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MONDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:25am.

Prayer.

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

I take this opportunity to welcome the dignity of Parliament and its respects, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as Associate Ministers and that side of Chamber. I also greet the Leader of Opposition and members of Parliament on this side of Chamber. I am grateful for this fine morning, we meet again in the House to carry out the duties and tasks God has assigned us to do. I commended you all in good health.

As for today, we will be carrying out our usual orders I believe in the grace of God and his guidance, also to assist us chosen leaders to carry out His will and word with honesty. Therefore, all the best for today and our session to members of Parliament.

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MR SPEAKER: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned on Thursday, 16th September during the speech of the member of Aana Alofi No.4. Therefore, I call upon the member to continue with his remarks. With respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi (Leader of Opposition): Mr Speaker, I humbly ask for an opportunity...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of Opposition.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I kindly ask assistance from the Chair, on a minor matter that I want to understand.

MR SPEAKER: Alright, is it a matter related to our Appropriation or something else?

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: It is Budget related.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of Opposition.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, praises and thanks have been voiced to our Lord, in guiding us here safely, to that side, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as this side. Therefore, I commend the Chair. The prayers that you offered to God on our lives is significant, for us to be forgiving also to progress with our work. We will not revisit the past, but will lend a hand to do the work together, so that our work will progress forward.

This is the reason for taking the floor since there was a delay in coming into the House, we cannot ignore our duty to advise the Chair on the course of our work in accordance with our Standing Orders.

It has been noted last week when we undertook our oaths and receiving the code of ethics to carry out the work of the House. The country is also watching, we are the servants of the country and we do good things for Samoa who are giving us support.

This is the reason for taking the floor, to uphold the guidelines that you read out, code of ethics that guides the work of this House. We have valued this, however it seems we are being ignored because the work is moving forward. I know that speeches of that side are being concluded then an opportunity is given to this side. The matter signified, is the motion moved for the progress of orders, setting aside the usual measures of Standing Order 133.

This is the reason why I am upstanding for the Appropriation Bill to be submitted to the Finance and Expenditure Committee, since it is their duty to call upon Ministries to clarify their proposed budgets, as well as policies before recommendations are tabled before the House.

Also if there are any shortcomings noted, it is their duty to correct it before it is brought before the House, Committee are members of this Parliament, they note inadequacies in their work. All Chief Executives of Ministries are summoned before a report is submitted, then we will speak upon it. The remarks are...

MR SPEAKER: I disrupt the speech by the respectable member.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I have yet to address the matter...

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MR SPEAKER: Your opinion is noted Leader of Opposition.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: No, I have yet to speak on 35 and 45.

MR SPEAKER: Your opinion has been noted, Hon Leader of Opposition, your opinion is clearly understood together with the statement made before the House, however, our work is carried out based on our Orders. It is true that side of Chamber have been serving the House longer, and I believe there is much honesty. However, the work of the House and Government have progressed in regards to the motion approved in Parliament, this is a reminder to the Leader of Opposition. I am grateful that you have raised this matter. But it is clearly stated in Standing Orders 78(8), whatever motion set and approved in Parliament, cannot be revoked nor delay our orders.

This is why, hence your opinion is understood, and there are still opportunities available. It is not yet time for your side to speak, to voice your opinions, as for Committee, your opinion is duly noted. This is a clarification on this matter.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I am talking about Standing Orders 35 and 45 which governs the order of our work. While Section 46 and 139...

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, a Point of Order...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Section 139... Wait until I conclude...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance Hon Leader of Opposition I will give the opportunity to Government, since they made the motion. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Thank you for the opportunity. I also second the praises conveyed this morning. I am grateful that members of the House of Samoa have gathered here in good health. I have listened intently to the issue raised by the Leader of Opposition.

But I stand Mr Speaker, to make a point of order, on the term used by the Leader. The orders of the House cannot go backwards. And we have implemented our Standing Orders, whereby a motion was moved and approved.

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Mr Speaker I also believe, during consideration in detail that will be an opportunity for the whole House, it is unlikely that a Committee will be

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preferred in relation to the opinions of all members of the House, in relation to our Budget.

Mr Speaker, we are aware of the progress of our work, and that side of Chamber were not able to be present at the start of our Sitting. It would be easy as well to elect a Committee by this side, but we thought, it is best that the matter be considered before the House so that our country will be able to listen in to it.

This is why, I apologize, to the Leader of Opposition and his Party, thus orders have already commenced. There are several other opportunities to ask the Hon Minister of Finance regarding our Appropriation. I pray that we continue with our work. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the Leader of Opposition is satisfied with the response. Please be patient while the Chair conveys a word. As made known on the matter of our Standing Orders, we cannot go back, the work of Government have progressed together with the Proceedings of our Budget.

Therefore, I apologise to this side of Chamber, I appreciate the thought of emphasizing of our Standing Orders, but it is only the Chair that interprets such matters.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, no one wants to object your decision. The only matter that I wanted to make known to the House and the country, is that we are following our Standing Orders. If we look at 139 it is stated therein...

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the member...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Let me finish...

MR SPEAKER: Please be patient while I voice a statement. It seems we are moving away from our procedural practices. Consider the apology conveyed by the Chair, as well as the Leader of Government. We cannot go back, the work of Parliament has to continue. Also the plea of the Leader and that side cannot delay the work of Parliament. The work of Parliament has to progress, therefore we should work together, and evaluate. The speech given is outstanding on the services. This service means, we have come here to continue with the work that should be done.

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Therefore, have patience our work is now in progress. This is why...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I will persevere the delay. But I want to apologize as well, I just wanted to clarify the

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provisions under 139, the ordering of our work is controlled by the Government...

MR SPEAKER: It is now understood.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I have conveyed my opinion. When it comes to the Budget, then that is not how we proceed.

I recommend that the Chair look into Standing Order 139. When the Main Budget is considered, the Government cannot control and regulate the program...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, a Point of Order.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I agree with your statement, I will now take my seat, and we will resume with our work.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: The Leader of Opposition has been very disrespectful to the Chair.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: The Hon Prime Minister does not understand the issue I am raising.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker if he wants to be Chair let him come up there, but it is you that is administering our Proceedings. I ask the Leader of Opposition to be patient, you are now in a different seat.

MR SPEAKER: Apologies to the Hon Prime Minister and that side of the House. Samoa is also listening in, but the fact is we should work together. I am grateful that the Leader of Opposition and their side are aware, that we should work together. So....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I accept that I take my seat and we proceed with our work.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member of Anoamaa to continue. Apologies, the member of Aana Alofi No 4.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No.4): Thank you for the chance. May the words of my mouth and meditation of my hearts be acceptable in my God...Cedric.

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Mr Speaker, I greet you all this morning, you have welcomed our House, and have given praise to our Heavenly Father to commence our Sitting today. Aana Alofi No.4 not Anoamaa will not speak further on the matter.

I am grateful for the opportunity to resume a view of this constituency in relation to the Budget. Mr Speaker, my only concern is that the constituency of Aana Alofi No.4, has a population of more than 6,000. For this constituency, statistics indicates that 75% of the population did not reach Form 5 and Form 6. In addition, I trust that majority of this constituency similar to that of the country do not meet very good education.

Only 40% are employed. There are many needs that should be improved for this constituency as it is my intention Mr Speaker, that after 5 years we will be able to improve the quality of education, and acquire work for these people, so as to secure wellbeing and welfare for the constituency.

Mr Speaker now on to the Budget. I will start with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. Mr Speaker, I ask for clarification on the millions allocated to our SNBH. Observing this Mr Speaker, I believe it has taken almost 10 years since funds were spent, and so far nothing good has resulted from it for the country. Perhaps there have been plans for employment and to further improve the services of SNBH as I trust it was established to make ease the accessibility of services for Government Ministries including doctors stationed out in the district hospitals and also schools, however, this has not fully been fixed. I plead the Hon Minister and the Ministry, how soon can this improvement be done.

On to the Minister of Education. Mr Speaker, it is noted that a lot of our children are educated in Fiji. It is believed that students from other countries attending USP and other institutions in Fiji have returned home. As for our children they are pleading to come to Samoa. Is there plan to bring back our children anytime soon?

Mr Speaker, grant allocations provided to constituencies and schools is also important. I ask if this could be reviewed. First, increase by \$100. Is there a plan to increase it to \$150 depending on the students or for school needs? Notwithstanding, flexibility is also important and necessary to be in place, as majority of the constituencies need maintenance and capital development, even though it is impossible to do so given the small allocations stated in our grants.

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Why not allow flexibility so that schools are able to compromise based on their needs. Now on to our teachers. It is still noticeable the shortage of teachers in the country. There are classes that comprises of 60 students per teacher in this constituency. And majority of classes have 40. A request to the Minister through the Speaker, there is a number of young people working for the Government. Our constituency for instance, majority of them work for AA. If possible, we could use part time opportunities as substitutes for these schools. I also believe there is an increasing number of Government employees who can

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teach school subjects. Mr Speaker, I remember the time I returned after I finished school. I would always go and teach two subjects up in Avele including other schools, to help relieve the shortage of teachers such as what we have at this time.

Mr Speaker, we are also discussing Pre-Schools, we aim to develop our Preschool, as this is one vital aspect in the beginning of a child's school life. I request that our grants be increased for teachers pay, and the improvement of this area within the constituencies.

Mr Speaker, we are also discussing our Pre-Schools, we are trying to develop our preschool, because this is one important aspect in the beginning of a child's school life. I request that our grants be increased for teachers pay, and the improvement of this area within the constituencies.

Now on to our sports. I see the focal shift is now on to improving our sports standards, as I trust this is one of the benefits for our country in the future, the development of our sports, can lead to earning careers for our people including other opportunities available in which we can support a player.

A request Mr Speaker, is to provide further expansion and improvement towards our existing enhanced sports complex and facilities. It will further enlarge our sports tourism for our Pacific Games as well as the setting up of a sports grounds for the local semi-professional and amateur in the pre-season events. I trust that such opportunities will also provide our children easier accessibility for them to promote their standards in the field of sports.

Mr Speaker, I now move on to the Ministry of Justice. Mr Speaker, I too emphasize the vitality of the Court's independence in the making of their decisions especially in terms of their Budget together with the Judicial Service Commission or JDC. Mr Speaker it is also important to review one of the tenets of this Family of Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa, the Land and Titles Act 2020.

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Mr Speaker, there is also a thought on this such as the Law Reform Commission, as noted, there have been many Laws in the country. However, there are Laws that have overlapped other Laws and some are contradicting other Laws. Perhaps it is something we must review, prioritize, and harmonize and the consultation of Laws, to make ease the work of the Government and for the insight of the country.

Mr Speaker, I now move on to the Ministry of Women, Community and Development. Mr Speaker I appreciate the inclusion of increased allowance for our village and women representatives in the Budget. I recall a youth program that was implemented in the past, and there was a request for an increase in this

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area. As majority of our population is made up of our youth age group. To implement programs as majority of young people are school leavers. And so there should be good programs initiated within village communities and around the country to develop work and schools in contribution to our country.

Mr Speaker, to the Ministry of Police and Prisons. I commend the Ministry for the hard work. A request and suggestion, I can see that we now have in place the establishment of our Police Academy, perhaps this is important, since it will assist our male and female police officers.

Not only that but I also request that we look into other opportunities available in our partner countries, to find attachments for our police force. Where they can go to develop their skills, so when they return, they have the skills. They should not only go to schools and gain opportunities from the UN. But earning attachment opportunities, which I trust will also expand their knowledge that can be shared to enhance our services locally.

Mr Speaker, I now come to the Electoral Commission. This is probably one Act that has been amended several times in the past. I see there is allocated funds to prepare well a final copy for this Act. The arrangement and preparation of those who will be reviewing our previous elections. It is necessary that this task must be thoroughly done for people who will be involved avoiding the usual process, by including just those who did not win in the elections. The wider community can also take part in this process.

Mr Speaker, now to the Ministry of Health. I convey sincere gratitude for the health services provided last year. The only query I wish to put forth as it is not provided in the budget, is whether our overseas medical scheme is continued, and how much is the funding allocation. The expectation is, whether the Hon Minister can review these opportunities. A lot of our locals residing overseas now have the knowledge to assess some of our patients, should they wish to go abroad. It is noted that over the years only one consultant was appointed to do the review. But this is an opportunity to make use of our people living overseas.

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Mr Speaker, I mention this for our SNBH, I recall this launching 8 to 9 years ago and this was one of the purposes, to assist our hospital. Together with the explanation, that a doctor is able to reside in Apia and perform a patient's diagnosis in Sataua or any district hospitals. I am unsure if it was only for show that day, or whether it was achieved. I request this service since there is a shortage of doctors in the rural areas. This service should be improved so it can be accomplished. There are also specialists overseas and their contribution is also important, they can also help, if our broadband is good.

Mr Speaker, I also request that the Hon Minister look at our people overseas who are doing well in the medical field, and other areas. We have seen a lot of programs like doctors without borders. If we can prepare the requirements, there will be opportunities for doctors to come help relieve our doctors here in

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Samoa. There are also special days where they can carry out surgeries, which can further create a bond with our people who are living overseas.

Mr Speaker, now to the matter regarding surroundings, I believe that too much money is being spent on hospital maintenance. Therefore, I request, and second the matter raised by one of the members. To assign cleaning, garbage collection as well as the security of district hospitals to constituencies. In our constituency of Aana, we have the hospital at Leulumoega and the one at Satapuala. It will also provide employment for people of the constituency, moreover, it will be looked after and the constituency will be working together.

Mr Speaker I wish to have....

MR SPEAKER: The member has two more minutes. You have enough minutes, therefore conclude your speech.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Mr Speaker, I have yet to speak to 5 more Ministers, but I will comply.

A concern Hon Minister of Health, the \$1.2 million is a lot for plumbing works. If you look at it as well as the country, most of these hospitals are even 10 years old since establishment. Why is there so much money spent on plumbing works? If it is a new building, there should not be more spending.

Now to the Ministry of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Commerce, this is one priority of this Government and country, to have enough job opportunities. It is requested through BASER in consultation, like the Government of American Samoa to have a grade trade agreement, to make it easier to export produce, also to provide employment opportunities for our people. We only have RSE for people to go overseas, but we should use other skills for Tutuila and other Pacific countries.

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I strongly believe that there is a lot of skills in our country, but not enough jobs. But now we can share it, and get income from other countries.

Now to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Mr Speaker, I am saddened to see the condition of our new roads, at the time it is opened village roads are good. However, after 2 to 3 years it is damaged. A word of advice, I believe we should reinforce construction goals, also there are requirements that should be met. And not to do it just to have a road, but to construct it well. Because if it is done well, it will be used for a long time by a constituency and will be beneficial for the country.

