

26 JUNE 2015

*FRIDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.*

Prayers

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

It is with deep respect that I welcome you all this morning; I greet all the Members of the Parliament in its honorific salutations. I am glad that everyone is in good health. I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, especially the Deputy Leader of Opposition and all the Members of the House.

We give praise to the Lord above for His blessings that has led us here safely this morning. It is with great gratitude that we are able to be here to fulfill duties as it is the last day of the week. Even though we have several other responsibilities Members have been kind to come in this morning to continue with our Budget deliberations.

I also want to voice a few words of thanks on behalf of the Chair for our work yesterday and the participation of Parliament to witness the opening of one development deliberated in the House in the past. This progress portrays the work of this Parliament not only in deliberating numbers and passing them but also in fulfilling these duties.

I am grateful to all the Members for the attendance of witnesses yesterday. We have all observed the power of Government to develop access roads and main roads. The funds allocated to several constituencies in collaboration with village chiefs are done so with the goal to develop our country through agriculture.

I voice my gratitude because of the time made available by Members after setting aside our Proceedings yesterday to attend this opening in Salafai. Well I will not speak further on the events that took place because everyone was there to witness it. I strongly believe each one of us has the same objective which is to see to the development of this country.

To the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, I extend gratitude for your wisdom especially for equal opportunity given to each constituency to have an access road as we have witnessed this is Savaii yesterday. We have witnessed the just allocation of developments by the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet especially the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

I also want to thank the constituency for their hospitality towards us during the opening yesterday. The Hon Prime Minister spoke as well as Fetalaiga Leulumoega who represented the Government. It is the objective of this Government to fulfill its duties especially to make decisions that will develop this country.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

Furthermore to all the constituencies that were present yesterday from Sagone, Saleaula, Puapua especially Faasaleleaga, your Parliament will now proceed to deliberate and pass its Budget for more developments. Let us pray to the Lord for His guidance on the decisions made within the House and as witness to the continuous implementation of many more developments.

Last but not the least I thank the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry, the Executive Office, companies and other organizations for the work done, thank you for your patience for it is not an easy task.

I noted yesterday that more than ten miles of road is complete and tar sealed. The estimated cost was not less than 3-4 million of public monies. The most important factor is the completion of the work and it was done very well.

I believe we should now progress to start our work for the day, the quicker we pass the Budget the quicker we will be able to construct more access roads.

I thank the Members of the House for your patience; there were some Members who asked for leave to attend some important matters. I thank the Leader of Opposition and the Opposition for your participation. We are not with the Leader of Opposition this morning due to church duties, God bless you and Manua in fulfilling your duties before returning to our Proceedings.

Let us start with the Orders as scheduled for this morning. These were a few words of the Chair in relation to the visit we attended yesterday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2014/2015 AND APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016  
- debate resumed on second reading - Day 5**

**MR SPEAKER:** Before Proceedings were set aside on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the Hon Minister of Health was responding to queries made by Members. Therefore I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Health to continue with his clarification.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health):** I thank you Mr Speaker for the prayer to praise this morning, our Heavenly Father has heard your prayers offered unto him this morning. I am grateful for your services.

It is the usual practice of our country to put our Heavenly Father first, He is the light that will guide us in the work we will be doing today. He will guide us so that we will be able to complete our tasks especially the duties we were chosen to fulfill.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House, Proceedings were set aside the day before yesterday when I was discussing matters in relation to maintenance. This morning is the first time in this Parliamentary Term that I have heard the bell ring for a long time since we were trying to reach quorum. Even though the Leader of Opposition and some Members of the House have not arrived, I am glad we have reached a number to commence with our Proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister; I give the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta (Falealupo):** Mr Speaker with all due respect the country is well aware that the Leader of Opposition will not be with us today. In such circumstances, permission has been allowed for the Member, this includes the Ministers of that side as well. Every time a building is christened within a constituency, a Member should be able to be there to accept respects; this is why the Member is not here.

I thank the Chair for his consideration; I believe this matter will be understood once the Leader explains his absence. This does not mean that he has forsaken his duties as Leader.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker the reason for the absence of the Leader is to attend the opening of a new building. Although the punctuality of Members is also dependent on the Member that will be speaking, the response of the Hon Minister is taking too long. Hon Minister if you want Members to be here on time I recommend that you be brief with your response.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker I was there with the Leader, we went there to accept the respects of the village. Before I came I told him that there were enough people there but if he wanted to stay for the whole day then it was fine. Nonetheless the Opposition Members are still present with us led by the Deputy Leader, I forgot to tell the Hon Minister that I received and accepted the excuse of the Member to be absent today.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe most of the Members are present today together with the Deputy Leader, they are quite capable to make decisions for their Leader. I humbly ask the Hon Minister of Health to not think lightly of the Opposition.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I strongly believe that they are well prepared especially the Deputy Leader, today is his day. He will be making the decision for their leader hence it will be an opportunity for the Member to speak as a Leader for Salafai. We all know that Salafai received a lot of blessings yesterday; it was not an easy task. This morning I commend the new Leader on his duties for today. I now call on the Hon Minister of Health to continue with his clarification.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I acknowledge the interruption. My remarks were made according to what I am observing. I did not know about this matter but I now understand that he is doing a campaign. I hope the best for him in accomplishing his duties.

Mr Speaker I have now arrived at the issue on maintenance. There was only one Member who stated this matter. This Member understands the work especially on major developments; his comments were focused on the main hospital. He is mainly concerned about the new hospital with hope that the hospital maintains its beauty and good condition. I think this is what everyone who visits the hospital says including those who visit from overseas.

I believe maintenance on such a large infrastructure is not cheap. I believe it takes five years to maintain this building. A financial estimation of the maintenance on this building for the five years will equal the same cost of when the building was first built. It is not an easy task as it is quite expensive. It is interesting within our Budget this year we are trying to cut a coat and lavalava. There are other measures that should be considered for the coat to make it look presentable, if it tears we have to stitch it back. This maintains the good condition of the coat. As one English saying goes, “Stitch in time saves nine.” This means that we should always maintain the buildings that we are proud to be a part of.

This work Mr Speaker is not a duty done only by the Ministry of Health because our staff is not the only ones using it; it is the public as well. We are astounded with the beauty of our buildings but there are those who are ignorant especially children who do not care about it. They scratch and make a mess by throwing rubbish all around the building. It is not an easy duty especially maintaining it. I do not know why the public enjoys chewing gum. There are areas within the hospital that have been noted to have gum stuck on the floor; it is a hard job trying to remove it. Not only hard to clean but to mop it because we cannot just leave as it is, it should be cleaned. If the Ministry and the public can work together in doing this work it will be much easier and it will maintain our assets. It is the work of the Ministry to advise staff to use equipment and facilities with care so the quality of assets is maintained.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation  
Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I now arrive to the matter concerning hospitals in the rural areas. There were two Members who asked about this issue. I apologize to my fellow Member for Falelatai and Samatau; Maota has heard requests to build a hospital in Falelatai. Unfortunately I will give the same response with the one I gave in previous Proceedings; we all have the same intention to fulfill such requests. We visited the old hospital and it will be easier to renovate the building then continue the service as requested by the Member. The Ministry has been trying to equally allocate its services to certain areas.

Our hospitals in rural areas have been categorized into strategic locations so ensure that they will cover certain areas of the country. This will also make it easier for people to travel to the nearest hospital. The issue stated by the Member is accurate because the hospitals near them do not have all the medical equipment needed like air regulators for those who need oxygen. Especially during accidents and emergencies there is a need to have a hospital close by to seek medical attention. This is seen in various villages although if we were to base our services on such conditions then it will mean every village will have their own hospital. We cannot determine these matters; there might be three to four people who have asthma in every village and three to four who also have heart problems. We cannot assure that everything will be made available and most importantly there is not enough staff to do the work. I have already elaborated on the number of doctors working at our hospitals perhaps we will be able to accomplish this matter soon. This is the same situation New Zealand is in. We have witnessed on television and in the newspapers that there was a woman who lived on a ventilator and died due to a power cut. This was a result of not paying the electricity bills. We now know that this issue is also happening in New Zealand. There are events that occur within our villages that challenges our plans for the future, unfortunately we have to think of the benefit of the country on how to distribute our funds.

