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FRIDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2021

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:15am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the commencement of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

Well, I take this opportunity to respectfully convey greetings to the sanctity of Parliament with the presence of the Hon Leader of the Government, the Cabinet especially all the honourable members, as well as the devotion of the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and various Organizations of the Government and the country.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: A few brief announcements by the Speaker. I want to remind the sanctity of the Parliament and all the honourable members, the official records to be set straight regarding the debates of the Parliament.

The corrections of the members are requested to be submitted within 4 days as given in our proceedings, so that the records of our Assembly are secure and accurate.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk presented to the Legislative Assembly the series of Papers in accordance with T.T.49(2).

1. P.P.2020/2021 No.129, Annual Report of the Prison and Correctional Service, fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– continued debate on the second reading – Day 13**

MR SPEAKER: Before the Work of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo, Afioga Elder Tafua had concluded his speech.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
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Well, and this is the opportunity to respectfully call on another member to take the stand and speak accordingly as our country is listening to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Well, thank you very much. One of the senior members is upstanding.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: No Mr Speaker, I am not upstanding to give my speech, I am waiting for the remaining members to speak first. But the announcement that you made is very important. The reason being, because my judgement of these elections, the Hansards were used, and our Office of the Legislation can testify that this is my responsibility, it is given to me to make corrections before it is given back. That is the importance, since it is used by the Court in analysing the exact intentions of the Parliament for negotiating these Acts.

With all due respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is the reason for the reminder because it is.... pardon me, in case the words uttered by the Chair are unpleasant, as it is being ignored by the members, but these records are very important records for the future.

Thus the member for Palauli le Falefa the Hon Faumuina have stood up to remind us, well, this is a very important point. Therefore, I ask the members to take it into consideration.

Well, I ask another member to stand and use this important opportunity. Well, another senior member is now upstanding, the elder member on this Side of our House from the constituency of Anoamaa West, Afioga Hon Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West): Thank you Mr Speaker. This morning I express my greetings and compassion, as well as the attendance of the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Honourable Associate Ministers and that Side of the House.

Well, I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and the members of the Parliamentary Committees, as well as the Special Parliamentary Committees.

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It is now clear that this is the last Sitting of this Parliamentary Term, opinions and thoughts have been now on point in accordance with our prayer of offering this morning. So this is our sole relationship with our Living God and Master in heaven. Congratulations and thank you Mr Speaker, our prayer is the first thing that has been done this morning.

But I believe that we are nearing the end of our journey in this Parliamentary Term, the XVI Parliamentary Term of our Independent Government of Samoa. Now that the sun has risen this new morning and what about the view of celestial stars? I would like to give gratitude to the devotion of the country, the conclusion of affairs and Parliament works these past 5 years has been successful. So it has been a busy few years with the implementation of many developments, and now we are nearing tranquil times as we finish up our remaining work.

Then I would like to voice the essence of gratitude of this constituency to the devotion of the country in all its honorific salutations, its sanctities and honours, starting from the land of Tapaga at the house of Matautunaaai, until it reaches the archipelago of Atululuga in the House in Fili and Puletuu in the white sands and the red sea of the lady. *I le afifio o Tama ma Aiga, o Aiga ma latou Tama, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga o Nofo ma Aiga o Papa. E faapea foi tupua iloga o le atunuu o lo o fetuunai ai muniao i le faautaga sailimalo e ponao ma tulatoa, o faleupolu tofia i le tupu, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I also acknowledge the devotion of His Excellency the Head of State and Good Lady, as well as the Hon Member of the Council of Deputies and your wife, especially the support of the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, the President and the Judiciary.

Mr Speaker, I cannot forget in my heart the devotion of the chiefs and nobles in the Eastern region, and that part of the country, even though our governments are different, but there is firm belief, we have the same bamboo-pillow and the same fine mats, because we are of the same origins. *I le paia ma le mamalu ia Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Ituau ma Saole, Saleaaumua, le Launiu na Saelua ma le nofo a Maopu, faapea upu i le Faleagafulu. E faapea foi le afifio o Alii, o le Laau Amotasi, Faatui o le Motu ma le Auvaa o Tootoo ia ma upu i le Motusa.*

I would also like to thank the support of the new Government of American Samoa that was ordained last month, before the presence of the Hon Governor General, Lieutenant Governor and Cabinet, as well as the President and Senators of the House of Senate, also the presence of the Speaker and the honourable members of the House of Representatives, as well as the devotion of the Hon Chief Justice and the Judiciary.

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I cannot forget in my heart and soul the devotion of the ordained workers chosen from heaven. Although the servants of God have been acknowledged last, but your importance remains critical. Because if you lead, then you must accumulate the honorifics of Samoa, if you are at the centre, you must bring about the prosperity of Samoa, and if you are last, you must convey our praises and appreciation to God because the work of Samoa has come to fruition. The sacred workers of God, I agree that the objectives of your Parliament in this 5 year period is about to be achieved, all because of your unfaltering devotion from many parts of the country, through our appointments from God. Thank you for the prayers, congratulations for the support.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill for this financial year, it has been noted the continuation of the developments and the work as programmed under the Main Budget that falls in the month of June 2021. Thank you for the ongoing programs for the improvement of the villages and constituencies of the country, as there are many developments in this district that has already been implemented. So I express gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Ministry, except for some requests which is very few, just a few seawalls and access roads that are left undone. I just want to remind the Hon Minister and the Ministry.

My constituency, well, the Government has already spoken, there will be a day when the process of the remaining work will be completed, but I congratulate you for your support. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your perseverance.

The Hon Minister of Works, before I move away from this matter, since we are still in the period of severe weather and rain. But just a reminder, as I believe that the Hon Minister and the Ministry are aware of the suffering faced by this constituency due to flooding, as you all know, our front yards are close to the coastline while the mountains are behind us. When there is heavy rainfall, such is the situation, as we suffer due to the large amounts of scattered water, because it flows from the mountains inland. Just as it has been noted in this day and age, the rivers are unable to bear the large amounts of rain that falls at this time of our lives. Do not forget, and also the situation with the slopes in the mountains that goes to the east, because there are still landslides occurring.

But so far we are grateful to God that no life has been lost. But take another look if there is a plan that can be devised to suppress this problem so that the landslides do not affect the roads of the constituency of Anoamaa and the roads heading towards Aleipata in that part of the country.