Now to the Ministry of Agriculture. I commend the Hon Minister for the developments planned. The only request is the development of our agricultural production for the future of our country.

Mr Speaker, I will now conclude a thought of this constituency. First I want to thank our gathering here this morning. I thank the Hon Prime Minister and

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Cabinet, also the Associate Ministers. I thank that side of Chamber, especially the public servants of Government. I believe we will be able to work together for the future development of Samoa.

Mr Speaker I also want to thank my families and those who supported my efforts. I will try my best, to make your voice be heard, especially for the future of our country. May the Heavenly Father be with us for the rest of this session. Soifua.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding after the member of Aana Alofi No.4's speech.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the respectable member, your opinion have been heard by the House, especially the country listening on the recommendations conveyed to Government. The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet have also heard for the progress of our work, not only for your constituency, but to the whole country. I commend you for your wisdom, thank you for preparing today and our Budget. I note that the member of Vaa o Fonoti is upstanding. Very well thank you, your voice and contribution is much needed on our Budget. All the best with your speech.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Tofa MAUU SIAOSI PUEPUEMAI (Vaa o Fonoti): Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House. This constituency was thinking of holding back from taking the floor until all other maiden speeches had concluded.

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However, since I have seen how fine this morning has started, the constituency of Vaa o Fonoti is now ready to convey an opinion, and to speak upon the Appropriation tabled before the House. Before I move forward, I first want to take this time to acknowledge the dignity of the House. Since the Leaders of the country are gathered here. Praise and thanks be to God, for the night has passed with its difficulties. Now that the shadows of a new morning have dawned, we are enlightened by the beauty of His love and His goodness. We have gathered here in good spirits but not bad.

Greetings to your good health Mr Speaker. I believe the waves inland and far at sea are triumphant. Since the representative of the Vaa of the country is now present. Now it is starting to move, why? To take watch of the flow of things. Whether it is rough or not. Thus we are accustomed to rough situations. Mr Speaker there is only one Vaa in Samoa, it is Vaa o Fonoti.

This day is dignified with the presence of leaders of the country. The House is now complete thus the moon is complete. Therefore, I convey greetings to the dignity of *Sautuafafafa*, of the House of Tiafau.

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It is the House where decisions of Government are made, *Maota o le Faautugatagi*, where the highest council of the country amass.

Mr Speaker, you have already conveyed praises this morning. You have also voiced our gratitude to the Heavenly Father for his protection on Samoa, and its people through His love. I commend you for the services. The truth is, you are our refuge on such days. Least do not forget the word of the Bible, “*se a ea le aoga o la outou taualga e tele, ina fafano ia.*” Let us purify, what does it mean? Do all things in faithfulness, and may it be bonded by love.

As is the word said in my constituency Fagaloa, “*fai mai ou te tu i fao ae laa i malata,*” I would like to share the sentiments and thoughts of this constituency for this XV11th Parliament, and its Budget 2021/2022, tabled before the House.

First I would like to pay tribute to the support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo. Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa and your Goodlady. As well as the support of the Member of Council of Deputies, Afioga Le Mamea Ropati Mualia and his Goodlady. This is the dignity of *Aiga ma a latou Tama, o Tama foi ma o latou Aiga. Le usoga ia Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti. Ae a Aiga o Tupu? Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Papa Aiga o tafaifa?*

Greetings to the respects of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Sao Faapito Afioga Fiame Naomi Mataafa. The Leader of Government. I also want to acknowledge the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet, as well as Associate Ministers.

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I turn to this side of Chamber, I greet the respects of the son of Malietoa, Susuga Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Galuemalemana Dr Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi. I bid greetings to the Deputy Leader, and to all members of the Parliament of Samoa.

I acknowledge as well the support of the Chief Justice, men and women of Judiciary, and the Justice Office.

I also respectfully address this morning, the presence of Mr Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I would also like to extend greetings to the Clerk of the House and the office of the Legislative Assembly, I commend you for your patience, and efforts in serving our Government. You are the right hand of Government, have tolerance in carrying out of duties.

I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries, Directors of companies, businesses and private sector. I commend you all for the hard work, I commend you also for your patience. The heart of this Government is in your hands.

I greet the holy servants of God, throughout every altar within the country. I am grateful for the prayers. I believe the work of this Government have progressed smoothly, because of your prayers.

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I greet the support of the Tutuila and Manua Government, *aua le Tuitele ma le Tuimanua, le falelima i Sisifo ma le falelima i Sasae*. Your Excellency the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governor. The President of the Senate especially the Speaker of the two Houses. These are the respects of *Sua ma le Vaifanua, Saole ma le Launiunasaaelua. O Fofu ma Itulagi ma le Afioga i le Maoputasi, e faapena le mamalu tele i alii o le laaunaamotasi. Faatuiolemotu ma le auvaa o tootoo ma upu ia Manuatele. O ou paia sauoo ia ma mamalu sausaololoa. E mai lava i le Fagaoneone seia paia le siupapa i Agalega e tulalata i falemoa na tauia ai manu o Malo*.

Mr Speaker I want to take this opportunity, to express a word of gratitude to my beloved constituency of Vaa o Fonoti. I recall what the Tuimanua said to his daughter Alofasaupea he said, *“Come and take these two cloths, the maatu mai vai and the alavatulua.”* The girl asked where to take it. He said, take it to your Lord who resides in the 9th heaven to the 10th heaven. Why was this? Because of the sincerity of his love, and high adoration. I believe these are the feelings of your member this morning.

I speak with caution and respect, to greet my village of Uafato. *Le paia aua le afio o aiga aua le aiga sa Fenunuihao ma ona alo tutusa, susu le Togiai ma le Aumua, tainane le mamalu ia te oe Leitualasa*.

I commend you all for your support, and seeking Government, while I ran in the elections. Thus we have been given a good result and have succeeded. The truth is my heart and soul is satisfied, like that of the Tuamasaga. This is your authority.

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My village of Lona. *Aua le afio o le aiga Salevalasi ma le gafa, lo la toalua ia Laumea ma le aiga tainane le mamalu i pule e fia*.

As well as my village of Maasina *aua le afio o le Valasi alalatai lau fetalaiga Leao. O le na ulumatua i tofiga, tainane oulua taunatoalua Togia ma Leausa. Ae fililauloa le toaganamua ia te oe Salemuaava*.

I believe the task has been accomplished, as the hope of Samoa is reliant on the love of our God. I am honored to be given this opportunity to carry our duties. I am in awe and grateful for the kindness given to me.

I am no less grateful to my village of Taelefaga. *Aua le afio o Salevalasi tainane le Tuiatua ma le igaga*. I am so ever grateful. No wonder the son of Tuiaana wept and said, *“ua ta ula i lau ula, ua ta pale i lou pale, ua ta titi i lou titi, ua ta sei i lou sei.”* It is your honor that has given this humble person to be the spokesperson of our constituency in the political affairs of Samoa.

Pray for me, I am comforted by your prayers. I cannot forget my village of Salimu the respects of *Leulualofaiga ma le matua o Talamaivao, le taauso ma Alosina vaeane le suafa Satiu*.

I also want to thank the village of Musumusu with respect to *Salevalasi, alalatai lo outou toafia, tainane Taulauniu ma aiga pule*. The soul is content

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with your reverence. Also with your blessings that have multiplied, I now carry it with respect, thank you very much.

I cannot forget my village of Sauano. I want to thank the respects of *Aiga ma le Aloalii, lau fetalaiga i le Laau na fausia o Atua le Fauono, lau fetalaiga Limutau.*

I also cannot forget my village of Saletele with the respects of *Sefamatauemaga ma Usoalii, afifio Tama a le Paepae ma Alaalamaota.* I believe I am now enjoying the outcome of your decisions, and foresight. I am now seated in the Chair of our constituency. Thank you for considering this humble person.

Lastly I would like to mention my beloved village of Samamea. The start of a new chapter have commenced for Samoa, especially with your support. Our village eventhough you are small on the map, but your significance is not. You have exalted my smallness and insignificance. I am not a stranger but a son of this village. Thank you for your honest love, thank you for praising me as your son. Thank you for the respect.

I acknowledge as well Tumuauatasi and Malolefoua and the anthem of Tapusalaia, as well as the anthem of Tupologa for the family Sa Levi of my constituency. To the Elder Director, and Chairman of the Elders Committee Susuga Asotasi Gu Time and faletua Savaliga, and to all clergy at every altar within our constituency.

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Thank you for your love, and patience. The contest has ended well, and I thank you all for the prayers which has allowed me this opportunity. Heaven is not clouded by your struggle for which I am crowned.

Mr Speaker, I cannot move on without a word of gratitude and respect, to the former member who was at the helm of this constituency Afioga Tialavea Seigafolava Hunt who held the position for two Parliamentary terms, I thank you for the developments that you implemented for the future benefit of this constituency.

I also want to thank my brothers and sister, whom competed against me in the elections. As it is the usual saying heard in our country, eventhough we compete against one another we are one as Samoans. Thank you all for the nobility. I only ask with respect that you give me your support, and trust to fulfill the duties of this seat for the success of our constituency.

Mr Speaker I also want to thank my Committee, as I have said, whatever you do, be honest and maintain tolerance. Ideas and thoughts, is like birds searching for honey in a new dawn. I commend you all for being honest, what now? The Lord has answered your efforts, which is a result of me being able to sit in this seat for our constituency.

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I also cannot thank enough our families in Samoa and abroad. The fact is, a person is exalted because of the support of family. It is with your support that has made this campaign a success.

Last but not the least I want to thank my beloved wife, my one and only, Fuatino Vanila and my children. I thank you for your patience, your courage, because this journey has not been an easy one. What now? Our journey is a success, there praise our God. Now let us go back into making our pizza that the House loves, especially our country Samoa. As the Psalms state, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, all that is within me, bless His Holy name."

Mr Speaker this morning with the Appropriation 2021/2022, the member of Vaa o Fonoti wants to voice a word of thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance, the Chief Executive and especially the Ministry. It is not an easy task to put together, to respond to the 51 constituencies of our country who are giving us support for our work. I commend you all for preparations. There are a lot of important areas whereby this constituency wishes to contribute especially in the consideration of the economy of our country.

I first want to start with the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure of our Government, when I received the news that Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai has been appointed as the Minister of Works, two Olo came to mind. The first Olo, is the Tower in Babylon which the Bible mentions I do not know if Tofa Olo Vaai understands. However the only disadvantage was this tower was conquered by the enemy.

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The second Olo is the one who is now the Minister. It is a tower that cannot be overtaken by the enemy. Why is that? Because it is a tower of love, of life, and hospitality that serves the needs of Fagaloa. So I respectfully pray to the Hon Minister, these are the requests of my constituency that I will call out, repair is needed for all roads in the constituency. From the Mafa to Uafato, turn left to Musumusu, then towards Falefa and the road to the two houses at Sauano and Saletele. There is a road between Musumusu and Saletele. I pray to the Hon Minister, this joint needs to be upgraded, because the truth is if there is a landslide, the cars from Fagaloa cannot go pass into Apia. This is why Hon Minister I kindly ask for your consideration on this matter. A reason why we request for the road between Musumusu and Sauano is, if one side is affected people can use the other side for travel. There is an incident that occurred during cyclone Evans, when one of the women was rushed to the hospital. The truth was, a big part of the road eroded making them turn back, and when they arrived home she was called upon by God. This is why I know how important your role is Tofa Olo Vaai, it is why you were appointed by Afioga Fiamē Mataafa.

I also pray to the Hon Minister, that there is a bridge that was intended to be built for the village of Uafato. I believe you have the power to do what is right, especially in doing well in your designated post. The bridge at Uafato, has been

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badly damaged. Therefore, I pray that a new road is needed to be elevated to make it easier for the community to travel.

Now to our seawall. Mr Speaker, as we all know, this is one constituency in the country that is greatly affected by the strong tide. Not only during natural disasters, like cyclones and strong winds but also climate change. The sea level rise has been observed to affect the land and coastal areas of our constituency. We have been voicing our requests for years, but it is with great pleasure in my constituency that the Government has responded to build a series of seawalls each year, depending on the strength of the economy and efficient distribution of Government. It was hoped that in the financial year 2021/2022, there would be additional funding for seawalls especially for constituencies near the coast who are vulnerable to climate change.

However, the view of this member, there is no special fund for seawalls, except for the \$250,000 provided to the Ministry of Works to prepare an investigation on development of seawalls, wharves and small vessels, for only one constituency. In my opinion, Mr Speaker the Government should not be wasting funds on such plans. The work done for seawalls and small wharves, is believed to be a task that should be handled by Government Ministries, like LTA, the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

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A recommendation to the Hon Minister of Finance, stop this investigation and save additional funds to build seawalls, for constituencies that are most affected by sea level rise and climate change. It is well known that this is the constituency that saying is referred to, “fronted by the sea and bordered by the mountains.” Therefore, Hon Minister of Finance, eventhough we represent different electoral constituencies I believe that you are part of ours as well. Show compassion to our constituency.

Hon Minister, perhaps many villages in our constituency have been damaged because of seawalls such as Taelefaga, the village of Maasina, Lona as well as Samamea and the two villages of Sauano and Saletele because of strong waves.

Now to water supply. I believe our constituency has a plan in place to work with the Samoa Water Authority to supply water to homes. The value of this resource need not be emphasized. And it is the goal of this constituency to continue to provide quality water services for all households.

When I look at the Budget of the Samoa Water Authority, it will be significantly reduced from \$15 million to \$11 million. This means \$4 million will not be available for these services.

I pray to the Hon Minister, look into this additional funds which is important because the country is reliant on it for the delivery of water services, for everyday life. If funding for water works and development continues to decline, there is a risk of repercussions.

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First, delaying of ongoing programs to provide clean and safe water to all households in Samoa. Water bills will be increased on a monthly basis to enable SWA to continue its vital services to the community. Third, there will be no assistance for families and communities that will be relocated to higher ground due to rising sea levels and climate change.

Mr Speaker now to the Electric Power Corporation. I commend you all for the work night and day, whether it is raining or sunny, I believe your services have not gone in vain. However, a request from Fagaloa, we desperately need more street lights to illuminate the road. Because what is good for Apia should also be very good for Vaa o Fonoti.

I now move on to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, you should be aware that our constituency's economy is heavily reliant on agricultural development, such as the Samoan kava, that is enjoyed by many. Other developments in the constituency are handicrafts. I want to voice my appreciation. I heard that the agriculture show will continue as it has always been by the previous Government.

MR SPEAKER: The member has two more minutes.