There was a request made for a doctor for Sataua. It would have been great if we had enough doctors. I have already explained this matter earlier in my opening speech. In the past each hospital had a doctor, as heard in the House those days they travelled either using horses or by walking. It is accurate to keep rural hospitals in service for doctors to live at as well. It is difficult to go all the way to Apia or to another districts hospital. Nowadays we have good roads and nearly every family owns a car in addition there are methods used to access services much quicker and our doctors are always available. This area is monitored continuously and Government has decided that doctors time is wasted living in rural areas, it is as one Member for Salafai has predicted. It is true that there are about twenty patients in the morning but once the doctor finishes with the checkups there will be no more work for the whole day. This usually happened in the morning at the clinic, I also used to do it, and I spent two years at Aleipata and six months at Sataua. After the patients are all checked I will go fishing or to the plantations because there is nothing else to do.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

This is how it used to be although today we need these doctors in our main hospital, we are trying to distribute their duties equally because there are areas that specifically need their talent. Perhaps soon we will be able to execute this plan when it is the right timing. This is an explanation on the matter requested by Members.

Another matter mentioned is the National Kidney Foundation at the hospital where our people go for dialysis. There was a Member who requested a machine.

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

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister. The matter mentioned on the distribution of doctors in rural villages, some of these doctors were withheld from working in the main hospital. The Hon Minister has also clarified that this matter will be executed soon. The Hon Minister has stated that there is a lack of doctors within our main hospital, I wanted to ask, are mobile services still ongoing? He stated that rural hospitals are only busy in the morning then he fishes in the afternoon. I believe it is appropriate to have these doctors working in rural areas but let the others work in the main hospital.

Another matter mentioned by the Hon Minister during the time he served in rural areas, there were only about three to five people in villages but now the population has increased to ten thousands.

With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The interruption made by the Member is now understood. I call on the Hon Minister for his response.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** There is always good with the bad hence the wheat may grow but there are also weeds. I have advised the Member several times before that it is not yet his time; he does not have a say in how I arrange my response. It is up to me when to respond to the query that you wanted to understand. I ask that you wait. If I do finish with my clarification and have not answered your query then I apologize it not something that should be answered. I ask that you try not to interrupt and have patience.

**MR SPEAKER:** Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni you are being hasty, the Hon Minister is still trying to explain his answer.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I am just trying to help my fellow Minister in the structure of his response. I know I do not have a say on how he gives his answer.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

He is now clarifying hospitals in rural areas I thought he would be discussing doctors working there since it is the same matter. If we wait until the end of his speech to talk about my matter then I will wait....

**MR SPEAKER:** Let us trust the Hon Minister of Health, wait until it is your time to be Minister then you can structure your own. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Mr Speaker the difference is that he is talking about employing our private doctors to work in our Ministry. I am elaborating on the distributing of doctors at the hospital. These two matters are different.

Mr Speaker I continue with the matter of our dialysis unit. One of the Members requested a dialysis machine for their district hospital, thank you for mentioning this issue. I strongly believe that there are several other Members who want machines for their hospitals. There was one Member who has now passed away that used this machine, his hospital has not yet received a machine but they requested a long time ago. There are reasons why we cannot give out these machines easily. If we were to transfer a machine to a rural hospital we will need an air conditioned room which is \$15,000, a dialysis machine which is \$38,000 and a water filter machine which is \$7,700. There is also a need of a generator incase of power outages which is \$25,000, we also need....

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

I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi No. 3):** Mr Speaker, I apologize to the Hon Minister. It is not my intention to interrupt the speech but I just wanted to understand something. Mr Speaker I have noted that the media is present within the House. Is there a legislation that allows the media to come into the House freely?

**MR SPEAKER:** Do not worry that is the duty of the Chair, they have already approached for my consent to report on important matters.

I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I now arrive at the water tanks that cost \$5, 000, someone needs to be on duty, and then there is tax and transportation of all the equipment which is equivalent to \$17,000. Overall the estimated total to set up the machines in a rural hospital is \$100,000. It is not easy or cheap but there will come a time when this assistance is greatly needed then we will implement the project.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I already mentioned the total costs of implementing these machines which is \$100,000, as for operating these machines by staff it is estimated to \$125,000 a year. I recommend that Members consider these figures in relation to the requests made; it is possible if there is a patient to use it which should be reported from the dialysis unit. There is no patient travelling all the way from Aleipata at the moment. This means that the machine will be left there unused until someone gets sick. Then once it is used the machine will be useless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister; I will give the opportunity to the Member who mentioned this issue. I call on the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

**Tofa Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Since the Hon Minister has mentioned this Constituency I want to clarify that there are patients from Aleipata that are currently living in Apia. Some of the patients want to go back to their families but it is hard, with respect.

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

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Perhaps we will understand the matter sometime soon. I asked the Member how many were sick and he said ten, if this is true then there should be a machine for these people. This comes with our service code to cater to rural areas to those who need assistance which is the same with Salafai. Salafai already has machines, it has made it easier for patients rather than coming all the way to Upolu to be treated like in the past.

For the clarification of the House there are minimal funds set up for our dialysis unit. We started the dialysis unit in 2005; from June 2005 up till June 2015 there have been 253 Samoan people who have been treated at our dialysis unit.

In the financial year from July 2014 to June 2015, 124 Samoans received treatment and the number of Samoans from overseas who came here for treatment was 77. The number of permanent patients up to this month 2015 is 86. There are 80 patients using the facilities at Motootua and 6 are using the one at Tuasivi.

The total expense from 2005 is approximately \$5.6million which we are using at the moment, the expenses for 2005 alone was \$5 million. This means that only .6million more was spent on 86 patients from the \$5 million that was spent on six patients in 2005. It is not easy for us to give in to a request unless we know that this it is the right number of patients that need the treatment. I apologize to the Member.



26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

A Member mentioned that there was a patient that tried to fit into a small bed, I am not sure if the patient did not fit because it might be a child's bed. There was a recommendation to remove the sides of the bed especially where the feet are put so that the patient will be able to straighten their feet. It will be a big job trying to remove parts of the bed just for a pointless problem. This is not how we resolve this problem, the issue here is to find a longer bed, and the longest bed that we have is 7 feet. There are 6ft beds as well for shorter people. There is no need using a seven foot bed when they do not take up all the bed space.

Mr Speaker this matter concerning beds has been mentioned many times. We brought in new beds when we finished the new hospital, we tried to allocate funds to get mattresses, which was an issue voiced in the House. Some said that there were beds that had bad mattresses. Others stated that the reason why some beds were not used was because they had no mattresses. A good Samaritan from New Zealand Afioga Papaliitele Dr. Benjamin donated 250 mattresses, after that there was a complaint that there were not enough bed sheets, pillow cases, towels. We then asked this Samaritan for assistance even though he does live here he still helped us. Afioga Papaliitele then gave us two hundred and fifty sheets and pillow cases for the beds he donated. Another incident that surprised me the other day was a complaint that patients who were supposed to be admitted into the hospital were transferred to Outpatient. This was the instructions given by staff on duty at the time because there were no beds. I was surprised by this, so I went there to inspect the problem then I saw the board where patients are recorded, there were five empty beds in one room.

I asked the staff why patients were not admitted into that room when we are trying to find beds for patients in Outpatient. The response given to me was that the beds were broken. The same Good Samaritan gave us more beds from New Zealand. We have received about a hundred beds. Therefore I take this opportunity to thank the Shipping Services, for making this task easy by bringing in beds donated by Dr. Benjamin. There are twenty beds brought in at a time, we have just received another twenty not long ago since we needed beds for Foailalo after recommendations were made. During my visit at the beginning of this year, one of the Members thanked us for the six beds given, that was from the twenty that we received not long ago. I do not know how the beds broke. Perhaps our people are too heavy or the caretakers are rocking on these beds causing the springs to break. We are trying our best to resolve such problems especially with the many other issues faced with our National hospital at Motootua.

I now come to the matter related to our ambulance, someone mentioned this....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister, since the Member who mentioned the problem concerning beds is upstanding; I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga (Faasaleleaga No.4):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I move in relation to the matter discussed by the Hon Minister. The patients are not rocking on the beds. No these beds are new, these beds at the hospital are in good condition. I am not complaining about them. I was just concerned since these beds are from China. The Chinese people are short but if we look at our people some are quite tall. The teenage girl had an infected leg.

