

MONDAY, 01 MARCH 2021

Debates continued with the Government Responses on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 at 6:10 pm.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed.

I commend you all for the patience to continue our work. Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended this afternoon while Afioga Afamasaga, the Hon Toeolesulusulu, Minister of Communications and Information Technology was speaking. I call upon the member to continue.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker for this important opportunity. I believe the opinions of members have already been voiced, thus duties of Parliament are nearing its end, and this is also the last time to voice a statement for this XVI Parliamentary term.

Even now, calamities have passed, but the day and this morning are blessed by Gods love and kindness. Even though the members of your boat Mr Speaker are incomplete to finish this Parliamentary term, but we are grateful to God that only Tofa Pau Sefo Pau and Afioga Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken Poutoa were called upon. There are still 50 representatives who will embark to complete the end of this Term for Samoa.

I pray the Lord gives warmth and comfort to the wife and children, especially his wife Vaelaa and daughter, also the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela, the respects of *Aiga Sa Tuala ma le Aiga Taulagi ia te oe le Matua, a o le mamalu foi ia te oe le tootoo, aua Maauga, le mamalu i le Falefa ma le Faleaana e tausivaatele ia te oe le Tuisavailuu.*

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I acknowledge the respects of the House; I will not reiterate esteem of the House of Samoa in your holiness and stance. You are the pillars made from the cluster; pigeons chosen from the few to administer the House of Samoa in Tiafau. Such are the respects of *Aiga ma latou Tama, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Ee, Aiga o Papa, Aiga na Tafaiifa, e tausivaatele e le mamalu i la oulua usoga Tumua ma Pule, tainane Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I acknowledge our families as well in Tutuila and Manua, to the Governor, Afioga Mauga Lemanu Palepoi. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor Afioga Eleasaro, the dignity of the House of Representatives and Senate. The respects of *Sua ma le Vaifanua, o Fofu ma Aitulagi Saole ma Saleaaumua ma le Launiu na Saelua. Le mamalu i le nofo a too, ma le Laau na Amotasi.* Those are the respects of Samoa from the past until eternity. This is the last speech of this Cabinet then it will be concluded by the Hon Prime Minister in response to the Budget 2020/2021.

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Lest I forget to acknowledge the support of His Excellency Le Ao O le Malo, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi and your Goodlady. I also greet the Member of Council of Deputies, Afioga Le Mamea Ropati Mualia and Consort.

Greetings Mr Speaker and the sanctity of Parliament. I acknowledge also the support of the Chief Justice and President and Judiciary. I greet the Leader of Government, Cabinet as well as Associate Ministers.

I greet the respects of the gathering members in the House, the Heads of Government Ministries, you are the backbone of the services provided to our Government.

I also greet the Private sector, the Communications shareholders and partners I see that most are present in Chamber this evening.

My constituency of Aana Alofi No.3, which will now be changed to Aana Alofi No.4, I will not announce your dignitaries in respect of your support. Continue your worship and prayers for Aana Alofi, as you listen to our service to Government in these 5 years that have been completed. It has been 31 years since the position of Minister came to the constituency. Thank you. But how did the performance of our duties as Minister of Communications and Information Technology execute? As stated by one of the chiefs of the constituency Ili Olotutu, the Minister of Communication and Technology, has established Cables under the sea, Facebook and internet, so that we can reach and talk to our families.

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Mr Speaker and the respects of the House, as Samoa is listening, if we were taking note of the speeches by Ministers of Cabinet in the many developments that were carried out during this Term, the truth, Samoa has made many changes. In terms of technology itself, the current level is different. There is a feeling that we should appreciate how good the development of communication is now, just for a minute we should look back and remember the past and the current situation.

The House cannot forget the time of landlines, there would only be one or two landlines used by the whole village. If your family owned the phone, you would hear all different stories from the village when using it. Whether they call people in the country or overseas. Those days, you first call the phone office at the exchange, and then the girl would ask, do you want to pay or collect? There was also a phone at the Post Office and the old market in Tauese where buses used to stop those times. If you want to call New Zealand or Australia, you would have to go there no matter how far you live. Your issues are hardly heard with the many matters done beside you, but there is only one focus, money for faalavelave.

I immediately remember one man of our country who worked in our office in Belgium in 1990. He called to check his wife and children and the call was answered by the phone company, he asked to be transferred 735. The girl said, pay or collect, the old man said, collect. The old woman answered, they had been talking for 10 minutes as a couple who had been separated for a long time. Well, the same goes for the kids. On this very day in the afternoon, our team played against Fiji at Apia Park in the track field. Who won between us and Fiji? But the wife said, well, you know very well that I do not like rugby. I do not know. But the man was surprised when someone spoke on the phone saying we won. It was the girl working at the

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phone company, she has been listening on the line to their conversation. At that time, if you wanted a phone, you should install it at home, Vaa Ofoia is listening in, it takes 2 to 3 months to apply for a telephone, you get tired of waiting at that time at the Post Office and radio station.

If you are waiting for money from overseas, by 7pm you should listen to the radio to the voice of Lavea Levi, or Pat Mamaia, or at that time the Hon Minister Faimalotoa Kika Stowers. To listen to it to the list of people getting money and gifts. This was the only method used for such announcements. As for the money sent over, no one calls you first, you just have to listen if you miss then that is it.

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But if your name is mentioned, the whole village will hear that you got money, then you go in the next 2 to 3 weeks to pick it up, when you come back, your house is full of old men coming to drink tea.

That was back then, you had to wait 2 to 3 weeks to get your money from the post. Then in 1990 there were banks, it took 2 weeks. As for now, you get your money after 5 minutes. Also, in the past there was only one radio station, 2AP. Up to today, this station the voice of Samoa is still on, and I came in 1992, when Tofa Tupai Joe Brown was in charge, when his son who is now in charge of the Ministry of Natural Resources was very young. Well done Francis. From the many examples mentioned to the country, I tend to think back on the life we used to live, and we can all agree, that there are so many changes in Samoa now.

Now to the time when many changes were implemented, on the 18th March 2005 Cabinet passed a policy to reform the telecommunications sector. In November of the same year 2005, this Parliament passed the Telecommunications Act 2005. Telecommunications have been reformed and licenses have been released and the operation of telecommunications has been officially left to be managed by private companies. It is a very important decision, with foresight, we are now reaping the benefits with the high level of communications that we have now. But it should not be forgotten that the changes in communication were built on a solid foundation. Many licenses were released, there was Samoa Tel, Telecom Cellular, and one license was given to Digicel and CSL in their partnership when they won the bid at that time. In the month of October 2006, the Digicel company was officially opened in Samoa, and Samoa was the first country in the Pacific where Digicel's company started and then it went to Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji and other Pacific countries. It started from 2006 until April 17, 2012, when 3G was introduced since it started off with 2G. These are the two companies Digicel and Blue Sky after Samoa Tel was sold to Blue Sky in 2011. This was the first day that the internet was opened on mobile phones, it was then we first saw smart phones. This was a different approach since we could check our email, Facebook, use twitter, and all other applications we could access. However, the only thing we could not do was video call or it was not clear, it was very bad especially when the weather was bad because we used satellites.

Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House, the private sector of communication.

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There are 3 Ministries of these sectors, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, they are for any policy, and this is the policy arm of Government regarding telecommunications, including 2AP and Digital TV in terms of broadcasting. The Office of the Regulator, they organize and regulate license fees and the costs of telephone communication as well as electricity. Broadcasting, the post office, the management and allocation as well as approval of spectrum fees and bundles, spectrum is released to businesses upon request. They also pass any technological device that is brought into the country. Only after the Regulator has checked and is sure that everything that needs to be achieved has been found, then it will be used in Samoa. Even the drones we use now, or small aerial photography planes. In addition, the Post Office of Samoa needless to say, is where our mail is sent, arrives and is delivered not only to Samoa, but also overseas. And other services you will hear about it later.

In 2017 the first future objective of the office was announced and passed. This is when they began readjustments to some of its plans and policies that were implemented in the past, to make sure it reflects the state of communication development and technological services that exist now, to manage its work and implementation for the next 5 years starting from 2018 to 2022. The dream and vision of these private entities is to make communication and technological methods affordable for everyone.

There are 3 main objectives. 1. That all people have access to appropriate and sound communications. In simple terms, to be better, faster and cheaper. 2. To develop skills and competences in communication and technology services to respond to the needs of the country and the Pacific region. 3. To use communication and technology services, to improve, be it fast and transparent and impartial of Government services. This dream, objectives and pursuits have been laid out so that it goes in line with Governments long term plans, or its Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2017-2020 in its desired outcome 11, necessary results, is to improve and offer cheaper services of communication throughout the country.

In addition to this, it is also in line with the other plans of the Government, the Samoa 2020-2040, for the future. Mr Speaker these are only a few of the work carried out by the private entities including its partners in the past 5 years. Together with a 5-year plan implemented for the future under the 3 objectives stated earlier. In these projects, all the specific branches worked together, especially the Ministry of Communication and Regulator and its private sector partners and all other private companies in the country.

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These are some of the works implemented in response to its objective 1 along with aforementioned activities. 1. This is the undersea communication cable, the Tuisamoa. This cable is Samoa's cable, and it was opened on February 18, 2018. It was built with the assistance of the World Bank, the Asia Pacific Bank, as well as the assistance of Australia, and the United Nations through the UNDP. The cable comes from Fiji, then attach to it and connect it to the other island of Fiji that comes to the south, connecting it to Wallis and Futuna, onto Savaii, and then connects to Upolu.

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The construction of this submarine communication cable is one of the important developments, and it is good and useful for the communication in our country for now and in the future. Not only has our international network been observed, our international gateway to control and monitor our traffic, but it has become faster, better, more complete and cheaper. The truth is, if the Tuisamoa cable did not exist, our satellites would not be able to connect when the Covid-19 outbreak occurred, all international travel was closed, offices were closed, work and businesses, but work from home. In addition to this, the schools were also closed, the internet connection, was used for communication at home to carry out school and business transactions, as well as meetings that use technology.