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Afioga MAUU SIAOSI PUEPUEMAI: It is a good plan, I only request that an opportunity be given to have this show in our constituency. Mr Speaker, since we have...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, since...

MR SPEAKER: The member can take a break while the Leader of Opposition takes the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: The speech conveyed is called Maiden Speech. How about *we add a few more minutes to the wonderful speech by the member.*

Seconded by the member of Anoamaa No.2.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, your opinion has been noted. I believe there is no corner that has not been addressed by the member, not only his constituency but the country as a whole. Therefore, I believe the member is following provisions, you may continue.

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Afioga MAUU SIAOSI PUEPUEMAI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I note that another half hour has been added, thank you, to continue voicing the needs of this constituency.

Now to the implementation of some important services and agricultural exports at our main building which is in Aele, Nuu to clean and store products for pest control. A new Government building in Auckland was announced 5 years ago, where the Ministry was working together with STEC Corporation on Samoa exports taken overseas. Hon Minister a question, what other services apart from what I mentioned will be implemented at Nuu and the new building in Auckland that has result to a new administration. Also how long will it take to set up this office, because I know it is not easy. I strongly believe we already have people from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Now to the Hon Minister of Health. Hon Minister, this is one constituency that does not have a district hospital. Fagaloa and Lufilufi are very far. There are many people in our constituency whose lives have been severely affected in trying to speed from Lufilufi. However, if a district hospital was established, I believe it will save a lot of my constituency.

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Since my time is nearly finished, I now come to the Ministry of Education. Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, education for the children of Samoa, is one priority of this member. Schools are well equipped for the children of our constituency, but unfortunately, more teachers are needed because there are not enough teachers at the moment. This is why, take a look into this matter and show adoration for the schools of this constituency. With respect.

In view of the budget, there is some concern that the Government's assistance has been reduced from \$18 million in the 2020/2021 financial year to \$17.7 million in the financial year under discussion. Based on the country's population in a survey conducted in October 2020 and the previous years, the country's population has increased from 197,000 people to 215,000 in 3 years from 2017 to 2020.

This means that the country is still growing and needs to increase support for education, which is seen to be declining. It is a concern of the member of this constituency to see and feel sorry for the children of our country.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful that Government intends to increase assistance for education and sports programs. I convey my sincere gratitude. Looking at the Budget, I note that funds allocated for the construction of sports venues for schools and constituencies has been decreased from \$450 million to \$300 million, meaning \$450,000 to \$300,000 is being allocated to each constituency. Such developments are not cheap, but this assistance has dropped. This means

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that many constituencies will not be able to meet their needs. But I will let the Hon Minister of Education assess this, for you will do what is good.

Now to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Hon Madam Prime Minister who is in charge of the Ministry. I salute you for the duties undertaken for the Ministry because it is not easy. These are just a few matters that this constituency would like to understand, together with some recommendations. I note with sadness the contractors collecting rubbish. The sanctity of the House, perhaps this is a joint responsibility of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Please keep an eye on these workers who collect rubbish, for their health and wellbeing, and how the work is carried out, these are some of the contract workers. There are no means of protection or protective gear used by these people when collecting rubbish.

I also ask what is the status of assistance from our overseas partners, particularly for the project where funding was given to assist with the effects of climate change. Are there any other assistance given to assist my constituency, this is one constituency that is quite vulnerable to climate change. But I want to thank you for other plans that have been implemented.

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Mr Speaker, the needs of Vaa o Fonoti concludes here, but I want to thank the Chair in leading our Assembly, especially for this Parliamentary term. And to all the Ministers and members of constituencies who have been chosen to lead Samoa, I pray, the Lord bless you and duties.

The Hon Prime Minister, Afioga Saofaapito, may your wisdom be guided by compassion, to be honest in all situations and to maintain tolerance in the face of pain. Those are my thoughts, if you do that there will be peace on Samoa. There will be love and blessings on Samoa and its people.

The Hon Leader of HRPP Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, may God bless you, you have the source of the wealth of ideas, and may you share it for the development of our country and set duties.

Mr Speaker through the Hon Minister of Finance, uphold the sanctity of our country. *Aua le naunau i le i'a ae maumau ai le upega.* Our economy is small and fragile, we have no gold, and we have no silver to depend on. We are the leaders of the country, and we have been entrusted to guide the people of Samoa, especially the economy for a prosperous future.

As the saying goes, *“E leai lava se faiva e asa ma se maumau.”* If there has been any misconduct on my part, I ask that this member be forgiven.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Blessings upon this House, as well as the support of Samoa and long live this member of Vaa o Fonoti, thank you.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding after the Maiden Speech of the member of Vaa o Fonoti.

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MR SPEAKER: I commend the member of Vaa o Fonoti for the speech delivered. The sanctity of the House have heard especially Samoa and your constituency, the concerns and your contribution in line with the purpose of our Sitting. This is why I thank you again. It portrays as well your support of the matters addressed in our Budget, especially your requests on behalf of the constituency. You have addressed the areas of your constituency that need development and so forth. Again thank you for your contribution and service to your constituency and country.

I can see that we are nearing our recess time, and I believe this side wants to take the floor. Therefore, it is best we take a break now, then the next member can start when we return.

I therefore announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual recess.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended for its usual recess at 10:55am and resumed at 11:30am.

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022.

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

Before recess, one of the senior members, Tofa Ale Vena of Faleata No. 4 was upstanding. This is one of the former members of this Parliament. I believe it will not be a maiden speech, but he will directly address the needs of his constituency.

I call upon the respectable member.

Tofa ALE VENA ALE (Faleata 4): I want to thank the Chair this morning, for the opportunity given to voice an opinion of this constituency in this Sitting, especially on the Budget tabled before the House.

The dignity of this morning and day are complete. I pay respect to the grounds of Tiafau, and the House of Parliament the place where decisions of the country are made. To consider political matters, and evaluate decisions for the betterment of Samoa today and the future.

I respectfully greet Mr Speaker and members of Parliament, to the Hon Prime Minister as well as the Ministers of your Cabinet. I greet as well the Associate Ministers and this side, the Hon Leader of Opposition, and to all members of Parliament, elected members of the country. We were chosen by our

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constituencies to participate in decision making, for the benefit of Samoa for the future.

I also acknowledge the support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo. Afioga Tuiaana, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Sualauvi Vaaletoa II and Goodlady. Also to the Member of Council of Deputies and his Goodlady.

Greetings to the Chief Justice, and to the men and women of the Criminal Court. The President and the men and women of the Land and Titles Court.

The support of our country, and the respects of *Aiga o tupu ma Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Ee, Aiga o Aapa ma Aiga na Tafaiifa. E a le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau aua oe Faleata ma lou fale na ato i ata, o pou o la outou toafa (4). Ituau malosi le Alataua faapea foi le vaa o Fonoti, Faleupolu o tofiga ma tulatoa o aiga.*

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Greetings to the Government of Tutuila and Manua, to the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governor. The President as well as the House of Representatives, Chief Justice and the Government of American Samoa. These are the respects of *Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofo ma Itulagi, Saole ma Saleaaumua ma le Launiunasa lua. Faatui ma le auvaa o tootoo. E faapea foi le laaunaamotasi, le paia i le Manuatele.*

Least I cannot forget the support of the ordained servants of God spreading His word. They are praying to God, and supporting our duties, for the success of the Parliament of Samoa and its laws. For the safety of the country and a prosperous Samoa for the future.

Those are your respects Samoa, the respects that have already been set, since the beginning of our creation. These are also the respects that were used by our forefathers.

Mr Speaker, I also welcome the respects of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Cooperations. They are serving our country with the work of our Government. They work day and night, to serve Government, the Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet. Because those who manage are there to give orders, while they do all the work. Not only do they implement the work, but they also give recommendations. The Chief Executive of Ministries assist the Prime Minister, and the Ministers of Cabinet, to give advice which will improve the performance of the work of Government.

Mr Speaker, before I address the Budget. Eventhough I do not want to speak on the matter since it has pass. This member of Faleata No.4 strongly believes, that what has happened are important for further improvement.

Mr Speaker, and the dignity of Parliament and leaders of Samoa. We should take note of the significance of our Constitution. There is a need to make Amendments to the Constitution. To clearly state the functions of the three pillars, so that what happened will not happen again, with the issues that we

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encountered. This is a recommendation of the member of Faleata No.4, it is very important.

Hon Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet, we have witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic around the world, the spread of the disease is rapid. It seems the scientists are the ones that are creating more diseases. Our people living in New Zealand are greatly affected, especially those in gatherings. It was learned this morning that one person has been affected in American Samoa, it is getting closer.

Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet of our Government, consider this closely, for the protection of our country, so that this disease will not get into our country. I heard there is another new disease called Delta, which is scary, because if it spreads in Apia, it will get to Faleata. Faleata is one of the biggest constituency.

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And I do not want anyone from my constituency to get sick. Whether the disease comes into the country, I humbly ask the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and our Government to not open our borders.

That is the for the sake of our full protection and the submitted advice, majority of our people wants to travel here. They all know why the current Government wanted to stop, lest it becomes more difficult just like what other countries of the world are going through.

Hon Minister of Finance, the 1 million promise they made is slowly fading away, the speech of...the countless speeches you made on this. I have thought that you look into it again.

Allow me to ask the Hon Minister of Finance, looking at the Budget, instead of this \$1million, it is \$200,000 distributed to the constituencies. The process is that the constituency must apply or undertake a project. Millions will be distributed. Isnt this what you had broadcasted in your campaigns that were carried out in your roadshows. I believe this is one of the reasons the supporters were able to approve your trust and vote for FAST due to this one million promise. Regardless, I will leave it to the plans of the Hon Minister of Finance and the new Administration.

Then I come to Hon Olo Fiti Olo the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Have a look again into smart meters. Whenever there is a cashpower top-up for finished meter units it seems the bill is still running. In spite of this, have a look into this Hon Minister. This is the plea from this constituency. These are the only roads that needs fixing, the inner roads for the village of Saina as there is no sign of any tar roads there.

Access roads for our people to go to the plantations together with the ones in Puipaa and Toamua. The backside road is finished for Puipaa and here in Toamua, but not for Leituala, Satunumafono and Gafaatoe. There are 3 roads there for our people to go and work the plantation. There a few large lands there although it is useful to set up green and vegetable developments.

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I wish not to go through our Sitting proceedings especially the Budget. It is reason why there is few thoughts on our Budget given the different process laid out as followed by past normal Parliamentary procedures. The Budget is tabled before it is referred to the Finance Committee.

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member, the ruling has already been made on this matter.

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Tofa ALE VENA ALE: Thank you. I take this chance to extend gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers and the FAST Political Party. Thank you for everything that we went through during the general elections, bravo to your assurances and perseverance.

You have persevered. Wear your success and do not be impartial like what I am seeing with the ways of some of our public servants. These are the people whom the Prime Minister and Cabinet rely on. I further see that there is no longer a normal public process for selection and recruitment. It feels like Government is selecting government officials from here and there without going through the normal process. Regardless and like I said, I am only voicing this out. The new Government is now pointing out what they deserve. We are only advising and supporting you, nevertheless, discernment and wisdom is there.

The Hon Prime Minister...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: There is a matter...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order to the member's speech. How is that done, when the Hon Prime Minister has talked about integrity.

MR SPEAKER: I also advise the member on the sensitivity of the situation, as he has spoken clearly on the implementation process. You are aware of this House that whenever we have testimonies about a member, we do have our discussions and express our views, we are leaders and we must uphold integrity. Any raising matter by members, evidence must be presented within Parliament.

In saying that, it is good, continue your speech for you are moving off topic. But do not mind the Leader of the Opposition and his question.

Resume your speech.

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Tofa ALE VENA ALE: Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatilaofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, what I am saying is, I need to ask the member. Fiaame has stated, that integrity was maintained. It is not because of anything else, never mind the query, but because the member is speaking of different matters.

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MR SPEAKER: The view of the Leader of the Opposition has been made. There is a time for the Government to respond with the Hon Prime Minister to clarify the queries raised.

I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker I upstand to make clarification to the current speaker. The Leader of the Opposition is correct, integrity must be maintained to correct the statement of the member.

Tofa ALE VENA ALE: I beg the pardon of the Hon Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member as I permit the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you honorable Speaker, observing that side and their raising concerns during their time in the Government. Majority of the works did not go through any process yet the process that is being discussed now, mind you, before the process, there are already existing conditions, like what I am addressing, why was this decision reached for this matter. These things are still under their contracts...however it now breached which is the end result. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Appreciation to that, I trust, the member has heard your clarification, do move on to the requests of the constituency.

Tofa ALE VENA ALE: I am full of respect upon your orders. Whatever you have heard with the existing Government, I do not object. In your judgements, if justice was sought then so be it, and I do not wish to voice it out. Now with the standing Government, you have all the authority to govern our Nation. We are only here to give you advice, if you find us correct or wrong. Then just like that let us go wrong.

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Mr Speaker, I think this is enough. There are many things I wish to discuss in relation to the Budget, but it is hopeless to discuss. You have also made your ruling and I wish not go there anymore.

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Mr Speaker, with every aspects on the Budget, you have our support.

Before I conclude, I take this chance to extend appreciation to my constituency of Faleata No.4 *I le afifio o Ale ma Ulu ma o la aiga ma le Gafaatoe ma le Itulua o Satunumafono, lau tofa le Vaaulu, falelima i ai aiga e fa o Faleata, e valu ia te oe pou o le fale Malietoa, aua le tatou fale Tuamasaga. E faafetai foi i le afioaga o Saina, le alo o le Tuitoga. E faapea foi Lauaki ma le Motuopuaa ma le Folasasailaua.* I largely express abundant gratitude to all the residents living on freehold lands within our constituency of Faleata No.4.

In accordance to your vote, you have selected me as your electoral representative. For 31 years I have become a polling member for our constituency. I also congratulate you for entrusting me as your chosen member in the 2010 bi-election. Yet again I have become your elected representative in the recent election. Thank you for your recognition upon me in serving our constituency and the country.

Thank you to the sa Ale descent for your cooperation of our election. Thank you Satunumafono, Gafaatoe and our village. Thank you to the senior Ulu, and all the candidates we competed in the election. The response has been explicitly made through the will of the constituency, and I guess this is also the will of our Lord on this period to undertake this role as your chosen member.

I appreciate the prayers and support of our village, families and all our communities living abroad. I thank you for any form of assistance you were able to offer. Particularly everyone who committed hugely in the election we had lately.

To my constituency of Faleata No.4, put your trust in us, I will take your calling and bear love and integrity in mind as I become your representative in Parliament. Whatever decision-making we will have, I will prioritize the necessary through your support. What is also not necessary, it shall be done.