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Second, there is a matter that I would like to discuss, the plans for the construction of the dam in Alaoa, it is a good plan, and this member strongly supports it, but it is also a far-sighted development, far-sighted for the next 50 to 100 years. It is also observed that Alaoa is planned for this purpose. From the observation of this member, it seems that this is the tail of the huge valley that comes from inland Tiavi on the east side of Malololelei, but the valley is a very deep valley. In other words, this project is a very good project, in the design of the dam to capture and store water for the various needs of the country, also the production of electricity, especially for Fale Vaimauga and Faleata, here in town.

This is why I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Government for this great and important plan, because as you know, the situation with inland Tuasivi on the mountains of the Fale Vaimauga, the grounds have been mostly cleared and settled. Because most of the parts of the forest was used to collect the water and slowly distributed it towards the coastline, and now there is no more forest. But the plans for this dam, it is a very important development. If we constructed good and stable canals, to escort all this water to be stored in this dam, since there is a large quantity of water during heavy rainfall. It is the same situation as last week when it rained, and the heavy rain of the past month. But if there is a method to guide the water for our cause, it is a very good plan in my opinion as a representative. And so I convey my appreciation for the excellent plans for our country. Because when you stand on the west side of Malololelei, when you look down you can see Moamoa and Faleata. From my point of view, Faleata is also affected by some of this water, as it flows from inland on this side of Malololelei. And when you turn and face the East, you will see Fale Vaimauga, which is where another stream is also flowing and affecting that whole area, in particular the villages that are close to the town area, here at Fale Vaimauga.

These are some of the plans that I wanted to discuss this morning, because this member believes that it is an excellent far-sighted plan. Thank you very much. Well....

MR SPEAKER: Well, I implore the member as I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon Member who is currently speaking. As of now, the Ministry of Finance and the Asian Development Bank have been working together for a while now, since they are taking the lead in funding our dam at Alaoa.

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Currently, the amount required is \$100 million USD, which includes commitments from our partners. The plan is, sometime near the end of this year we will begin the implementation of the work, because in this situation, there should be a tender to find out who will make the designs and contracts for engineers before the announcement of the tenders for contractors to compete in the construction of the dam. I also think that there are no main contractors in Samoa who have the skills and experience to carry out this work, as there is an abundance of important skills abroad.

As for the situation, it was announced by our partners that we nearly have \$100 million USD and then the signing of all the funds will be prepared. Australia has given their assistance, and they believe that the operation will start in the last half of this year. But the work depends on our circumstances with the closure of the borders, since it is necessary to bring people from abroad to work with our Government to carry out designing and engineering aspects. The importance of that major development, it will resolve the problem of extreme flooding when there is heavy rainfall as observed throughout many years in Magiagi, Lelata, and a large part of Vaimauga West as mentioned by the representative of the constituency in order to properly prepare and proceed with the announcement of tenders for contracts for the completion of designs and engineering works and ending with the contracts of those who will build the dam.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, the clarification given by the Minister of Finance is very important, because he is the one who deals with the financial matters. It is also noted that the Minister who is in charge of engineering matters will be adding on.

This is the only thing I stood up to explain. Thank you to the thoughtful representative of the district for pointing out these major problems. The important point stated by the member regarding the large valleys at Alaoa, the valleys are quite big, and it makes it easier to collect water. And it was thought that we will all be moving towards living on a flatland, but we are currently living on a flatland and yet we are suffering, especially here in the town area, as it looks close from our perspective. But now the engineers are going directly to the origin of the problems which is on the mountains. Up in the mountains, where this problem should be resolved, especially the many problems that we have faced in our town area, as the location of the town area is incorrect.

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It is situated in the lowest parts that is only a few feet high and can easily become flooded. If only it was a little bit higher, but it is only a few feet. So when the tide is high, that will be the case, it is very difficult to find a solution as it will continue to flood. Now the speech of the member is directly talking about what we call in English, the cause and effect, the beginning and the end. So all of our thoughts are going towards the end of everything, but we should be focusing on the mountains, because that is where the rain falls a lot, and with the addition of the extreme climate change occurring, the rain is falling heavier than usual. Samoa is not the only country affected by this, as it is affecting the whole world. The only thing is the peacefulness that God has provided for Samoa. We are only dealing with rain and not violent storms. These violent winds are pushing thousands and thousands of miles of clouds that pours water to irrigate the land and fill our water reservoirs so that there is drinking water for the people to prepare for the drought that will follow.

Mr Speaker, this is the part that I wanted to put emphasis on, as our engineer will directly address this matter, a son of Samoa since the beginning, whether the origins of the floods is derived from the mountains which should be investigated. That is why the solution is not cheap. The assistance from Australia is the rest of the funds needed to complete the total cost of the large reservoir used to collect water, which is \$100 million USD. As for these things, they were provided with grace Mr Speaker, since they saw the importance of the solution project. The developments that have now been planned will not end in 2026, in 5 years. It will continue to be useful for 100 or 200 years from now. This is why I am grateful that the discussions this morning directly stated this permanent solution to provide relief for those who are currently affected by the floods.

The issue that was mentioned by the member regarding the seawalls, this constituency is quite lengthy, it is enormous, but they settled near the road, and next to the road near the coast is the sea. This means, it is unavoidable, the seawall should be constructed. Another thing that I have noticed in one of the villages of the district, it has expanded inland, but the road is very bad. And it is a road that needs to be improved, as it is a government road, and should not be called an access road.

Mr Speaker, the reminder that was given is very important, and this road should be laid out in our programs as it needs to be prioritized, because the village has responded to the aspiration given by the Government, to try as much as possible to occupy high ground for protection. This is one village that has reached that stage, the village that expanded inland. And what is the outcome of the expansion inland?

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The end result is the prosperity of the district, the prosperity of the people, because they are now living on the plantation, as soon as they wake up in the morning, as the sun rises, there will be enough crops to grow in the day, and before darkness comes, there will be enough crops for the evening. These are all the things that the Government is trying to do by constructing these access roads, making it possible to extend the village inland, so that they are relocated away from the negative effects of climate change.

