whispers of the Holy Spirit. The whispers do not intend to undermine the long serving Officers of the Ministry of Police but rather to expand the opportunity to eligible candidates. The net is being cast out to determine the most worthy candidate to fulfill all the duties expected by the House especially by the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Therefore Salega expresses its utmost appreciation on the matter of assistance, to ensure that the aim of the service is achieved because the country relies on the services. If the positions from the top to those in the officer level are chosen quickly, they will be questioned. It is like the story of the woman from Salemuliaiga who beat her child, she cried out looking for Tuato and Tuitolovaa all the way to the Salemuliaiga family which is exactly the main idea proposed by the bill. Therefore I am thankful and Salega gives it support to ensure that the Ministry is set on course because they have been subject to many complaints day and night. There are times when I do not want to look at the television and newspaper because I believe as Members of Parliament we feel responsible because we are the ones that prepare these laws for the betterment of the country. If these are some of the measures taken for such improvements then praise the Lord for his guidance.

The second issue Hon Minister of Police, does the provision also include the position of Commissioner of Prisons? If the opportunity is open to all then that is good and if not then you must look into it so that there is consistency for the development of the Ministry. Those are some comments on behalf of Salega on the amendment Bill. May it go well and may God bless us.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech. Thank you for the contribution of our constituency. I give the opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU (Gagaemauga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker. I will be brief on this important Bill. I express my support for the Bill before Parliament for the improvement of the duties of the Ministry of Police.

My concern Mr Speaker is the advertisement of the position of Commissioner overseas. It would be great if the position is only available to candidates of Samoan descent living overseas because it seems the opportunity is open to everyone. I reminisce back to when our former leaders were trying for the independence of Samoa. I believe that their aim and main objective was for locals to govern our own affairs. At the time the police force was made up of Europeans. We abided by the intention of our Government to consider our people first but unfortunately I see that with the Bill this intention will be contradicted and that is the truth. I advise the Hon Minister and Government to look into the matter. If the Hon Minister and Government have examined that no one within Samoa is eligible, then the question is why? This matter must be enhanced.

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If the problem is the lack of exercise and education in the Police force then we must find someone from within our office, which is what needs to be improved. My concern is based on the scenario that if a European is to be Commissioner, how is an elderly woman from the rural area who submits a serious matter going to understand a solution given based on the law? Therefore Mr Speaker, that is my concern to conclude our point of view, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I will give the opportunity to that side of the House, then the speeches will be concluded by the Leader of Opposition.

I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, and then followed by the member for Sagaga le Usoga.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No. 4): I would like to thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I would like to praise and thank the Lord for this new morning. This member believes that this is an important Bill and therefore I salute and thank the Hon Minister and his Ministry for the Bill laid before us today. This is one Bill of great importance to me when I recall the time I worked at the Ministry which was about seven years. As mentioned by one of the members, a European who worked there and was Commissioner, Sir Angus Sharpe, was also the one that made me work in the Ministry. The decision made on choosing this man was based on his knowledge and capabilities. He was chosen based on his previous work titles, as lawyer and judge, but as a police officer for the government of New Zealand. After him came the honorable Lavea Unasa Lio, and then Sonny Schuster and Tofa Galuvao.

And as I recall at that time the performance of the Ministry's work was exceptional. There were not as many problems as what is happening within the Ministry now. As shown through other members' opinions they object to the idea of choosing someone from overseas, but in my opinion we must look at the importance of this position of Police Commissioner.

We must look at someone who has the ability and knowledge. We are thinking of the service provided by our people at the moment and we have come to witness some of the occurrences. Also most of the time we hear the opinions of members to put our people first. I also support this, but because of the issue that has occurred based on its seriousness, my thoughts on the matter is that we must consider someone who is capable and give the utmost opportunity to those who worked within the Ministry of Police. So not only for officers from New Zealand and Australia, but it will be an example for men and women officers working within the Ministry.

There was a member who mentioned that a Police Academy must be implemented. For clarification to Parliament members, when you are chosen to become a police officer, there is a police school in the Ministry. Once you are in the Ministry say for a year you are called a cadet.

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This is when you will enter the Ministry and then you are trained to be an officer and to enforce the law. In my opinion it is important to choose former police officers to become a Police Commissioner. If someone is chosen from outside of the country or here it is also important to me.

This is the reason for taking the floor with respect and I greatly support the Bill with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your support on the Bill. I call upon the member for Sagaga le Usoga then followed by other members.

Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUIMATAGI PETER AH HIM (Sagaga le Usoga): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I officially greet you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and to all members of the House especially to Samoa listening in to Tumua and Pule, Ituau and Alataua, Aiga I le Tai and Vaa o Fonoti. I stand to voice an opinion from Sagaga le Usoga.

I thank the Hon Minister for the Bill before Parliament. This member supports the provisions in the Bill because there is still an opportunity provided for our people.

The only amendment that it suggests is to allow the opportunity to those from overseas. The reason why I support this provision is strictly based on conflict of interest. This is a disease currently affecting work places. Even within Courts, the judge argues that he has sworn an oath but there is always a side of human nature that jeopardizes the truth. I am elaborating on events that have occurred and through experiences on matters submitted to the Police office and other Ministries. I question the honesty of people in performing their duties. This does not mean that the Bill suggests that there will be no opportunity for our people. There is still an opportunity, if a Samoan born is eligible then why should we not choose him?

I also like to take this opportunity to thank those who are working within the Ministry of Police and Prisons. Thank you for your duties because it is not easy based on the issues that arise from time to time. It does not mean that it will take away the importance and support given to our children, but the Government must look into the matter of conflict of interest.

There are also other Ministries that I will not mention that the Government must look into such as the Judiciary in order to resolve these kinds of problems. We are talking about accountability and transparency so that we will carry out duties with honesty. This does not mean that there is no opportunity given to our own people because there is an opportunity been given to them, but we must resolve the problems that we are now facing. Mr Speaker even when a Samoan is Commissioner he will have problems.

For example, when they finish work in the evening they go to a family gathering and the person convicted is within the family. Then how could there not be a conflict of interest?

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Maybe it might be someone that does not understand that will whisper towards the Commissioner, “Show mercy on my case or show mercy on a problem that has occurred to my son.” This is an issue that must be looked into to determine which is important, whether to leave it as it is or change it? Otherwise just leave it as it is, pardon Samoa listening in. We are reliant on our children but it is affecting the country as a whole because of relatives and if this is carried on it will be a huge problem.

I thank the Hon Minister and the Government for initiating and proposing the Bill before Parliament, I greatly support the Bill. Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No. 1): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I would like to take this moment to voice my support on the bill because of its importance. I salute the Hon Minister on the matter of urgency. First, I humbly ask the Ministry and the drafters of the Bill to review certain parts of the Bill that needs improvement, but as for the layout Mr Speaker I gladly support it.

Mr Speaker, an important matter mentioned by previous members concerns the expectation that Samoan citizens hold the position and continue to do so. Perhaps there is a candidate within the Ministry at the moment or in the future that will be able to hold the position. Therefore if our goal is to improve and better our people we must emphasize the importance of overseas education to expand and gain knowledge to build and improve our country.

Mr Speaker as mentioned by others, I personally support one important aspect of Samoan culture which is mutual respect. It is difficult for those from overseas to understand this custom especially people who are not used to our culture, because it is the culture of our country to make allowances on certain matters.

Mr Speaker there is one area that I believe the Management and the Attorney Generals Office has considered regarding candidates applying for the position of Commissioner. My question is whether the Ministry has considered, in addition to Police officers, those who have served in the military, the army, the coastguard or the navy. They are eligible to become Commissioners in other countries as they have background in law enforcement and if this has not been considered then I propose that it should be contemplated. We notice that many of our police officers are sent for military training in Australia, the United States of America and New Zealand and other countries.

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Mr Speaker, to conclude, if this Bill is implemented I believe that we should first consider our own people. If there are overseas applicants, the candidates should be investigated thoroughly because they may have exceptional credentials but they are not applying for the benefit of Samoa but their own countries. For example, middle aged candidates may consider this post within Samoa as a stepping stone for when they return to their respective countries, and then they will be eligible for a similar position. The selection should not be based on credentials, but also the candidates history. I suspect that they may not have the aspiration to apply for the benefit of our country.

That is the assistance on the matter Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable Member for the assistance on the matter.