A milestone, it was not possible in the past when we depended on satellites to use telephones and computers to talk through video calls. However, the fastest and cheapest international communication these days is because of the Tuisamoa cable. This means, together with the improvement works of the telephone company, Digicel and Vodafone in their offices and throughout the country, which has witnessed the effectiveness of these communications. Even with funerals, well I do not really have to explain.

Now that families are not able to travel, families overseas would do their obituaries online, as we listen, this is the same with singing we sing, and they join in from over there. Not only is this done in church but also outside wherever the grave is in the forest, the families overseas do not miss seeing everything done with the speed of our technology, families also have online meetings, birthdays and other important events. Money is saved for our families travelling from overseas, now in Samoa people have come to know one another through faalavelave. If you are someone who is familiar with trading on the stock market, or on the trading of the world that is done overseas. You do not have to go to America or China, you can just turn on your phone and go on to the many trade platforms available, you can see the trend and the different companies in the world.

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So I just checked my phone before I got up and I realized that the value of the bitcoin has reached \$49,000. Now, if you want to buy a share, you buy it for 49,000 and then you wait for your investment.

These are things we could not do before, but now we can do it on the phone. The cost of communication has dropped Mr Speaker and respects of the House and Samoa listening. It is the Regulator who regulates the cost of communication. No matter how hard Vodafone or Digicel tried to raise their cost, it is regulated under the advice of the Regulator. It is maintained here. This is the use of the Regulator, to foresee telephone companies and especially look at what is good for the country. The cost of using the internet is based on those days, because in the past as I mentioned earlier the use of landlines was \$10 a minute, gradually from 1990 it was \$6 per minute.

But now, if you talk on the phone using the internet, there used to be gigabytes then before the installation of Tuisamoa at \$8 per gigabytes. Now, you can get it for \$1 or 50 cents, or not at all if both companies, Vodafone and Digicel do promotions. That is the Tuisamoa cable, the other cable that has fulfilled goal 1, is the Manatua cable, which has arrived and have been used.

This cable comes from Tahiti, it has two islands connected with the cable, and then it travels to Cook Islands, which also has two islands, then to Niue and to Samoa which is connected to

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the Tuisamoa cable. It is the hope of the Government especially the Samoa Submarine Cable who brought these cables that we have a cable we can rely on if the Tuisamoa cable breaks. Now we have this cable called redundancy, if it breaks, we can use the other. Well, we do not want to go through what happened to our neighbors Tonga when the internet was cut off.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, there is a matter I wish to get a clarification on.

MR SPEAKER: Was it included in...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Yes, part of my speech was this matter, but it is just a simple question. The Associate Minister of Education was clear about pyramid schemes and bitcoins and things like that which are not good. But now I am listening to the Hon Minister, he is encouraged by his technology these days with bitcoin and such things. I do not understand whether this is good or bad with using his technology.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I noticed that you are taking the floor is very wrong. You have mentioned the Associate Minister of Education, but it is the Minister of Communications who is speaking. I call upon Lufilufi, the Associate Minister of Education.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): This is good too so that the Minister can take a break. As for what I mentioned, for the clarification of the member speaking there are different types of coins, as for the Bitcoin it has been confirmed by the world that it is a genuine investment. There are other coins which the member of Salega does not know, that is the one I spoke of that day.

I want to take this time, to thank the Hon Minister on the history on the improvements made regarding technology. I grew up knowing of the work my father used to do back then, with the use of morse code. The old man used to tap it to accept money from overseas and announce it in the evening on 2AP. I am a product of technology, which is why I am happy listening to it, but this era is different. This is why I would like to congratulate the Hon Minister for these good measures, we do not want to be left behind. The progress of the Ministers performances is moderate, while the Associate Ministers progress is not very good. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I appease the Minister as I call upon the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, most of the people have lost \$300, to these pyramid schemes. And there are many and complex things people are gambling on, in money related games. There is only one announcement that the Central Bank is giving, this is the only thing that the country should allocate their money, either to use money, or deposit money. Stop being tempted in money games. If you lose hundred a thousand it is not a big deal. However, this has misguided the poor to loan \$300 from other people, for these money games, which has bankrupt people.

Mr Speaker, this is why I am addressing this matter, because I only have one answer to it. It is better to just save money when deposited in the bank and use it for everyday use. Do not be

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tempted by what you hear from overseas, no one understands it. You will only end up being broke. I hope this term coin will not be mentioned further in the speech by the Minister.

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MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the member of Salega is satisfied and understood of what was asked, thank you, which is also useful. I suggest to your Hon Minister, please refrain from talking about other things and consider our working hours. Do not speak about things that only you and the Prime Minister understand.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: No, but I thank the member, for an opportunity to take a break, also the answer to your question is now given. That is the second answer to your question.

MR SPEAKER: Speak of recent matters.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: There is this cable the Manatua Cable, which is used as our back up if the other cable fails. Or we could use it for our communications but use the other cable as back up. All these cables are connected to America, America is the center of information and communication. The 3rd line is the cable owned by Vodafone Company, which was launched in April 2009. This line is the Samoa American Samoa Cable, which connects Samoa and American Samoa. This is the cable that connects Samoa onto other international cables that go all the way to America. All through to Hawaii or go to another new cable now in American Samoa called, Hawaiki.

Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House, Samoa is the first Pacific country that has connected to three international cables. Furthermore, the work is progressing. Another cable has just been installed by us, it is the Southern Cross next. It has passed by, coming from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, now we have included our boundary unit, placed in the sea. We will see when we will be ready to install another cable, to connect to Tokelau and towards America. But our communication works is still ongoing...

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the Hon Minister has heard the request of the Chair, and one does not have to advice the other, regarding the performance of the service, which is the duty of the Ministry and the Hon Minister. But think in a simple language that now all the conditions have been implemented and the service has also improved. This is a concern, instead of us going into detail of the work carried out on where this cable and that cable goes, because if there are hundred cables, we will be sitting here the whole evening going through all hundred.

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Thus, the Ministry is listening, we have to consider our time and our work. But if it is nearing conclusion, I ask the member to kindly assist our work. Our work is done collaboratively.

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Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker I apologize. Because the core of the speech will follow, to support this explanation. There is one more cable that I will speak on, then I will summarize my speech, if I do not mention this cable, it will be impossible to understand.

MR SPEAKER: Please do not point towards Olo, which will instigate him to stand up. Watch out in case he gets electrocuted with the wire you are using to point with.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: At the moment, we are holding talks with the other cable. We will be able to talk with Tuvalu, connecting their cable to Tuisamoa, then to Kiribati, and on to Micronesia Islands and then go to Asia. This cable is being discussed at this time. The remaining part of our infrastructure or the development of our technology is the construction of our data center. The Tier 3 version secures the worlds information. Because our data center that has been in place since 2014, is managed by the Computer Services Limited company is full, the current situation is not enough space, due to the rapid transfer of services. This is why our data center has become full. We are in discussion for a data center with our partners, especially the United Nations, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

These 3 cables, Mr Speaker, have made it possible for Samoa to connect to 11 countries in the Pacific. After connecting other additional cables that I talked about, Samoa will be connected to 16 countries in the Pacific. This includes other Government purposes we are trying to connect to these lines and set up our data center. The truth is, the intention of Government, is to indicate the world to Samoa. To attract large foreign businesses, high yield businesses to Samoa, in order to weave our digital economy. Let Samoa become the center of the core of digital economy for the countries that I have explained in the entire Pacific, which is connected by these different cables, if it comes to fruition. At this time, the most expensive to date, is the connection overseas and to America. Because America has all the information and records of the world.

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It is true that you only click on facebook, this small time that you click on facebook and go on it, but that connection goes to America and comes back, in millions and millions of those fractions of seconds, because of the speed with which we now communicate.

This is also the speech, of a video call to your family in Savaii, it goes there and come back. Furthermore, it is the intention of Government for this data center, to acquire the information from the United States and store it here in Samoa through our partnerships with major companies like, Netflix, Facebook, Google and other big companies. There are already other companies present in Samoa, Mr Speaker and respects of the House. I mentioned it the other time. There is the Connect Global Company, they have just finished interviews for additional staff of 30 upwards. There is also the We Accounting Company. This is a group of students that have gathered together as one group, doing accounting work for other countries in the world, it not accounting for Samoa. And now the pilot has started to be done by one operator of the Cyber Security Company of Up Guard from America. Their hope is that once their scheme is in good shape, this is the pilot that will...

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MR SPEAKER: This is a reminder, if you look at this Parliament, it seems some are bored with your clarification. This is the case, you are speaking on matters now implemented, which are the duties pertaining the Ministry, yourself and the management.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: The biggest thing is the development of the building on the port, which will improve all of our submarine cable warehouse on the ports. It combines all types of cables to repair cables from Singapore if something goes wrong. It is the high expectation of Government that they tried to implement that, as well as the Samoa Submarine company, so that our communication will not be cut off for a long time if there is a problem. That is the situation, now the building is almost full of coils of wire and all the parts needed for it. There are 12 countries that own that building, which is under the association of countries that have cables under the sea. From Singapore to Hawaii, there are 79 km of cables under the sea. It is improved from that building together with the boat. The things that these countries look at in data centers, is clean energy or renewable energy and clean electricity.

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Mr Speaker this has gone in line with the Government plans so that by 2025 Samoa will live on clean electricity.

This is the result of this matter in cables and communications and the future of Samoa in its Government plans. I should give the compliment to the Samoa Submarine Cable Company. To the Chairperson and Board for the vision on such developments, especially Afioga Pepe Christian Fruean, he is the one the Government is reliant on with its international negotiations. Do not let go of the goal, continue to push, to achieve the dream that the Ministry of Communications and the Board as well as your companies that have shares in this Association. Mr Speaker, communication is good since I came to Samoa. The whole country has now been covered with technological advancement.

Another company is Vodafone, which has a 96% coverage throughout the country. Back in 2016 there were only 63 posts, now there are 100 posts. Last month, the Company's 100 posts were officially opened, and progress have been improved. There are very few parts of the country that are difficult to acquire, but their work is ongoing also with Digicel, their coverage is 95%. Both of these companies use the highest standards of communication technology, 4G+ and LGE, which allows you to talk easily on the phone.