Mr Speaker, that is what I wanted to add on, but just as I mentioned about the great Roman Empire that ended up ruling the whole world, but it was not built in a day, it was built gradually. That is the Act by which we carry out our work. Even the United States of America that has a lot of wealth in the whole world, they are also progressing gradually, building gradually, since God will continue to provide days. The only thing I want to remind you is that the United States Government has closed down three times due to the lack of funds, we have not approved our budget, but our government never closed down, the Government is still operational. The few shillings that are collected from the proper and careful planning carried out by the Minister of Finance and his Ministry, which made it possible for the Government to continue functioning, despite these times of difficulty due to Covid.

Mr Speaker, this is my additional statement and to express my gratitude for the thoughtfulness of the member who is speaking now.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, if there is any other addition by the Minister of Works, stand up.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang ((Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Well, before correcting the statement made by the Hon Fonotoe, I would first like to thank the Hon Prime Minister, especially the Minister of Finance who spoke on the importance of this development.

Thank you also to the Member, for raising this important matter. Now the EPC Management is preparing, as well as the Water Authority, to deal with the dam that has been discussed and questioned, as mentioned by the member. Furthermore the Hon Prime Minister has outlined the importance of this dam. Because it affects the constituency of Vaimauga. As stated by the Hon Prime Minister, when the water overflows due to the heavy rain, it will flow down here and flood the entire town, especially the villages of the constituency.

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This is what the Government is trying to implement, to build a larger dam that can store large amounts of water that flows from the mountains downwards, this is the important aspect of the project, especially with the situation as it is no secret that when large streams flow while the tide is high, the town area and the Vaimauga area will become flooded because of this situation. Now the solution to the problem has been prepared, which costs US\$100 million, as I have already stated, and it is also funded by the ADB. Well, this is one of our partners who help us a lot in our work. Just like the other countries that are generous towards us because our country is weak financially. That is the situation, but I would also like to address the statement made by the Member, in regards to landslides.

For the information of the member, feasible studies have been prepared on ways to strengthen and stabilise the slopes near the roads, to reduce landslides going towards the East. Now a project is being prepared not only in Anoamaa, but also in Salafai in Safotu. There is also a mountain there, and people are worried that it might collapse anytime. So a survey is being prepared, and a feasibility study will be conducted in order to control the erosion of the mountains that are close to our roads. That is what we have prepared but it is funded by the World Bank. These are the aspects which makes the statement of the Member crucial, because these issues are very important, the developments planned by the Government to be implemented for the protection and safety of our country, especially the villages that are affected.

As for your other requests, I will respond now, and I will not respond again at a later time, for your roads and sea walls, this situation has been prioritised in the statement by the Hon Prime Minister. It has been noted, since these roads affect the travel of the people of the country, so they should be improved, especially the protection of your village from being affected by these waves when...

Because it is still being observed and confirmed that the impact of climate change on Samoa and especially the world will not be reduced. The impacts of the climate change that we are facing will increase. This is my statement Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there are a few things that I forgot to mention. It is good to use this time, so the member can get some rest.

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But there are these 2 issues I want to further elaborate on, because I talked about it with the Leader of the Government of Japan when I was on my way back from a Forum I attended in New York and I flew up to the North Pole and travelled down to Japan, for our meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan and also to support our rugby team, while the Rugby World Cup was underway two years ago. There is an issue that we discussed, regarding the support provided for the situation of climate change.

So these were the matters I had discussed when I returned, the prevention of landslides. In particular, the situation where a large part of the mountain collapsed on the way going towards Lalomanu. Aleipata. That landslide almost reached the sea, coming from the highest peak of the mountains, and preventing further travels. In fact, the real reason why the landslide occurred is because the *asuemu* was removed from the foothills of the mountains to be use for Government work. But keep in mind that the trees and all the soil that is on the mountaintops depend on it. So it is preserving everything from the bottom, this is the whole seed of strength, which is where the mountain soil piles up. However, the excessive digging is gradually breaking down the soil, and then when it rains, it causes a big landslide. Now it has been halted by our Ministry in charge of landslides, the Ministry of Environment, as it is not necessary to excavate anything from below ground going towards Lalomanu, because that is the scientific situation from a scientific point of view, as below ground is where all the weight from the top of the mountain is contained.

That is also the reason why there are landslides in different parts of the country as stated by the Hon Minister, this is one major issue that the Government needs to work on. Based on my observation of foreign countries like Japan and Israel, there are two roads, and during my visit to Israel, I saw the roads that go along the side of the mountains, and it is cemented, the cement goes all the way down.

But there is another method, the second, where the mountain is moulded in the shape of a staircase. It means that 200 yards of mountain is cut down and moulded into a staircase shape, which builds up the soil that prevents landslides. It is moulded until it gets close to the bottom and then a concrete wall is built as a barrier to contain it, so these things are not cheap. That means it costs hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars.

So the Ministries are working on it and the research of the work that needs to be done has been completed. It includes the whole country, especially coming from Letogo and going all the way to Aleipata. As well as Savaii, especially in this area, like Gagaemauga No.2 in Safotu. As it can be seen in Safotu during the rainy season, so this is what our Government is planning towards, as it must be protected. These conditions are not cheap, but funds must be allocated to implement them.

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As for the large reservoirs that will be built in Alaoa, as well as other plans that have been arranged for the construction of large reservoirs in the large valleys at Ululoloa going towards Tapatapao. It will also stop large flows of water that comes from there, which also affect the rivers like Fuluasou, and the House is aware of the 3 major areas. It is not just about stopping the water flow, as there are 3 major roles of that plan, which makes it easier for foreign organizations to understand. It is noted, I will discuss it when it is time for my response.

Communications with foreign Governments, there is only one door, and that is through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All these matters are conveyed through one door, and other Ministries assist by providing details. But the doorway for external communications with Government partners is only possible through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Communicating with Australia going all the way to China and anywhere in the world, there is only one doorway. Sometimes people would forget this, and they would directly contact the representatives of these Governments who are here. For major matters a request cannot be given directly, there is only one way for it to be delivered. It must go through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Speaker, in the view of these Governments, there are 3 major uses of these plans. 1. Flood control. 2. Additional portable drinking water will be pumped from here to help the communities that are facing a shortage of water supply. It is true that on the west side of Apia, they depend on the water that comes from underground. There are large underground caves, which are surrounded by large underground rocks, where the water flows, seeping through and is collected in large underground reservoirs. So what is the purpose of this water? This is another function of the water, to resist the weight of the abundance of mud and the rocks above ground. There are things that happen in the world, as the water is being pumped excessively, and with the rainwater becoming scarce, as well as the cutting down of trees, it allows water to flow quickly to the sea. So what happens? The weight of the soil and rocks above ground becomes too heavy, as there is no underground water to hold and resist the weight from above, causing it to collapse. So every person or village that is located on the top will not be safe. In other words, the problems that we are causing with our own hands are also endangering our lives. Because if the water is pumped excessively, there will be no more water available as it is difficult for the water to seep through and fill the natural reservoirs that are under the rocks and soil, that is why it collapses. Then what? The people who live on the top will perish together with their crops.