Thank you very much to my constituency. May God bless all the ordained members of the clergy who are ministering and residing in our constituency. I have received your support in prayers during the elections.

This morning, may the love and blessings of God be upon us and our developing nation of Samoa and may prudence be found in contribution to the decision making process of our Nation. May I also find continual strength to

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serve our constituency in any way, most especially in serving the will of our Lord. Soifua.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker, I beg a chance please.

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

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Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Thank you. There is no motive to interrupt the maiden speech of the senior member. Just a few points to clarify and highlight, the word made on the \$1million distribution which I need to correct. There was never a word like that mentioned during our roadshow as the people are listening in thinking that this word has deceived the country.

Mr Speaker, I wish to clarify this matter, the \$1million will be allocated for the projects of each constituencies. A time will come for the Hon Minister to clarify it, although this is the only point I wanted to make. I did not want to interrupt whilst Ale was speaking. The saying, *maua ula futifuti*, is not true as we respect the country. This is the respect handed upon us which we do not wish to take lightly. This is the point I wanted to make, with all due respect.

Tofa Ale Vena Ale: Mr Speaker should you wish for me to speak...

MR SPEAKER: You have concluded your remarks, I also take it that you are a Senior Member, it is now clarified.

Tofa Ale Vena Ale: Your honor, because it is the will of the Hon Minister. Just this bit...

MR SPEAKER: You may go ahead.

Tofa Ale Vena Ale: Mr Speaker, your presentation was well given. If... I have already said it, if it does not satisfy you, then I will take it back. Although you have the wisdom and prudence there. With regards to ula futifuti, no, that was an advice, you have nothing to worry about. Why are you concerned when the Government is there? The thoughts we bring is to improve our journey for this 5 year term. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I get it, thank you to the Senior Member for your support and assistance orator Ale... These are just a few clarifications for the sake of the country. Well this is the nature and spirit of our dialogue and debate in Parliament, it is the State that we depend on for understanding.

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I trust the member's view is now met. Well done, the House has heard your speech, well done to your seniority views orator Ale the Senior Member the respectable member from Faleata No.4. which is pleasing to the ear, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet have received well your view and requests. Well done, I appreciate our Sitting as you mentioned.

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Very well. This is the chance to another speaker of the House. I see the member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga is up, Afioga Fuaava Suluimalo Amataga, this is your opportunity.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Afioga FUAAVA SULUIMALO AMATAGA (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):
Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance upon this constituency of Aleipata Itupa i Luga. To submit a small contribution in relation to the Main Estimates 2021/2022 for this Parliamenatry Term XVII.

Mr Speaker, our prayer of thanksgiving have already been voiced to the Supreme Lord in heaven this morning, we have also pleaded the Holy Spirit to be with us in our discussions of the Main Budget for the nation and its welfare. That said, you have my support on this matter on this wonderful fine day.

Ae ou te le i foaina la le papa nai le Pelua, e muamua ona ou asa le vasa ma le faaeteete, ina ne i soona soua le gataifale ona ou seu lea i le siu ma le popoe pei o le upu i le tao ma le atulagi. Ou te muai seu foi le tauvae o tupu ma le totoa ina ne i lilifa faatipa le tauvae ona masoe faafale lea o le taaseuga pei o le upu i le tapue ma lona vao. Ua uluulu faafoefolau le aso pei o le upu i le aiga tautai, aua ua sosofa faai'a o moana le taeao ma le aso. Ua taufai mapue foi le pasina ma le figota o le moana uli e pei o le upu i le aleaga. Ua lalago le tai o alii ua taaseuga nai le utaillesolo aua ua mapu'e le faailofanua sa matamatanonofa i ina, se i saili le faailoa pe toto faasau le taeao togotogo ae se i seu lalaga le tafaga i itu nenefu i leiloa. Ae a le aso ma le taeao na liugalua?

Ia lele ua saasaa faataliuta le faitaulau, ua fola malu tai o alii, a ua fao faavaaofolau le matega pei o upu i le galala i malae. Lele ua maaloalo le atu taatasi i le tupua na ee i fanuaea o le Tuiatua ma lalago le usileleia o fisaga i papa faafotuata. O se toga utulolo ae tata pipisa le utu a Siutaulalovasa, ua leleu le faamanuo i le loto o lano, ua mulivaiola i tualagomoa, ae o papa pau na lalaga faaifo ai natialii o le latalua ina ua susue iu o fuesa o falaula ia i le vai suatoto. A o le mavaega a Tuiatua Tualemoso, o se malama mai lagi, e te lagi faasau i lou faleulu, i lou ipuniualii, e te mamalu foi i lou fale na polima. Lea la ua manino too o le vai o loimata, ua pele aao foi le fatigasa ae ufiufitai i lona faleulu, aua o lele ua mua, ua mua le aso.

The guiding love from God has brought us together today like the words to the lady of Alataua. Let us await blessings from heaven upon us.

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Mr Speaker, I firstly greet the dignity of the House of Tiafau, the fields of faautugatagi of the country and the presence of the Hon Prime Minister who is at the helm of the current administration during the bad and good days for the benefit of Samoa and its welfare. The Hon Prime Minister and the Ministers of Cabinet as well as the Associate Ministers.

I further greet the honorable Speaker who is managing the orders of this House in accordance to the agenda scheduled for our Parliament. I also acknowledge the presence of the honorable Deputy Speaker.

Furthermore, greetings to the dignity of that side of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the HRPP Political Party, and the respectable members of Parliament this new morning.

In addition, I welcome everyone gathered in the House, the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, and your vital contribution to the Government and its developments for the country and its economy.

I further wish to acknowledge the support of His Higness and his Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary. *Ia o le paia lava lea aua tama ma Aiga, o Aiga foi ma latou Tama, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

Furthermore, I wish to make a mention of our neighboring island of American Samoa of Tutuila and Manua, the Governor General and the Deputy Governor General and the Government in your honorifics *o ou paia lava ia o le Faleagafulu aua Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofo ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu Saelua, Faatuiolemotu, Tootoo o le Faleula ma upu ia oe le Manuatele.*

I further take this golden opportunity to acknowledge all the Church Leaders in the country, who have bestowment of Samoa's traditional salutations in sharing the gospel and prayers for the prosperity for our people. These are the honorifics of my beloved Samoa from Manua to Falealupo.

Mr Speaker, before I make the submission of this constituency in accordance to the Budget 2021/2022, may I use this opportunity to greet my constituency of Aleipata Itupa I Luga, from Lalomanu to Ulutogia. My constituency is one family comprising of 3 subvillages, Lalomanu, Vailoa and Ulutogia.

I greet my village of Lalomanu, *le paia lava lea aua le afio o le Afioga i le Tuiatua Faanofonofu, lau Tofa i le Matua ia Fuataga, afifio le Falefia o Alii, afio Amituanai o le Maopu o le Tuiaana, susu i laua Suafa, le Toafa o Tootoo ma le Igoamatua ma upu ia te oe Saleaamua.*

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Lest I forget Rev Etisone Gafa and your faletua, during the service and our gathering before the elections, and your contribution in preaching the word of God particularly to find success for the purpose of the constituency in the general election.

Ou oo mai i si ou nuu o Vailua, susu le susuga i le Tama Sea Rev. Ioane Tupo ma le Peresetene o le Auso Fealofani le faletua ia Maria Tupo. O le paia lava lea aua le afio o lau Afioga Saumalu o le Sao Fetalai. Afifio le Falelima o Usoalii, Susu Puepuemai o le ao o le Mavaega, afio Palelei o le Aloalii, afio Fuaava o le Tapaau o le Salelea, afio Togafau o le Matua o Usoalii, afifio foi le paia i Alaalamalae ma upu ia te oe Saleleaalii ma le Matua ia Tualemoso.

Lest I forget Rev Iosefatu Semi and Faletua Leafaitulagi who is now with the Lord, the heart is filled with gratitude and appreciation because of your good deeds and works in Vailoa Aleipata. Your advice will never be forgotten, and your advice to focus all things and the general elections unto the Lord, and with that, success has been granted.

I further wish to thank my village of Ulutogia, and Rev Kolia and your faletua, *ia le paia lava lea aua le susu o Sagapolutele o le Tama a le Malo, le Matua ia Falanaipupu, le taofia a Taiai ma le Usoalii ma le mamalu ia te oe Saoluafata.* These are the honorifics of our constituency which remains dear to the heart.

May I also take this chance to voice our gratitude for your support and respect upon me. Tilafaiga has succeeded. Who am I for you to consider in the General Elections of Samoa. I trust that you have sought the will of God for me to become your representative and humble servant in the Parliament of Samoa for the next 5 years. Thank you for your respect, I will not wear this respect but will treasure it between my heart and lungs. Everytime I breathe, I will always remember your respect upon me all the days of my life.

Allow me to extend appreciation to my contenders in general elections, Afioga Amituanai or Fagaivalu who became our former member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga in the last Parliamentary term. Especially Tofa or Afioga Taufua Etimani. True is the word, although the boys play each other but in the end, they are still brothers. Do not forget that we are the branches that stem from one tree trunk. The saying in our region, Gods of the village, whilst Aleipata is one family. Thank you for your positive and genuine hearts during our elections. I further appreciate your support rendered upon me during our meeting so that I can carry out this role in the next 5 years in the policymaking of the country.

This is the view of our harmonious living, whilst the rest of the other constituencies are fighting over this political crisis and judgements, what was the response of Aleipata Itupa I Luga? We maintained peace.

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This is a sign of a constituency that upholds the gospel, keeps the faith in God, and endures prudence, from high mountains particularly Tuiatua Faanofonofu and the respects of Alaalamalae. We are one brother, one family, one womb, and one identity.

I further wish to acknowledge the former member who represented us in the previous Term, the lay preacher or Afioga Amituanai, who is the Maopu of Tuiaana. Thank you for your effort and commitment in undertaking our voice on behalf of our constituency in the House of Samoa. May God show His love and blessings upon you.

We now have the blessings of God. This is expressed in the sacrament of love for Faletua Lina and Reverend. Thank you for your endearing support upon this Human Right Protection Political Party. Although Aleipata is remote, however you still attempt to be with us here at Petesa during our cocoa Samoa serenaders activity at the end of every week. I appreciate your loyalty and cooperation.

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to specially thank my village of Vailoa in your honorifics. Although the senior member, Afioga Saumalu has passed on a few months ago before we had our general elections. I trust it was not anyone's will but God's. We also pleaded God for his comfort nevertheless the Orator Saumalu is now gone. May the passing of one warrior be a chance for another warrior to stand and take over and sit at the Seat of David to sustain the family, Church and our village of Vailoa.

I also wish to extend thanks to our partners, our friends, as there are no Committees to allow my relatives into Samoa in your support from abroad upon me. Although it was hard and challenging, but it is the faith in God that made it possible for us to manage and direct our works in the right path. Our journey has reached success. It is not me where blessings are from but God alone who can repay your goodness and reason why I am sitting here in the Seat of our constituency.

Mr Speaker, may I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the Human Rights Protection Party HRPP, who was the former administration in the last Term. A lot of good works were achieved by the HRPP which made it enjoyable for our people to live by, living in peace and the life of freedom, no chaos, no restrictions, no insolent, insulting or mockery words or exchanges publicized on the internet for Samoa and the world. The works implemented by the previous administration in my belief, there was diligence to raise the economic standards for our families, village and Church. So this has therefore lifted the level for Samoa to middle income countries category in the world from LDC or Least Developing Countries. That being said, I wish to acknowledge the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Side for believing in me, to run under the banner of the HRPP.

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Mr Speaker, I now come to the Budget. Before I make a statement, I first of all beg forbearance to the dignity of the House and the listening Samoa, if I had offended anyone in any word, *e poto lava le tautai ae e iai lava taimi e pisi ai le sami*. Any wrongdoing made I bid your forgiveness.

As for the Main Estimates 2021/2022, I firstly wish to extend indebtedness to the Hon Minister of Finance, and the Ministry. I trust you have done a great job in preparing our Budget Statement before the House, I will now give our contribution accordingly.

Mr Speaker I will direct my remarks on what needs to be prioritized, as there are still developments in the constituency which must be done, for the wellbeing of the people in the district of Aleipata Itupa i Luga. I will firstly speak on the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

The member for Vaa o Fonoti has now spoken, the Hon Minister Olo, there is only one Olo who is loving. I view the Budget for my Ministries have dropped by roughly \$12million or 15% from the previous Budget. Therefore, majority of the works or capital investments have been set aside. Although revenue and returns will increase, however I take it that priority is now set upon other works.

I feel that priority is now accorded to the Social Sector, and I trust that consumption mode will not generate that much revenue. There is also view that no work is being done even though the Government is giving out incentives.

The appeal therefore Hon Minister of Water for drinking water for our villages after the Tsunami starting from Lalomanu to Ulutogia, there is the access road there and there are settlements along this area except for Vailoa, access road is there and a request was submitted at the end of last year.

For drinking water, this time the works of the Water Authority is still ongoing, the delievery of water supply to the families living on inland areas are still ongoing through the help of lorries as the water pump is situated in the coastal area near the hospital.

That was inland area many years ago, where the water pump was situated alone. Today, it is closer to go to the coastline area than the water pump. There is belief that it is unafforable, as water is pumped to the tank near the health clinic and gravity feeds the water and settlers living inland do not get water. Such is the appeal and personally observing this, the Water Authority already has this in plan. For in the previous years when I was a former board member of the Samoa Water Authority, they were able to plan Phase 1, starting from the inner parts of Lalomanu, the pipelines were to be laid out to supply heavy water for the people living in these areas. These are the areas which have been prioritized since the tsunami hit, because if people were to move to higher grounds it would be higher for them. The constituency is listening in, we shall await the Hon Minister's will on this matter, the Olo of love.

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Moving on, the explanation has already been submitted. The access roads of Vailoa, perhaps they are found in files from previous years, there was a request, be sincere, only one access road is there towards the school building. The other subvillage situates a road towards one of the families where there is...there used to be access road there before, where majority are now accessing, which is sealed road, there is only the school building and peapea service in this backside part of the village. Other settlers are finding it difficult to access this other part of our village.

Let us go to the village where no seawall area is being erected, Lalomanu to Lata, and the subvillage of Faga to your large march.. Whenever there is a low car, lucky if it can access it as it is quite problematic. A plan must be done to it please. It is good for the traveling public but when it comes to car driving, you can hardly see the engine of the car because of the depthness of this road. Improvement works is needed here.