There are two more members on this side of the chamber to comment. I call upon one of the honorable Member for the Individual Voters; Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of Opposition): Mr Speaker, point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for the Individual Voters. I will allow the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition for his remarks.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I wanted to give a speech on the matter because the Bill is in a state of urgency. I notice that this is a Government Bill and our orders of the day are being prolonged. This side has already commented and this is the reason for taking the floor, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Forgive me Leader of Opposition but we must still elaborate on the matter. Although the Bill is in a state of urgency, we cannot exclude the opinions of the Members. It is a surprise that you are trying to hasten our work this morning. If there is anyone who wants to prolong our orders it is the Leader of the Opposition. Praises to the Lord for your voiced intention but we will carry on because the Bill is important and it cannot be put aside because the country is listening in. The state of urgency does not mean that opinions of members will be concise. Nearly everyone on your side has remarked on the Bill but I will give the opportunity now to this side and a response will be followed from the Hon Minister.

I call upon one of the members for the Individual Voters; Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters): Thank you Mr Speaker. I humbly salute the dignity of the House; Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Ministers and all Members of Parliament.

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- second reading

Since we started yesterday, the proceedings have progressed smoothly however I believe the Leader of Oppositions is of the opinion that we are members who come to observe and listen. Despite this, I will not speak about it any further as it seems the deliberations are beginning to be conflicting and I want to be part of an organization of peacemakers.

Mr Speaker, first, I thank the Hon Minister for the important Bill now being considered by the House. My first impression of the Bill is that it reflects our Government as a Government of the people as it prioritizes the people. If it is said that I support this Bill because I do not care about our people, that is untrue. Police work is a risky career and I believe we should consider methods to ensure the safety of the officers and the public. If we are to seek an eligible local candidate and there is no one, there is still an option. I believe priority will be given to the local officers in the service and I support the initiative that Samoans overseas are given the opportunity. Nowadays when we need specialized training and knowledge we always seek overseas assistance. This means that you are not being denied your right to a better and firm secure life. Suspicion is erased in the appointment of the Commissioner in terms of relations. I believe the Ministry has progressed well and there are eligible candidates within the service and I support the prioritizing of our locals. The important aspect is that the opportunity is completely available to everyone to ensure the acquisition of our goals.

Secondly Mr Speaker, I personally believe the Ombudsman should investigate disorderly behavior within the Ministry.

Finally, I wish to address comments from that side that there is no need for us to comment. We are all Members of the House present here to make known our views. It is wise to listen to our remarks because you might just learn something important.

With that I thank the Hon Minister for the Bill and the Ministry for the duties carried out. The service is important to the whole country because we walk around unawares yet we are safeguarded by the Ministry.

Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker. Bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the honorable Member for the remarks.
I call upon the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai ma Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker. I do not have an opinion on the Bill, however there are matters that I believe are important which were not mentioned by the other Members thus I have sought an opportunity.

Mr Speaker I thank the Minister responsible for the Bill. I have noted positive changes within the Ministry.

In the past, an individual would suddenly don the police uniform without proper training, however, nowadays, they have trainings and a graduation ceremony and I thank the Minister for this change. Officers are well prepared and this was not offered in the past.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

The advice Hon Minister is that the development of the officers is continuous to ensure that what is required is achieved.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member taking the floor....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: The accusation made by the member that suddenly an individual walks around with a police uniform but.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Member, the Chair is clear.....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: It is upsetting to hear these remarks and the Member must correct his statement.

MR SPEAKER: There is no serious accusation on the matter of who is employed as a Police Officer. The Members comments are understandable. I call upon the Member to continue.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Currently, there are preparations and trainings for potential Officers however, after they are awarded and become Officers, there should be continuous trainings on the culture and ethics of the service.

This Bill should have been proposed long ago and I thank the Hon Minister that is now before the House. I assumed the amendment was to ensure consistency with a constitutional provision. However it is the initiative by the Ministry and the Government to ensure efficient service delivery starting from the top.

There are terms that our Government continuously uses; transparency, accountability and good governance. It is my belief that if the implementation of the service through this Bill continues to progress forward, the Ministry will have fulfilled these three principles. In my opinion these three principles mean clarity and if there is no clarity, these principles cannot be achieved.

In conclusion, the Bill should be reviewed again because translation of Assistant Commissioner is 'Komesina Fesoasoani' however 'Komesina Lagolago' is more appropriate,

Mr Speaker, that is the assistance on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3.

Tofa TUILEUTU ALAVAA VOI (Faasaleleaga No. 3): I am grateful that praises have been offered up to our Heavenly Father for his loving grace this morning.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

I greet you Mr Speaker and honorable members of the House, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. I wish to comment on the amendment to the Principal Act and I agree with the need for the Bill. The law clarifies mistakes and also determines criminal offences. Laws were not made on impulse; they are there to protect human life. The debate on the Bill is almost complete and I wish to thank the Hon Minister for the Bill.

As I recall the progress of the Law and Justice Sector there have been many changes. Mediation services are now being offered and the sector is becoming consolidated. I once worked in this sector and it is employment that is honorable and dignified. Why? It is because this sector is the refuge for the public in seeking justice and protection.

With each term, the truth is that honesty is not maintained and the oaths undertaken are disregarded and this is the reality. This disregard taints the service and the Government has taken measures in implementing various divisions in order to improve the services. This is appropriate. Why? Because the service is incomplete as we consider the suspension of the Commissioned members. This is why we should foster attitudes we can follow.

Hon Minister, those who are honest prosper and so do his children and the nation. The reason for raising this is to ensure that there is stability and safety for the country.

In addition, the Ministry needs to be vigilant of their behavior in public places. Sometimes they remove their hats, smoke and drink kava in their uniforms. I have seen this many times.

In the past, if you removed your hat or your belt, you would be penalized. That is the assistance Mr Speaker, blessed day and God bless the proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the time has come for the Hon Minister to elaborate on the Bill. I believe the members opinions are important in consideration of the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness the O Le Ao o le Malo and it is a Bill that must be passed by the House. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: I first thank you Mr Speaker for leading our proceedings especially to Samoa listening in. I thank the members of the House for commenting on this Bill laid before Parliament in a state of urgency.

This Bill makes me recall a family deciding on an eligible candidate to become their high chief. The elderly cautioned, "Choose someone who is worthy, someone who has served extensively. Our plantation will soon over mature." Culturally, this is a similar situation. There is no doubt about the duties performed by Police Officers. They are the ones that safeguard the lives of the people; where people seek justice in the arms of the law. The law is made for the safety of the people.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

Before the House this morning is a Bill that provides for the appointment of a Police Commissioner. I believe the leaders of Samoa are its chiefs and Samoa is represented by the Chiefs present here today. Comments have been made and I will now attempt to address them.

The first comment was made by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2. The member expressed his support and I believe that if he were not a Member of Parliament he would have been another eligible candidate for the position of Police Commissioner. Your service is known and as I said, one who has served extensively is suitable. This is one criterion.

On the matter of a retirement age, there is no proposed age in the Bill. Those who are eligible and have knowledge of police ethics are fit to be chosen if they are deemed worthy by the Ministry.

The member for Faleata East mentioned police penalties. The Commissioner or any police officer who has committed an offense is charged by the District Court. But the Police Commissioner has the power, if necessary, to charge an officer who commits an offence under the law.

In relation to the matter regarding charges to a Commissioner; under the advice of the Cabinet, the O Le Ao o le Malo may relieve the charged Commissioner of his post if the charges are proven. That is the response to the query from the member for Faleata East.

The member for Faleata West also queried the retirement age and I have responded to this matter. There is no retirement age for the Commissioner. On the matter of the appointment of a non-Samoan as Commissioner of Police or Commissioner of Prisons; any candidate is eligible if they meet the necessary criterias and this will be decided by the panel that will be tasked at selecting the candidate.

The member for Salega, Afioa Afualo Wood Utu Salele spoke on the Bill with support. The member queried whether the position of Commissioner can be filled by a European and I respond in the affirmative. I personally believe that our Samoan culture is very important and as some members have mentioned earlier they do not want anyone from overseas to take this position. However, the public perception is that the lack of integrity is an invasive sore within the service and I strongly believe that in order for improvements to take place we need this knowledge from overseas to better improve services.