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This has happened in other countries, so it is not safe Mr Speaker, to rely on the water that is being pumped from underground. It causes death, so what should be done is for us to continue finding other various methods to obtain water while also keeping our lives safe.

That is why this project is very important, as it provides water that can be consumed, water that is completely safe for the health of the people who drink this water.

And the thirdly, with these major projects, it also makes it possible to produce electricity from it. So these are the major benefits we can get from this project, thus why it is substantial from the point of view of those who we are requesting assistance from. There are 3 major benefits that can be attained from these 3 projects. Mr Speaker, that is my suggestion, since it is very important, these things are very deep in our discretion, but our children fully understand, the engineers that our Government sent abroad, to be educated and to return to use their skills to serve our Government.

Mr Speaker, this is my additional comment, in order to better understand these issues. And all the valleys, even the valley that the member talked about, our Government depends on the large valleys for water source in the next 1000 years. The birth of many people who depend on these long-term plans will continue to happen, since those are the blessings that were given to Abraham. What is the blessing? May you have many children, as many as the sand in the sea, and as many as the stars in the sky. Samoa is another country that has started to follow suit, the kind of development that Abraham has long ordered, that is the gift that has been given to you. For the world to multiply, so that God's family is large.

Mr Speaker, this is my affirmation on this clear and calm morning.

MR SPEAKER: I give another opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you, since this matter is very important, as the Hon Prime Minister has stated another benefit from the dam, that it provides drinking water. And it also provides us with hydropower which can be produced from this reservoir if it is used. That is what I wanted to say, to add onto the other condition, that is the benefit of this dam, not only is it a source of drinking water, but it is also another source of electricity, as we attempt to make our country renewable as soon as possible. And with all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: The situation of the matter has been made clear. Thank you also to the honourable member for raising this issue in your speech, as it has been clarified in the statement of the Hon Minister and the Prime Minister, thank you very much.

I call on the member.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you for giving us another opportunity. The very essence that the Prime Minister spoke about will not be.... that is the beginning and the end. When transcribed to the biblical language it is the Alpha and the Omega. As Abraham and his children are mentioned, he has many children but only one wife. But not that he has many children and many wives.

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member, do not mention that sensitive part.... The Deputy Speaker is amused by your statement.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: This is the exact essence, as it is being addressed...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: There is something amusing to the House, as well as the Hon Speaker. The Member is getting old and is starting to behave like Abraham.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker, I implore you, since our Assembly is going backwards. Samoa is observing, especially our children who are attending Sunday school for the first time. The member should be corrected, since he already knows. Yes, Sarah was Abraham's wife, but the other woman gave birth first... you already know. But it should be...because Samoa is listening, since the member is active in the church, but does not read the Bible. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I will not say anything inappropriate since the honourable member was faced with the passing of your mother. May the member continue to receive comfort from God because He has called upon your mother, thank you very much as your services are noted, those are your blessings. See, you do not need to go through an election which is a blessing for you. Even though I did not allow it, but congratulations and thank you.

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I call upon the member for Anoamaa West to continue your speech.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker, no, we all read the Bible. The matter being raised by my brother Lealailepule, remember that for this exact issue, Abraham was given permission and blessing to do what he did. Well, that is it...

MR SPEAKER: We are not having a Bible studies class... I advise the member to move forward since we are all affected by this word.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: No... Thank you Mr Speaker, that is issue, but I will move away from this very important issue as stated by the Prime Minister. But since the Minister of Finance addressed this matter, because we have yet to find a Company with the skills to construct the dam, however as stated by the Hon Prime Minister, it would be good to give the opportunity to our Samoan Companies here. Because when my brother Peseta gets the chance to speak, then he will talk about the dam he worked on in America. But I would like to add on to the...

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member for Anoamaa as I call upon the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: This is the suggestion given to the contractor that will come and implement this work, because it is common to form partnerships between the foreign contractors and our local contractors that we have now. But the issue is that, perhaps this is the most difficult development in terms of engineering. This is an opportunity to bring in skilled companies to make it possible, as they will also be helpful to our contractors by sharing their knowledge and skills.... In the years to come our contractors will be able to carry out this kind of work. Since they will be working together with experts that have implemented major projects like this many times abroad. But it does not mean that our people will not be getting an opportunity. Majority of workers, probably 90% of our own people will help in carrying out this work. With all due respect.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I implore the member that is speaking, since the Hon Peseta was mentioned. I call upon Peseta.

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Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4): Yes Mr Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity, but it would be best if I responded, in case people might think that I did not respond to the comment made by the Hon Laufofo. See also...

MR SPEAKER: I ask that you make it brief Peseta, as most of the interjections are clarifications and corrections to be made.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Mr Speaker, the selection of special engineers, there are many types of engineers. When the Government announced the ship, Salamasina in 1990, they looked for an engineer and a special welder that can remove and weld the ship. So that it is possible for Samoa to reuse this ship. Then a tender was advertised to 3 companies. Then in 1990....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I do not know what exactly happened. As the member could not control his eagerness. Who remodelled the Salamasina, when it was well-constructed by Japan. Also remember that in 1990 on the 1st February, when cyclone Ofa hit, it was the greatest storm in the history of Samoa for those who are still alive. It was a significant incident that happened in Samoa, which is remembered by people; the cyclone that hit in 1989 was forgotten in the month of March. We have not yet reached the end of February, but it was March when the cyclone hit. And the cyclone swept 6 ships ashore but only one ship was wrecked on the reef.