The truth Mr Speaker is that the girl was not in pain from the operation but rather because the bed was too short she had to hang her leg off the side of the bed. This is the reason why Hon Minister I humbly request that we get beds that are more comfortable and more spacious for patients to use. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Let us hear the clarification by the Hon Minister. I call on the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Mr Speaker since the Member has just arrived; I guess this is why he did not hear my clarification on the long and short beds. Although the opinion of the Member is quite right, I blame the staff that was working at that time. This is similar to a person who is a size 11 trying to fit into size 6 shoes if they let the girl use a shorter bed different from her height. The Member should have measured the bed and the height of the patient. Maybe the bed was big enough but the pillow was placed lower than where it was supposed to be.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** Mr Speaker since the Hon Minister is talking about the bed measurements. The Hon Minister should have laid on the bed so measurements can be taken on how long the beds should be for Members of the House. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask that you put an end to such ideas. I believe the Hon Minister will be elaborating further on this matter.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** No. I thank the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4. I forgive the Member since he was a generous host to us yesterday. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon Minister; I believe in the support of the Constituency for their Member was outstanding. Therefore I thank the Member and his Constituency. It was portrayed yesterday that the Constituency has no vote for today.

Mr Speaker I now come to the matter concerning ambulances mentioned by the Member. To clarify, there are two ambulances now used by our main hospital at Motootua. These two ambulances were brought in during the SIDS Conference; the Ministry was blessed to receive these cars after the conference. These ambulances have everything in it; there is oxygen, equipment to measure diabetes and high blood pressure and a heart monitor.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

The purpose of these two vehicles is to transport patients from Savaii to here or when patients are discharged from the hospital and taken to Savaii. This is done with precaution in case something else might happen to the patient. This is why it is rarely used in other cases.

As for Savaii there is an ambulance but it is semi-equipped, it has oxygen and suction but a nurse that goes with the ambulance overlooks blood tests for diabetes and high blood pressure. This kit can be carried around and it is usually with the nurse in their medical bag.

At the moment the Ministry is trying to teach staff how to use this equipment, especially for those who travel in the ambulance during emergencies. This ensures that the patient can be assessed on first encounter when they pick them up from their families or the accident site.

The matter mentioned by the Member is true; I heard of this incident a while back, the ambulance that was called was from the fire emergency services. The ambulance owned by the Fire Emergency service just responds to accidents to assist the hospital, there are trained staff that go with these vehicles. These ambulances are not equipped because the sole purpose is first response to transport patients to the hospital. The hospital has their own ambulance that is fully equipped, for calls made to the hospital.

Mr Speaker I now arrive to a matter one of the Members continuously persist on regarding the CT scan, I am tired of hearing this matter. I am quite embarrassed to hear this side say that I am a liar in the House but I was not taught that way. I do not have the power over this matter since there is a higher authority that funds this development. The CT scan that we have at the moment has a long history. We ordered a 16 slice CT scan after we called for tenders and there was a successful supplier. The company that won was temporarily closed down. We gave them the specifications for a 16 slice CT scan but the company offered to supply instead a 32 slice CT scan for the same price. It was a great deal because it cost less than \$500,000. We are currently waiting for this machine, the tender board and Government have agreed on this deal, the CT scan is expected to arrive next month and it will be used in August at the latest, it will be installed in July and in use by August.

There was a mention of our laboratory. We cannot hide from the shadow of the tree, we need to work together in fulfilling this duty and it is what we call a multi sectoral approach; it is a wholistic approach. This is why I do not object to recommendations that will assist in resolving weaknesses within the Ministry, it is a duty that we do together. I thank Members who have been vigilant for voicing these issues because this is one way to improve services that are not satisfactory. I believe this happens to the best of us. A patient from your family is checked in today but maybe by tomorrow I will be admitted and there will be no equipment available.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation  
Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

Mr Speaker regarding the lab tests mentioned by the Member, we now have machines used for blood tests, it also has a hood that covers where the slices are placed. These fixed slices are either pathology slices or tissue slices if a biopsy is undertaken to check if the patient has cancer. This tissue slice is then placed under the hood, to protect the staff; it is fixed on a small glass slice then taken overseas for pathology.

At the moment we do not have a pathologist, we are also trying to take pictures of these slices then send them overseas. The slices captured can be transported as images then it can be read by overseas pathologists in New Zealand and they will give us the diagnosis. All these areas of expertise have been permanently stationed. Therefore I thank the Member for mentioning this matter.

The diabetic clinic mentioned by one of the Members also has a long history. I have heard concerns on this matter from here, there and everywhere asking where our diabetic clinic is. I already discussed this matter within the House that the diabetic clinic is run by the Diabetic Association. If a diabetic person in the country or in this House is listening in, the Government aided this diabetic association to provide this service. Nonetheless there seems to be no more association and I cannot say who did wrong because we cannot determine who is just. I just want to say that this association has broken up which is the reason why services are interrupted and the service closing down. The Ministry of Health continued the implementation of these services using machines from the contracts of those who worked there; it will cost more if the contract is not completed. This is not the fault of the employees but it is that of the body implementing the work which has now been put upon the Ministry. This contract was carried forward until terms were completed with three or four specialist doctors. At the moment we are trying to look for a place in the town area where people can have easier access to diabetic related services.

I am beside the Hon Minister who this request for a space in town to set up these services. We are currently looking at methods to improve diabetic services; there have been no problems for our diabetic patients now checked in to the main hospital. I appease those who are diabetic we have not deserted you; services are still available for you at our main hospital.

Regarding Primary Health Care queried by a Member that interrupted my response. I do not know if he meant private doctors but it is true. This was a scheme implemented in partnership with private doctors and it is still ongoing up to now. There are 47 doctors from NUS and ten are specialists. Does anyone remember the theme for today; “the suit must fit the lavalava.’ We are now starting with the suit since it is expensive which means there is not enough fund for a lavalava as private doctors are expensive. There hourly rates are quite high, example, if they are paid \$200 an hour and work for eight then it will be \$1600 a day. If it is five days the week then the total will be \$10,000 for each doctor.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

We have rearranged this agreement; we are still implementing this partnership with our private doctors for other duties are carried out within the hospital. The staff from the hospital is now visiting villages; this is good for them especially for the new doctors who have not experienced this service. They should go out to our constituencies to observe what is happening in rural hospitals and observe some of the problems that their skills can assist in resolving.

This will broaden their knowledge and understanding so their services are not specific to one area. If a patient from the rural areas goes to the main hospital and is checked by someone who has a vision of what is happening out there, their understanding will help address the issue faced by the patient.

Mr Speaker this concludes my clarification. I want to thank the Chair and Members who voiced concerns in relation to this Ministry of Health, I am happy to take in recommendations made for us to work together to strengthen the services to our people especially those in need of medical attention.

Mr Speaker I thank you and God bless this sitting.

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

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I will retract my question since the Hon Minister has concluded his clarification in case it might take too long. I thank the Hon Minister for his response; I will just leave other matters, we will talk about it soon.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you, there are still opportunities given to Members if they have more queries to convey. The Hon Minister has stated that whatever matter you wish to understand he recommends that you voice it directly to the Executive and Ministry or to the Hon Minister.

I cannot say thank you enough to the Hon Minister for his detailed and outstanding speech, even though it was long, we cannot spare details since we are talking about our health. I pray that the Lord bless you and your Ministry and services provided for the country.

We have now arrived at the backbone of our country; agriculture and fisheries. I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, it is now time for a response from your Ministry.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries):** First I want to thank Heavenly Father for His love and kindness that has led us here safely this morning. I thank the Chair for his leadership in conducting our Parliamentary Proceedings.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation  
Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I acknowledge the support of all Samoa, from the high mountains to the shore. I will not reiterate the honorifics of the country because I cannot add or remove a word of what has already been written from the past. I am thankful that we are able to continue with our Proceedings today. I welcome the presence of the Chair, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet especially Associate Ministers. I also welcome the Leader of Opposition and Deputy and the Members of that side of Chamber. We are in the presence of Chief Executives of some Government Ministries and the public listening into our Proceedings.

Before I begin with the issues voiced by the Members in relation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, I briefly want to speak on one of the meetings we attended in Rome. I apologize to the House and to the public who might be listening in to our Proceedings. At this conference that we attended in Rome there were a lot of new challenges brought to light not only on matters discussed but especially for our country.

First I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister for the opportunity given to me to travel there and lead an international conference on agriculture and fisheries matters. For the clarification of the country when the issue was discussed last year, the FAO Council was deliberating on someone to lead this International Conference on Agriculture and a name of a Samoan Minister was drawn. I am grateful to our Pacific neighbors for nominating me to lead such an important meeting; these countries included Tonga, Fiji, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia. This decision made by the Council was finalized in March this year officiating me as the Leader of this conference. I was honored and thanked the Lord for the opportunity not only for me but as a Minister and a representative of our country. This is the first time in the history of this conference that an opportunity has been given to a Minister from a small island country ever since it was founded in 1945. I was talking with the Hon Prime Minister on the opportunity given by the Council to lead this conference. I thank the Hon Prime Minister and our Parliament since our sittings were set aside for the start of the month so I can attend to these duties. I am very grateful.