I beg tolerance of the country listening in; there is not a single individual that does not make mistakes. Jesus says to the multitude in the story of the whore who was condemned, "he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her". This amendment Bill was drafted to protect our citizens from unfounded accusations. The intention of the drafters was that the service to Samoa reflects the Police oath to fulfill their duties completely and without prejudice or biasness. There is a fishing proverb that "the success of a fishing expedition may be questionable but suspicions are usually well-founded." This Bill seeks to dispel such suspicion.

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- second reading

With all due respect, I humbly beg leniency of the Commissioner of Police; Fou Lilomaiava and Sala Seaga, who I believe are listening in to our proceedings this morning. Thank you for the services. You are not being accused, unless the charges are proven by the Courts, then it can be said that the law has been broken. Your patience is acknowledged while a decision is being sought and whatever the outcome, that is final. I believe that we have faith in God and that He will guide us to the truth.

The member for Gagaemauga No. 2 expressed his support on the Bill yet he opposes the idea of employing an overseas candidate. Geographically our constituencies closeness would consider us brothers however, this relationship is not relevant in the House.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Gagaemauga No. 1, I call upon the member for Gagaemauga No. 2 to take the floor.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Thank you. There is no argument to be had with my fellow brother. However I hear the Hon Minister clearly stress that I oppose the consideration of overseas candidates and that is the truth. I greatly oppose such a consideration. I am saddened by the clarification by the Hon Minister on the need for a European candidate.

It was stated that the drafting of the Bill was due to suspicions of biasness and prejudice by the Commissioner in matters relating to relatives and acquaintances.

With all due respect, this issue is global. Commissioners in New Zealand, Australia and other countries have relatives affected by the law but they still appoint their Commissioners amongst their citizens. That is the matter I wished to convey.....thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The interjection by the member is clear. I call upon the Hon Minister to clarify the concerns of the members.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: I appease my brother. I apologize for stressing your opposition. I will not use that term but say that you disagree. The member mentioned prejudice by the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner but that is untrue. These were the written accusations that are unfounded. There are prisoners whose cases are still pending but the reason why they are incarcerated is because there is suspicion in the performance of their services.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker I beg indulgence, lest the country listening in is misled by the response by the Hon Minister. I did not comment on the matter being clarified by the Hon Minister.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

MR SPEAKER: Your concern is noted.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: The appointment of the Commission mentioned earlier appears to be dependent on suspicion, and it seems that this is the reason for employing Europeans. To which I clarified that Commissioners in New Zealand are chosen from amongst the citizens and they do not employ overseas candidates. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: It is understood. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker it appears that the assumption is that a European is going to be employed. This assumption is incorrect. The Bill only expands the scope of selection to open out the opportunity for anyone who wishes to apply.

This means applications can be submitted from Samoans overseas who were former Commissioners; because there are Samoans who were Police Commissioners for New Zealand. If they wish to apply then the opportunity is available to them. The Bill will validate the selection of the Government when finalized.

The Public Service Commission faces the challenge of advertising vacancies and there is only one applicant. The vacancy is again re-advertised and still there is only one applicant. The Ministries are also opening out the opportunity however the selection pool is still limited because the only eligible applicants are locals. There are other eligible candidates that can apply but their delay cannot delay the selection process. There is a panel of experts that advises Cabinet and the Cabinet is not ignorant to choose an unqualified candidate.

The first priority is our local citizens and if there is an ineligible candidate amongst them, then an overseas citizen will be considered.

Mr Speaker, I note that the general concern is that a European is going to be hired. However, the Bill only seeks to expand the selection pool and this is a challenge for those currently in the Ministry to improve their work ethic so that an applicant from overseas is unsuccessful.

Mr Speaker, if the Hon Minister has proposed such an initiative to remove any suspicion then we should take our hats off to the Hon Minister. If in the end the decision is made that Sala will again be appointed as Commissioner for Prisons, and the Hon Minister is also a Sala, there will be skepticism. However, with the Bill, the public will say, "It is good the Hon Minister is not prejudice." We should congratulate the Hon Minister and as mentioned by a Member, conflict of interest will be easily addressed because the Hon Minister has taken steps so we will acquire the best for the country.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

There is a saying, “justice must be done and it must also be seen to be done.” Not only should it be done but there should be actions and the amendment will be strictly centered on upholding justice and how it must be done as stated by the Hon Minister.

There was a matter that the Hon Minister clarified, but I wish to clarify further. The Ombudsman Office has the duty to investigate the Police service if there are grievances. That is the response to the question of who will investigate the police. Parliament has appointed the Ombudsman’s Office to carry out this duty to ensure an independent decision is made on grievances to avoid suspicion against the police officers.

Mr Speaker, that is a further clarification on the matter to assist the explanation of the Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for clarifying the matters raised by the members.

I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, we have now come to the hour of our usual recess. We will continue when we return from our morning recess.

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

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual morning recess at 10:50am until 11:25am.

MR SPEAKER: I believe we have returned from our usual recess and that we have found strength to continue on with our orders of today. I would like to thank you all for your patience. I believe we have lapsed business to consider before we conclude our orders of the day.

Before recess the Hon Minister was clarifying the members queries on the Bill. The Hon Prime Minister has also elaborated on the objectives of the Bill which is an initiative at restructuring the Ministry to improve its service.

I call upon the Hon Minister to conclude his clarification.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: Mr Speaker, I believe everyone has found strength in the refreshments provided.

I believe the members understood the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister on the Bill. I would like to thank the members who expressed their support for the Bill.

I wish to conclude by responding to the query by the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 on whether candidates with military backgrounds are eligible. I believe anyone is eligible if they have the knowledge, talent and ability to fulfill the requirements.

With that I conclude my response with all due respect. God bless our proceedings. Soifua.

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Police Service Amendment Bill 2013
- second reading

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. I believe the House now understands the clarification made.

We will progress to consider the Bill as it is presented under a certificate of urgency.

Motion approved the Police Service Amendment Bill 2013 was read a second time.

POLICE SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2013
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: As I have received a Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness the O Le Ao o le Malo, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to consider the Bill in detail. Pursuant to Standing Orders consideration in detail commences on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Amends section 13.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Repeals Division 4 of Part III.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Amends section 51.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Transitional provision.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Police Service Amendment Bill 2013.

Approved.

The Police Services Amendment Bill 2013 progressed without Amendments.

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POLICE SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL
– third reading

MR SPEAKER: As I have received a Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness the O Le Ao o le Malo, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to third read the Bill.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Services Amendment Bill 2013 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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

CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

P. P. 2012/2013 NO. 35, REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND REVENUE COMMITTEE ON P. P.2011/2012 NO. 31, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2008 AND P. P.2011/2012 NO. 45, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2009 – CONSIDERATION

MR SPEAKER: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday, 8/10/2013 after the Deputy Chairperson read out the Committee recommendations and resolutions.

This is the opportunity for members who wish to speak on the report presented yesterday. If the clarifications made are clear, the question will be put.

I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I will be brief Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

The Ministry has an important contribution to the development of the country. There are external organizations that investigate the investors and the concern is the anonymity of these investors. We have seen investors being publicized in the media and I am thankful that the Authority does not reply to these. There are Pacific islands like Rarotonga and other islands which publicize the identity of their investors which has led to issues but this should be confidential. The Committee recommends that there be incentives to attract foreign investors to invest in our country and the protection of the investors identity because that is also an incentive. I have noticed that most Caribbean and Pacific countries have investment strategies but this is the only issue. If the Authority is considering this, it will be beneficial.

With respect. Thank you.

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P. P.2012/2013 No. 35, Report of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 31, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2008 and P. P.2011/2012 No. 45, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2009 – Consideration

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a brief question. The architects design for the SIFA building as well as related costs have been paid for. Despite this, a building has not been established. I wish to understand why with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker the construction work has been suspended momentarily. Construction on other buildings are in progress but it will be done.

Mr Speaker, I recall that it has now been 21 years since we implemented this development. Even America and other great nations do it. However the only distinction is that we recently implemented our development and used their experience and mistakes to found our development. We are members of an international organization that monitors money laundering activities by various foreign investors in member countries. Samoa is one of the countries that have a high standard of compliance with the policies of these international organizations.

There was a year when I was the Minister of Finance and I froze the assets of an individual who accessed the system and was later revealed. I froze it here in Samoa and a bill was passed in 2001; the last Parliament session before elections. The bill was passed in order to make work easier for SIFA against the company. In the end that company was fined by the US government, the company was from America. There is no reason for us to worry because we are within the organization of countries that monitors countries that are non-compliant. Our Central Bank Governor was the former chairperson, but it is true, during a conference in Bahamas, I observed from their records that there were more than 500,000 foreign investors registered. The profit gained from the investors is utilized for economic stimulation.