Some of us witnessed it, before the burial grounds were covered, these debris were removed first. But if it were not for this burial ground, the large iron debris would still be there now, the metal skeletons of the ships that were destroyed by the cyclone in 1889. What happened with the Salamasina, these huge waves lifted it up and properly laid it on the grounds that was already buried. What happened is that when the storm subsided, the Salamasina was situated on dry land, and we did not know what to do about it. Then it was announced that a person with special knowledge would make a plan to move the Salamasina out to the sea in one piece without any damages. Because what happened is that it was subtly lifted up by the wave and placed properly on the new ground. So this is exactly what the member is talking about in his statement. Make your statements and explain things properly, because people do not understand, but now I have given a narrative on this.

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What happen was that a huge pit was dug out, which is still visible at the back of the Government Building because of this engineer. This was the only sustainable way possible to move the ship out, because there is no machine in the world that can lift the whole ship up and place it back into the sea.

It is a person with special knowledge, but that was the solution he came up with, to dig up this area, while waiting for the high tide. Remember that the high tide has a scientific trait, the pull of gravity, when the moon rises in the west in the morning and the sun rises from the east, then the tide is affected by the push and pull of gravity. As the moon is above the horizon, and the sun is just rising. That is when these strong natural impulses convulse, which creates the pull of gravity. The tide then becomes unusually high, and that is the high tide which the engineer was thinking about.

I do not know who the engineer was at that time, but it is my first-time hearing that he was the one who made this huge pit. Then it was dug out, and the ship was slowly pulled out while the tide was high, and there were no damages sustained. There were a few scratches, but over to you Pese.

MR SPEAKER: It is as the saying goes, the man has praised his friend.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Mr Speaker, thank you also the Hon Prime Minister, because with these Sittings sometimes we need some laughter, and we do not have many days left. As for the work, the Hon Prime Minister is right, there is no mistake. Because perhaps it was 2 months ago, I sent the picture of this ship to the Hon Minister of Tourism, the Hon Sala, as Sala is listening. The request that I made to Sala, Sala, if you have sympathy, the Government development of beautifying the lands of the Government Building and the coastline is wonderful, but this is exactly what the Prime Minister is talking about, as it looks like a deep pool, since this was the ground that was dug up. So that the Salamasina can be pulled out, and it has already been welded. The water was pumped into this pit, and the Salamasina was pulled out, while we waited for the team from New Zealand to arrive to x-ray the ship. Now the Hon Sala is in possession of the pictures, since Sala is listening, those pictures show the ship floating in this pool of water. The request I made to the Hon Minister; I implore the Hon Minister to name this pool Lady Salamasina. Since if it were not for this ship, this pool of water would not exist. But the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister is correct. And when it was high tide, and the pit was filled with water, this is what we were waiting for, during high tide, the stone wall was shattered and the water flowed towards the sea while transporting the ship, and that is the explanation. But there is no mistake. The Hon Sala can testify since I went to him with the pictures of this ship.

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MR SPEAKER: Sala is this true or false, I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Tourism): Appreciation to this constituency who is represented by my brother, this is your true calling Peseta. I wish you the best Pese, Pule has already been told to take heed of you in the general elections.

The matter by my fellow colleague is true, but I agree that he should not be named Salamasina, call him Peseta instead from Savaii. Because...I do not know any other knowledgeable person like Peseta. If he also said that he invented a rocket that was said to have exploded in the moon when it did not blow up, it did reach its destination and people did come and said, "Peseta, you are the number one Samoan."

MR SPEAKER: Well done thanks. The matter is now clear and... I heed appreciation to the member for his experience and understanding. Well done. I call upon the member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker, and the Hon Prime Minister for clarifying this area, there was no welding done.

Then we come back to the reservoir.

MR SPEAKER: Do endure mercy, do not come...You may go ahead...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: The final matter is the reservoir. Appreciation as one of the necessary reminders, as aware by the Government and the Ministry, this means that our foreign reserves would increase as more money is spent on fuel imported for our power generators today. I guess that is one of the reasons.

I further extend appreciation to the Minister of Health and staff, the Government and the NEOC Committee for protecting our people from the pandemic virus. As we await the arrival of our vaccinations in a future date, I trust a national vaccine program is set out for it seems that world health notices are televised from other countries in accordance to these ongoing vaccination programs.

It seems our doctors and nurses will be first people to receive doses as they are ones working for our protection, before we have our elderlies next and the next group and the strong for last. Perhaps the strong covers all of us.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Health.

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Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker, again just to...the member has said it. The national vaccine rollout program has been set out, and our overseas partners are aware of it so that they can share these shots for each country. We were quick to...and we do have the list perhaps at the end of this month or the start of the new month. 5000 doses will arrive first. So, one person will have 2 vaccination each, meaning 2,500 people will be vaccinated. You have stated the truth about our frontliners being the first to be vaccinated, as they are the ones that are protecting our country, our doctors, nurses and the vulnerable who are our elderlies, and then we will have to await more vaccine supplies from abroad. But let us continue to seek help through prayer for our protection in God's Loving arms lest another...whilst improvement is nearing us...blessings are yet to arrive and therefore let God be exalted.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. This matter is clarified.
Go ahead.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you. If plans go well possibly our borders will be opened again to New Zealand. As with foreign affairs related matter, I trust the Hon Prime Minister is considering it, and our aircraft will be developed and operational again in the country if proper protection measures are undertaken with all requirements being met. Because as aware reports were sent in the past week, and flights have reopened between New Zealand and the Cook Islands. But do pray that our country will proceed with these good plans in a future day as stated by the Hon Minister.

The final matter in relation to the Supplementary Budget, I wish to extend gratitude to the Corporation and the Hon Minister for the proposal of setting up a flea market in Sogi, it is a matter I had strongly emphasised in the previous Budget for this purpose of the Government. I trust that within this precinct and the bay connection from the backside of Parliament linking the other villages lies a customary land, public land, freehold land and a strip of land near the bay next to the villages of Vaimoso and Lepea and other joining villages to Vaitele in the western side, there is a very huge bay there. From a personal mindset, this is the chance to lead and expand the township area. It is therefore necessary to reclaim more extensive area for the purpose of setting up a flea market for Government buildings and the development of local businesses and companies. Because I believe this area is enormous.

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So the Government now has set plans for the wharf which also has my support as based on personal observation for the next 50 years, this is the only possible area for the Apia township extension, and gratefully the Hon Prime Minister has already spoken on the plans for Salelologa and Asau yesterday which are also good plans, thank you.