This international conference is quite important because not only did we deliberate the budget but also policies and strategies that implement agriculture and fisheries strategies in the world. This conference consisted of 1700 delegates; there was one Pope, 2 Queens, 16 Head of States and Presidents, 29 Prime Ministers and 116 Ministers and delegates plus observers. I was overwhelmed to experience for the first time how big the site was where the conference was held with everyone facing me. The seat for the Samoan representative was right at the back when the meeting started the Minister for Samoa was called to lead, and I said to myself how can a simple person lead... I was applauded by everyone when I walked to the front and I took my seat as leader of the conference.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I was proud and grateful that Samoa was acknowledged at this international conference, as I earlier stated this was the first time it was lead by a small country representative while bigger countries were participants.

Before the conference commenced we met with the Executive of the Food Agriculture Organization to lay down the agenda on the conference schedule. I asked them ‘I have noticed that there are no opening prayers to start the meeting,’ they responded ‘this is how it is, since there are various religions incase some might complain.’ I told them, ‘alright but trust me I will still say a prayer since it is a tradition for Samoa to start every meeting with a prayer.’

If someone does complain then I will gladly answer to them. I want to thank the Chair for letting me use his fly whisk, even though I have one at home I still wanted to take it since it represented our Government. This is seen in the pictures I took. Another reason why I wanted to take it was because the Pope was there and I wanted him to touch it to bless the Chair and our Assembly. I started the conference with a prayer and I witnessed that no one had their eyes closed; I concluded that it was not important so I continued. There was no complaint after, no one was surprised that this was the first United Nations that started with a prayer. What I really wanted to tell you all was how this practice became a norm everyday of the week and people started closing their eyes when the prayer was done. The people kept thanking me and no one complained why I did the prayer despite there being Muslims, Buddhist, Hindus and atheists. This was one record that we accomplished at the conference, it is not something to boast about but it was the acknowledgment of our country. Even during our meeting with the Pope, when he called to bless us before the meeting, my wife and I sat before the Pope and delegates sat further away, his speech was in Italian, my wife then told me your name is the only word that is clear, the Pope thanked me as leader of the conference. I am not a Catholic but I was glad to get the opportunity to meet the man. He asked where I was from, I answered Samoa. Then he said bless Samoa, see the Pope has blessed our country. These are some of the brief encounters but a lot happened at the conference. This is the first time that all 16 countries of the Pacific attended the meeting amongst the one hundred and ninety four who attended.

Those are some of events that took place at the meeting and I thank the Lord for His love and protection on our country. Even our neighboring Pacific countries were proud this included New Zealand and Australia, they praised us in their speeches.

I will now move on to matters mentioned by some of the Members of the House....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister; I will give the opportunity to the Deputy Leader of Opposition.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Thank you for the opportunity. I move with respect on behalf of this side to voice our gratitude on the important speech given by the Hon Minister. I believe every Member is aware of this elated feeling since some have attended overseas conferences before; this was one important meeting especially for those who took part in it. I am thankful since Samoa was represented. The Hon Minister has made his country proud and this should be acknowledged by the House especially with the preparations by the Member.

Thank you, I believe such an appointment portrays trust. This is not a small conference considering the many leaders that attended; especially when you implemented our practice of starting gatherings with a prayer. Why? You are a true believer of Samoa. This is important because it will be a guide for those who will travel overseas for such matters. Mr Speaker we just wanted to express our vote of thanks to the Hon Minister, bless our Proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Thank you, if we do great things we should put the Lord first and praise Him. Although the statement made is true, we were with the Ambassador to Brussels, Susuga Fatumanava Pao Luteru and wife, our Consular Susuga Papalii Cafareli and his sister Margie, my wife and Afioga Leota who is the ACEO for Livestock and Afioga Fanene Mark Betham who was the representative of the Private Sector who is also Chairperson of the Agriculture Sector Plans, they were all astounded to be part of this conference. I thank the Deputy Leader of Opposition for your blessings upon us.

I now come to the matter concerning our taro as mentioned by some Members. The truth is we do not have enough taro; there is a huge demand for our taro in overseas markets. The price of the taro brought in by our farmers in rural areas is around 40-45 for a 20 kg sack. Also taro brought in from Savaii has been really good, it was a bit difficult since it was too far but now there is a man taking it overseas with the assistance of the Ministry, now taro supply from Savaii is really efficient.

The Ministry started sending our taro to overseas markets at the start of January 2014. It started with four containers then it went on to 5, 6, 7, then to 10, 11, and 12. There were 137 containers sent altogether to New Zealand and America excluding Tutuila. This was in June this year. The overall total of taro sacks sent overseas was 81,808; this means that there were 1,422,330 taro. What I am trying to convey is, the Ministry has worked hard to push the selling of taro, the taro labeled number two is the one in demand. This taro has a pink soot and white flesh. At the moment there seems to be not enough taro, hence we tried looking for overseas markets ensuring that supply was enough for our people as well.



26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

The Ministry is still carrying out research and as I mentioned at the start of the week, we will be launching three types of taro at our Agriculture show. There are three types that the Ministry has selected which some have labeled as Niue taro that has pink flesh. Well this is the same taro that is in demand from overseas.

The names of these three taro are lani, tanu and fusi which are from Salani, Tanumalala and Fusi. We are trying to produce more taro stems before it can be launched and given to the public to grow. The Ministry is still helping our people with providing electricity, water, staff and a packing house for our taro being exported overseas in containers.

At the moment we are planning on expanding our pack house since the space is now too small but there are many containers to fill. This indicates that the Ministry is encouraging people to grow and export their taro. A lot of families have now started to become interested in what I earlier stated. There is no need to go all the way inland to plant this taro variety because it can be growing near your house, beside coconut trees and cocoa trees. There is no reason to go all the way inland if you can grow your taro beside your home. Some plantations inland are stolen and it is too far. Our taro can be easily planted beside our houses. The visits taken have been fruitful, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Ministers speech since we have reached our recess hour. The clarification made by the Hon Minister will continue once we return.

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

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual morning recess at 10:45am until 11:34am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I am thankful that we have been able provide for you all today. I believe all Members have found strength to continue with our Proceedings for the day. I thank the House for your patience; we have now arrived at the second and last part of Proceedings. As we all know sittings done this day always finish at 12:00 noon but due to our schedule we must conclude once deliberations on the Budget have completed. I will now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to continue with his clarification.

Before we start, with all due respect to Members the Chair does not have to reprimand you of your behavior particularly for those who keep leaving to take short breaks. It has been noted and reported, therefore I humbly ask that Members be patient and be seated during the time of Proceedings. The televised sitting was implemented for the office especially to note time for breaks; also I ask that Heads of Government Ministries be present in the House with us.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I pray that Members heed such recommendations. If you do take a break it would be alright if it takes two minutes, this is the same for Chief Executives since we are deliberating an important Bill, the Budget 2015/2016.

I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe Members of the House have found strength with the refreshments provided. I move with respect to continue my clarification.

I now come to the matter mentioned by some of the Members concerning what we call a stimulus package. In understanding this matter the program has been implemented for three years now, each two block acre is used for planting cocoa, coconut trees and coffee. At the beginning of this program we deliberated that five hundred farmers should be involved. At the moment there are 557 participants in the program, 380 are from Upolu and 177 from Savaii. I am glad to announce to the House, yesterday we got a bonus from Upolu, we were at the house of the Pulenuu and heard how wonderful the hospitality Savaii was to welcome the Government. There was no such act done where we visited so if you have enough goods and we share them.

We got 380 from Upolu and 177 from Savaii. As for today they are currently giving out bonuses for the program in Savaii, this is being overlooked by the Ministry. This is to monitor development. We are planning to phase out this program and start on another new project of replanting palm trees. The reason why we have implemented this program is to encourage people to grow palm trees since it will be a source of life in the future. A palm tree will still bear fruit after it is sixty years old, as for the taro after 6-8 months it is replanted. A coconut tree never ceases from bearing fruit. The palm trees from the past have fluctuated. I believe most of us have heard that we are now producing fuel from virgin coconut oil, the price is very good. Nonetheless it will increase over time since it now has many uses, it is used for cosmetics, detergents and other things. At the moment we do not have enough palm trees but it is what we will resort to in the future. Even though there are other trees the coconut is much more important, I ask that the people grow it. There is a company that is planning on coming to Samoa to set up their factories to produce virgin coconut oil. The cost proposed for each coconut is less than 30 sene but this price will slowly increase. At the moment we are in talks with one of the consultants currently implementing this program. Perhaps this matter will soon be given to the Cabinet for a decision before it is brought into the House.