As for us, there are approximately 30 foreign investors and we are not even close enough to compete with other countries because there is competition and this why bills are brought into Parliament. Not long ago we passed an urgent bill so that we will be able to comply with development measures such as offshore jurisdictions in order for us to be highly recognized internationally.

Mr Speaker that is a brief clarification to the question.

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P.P.2012/2013 No. 35, Report of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No.31, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2008 and P.P.2011/2012 No. 45, Annual Report of the Samoa International Finance Authority for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2009 – Consideration

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe this concludes the comments honorable Chairperson. Are there any further clarifications you wish to make?

Report approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a select committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

P. P.2012/2013 NO. 48, REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE ON P. P.2011/2012 NO. 93, UNIT TRUST OF SAMOA (MANAGEMENT) LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 16 MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011 – CONSIDERATION

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Chairperson, Finance and Expenditure Committee): Mr Speaker with respect I move a motion,
That the Assembly take note of the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report.

Seconded by one of the members for Faasaleleaga No. 1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaiifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow and the member for Sagaga le Usoga.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Committee.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker:

“FINDINGS:

The Unit Trust of Samoa was legally established by Act in 2008. This is the first year of the operation for the Trust and the only Unit Trust in Samoa. It faces a lot of challenges in marketing and raising of public awareness of the framework especially the rationale for establishing the Trust.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 48, Report of the Finance and Expenditure
Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 93, Unit Trust of Samoa
(Management) Limited Annual Report for the 16 months ended 30th
June 2011 – Consideration**

The Government at the moment has provided its full support and guarantees to the Company and the Trust for the next 10 years, and reducing the overall risk exposure of the Trust.

A financial model was developed to give a medium term perspective (3 years) of the operation of the trust concept as a whole. This model shows that a total investment portfolio of a minimum of SAT40 million is required to sustain operation independently from the government. The Board is now targeting to achieve that SAT40 million investment by 30th June 2012.

The Total net assets have grown within 12 months since the establishment with a total of SAT2.7 million. Total assets have reached SAT10.43 million while liabilities are SAT7.96 million.

The total debt of SAT7.96 million comes to 25% of shares owned by the Government in Bluesky Samoa Tel which has been transferred to the Unit Trust of Samoa. The Unit Trust of Samoa has not made payment to the government for these shares until it has reached its initial agreement of 5 years.

There is no added Interest on top of the initial grants by the government. And it is of the company's best interests to begin payments at the time that was stated.

This means, from this date 30 June 2011, 75% of shares in the Unit Trust of Samoa is Bluesky Samoa Tels investment into the company, and the other 25% invested is loaned from the government.

6.1 Performance

To be able to provide the opportunity of investments to the people of Samoa, and to provide the opportunity for Samoan businesses and Samoans residing overseas to diversify their investments. It has been put into two parts as follows:-

Management of the Unit Trust of Samoa Unit Trust Division

The Unit Trust of Samoa is a company that is owned by the Government and the committee has noted that the Government is very keen and eager to see the company (UTOS) develop and thrive in the future.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 48, Report of the Finance and Expenditure
Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No. 93, Unit Trust of Samoa (Management)
Limited Annual Report for the 16 months ended 30th
June 2011 – Consideration**

It is also the intention of the management to have Unit Trust of Samoa as one of the largest investment and savings avenue for the public who are interested in investment. At this time, the Government has invested SAT\$700,000 into Unit Trust of Samoa and this investment will be reviewed after every three years.

The Unit Trust Division is responsible for investments and the Committee noted an increase in numbers of unit holders from 200 in June 2011 to 372 in February 2012 and a total investment of SAT27 million. The Trust focuses to achieve the SAT40 million by the end of this year.

6.2 Promotional Programs

The Trust is utilizing television channels for its promotions and to make known their roles and procedures. These programs let the public residing in the rural areas become more aware of the Trust and may persuade them to invest with UTOS. However the Committee noted that people tend to prioritize traditional obligations and church donations.

6.3 Committee Visit

The Committee noted during its visit to the UTOS main office, that so far there are no difficulties with how the work is being carried out.

Yet, the Committee thinks that the Trust should continue with the promotional programs to inform the public of the importance of such service as well as providing them with the location of its main office so that the public know where to seek help for any queries.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on its Findings, the Committee recommends to the Government:-

1. Strongly support the Unit Trust of Samoa through funds appropriated in each financial year to assist its operations in order to improve its services.
2. Continues awareness programs for the public to make known of its services provided and the intention of its establishment to increase unit holders or investors.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 48, Report of the Finance and Expenditure
Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 93, Unit Trust of Samoa
(Management) Limited Annual Report for the 16 months ended 30th
June 2011 – Consideration**

RESOLUTION:

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

To approve the P.P.2011/2012 No.93, Annual Report of the Unit Trust of Samoa for the 16 months ended 30th June 2011.”

MR SPEAKER: I will first give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker this report is in relation to the Unit Trust of Samoa. Perhaps the House should be made aware that such an organization was discussed during Mataafas Cabinet when we first became independent. The intention, especially with foreign investors investing in our country, was that there shares could be purchased by our people so that wealth was not concentrated to only an elite group of society. These were some of the goals of Mataafas term which continuously progressed, especially when investors came and wanted to build a \$300 million hotel at Taumeasina which strengthened the idea of distribution of wealth to the general public. The idea grew in 1970, 1972 to 1975 but the only problem was there was no knowledge of how to implement such a development. In time, the Government privatized some of its assets, which resulted in many members of the House stating that government assets were being owned by an elite few.

It was with the same intention that the Cabinet thoroughly considered such a development and it was in consultation but never acted upon and then SamoaTel was privatized; a bid that was won by Bluesky. From the year 1976, national development loans were done however, currently national development loans are no longer available.

I recall during my first term as a member, the Leader of the Opposition requested statistics on the under the national development loan scheme. I brought a thick file with all the data which was read out by the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana and I remember that it was read from 9 am until 1pm and all of Parliament started to fall asleep. That old man Tofilau was one who abided by proceedings. He read out all the commas, full stops and other punctuation marks. As the Hon Prime Minister was reading, all the members of the Opposition who requested for the data were falling asleep. The Leader of the Opposition said it was enough and Hon Tofilau answered, “It has taken me a week to train for this reading.”

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 48, Report of the Finance and Expenditure
Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No. 93, Unit Trust of Samoa (Management)
Limited Annual Report for the 16 months ended 30th
June 2011 – Consideration**

The reason I mention this is because most of our citizens have money. One old man may have \$50 and wish to give it to the Government to develop his country. Other old men, some from Savaii, have \$2,000, \$3,000, and Organizations and Associations may have \$10,000. Cabinet will never forget that morning. Then there was the tender by Bluesky based on an intention to privatize Government assets so that Government will not be bankrupt again thus a Cabinet decision was made. The tender could not be unless what was only spoken off and not carried out for 40 years was implemented. The bill was drafted and passed to implement UTOS. Shares are divided and invested and if people have money they can deposit it and UTOS will invest it in different companies. Then an old man from Falealupo will sing, "I have a \$100 deposit in UTOS; I am a shareholder in BlueSky" or any other company.

Therefore the view that wealth is held by an elite few will no longer be heard. This is why UTOS was founded; it is the opportunity for the people of the country to invest any amount and it will make them proud and say "I am one of the shareholders within several companies of the country." Many of the shareholders are currently from overseas.

Mr Speaker, that is an explanation on the background of the establishment of the Unit Trust of Samoa and I believe that this report should be passed and we can move onto the next issue.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. This organization is very important but there is a question I wish to ask the Chairperson, because it is a serious matter. After 2008, the total net assets grew to \$2.7 million; in 2011 it reached \$27 million however the intention was that by the end of the 2012 fiscal year, it would be \$40 million. Question to the Chairperson, is there data that the amount of \$40 million was achieved?