Regarding tourists, as the economy of the constituency, relies solely on visitors overseas. There is the situation for tourists when there is a tsunami. No one is able to go directly up here but will run to the four corner main road where the church is situated going inland. There is belief that when we have another tsunami, as this is similar thing that has happened and every person that came in their vehicle were caught by the tsunami wave and did not survive. Because there was no evacuation route or escape routes so that the people are able to climb the mountains swiftly and be able to move away from this natural disaster.

With regards to water within my constituency. Now, I know the location of the water pump in front of the health service in Lalomanu from back in 1980. From this water pump, we found salinated water. And with the high demand and consumption for water, as majority of the households have taps/pipelines in the coastal area. Except for settlers living inland right after the tsunami. There is likely a research and recommendation, as there is also the lands of Vailoa. Because at this time, there is observation with the borehole in Vailoa lands. In search of water and if feasible that thick enough and if fresh water is found here, the depth size and how fresh is it for safer consumption.

Water is known by the name of a village such as Vailoa or Vaivaloloa. Perhaps you may have known that this is where the lad came with his ghosts which led to the falling and luquidation of Faleata leaving behind plentiful water for Ale and his constituency.

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With regards to water that was shared, it did seem to leave us in drought, although there is plentiful water underneath the earth to assist the Lalomanu

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borehole and other sites in Aleipata area. Separate is the new borehole that was drilled in Saleaamua, which ensured the supply of water to Amaile, Mutiatele, Pue, Malaela, Samusu and all those areas.

This is the advise, there is the gratefulness extended towards the Samoa Water Authority. For supporting our call, our lorries that are delievering water to fill the water tank storage are still continuing their service for the families living in the inner part areas particularly the settlements where the seawall erection has not reached. These families are still asking for help due to the tides and washed away sand.

Then we come to the Ministry of Health. I see there is a raise in the Budget, I think \$4.2 million. I appeal that the health clinic in Lalomanu is providing great service to the many nearby districts there including Lepa, Lotofaga and Falealili. I see the toilet facilities there are getting problematic because when it comes to health clinics, these areas must be highly maintained and clean as it will greatly improve the health of patients and allowing them to discharge quickly. Patients can get sicker if they see these facilities poor. Have a look at improving these health clinics Hon Minister of Health and staff for those living in Lalomanu area.

There was a case with one of my relatives regarding an ambulance that was contacted and its late arrival. The safety of an ambulance is necessary in terms of the resources it offers for the survival of a patient towards Motootua hospital particularly emergency cases. We received news from the ambulance that morning saying that it had gone to another patient on the way. Upon reaching us that night, it was too late as our patient was already gone and they drove him straight to the funeral parlour.

I plead whether possible for us to get an ambulance to service the patients in the Falealili area and standby for emergency cases since it takes three hours to travel to and fro Apia. Also, it is not known whether that patient will live or die when driving all the way for treatment to Motootua hospital.

Again, I voice the concern of this constituency, as also raised by previous speakers the matter regarding the Covid-19 or Delta that is also affecting American Samoa. Our constituency is situated close to Tutuila and I plead for more prayers and do continue with our border control so that this can be avoided, and stop the disease from reaching us. During a very fine day, you would be able to discover a better view of the mountains in Tutuila from Aleipata area.

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I do not know about the covid whether it is contagious when it comes to plastic bottles or when it flows into Aleipata and could affect someone in the constituency. I bet this is the concern. I see Niuava is laughing as he lives in this end point whilst this water flow can affect anyone living in the Aleipata

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area. I ask the Ministry of Health to strengthen our health protection awareness programs. Because when one is affected, then I do not know how this will spread as the nature of Samoan families, we are unlike overseas, we normally do gatherings for faalavelave, church and things like that. And it becomes difficult to protect our country when one is affected leading us to the point whereby it is best to prevent than rushing to find cure.

Coming now to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. The increase in appropriation is appreciative. The \$2.5million raise for teachers salary and with this allocation, I plead that there is still a shortage of teachers. For the school in Vailoa and Ulutogia, there is only the principal and two teachers. My personal take, if the principal attends to a meeting or the needs of the Main Office and undergo the school's normal process, only two teachers will teach for Years 1 to 8. You do remember us from Aleipata that whenever you come in the morning it takes an entire day, but it is impossible to come and go back as there was no petrol and resources to achieve that, because you do come and stop to shop, it would takes almost 3 hours to go which for sure will take half a day.

That is the stance now, have a look into the Ministry of Education whether possible to add more pre-school teachers. This time in my village of Vailoa there is a program for 4 or 5 children in the village. They were really good in College but are still looking for employment, I have told them to go and try out as school teachers, or part time trainee, and so the Office is assessing them to see if they are certified but I am unsure how long it will take for this teachers profession, perhaps finding a job out of it will be beneficial in assistance to this program.

So right now the work they do is normally voluntary, and the village is paying a slight fund to assist with their families, whist there is negotiation with this raising fund, lest the teachers have a higher increase in their salary resulting in complaints from the other sectors. In case others would think that they are being negelcted as priority is now given to teachers.

You have the knowledge there to look into this situation, and our government school grant. Have a look into it to see whether there was a \$18million but I think it has reduced to \$17.7 million. If possible to raise because I think it is \$1 per kid.

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The revenue earning per school depends on the amount of children attending that school, some of the members have also mentioned this morning, whether to increase it to \$120 or the limit can be \$150 , the main thing necessary is sufficient resources to implement and improve our education sector.

On to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Seeing the Budget, there is an increase in the appropriations. There is \$7.6milloin or 38% from the

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previous budget, and I see that there is a huge allocation towards the tourism sector. It is appreciative that this is now in place. Because like I said earlier, many are relying economically on the tourism developments especially Lalomanu, for improvement. Because many of the employees for the tourism industry have been laid off. I am aware that many of these tourism operations is finding it hard to attract any visitors given the pandemic crisis and it is also getting hard to do maintenance work to generate revenue. The main query is what is the allocation for these things, is there a categorisation for the businesses in the tourism industry including restaurants so that it is appropriately negotiated. Because I know that majority of these businesses, there are loans that they are paying as we have been trying to ask the banks to reduce the interest and things like that, such is the plea towards this tourism sector and this allocation appropriated here by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Our RSE Scheme, there is a forecast on what protective measure we have for the covid, and whether it is increasing and why New Zealand and Australia are lazy to bring our people to their countries, for I know now they are prioritising...and planning to...because you did witness the time when our people came to do their registration, it was very overcrowded as people were desperate to gain employment.

It would be good for you to have some sort of protection, or whether there is more employment offered by the New Zealand and Australia scheme. Statements has also been received from members, that perhaps Tutuila is better but this country is also affected. It seems that we must continue to look into all these avenues to see which is more beneficial and safer for us.

Then I come to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which appropriates less increase in its Budget. The main thing I wish to explain is, there is a new executive for our exports, and the allocation of \$250,000. Just a brief clarification on its duties and things like that, lest one stands on the foot of another person and things like that, and whether there is a section in the Ministry that implements this area.

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Particularly the plea towards our farmers association, there is one in our district and its development of cattle farming. Because we did try out with our taro plantation unfortunately that did not happen. There was word saying that there is no market for cattle farming although it is good that there is a program to raise and improve the farmers association for the sake of our village communities, church and constituencies.

I bring a feeling of gratitide upon the lessening of registration on alia boats in the Budget. It is not known how much reduction, but it is vital for this

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constituency as this is one area where majority of fishing boats are seen. Not only that, most of the fagusea fishermen are seen at the forest area as fishing is mostly prohibited in many of the districts coastline areas, most of these fishermen are being dropped off from their vehicles in these distant areas meaning that these fishing areas is where it can earn them a lot of money. This is one area in the country where reserves funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN are at. I was not aware the marine life was growing, but that is the situation we must take into consideration.

Then I come to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, I see there is a huge increase herein of almost 50% for this Ministry, and I see that there is an allotment of \$2million on free internet towards the education sector.

I wish to speak about our Broadband System or the SNBH whether it is something that is unaffordable by this system or is it a new thing that is proposed in accordance to this \$2million here. Perhaps this reflects the raise of almost \$4million for this Ministry. Especially the services of \$300 stated herein on Digital TV and whether our Government is preparing its own TV. What is the update on this allocation seeing that there was no allocation of this in the previous Budget 2020/2021.

Then I come to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The main thing with the main estimate is our priority on the replanting of our local forests, where there was an allocation of \$1million there. Although the Appropriation is dropped at a little less than a million.

MR SPEAKER: Just this small assistance towards the respectable members. There is chance during the consideration, but according to the speech of the member, it seems that he is considering the Budget generally in his remarks. We still have the chance when it comes to the consideration of the Budget.

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This is the assistance but do conclude your statement now as we are nearing our recess hour.

Afioga FUAAVA SULUIMALO AMATAGA: Thank you very much honorable Speaker for the clarification of this matter. Just these few concerns to point out. I appreciate the topic on forest which reports on the \$2million target or \$2.2million was achieved and was initiated the last 5 years since the end of 2015.

I extend gratitude to the Ministry of Health seeing that this project is now achieved. The only thing is whether we have proposed targets for another

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program for the planting of our forests and a time to achieve it whilst we have this \$1million allocation.

The Ministry of Police & Corrections and Fire Emergency Services, as Lalomanu is the center post out there in the eastern side of the island, seeing that it is increasing there based on observation. I am unsure whether that is the Police Academy, but we need a portion of this funding allocation to improve these outpost areas especially Lalomanu and the supply of resources like transportation and things like that. Nonetheless, the police service is smoothly running, as they do hold checkpoints in Vaipu to monitor the intoxicated and those without driver's license and kill other people by causing road accidents. So resources is a requirement to further improve the service and things like that.

Then I come to Revenue. Appreciation to this. I see that revenue collection is up by 1% in the recent Budget. I wish to extend great thanks to the Ministry for this fulfilling job.

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, I trust a lot of comments have been made. According to the Minister of Agriculture and village projects and talks made on the internet saying that there will be a distribution and things like that. Well that could produce laziness for our people to work the developments in the village and things like that. But do wait as there are millions coming with terms and conditions for the constituencies lest many applications will be made by some although there is none.

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the member. I trust we have arrived at our recess hour. There is belief that I must still give a reminder to all members. Opportunity is still available for members to comment on the Budget and the financial policies particularly.

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The consideration has a time allocation of 15 minutes and two chances each. This is the assistance to the members who are planning to speak as we aim to follow our time schedule.

In saying that with respect, there is notice before Parliament that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for normal recess and work will resume at 2:00 in the afternoon.

For the information of the House, the Office is preparing lunch for us. I announce the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for normal recess.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 1:01pm and resumed at 1:58pm.

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022.

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

I again greet the dignity of Parliament, at this time of the afternoon to resume our Proceedings. I trust we have been invigorated from our break.

The Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers. The same with this Side of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the members of Parliament. Let us give thanks to the Almighty Father for new strength gained to resume our Proceedings.

During the setting aside of Parliamentary Proceedings, the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo was taking the floor.

We now have before you the recommendations, and there is plenty of chances when it comes to the consideration of the Budget. There are 15 minutes given and chances of 2.

That said I ask the member to resume your remarks.

Afioga FUAAVA SULUIMALO AMATAGA: Thank you very much to the honorable Speaker. I trust we have everyone is now invigorated from our break. Therefore, I extend great thanks to the honorable Speaker and the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the preparations you have done.

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Firstly, I beg forbearance to the Chair, if I have moved off topic from your viewpoint. I only have this matter on Infrastructure for Hon Olo of love, regarding my village of Ulutogia, and the new inland road and connecting access road towards the inland area. The gap there from the main road in the coast, is still covered with scrublands. I plead if possible to improve this access road towards the village of Ulutogia.

I see that the Hon Minister of Police has just arrived, Afioga Faualo. You do remember the request of this village of Lalomanu for this outpost. Do give your assistance to it.

I conclude with love and those requests from this constituency. May the blessings of God be upon the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. May you find farsightedness and all glory be unto God for his guidance upon Samoa tomorrow.

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May the blessings of God be upon the Opposition Leader and Deputy Leader and this Side, we are just doing our job of giving advice as the Opposition Side. The words of the country, e logo lava le tuli i le tātā, e tupu foi le faamoemoe o le taugologologo.

May God bless the honorable Speaker who is managing the House, so that the plans go accordingly for the Sitting of Samoa.

This is the voice with due respect, bless the Sitting of Samoa, and the remaining of today. Soifua and blessings.

The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Maiden Speech of the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

MR SPEAKER: I wish to congratulate the member for his lovely speech. Thank you for your wisdom. During the speech it was pleasing although it did include some serious words in it the message being sent by it.

That said, thank you for your farsightedness, the Government has heard you explicitly, particularly the dignity of the House, and the listening people of the constituency. Given our works moving forward in serving the constituency. Well done thanks.

This is the time for another member. I see that one of the oldest members of Parliament is upstanding, Peseta Vaifou Tevaga from Faasaleleaga No.5. This is one senior member of the House. I also trust he will direct his remarks on the Budget.

This is the time for your statement.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No 5): I greet the honorable Speaker, or the Leader of the House.

I take this chance to greet the Hon Prime Minister, the Hon Sao Faapito.

I further greet the deputy Hon Prime Minister, Afioga Tuala. The same with the dignity of the Cabinet. I also greet the Associate Ministers, and that side of the Government.

To this Side. I greet the Leader of the Opposition Deputy Leader and the dignity of this side of the House.

Greeting also to the Clerk of the House, and the support of the Chiefs of Government Ministries.

Mr Speaker, those are the honorific salutations of this House. The cultural honorifics remains forever. *O Tama ma o latou Aiga, o Aiga ma a latou Tama, Tumua ma Pule, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I greet the dignity of this country, His Highness and your Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and your good lady. The Chief Justice, the

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President of the Lands and Titles Court, and the judiciary. The Ministry of Justice and Court Administration here in Mulinuu and one in Salafai.

Mr Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and greet the support the clergy of God who are praying for our blessings. The main point Mr Speaker is a heart of gratefulness.

To our constituency, allow me your support, a time will come for me to make acknowledgement. Help me submit our contribution. Let God help us.

Mr Speaker the yearnings and gladness of the heart is because one of the members for the constituency of Faasaleleaga has now made it in. If you look to this Side, perhaps I am the only one from this Side who's made it. The plea here is for us to say something. Before that, praise be to God, for you making it into that Seat, for if we turn to the Spiritual Side, the initial significant historical events (taeao) belongs to you your honour.

These were the desires on the day, we pray that God's spiritual wealth be upon you during your Term in office. May you find prudence and courageousness from God so that you are able to fulfill your duties. That being said, those are the blessings from this constituency upon you.

When I heard the Sitting of the country, I have put it before God, for his will, in support of our work and that side of the Government in particular.

Then I am of the view that the special present is now before us, that after the swearing in, a Bible is presented to the notable member of the House.