The Asia Pacific Coconut Community includes every country in the Pacific and Asia that grow palm trees. We are one of them; this is one body that has greatly assisted us especially with conferences that we usually attend in India and Asia.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

This is good for our country's future development. At first the Director General of the Community only catered for those in Asia now they have someone from the Pacific, Eulon Salam from Papua New Guinea, now they are catering to the Pacific. This is one reason why Pacific countries wanted to elect another Member from the Pacific when the change was done. I am now proud to announce that Samoa has been chosen for the International Gene Bank for coconuts. This is important since Samoa will now be the place where every palm tree from around the world will be nurtured especially for the Pacific and Asia. Since we have now been chosen for this important development, we are planning on replanting palm trees on lands beside the airport.

This development will also mean that we will be able to access different kinds of palm trees from around the world. We have been able to earn a lot from these coconuts with its juice; there are palm trees in Asia that are not found here. Those are the type of palm trees that people want to get because the juice is rich. There is a palm tree in Thailand of the aromatic species, people like the juice of this coconut that is put into cans or tetra bags sold all over the world. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to have the different species of palm trees, this way the farmer can have an option on how to use their coconuts. There is a big chance that they can earn a lot from the juice; this is found in the aromatic species tree. If they want the coconuts then they are free to choose what type of coconut tree to plant. I also wanted to make the House aware that after the stimulus package is completed next year, we will start....

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

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Thank you Hon Minister. Our Deputy Leader has voiced our gratitude with the work and endeavors faced involving your Ministry. The matter now mentioned by the Hon Minister regarding palm trees is very important since a lot of opinions were shown at the time. I am worried. The Hon Minister and the Ministry should bring in the right tree in case we bring in the kind that has more juice. I strongly believe that we should plant the one that has good flesh, because the flesh is quite useful. I recall that there was a big coconut tree that was brought in from Solomon Islands but it was only useful for juice and nothing else.

This is the reason why I am worried Hon Minister, we might allow options but we do not have that much land and the farmers are indecisive. It would be best if a project was implemented on these types of trees to encourage our people to concentrate on growing our own palm trees. There is a coconut that has good quality flesh for export.

This is an opinion on the matter with respect.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. In saving the time of the Hon Minister I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi (Aana Alofi No.1):** Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity, I support the notion made by the previous Member. With respect to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries we already did this before which resulted to our Samoan palm trees being mixed with others. This matter should be assessed because our lands are not big; it is alright to bring them in because we will still be selling our own Samoan palm tree.

I believe the people have turned to selling green coconuts; it is \$2 to buy a green coconut and 30 sene for a dry coconut. They earn more from selling green coconuts. I humbly recommend that the Hon Minister and Ministry review this matter or it might result to what happened at the hundred acres of STEC land at Faleolo. The palm trees grown were of no use. With respect thank you.

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

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Thank you. As Members have heard through my clarification the main tree that we are encouraging is the one that produces copra. But there is another option given to those who want to use the green coconuts. The coconut that I mentioned is the aromatic species, it is not found here. Perhaps some of you who have travelled to Australia, America and other countries have seen this tree, the husk is removed then you take out the green coconut. These types of trees are from Thailand they have yet to come to Samoa. The Ministry is concentrating on the palm tree that gets us coconuts with the opportunity for another kind because a lot of money is earned from selling the juice. It is true that we sell it for \$1- \$2 but if we pack and export this juice it will cost around USD\$5 to USD\$10 for a small can. We are implementing this as an option but we will still concentrate on the palm tree that gets us coconuts.

Afioga Leaupepe was accurate in his statement. These trees are called niulea, at that time we did not pack coconut juice but now we are doing it. If we are able to concentrate on planting this type of palm we will harvest the coconuts which are good for consuming especially for companies who are producing Virgin Coconut Oil.

There was a query made by a Member on the matter of organic farming. I want to announce to the House that Cabinet has passed the establishment of another sector at the Crop Division in Nu'u. This Sector will concentrate on organics working together with Women in Business; this organization led by women promotes organic farming.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation  
Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

The Government has decided that a sector be established to assist with the work done by Women in Business, since this is one area the world is emphasizing today, to use organic produce. The Ministry implemented this sector so that the use of pesticides and weed killers will gradually phase out. As we have seen some have used these chemicals wrongly to commit suicide. These chemicals are very harmful to our lands which are quite small. We are thinking of the future perhaps this method of organic farming will help phase out the use of chemicals, it is good for our soil, drinking water and especially healthy. Europe has banned the use of chemicals entirely. The world is gradually starting to invest in these organic farm methods as questioned by the Member.

The matter concerning the state of fisheries, the company in charge with our fishing export is doing really well. It was recorded at the end of February this year up to this month that 940 metric tons of fish has been exported overseas. This was the total brought in by our fishing boats under a new company. This is a big catch considering the time, furthermore this number is increasing. If we look at the numbers for the monthly export it started below and is now slowly increasing, there is no sign of it decreasing. This is the same for our revenue which has increased to \$2 million in this short time span by this company. In the meeting I attended yesterday the company has decided to pull out its branch from the Solomon Islands, and relocate to Samoa. This means that they will be expanding the factory, meaning that we will be exporting more fish overseas and will be getting more fishing boats.

There are now other companies that are interested in setting up base here. The company here now originated from Taiwan. There is a company from China who is interested as well as one from Korea. We have started with trans-shipment with one of the biggest Chinese companies in the world. The fish transits from China since they do not have a factory base here, although eventually they will be looking at setting up their own company the same for Korea. I want to remind you that the Bumble Bee Company is also planning on doing the same. There are still many developments on fishing that we will be looking at in the future. I am confident that this is one area that will increase our exports. We will not only focus on exporting agricultural products but also concentrate on fisheries. As the Hon Prime Minister stated the tuna is a fish that migrates from one place to the other therefore if we do not go and catch it other countries will benefit from it. Everything has been taken into account and maybe in the next few months we will be implementing these plans. There were Members that mentioned the wharf at Asau, some companies have considered this wharf nonetheless there are a few issues encountered....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity I also thank the Hon Minister for the clarification. I salute you for the hard work and for the success in the development of our fish exports. Mr Speaker, I have noted that the company in charge is from Thailand and as recorded by the group PNA Thailand mainly gets its fish from the Pacific. These fishing boats anchor in Thailand which is the reason that 70% of the canneries are from Thailand. But most of the fish caught is from the Pacific. I humbly request that a solution be implemented to monitor fishing vessels that dock in our country. This is to ensure that we get the fish rather than taking it all the way back to Thailand where we will not earn money. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. In saving the time of the Hon Minister I call on the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I just want to ask a question in relation to the matter stated by the Member on fishing. Once we talk about the Pacific we cannot ignore the opinions of the people especially the Leaders on matters such as fisheries since this is one source of income for the Pacific. I am grateful since I now see the changes in fishing boats also the Pacific is one of the oceans of the world that has plenty tuna. Not only is there plenty tuna but it is the good variety. The problem seen as stated by the previous Member, 80% of tuna found here is canned overseas. What we need is for it to be canned in our country so that we can earn the profits....

**MR SPEAKER:** The opinion stated by the Member is now understood, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker what we want is also what other canneries want, since it is quite expensive to ship in cans and send back overseas. This means the tariff is paid twice for a can, which was the reason why we closed down our corned beef production. These companies that come into our country are cheap because they only set up loin operations; they divide fish parts which are accepted by America. In this way we will ensure the value of the fish compared to the total value. This means that we are following provisions and legislations of tariff in overseas countries. This is why it is difficult to can fish in our country. This does not affect the fish canneries in Tutuila since it is part of America.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Member for Faleata West?

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Thank you, I have not finished explaining this matter, nonetheless the cans that are now used are not hard anymore they are more plastic. The license has been given to these fishing vessels which are alright. We all know that there is a lot of fish here but the advisors have informed us that there is not much fish left. It is like what they say when I was growing up, the oil will soon dry up but still there is oil. No one can control it. We all know what PNA is doing not only do they give licenses but also it is charging daily rates dependent on days the fishing vessel is out at sea for a long period of time. This is why they have much profit, they earn less from licenses. Now they have a daily rate for fishing vessels, the longer the vessel is at sea the larger the rate based on their catch.