You also heard about another project that the Ministry of Education and Regulator is working on with the help of ITU, International Telecommunication Unit in the world, which completed its first phase in 2017. Now the 2nd phase has started. I am grateful that the TV you are all now watching is clear, many members of the House spoke and thanked me for the TV, the coverage has reached all of the country, it is not like it used to be, and when you go to Falealupo Savaii there is only one channel.

Now, all the channels are working, even the clarity of images is the same, there is nothing wrong anymore. If there is something that needs to be fixed for your TV, call me or the Associate Minister. I believe this is an opportunity to thank the Afioga Faamausili Andrew Ah Liki, and the Samoa Digital Company Limited, and the whole staff. They are the ones in charge

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with the implementation of this important service. I heard from Faamausili, Afioga Tuiaopo saying it will leave us broke. I just want to say, that you do not have to sweat as God is generous. If we do go broke, God will bring upon blessings for something else and generate your wealth. God bless you and the company for the services.

We have concluded improvements on the 2AP pole for broadcasting, not only here in Samoa, but reports from Alaska and Finland.

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There was this other time when our son Ari Hazelman was in Japan, he monitored 2AP from there, Ari was listening to it and when it was static, he messaged the Minister, and I called the office. This means that the communication of the voice of Samoa has come a long way. And this is also the time when FM was implemented. Now that you have heard it in the situation where FM has covered 85% of the country. As for the remaining works we are still in progress of other works. The second objective of the Ministry is the development of skills and abilities, the capacity building. To prepare our people for the work needed for the country, especially in the Pacific. But now you have heard that it is not limited to the Pacific but the whole world, where we are doing the work here. And there are many policies prepared, affecting the preparation of the plan for our Samoa National Cyber Security protection of us on the means of communication.

We are preparing to set up the Samoa Cyber Emergency Response Team Samoa Search, this is the frontline who will deal with cyber-attacks on communication lines. The policies also force the telephone companies to filter the lines and block bad content on the internet so that students will not access it. So that they will sleep earlier in the evening. The UN Global Pulse Lab has been set up in Samoa and the United Nations has started plans, this is a big data lab, which is very important for Samoa. This is the 4th one done by the United Nations in the whole world. There is America, Africa, and Indonesia and now Samoa is fourth, and now our children from abroad will work there, they understand and can become data scientists.

We have contacted the SPC in New Caledonia, as well as SPREP, to combine the records and information of the Pacific, all the data of the Pacific for development, to keep them in these records. Whatever information is needed for development, not only in Samoa but in each country, and from there, many new developments arise, especially for new companies that are needed. We also have our Samoa Knowledge Society or where important information of Government developments are kept, as well as other Government information and University records for the research of children in the future.

Mr Speaker, the third objective has been accomplished, as you heard about the use of technology as a way to speed up development and the economy, the applications of technology. Needless to say, now that you have heard, we have begun the development of the National ID.

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Now that it is under the supervision of the Prime Minister, we will also set up the Samoa Digital Transformation Authority or the Technology Management Authority for the future, so that all these things are not limited for Samoa in the future. You have already used a lot of other new companies that have been established today, when communication links was implemented. Those of you who have been able to use Maua App, this is a communication method, where produce and crops are transported from rural areas. The elders in rural areas prepare it and it is sold to consumers on this app. This is the same for seki eats, you do not have to go to a restaurant when you are busy, you just install this app on your phone, then order your food and pay it, and they deliver it to you. Especially nowadays with the restrictions in place, we are now using zoom to carry out our meetings. We have all heard most of the major meetings are now being carried out using this method.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, just a small matter I wish to understand in the address by the Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Laauli.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I was listening to the explanation. And I have mentioned this matter twice. The matter regarding Cyber Security and GateWay. Mr Speaker, this is just a reminder, but I am very concerned about this matter. It is evident that all our cables directed away from Samoa, are going to Fiji, and there should be caution in guarding our information. This is put beside you to overlook our Cyber Security for the country, that our information is safe from hackers. In terms of records to be safe, because we are talking about Government meetings, confidential meetings through similar circumstances. But this is a question on the situation we are in. with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, it was mentioned in the speech of the member. I call upon the Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Thank you for asking, you just heard me explain our Cyber Security Strategy and have worked with Australia and many other organizations to start our Samoa Search.

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This does not mean the work carried out now has been put on hold. We are partnering with large companies abroad, in New Zealand, Australia and America for the protection of our communication and the situation where we may be attacked on communication cables. This is the situation I explained before with the cable travelling to Fiji. In my recent speech regarding the Main Estimates, it is included there. The member also asked about it, and in turn I gave him an answer. We are not directed to Fiji; the cable goes around. Also, if someone were to

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touch our cable, we will know it from here if someone tries to attack our cable. And it is secured even though this office has not been established, but it is not possible to ignore it, our main office is working on it not only in Samoa but overseas. So, you see we are working together to protect our cables. Mr Speaker, this is one important aspect that we tried to do recently.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker I would like to express my gratitude that the Ministers opinion has been received, however we are still in the same country. And the protection is what is important, if you are affected the whole country is as well. This is a word of advice, those who are bringing in information are different, we are not safe with the gateway, this is just a reminder, but I will leave it with you, others are also suggesting that we are not safe. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The recommendation is important, as for the clarification given by Government that is the final explanation on anything. Move away from this matter.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUAI RICO TUPAI: The Government is safe. Now the Organization of those who are specialized in IT in Samoa has been re-established.

They are the ones who have accelerated developments, working together with the Samoa IT Association, SITA and have carried out many programs for schools, and many other important trainings, which we are trying to work together with the Ministry of Education, to train the staff. Many business opportunities have been opened, which I have stated, and this is a situation that pleases me Mr Speaker with so many developments. All these developments as mentioned, are joint work of the Regulator and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

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One of the most important responsibilities of the Office of the Regulator is to regulate the price of electricity. As I also mentioned the costs of communication. No matter how willing these companies are to raise the price, it is impossible, that is the job of the Regulator, and they regulate the price from time to time. They look at the economy, they look at the level of expenses in the operation of companies, and then allow it if it is necessary, but otherwise the price of electricity will remain the same or even drop.

Lastly, I want to speak upon the services of the Samoa Post Office. We will always remember the Samoa Post Office with its stamps. It is like our first market where Samoa was made known overseas with stamps. Pictures of our landscapes, our people, and then our stamps were sent overseas. This was when the world first saw us and was intrigued about us. But there were no TVs in those days compared to what we have today. Our Post Office is also a center for sending mail. Their small branches are in the rural areas in many constituencies of the country, now there are 12 of them that are used by some of our country to pay the water and electricity bills and send money. The biggest money for the Post Office, is the money that comes from Samoa's quota that comes from the Universal Postal Unit. But we make a lot of money here, because foreign countries come and list this quota. As for now it is futile because of the pandemic, so it is very slow.

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As for the new changes, the post office has started a partnership. It is a partnership between Government organizations and private companies, the PPP, Public Private Partnership. This is where the Post Office will be moving now, and preparations have begun. And I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson and the Board of the Post Office. Samoa for the hard work you are doing in the effort of this development and moving forward. I pray that you will find strength and that your work will be successful.

Mr Speaker, and the dignity of the House listening, the emergence of the disease and the many changes in the world, I believe it is necessary to review other steps for the future of our country. The Government is implementing its plans.

MR SPEAKER: You did not speak...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: I did speak upon it the Minister is aware of this matter as well. I just want to ask him again.

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I just want to ask the price given to our ISP, because I found out that our cable is not fully used. Now it seems like the use of our cable is restricted, and the use of it is limited to our ISP providers. Why not look into it, because the more and cheaper it is given to them, the more it will be cheaper to use for the country and use this service. Another matter I talked about, are our filters for the gateway because we have a lot of cables. Or is this connection housed in one place, because each cable has its own filter. This is the matter of security, as there is Google itself. I do not know if we can filter that part. Whether there is a special part of the service that carried out this work, this part of our service, which is important. If we look at this service if we call from Digicel to Vodafone, the price goes up, or call from a Vodafone to Digicel. But is there not a compromise between our telephone companies and those who do the service. In order to equalize their payment, in order to check a costing, then the person can decide which service to use. But what is happening is, once you cross over to use another phone service, the cost goes up. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Thank you. I call upon the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is one of the complaints against our IT that the cost of internet is expensive. Perhaps the Minister can clarify this matter.

The state of the internet, it is easier to run our medical school, the OUM, Oceania University of Medicine. This school was especially dependent on the internet, so I believe it started in 2006, and many doctors have been ordained from this school because of the high quality of its curriculum. Most of the courses and the training programs, are programs from foreign countries, and there are also times when lectures are given by professors from overseas hospitals. But it was all dependent on the internet. From that time to this time, the internet has become very cheap. And as you know, the training to become a doctor at OUM is quite high,

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because you cannot be accepted until you have another science degree before you can enter OUM.

That is also why the big hospital was built, when the Government gave the condition, the condition to be able to get the registration from one of the foreign organizations related to American medical training. After the visits, the International University was officially registered.

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At the time it was registered, the Medical University in Fiji was not registered. In other words, the level of training for doctors in our OUM University is higher. And most of those who are trained here, have a high level of education because they are implementing in Samoa one of the programs that is not implemented in universities overseas. This is the implementation of part of their training by becoming employees of our hospital, to inspect and practice their clinical experience. Most of the Universities overseas cannot do this. That is also the reason when they return to their countries, they take a special exam for official registration to become a professional doctor. The pass level is very high. I was told that one of the doctors who passed was awarded the Young Doctor of the Year in Australia. In other words, there is a high level of training that can be done at OUM, but it depends on how cheap our internet is. I ask for a clarification on this matter even though I heard that it has now dropped, some people are still saying it is too expensive. Because our country only says it is cheap when it is free. But I ask the Minister to explain the situation of our internet cost?