The other issue; as stated in the report, there is 25% shares in Bluesky. Is there a recommendation for Bluesky to purchase the Company completely or own 60% or 70% and improve it? I believe this is the first time bank interests will decrease because of the establishment of this organization. Commercial banks high interest rates is a burden for the citizens and developments and ever since the establishment of this organization, banks have come to re-assess their interest rates. The question is when the opportunity to loan with low interests will be available to the entrepreneurs as it is only permitted to the Ministries. The issue is that the banks are cooperating and the interest remains.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 48, Report of the Finance and Expenditure
Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No. 93, Unit Trust of Samoa (Management)
Limited Annual Report for the 16 months ended 30th
June 2011 – Consideration**

I note that the other reason for the interest rates not decreasing is because of the NPF and ACC. These companies invest a lot because it has high interests. However, if they demand low interests it will be difficult to negotiate a lower interest rate for the general public.

These are just some ideas and questions to the Chairperson with respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity for the Hon Prime Ministers response.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, the \$40 million was only mentioned as a target. UTOS is advertising to our people in New Zealand to invest in Samoa. Do not worry we are still progressing. On the matter of the banks and the regulation of the interests, that is monitored by our Central Bank. The work they do is also dependent on the Pacific situation.

We must remember that these banks are also businesses and the continuation of their operations in Samoa is dependent on their revenue. Sometimes rates are dependent on market competition, which automatically adjusts the figures. UTOS is similar. Competition is influenced by external factors and the interest rates are regulated and adjusted accordingly. But with these sorts of things there are precautions because it is a delicate matter. Competition also depends on interests rates in other Pacific countries. The Government is cautious in these matters and there are indirect ways to regulate it, just like the measures taken by UTOS and other financial organizations of the country. Mr Speaker, that is the assistance on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. You may take the floor honorable Chairperson if there is anything further you wish to add.

Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I would also like to thank the Hon Prime Minister for the assistance in responding to queries on our report.

I wish to add on the matter pertaining to the estimated target. The Committee also questioned the CEO and she replied that we should not be concerned. The target \$40 million will be reached.

The matter of Bluesky; the Committee did not have a recommendation because we believed that the plans laid down are sufficient. Bluesky gains profit and the Government receives dividends. The matter will be left to the Board of Directors and the Government for consideration with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you.

Report Approved.

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**P. P. 2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P. 2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
- Consideration**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a select committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

**P.P.2012/2013 NO. 49, REPORT OF THE JUSTICE, POLICE & PRISONS AND LAND & TITLES COMMITTEE ON P.P.2011/2012 NO. 81, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009
- CONSIDERATION**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee.

In absence of the Chairperson of the Committee, I call upon the Deputy Chairperson.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS (Deputy Chairperson, Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee): Mr Speaker in absence of the honorable Chairperson I move a motion, *That the Assembly take note of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land and Titles Committee report.*

Seconded by the member for Falelatai and Samatau and one of the members for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Chairperson to read out the Committee recommendations and resolutions.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS: Mr Speaker:

“FINDINGS:

The Annual Report of the Samoa Fire and Emergency Service Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009 outlines the developments and achievements by the Authority during the reported Fiscal Year.

The core responsibilities of the Authority are set out in Section 4 of the Fire and Emergency Service Act 2007 to provide fire suppression and prevention services throughout Samoa.

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**P. P. 2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P. 2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
- Consideration**

FINANCIAL YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS 2008/2009.

The Committee noted that this is the second annual report referred to Parliament since the Fire & Emergency Services Authority became independent from the Ministry of Police & Prisons in 2007.

The Committee also noted several problems faced by the Fire and Emergency Service Authority during the reported financial year.

With the primary source of funding from Government, the acquisition and procurement of the necessary assets and equipment within the budget parameters at times proved difficult for the Authority to manage.

Some of these include shortage of fire-fighters cadets in the service and the most common problem mainly in the urban area were residents and business owners failing to comply with building codes requirements to ensure safety of their houses during construction process.

Despite few internal and external difficulties faced by the Fire and Emergency Service Authority during the 2008/2009 financial year, but there were quite a lot of achievements during the second year of operation (2007/2008) which progressed well. The Authority throughout that year received a lot of assistance from overseas counterpart countries and a few from the assistance of International Agencies.

As reported during the 2008/2009 Annual Report, assistance sought from the private sector saw the induction of two additional vehicles to the operation fleet, with very generous donations from Samoatel (Ambulance) and the Pacific Petroleum Supplies(PPS) 17,000 litre water tanker.

The Committee also noted substantial assistance from New Zealand and Australia by donating Fire Brigades and other work related equipments. The assistance also included the recruitment of a training officer who conducted training programs for the staff.

The Fire and Emergency Service Authority was one of the key focal point when the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) was established.

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**P. P. 2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P. 2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
- Consideration**

The Fire and Emergency Services in partnership with the Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, concluded Safety and Awareness Programs advising and informing members of the public especially school children of prevention procedures during fire and other emergencies disasters.

The Authority also initiated during the financial year awareness programs within schools around the country mainly to promote a culture of being proactive to prevent them during fire and other natural disasters.

The Committee acknowledges the Samoa Fire Service Authority's effort for the execution of their specialized skills as it is vital for the safety for the general public.

The Committee also commends the efforts and reliable service provided by the Authority during the Financial Year, especially when 18 fire fighters were recruited in February 2008, to assist and consolidate the operational duty roster as a result of the separation from the Ministry of Police & Prisons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Committee wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the Management of the Samoa Fire & Emergency Services Authority for their tremendous efforts by promoting fire suppression and prevention services in Samoa.

The Committee also conducted site visits to all Fire and Emergency Units in Apia and Tuanaimato in Upolu, as well as the newly established unit at Asau Savaii.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its Findings, the Committee resolved to recommend the Government:-

That the Fire and Emergency Service to continue with its intensify awareness program and media campaign notifying the general public on proper safety procedures during fire and other natural disasters likewise the Tsunami which struck our shores in 2009.

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**P.P.2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
– Consideration**

That the Fire and Emergency Service Authority monitor and re-enforce building codes provisions to ensure safety especially within the Apia Town area. The Committee believes that inspections should be encouraged by the Fire & Emergency Services on building constructions either for residential or commercial purposes, as to recommend to ensure compliance with building codes and safety requirements.

To charge those responsible for starting bush fires for it has cost a lot of resources for the Authority over the years especially during the dry season in most vulnerable areas within the country.

RESOLUTION:

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

To approve P.P.2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire and Emergency Service Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009.”

With utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Chairperson. There are members who wish to comment on the report. I give the first opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I just wanted to question the Chairperson on the importance of the safety of the public in rural areas and especially in the town area.

The question Mr Speaker to the honorable Chairperson is whether the Ministry has any strategies in place for when there is a fire emergency within a three, four or six storey building. It is observed that the facilities and equipment of the Fire Emergency Services are not sufficient.

Equipments such as trucks that have ladders that can lift firemen to higher buildings and to make their work much easier when there are emergencies. Does the Ministry have plans for such occurrences for the safety of the firemen?

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. I was with my family in Asau during the weekend, we arrived there Thursday evening.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
– Consideration**

In the morning a siren was heard and my wife aroused me and my children telling us to go outside because there was an emergency. Luckily, I recalled that there was a Fire Station nearby then I said, “No I think it is the Fire department facing us.” So not only did the siren sound at 9am but also at 1pm and 5pm. It sounded three times a day. So what I am trying to say is why they have to do this because we are all aware of the time. People will be accustomed to hearing the siren often and they might not be able to differentiate it with the sirens for a tsunami warning and other emergency warnings. When a real emergency siren sounds an old man will say, “The guys are just testing the siren if it is still working.” Mr Speaker, the Ministry and the Minister should look into the hours for the sirens and whether it is necessary to ring the siren three times a day or just ring it when there are emergencies.

The other issue is, I constantly remind.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but a clarification on the purpose of the siren will be given.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I am saddened by the member. The siren sounds just outside but he does not ask why. This shows that the Ministry is supportive of the development of that part of the country. If there is no fire emergency then the siren sounds at 9 to wake people up to work, then at 12 for a break and at 5 to finish work. Now see how important the siren is? In those days, the siren sounded at 7am and then again in the evening but not in the afternoon because people kept on working. This means that the siren is a big advantage for the development of Asau. If only you had known; see the siren went off and you were still asleep. That is not good at all. The siren is to inform the people to get up for work in the morning.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker as you may recall soldiers are dependent on horns. When the horns sound there is a difference in the sound for an attack and to take cover. When there is an attack the horn blower will be the first to die, then another soldier will take the horn and blow it. The soldiers will be confused and in the end all the soldiers will perish because they are accustomed to hearing the same siren over and over but it should be reserved for emergencies.