This is the reason why revenue has increased...the Hon Minister is aware of this to expand our Industry, with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Member. Pardon me Hon Minister; I call on the Deputy Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Thank you for the opportunity. The clarification made is quite clear, but is there a list Hon Minister that records overseas vessels. Is there a country that has a lot of fishing vessels licensed to us? Whether there are a lot of Chinese or neighbors, just give us an idea, because there are lots of unknown fishing boats in Savaii. I humbly ask for further clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Before I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister I just want to clarify further an announcement I made in relation to recess. We will take recess at 1:00pm. I have noted that we took recess at our usual time therefore I apologize to Members and I withdraw my statement that we will finish at 12:00pm. We are still proceeding with the response by the Hon Minister. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe everyone here knows that Samoa has the smallest economic zone; it cannot hold all the fish in that area, most of the fishing vessels are licensed overseas since that is where they fish. The provision we implemented allows any overseas fishing vessel into our shores, we have an access agreement, as I stated last week this access agreement regulates the work including the workers and related matters.

Most of these fishing vessels fish overseas and they just stop by Samoa to drop off their catch. The Ministry has a vessel monitoring system. This system monitors where these fishing vessels fish through satellite, the location of every vessel is known. Alerts are also given off if fishing vessels cross the zone boundary, so do not worry. The Member for Aana Alofi No. 3, I did not say the fishing group was from Thailand, it is Taiwan.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

The Hon Prime Minister has clarified the matter stated by the Member for Faleata West. Let us start slowly since we do not own any fishing vessels, if these vessels pull out of our shores we will have no more canneries and we will be bankrupt. This is why I ask that we tread carefully; also we are getting this capital for free from the vessels bringing in their catch. Perhaps by the end of the year this will be one gold mine for us.

We already visited the wharf at Asau, there are big and small fishing vessels although only small fishing vessels can fit into this harbor. The only difficulty seen, perhaps the Government could assist with this issue, is the electricity and water because we need water badly. In order to carry out such a project, perhaps soon these matters will be addressed then we will be able to set up the development for Savaii at the wharf in Asau. As for the time being, we will begin with the one in Apia, with respect this is my response on this matter.

I will now respond to some of the questions in relation to the matter concerning Cyclone Evan and the SACEP. I already clarified before; the assisting efforts for Cyclone Evan are divided into two categories; the assistance for farmers affected and the assistance to the Ministry to develop the agricultural sector. I want to announce that the number of those registered under this program is, 7,494 farmers and fishermen. At the moment only 3,493 have received funds we are currently arranging assistance for the other 1,500 which should be concluded by the end of next month. This leaves approximately 2,501 which we will progress to assist once we settle the budget for the financial year.

As for the Ministry, we are currently working on setting up greenhouses to plant seedlings for different trees and to rebuild the warehouse where taro containers are being packed. The issue now is there is too much taro but the space for it to be packed is small it will now be renovated together with the Fisheries Office. These are some of the plans in progress, I am thankful that we have started the program because the difficulty in the beginning was....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister I will give the opportunity for the interruption made by the Member Afioga Toeolesulusulu Schuster.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank you kindly Mr Speaker. I just wanted to ask the Hon Minister since I have noticed that there is a lot of taro, but there seems to be only an average ten containers.

Through the research undertaken by the Ministry, why are there not more containers if we have a lot of taro. Have some people not met the requirements needed to export taro overseas or are we planting the wrong taro variety. Thank you.



26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker since the Hon Minister has moved away from the matter, our goods are exported overseas in small containers. The Hon Prime Minister stated tuna cans but this is not what I was thinking. Hon Minister I was thinking of bottled tuna. It is the same as a bottle of sea. It is the same as fish. As I recall water was expensive since we did not have any plastic bottles. Today we are producing our own bottles, does the Hon Minister have an idea since we can now manufacture our own bottles why not bottle our tuna and export it overseas. With respect.

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

**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Mr Speaker these interruptions were not mentioned in speeches. If the Chair has an electric rod to shock these Members for wasting time. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** This is the exact reason why I am trying to enforce our Standing Orders, new questions are not answered; the response given by the Hon Minister is generalized. In case Members have new queries to ask, your opinions are important but the decision is up to the Hon Minister. This a recommendation to Members I know some have just mentioned new questions in relation to the clarification but I advise the Hon Minister to carry on with your explanation. I believe this is the matter stated by the Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Very well. I will respond in respect to Members nonetheless I should not answer these new queries incase... especially the Opposition. I know Members are aware that I was a former leader of Opposition in the past? Now I am on this side and I know how you feel however the questions are quite silly. The only Member who asked the decent questions was Afioga Aeau since he was one of our Elders then but all the others are foolish.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker with respect to the country listening in to Proceedings, once you got smart you went and....

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Very well, thank you. The Hon Prime Minister has already mentioned our canned tuna...let us start with what we have now, we are lucky that we are not spending anything. These companies are the ones implementing everything we are just fortunate enough to reap the benefits of exports.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I visited these companies last year to oversee the work of the the Bumble Bee company in Los Angeles. I observed the many different types of cans. I asked them the same question, why not use plastic? The man replied, ‘the consumers are used to these cans. If you look at it there are different colors but once it is put into plastic no one will want to consume it.’ So anyone who has such an idea, it is a silly idea. The answer given is the same as the one given by Afioga Le Mamea Ropati.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU’A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** The Hon Prime Minister has responded and that is the answer. The reason why the assistance given was delayed was based on the fact that we tried to develop this new system. Our country is the first to use this system EVS, Electronic Voucher System where you do not need papers anymore because your phone will now be used. You just show your phone to the cashier then you get your order. I apologize for this delay; nonetheless this service is now in use.

Another program implemented is the agriculture competitiveness enhancement project. I want to let everyone know that there are now a few farmers who have registered in this program. The first intake already completed had fifty three participants; the second intake was two hundred and at the moment there are twenty seven. We are progressing with two hundred and eighty. The total fund spent so far is \$2,120,964 and it is still in progress. We are dealing with the same matter in implementing this system. The World Bank together with the Treasury has already been here to create this system, now it is flowing smoothly. The average intake on what was paid out on was estimated at \$14,545 for farmers. The second intake undertaken not long ago was \$13,976. At the moment everything is running smoothly. Another component with the assistance given by the World Bank for the Ministry of Agriculture is for cows, sheep and pig breeding, I believe Members have witnessed 747 cows brought in like tourists. These are the cows used for our breeding process.

I am saddened by the fact that there were quite a few cows that were used yesterday. I am saddened because I already advised the elders from rural areas to not slaughter the cows but bring them alive, this way we will be able to breed more cows. We are trying to increase the cattle population. The problem here is that many cows are slaughtered for funerals and other special occasions. I humbly request our people to consider this matter or else use money so that we can save our cattle.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member for Faleata West.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I want to understand the clarification made by the Hon Minister, whether the cows will be made as pets or used for funerals and other stuff. Nonetheless the cow was used for the right purpose yesterday.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** I humbly ask that we try not to eat too much beef, buy a can of cornered beef if you want to eat it. Let us build up our cattle then think about other matters later. We have just gotten in our sheep for breeding; we went to Fiji and got one hundred and two. We have already started the breeding process, now we have thirty five more together with the rams that were brought in from Australia. I believe some have witnessed that some of these sheep are as huge as pigs. If this breeding process is a success I am confident that pigs will not be used anymore for special occasions since it will be replaced with sheep. If this process is a success we will be able to move on to other areas, the Ministry has chosen about five multiplier farmers to assist with our sheep breeding process.

As for our livestock surge outs, we have started work on the first abattoir for Savaii and Upolu; a slaughter house. Even our facilities at Nu'u on our vegetables and other produce, greenhouses have been constructed for seedlings including new trees including potatoes. This is an overall clarification on a few developments happening since we do not have much time to explain everything.

As for other matters stated by Members, the Member for Falelatai and Samatau mentioned extension stations, I apologize to the Member during our visit we have noted that it is quite far inland and the house is rather small. Also the land is not fertile enough to be used to plant seedlings.

These houses are from the old days which should be now phased out. If the Member knows anywhere else to set up these greenhouses for your constituency, contact the Ministry. The matter was limited due to funds and I apologize for this matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the Member for Falelatai ma Samatau. I call on Afioga Taefu Lemi.

**Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai ma Samatau):** Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Hon Minister for his clear explanation. He has not been in this seat for one or two years, but this is the first time I have seen a disadvantage nonetheless I am grateful for the opportunity. As for my constituency this is a challenge, find another area that is accessible, closer to the road and fertile for this development implemented by the Hon Minister and Ministry. Thank you Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call on the Hon Minister.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** Thank you. If this is the case, the houses can be renewed such as others that have already been renovated. I hope that you will find a place that will be closer to the road with a bigger space because we will not only be setting up a conference building but greenhouses for seedlings behind it.