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You see Mr Speaker, this is the only weapon that can make the member speak through God's wisdom. If you have heard me giving a controversial speech, I beg tolerance, they are words from God. Isaiah 40 verse 13 says, "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Mr Speaking if we reflect on this testament by Isaiah.

Then looking back, yes, prudence was already set by the House. We depend on the past precedents. We find forgiveness, thankfully. The Book of Revelation 1 verse 9 says, God instructed the angel in heaven. Tell John to write a letter telling about his visions, on the events that has taken place and what is happening and what will happen.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, whatever events that have happened, at least we found forgiveness in our hearts. These things cannot be left abandoned, as God has spoken to John, write down the events that have already happened, note down the things that have occurred and events that will happen. Therefore, anything

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that happens in this world, they become important events Mr Speaker. Because the things that are recorded will be printed in heaven.

Whatever matters discussed in this House, this is the House of the country, the House of the Gospel, the House where farsightedness and prudence are treasured. It is also the House where the economy of Samoa is deliberated.

When I heard that the Meeting was to proceed on the 14th, I did praise God personally. I have thought that this was a monumental day in the world. When you look at the diaries in front of you, possibly, the words written on the 14th of December, Holy Cross Day. It is a symbol of Crucifixion. It is the day we commemorate as a day of forgiveness between one another.

I have thought that we will come here to meet you unfortunately that cannot be so. Nevertheless, at least I am still recording these down. For already, God has instructed John of the events that have taken place which are living proof. Whatever words we said, they are all recorded down. I have also listened and observed the Budget. Hon Minister, thank you. It is no lie as I have listened thoroughly.

Then I come to my constituency, I cannot find rest, they keep calling, and there is only one thing they want, the million tala.

I wish to ask the Hon Minister of Finance, where does this million come from? Does it come from your pockets, or the pocket of the Government? Yes, that is the reason for asking. Even your Side is asking the same question. I too am asking the same, when will this be distributed? Because it is getting irritating to receive their contacts. Even though I have said it to them that I do not know and that I did not promise them any millions.

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Therefore, your Hon Minister of Finance, the clarification is required for this million. Because when this million is mentioned, it really troubled me. That being said, that is one part of my question to you Hon Minister.

Secondly, pension. Because I am reading the heading of your budget, you said, recovery. What does this word mean, the house is finished, the concrete posts have been built, it is finished. I also see the pension which I heard. The senior members will sign their pension of \$300, twice a month. This is the query to you Hon Minister of Finance, because I see that it is not \$300 but only \$200 but \$200 was promised by the Administration...

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker a need for a chance.

MR SPEAKER: Bear patience, I allow the interruption from the State since you have reached the topic on million and amounts of...

The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I wish to ask the member who he heard this from getting \$300 twice a month, it is not a million distribution, it is to earning back money from village projects. I have clarified this to you several times you come to me however you still do not understand.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, I am asking the Minister of Finance. I have it here in my cell phone the conversation between Fepuleai and Lagaia, when will this be distributed? What does this mean, distribute when, that is the response. That is why I am saying it, as my district too wants a million.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, I got your point. So you do record our talks, which means that you are a spy, you are not my friend then. Do not ask me for anything else you want.

MR SPEAKER: Well leave aside your friendly talk and state clearly your will before Parliament.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I had thought that Afioga Faumuina was the bad one, but I now understand Olo is worse. Looking back at the day when we sat outside in the sun. I know that you wanted us to come inside but it was the Minister of Works that I heard instructing the police to bar us from doing so.

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but you must be considerate of what you say. We have also covered this area and we have resolved the matter through the spirit of forgiveness. After all we do understand that we must maintain our mutual respect in order for us to be at peace. I am of the view that the past must not be brought up by the member and let us go forward for the sake of prosperity for our constituencies.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: I have no intention of interrupting the member giving his remarks. But I am of the view that although it sounds trivial and humorous, the people are listening to our debate. So it must be corrected. This was not part of our campaign prior to the elections. There was not a time when we declared that the pension will be withdrawn twice at the tune of \$300. That must be understood for the sake of the public tuning in. Secondly is the commotion over the million tala. Now we have said that the policy here is earmarked for the development of constituencies. We are giving preference to constituencies to make practical and effective use of the million tala for its developments which is unprecedented. In due course the Minister of Finance will clarify in detail as the public are following our deliberations.

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The objective behind members of this party speaking on this issue was because those members were not present. We were of the belief that we must address the matter as it had been publicised abroad that it will not happen. “That there is no million tala, it is a bluff.” Our intention is to shed light on the matter and to stress that this million will eventuate. We do consider the fact that the public are following our debate and I am conscious of the possibility that they may have the wrong interpretation causing people to question the truth.

So it is best that an explanation comes from this Assembly as there are various sources disseminating information abroad. The government’s publication is different from the information circulating. Mr Speaker I thought I would clear the air on that.

Afioga Fepuleai Faasavalu Faimata Su’a (Salega No.1): I seek an opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: What is it you want....

Afioga Fepuleai Faasavalu Faimata Sua (Salega 1): Thank you Mr Speaker. But since the member has mentioned my name concerning my querying the million tala.

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I do beg tolerance of the member, but as I am a rugby coach, I will say that, when it rains I would apply a different plan and when the sun is out this plan is used. I was asking about the million tala in my capacity as a representative of my constituency and speaking on their behalf. I was not speaking as a member of FAST.

MR SPEAKER: I would think that the matter is resolved. The statement from the Minister of Finance is clear and also the support of Cabinet. You on the other hand quoted the bible. That you feel the Holy Spirit, mentioning the Prophet Isaiah and the angel John. You will recall the journey of Moses and God’s tribe. This is what was said, God said that we must go to the land of Canaan, where milk and honey is flowing. You will realise that they did make it to Canaan and there was no milk and honey as it was not Gods plan. The will of God was that the spirit within one’s soul grows and using the conscious to develop the tribe.

I would think that is also the intention of the Minister of Finance that the soul may flourish equally with everything else. I thought I would remind you that after all you a man of the bible. In good time the Minister of Finance will elaborate.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: The Leader of Opposition will take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auaelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I rise to offer some comfort concerning the issue but this is brought to us by the public. It is the reason members of this side find it hard not to contribute. As the member from that side said, it was raised by his constituents. If that maybe the case, well these were the very constituencies covered by the road shows that went around. They are merely following up on the promises made to them. With regards to the other matter. It is because you decided to give us bibles, so it is becoming a habit to read out quotes from the bible. May we have a constructive meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. You may continue, and let me say that you are one of the senior members and your wisdom is sorted. Do not quote the bible again as it prompts members to make fun of us.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I will no longer address this area as I have the utmost respect for the Speaker. Let me say to the Minister of Finance to not feel fret with what I say. The significance of our views is to reinforce the Budget. I only wish there are more millions available for our constituencies. Mr Speaker I will now continue on to the other Ministers of Cabinet. As you have stated that we still have 15 minutes allowed to us. I respect and adhere to the Chair.

Madam Prime Minister, I am not certain whether you recall the request I made during the previous term for the construction of a seawall at our coastal area of Puapua when you held the portfolio for the Ministry of Environment. The request submitted to the Ministry contains photographs of the coastal area. This particular land was occupied by the Mormon Church before it was damaged by the tide and eventually forcing our church to relocate their premises inland. I think we have submitted about 4 request for this very purpose so we are merely reminding you and I understand the Prime Minister currently is in charge of this portfolio so if you would kindly look into this.

To the Minister of Agriculture, I guess everyone understand the blight faced by the world and our country concerning farming. Our lives are now in jeopardy from the pandemic and on top of that, I have gathered from overseas that we are no longer exporting taro overseas. I believe that there is a market for other agricultural products like crops and fruits like hibiscuis spinage or laupele and tapioca which I have heard stories that is in high demand in New Zealand.

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I have in hand a report of the total number of containers of tapioca from Tonga. It is a fact that by the end of the day the shelves of tapioca in stores become empty. Although our people do not really enjoy this crop, most Pacific nationals residing in New Zealand and Australia love it. So if there are problems with some of our crops due to the pandemic and I am glad that pawpaw from Salafai is in abundance. I don't really know what the situation is here in Tumua but this edible product is really in demand in New Zealand and Australia. The problem with our taro exported to New Zealand is the stubbornness of the Ministry to maintain their prices for a profit but the reality is taro from Fiji are more in demand and are always sold out. That is affecting our taro market so a reasonable price should be negotiated in order to maintain this income source through agriculture. In saying that I recommend to the Minister.

MR SPEAKER: The member has two minutes remaining.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: I commend and am grateful to the Minister of Commerce, Business Enterprise and Labour. I think he is the youngest Minister and I know that you are very independent and yet it seems that you are gradually becoming influenced by Olo next to you. My pledge to you Minister is to bring back our plane. The reason being is this, as you can see we are in strong health. But I am concerned about you guys and you need doctors from overseas. In case something happens but there is no plane. Our group are used to walking, be it walking to Petesa and back. You forget that it is our form of exercise from God. As you can see we have dark complexions. Although you were looking at us from here whilst we were sitting under the breadfruit tree. Do not forget that can be compared to sitting under the cross. We are recording every detail of what you have done and one day we will be reminding you. That is my request Faumuina, and the reason is I am worried in case something happens that would be a pity, do not listen to Olo. I want to say to the Minister of Police to not be upset with my advice, as he is a Judge, and presides over the transgressions of the world, he is also a lawyer. My recommendation is not to use these kind of fence on the tar sealed road again. The fact is we are tired. The heat from the sun is of a lesser effect than the heat from these steel fence being put on the road. So have a heart Faualo and be considerate of us members of the public.

MR SPEAKER: May I remind the member as he continues to refer back to incidents gone. You are a senior member after all and you should realise that the Chair respects and am not interrupting you in order to maintain peace after

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all the public are tuning in. They may think that we are playing pranks so we must maintain the dignity and a decision has been made over this matter. We have reconciled our difference so we must adhere to God. That is my assistance to the member.

The Prime Minister will take the floor.

Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker I wish to assist the wonderful remarks from the elderly member of that side. The steel fence he is referring to, and since you all did not turn up on the 24th of May, were the very ones used by Police to ensure safety.

MR SPEAKER: I guess these matters gone have now been addressed. I am of the view that the member should really press on with more important matters for his constituency.

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Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Thank you Mr Speaker. To the Minister of Works since I have little time left. I would think you understand from the previous term. I will reiterate the problem experienced by the public on this side of town particularly in the morning when people are making their way to work and taking kids to school. This problem affects all commuters heading from the airport. Cars are seen bumper to bumper and taking up 40 to 50 minutes on the road. My request is reconsidering the possibility of a road running from Lepea towards the northern tip to Vaitoloa going around the mangrove swamp leading to the intersection already proposed by this government. So this political party has drawn up a plan of this road and perhaps it will resolve this problem. Another road is seriously needed for the sake of the public.

To the Minister of Education, I appreciate the fact that our University is going smoothly as well as our apprenticeship programme. If you would review some of these programmes in order to increase its effectiveness boosting the level of skills in trade for students. I realise that it is a bit costly but I believe that once students become intelligent, their knowledge will repay their dues. But we shall leave that up to the Minister when I know that a lot of the areas in trade needs improvement.

Mr Speaker, I beg tolerance of you but there were quite a lot of matters I had wanted to cover but since you have reminded us of our 15minute opportunity to discuss the budget further. But in case my time runs out I wish to address my constituency. My beloved constituency of Faasaleleaga No.5 with my village of Lano which carries the dignity of the Satuala family with the four branches of the Vui title, the tamasa, the orator chief Mala'eulu, the talking chiefs and Salemuliga. I also recognise the cherish village of Asaga with the dignitaries

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of Satuala with the Matafeo clan, the original ancestor Lualuataua and the orator Leatuavao, Salepatu and Salemuliaga. I acknowledge my village community at Puapua, I appreciate your support and prayers. I understand that throughout the three term you have remain loyal to me. Your trust continues and I guess it is the fact that you keep seeing me with my bible in hand and so faithfulness towards me is steadfast. The endeavours which I have encouraged to be done throughout our community is all done with my faith in God and His providence.

May I say to the dignitaries of Satuala, the family with deserving multitude of being revered with the authority of the venerable Sealiimalietoa and the various orators. The wives and women group, the senior folks the young men and women I salute you for your prayers and support. I now hold our seat in government due to your trust upon me to be your representative.

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Mr Speaker, I just need to share my appreciations of my families and everyone that rendered their support here in Samoa and the support of my families abroad as well as throughout my constituency. If the people of my constituency are following this broadcast from around the world, be it NZ, America or Australia and other countries may Gods blessings be upon you.

Let me say now that may Gods blessings be upon the Prime Minister. May you have the courage to lead our country. To the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and the dignitaries of this Assembly let us place our aspirations to God. Whatever shortcomings I may have displayed I beg tolerance of you. Mr Speaker that is our contribution on the Budget now tabled. May Gods blessings be upon you and the support of our people. May God bless the leader of our party and also the deputy leader and members of our group and may God be the glory. Soifua.

The Assembly gave a round of applause at the conclusion of the address from the member of Faasaleleaga No.5.

MR SPEAKER: I commend the speech of Satuala, the member for Faasaleleaga No.5. As we said earlier, you are one of the senior statesman here in Parliament. I say, well done on the chiefly display of wisdom accompany with a few messages. I believe that the Assembly feels it especially the projects implemented for the constituency. So I salute you for your service and congratulations on your speech on the budget. You do have an additional 15 minutes if you still have points to cover. Anyhow the opinions are felt and understood on behalf of the constituency as well as the country at large. This is the opportunity for another member to take the floor. I note the member for Falelatai and Samatau is gearing to go. This is your moment to address the budget.

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MAIDEN SPEECH

Afioga LUPEMATASILA GALUMALEMANA TOLOGATA TOGIA TILE LEIA (Falelatai ma Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity granted to Falelatai and Samatau to contribute to the budget now before Parliament. I realise that our praises to our Heavenly Father have been voiced by your good self this morning and I concur with you on that note. After all our praises to God can never be diminished. Lunch had also been enjoyed by you Mr Speaker and the distinguish members which has reenergise members to continue with our orders for today's session.

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When Moses walked upon Mount Horeb towards the burning bush. The old guy was surprised by the voice of God. “Moses, Moses, do not come any closer, take off your sandals, for the place you are standing is Holy ground. The connection of man and the earth was hereby established.