Also, I went to relax. I had the intention to wake up at 12 in the afternoon, but instead the siren woke me at 9am.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
– Consideration**

MR SPEAKER: I beg leniency of the member. I will give the opportunity to the Member who witnessed the opening of the siren. I call upon the Member for Vaisigano No. 1.

Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua (Vaisigano No. 1): Mr Speaker, I with respect, that side is not the first horn blower of the country. The fire station here is the same as the new one in Savaii. The Fire Emergency in Savaii is trying to coincide with the Fire Emergency here so when the siren goes off here it also goes off in Savaii. The people of the constituency are used to it, but to the member I apologize if this is the first time you have been to the island.

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

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker just a reminder to the member, Asau is one of the villages where most of the Government entities are located. There is the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources, the airport, the wharf and the Samoa Water Authority. These are all located in Asau in case the importance of this part of the country is forgotten.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I do not wish to argue on that matter. The purpose of the siren in the past was because people did not have watches. Now that we all have watches, there is no purpose. I have been to the fire station and I noticed with overseas fire stations they face the road but this Fire Department faces the bush and there is a breadfruit tree beside it. When the siren sounds the fire trucks have to go around the breadfruit tree and the Agriculture department before it reaches the road. By the time they get to the road the fire will be over. The Ministry must look into this.....

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaioi: Mr Speaker, the Fire Emergency department in Savaii was not established without reason. Perhaps the member has forgotten that in the year 1983 bush fires in Savaii lasted nearly a month. Therefore it is not only for the importance of homes but also for the forests. There is nothing wrong with the location. This is an indication of the foresight of the Management.

MR SPEAKER: Conclude your speech member for Faleata West.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009
– Consideration**

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Hon Minister, my only advice is to reconsider the location of the fire department.

MR SPEAKER: I want to clarify to the member that it is not important to face the road but rather where there is always fire and that is the forest. My constituency always suffers from these bushfires. The reason why the Fire department is facing the forest is because when a fire takes place in the forest the fire trucks will head straight there. The Government manifesto is “what is good for Apia is also good for Savaii”. When the siren goes off in Tauese the siren must also go off in Savaii. Asau was once known as a town area in those days. There is a wharf, an airport and all the government ministries are located there. This means that the siren must also be sounded on that side of the island as well. You may elaborate on another matter member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILLEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. I am not questioning the importance of the Fire Department and the Government. This is one unrelenting and vigilant Ministry with many legislations. We have just passed one of the bills pertaining to the Ministry and now we are discussing the Fire Emergency Services. But the issue is Minister I recommend that you the location and the siren times be reconsidered. In conclusion Hon Minister, in the past we were used to calling one number for an emergency, 999 and we still remember it today, but nowadays it seems there is a different number for the fire emergency, the police and those who are responsible for other emergencies. The Ministry must work on using one number again like the number overseas countries are used to 911, where all emergency calls are centralized with respect to the Minister thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Deputy Chairperson.

Afioga AFOAFOUVALE JOHN MOORS: Thank you Mr Speaker. The comments have completed and I want to thank the Hon Minister and the Hon Prime Minister for the assistance in responding to some of the queries. There is one question by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2 that was not answered. I am thankful for the recommendations given in reference to the high-rise buildings in the town area. The Committee queried the Fire Services regarding this matter. There is an intention for equipment and ladders to be acquired for emergencies in high-rise buildings.

In addition, trucks with water tanks will also be acquired. Keep in mind that these are new buildings and they are equipped with the necessary emergency equipments to assist the department during emergencies. That is the clarification with respect.

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P. P.2012/2013 No. 49, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on P. P.2011/2012 No. 81, Annual Report of the Fire & Emergency Services Authority for the Financial Year 2008/2009 – Consideration

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI: Mr Speaker it is just an additional clarification on the response by the Deputy Chairperson.

Regarding the matter of the trucks used for high-rise buildings in town; it is true that the Ministry has concerns because the current vehicles are unable to carry out these services. Consultations are in place for the purchasing of fire trucks that can cater to disasters within these high buildings in the town area. The Ministry is trying its best so that these matters will coincide with infrastructural plans to ensure that fires can be extinguished. There is also a financial issue that needs to be considered. The fire trucks costs millions but at the moment it is still under consideration.

Concerning the location of the fire station in Asau and the times of the sirens; Salafai and the constituency of Asau are lucky to have a siren that can warn the people of a fire. There are plans to relocate the road from to the side. As for the layout of the building, I presume that because Aopo has many bushfires, the entrance of the fire station faces the Aopo area. The firemen will also be alert when there is a fire with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. Your clarification is understood. It is our constituencies that are constantly affected by these bushfires. I also thank the Deputy Chairperson for his response.

Report approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a select committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

P. P.2012/2013 NO. 86, REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ON THE P. P.2012/2013 NO. 17, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET, JULY 2010- JUNE 2011 – CONSIDERATION

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Government Administration Committee. In absence of the Chairperson I call upon the Deputy Chairperson.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 86, Report of the Government Administration Committee on the P. P.2012/2013 No. 17, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, July 2010- June 2011
– Consideration**

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA (Deputy Chairperson, Government Administration Committee): In absence of the Chairperson of the Government Administration Committee, I move a motion, *That the Assembly take note of the Government Administration Committee report together with its findings, recommendations and resolutions.*

Seconded by the Leader of Opposition and the member for Faleata West.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Chairperson to read out the Committee recommendations and resolutions.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA: Findings, Recommendations and Resolutions:-

“FINDINGS:

The Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet compiled this Annual Report in accordance with and under the requirements of the *Public Service Act 2004* and the *Public Finance Management Act 2001*. These services were carried out within the various divisions of the Ministry which include, the Office of the O Le Ao o le Malo, Office of the Council of Deputies, Cabinet Secretariat Branch, Corporate Services Branch, Communication/Press Secretariat Division, Policy Implementation and Monitoring Branch, New Special Projects Branch and Immigration Services where the Government of Samoa have strong working relationships with New Zealand and Australia with regard to Seasonal Employment Recruitment Opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on its Findings, the Committee recommends to Government:

1. That they may continue to seek more opportunities for the employment of our people in the Recognized Seasonal Employment (RSE) Schemes to strengthen and improve this Program for our people’s benefit and welfare so that they can provide financially for their families, contribute to their villages, churches as well as Samoa as a whole; and to continue strengthening negotiations for more employment opportunities for our people not only with New Zealand and Australia but with other countries of the world.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 86, Report of the Government Administration Committee on the P. P.2012/2013 No. 17, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, July 2010- June 2011
– Consideration**

2. To ensure that the appropriate legislations and regulations are enforced and adhered to at all times to ensure that Samoa is safe and free from unwanted foreign immigrants with criminal backgrounds.
3. To produce and deliver the ‘official’ Government Newspaper (Savali) in both copies of English and Samoa for each Member of Parliament in their assigned pidgin- holes at the Tofilau Eti Alesana Building to ensure that the Members are well informed and aware of all Government projects and on-going developments within the country so that they may be knowledgeable when dealing with their constituencies and people of Samoa.

RESOLUTION:

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

To approve P. P. 2012/2013 No.17, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister for the Year July 2010- June 2011.”

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the reading out the Committee recommendations and resolutions. There is a member who wishes to speak; a member for Individual Voters; Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang, you may take the floor.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker. As mentioned within the Ministrys report there is still money left over from the Savali office and I recall that the Savali office has a huge debt with the Government Printing. I want to know what they have decided to do with the money. Why not use it to pay these debts?

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Member to take the floor.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you Mr Speaker, I will be brief. The seasonal workers scheme is very important. However there are many behavioral issues that have caused disrepute upon some villages. The workers that are involved in this come from different villages therefore it is advised that perhaps the scheme should consider village rotation; this will allow everyone to receive this blessing. This is a solution for the issue because the act of one person disgraces the whole country.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 86, Report of the Government Administration
Committee on the P. P.2012/2013 No. 17, Annual Report of the Ministry
of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, July 2010- June 2011
– Consideration**

MR SPEAKER: Well done.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Member. There is a response to be said. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: I will let the Member finish before I take the floor.

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata East you are given the opportunity to take the floor.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker, I wish to comment on the recommendations given in the report. I request that the Ministry look into the issue of overseas law offenders coming into the country.