There is an issue that I forgot to mention earlier for the public and Members of the House. I want to announce that we got an award from Rome in 2013, this award is a medium and first gold for the decreasing number of those in poverty. We received another award this year, the food summit in Rome 1996 proposed that by this year the number of malnutrition should be half of what it is today, we received an award since we accomplished this goal. There were twenty nine countries from the world that received this award, and Samoa was one of them. We were pleased with this result; this means that our food supply is good.

Mr Speaker and respectable Members of Parliament....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister; I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Hon Minister submitted yesterday a confirmation letter on Samoa receiving this award and achieving the goal on food products. The document is quite huge, perhaps it is this thick. I have already instructed my Ministry to frame it and take a photo and publish it in the Savali then it will be displayed at the museum to showcase the achievement of Samoa through the Hon Minister at the conference in Rome.

Mr Speaker this is the announcement for such achievements cannot be taken lightly. There were twenty nine countries in the world but Samoa was one of them, it is not a minor achievement and it should be shared with the whole country especially to our future generation.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you, I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA LEMALU SU'A LEATUAVAO TUILETUFUGA ROPATI MUALIA:** The Members of the House have heard the announcement made by the Hon Prime Minister, we should all be proud of this achievement, since we have been able to accomplish what bigger countries have done. It is also something that we should develop and improve further. We have improved greatly and developed our agriculture sector especially fisheries. Not only has it benefitted families and villages but also the economy of the country GDP.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

It is our goal that we develop more, not hesitate to implement programs that will outline future objectives to sustain our food products especially in encouraging exportation of agricultural produce and fishery products.

I now take the opportunity to say a few words to my Constituency; *Le paia i Aiga Satuala ae tainane foi le Taulagi, le paia ia Tuisavailuu ma le Gagaeolo ma le Itu, ae tainane foi le paia ma le mamalu o le Faleaana*, I believe the Constituency has heard some of the plans set especially my family the respectable Lemalu and Le Mamea, the respectable Alo o le Tuiaana, Usoalii and Saleleaalii. The respectable Sua, Tia, Faumuina and Gagaifolevao, Tusani, Fui and Lemalama.

I also want to mention Itu i Tafagamanu honorable Tuala and Fui, honorable Tusani and Leaupepe, Sa Iauta. I acknowledge the village of Safatoa in all its honorary salutations. Perhaps some of the Members of the Constituency have heard about the arrangements already made by the Constituency. This is the decision made and I was blessed with many years given to me to serve this seat. I have been serving our Constituency for thirty six years starting from 1979, since the start I did not have a single grey hair on my head but now I have a full head.

I thank the Lord for His love and kindness. If your representative has done well in his duties I pray that you praise the Lord for His guidance. I appease my Constituency if ever there was a mistake in my term of duty I ask for your forgiveness. The trust and respects of our Constituency is with you all, I have decided it is now time to retire, I have aged and the strength that I once possessed has slowly receded. I suggest with respect that the Constituency elect another individual and my support will never end.

This is a humble recommendation hence our Parliament still has your full support. It started out small but now, as the saying goes, “A persons wealth is depicted in the depths of understanding.” This is life, I pray that our Heavenly Father bless the Hon Prime Minister, I thank you for your acknowledgment in appointing me to be part of our Cabinet.

I appease the Members of Opposition; do not think that I have forgotten your role. Our Government is a vessel built together; let us work together for the betterment of our country. I pray that the Lord bless the various denominations through out the country. Even though we have different faiths we all worship one God. May the Lord bless all of Samoa to support us in the few months left of this Parliamentary Term. I also pray that the Lord give us strength and life everlasting to support the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet in its duties until the end of this year.

May the Lord bless the Chair. I hope that you find the strength likewise the Hon Prime Minister and fellow Ministers and Members of Opposition. With utmost respect, thank you.

*The Legislative Assembly showed its gratitude with applause on the farewell speech of the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela.*

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank you Hon Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, you are one of the oldest serving Members of this Cabinet. I believe the statement voiced in Tiafau is clear hence Members of the House and the country have heard the farewell remarks of the Member. Such days are not easy. The House is aware that there are two important times, the time for your maiden speech and the farewell speech. Today we have witnessed the farewell of one of the Ministers; Le Mamea Ropati. We will remember your services to this Parliament now and until forever. Eventhough we have yet to conclude our Proceedings for this month you have made known your decision and we respect it.

It is my belief that the Chair speaks on behalf of the Parliament. We give praise to the Lord that the Member has retired with honors in serving our country through the Government and your Constituency. We give praise to the Lord, He sees all things and what you sow is what you shall reap.

The Member stated earlier in his speech that his service ha ended; the Hon Prime Minister did not lightly appoint you for this Parliamaentary Term. When you came back after being the Leader of Opposition the water has returned to its original calm.

The Hon Minister was a Member of the Human Rights Protection Party in 1979. Nonetheless you have done well for yourself and have developed this Ministry which is the backbone of this country. The country is a witness to your work therefore I will not elaborate further, not only have you achieved medals but also prestigious awards through your determination. The Hon Minister we thank you, we also convey our gratidute as you have concluded your services in meeting with the Pope who blessed my whisk and this is such a great gift.

The Member has already stated his services to this Parliament. What should be our response? You have served this Parliament well, we cannot give you blessings but we can only pray to the Lord for your good health. It will not end here, as the saying goes one door closes and another opens, there are greater plans for you. We thank you for your service to this Parliament especially to your Constituency in all its honorary salutations.

May the Lord bless you with more prosperous years and your future duties, we will meet again. As the Leader of Opposition is absent, the Deputy Leader is here and has offered the sides applaud. You are both elder Members chosen by the Lord to fulfill this work. This is a few words of appreciation and respect; I thank the cNstituency and also the servants of the Lord for your life services.

We have now arrived at the response of the Hon Minister of Women Community and Social Development.

Pardon me I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I am a bit worried with the clarification made by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, it is not a farewell to our Parliament. The significance of the Budget is starting to fade due to long speeches but we still have many other issues to discuss. The speech made by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries voices his gratitude for his Constituency. I have taken the floor hastily since I have noticed the Member for Falealupo is preparing for his own farewell speech.

Mr Speaker, I take the floor to correct the statement for there will be a time for this event. We still have the next sitting for your farewell. Mr Speaker, this is the reason why I took the floor, there will be a time for the true farewell to the Parliament, this will also give your Constituency time to choose a new candidate. This is the time for constituencies to meet with their candidates; I have already met with my Constituency. Bless our Proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the Deputy Leader of Opposition for his speech.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Mr Speaker I move with respect in relation to the speech made by the Hon Prime Minister saying that I was going to say farewell.

This is not true with respect to the events happening today, I am lifted with the farewell speech by the Hon Minister hence the House is now aware of his decision. These are decisions made in relation to life changes; I was waiting in support. As for the comment made by the Hon Prime Minister, I will wait until you retire then we can retire together. I believe the House does not need our services anymore right? Anyway God Bless our Proceedings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. I call on Leulumoega.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Thank you Mr Speaker and respectable Members of Parliament. To the Members of Opposition even though your Leader is not with us today the Party is still strong today. We are in the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet including all other Members of this Parliament.

I acknowledge the support of Samoa, it is common belief that we do not have to reiterate the respects of the whole country. I acknowledge the three pillars of Government, the Parliament, church denominations and the whole country. I also acknowledge our neighbors Tutuila and Manua their respectable Government and support given to our country.

This morning I move with respect as a representative of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and the Ombudsmans Office providing services for the human rights of our people.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

Our duties in the House are supported by the presence of Heads of several Government Ministries and Corporations. I do not forget the service provided by the Legislative Assembly, respectable Clerk and Deputy. The previous Member is one of the eldest Members of this Parliament; I am saddened by the speech given by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I did not think that it would come true. Nonetheless such words are only heard when someone is saying farewell to the world. I believe the words of the speech given by Paul is accurate in this situation, "He hath fought a good fight, hath finished the course; he hath retained the faith, and hath kept it in righteousness." This is said of those who have attained their pensions as is the practice of the Congregational Christian Church. Blessed is the Minister that he will now be supporting those who will be elected for the next Parliamentary Term in the 2016 Elections. Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and blessings be upon us who will be here.

There were not many that mentioned issues concerning this Ministry. Most of the Members just voiced their appreciation and gratitude to the work done by the Ministry in serving the public.

First the Members signified the issue concerning water schemes, some have requested for such projects for their constituencies. Some have stated that the condition of water schemes under the management of the Ministry is very poor.