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Minister to clarify this matter stated by the Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUAI RICO TUPAI: The truth is what I stated in the beginning, our internet today is very cheap. The cost of our internet has dropped down to 80%. The telephone companies are present here, most of the time you can get a gigabyte for \$1, or 50 cents or nothing at all when there are promotions, and there are also times when you can buy an internet bundle, and you can use it for a month without spending more on it.

The matter queried by the member on giving free cables for companies, I ask for your patience. The Samoa Submarine Cable company spent \$8 million on the installation of these cables. We are trying, but we cannot give it away as requested since it is being used, the shares of the company that implemented it should be paid first.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister again.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the important aspect to note in the clarification is the internet cost has dropped to 80%, this is a good thing that people are not aware of when we implemented our communication under the sea. The only thing I hear is, the internet is expensive, it is expensive, but it is now 80% cheaper.

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The reason why this is significant, is based on the fact that we have set up the first digital library in Samoa. Mr Speaker, there is no such thing in the Pacific, with the assistance of the United Nations. But this important because the price is going down. As for our University itself, this is also the reason why many people abroad study from books, but there is a requirement that they must travel to Samoa to take their lessons here. This is another reason why there are so many visitors, and why most of the rental houses near the hospital are thriving, because of the importance of this school, the Oceania University of Medicine.

I remember the time it was first brought in, this University was ridiculed in the House, but now a lot of foreigners have graduated from it, this also have our doctors who studied there and one of them is now the Head of the University, and some of our doctors are teaching there. This is another very important development that depends on the use of the internet.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Alataua West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. It is now clear. Well, is there something, I will give you the opportunity, make it brief. Is it something connected to the clarification...I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau: Apologies but I stand to give a 2-minute assistance with the issue conveyed of the internet being expensive. As it was, it was \$10 for a gigabyte those days before the cables was installed. As for now, I believe the conditions are not properly advertised, so they are no longer sold like that, but they are now doing bundles. This was also raised by Afioga Tafua. This is the case with many of the advertisements now, the elders do not know, they go and buy this \$20 and they would talk for 3 to 4 minutes, but they do not know they bought a bundle.

For example, there is the Malo bundle, which is \$11 and you have 7 gigabytes, you have 50 minutes to talk for free, but there is no cost for texting for the whole week. The Fiafia bundle, is \$7 worth 10 gigabytes from the 1 gigabyte which was \$10 before we had cables, you get free minutes and also texting. There are super bundles. This is what most of us elders from rural areas do not understand, the promotions made should be clearly explained, you cannot put \$20 in your phone, you need to buy a bundle, which gives you nearly 20 gigabytes for \$10, compared to 1 gigabyte we used to receive in the past before these cables were set up. Well, that is an assistance of the Finance Committee with respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this is a very important. In other terms, it seems everything is bundled like washing. It is best to instruct your Associate Minister to explain to people, if you take a big bundle of washing this is how much you get and it is cheap, but if it is bigger it is cheaper.

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MR SPEAKER: Well, I believe the matter is now understood. Please Olo take your seat. I beg tolerance...since it is the Chairperson the one which the explanations of Chief Executive of Ministries are conveyed towards. I believe the matter is clear, also the Prime Minister has spoken, share the work. This makes the work easier.

Pardon the Minister, but I will give the opportunity to Olo...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you. I just want to testify to the level of price adjustment of the internet. It looks like it has dropped, but the trick is usage is fast, the use of data by people is very fast. This is what is happening. However, Mr Speaker, I am talking about the wifi that NetVo is using, it is \$5 for 2 weeks, free and unlimited. You can come and use it if Vodafone and Digicel are expensive.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Pardon me Minister, the member of Anoamaa East has been upstanding for a while. I call upon the Pastor for his assistance on the matter.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moanau: To save the time of the Hon Minister, I have a few questions that I wanted to ask about communication which are things happening in the world today, the administrator of twitter or facebook can just delete your account at their own discretion. Apologies but I just want to follow this up, this is the protection of our facebook. Well, what are the measures taken to respond to it?

Secondly, I have been hearing people talking about turning off Facebook. Is there a power of our Ministry to administer this? With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: This is the final interjection. I call on the Minister of Agriculture.

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Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you very much for the opportunity. I have also noticed that the Hon Minister is about to conclude his speech. But there is a minor issue that seems to be...in this case, what should be done with the language that is being used on Facebook. But I feel that all of us have voiced our informal opinions during these types of situations. We have civil discussions when talking about the situation on life, but when it comes to politics, it is unpleasant, very bad especially the supporters of the other party. These are the words that I want to read out, but I refuse because it is disgusting, and I am heedful for the audience of the country as well as this House. So what will be done if the Ministry of the Hon Minister is responsible for such matters? What should be done about it? Mr Speaker, that is the question, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call upon... I ask the member for Falealili to withhold your interruption as I call on the Minister.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: No, the Minister did not respond to the situation of telecommunications between Vodafone and Digicel, because it has been noted, once this line is crossed, the cost will increase, especially for our....

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MR SPEAKER: It was heard in the Minister's speech that we are trying to balance the debts which is more than millions of dollars. Rome was not constructed in a day.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker, I have not yet responded to this issue.

MR SPEAKER: Oh okay, so it is yet to be discussed.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Please.

MR SPEAKER: I thought everything was made clear by the statement of the Leader of the Government.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Yes, we have been looking for a Samoan term for bundle, and now we have found it. When buying laundry.

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The reason why the internet seems expensive from your point of view, is due to the high speed level of communication we have now, the speed of the cable, and the speed to improve the work of the telephone companies, in order to improve their services for the country. That is why there is a boost in the usage. So, I will take advantage of this opportunity to offer assistance, if you are using facebook at night, and then you go to sleep, it is turned off. Turn off your phone or log out of your Facebook, because if the app remains active on your phone, it will continue running in the background. But the only thing is to turn it off, not to be used again. And that is how cheap communication is. As you have heard, this is not a joke, but it has been recorded that Samoa is the cheapest country in the Pacific in terms of communications. Well, we have 3 gateways. And all the gateways go abroad, and we are working with foreign countries to protect them, especially the United States of America where our gateways go.

Mr Speaker, the case with Facebook, well, the Government is looking at how to try to improve and protect our country in these things, but facebook has the biggest impact on the increased of the income in the economy at this time, but when our country used it before there was a cable, it was less than one gigabyte. Well, they also made plans in advance for the usage of these cables by each country. In 2016, we only used 16 gigabytes from the cables, but now in 2021, we have used 22 gigabytes and it is quite high. This is because of the high-speed internet we have now and the way we use it. And in terms of information, it cannot be used unless until we officially bring our documents in for the Government to scrutinized.

And this is the state of this period and the state of languages on the web, we can manage it because there are ways to deal with it, and we must be patient, and we should take initiative in protecting ourselves and our families through information.

Regarding the issue mentioned by the honorable Fuimaono, the cost of the connection between Digicel and Vodafone was 10 cents. Just in the month of November last year it decreased down to 5 cents. Now it is cheaper, Hon Fuimaono. Perhaps you saw it before these changes were made.

Mr Speaker, my speech is done.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: During this period with the emergence of the virus....

MR SPEAKER: That is how the speech of Aana goes, so no member can interrupt.

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Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Exactly. The members are not allowed to interrupt. It is necessary to review the many steps for the future of our country. And the long-term development plans of the Government until 2040 have been laid out, to respond to the current chaotic state the world is in. The Tourism industry which made the economy of Samoa number 1 is in trouble. We have nothing, what happened is because of the virus. We do not have minerals like other countries. We do not have oil like the millionaire Arab countries. But the Government's foresight is looking towards the level of development for communications and the internet in Samoa for the future. Mr Speaker, there is a country in the world that is very similar to us, next to the country of Russia, there is a poor country, they have no goods to export, they have nothing to depend on. 25 years ago, it was decided that the only way to survive was through the development of technology and to use the internet to implement their work. Then this country made preparations and attempts to be ranked first among their neighbouring countries. Now, they are the number one country in the world in terms of communication development, this country is called Estonia and their population is only one million. You have all heard the speeches of the Hon Ministers, and they all talked about the internet.

Regarding the Health, as the Hon Prime Minister said, as it is now being used at this time to develop our E-health. Since everything is now connected electronically. And all these developments are dependent on it.

Regarding agriculture, electronics is used to catch fish, as the internet and other technology are used to find fish under the sea. Every single Minister uses technology. The trust that we have now, we will be able to reach the level that Estonia is in. This is the truth I am telling you. Other countries in the Pacific are also trying to build technological developments, but only Samoa has this power at this time, and everything is accounted for. For communications, as you have heard, we now have a friendship with our partners, and we are trusted by our foreign partners, so we have a good record with the international partners. The Government's plans for 2040 have been laid out, an aspiration strategy for the future. Well, the most important thing for any business before going to a government, they have to question whether this Government is a stable Government. Does this Government have a trustworthy leadership? Is that a stable Government, and is it a proven leadership? Well, we established the University with \$5, not only did we do it with confidence, but we also did it with complete faith in God. So, we can also make Samoa number one in the world in terms of technology.

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Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude my speech by expressing gratitude to our distinct branch and our partners, with the attendance of Vodafone, Digicel and CSL, who are working closely with the Government and many other ISP companies. Plans are important, but our faith in God is more important in all of these things. God bless your company. Thank you to our foreign partners, especially those who are in our country. I have already thanked Digital TV and all the radio stations in the country. Good work. Thank you very much to the Chief Executive Officers of my Ministry, Mr Fualau Tinousi Tautalaga Matau, Mr Liomatua Gisa Fuatai Purcell, and Mr Tupai Tupe. Thank you for working faithfully in all duties. God bless all the employees. As I have often said to you all, whether the work you do it small, that is your combined contribution, and it completes the services of our distinct branch. Thank you to the Support Offices, even those of you who are cleaning the Office and preparing the tea. Thank you very much. Thank you for the service in advertising.

We also remember with gratitude those who worked with us during this Parliamentary Term, Tofa Tuaimalo Asamu Ah Sam, and the Tofa Lefaoalii Unutoa and the Tofa Manusamoa Tony Saaga who worked in our distinct branch, as they have been transferred to other companies and are working in new jobs.