It has been noticed Mr Speaker, that the Ministry is not doing enough to protect the country from people coming in because it seems the Immigration office only checks that there is a valid passport and a return ticket, but if a person who was imprisoned overseas comes into the country there are no safety measures to question the purpose of their visit. I take the floor to emphasize that there should be a department that should enforce this matter. The return ticket and the valid passport should not be the only priority but there should be other inspections.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, regarding the Savali; not long ago Government implemented a strategy to clear these debts, to be carried out by the Ministry of Finance because they deal with financial matters. This debt can be easily canceled through book entry, instead of waiting until the Ministry is ready to pay it. There are procedures carried out between the Government ministries to simplify matters.

The policy has been approved and perhaps the Ministry of Finance has not yet acted upon it. This policy was a result of a recommendation made during a parliamentary debate regarding Ministries that have unpaid electricity and water bills. There is a general view that this is not a serious matter because they are all Public Bodies and the debts are left to accumulate.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 86, Report of the Government Administration
Committee on the P. P.2012/2013 No. 17, Annual Report of the Ministry
of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, July 2010- June 2011
– Consideration**

It is simpler to offset the amount from the Ministry that has a debt and credit it to the public body and the debt is cancelled. All is needed is a book entry. Accounting processes are simple. The reason there are outstanding debts is due to the prioritizing of other needs instead of repaying debts. Therefore this was a strategy to resolve this behavior by the Accounting Officers in withholding debt payments to these public bodies resulting in the accumulation of debts.

This behavior is not new, it has been this way since we became independent but this is a simple way through a Treasury offset and there is no need for all this disagreement.

Regarding the seasonal workers scheme; the Government lays much importance on this matter. I travelled three times to New Zealand and visited the farms and each time I spoke with the owners to increase the number of our seasonal workers. We visited the living quarters and the eateries so as to observe the services provided and the efforts by the farmers were at a good standard. The only request was for workers to return to work because they do not have to be trained again on how to pick and pack the apples. They requested that 60% of the workers return which is also the reason why we are trying to allocate the workers because not all the villages are part of the scheme. There are some who were recruited indirectly by those who were there before because they are trusted by the farmers. The Government gave them the opportunity and these are the people who cause the problems. As a result the policy is that only the Government will deal with the recruiting.

There are those who abuse the opportunity and sexually abuse women and when this happens they are immediately sent back. We have a zero tolerance policy and no other opportunity will be given to them. Once there is such an occurrence, the worker is immediately sent home because it is a disgrace for our country and New Zealand might restrict our people for this scheme. Therefore another security measure has been included; villagers from the village the person hails from will not be accepted in the scheme. This was done with the intention that the Alii and Faipule would advise the returned workers on their reckless action and the villages affected are aware of these people regardless of the group they travelled with.

On the issue of visiting travelers; this is also happening in other countries overseas. Unless the person is listed on the Interpol records as an international criminal, as soon as they enter they are captured on site. Although there are others who are not caught, it is from this oversight that the system can be improved. The significance is to apprehend these people as soon as possible in order to provide a proper solution.

Mr Speaker, that is a clarification on the matters mentioned by some of the members.

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**P. P.2012/2013 No. 86, Report of the Government Administration Committee on the P. P.2012/2013 No. 17, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, July 2010- June 2011
– Consideration**

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I believe the Government has given its answer, but I will give the opportunity to the Chairperson if there is anything further he wishes to add.

Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEA VAISEETA: I just want to clarify something minor. Thank you for the queries given and I believe everyone has heard a detailed explanation by the Hon Prime Minister.

On behalf of the Committee, we are thankful that our third (3) recommendation has been implemented by the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. This is one important aspect that has served its purpose, but as for other matters I believe members understand.

I just want to clarify one matter. The village of Falealupo is part of the group that is sent overseas and I am happy to announce that one of the individuals there is the leader of one of these groups not only in the village but also for these overseas companies whom have requested that he find other Samoans to come over and work for them. Therefore the issue I wish to portray is good behavior starts from within the village. This behavior results from good administration in villages.

I sympathize with the Hon Prime Minister and his policies. As for the matter queried by one of the members, you have heard the response by the Hon Prime Minister. It is very simple, it is an easy offset but there is no money.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Report approved.

P. P.2013/2014 NO. 30, REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE ON P. P.2012/2013 NO. 92, CORPORATE PLAN OF THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2013-2015 – CONSIDERATION

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker with utmost respect I move a motion, *That the Assembly take note of the Finance and Expenditure Committee report together with its Findings, Recommendations and Resolutions.*

Seconded by one of the members for Faasaleleaga No. 1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow, the member for Sagaga le Usoga and the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

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P. P.2013/2014 No. 30, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P. P.2012/2013 No. 92, Corporate Plan of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly 2013-2015 – Consideration

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker these are some of the findings of the Committee.

“FINDINGS:

The Corporate Plan 2013-2015 of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (OCLA) articulates the intention to provide effective support services by strengthening the parliamentary processes through the implementation of its mandate of providing *“Parliament and its Members with quality and timely support in the Operation of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly.”*

This highlights the importance of parliamentary work and the imperative need to ensure that the Parliament functions are effectively carried out in recognition of Parliament as an integral institution separate from the Executive and Judiciary with statutory responsibilities to ensure a healthy and vigorous democracy in Samoa.

Without understanding the institutional ethos of the Parliament, Parliamentarians will not fully appreciate the significance of the roles that a Member must play in the Parliament to enable the Institution to perform all its varied and inherent functions.

The Committee noted that the Corporate Plan 2013-2015 is the first Corporate Plan for OCLA and took a year to develop. The Committee was quite impressed with the extensive background work carried out and the commitment made by the Clerk, Management and Staff to provide a document that is relevant and realistic.

The Committee also notes that throughout the development of this Corporate Plan, close consultations were held with all employees and stakeholders. The Corporate Plan is also supported by detailed and well-articulated operational plans for various Divisions/Sections. The agreed objectives may be challenging yet attainable and require renewed commitment from all employees of the OCLA. The publication of this document provides a roadmap that will guide the Office on its expected deliverables over the life of the Plan.

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MAIN OBJECTIVE:

The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is “to provide Parliament and its Members with quality and timely support in the Operation of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly as prescribed by law and the Standing Orders of Parliament.”

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Committee also notes that during the development of the Corporate Plan 2013-2015, OCLA had undergone necessary structural changes to be in tandem with the recommendations as identified through an independent Human Resource Audit of the Office.

These structural changes include the streamlining and aligning of services provided by each Division and has been categorized under various specific Groups outlined below.

- a) Speakers Secretariat
 - e) Clerks Secretariat, International Relations and Project Management Parliamentary Procedures Group
 - i. Chamber and Procedure Office
 - ii. Parliamentary Committees Office
 - iii. Legal and Research Office.
 - i. Parliamentary Support Group
 - ii. Institutional Strengthening Services
 - iii. Finance and Administrative Services
 - iv. Facilities Management Services
- o) Parliamentary Information Group
- i. Community Relations Services
 - ii. Information Management Services
 - iii. Information Communication and Technology Services
 - iv. Reporting and Printing Services
 - v. Translation and Interpretation Services

The Committee also notes that under these three main work groups that have been developed are specifically to support the formal operations of the Parliament, provide professional information services both to Parliament and external stakeholders and support the infrastructure within which the Parliament and the Office operate.

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CONSIDERATIONS:

The Committee is mindful of the following setup, recognizing the importance of the functions of the OCLA:

- a) That for Parliament to perform the following inherent vital functions as an institution, Members of Parliament must play their roles responsibly and productively:
 - i. Legislative (Law-making)
 - ii. Representation
 - iii. Oversight of the Executive to ensure transparency and accountability.

- e) For Members of Parliament to live up to their constituent expectations while discharging their responsibilities, the OCLA must provide the required support services and enabling environment for them.

The Committee recognized the value of the work provided by the Office in support of Members while fulfilling their responsibilities so Parliament realizes its inherent and statutory functions.

The Committee is also assured of OCLA's intention to provide all the required support services to the Parliament and parliamentarians by building capacity so it is placed in a better position to provide the required support services.