When Tuna and Fata were preparing battle to revenge the defeat and slavery of Samoa under the yoke of the Tongans. It is said that the weapons of battle were initially selected at the land called Asotofi at Falelatai, initiated, prepared under the directions of Ulumasui a half man half demon of Falelatai. It was also declared afterwards the saying which is common to our people. “Do not observe standing but you must observe sitting down as Samoa is watching” There is a belief concerning that side of the country which goes, “When a belle stands upon the steps towards the ninth fold heaven of Tagaloalagi, she must firstly pay her respects before proceeding to approach the first steps right through to the ninth then kneels and say “respects to the place” I am of that view this afternoon.

Before I embark to step on to the court here at Tiafau the court of Samoas grievances, it is the court where the tools to achieve independence were produced. It is the court where our freedom from colonisation under foreign rule was sorted. It is also the court whereby our ancestors settled away from homes to prepare our constitution for our independent nation. It is a House which is framed with craftsmanship representing the wisdom and courage.

I will firstly accord my respect and acknowledge the three pillars of Government. Hail the Legislative Assembly with the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the leader of the House, the Prime Minister and the Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi Party. Acknowledging this side of chambers, I respectfully recognise the leader of opposition and distinguish members of the Human Rights Protection Party. We are representatives of our people elected six months ago now congregating here due to the grace of God. I acknowledge the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, the orator representing our traditions and the office of the Legislative Assembly. I acknowledge the Executive Branch with the Prime

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Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I recognise the Chief Executive Officers and Managers of Ministries and Private Enterprises the force behind government operations.

I acknowledge the Judiciary with the presence of the Chief Justice and Judges of the Court, the President and Judges of the Land and Titles Court, management and staff of the Ministry of Justice. I acknowledge Le Ao o Le Malo Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and his consort, the member of the Council of Deputies Afioga Le Mamea Ropati Mualia and good lady. Such are the salutations of the three pillars of our government Samoa.

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I also salute our traditional honorifics throughout Lalovi and Malaefonoa towards Fili and Puletuu where the sun sets and where the government was prophesised. With the royal families and the royal sons, the oratory group of Tumua and Pule and the various principal meeting courts throughout. I respectfully greet the clergy praying for our prosperity. I must also touch on the dignitaries of Tutuila and Manua with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker and members of the two chambers. The traditional salutations pertaining to Sua and Vaifanua, Fofu and Aitulagi, Saole and Saleaumua and the Launiu Sae lua, Faatuiolemotu, le Laau na amo tasi, Tootoo o le Faleula and the dignitaries of Manuatele. Such are the ceremonial addresses of Samoa from the yellow sea of Tuimania towards Fili and Puletuu where the government was prophesised.

I want to say to my community of Falelatai that we are a family referring to our origins of sharing one mat, one head rest and one sheet. Hail the house of seven of Atitagaloa, the warring family of Aana. With the venerable Royal Son Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano and his consort whom is now Le Ao o le Malo of the Independent State of Samoa. The royal sons and the son of tausala, Hail Faasavalu and family, hail Taiivao who makes up the families, and the ultimate salutation to Pata, the court and the sacred grounds where the Galuefa of Falelatai and the tagata o le Vavau hails.

I recognise my village of Samatau with four royal sons, Fiamme and lineage, the sons of Tamalelagi, the Maopu of Tuiaana and the oratory group of Leulumoega. I warmly greet the women group, Toleafoa and the untitled men group, the young men and women whom now vote the sons of our constituency throughout the world.

I convey my heartfelt gratitude to the clergy from every denomination for their prayers and work to instil the spiritual wellbeing into every person of the community. I extend to you from the bottom of my heart my heartfelt gratitude for this great honour you have bestowed through your electing me on the 9th of April 2021. I gladly accept it with humility. It was my request to continue my service to the community through Parliament. I was merely imploring your

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support in which you agreed and elected this humble person to be your voice in this 17th Parliament.

Our oratory jargon normally applied under these circumstances of elections states that, the attentive candidate is searched for in the forest, and the qualified one is explored from the sea. The honour you have accorded me I will not wear it on my ear for the wind may blow it away. I will not wear it on my forehead in case it may be blemish. I will also not wear it around my neck for it may break into pieces. But will cherish it between my heart and lungs for it will remind me with every breath I take.

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The book of Psalms says, “If I forget Thee let my right hand forget. If I do not remember you, may my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth.” I will endeavour to the best of my ability depending on the Holy Spirit as well as your support to encourage me to serve with integrity in this Parliament as confirmed with my sworn oath taken within this assembly to contribute to our constituency in this 17th Parliament. I need your support so we may cooperate to develop our constituency for the welfare of everyone and to do away with inactivity and ill feelings, poverty and dependency.

I cannot forget the senior folks whom have passed on since the elections, with Afioga Misa Gogo, the Chairman Taefu Iemu, the talking chief Lavea Tuaitau Tuputau, Afioga Lealaitagomoa Faavae, talking chief Saula Fa Talolua, and the elderly lady Tuuamaleuluaialii Letufuga. We extend our well wishes on your final journey, we shall meet again. May Gods spirit console our constituency.

I wish to use this opportunity to acknowledge the chiefs and orators of our constituency that contested the election. The fact is not all boats can possibly win a race. The sun will rise again. Today may be my turn but yours will come. Not all fishing expeditions is a success. I recognise Taefu Lemi whom held the seat in the past 10 years, I congratulate you for what you have done. Your contribution is duly noted in our political party and also with the country’s political affairs in terms of our developments. God appointed you and it is Thee that has removed you. Do not be disappointed for God will provide the opportunity to utilise your experience and qualifications. I do need your support and assistance with my taking up the seat of our constituency.

I convey my appreciations to talking chief Pa’u Roy for his engagement during the race. We did encounter a lot of challenges culminating with the unnecessary exposure of our constituency before the court. I am thankful for the fact that you had chosen not to pursue the matter and opted to reconcile. This is what the constituency needs as the history of our constituency will tell us that it is the first time our election bids had been dragged to court. In saying that I am appreciative. The words of wisdom stipulates that, “he one who rules his heart is greater than the one who decides to charge the fort” Thank you, I accept this honour. Your representative needs your support. You have

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overwhelming talents and gifts from God. Lend your support so we could undertake this together.

I want to say to my constituency that I would think that you realise and understand the current political situation during this term. Our constituency is a founding member of HRPP to this day. It is the first time since Independence that Le Ao o le Malo hails from our constituency and it is the first also since the HRPP came to power.

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It is the highest honour which we should not take lightly and it is a government which allocates evenly. Our community has witnessed the power of money to entice.

The desire of HRPP during the previous term that opportunities be open for matais whom are residing and serving the communities whom have little wealth to contest the seat, what is happening now? It is a pity that if this the situation with only people of wealth will have the chance to contesting the seat of parliament.

Mr Speaker I convey commendations and blessings from this constituency to you in your becoming in charge of Samoa's Assembly during this term. I wish you well. I also convey my commendation and well wishes to the Prime Minister. Congratulations, you are the first female Prime Minister in the Pacific. This is Togianamuaimalae the first Fiame, and although we are connected in blood but we are on opposing sides due to our conflicting views of politics. May your reign be successful and I extend the same well wishes to your party with the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the dignitaries of the Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi Party.

I will now come to the demands of my constituency Mr Speaker and I will start with roads. Now I will not address the individual Ministers but will speak in the general sense to save time. I appreciate the honour bestowed upon the royal son of the Tauaana family to become Ao o le Malo. The only request is concerning the poor state of roads. It is quite a fair distance towards us beginning from Mulifanua at the location of the wharf right down to the mountain between Falelatai and Faleaseela. That is the request of this constituency which we seek a favourable response. We also appeal for a road to connect Faleolo and straight towards Falelatai and Samatau and also to install power lines and water supply. It is the view of this constituency that Faleolo contains a lot of springs which easily streams from the mountain top down to my constituency. Currently the water supply being metered goes up to a sub village of Siufaga. The communities at Matautu and Pata are drinking from a private water source. But we have gathered that this water source can no longer supply the whole village community due to the surging population. It is something I am enlightening the government on for their consideration. With access roads well let me say that our constituency is in a state of difficulty. Our

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community are quite vigorous in terms of farming yet all access roads to every sub village of my constituency is in a dire state.

Moving along to our health centre for this constituency which has been approved in the previous parliamentary term. Let me remind you and it is the pledge of this constituency not to let the change in government as a reason to change your mind on the proposed health centre for this constituency.

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With sports grounds and school buildings, well this constituency continues to produce quite a number of sports men and women yet we do not have a sports field for this wonderful development of sport for youths. Similarly, with school buildings I tell you that the schools of my constituency are currently too close to the beach.

With agriculture Mr Minister we are striving to develop the taro crop. But in my view the reality is that we are unable to compete with the quality of the Fiji taro. I have also found out from researching that our market for taro to New Zealand, Australia and America is very minimal. On the other hand, the market for tapioca and kumara is larger. We are keen on developing the taro crop and also tapioca and kumara. Coconut and cocoa but the problem facing us is the unavailability of market overseas.

Looking at the budget it indicates a sum of money appropriated for an authority to market our products overseas. For the information of those who do not know, the government had already bought land and a building in Auckland which was initiated by STEC. I thought I will tell you that to avoid the possibility of procuring another estate which may possibly end up in someone's hands. So it is important for the government to find markets overseas to sell our agricultural products.

Our constituency is greatly affected with the rising sea level, yet only part of our coastal area has been covered by the programme constructing seawalls that came around. With seasonal employment well this Assembly understand that it was a gentleman from our constituency that instigated and introduced this programme but have observed with utter disappointment the state of how the process is implemented. My recommendation is that it is best to return responsibility to government in order to fairly allocate these openings so that every constituency equally benefits through taking in the same number of people to enjoy this important development instead of the blessings falling onto a group of people.

Mr Speaker the Main Financial Estimates statement theme states, to strengthen, develop and fairly manage our economy to raise the level of prosperity for everyone in Samoa. A question begs, why do we strengthen it? I am of the belief that our economy is solid. Although we are experiencing natural disasters and particularly this deadly pandemic COVID-19 and the Measles that just passed. Our economy remains in a strong position. For instance, the previous budget of last year indicated \$116million with

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\$180million surplus of spending over revenue. I have gathered from record sources for the period.

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I have gathered from records on the financial year ending on the 31st July 2021 that it indicates a surplus for the first time. The HRPP policy which had always been observing is prioritising the economy under the belief that wealth is health. When the economy is growing there is no doubt that the state of health will boost and it consequently the same pattern for everything else. However, I am noting from this budget of 2021/2022 that priority is given to social Developments. The recommendation of this constituency is this. Now I understand from some member's remarks that if the Government encourages the ongoing allocation of money that is good. No one would say no to that, to getting free money. But my recommendation is that we should really consider this and let not our blind compassion for our people bring about a situation of to a certain degree, an abuse of our power.

I also note from the budget that the price for electricity and water will be slashed. Moreover, the government assistance is slashed through the CSO to assist with services in which organisations do not get a profit. As you are aware, I served in the Electric Power Corporation. Currently the output paid for having street lights is close to \$3 million for the electricity used. Yet I am noticing that a very minimum assistance is given to them. This tells us that not only the government debt to the Corporation will continue to surge but the corporation will not be able to continue its assistance services to the people. So they must exercise prudence. The Corporation has the responsibility to safeguard our assets to avoid a unfavourable situation that may surprise us. The fact is these generators take a long time to procure. It takes up to 3 to 5 years to import a new generator. If we are negligent with the protection of our assets due to our willingness to minimise output on operations, that is a catastrophic possibility we will encounter.

This constituency is of the view that there are areas which mentions the reviewing of the law. We have the Law Reform Commission and I think that is where this review should be implemented as noted in the budget. I am also noting an allocations of funds for the Environment Ministry to replant trees. This is really vital and as you understand from countries with very strong economies. They are the ones contributing more to the destruction of the ozone layer. So they look at opportunities and action to replant trees. But we have a project which has been in place for quite some time and progressed by the previous government called one million trees.

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My concern with this project and the good intentions behind it as indicated is the possibility of one person benefitting from it. Mr Speaker such are my humble views to contribute to the government especially the Minister of Finance for her discretion. Thank you for this opportunity Mr Speaker. But I think I will conclude here. I wish you well Mr Speaker and I extend the same to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. In the same token I wish our leader the same and our party. May Gods blessings be upon us today. Soifua.

The House showed appreciation at the conclusion of the maiden speech of the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

MR SPEAKER: I commend the speech of the member for Falelatai and Samatau. Your opinion is understood and also your recommendations to the government emphasising your credentials and qualifications when serving the government. I believe this is critical in our journey forward with the development of the country. So thank you as you covered everything from your constituency right throughout the country. I applaud you for your preparations and sharing your suggestions for the betterment of our country going forward particularly your advice on the Budget.

This is the opportunity for another member. I see that the member for Safata No.1 is prepared to speak. Here is another former member whom does not need to give a maiden speech but will direct his remarks on the Budget.

Go ahead.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata 1): Mr Speaker and the dignitaries of Parliament I will initially acknowledge the salutations of Samoa. With Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo o Samoa and his consort, the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. The prestigious judiciary with the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary. With the President and judges of the Court and staff of the Ministry of Justice.

I respectfully recognise the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Associate Ministers and the notable Parliament. Greetings to the Clergy constantly in prayer for the welfare of Samoa. Our traditional salutations of the royal sons and the royal families and the oratory group of Tumua and Pule. The dignitaries of the eastern islands with the Governor and his Government.

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I note the presence of the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries the right hand of Government. I salute you for your service honouring your sworn oath to serve our country with integrity.

Mr Speaker you are the other authority of the three pillars of government. You are also independent. No one here can challenge your ruling. In saying that I commend you on your appointment and I wish you well in your calling. I think I will now proceed to comment on the budget and will start by congratulating the Minister of Finance for the Main Estimates now tabled. What we heard from outside is not really consistent with how Parliament started. We now have in our possession the wonderful budget statement. I believe that our remarks will certainly focus our opinions on and it will be recommendations to support you Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I will begin with the Minister of Finance and her theme of the budget to direct my statement towards. The statement I am looking at is, to improve prosperity. What comes after that is the pension for the senior folks. This matter Mr Speaker has caused real unrest at my constituency once FAST became the Government. The senior folks of my community are vocally ecstatic coming to me with their claims that they will be receiving \$300 in pension. But I have received word that is not so and only \$200 they will get. I know this amount was approved by the HRPP. So, my constituency of Safata No.1 and Safata No.2 are listening and that there is no \$300 for pension and I do apologise for that and I hope you will not blame your representative. I am only your mouth piece here in this Assembly...

MR SPEAKER: If I may assist the member by saying that the matter has been clarified that the budget does not mention this. It is clear though that \$200 will be appropriated for senior members.