The Hon Associate Minister, my right hand-man the Hon Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi, thank you very much for your contribution to our work. This is the best combination ever in the entire Cabinet and Associate Ministers. Well, he is a wise man who has contributed a lot to the improvement of this distinct branch. Well, we were able to implement a lot of work because of the support of the Hon Lealailepule. May God bless you and your wife, especially your children, as they prepare for Samoa in the next new Settlement where we will meet again.

Mr Speaker and the Hon Members of the House, as I give my best wishes to the Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama, the Hon Faasootauloa Pati, and the Hon Aeau Peniamina who is listening, I commend you for your service, your hard work and your services to the country. Thank you as your services for Samoa has been acknowledged. May God bless you all in your retirement.

My brother, the Susuga Mulipola, as you are not retiring, you are only taking a break for the next 5 years before returning.

Alas MR Speaker. The Hon Leapepe Toleafoa Faafisi, I am blessed to have encountered you, with your in-depth wisdom to contain and maintain the glory of the House of Samoa. God bless you and your wife and your children, especially the retirement you will be able to enjoy after Wednesday. Well, the sanctity of the Assembly of Samoa, thank you, congratulations to the Hon Members for the work in these 5 years. God bless you all in your preparations for our election.

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The sanctity of the Chief Executive Officers of the various Government Ministries, the sanctity of the staff, may you have strength to serve Samoa in the many days you have been appointed.

But God bless Tiatia and the dignity of your Office, especially the holiness of the staff who serves our House.

Well, then I come to my beloved constituency. My constituency of Aana Alofi No.3 which will become Aana Alofi No.4 thank you for your devotion. Congratulations for the prayers.

My villages of Fasitootai and Vailuutai, with all its honorific salutations.

My village of Faleatiu in all its honorific salutations.

Also, our village of Satapuala in all its honorary salutations. And my village of Sagafili. The Reverend and the church of Usoalii, the holiness in Etena fou, as this is the term given to our

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community of Sagafili. The land of prophecies where the sanctity of Usoalii reside, especially the throne. Those are the sanctities and holiness of my constituency. But we cannot forget the members of the clergy and your faletua in all the villages within our district. Furthermore, the support of the elderly men and women, who are anticipating and praying for your endeavors, especially the work of the Parliament, which has been implemented in these last 5 years.

My constituency, thank you for the support and silent prayers, as you have conducted your duties as a parent. Alas, you have struggled, all the while praying for the attempts of your member for the Government, as well as our constituency.

Whatever works and developments that were implemented during this Settlement, we should be grateful to God. We celebrate the feeling of gratefulness with all these achievements. But let us focus on the future to God and the blessings he will give us. I pray, if the Mataiva is sickly, turn to the Punaoa. Your servant is not perfect, so forgive any mistakes in our relationship. As we head into the election process, I pray that our ventures are peaceful and may no difficulty come our way and let us choose together with the Spirit of God, He will appoint the next representative for our constituency. He is the only one who appoints the Leaders of Samoa for the next 5 years. May the sacrifices of the workers of God and His holy will continue to be consecrated. May our family receive the blessings from God and may the land and the sea be filled with His wealth. God bless all the children and young people in our district.

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I want to use the covenant of the Moabite girl in the Bible for war. Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people; your God will be my God. Where you die, I die too. And God does as His will. You no longer have one family, you no longer have one village, my constituency you are my family and my village. Goodbye and bless the Assembly of Samoa. Thank you.

Parliament showed appreciation by applauding after the response of the Minister for Communications, Information and Telecommunications.

MR SPEAKER: The speech is commended, as the words said used in the gathering of the *toa-ono* and the sanctity of Lalogafuafua, as the ears are pleased to hear, and the eyes are happy to see.

But those are also the words that is said to Saleaumua as the Parliament is listening, especially the support of your constituency. Samoa in general. You need not be made known because you were the one who predicted Victory for Aana District. You are also a Satuala. For we are brothers, since you are the Alii o Aiga, of Tutuila and Ape. I commend the preparations, based on the development and priority of the country, every country prioritizes health and education. But in times of Covid-19, if it were not for your preparations, the intention for education would not come true but also the protection of our health. But if we also look at the developments of our country in various fields. It is dependent on the high-speed communications.

Therefore, I commend you for the work, no wonder the Leader appointed you as the Minister for Communications because you look towards the future of the Government. Because the

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words used in Upolu, the feeling is mutual. That being said, this is enough praise in case there is... but I would like to add on to your appreciation speech, with the presence and the attendance of the kings and chiefs who are being supportive and providing services through telecommunications, and high speed information, companies and the Chief Executive Officers, I commend your hard work.

The words that are said to Atua, *ua setogi le seuga ua laga i tila ua faapulou le tualima*, I commend you for the hard work. *Ua malie le papa i Galagala ua malie ma le lautua le Faga i Paau aua oe le Faga i Foa*. Why? Because of your work. If you did not persevere in implementing your work, Samoa would not have prospered in all areas of our work. Thus we pray for blessings from the heavens upon you. I wish you all the best, may your body, mind and soul be well equipped. This is our statement on behalf of the Parliament. Therefore, we wish you the best and may God bless you and your work. Thank you for the speech.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended for normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 7:50pm and will resume at 8:37pm.

Debates continued with Government Responses on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Proceedings and Orders of the Legislative Assembly. I commend you for your patience, congratulations on your perseverance and I hope you gained the strength to continue our work. Before the break the Hon Minister of Communications, Information and Telecommunications, the Hon Afamasaga concluded his speech. And this is the opportunity to call on the Hon Leader of the Government for your speech.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, and the esteemed Members of Parliament. Now our House has come back from our evening meal, and I feel that there is renewed strength to continue our Assembly. Now the series of Responsive Speeches by the Cabinet has reached me, and I also believe that I will not go back. I was the first to initiate the clarifications. This means that it started with my introduction, so now I will move on to the speech on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, with some issues that were raised and I will try to give an explanation. This is the Supplementary Appropriation for this fiscal year ending in June of this year. If we reflect on the proceedings of this Sitting, then our Parliament will be dissolved. And prepare for the general election of our country. The Cabinet Members have listened patiently, while the representatives conveyed their speeches and there were no interruptions. We remembered that this is the last Sitting to make final speeches. It has been noted in our traditions and customs of respect. But according to the Standing Orders, the length of the speech in this House is limited.

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These are our normal Parliamentary practices and procedures which go hand in hand with our Standing Orders, based on mutual respect. It guides our discussions. But the responsibility of administrating our Assembly is left to the honorable Speaker, who has the sole authority to interpret our Standing Orders, despite, if correct.

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That is the sole authority of the Speaker, as these are the practices of all the Parliaments of the Commonwealth. These are the aspects that make our discussions run smoothly. I have also noted that our Standing Orders are being disregarded and it is done with complete understanding. This is not new; it is an old norm. But there is a baseless accusation heard outside this House. The opportunities are being withheld, and other members have called the honorable Speaker bias. Why? Because now the speeches of the Assembly are being broadcasted live on Television and Radio. It makes it easier to deceive those who do not understand these procedures that are applied inside Parliament. If our debates were not broadcasted, there would be no such qualities shown. The important point is that we should never forget it. As the elected members who approve the Laws, we should always remember our oath of allegiance upon our duties. We are the leaders of Samoa, we sworn in on it, as a sacred guide for us all. Respect the dignity of this Parliament.

The paramount dignity of Parliament should be maintained, as we are also leaders who must lead by example. For our villages and constituencies, because we are united on the path with the glory of the kings and chiefs who appointed us. We make decisions together in this House. So, the emergence of a member who does not want to participate in the Legislative Assembly they cannot be impeded by another member. Their rights to leave this Parliament do not need to be persuaded or forced by another member, while the Assembly is in progress. But the matter of maintaining the dignity of this Parliament is very important. There are rules that prohibit such manner and behaviour. But also note that we are meeting during sensitive times, so the foresight of wisdom should be applied.

Finally at the end of this Parliamentary Term, I will put an official motion. To establish a Special Inquiries Committee that has the full force of the Inquiries Committees. They will examine these unethical behaviors, so that a report can be tabled for a decision by the Parliament in the new Parliamentary Term, in its first Assembly in June of this year. This problem needs to be dealt with quickly, before it escalates further. The developing of Acts to develop the education and various jobs to protect our safety which is not something to joke about. In particular, the strengthening of the authority of the village council, which guided us from the darkness of life, as we were left wandering aimlessly for many years, before the Gospel came to Samoa. That is the power of the honorable authority of the village council. That is why there continues to be comfort in the villages, especially the comfort of the Gospel.

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As the warning words of our Lord, let us be alert; watch out for wolves in sheep skin. If the devil came to tempt our Lord, the Lord has two personas, the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit which our country is founded on. Who are we? We are insignificant people.

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No wonder our Lord taught us prayer. Lord do not forsake us to temptation, the devil is very powerful.

This Legislative Assembly is one of the governing bodies of the Independent Government of Samoa. It is different, since the Parliament is independent from the Court and the Executive. I am the Cabinet and all the staff of our Government. The roles are clear, the Parliament or the Legislative Assembly, the Supreme Law-Making Body, that approves Laws. Its sole authority is to pass the Laws. The Court, its sole authority is to interpret the Laws passed from this Parliament, the Supreme Law-Making Body of any Parliamentary Democracy.

As for the Executive, its sole authority is to implement the Laws. In short, the Parliament passes the Laws; the Court interprets the Laws passed by this House, while the Executive implements the Laws, clear and comprehensive. They cannot interchange their duties, it is prohibited under the Constitution, it is forbidden to take another's duties. Using direct language will make it understandable. Why? These 3 authorities have been separated, the passing of the Laws, the interpretation of the Acts, and the implementation of the Laws.