For the clarification of Members at the moment there are thirty four constituencies that have registered under the water schemes, seventeen water schemes have already been set up, with tanks and pipelines being allocated to families. This seventeen was completed last year. As for this year we are currently setting up water schemes for four constituencies. This is at Fagaloa including Maasina, the village of Lona, Lelea which is part of Fagaloa and the constituency of Safata, Nuusuatia. This contract work is nearly completed as per provisions made by Government. As I said earlier under our legislation the Government is implementing this project to ensure that our people have access to clean and safe water supply. This is one objective of this Government and the Ministry and we have not forsaken this responsibility. There are representatives from twenty one constituencies within our Committee. These provisions implied have already been stated in legislation.

There are other developments under the Ministry that still need Government assistance such as the water scheme at Niusuatia; we want the water supply to reach Vaiee, a neighboring village within the constituency of Safata. The people of the village have requested to use this water scheme and the village of Niusuatia have already given their consent. Therefore I humbly request to Government to expand development for Vaiee, the Ministry is considering this matter in relation to its budget. The incentive of this program is to ensure that assistance on water schemes by Government reach constituencies, hence there are allocated funds for this development.



26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

I humbly ask the people of Nuuuatia to support the Ministry in implementing this project. We will soon know of the financial situation as requests have to be laid before Cabinet for a decision. It is our main priority that everyone within the country has access to clean water supply.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon me Hon Minister for Women, Community and Social Development I will give the opportunity to the interruption by the Member.

I call on the Member for Faleata East.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo (Faleata East):** Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister. Since I was the one that mentioned this issue Hon Minister, it is alright. I thank the Ministry especially the Authority responsible for water schemes for services provided to our people. The reason why I mentioned this issue was a recommendation, to overlook where the water flows from before it is filtered into tanks. I suggest that you reconsider another way to protect it, because most of these pipes are just laid on the drains, then when the water flows it goes inside. A recommendation on the matter whether it is possible to implement a solution that can stop rubbish and dirt from flowing into water tanks. With respect. As for the work carried out by the Ministry it is done very well.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call on the Hon Minister to continue with his clarification.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, in relation to the interruption made by the Member I am not sure if Vaimoso and Lepea has a water scheme. I am surprised that the Member is elaborating on this matter but does not know that trainings are undertaken by the Ministry and Authority together with constituencies on how to address these matters. This workshop discusses how water is managed and what the people should be doing to protect it.

Secondly there is training on plumbing on how to structure pipelines and connecting water systems. Third, regarding the equipments used for these treatment plants, each family has a meter that monitors their water. This is the work carried out by the Ministry today, the important aspect is the water quality testing. This area is a high priority especially to ensure that the country has access to good quality water. The Government cannot make a mistake on such developments. This is the reason why I am surprised that the Member has stood up many times to remark on this matter, I already explained that trainings are carried out. Also the Ministry is being vigilant on this matter to have clean water.

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

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Not only that but to take water samples every three months of the year, this is taken to SROS or the Ministry of Health for testing.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** The Hon Minister stated that there are constituencies who do not have water schemes, it is true because this project is not in my Constituency. It is true that my constituency is the source of where most of this filtered water comes from for the country. Hon Minister, I have visited the water source, it is true that there are water catchments that are clean nonetheless there are some that are not. I will not elaborate further or put the Ministry in an awkward situation. These water schemes are not as clean as the ones managed by the Samoa Water Authority. There is a major difference between the two in relation to tests undertaken.

The service is great, but just reconsider looking at these water schemes to ensure that they are clean because there are water catchments that are not managed well.

**MR SPEAKER:** The opinion voiced is well understood, it is the recommendation of the Member Hon Minister, it is his way of protecting our health, but I will leave the matter to you. The Hon Minister has stated that it has been tested using proper measures. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I respect the Member since I am also from Vaimoso, I suggest that you leave the work to the Ministry do not worry, wait until you become a Minister in the future then you can carry out this request. Then you can go and observe the water as you wish.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker I am not saying that I want to be a Minister. I am giving the recommendation on what I witnessed, these are not accusations. As for the water source that I witnessed, you will believe me once you see the tests. Nonetheless my recommendation remains the same Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** Do not take the issue seriously, such remarks are taken as humor, these are words from Vaimoso. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I appease my fellow Member. If you can give us evidence of what you are talking about, fine because the Ministry can be criticized from your remarks. I am saddened by such accusation. As for the unclean water that is presumed to be supplied to the constituency in Sili and Salailua, we are hundred percent certain the water is zero e-coli meaning there is no bacteria.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

Most other constituencies have less than ten percent of the water with this problem. The Scientific Research Organisation and the Ministry of Health has ensured us that it is safe for drinking and will not affect the health of those dependent on these water schemes. After the four water schemes are completed we will then....

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I wish to understand Hon Minister on the matter considering the e-coli since this term is quite important for us. Please.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAI VALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** E-coli is a germ or bacteria generated from dirt that is found in water and from rotten trees that are cut down. This is the reason why some are against it. Coliform is a bacterium that is found from a person or animal that goes into the water. If you were to consume this water that consists of bacteria you will have diarrhea.

This is what e-coli and coliform means. I advise that everyone be cautious on drinking this incase you are poisoned. The Member should be cautious of these bacteria incase his wife might have to take him to the hospital.

Mr Speaker there are four water scheme projects in progress at the moment, it will be completed this year. The Government has given \$2.2million for the financial year starting July – June 2016 for the water schemes in Sili including Uafato and two other villages of Fagaloa.

We will be prioritizing Fagaloa since they have reported that members of the community have been affected from the drinking water.

For the clarification of this Parliament water schemes are progressing well. We will soon table a Bill amending provisions on the water schemes. If the Committee fails under the supervision of the Ministry the Minister can replace it with a new Committee. The Government always makes certain that such matters are not tampered with especially as it deals with the health of our people; this is different from the responsibility undertaken by the Samoa Water Authority.

Another matter queried, I am surprised no one is present here to hear it. I hope the Member for Palauli le Falefa is listening; the water scheme in Sili will be implemented this year....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize Hon Minister, I received the leave of the Member that he will not be here today because he will be paying his respects to one of the high chiefs of his Constituency. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAI VALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker I talked with him yesterday. As for the man from Siumu that requested for a water scheme, I have decided to decline the request for this budget since we are nearing the General Elections. Incase Siumu has no trust in him; the project will be implemented in 2017 for Siumu and Saaga.

26 JUNE 2015

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

This will portray that the Member is the one trying his best to implement the water scheme in the constituency of Saaga, Siumu. To the honorable Member, if you are listening in to my answer do not be discouraged be courageous and may the Lord strengthen you.

The issue concerning the Pulenuu house; Maota Manutoao, mentioned by a Member for Salafai, he is right. If we look at the state of the building it is in poor condition. I visited it yesterday unfortunately a motion has already been made by Lualemaga that the Japanese Government will be funding a two storey building for women on the other side of Salelologa together with this Samoan fale.

This is the decision of Government to make it easier for travel and preparing the program to renovate the building that it will be used for meetings for both the Pulenuu and Womens Committee in Salafai. This also includes the work carried out by the Ministry within Salafai, funds are expected by the end of the year which will be \$250,000 from Japans financial year, and we also have \$100,000 in our budget to assist with the development. A clarification to the Member who mentioned the matter, the Ministry already has future plans to renovate these buildings so it can be used by Pulenuu and Women on the big island. Also it will be a place that can be used by the Ministry to facilitate the services within Salafai to everyone in the community.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Ministers speech since we have now arrived at our recess hour. The Chair already voiced this announcement that we will be extending for another hour which is now completed. In respect I thank all the Members of the House this time of the day. I thank you all for your patience for this whole week; we have reached the last day of sittings this week. I thank you all for the deliberations and debates and the Government has started with responses. Several Ministers have taken the floor to reply to queries made within the House; I praise the Lord for His protection. We will take a break for the weekend and assemble back in the Chamber on Monday to continue with deliberating the Budget. Also to deliberate other important Bills to be second read before referral to Committee and others to be third read. We are nearing the completion of our work.

I thank the respectable Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations and other members of the public who are present to support our Proceedings. As for the work provided by Ministries in assisting our Government, I pray that the Lord guides you safely onto next week.

Samoa my country, nothing starts without an end, Proceedings of your Parliament has concluded for this week, we have felt the support given to us. We thank the several church denominations for your prayers especially to each Member of the House. We are founded on God therefore we hold our belief sacred.

*26 JUNE 2015*

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 and Appropriation  
Bill 2015/2016 – debate resumed on second reading – Day 5**

Before we conclude I call on the Member for Salega, Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam, to end our day with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative were set aside at 1:05pm until 9:00 am  
Monday, 29 June 2015.*