I agree that land reclamation is necessary for this bay. In addition, it would be good to reclaim a huge land here to avoid high tide that causes flooding to the Apia town area whenever there is heavy rain. If land reclamation and proper erection of the seawall areas is possible, this could avoid high tide and the settlement areas in the town area would dry up quickly whenever there is flooding. Such is the thought, although plans set out for a wharf have now been laid out. The personal perspective, there are various related port developments we can implement as well, we can set up a port for containers ship, set up a port for oil tankers, land extension for cruise ships on the other side and a port for yachts, as the Kingdom of Tonga is earning more revenue for the yachts docked in Vavau island. We can also set up a wharf for fishers of the country to fully utilize this land area.

Such is my perspective on this area, “it has huge commercial potential” and so we should tap into this area. It is true that although there are environmental effects, but that is inevitable today, there must be a balance, despite our major projects in place, it is necessary to put balance in place for our environment in order to save and protect our environment. Moreover, to mitigate the effects on environment. The belief and main purpose is that we can achieve it.

Such is the thought on to our bays.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member as I allow the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the point mentioned by the member is vital, he was also a part of the Cabinet during the discussion of these matters. All these matters are included under Government plans. Some are concerned about the effects of our mangrove areas. The plan for this wharf is the passageway will be linked directly from the sea and will not affect the mangrove area in the east as this area will be made deep and be set aside for container storage to allow the navigation channel open towards the shoreline. So this mangrove area will not be affected as it is vital to the environment.

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That is reason the entire report by the member on Vaiusu being affected is wrong, rather it is the seaside area towards the western part. So, all these plans for the wharf are being laid out including the marina and a specific area for oil tankers as the western area situates another navigation channel.

The small channel is situated in that area right opposite the oil tankers entering Samoa. But also note that there is limited need for oil tankers and there is the purpose at the current for the many plans in place that after the next Term we will all be covered with renewable energy produced in the country, we have these plans, electricity produced from water is much cheaper. That is reason all these other plans are important, power generated by water is more affordable for our people.

It is reason renewable energy is very important, not only from the sun, but the wind and water. These are all laid out in our plans. Right now, at the end of the week most of the stores are closed, and electricity from the sun, wind and water can generate power that we need every day. And when it comes to Mondays, everything is on, and that is reason oil is still required. That is the truth, at the end of the week, renewable energy can cater the needs of the country.

Mr Speaker, the Government has additional plans laid out until the end of this 5 year period in 2006 where we will no longer need diesel, except for vehicles but we are also heading towards importing electric cars that no longer needs fuel. Meaning, strategic plans are laid out, which is our contribution on top of our commitments or conditions that we signed in Paris, saying that we agree to use renewable energy available in Samoa.

Such is the importance of this raising matter by the member, who also took part in the open discussions of these matters in Cabinet. So with regards to the lands of Mulinuu in Sogi, the most fundamental idea is the need to build a new extra road towards the new market in Sogi, to ease the execution of drainage and have a thorough consideration of these groundworks as right now, plans are very difficult to go through because this area has not yet been implemented, there must be 2 roads here, one from the coastal side area and another one in the inner part alongside the mangrove area in Sogi together with a proposed plan for land reclamation. So this proposed land reclamation in Sogi for the construction of a major market is in the pipeline right until the end of the year. Aside from that, the main perspective is the expansion of the 3-lane road to this market, to develop the whole landscape, with the necessary move to lift the grounds level so as to avoid flooding.

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Consultations on easy and affordable ways to implementing this plan have now been set aside for the next few months ahead and soon enough, the building of the flea market will start together with road expansion. It is something like the road towards the TATTE building opposite the monastery which situates a very huge land area, which can be used to build a new road between here and the Tusitala area and expand it for easier access.

It is similar to the areas opposite the flea market in Fugalei. There are various accessible ways to the market in Sogi including the bridge expansion in Fugalei which is too small for travellers given our population growth and increasing vehicles. Such is the reason that whenever I come to Parliamentary sittings, I would call the police to quicken our traveling so that we can reach the House swiftly before the Meeting starts.

What is it now, the mindset is all on the lay out of roads towards the future, thus affecting the roads within the vicinity of the township area. What is happening now, there is plentiful vehicles imported, and long queues are seen. Such is reason why vigilant Governments is very important, to plan ahead using road engineers to avoid future accidents and the high cost of living that is existing today. Nevertheless, the establishment of businesses in the country is also growing.

As for the wharf alone, plans have been set out to implement it. I recall the given statement I made, the navigation channel will link from the seaside to the shoreline and therefore, a road to Mulinuu is not necessary, but a proposed one in Vaitele where many businesses are located will be done so that supplies are made easier to pick up to avoid the long queues of loaded trucks and lorries traveling on the road from the wharf to the town area thus interrupting the traveling public. So a shortcut way will be located in Vaitele, and these are the strategic plans in the future. As I mentioned, there is a time perhaps in the next 20 years ahead, businesses will grow here and around Vaitele area to Tafaigata and Ululoloa, in Tuaeifu, Sinamoga and Alafua as these are insusceptible areas from floodings.

Mr Speaker that is the long-term vision of this Government towards the future, together with other layout plans to be implemented step by step.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. We have arrived at our normal recess. Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 10:40am and resumed at 11:21am.

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Debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 resumed.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Well done to you and your perseverance in carrying out our Works.

During recess the member for Anoamaa West was speaking. With respect I call upon the member to resume with your speech.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you honorable Speaker. I wish to extend gratitude to your honour for the food received that has energized us as that we can continue our Works. Thank you very much to you and the Clerk and staff.

Continuing a thought on the Supplementary Budget, just a reminder or a question too to the Hon Minister of Health, a matter I had mentioned in my speech on the previous Main Estimates with regards to our frontliners who are working for our protection from the likely effects of the Covid19. Just a reminder regarding that situation. Perhaps we have the ACC on matters relating to Occupational Health and Safety, and perhaps there is something on that. Also a reminder to the Hon Minister of Health of a matter regarding the sailors of this constituency working on ships, they are requesting whether they can obtain the hazard allowance which they spoke about. Just laying it before you for your consideration, perhaps you will have a response to it when time permits.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member as I allow the Minister of Health.