There is only one reason for the separation, when all 3 authorities are held by one Government body or one person, then it will bring about the abuse of authority, an authority that is biased, an authority that is mindless. Why? Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The thought of giving power to a branch, it is natural for things to be misused. In order to prevent the emergence of these characteristics, with the excessive use of authority when it is given to a branch or a single person. There is only one way to avoid it, is to allocate the power to another branch or another person to manage and limit the authority given to others.

The Three Arms of Government is the appropriate title in our language. The negotiation is conducted between the two authorities. This means that one authority monitors the other authority, or the other authority spies on the other authority. That is the reason why it was divided into 3 powers. The only way to balance power is to use power to monitor power, the concept of the balance of power. That is the reason why the authority is divided into a Triangle. It is no longer assigned to a single branch.

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The royal families of the world firmly hold all 3 powers. The approval of Laws, the interpretation of Laws, as they possessed the power of the Parliament and the power of the Court and the implementation of the Laws, were all held by the royal families. It is similar with the authority of the Government, the military control that was carried out by Hitler that started the world war killing millions and millions of recorded human lives.

This is the dangers of giving all the 3 powers to a single person. This also occurred in Fiji when the Government was overthrown by their military, which was done three times. The Democratic Government of Fiji was overthrown three times by the military. This is the problem for Governments that have armies. There will always be a temptation to topple the Government. Many countries have forcibly dethroned their royal families and can even affects the commoners due to these weaknesses. What are the weaknesses? The weakness of giving all these 3 powers to the royal family.

It is clearly stated in the Bible, when Israel wanted a king that they could visibly see in person, just like the kings of other pagan Nations. They do not want to listen to God, who is giving commands to improve the lives of His people, but it is conveyed through God's Grand Priest.

Therefore, God instructed Samuel the prophet. I will provide you with the king that my stubborn people wanted. It was King Saul, and you will experience it, the children of Israel will experience the ways of the kings of the world. Their children will be abducted to fight their wars, enslaved and other common practices. That is limitless power. These are the characteristics of a king, faced by the common people, since the times of Saul, King David, King Solomon, and King Rehoboam. And most of the Kingdoms of the world until the 16th century in Great Britain. It caused a rift between the Parliament and their king. There was an argument, as the Parliament argued that they rule over the people for they are the representatives for the public. But the king also argued, no, I am the greatest king. It resulted in a war, since in those days the king had an army, and the Parliament also had an army. The war did not last long, but the king's army was defeated, and the king was placed before the House of Parliament. He was tied with ropes, and the executioner walked in with a sword and ended his life. And then they laid out the policies for the relationship between the king and the Parliament of Great Britain. The King is the Head of State; he sits solemnly, oversees and signs the Laws that are passed by the members of this Parliament. That is also the foundation for all Parliamentary democracies. These arrangements are still being followed including Samoa.

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200 years later, the people of France took over the authority of the government of France, which is called the French Revolution. They then created a weapon for executions known as the guillotine, a thick sword, about 3 feet wide to 15 feet long. The bottom is sharp, and it is raised up by a rope. Then the royal families are brought to kneel down and the guillotine is dropped, to end their lives.

These are the significant events that occurred in the Kingdom of France. These are the animal like behaviors that were conducted by the general public, and after thousands of years, they are still faced with these situations, as they are unable to continue it.

Mr Speaker, this is a short story. Then the Administration of the French Republic continued, as there was a Philosopher, named Montesquieu, who was unhappy with these practises in the Government of France, and so he visited Great Britain.

To observe the type of Administrations implemented by the British Government. He observed that the British Government was using the Three Arms of Government, this was thought provoking for him, and then he travelled to America, at the exact time that the American Government was also preparing to implement an Independent Government and were developing a Constitution. And then they moved to use the Authority which separates the Powers, the Three Arms of Government.

The difference is that in America, the Three Arms of Government are a bit more isolated. They do not have the mutual respect and the sharing of Power between the Three Arms which is being implemented by the British Government, known as the Fusion of Powers. It is collaborative, it is cooperative, and for example, the Parliament is independent just like us. However, when the Parliament convenes, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet are also present, as well as the Political Party, and this is the meaning of the Fusion of Powers. The allocation of Authority ensures that the Separation of Power is incomplete, with the Independence of Parliament, in cooperation.

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It is the same for New Zealand and Australia. When the Parliament convenes, the Prime Minister is regarded as a Member of Parliament, and they attend the Parliament with his Cabinet and his Political Party. That is one example. The Parliament can also dismiss the Chief Justice or the President of the Court, which has already been done. But following the principle of Fusion of Powers, the power is distributed.

If a crime was committed by the members, Ministers, Prime Ministers and the Speakers, they will be brought before the Court and they will be judged by the Court. If the penalty is serious, they are taken to the prison to be imprisoned; this is the fusion of power.

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The decision made by the Court, every decision made by the Court is its own, as the Court does not hold a sword to implement their decisions. They do not have a sword to wave around in order to implement it, so how it implemented? It is carried out by the police who are under the Authority of the Regulator.

When the Head of State is appointed, the Prime Minister makes the recommendation to be brought to the Parliament. It is the same when appointing a Chief Justice by the Head of State, there is a recommendation made by the Prime Minister, fusion of powers. The Parliament does not have a budget, it only passes the Financial Acts, the figures, but the Ministry of Finance possesses the budget, which is under the Regulator. The same goes for the Court. This means that it is part of the Three Arms, the least dangerous is the Court. It does not have a sword nor does it possess a budget.

In the year 1977, the Supreme Court of the United States made a decision between Nixon and the Administrator of General Services, whereby the Three Arms of Government made the decision through the Court, with great power that showcases no cooperation or little cooperation is reflected, and not suitable for the Government of the United States.

Mr Speaker, there is an opinion that the HRPP has taken control of the Parliament and the Court, that is the full clarification. It is unconstitutional, so now I am addressing it. If the issue is deep and complex, there are Government Regulations, which should be followed, and there is a penalty for the complexity. Why? It has been noted, the entire History of Governments, which are being made in this era in the countries of the world in Samoa, New Zealand, Great Britain, America, France and Israel. It started with Moses and Aaron, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Great Britain, France, America, New Zealand, Samoa, and even from the time the President was appointed for the Lands and Titles with the authority of the Parliament. Mr Speaker, it is important that you revert back to the Government Administration where the authority has been divided, since till this day, we continue to hear echoes, the decision made by the Parliament is wrong, the Parliament is interfering with the Courts. The Government has control over the Parliament and the Court. It has been noticed that the ideas and understanding of the system of Checks and Balances and the Separation of Powers is wrong.

Mr Speaker, we are nearing the end of our Assembly. But I should make a brief address to the sectors under my portfolio, because it is very important for this House to know, the different responsibilities that are under my supervision and under the Minister's supervision, as well as the portfolio of the Government employees.

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Why? Because there have been rumours spreading, with false advertisements, saying that the Cabinet is dysfunctional. The Government employees are dysfunctional, and now for 5 weeks, the whole country is listening to the complexity and depth of the work being done by the Ministers, the Chief Executive Officers and all the staff of our Government. So it is very surprising to hear such unfounded announcements like this. It seems that there are some members who have been sitting in this Cabinet for a long time, are going around spreading baseless rumours. That is why our Assembly has been prolonged. So that the country can hear the opinions that are being circulated not only in Samoa but abroad, as they ridicule the work that is being implemented by the Ministers, and also looking down on the work that is conducted by the Government employees. The Government employees are returnees with the highest level of degrees from abroad.

That is the situation, it is unavoidable for the Ministers to discuss their responsibilities. For this Sitting, we meet for only 4 hours in the morning every day, as for our usual Assemblies when we have morning and night sittings, it has only been 3 weeks. Well, compared to the regular Parliamentary Assemblies for the foreign countries, they would have sittings constantly within a year, and we are getting close to it. Mr Speaker, this cannot be avoided as the economy has grown. The development of our Government has grown, and there is only one thing to measure it, it is measured by the funds as clearly stated by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Mr Speaker, the responsibilities under my portfolio is the Legislative Assembly. Remember, there must be a Minister to head the Legislative Assembly, why? Because there should be a Minister to communicate with the Cabinet especially these important aspects of the employees. Money is needed, which means, it is inevitable for any Ministry, even if it is independent a Minister should manage this relationship, and the Cabinet is part of the Government, which is responsible for the Law on democratic relations, fusion of powers.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have already talked about it during my first address. And just as I have stated, this is the doorway for all the communications between our Government and the world. What are the requirements? It helps the Government and the international relationships. this is the only gateway.

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This Ministry also oversees all our Foreign Offices, Embassies and Consulates. And whatever we need is conveyed to them, and then they will also do their work to communicate with the Embassies of other Governments, to facilitate our requests.

The Ministry of Environmental Survey and Meteorology, is the third sector under my portfolio. This Ministry only consisted of the Land Survey, then in the year 1988 to 1991 the Cabinet was changed, and the tasks it performs have been expanded. Then the Environment was added. Mr Speaker, it is no secret that climate change is the greatest disaster in the world, caused by the heat. And all the actions taken by all the countries of the world including us and other countries, they all result in the same thing. Ensure the temperature decreases, so that by

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the end of this century in the year 2100, after 79 years the temperature has dropped to 1.5 degrees.

If the world can lower the temperature to 1.5, all the countries of the world will be saved. This means that the glaciers on the North Pole and South Pole will not melt. So these are all the things that we do, and are also done by all Governments. This is the whole point of our activities, such as generating electricity from the sun, water, wind, as well as electric cars, and planting 2 million trees, as these activities are also encouraged by other Governments for the protection of the environment in terms of stopping the heatwave. We now have our policies, for the protection of the fish in the sea, for our food source.

There are 19 policies implemented by the Ministry of Environment, 19 Main Laws, 25 Regulations, 4 different Committees that are dealing with the responsibilities, 20 different developments that are currently under the supervision of the Ministry. This Ministry is also responsible for the protection of traditional lands, and all aspects of the legal process, for the granting of cultural lands for Government developments, as well as the leasing of our traditional lands.