The Committee also noted that there are three (3) Managers (ACEO Level) recruited at \$65,000 p.a. under the Samoa Parliamentary Support Program (SPSP), and two (2) Managers (ACEO Level) recruited by the Department:

- *Manager, Community Relations (SPSP)*
- *Manager, ICT Services (SPSP)*
- *Manager, Information Management (SPSP)*
- *Manger, Reporting & Printing (OCLA)*
- *Manager, Translation & Interpretation (OCLA)*

The Committee believes that all ACEO positions should receive the same remuneration.

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FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS:

The Committee acknowledges the financial constraints faced by OCLA as the Ministry of Finance tries to allocate limited means against various national priorities.

The Committee notes the remuneration package for the other 3 newly recruited Managers under the Samoa Parliamentary Support Project and two Managers under the OCLA budget and realizes that there is a need to adjust their salaries from WS \$65,000 to WST\$81600. This is considering that the functions and roles performed as well as the accountabilities required of them are at the Assistant Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) levels.

In addition, the Committee also realizes that the current physical structure of the recently built Maota Tofilau Eti Alesana Building and the Old Legislative Office Building are deteriorating. This is a matter both the Governments of Australia and Samoa are looking into to construct a new Maota Fono Complex as well as an Office for OCLA. Issues such as flooding, the drainage and other natural disasters are taken into account by the Project Board of the Complex.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

The Committee notes that to ensure the Corporate Plan continues to provide a sharp focus and remain responsive to change, OCLA needs to formally review and update the Plan every six months after the achievement of a Strategic Goal or at any other time deemed necessary. The Committee commends OCLA for using monthly management meetings as another avenue whereby the progress of the Plan's implementation is closely monitored as it has become a fixed agenda item in meetings.

The Committee realizes that this is a critical component which can be integrated into standard management practices. In addition, documenting progress can provide a check and balances well as a review of value for money.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the conclusion of its deliberations and considerations the Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly:

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1. That the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly negotiates with the Ministry of Finance in adjusting remunerations of the following Managers from \$65,000 to \$81,600 per annum to maintain salary relativity and parity with similar positions across Government.
 - a. Manager, Community Relations (SPSP)
 - b. Manager, ICT Services (SPSP)
 - c. Manager, Information Management (SPSP)
 - d. Manager, Reporting and Printing (OCLA)
 - e. Manager, Translations & Interpretations (OCLA)
2. That the Ministry of Finance allocates sufficient funding under the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (OCLA) for the next financial year, to provide financial support to ensure that OCLA (in consideration of the importance of support and services provided to Parliament and Members) meets its Corporate Plan objectives, especially in developing and sustaining the following:
 - a. Information Resources – Strengthen the information resources available to Parliamentarians.
 - b. Research Service – develop a sustainable parliamentary research service to support Parliamentarians especially Select Committee members and parliamentary staff.
 - c. Community Engagement strategy – need for the citizens to be aware and become engaged with the parliamentary processes in support of a healthy democracy.
 - d. Career Service – Establish a career service with secured appointments for senior parliamentary staff officers, and
 - e. Professional Development Program – An on-going program of professional development for OCLA staff so they can improve on their knowledge hence better perform their duties.
3. That the Ministry of Finance allocates sufficient funds to support and sustain the Samoa Parliamentary Support Program (SPSP), because of its importance to professional capacity development of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.
4. That the Ministry of Finance allocates funds to support the Pacific Parliamentary Partnership (PPP) and Pacific Women Parliamentary Partnership (PWPP) and other inter parliamentary relations obligations of the Parliament of Samoa.

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RESOLUTION:

At the end of its inquires, the Committee resolved to recommend to the Assembly that, P.P. 2012/2013 No. 92, Corporate Plan of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly 2013 – 2015 be approved.”

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Chairperson for the clarification. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I would also like to thank the Committee, but I would like to elaborate on the importance of the Offices Corporate Plan. We are all aware of the service of the Office of the Clerk to the House.

If we recall the number of years that we have been part of this Parliament, we have come to witness the increasing number of bills proposed and bills evaluated by Parliament and also the amount of work needed to be done. I believe this is the first time this request has been made by the department to not only raise the standards of workers but also to up skill them. This is the national forum of the country because it is within this House that decisions for the country are made and it is a must for the employees to have the Parliamentary knowledge to ensure that the Bills and information provided before Parliament are accurate. Therefore I give my support for the proposed plans.

I thank the Australian government and the United Nations for the financial aid given to start off the project. The Government must provide the financial support as requested to extend the project and fund the salary adjustments as mentioned in the Committee Report. I believe the managerial responsibilities are similar but the salary is lower than other Government Ministries. This means it is appropriate to evaluate this so that all Government Ministries will have the same remunerations, especially here with in the Legislative Assembly so that the knowledge can be retained because the experience gained is not something that can be taught at schools or University. They have special skills based on how long they have been working.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member taking the stand but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for the speech. The adjustments cannot be done that easily because it will assume bias.

It is not that simple. The Cabinet has the duty to look into such matters and that is the reason for the establishment of the Tribunal. Those days are gone when salaries were raised whenever one wanted to and that was the reason for the past strike.

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Whether a raise of \$1 million or \$100 million is given to a CEO it will never be enough. This is why Government is trying to establish a system so that all Heads of Departments salaries are in line with each other. There is a salary scale at the moment and this is the reason for complaints from the Private Sector because Government has higher salaries and their employees salaries are affected. You are tunnel visioned compared to the Government on the matter. The salary scale for the public sector and the private sector should both be considered. If there is no balance the economy will be affected and the accomplishments of business owners will be wasted. I received letters on the issue of skilled workers going on the seasonal workers scheme. Skilled workers such as excavator operators; this is a skill that cannot be taught in a short period. Therefore it has been recommended that these skilled workers are to be withheld from going overseas and allow only those who are unemployed.

Mr Speaker, it is easy to conspire to raise the standards but there are several areas that must be considered. Let Cabinet deal with it because if funds are allocated as such, there will be no more developments.

We do not have a lot of money; we are trying to budget our money. There is always foreign assistance for our developments because we do not have the financial capacity. Several developments are being considered as well as the salary for the public servants.

Mr Speaker, that is the explanation. The member is sweating profusely in trying to elaborate his point but this is where angels fear to tread. Matters that are not deeply and thoroughly considered are the cause of a Governments downfall. When considering employees remunerations, foresight and deep consideration must be utilized because one Ministry cannot be favored over other Ministries. In the Cabinets perspective everybody is the same.

Mr Speaker that is the assistance on the issue.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but we have come to the....

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I will conclude on the matter based on accusations made by the Hon Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Alright I will grant the opportunity.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: If we look at the report, it is the Offices request that their salaries be consistent with other Government Ministries. The Office is not requesting nor am I stating that favor is given to the Office. I am just supporting that the salary should be in line with other Ministries because other Government ministries have higher salaries. As for the Salary Tribunal mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister, I want it ceased because I believe they are the reason for the increase in the salaries.....

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member taking the stand; I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the matter of salaries is constantly questioned by the Ministries. There is a salary scale in place for all employees and the CEO has to make sure that all the public servants are paid accordingly.

MR SPEAKER: You may conclude your speech.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I support the report and the request by the Ministry so that all government Ministries will be in line with one another and that the knowledge and experience of employees are retained. I did not say that this Office is higher than the others; I only stated that they are important because of their duty in serving Samoa's Parliament. As for the salary scale mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister it is true because I was there when it was drafted by PSC. I also have an understanding on it. Bless our Proceedings.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I stand to mention one more issue, do not worry about retaining the employees. Where else will they go?

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I believe the matter is now clear and understandable. To the member for Faleata West, you have encouraged the request and we have also come to understand the clarification by the Government, therefore leave your request with the Cabinet. The Chairperson has put forward the request of the Office; I trust the answer will come.

I believe we have now come to the end of today's proceedings, and this is the last sitting for this month. There are important matters that must be attended to and I believe we have concluded our proceedings and we will return for next month's proceedings.

I acknowledge and am grateful for the support of our country. To conclude I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister for a motion to adjourn our Proceedings.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned until 9.00am on Tuesday 17th December 2013.*

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Motion for Adjournment

Before the motion is approved I would like to give my blessings for the coming Sunday as it is White Sunday for which we are all preparing towards. I hope that the recitals prepared for this Sunday goes well.

Seconded by Deputy Prime Minister.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I give this opportunity to the member for Salega, Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam to take the floor to conclude our proceedings with a word of prayer.

Prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1.00pm until 9.00am Tuesday, 17th December 2013.