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Mr Speaker as mentioned by the member in his acknowledgement I took note of from our previous sittings, this is one of the things you had emphasized, particularly the frontliners that are affected for our protection. Thankfully it has also...I recall there was a directive from one of the Cabinet meetings to leave it to the PSC, to prepare a policy for the Cabinet to look into, and to submit a decision of the House in relation to the matters raised by the members in their speeches. The National Emergency Operations Committee and the Ministry are also listening perhaps very soon we will get a recommendation from them regarding our children who are working as sailors on ships as you mentioned.

I call upon the honorable Speaker with respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I beg tolerance to the member, as I allow the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the various developments of the Government.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker. I take the floor since the member mentioned benefits under the Accident Compensation Corporation. I believe the Corporation is working on a Legislation at the moment given the situation with the virus, which seems something new that has come, but I trust there are benefits under the Law that allows us to look at the possible benefits that provides the eligibility for those who are currently exposed to the pandemic virus in protection of the country.

Since I have this opportunity, and I wish not to interrupt the speech of the member as he has also mentioned the continuation of the airport development, in relation to bringing in of medicine and other things. Presently, work is ongoing and has not been stopped. However based on the restrictions seen around the world, we are carefully planning when our airplane will come back. The balance of time to bring it and the determination to resume this development, that is the issue, it is a timing issue for it to arrive, then it can travel. Now all plans are made so that there will be work when the plane arrives and then it will be implemented. That is a little bit of hope as we all know the current state our world is in, whereas for the development it is still ongoing, that is one dream of our Government.

Thank you also to the member, this is one member who is very supportive of this development, and I still remember the words of the member to maintain these developments, hence they are future goals of Government.

Therefore I thank the member for his support upon our development. The speech of the member also supports our development in Sogi. The burying of the land is expected to start this month, and then work for the market will begin. We will be burying 2 acres of land first, then the market will be set up because there is nowhere for the few people who were at the Savalalo market to go. The reason why they have been moved, is to meet other Government plans for the area beside the fish market. Now they have left because of these Government plans. Now there is a company that has won the contract to build the house for their relocation for the time being as we start building the market in Sogi. All these things are linked together and are not isolated developments. The Governments holistic approach for all these developments is that they are all interconnected.

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Once it is buried and the market is set up, then the roads mentioned by the Prime Minister will be constructed, and it will be a new perspective. The Sogi area will be a new site. Together with the plans of our wharf, this is a much broader view the Government will be perceiving, which includes each development. Well it may not be long now before the end of the year where we will get to witness these changes that will take place. With respect thank you to the member for supporting these areas.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you, I just want remind the member of Anoamaa West that your time is finished, but I will give you extra time for the interruptions to continue, because we finish at 12, therefore improvise your speech on our time of adjournment.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you you Mr Speaker, not only was my time interrupted by this side but also that side. If I were to put everything together, after half an hour it will still not be finished, but I will try, and conclude as well.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, my duty is to inform...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I convey a final word of thanks, I want to address and thank the Prime Minsiter for his speech this morning, which mentioned a few seawalls. As well as access roads going inland of this constituency because it is mostly inhabited by people especially the village of Solosolo.

The Hon Minister is aware of the request of this member, we are all supporting your duties, and being patient. As I have voiced to the constituency, to have patience, there will come a time when we will be rewarded with developments.

But this constituency wishes to thank the Leader of Government, as well as Cabinet and Associate Ministers, Government Ministries and Organisations, I commend you all for the efforts. I also thank Private companies and all the employees of the country. Parliament's 5 year term of has ended well. As well as the supporting work of this Side of the House, to the respectable Chairpersons, Deputy Chairperson and members of the Parliamentary Committees, for their work to support Parliamentary practices of the House these past 5 years. Congratulations on your duties.

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Mr Speaker, I now conclude with a word to my constituency. To my constituency, there is no intention we will have a final word today, because your representative is still working. And your member will not stop working. Yes, until the day of the elections and after the elections I will continue to work. That is the spirit, the spirit to perform and continue to serve. Our constituency and its dignitaries, I believe you are guarded by the respects of faleupolu and tulatoa, from the most prominent chief to the youngest person.

Thank you for your support, as it is the usual saying in our country, “duties that are supported concludes with success.’ Thank you for your trust that I am still in the seat of our constituency. Thank you also to the Holy Servants for the prayers and support, the work of the this Parliamentary term has concluded with success.

It has been years since our Covenant was formed, through this position of our constituency. It reminds me of the day of Elections when the result was read out and I was successful.

Well one of the pastors of our constituency prayed with us. He said, ‘this day, the covenant between our constituency and the elected member has been made.’ Then the pastor said, ‘this covenant, I compare it to the one that was made in Capernaum.’

Yes, remember the 2 important things that happened in Capernaum, where Jesus turned water into fine wine, which the people feasted on. Also that was the first Miracle that was performed by Jesus, so the pastor said yes in agreement. The constituency agreed, the good deeds is the badge of bearing the honor of the representative of the constituency. Yes, that is the case.

Second, the pastor stated, the covenant in Capernaum, sustains the Law of God. Any covenant witnessed before God, only God can open it. Yes, amen. Those are the words of the pastor not mine. Therefore, I thought...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Please I just want to ask who is this pastor? The reason I raise this is because these 2 books are important and it is new to my hearing, but do tell me who is the pastor so that your brother beside you can go visit him.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: I am hesitant to mention the name of the pastor, I only know that he is from Lepa.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The reason why I asked, is because all the pastors in Lepa, did things differently. That is why I asked, because people have different opinions on what is stated in the Bible, it is the same as me.

I mainly just listen, but that is what I am afraid of incase your pastor is like me, he just states what he hears.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I am glad that the member has a good will to remember things from the past, thank you. But you may continue...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Well all the things that I heard and know, is conveyed by Faumuina towards me. If the Hon Prime Minister hears it and it is wrong, then ask Faumuina.

MR SPEAKER: How about the member that is on your other side?

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: I will get to it in a moment.