Every time these issues are discussed, the Ministry emerges to correct many baseless accusations. Including the backing from the Attorney General. All the lands in Samoa are 702 acres, all the traditional lands is 18,000 acres; other lands include government lands and western lands 133,432. This is only 1.5% of the 568,000 acres of traditional lands, which is being leased. Only a small portion can be leased.

More than 500,000 acres of traditional land are unused. This situation is very important, as more than half a million acres of cultural lands are not used, it is not cultivated.

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With the current lease of cultural lands, they can be used for 4 types of beneficial developments. 1. Shops and other small businesses. 2. To establish a church, especially a congregation that is new within a village, whereby they ask a family to lease land to establish a church. 3. A few small hotels. 4. To set up a Digicel pole. That is what our Government is always trying to make Acts to use these unused lands.

The Acts of 2019, The LTRA Land Leasing Act was completely amended, which also caused a disturbance in 2018, triggered by the SSIG group. Whereby ignorant lawyers came. This Act is specifically established, to register freehold land.

So in 2019 the Act was brought in here, to remove this registration which causes a lot of misunderstanding, for the registration of freehold land for sale. Deeds are no longer used, due to the many problems that have occurred, and it causes conflict between many people, as it has already been paid but they are unable to find the deed. Thus why this process was changed, as deeds were no longer used instead they will use registration. So there was uproar, as they stated that they will buy the land. Therefore, the registration of freehold land was separated, and the registration of leased lands and the licensing of customary land were also separated. And these lands were also arranged, in the case that it can be.....as long as the entire family agrees. This is getting more difficult.

There is also a situation that the Ministry is trying to achieve at this time, to start implementing the carbon trading program in Samoa. At the moment, they have a program underway, whereas they will start experimenting with our country, in the trading of greenhouse gases, or these

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carbons to the markets abroad. These efforts are directed towards the reduction of carbon dioxide, through the replanting of trees, and the value of the forests and there are 2 types that the Ministry is trying to implement. 1. the export of carbon dioxide that has been reduced, and 2. the export of natural services, from the wetlands to improve water supply in our country. These are the things that are implemented these days, which are different and distinct from the types of business that the Government is doing.

As for the carbon dioxide gases, for example, the essence is to reduce the greenhouse gases that are released into the air and destroying the ozone layer. This layer protects the earth from the extraordinary power of the sun's rays. And if 100,000 tons have been produced by a country, especially a country that has a great economy and uses too much oil and diesel, it will increase the amounts of Carbon Dioxide.

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But there are international agreements, whereby if the limited amount is exceeded; there will be a monetary fine. Now it is possible for that Government, to negotiate with a country that has reduced their carbon, and then purchase the 100,000 carbon limit to cancel out their own 100,000 carbon limit which is drastically increasing, in order to avoid the penalty for exceeding the limit, but now it has been given to another country, the reduction of carbon that they purchased and to lessen it without being fined (O lea la e mafai e le Malo lena, ona o i se nuu lea ua tuuitiitia ia latou kaponi, faatau mai ai ia se latou 100,000 kaponi e cancel ai ia le latou 100,000 lea ua alu i luga, ia ma faasao ai le faasalaga ua alu i luga, ae o lea ua avatu i le isi atunuu, le tuuitiitia o kaponi e faatau e latou ma tuu ai i lalo, ma le sala ai). So it is sold, but keep in mind, these carbons derive from the plants. If it is found in the plants, then you can earn money from it, and then it is distributed to its own country.....or the countries who own the forest.

Mr Speaker, we can reduce our carbon emissions by planting trees and using electricity that is generated from water, the sun, or other various sources within our country that our Government can use to produce electricity. These are the different types of methods that can be implemented by the Ministry. There was a similar question that was put forth, Dear Prime Minister, at 7:00 at this time; it is very dark in the early morning, and I beseech the Government to change the hours. According to the meteorologist, we are still in the same climate since the day Adam and Eve were born. It means that we are still using the old time. When it is 7:00, it is still dark. We first changed the time in April, as part of the long-term plans of this Government, the HRPP, and it will be changed again after every 6 months. The time will be reverted one hour back to light up the darkness that we have been enveloped in since the existence of Adam and Eve. But the change is very minor. You just have to whine the clock back one hour. So that means, if it is 7:00am now, once it is whined back one hour then it will be 6:00am, which means that it will be sunny when the clock strikes 7:00am. But the implementation of all these things is the psychological solution that has been created by this Government, the HRPP. That is the second step, as there are 2 steps which were implemented by the Government, in order for these changes to run smoothly. Step 1, the changing of the time to start work and school from 8 to 9. After this change was made following the decision of the Cabinet, and then the time was changed and reverted one hour back. One would go forward and the other would go backwards.

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In order to fully light up the darkness that the Leader of FAST was worried about, but he was sitting in this Cabinet during the HRPP procedures, to use the wisdom and the foresight.

For the school Committees, you should consider this. Since it is an order given by the Government, for work and schools to start at 9:00. But there are other teachers who still start their classes at 8:00. But they should all start at 9:00 in order to understand the full extent of the foresight of this Political Party. So the clock is now set back to 2 hours, during daylight saving time. These procedures are done every 6 months, because the foresight is vast, which is why it was carried out. Why? We should also align our time, to be recognized internationally. For international air travel and for international communications. We cannot just change it whenever we want, maybe change it today or change it tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. No, it should be every six months.

As I was starting my explanation the member who asked the question stood up. And the question is also useful and to further reveal that the HRPP Government does not make major changes in the dark. Its vision is far-sighted, as it is not only within Samoa, but also outside of Samoa. These changes are planned in advance and are determined by the spinning of the Globe and the rotation of the sun. And the distance and proximity of our world to the warm and cold weather of countries in the north and south of the equator. These are the procedures of the HRPP, it is far-sighted. It is based in the cycle of the sun and the moon and the changes in the weather, which is done annually. This question is very important, which was asked by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3. Since 2 years ago I was given a document by the Minister who is responsible for the changing of the time. So there was a question raised by the Deputy Prime Minister who asked. What is the use of this, yet we worked on it together. We did it together, I urged the Minister, if you do not understand, then you should ask me.

The final part of my statement on the work that is being conducted by this Ministry, there is a lot. It will take the whole night for me to talk about it, because this is another major Ministry. This is why the Cabinet made a decision for this Ministry to be divided as it is already in the Constitution. The Environment should be separated from the context of surveying cultural lands and other things. The earthquake that happened in 2009, it shook and its effects are very important. Because a research was conducted on the islands off the Pacific, and it was confirmed that Tonga and Samoa were heavily affected after the earthquake.

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It was recorded that the lands of Samoa sank by 60 millimetres, as the sinking lands also affected Tonga. Since then, the lands of Samoa have continued to sink 8 metres each year. And it is continuing from 2010. The ruler I am holding, it comes from here to the end. It measures up to 8 millimetres per year. In other words, 300 is the length on how deep our land has sunk. After the earthquake, there are no cases of ice melting, at the North and South Poles

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and the rise in sea level. No wonder why even light rain causes flooding in Apia, because the lands of our country are slowly sinking. But the tide is also rising.

That is why our ongoing efforts are very important, and all the things that have happened are also very important, with the establishment of an Organization in Samoa that closely examines the environment, especially the strong changes in the weather. But what is the cause? We are all aware of the causes of earthquakes. Beneath the land and the sea, we are situated on top of the large tectonic plates below.

Those plates, these large plates, perhaps the heavier one in on top, or cracks on the plates will cause it to slide. One slides down and the other slides up, and then the whole world is shaken. So if we are situated on the plate that is sliding down, it means that we will continue to sink. But we will never know, in case, because what is happening with earthquakes is that some lands will sink and others will rise. Or maybe there will be another earthquake that shakes one side up while the other side goes down. Due to the weight of the plates in which the world is sitting on that are below the earth. Underneath these plates there is a fire, thus why there are times that an earthquake occurs, and volcanoes erupt from underneath. But a pastor said to me, down there is Hell. In other words, we are living above Hell.

Mr Speaker, I have pointed out the seriousness of the things that this Ministry is dealing with. And it is something that we must observe, we should continue to observe and to consider our situation, and we must also try to implement it for the future.

Mr Speaker, the...

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, apologies to the Hon Prime Minister, you should have a rest.

MR SPEAKER: I will call upon the member. Since the Hon Prime Minister has taken his seat, therefore... Is there something you want to address?

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Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I did not want to interrupt the speech of the Prime Minister. But there is something I want to address, I saw on the news earlier about the South Pole, that 1,200 square kilometers of ice has been shattered, not only that but....as it is almost 10:00, my heart is worried about the statement made by the Prime Minister, saying that Hell is below and there is fire. SO now I will be restless tonight as I dream of Hell, whether there is a scientist to explain if this fact is real or not. It is true that there is a fire below, but I do not know if it is Hell, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well, perhaps...

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: If a person has faith, they know whether they go to heaven or go to hell.

Well, Mr Speaker, the important point is that most of these earthquakes occur in the Tongan trench which is about 200 miles away from Aleipata coming towards Lepa. This is the reason

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why many people died in our constituency, because most of the earthquakes are occurring in these large trenches, as the large tectonic plates are shifting and taking the full weight of the things above it.

Mr Speaker, now I come to the PSC. For this Ministry, this is the main division of the Ministries that I oversee. This Commission oversees the work of our Government. Well, and it is the usual work of the Commission to supervise the employees, in terms of employment and termination, and they are dealing with a lot of work.

However, when this Government came into power, in the 1982 to 1985 Parliamentary Term, we discussed the reconsideration of the PSC, the key and gateway for employees. And it is necessary to take a good look at the terms and conditions for the employees, which have existed since the Independence. I remember a meeting we had, where some ideas were put forward and we made decisions, but one Minister objected, and he asked for his disapproval to be recorded within the minutes of our meeting. And then the Leader said that under the Cabinet procedures within a Commonwealth Government, there is no such thing as being exclusive in the Cabinet meeting, there is only one voice, one decision to be made.

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Then Tofilau said, if you do not participate, submit your resignation now. And then the Ministers decision changed and gave his support to the matters. He also raised some important points. In the year 1990-1991, and then it was decided that all the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries will be contracted and conditions will be provided, all of their positions will be announced, and they will have to apply. So the contracting process started because of the belief that there are many workers.