MR SPEAKER: Well, since you have mentioned the name of the member, I call upon Faumuina.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I can see that there is a Bible before you.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Honestly I did not conduct a church service for a covenant between the member and his constituency. It is a false witness, I only smile and say amen to it but really the member knows the pastor who consecrated the covenant between him and the constituency. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

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Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker, because he is like my father whom I rely on in matters of Holy Principles. He is very good, the calling of the Prophet that I remember here, which is given in the Book of Ezekiel. What Chapter of Ezekiel again? Ezekiel 20 verse 37. It is stated, ‘I will make you pass under the rod, and will bring you into the bond of the Covenant.’ Amen, that is how grateful I feel.

My constituency, thank you for the support. As for my fellow competitors, I commend you all for your patience. Thank you for your patience, now you see that the pursuit of politics is not easy. But I commend you all for the patience and courage. It is not easy to find victory, despite the fact that there are many rumors, even announcements on telephones and the internet, words that make other candidates angry, and even undermines a candidate, and state that the candidate will fall. Even if a member does not come back, some would say that the time of the member is finished, but I am comforted, when I think of David.

The time when David was faced with the wrath of his enemies. This is when he sat down and wrote a song. The song that is recorded in the Book of Psalms. It was mentioned in the Psalms last week and even for this week. It is Psalm 23, Verse 4 as we all know, this is the most famous Psalm in the world, a song that is most famous in the world, as stated in Verse 4. “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil.”

I have brought this song, because there are many songs that have been sung in the House, but this is the only Song that is the most famous in the world. Brothers, that is a word of comfort from the Preacher this morning. A comforting word for those of us who have an anxious heart. Do not worry, yes, Faaolesa, do not worry, do not. Sili do not worry, think of David, yes Tialavea, worry about yourself.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister of Police and Prisons): Mr Speaker can I get an opportunity? Since my name was mentioned.

MR SPEAKER: Well since you have mentioned the name of the member, I call upon the senior member. I call upon the Hon Minister of Revenue, Afioga Tialavea.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: I just want to remind the member, but thank you for the advice. I am not worried, because it is my close companion that is competing with me.

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Therefore whoever comes back, we are one and the same. The member is also a spiritual advisor of this family, maybe before elections he will resign to serve to the church, and give me the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call upon the member.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Speaker, this is the reason. Following noble and Christian behavior because now the church worshipped by the member is mentioned.

Well, our constituency, remember and do not forget, whether it is victory or loss, these things fade away, but the brotherhood remains. Now Tialavea has spoken, very well, that is the spirit but let us put it before God.

Mr Speaker, I am certain that my constituency understands my wishes, they are all aware of my goal as I have already met with the dignity of the constituency. I also voiced my need to continue my duties to serve the constituency, through the role of the village representative. You mentioned last week the King Solomon and Sheba. It brought back to my mind the time when he was in pain, when his illness was getting worse. The news spread that it was only a few minutes before the king died. But Israel was surprised when he got back up to voice his request. His last request was, he wanted to kiss and touch Sheba for one last time. If we look at it Mr Speaker, it is a need, to touch one last time. My constituency, Sheba accepted the request of the old man. Now our genealogy has been found, the royal genealogy that the world is following. It is also seen in Samoa today, and that is the Tuiatua Faanofonofu.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, it seems I have been picked on and was not part of the fight.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, the matter is now very clear in terms of official standing. I call upon the member to conclude his speech.

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker that is the royal genealogy of Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu my fellow member. But thank you.

Well since I can see that our time is nearly finished. I will now say my last words, and I will resume my speech when we return in the next Parliamentary term.

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Yes, my constituency, I speak to you once again, with utmost respect. I would like to express my gratitude for your trust placed upon me to represent the Seat of our constituency these past 5 years. Yes, I thank you and praise the God of Nations, for this honor thank you.

Mr Speaker, we conclude a statement, the House is also aware, that this is your last term in office, as well as some senior members of the House, the grey haired elders who you will be retiring together. A word may God bless you, and we commend you for the services to Government and our country. We are confident that your sweat is not in vain. We pray that God greatly reward your hard work and efforts for serving the country for many years. As for the future, may God guide you all, and we pray that you all find good health.

Mr Speaker, since I am the Chairperson of the Economic Committee where Afioga Vaafusuaga was a member, I take this opportunity to convey condolences to his wife and child. Because of Gods calling upon the respectable member, Afioga Taulagi, the sky has been torn apart, and the house in Mulivai is shrouded. Our relationship was also a happy one. Most of the time Afioga Taulagi would talk and we would listen, as one of the members of the House testified last week. But the thing to note is that the subject that Afioga Vaafusuaga likes to talk about is his church. He likes talking about his church and pastor, and we believed that he is a member who is not only active in his church but also takes care of the pastor. Blessed is the servant that he has been called upon, in his good deeds. I pray he finds a permanent place in eternal paradise. As in the Bible, a good and faithful servant, enters in the pleasure of your Lord.

I also want to thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the office, for your contribution in serving the Parliament of the country, I commend you all for the efforts. This constituency has already conveyed its gratitude to Government Ministries and Organisation.

Lastly, I want to thank my family, thank you for the support, and for everything, especially my wife and children, thank you for the support. Also to my elderly mother who is 92 years old, thank you for your prayers, and I thank God for blessing you with many years.

I wish you all the best in the upcoming elections, to the Hon Prime Minister and that side of the House, also to this side of Chamber. May the support of Samoa reach the heavens. Soifua and God bless.

Parliament expressed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of the member of Anoamaa West.

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MR SPEAKER: I commend the member for his remarks, you have concluded well like the sport of Tapalega and all of Parliament have heard, especially the constituency and Samoa. Therefore, I commend you for your efforts, like the word said in Atua. It has been heard in body, as what Saul said to David, “you will do great things and surely triumph.” The constituency you have seen the efforts of the member. Rome was not built in one day; the Government works gradually. As for the development of the constituency, the Chair has witnessed the working spirit of the member. Therefore, let us rely on God to give us hope, to receive guidance, and seek our future. Whatever our thoughts and feelings, let us leave them to God to help us fulfil our desires. Thank you, I pray blessings upon the cause. Not only for the member but all of Parliament, I also thank you for the statement conveyed. Well, I convey the same regarding the members who will be concluding in this term. Thus, this is our last time to serve in this Parliament, this is a word from us. But since we have arrived at the time to conclude our work and finish for the day. Before we adjourn for our Sittings next week.

I call upon the member of Falelatai and Samatau to conclude our session with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 11:59am until Monday, February 8 at 9:00am.