The old process was good, as others would remain in office until they retire. These are the usual manners of love and care. But the Cabinet in 1990-1991 had an idea, that a new system should be put in place, as many children of the country have returned with degrees. And it is necessary to give opportunities for them to apply. And they will be decided by a panel.

So in 1991, a 2 years contract was introduced. As years passed it became 3 years. And it is still utilized now. This process is very important, because of the competition for the positions. It does not matter how good you are, but when your contract ends, it is advertised, then a panel is established, then an interview will be set up, then points are assigned and brought before the Cabinet, as about 99% of the recommendations are given and accepted by the Cabinet, except for that 1%, because there are some reasons known to the Cabinet, 33 but the panel did not know that it was only 3.

Mr Speaker, those are the usual procedures, just like I talked about before, these decisions are made by many, as decisions made by many people are more just and correct than the decisions made by an individual. And that is one guideline that this Cabinet is following. A review is being conducted for readjustment, the reconsideration of the roles and responsibilities of the PSC. It is the full belief of the Cabinet, for the PSC to focus more of its time on the trainings for the employees, from January to December, only trainings, to increase the experience of the workers, so that there can be a lot of improvement in the work done.

In the PSC, we also have our Tribunal; this Tribunal is a special sector that handles the allocation of the salaries. And ever since the establishment of this Tribunal, all of the salaries have been allocated equally. Back then the salaries were allocated differently for others. It is

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the opinion of the Cabinet that there no need for it to be different. There should be only one system, so that it does not give rise to conflict and result in strikes.

Mr Speaker, this is the fourth Ministry. The fifth Ministry is the Department of Fire and Emergencies. Well, the work of the Fire Department is well-known such as dealing with fires and having good equipment.

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There are times when the firetrucks would arrive and there is no water. Well, these are the simple things. They also have a lot of fire extinguishers, and I have instructed them to test these out, so that if a fire were to occur, a CEO is able to use it. That is one thing that needs to be done. Be aware of such things, and this is the work of the firemen as you all know.

The Ministry of the Prime Minister, this is the sixth major Ministry that is under my supervision. It also includes the Immigration. This is the department for immigration and passports for residents. And all the issues regarding citizenship in our country. It is also prepared by the Ministry of the Prime Minister.

All the meetings of the Cabinet and the procuring of decisions made, so that they can be implemented by the Ministry. The execution is very important, as there are times when nothing is done. It means that this is where the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries go to pursuit matters related to the decisions that have already been made.

This is the heart of the Government, so I can say that this is the heart of the Country, where all issues can be dealt with, under my judgement and by the entire Cabinet during its meeting, as well as the preparation of meetings and the supervision of the Office of the Head of State, as an appointed representative so that the communication goes smoothly, proper communication of encouragement and social aspects, all the good social aspects, for the people of our country in the world, who are labelled as the diaspora, to let them know that our Government and all the people of Samoa recognize their great achievements, which are achieved in other countries, where they currently reside. As well as earning citizenship in those countries. It is an effort to maintain their nationalism, perhaps they will be further reminded of their families in Samoa who are supporting them in these times of suffering.

There are many families abroad, who have severed ties with their families in Samoa. Like the many prisoners that have been deported from American back to Faleolo, who do not know their families. They do not even know how to speak Samoan. They also do not know their parents villages. So what makes this division important is that it is a way of connection, in terms of gathering information from media abroad, and then contacting them to let them know that they are in our list. This makes it possible for them to send their blessings, send their Christmas cards and send messages to state that they are under the care of our Government.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate on second reading**

They are also able to write back, with the essence of excitement, as they are being considered by our Government. This is also how we will operate our Savali, for announcements concerning

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the Government. There was an idea to publicise the Savali but then it was remitted and it was a very important outcome to remit it, the... no it is not the Savali, I am talking about the 2AP. It was returned to the Government, but the Savali is also a newspaper that further promotes the policies of our Government.

I am also the Chairperson of the Development Committee, as well as the Emergency Committee. There are meetings to encourage major technological changes, which the Minister of Technology spoke about, as it is a very important aspect in the preparation of our ID card which is information about your life and school, educational background, pension, voting and saving expenses with different IDs.

The ideas behind these plans is that when I am leading a meeting and I keep falling asleep, but the members seem to be listening, since I am the Chairperson, there are times when I start falling asleep and I do not know anything, but when a decision has to be made, they know that I can never ignore it, and I would find out if they are implementing the plans that we discussed, as this will prompt the Ministries to obey and implement these plans swiftly, they will sprout like grass that grows when it rains for the first time after the drought.

If you notice, our Assembly has been in session for 6 weeks, so that all the issues are made clear, in order for the country to understand, and to repeal the baseless accusations that are being broadcasted on social media. But the most important thing is that nothing is being withheld with the observation of the country, nothing is hidden, as everything is revealed for the people to know. Why? It is because our Government is governed by the guidelines of transparency and accountability.

Mr Speaker, I move the motion, That we proceed to consider in detail the Budget until completion before we adjourn for this evening.

Soifua and God bless.

Parliament showed appreciation by applauding after the Responsive Speech of the Hon Prime Minister.

Seconded by the Minister for Women, Community and Social Developments, and the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Debates and Government Responses on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 are now completed and the question will be put.

Motion moved on the 15th December 2020 was approved, and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019 was read a second time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
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MR SPEAKER: The Legislative Assembly will now move to consider in detail the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

In the course of the consideration of the Bill, well, the members can speak on the issues printed in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1), as well as the Report of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021, P.P.2020/2021 No.115.

Pursuant of Standing Orders 135, the consideration in detail of the Bill will commence with the Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE

FUNDS AND APPROPRIATION

ADDITION IN APPROPRIATION

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:		\$826,995.

Approved.

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR:		\$63,798.
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Approved.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 – consideration in detail

EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE:		\$2,784,092.
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Approved.

FINANCE:		\$13,337,461.
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Approved.

HEALTH:		\$3,000,000.
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Approved.

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JUSTICE AND COURTS ADMINISTRATION: \$382,333.

Approved.

OMBUDSMAN: \$56,291.

Approved.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION \$71,468.

Approved.

POLICE: \$2,722,264.

Approved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

PRIME MINISTER: \$110,248.

Approved.

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: \$51,700.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Faleata, Afioga Lealailepule.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker, you should have a rest. No, I just want to ask the Hon Chairperson of the Finance Committee regarding this fund, as I can see that there is a special person, a technical advisor who oversees private schools. My question to the Hon Chairperson, is there no one else in this Ministry who can do this simple job? With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I ask the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to stand.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: So, I would like to ask the member which Ministry he is referring to, because we are now addressing the Ministry of the Office of Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I called for our work to proceed. That is something that the Associate Minister should ask his Minister to explain.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: It is understood, thank you.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: The technical advisor is our own employee. This is a simple answer.

MR SPEAKER: Speak with discretion... the Associate Minister should not be afraid to ask the Minister.

The \$51,700 for the Public Enterprises was approved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

WORK, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE: \$4,084,247.

Approved.

LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY: \$5,847,647.

Approved.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA: \$1,751,492.

Approved.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION: \$680,797.

Approved.

SAMOA SPORTS FACILITY AUTHORITY: \$103,910.

Approved.

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**TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL
EXPENDITURE 2020/2021:** **\$35,874,743.**

Approved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

SECOND SCHEDULE

REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS
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AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:		\$(1,542,121).
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Approved.

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR:		\$(153,065).
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Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATIONS TECHNOLOGY:		\$(91,362).
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Approved.

EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE:		\$(187,954).
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Approved.

FINANCE:		\$(539,988).
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Approved.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: \$(744,532).

Approved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

HEALTH: \$(332,357).

Approved.

JUSTICE AND COURTS ADMINISTRATION: \$(327,960).

Approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT: \$(259,970).

Approved.

POLICE: \$(79,150).

Approved.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SERVICES: \$(58,714).

Approved.

PRIME MINISTER: \$(417,039).

Approved.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: \$(83,148).

Approved.

CUSTOMS AND REVENUE: \$(261,050).

Approved.

**WOMEN, COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** \$(138,024).

Approved.

WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE: \$(92,369).

Approved.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS: \$(36,653).

Approved.

CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL: \$(199,642).

Approved

SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION: \$(12,351).

Approved

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: \$(200,000).

Approved.

OMBUDSMAN: \$(22,080).

Approved.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: \$(89,574).

Approved.

LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY: \$(996,615).

Approved.

TOTAL REDUCTION EXPENDITURES 2020/2021: \$(6,865,718).

Approved.

SCHEDULE:

Approved.

CLAUSE 2: Grant and appropriation of \$35,874,743 out of the Treasury Fund.

Approved

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– third reading**

CLAUSE 3: Reduction of amounts earlier appropriated and re-allocation to other outputs and sub-outputs.

Approved.

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CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:**CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.****TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.***Approved.**The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1)2020/2021 progressed without Amendments.***SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO 1) 2020/2021
– third reading****MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Finance with respect.**Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI:** Mr Speaker, I move the motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 be read a third time.**Secoded by the Minister of Revenue and Expenditures, and the Minister of Educations, Sports and Culture.**Motion approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.**The House showed appreciation by applauding after the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 was approved.***MR SPEAKER:** I believe that this is enough work for today, as I can see that the honorable members are exhausted especially the elderly members.**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
- third reading**

The Hon Prime Minister, and the Cabinet as well as the Associate Ministers and that side of the House of Representatives, the sanctity of the kings and nobles of the country. Furthermore, public officials, Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations, especially those who are working to implement the state of communication and information technology. Which we are dependent on during times of difficulty as well as times when we are dealing with various diseases and changes in the weather. There is a belief that this is enough work for today, for we will finish off some of the remaining work tomorrow for this Parliamentary Term.

I call on the member for Falealili West to conclude our Assembly with a prayer.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned at 10:33pm until Tuesday 02nd March 2021 at 9:00am.