I call on the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Thank you. I think this is the second time I am taking the floor on this very matter. My concern is the public following our proceedings, for they may misinterpret the promise from FAST on this matter. If you saw the notification, it specifically said \$200 a month. We committed to this before the budget was tabled in which you are referring to government policies. It is best that I clear this up to avoid the possibility of another member taking the floor on this very matter. We declared \$200 and the opposition went out and told people that it is \$300 a fortnight.

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It seems that what we say eventually becomes twisted by your false claims. There was not a time when Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi claimed that we will be committing to \$300 a fortnight. That is your own false claims of \$300 twice a month.

MR SPEAKER: I would think that the member is clear on the matter. I call upon the Leader of Opposition.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker we did not make any claims whatsoever about pension, not at all. They went ahead and prepared a reserve budget and when we looked at it and their ability to meet the commitment they have engaged in and I did publicise this. That \$30 million is currently spent for the pension if it is to increase to \$200 an extra \$7million would be require on top and is it afforded. Elections have long passed, yet we never made any claims on the pension that it would increase after the elections.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I would hope the matter is now clear. After the clarification from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on their actual intentions. Do carry on your statement and do not repeat what you have said.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Mr Speaker, I bring this up since it is my constituents that elected me. So when they do come around to share their demands and the rumours they have heard. I cannot ignore the wishes of my voters. I am here because of their mandate. If I back out and not voice what they shared it would be a great sin to me.

MR SPEAKER: I now understand that it was the desire of your constituents that it be \$300. The government have made it clear that their claim in the budget was for \$200. I suggest that you forget about the matter and proceed to other matters as the issue is now understood.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you Mr Speaker. No I will not dare object your ruling. The only point I was pursuing is the view of my constituents that it was claimed that \$300 but I will say no more about it.

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MR SPEAKER: The response from the Government is final. The public are listening and the information that comes from here should not be distorted. Since the explanation has been clear. Let us move on.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I also applaud the benefits for the members of the public with special needs. I do believe that I did see the preparations of the previous Government for this very purpose. I am glad the idea is being pursued.

I have also gather from the statement of the Minister of Finance that there will be assistance for the construction of housing. This also was implemented by the previous government. You are aware of the company ADRA which the government granted millions.

The reason behind this was the government relinquishing this role and passed the responsibility to a private organisation where it was possible for families to have the freedom to choose the design and their wishes for how they want their home to be built. So on that note thank you.

The other matter raised here is violence against women. Thank you Mr Speaker. This political Party gives priority to not just violence against women but verbal abuse which does instil pain to the heart and it takes years to heal and also the uncertainty of when this will end. I have notice that the Government places emphasis on this.

I appreciate the purpose of emphasising women whom are subject to violence.

Let me now address this other area of raising the level of health wellbeing. I am very happy to know that the Government plans to provide food for the Tuasivi Hospital. There was an initiative for this purpose yet it seems that the new government also plans to pursue this. I also understand the new government intends to apply the same initiative to all district health centres. We did consider this assistance but we thought, well they are residing within communities and constituencies so perhaps it is convenient for families to render support in food.

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the wonderful remarks of the member, since we have come to our normal recess hour. We shall suspend for recess and you may continue when we return.

I announce that the orders of the Legislative Assembly will be suspended for 15 minutes.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for normal recess at 3:45pm and resumed at 4:25pm.

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Proceedings continued on the second reading of the Appropriations Bill 2021/2022.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resume. I commend members for your patience for we are now on the final part of the day. I would think that you have been invigorated. Upon suspension of our Proceedings the member for Safata No.1 had the floor. I call on the member.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity and I too believe that members have gained energy boost after recess. I will now continue with my remarks on behalf of my constituency.

I will now speak on the area entitled in the budget educated living. The fact is a lot of teachers within my constituency are asking when they may get a pay rise. This claim started circulating before the elections and after going through the statement there is no indication of a pay rise for government school teachers. I understand that grants for these schools is plunging and I note that it is quite low. Other areas I am picking up is sports development. This is an area of importance at this day and age providing stable futures through sports. Since people talented in a certain sport earns a lot of money. It is the reason government gives priority to our people whom are talented in sport. Yet I am seeing a huge slash in funding for the developments of sports field and related areas. I guess this will be brought up again when we do get to the consideration of individual items. This is the emphasis of the government to support and prioritise people with natural talents. You will concur that our country has a lot of people with talents yet grants for sports fields is dropping. I will now come to the area of encouraging business for I note that there is appropriation for this area. There is a sum of money allocated in this budget. I recall from the previous government implementing these assistance of stimulus package through phase 1 and phase 2. That being done I thought there would be a phase 3. My understanding is this assistance for the business entrepreneurs has dropped by 60%.

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Let me remind you Mr Speaker this will offset the balance within our government. Every area must be considered to boost the economy. But it seems now that there is the huge drop in grants for business. The previous government were preparing phase 3 of the stimulus package as there are lots of grants

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available where funding for business could be sorted. But the incoming government have exercised a lot of cuts for the business community.

I have heard there will be the development of communities and constituencies. This too has long been in the pipeline like the development plans for constituency which has started. That has taken off. The fact is I cannot omit to mention this million tala for constituencies. Since my constituents are querying this initiative. It is important that they hear me raising this issue with a government explanation that the million proposed has been given out in total. It seems that it is \$51million but it is only \$11million from my observation. My constituency are listening since there were 2 villages visited by the... That Political Party went to Safata and had their roadshows to share their proposals and plans at Sataoa and Fausaga before the elections.

I will address the area of the budget which says there is no money available for the reforming of laws. As mention by my fellow members we do have the Law Reform Commission which does make me proud of our sons and daughters serving there armed with the knowledge and intellect. I know there are lawyers serving there with very high credentials. We have given them our trust and it seems now that we will be bringing in different people to review and look into our laws. I believe this is the role in which we can save money from unnecessarily going on something like this. The Prime Minister and Cabinet have the discretion over such matter. But we do have our own people which does make us Samoans proud and this is also projecting them to higher status.

The environment is mentioned to be protected. It is also said that over 2 million trees have been planted in our country. This is not a new project as it is a programme that was initiated by the previous government and continued by the present government. I will say that perhaps the funding provided for this programme is maybe too much. Since the trees will eventually get bigger and birds when the tress bloom will carry the seeds which will grow elsewhere populating the trees of the forest. So it is not really necessary to allocate more money for this project.

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I will now discuss the topic of reinforcement and I am grateful for the assurance that the cost of electricity will drop. My question to the Minister of Finance, is how long will this stay? Will it be an ongoing thing? Our view is such that these organisations do tend to rely on the government resulting with the government financially assisting and consequently hiking up the price of electricity to a very high mark. My suggestion is that the Minister seriously

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consider this factor. I am also noting from here and begging the question where will the seawalls for Manono and Apolima be funded from. I welcome the fact that seawalls are considered. It is an area from the previous government which this member raised. It is noted that this government has seawalls on their agenda to ensure safety and protection from erosion and the rising sea levels which erodes the coastal areas. I understand that the Prime Minister visited a village of our constituency on a leisure excursion. This is the actual village which is the reason of my request for a seawall. The villages of Sataoa and Saanapu are quite settled with the fact that our local people are coming around giving them business in place of tourist from overseas which is understandably missing. So as long as they preserve these scenic spots for tourist and is the reason why I have been demanding the construction of seawalls. I know your honourable will include this your projects for this term.

I also note here that there is quite a large sum of money appropriated for technology. This is vital for education which the government gives priority. On the other hand, school net has been in existence for quite sometimes. Is it not feasible to revisit this area since it provides the same service for this very purpose?. Since I feel that with internet service for schools the funds allocated seems very high. That is my suggestion on the matter...

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker there is just this small matter.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Works will take the floor.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: The member was in the previous term. This is the exact question I raised on school net. The Minister of Education confirmed that it was out of date. You did see the Minister with his hands signalling that it was out of date. I am reminding the member in case he unnecessarily spends a great deal of time on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member.

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Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you Mr Speaker and I appreciate the interruption from the Minister. So if it is out of date, then update it with due respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The Leader of Opposition will take the floor.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: This is a huge development and the Prime Minister will concur as we worked together on this. This is a huge undertaking, to develop schools and technology. The reason holding it back is the availability of funds. But it has progressed.

The other obstacle stems from inside schools itself. We all testify to the reality of students being kept at home due to the pandemic. Which prompted the activation of the internet service for student learning and it proved quicker and effective than teachers themselves. That is the advantage of COVID causing the barring of students from attending school and it does encourage teachers to brush up on their technological skills to apply the internet in their teaching the syllabus. So this programme must continue and it is not out of date.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member to continue. This area is understood.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me continue the contribution of my constituency. I commend the Minister of Finance for I note that it proposes to lessen the cost of services. With eight services which it intends to slash their cost. I appreciate the initiative to lessen the burden on our people. You will remember and I commend the fact that you are continuing the effort of the previous government to minimise the cost of living whereby we cut taxes on food items frozen food since we knew this was the daily requirement morning, noon and evening. It is the necessity of daily living We now note that you are giving assistance by minimising the cost of services around the country.

To the Minister of Police, I do have a question for you as you are also a lawyer and a judge. I recall going to Salafai to make a round of the island and came to a halt since the road was blocked at Salelologa with gunfire being blasted. We went further and had to turn back from Sasina when villagers came out.

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After hearing their rhetoric, it does provoke a sense of disappointment. I do not know whether these are our traditions and culture but in my view it seems as if the people are being encouraged. They were saying things like “being turned to ashes” so it sounds like after being killed, it is burning. It is just not a good thing in our...

MR SPEAKER: I am of the view...

Afioga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Agriculture will take the floor..

Afioga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: With respect I am of the view that the matter is before the courts. If we are to discuss the events of that very day, I am afraid it will bring up other issues hence making it complex. We were all purporting to keep the peace. You understand what happened that day, it is just not that simple. The residents of the island had publicised their conviction that you should not come. Yet this was ignored so do not blame us since the residents of the island initiated the steps to ensure peace.

So that is the reason why I do not agree to discussing the matter as it is before the courts. Those statements cannot be compared to the slandering words towards the constituency and myself. So that is my plea with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you and I will say the same to the member. It is understood, the matter is now before the courts. So I believe that parliament has no authority over the matter as it is now within the realm of the court. The Minister of Agriculture cannot remain silent as his name was mentioned.

I advise members to stay away from referring to such issue since members of constituencies cannot respond to these matters, moreover it is before the court. The member will continue.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I do have tremendous respect for you. It is just that, the statements made that day is unacceptable to us. I am very disappointed with the view of the Minister. Is this the mutual respect we accord each other, that we cannot go over to Salafai? How do you feel if Upolu prohibits Salafai from coming over? That is our culture but it must not be interpret in a way to aggravate feelings.

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Afioga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Honourable Member that is what I was thinking. Take a closer look at the comments that were directed towards me and Fiame. What was the wording? Burn alive, so what are these words that they are trying to contradict? That is why I said to leave this matter. These things are now before the Law.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Yes, you may speak...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: There is a notion that this matter is now in the Legislation. The only thing is, there was

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not stoppage from Salafai. The proof of this is that we are going to use the Government roads, I do not know if they have fully authority over Government roads. Hon Laauli, this revelation is false.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that these circumstances have been made clear, but I also want to apologise to the honourable member, as this matter is now in the hands of the Law, so there should be no further discussions. We are also mindful of our time especially when our work is in progress, but the matter is now in the hands of the Law.

The member has one more minute left, finish up your speech.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, since there has been a lot of interruptions from that side, I move the motion, *For an additional 5 minutes for the speech of the member..*

Seconded by the member for Anoamaa West and the member for Vaimauga No.3.

MR SPEAKER: Well, there is also... I believe that 1 minute is enough. We do things like that, we joke during the course of our work, but do finish off your speech. There is still... I know that those few minutes are enough to help the member.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Well, thank you very much Mr Speaker. The decisions you make are absolute. So we will continue our speech to complete the preparations of this constituency.

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And then we come to the protection from the Covid in which God is to be thankful for. To this day our country remains safe. I also believe that it has now been two years since Samoa has been protected from Covid, why? It is because of the Leaders, as well as the prayers of the employees. This is why the country is safe from the virus.

We would like to express the utmost gratitude to the special Committee, for your patience and for your advice given, as to this day the virus has not entered our country. But implore you, as I have noted that we are opening our...because this is the only way for the virus to enter our country, through the opening of our borders with neighbouring countries. Let us not think about the wealth as we can regain wealth. But when it comes to the virus and as we see people losing their lives from it, there is nothing we can do. And so I beseech our Government to take into consideration the lives of the citizens.

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Samoa does not want to relive 1918 again, when the deadly influenza came. So I pray for our safety, as this is also a good opportunity with the presence of the Minister of Health, I do not know why it is slowing down, it is all over. I have noted that the only thing left is the construction of the hospital in our constituency of Saanapu, this is the long-term preparation of our Government.

And then I come to the issue that was broadcasted on air regarding the seasonal work, but I am grateful that you have allowed this again. We are grateful that you have responded to our suggestions, to continue these seasonal works. You have seen the increase in wealth especially for us from the rural areas, with many families progressing.

Their wealth has increased, they bought new cars, and they have renovated their homes and rebuilt their farms, so we are thankful that you have considered the continuation of this season work.

Then I want to talk about the plane, Hon Minister of Aviation, I request that you bring in our plane. I sit and think about the time when we did not have a plane. When I went to pay my fare to go to New Zealand, it was almost \$4,000 for a round-trip. Why? We did not have our own airplane. But during the time when we had our own airplane, the round-trip fare was as low as \$700.

I also believe that when looking from that point-of-view, it may create debts. At times that is the responsibility of our Government. We subsidise such things. But the usefulness it has for our country, I can tell you that it has many advantages. Not only can it make it easier for our locals to visit New Zealand, but it will also be made easier for people from overseas, due to these low fare prices.

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Believe me Hon Minister; if our airplane is not brought in, I believe that once the borders reopen, the fares will increase to over \$3,000. But this is a relief to our country because when air travels are reopened, it will bring a lot of benefits to our country. As for our Government, they will work to cover these debts

I have also heard that the Fiji Airways is paying up to \$300 million a month in losses. What now? Fiji has not let go of its airline. They know the value of airplanes, and their Airline has a lot of planes. But for us, there is only one plane that is serving us. And so I pray to the Hon Minister, bring in our plane.

And then I come to the Budget as noted, that it will be specified, as our Government have plans to allocate these allocations specifically to the Judiciary, as well as the Office of the Legislative Assembly. I think in this case, such things are not being done by New Zealand and Australia. But I have noticed that we are performing it. I know that America is doing such things. This is because the country is large and it has many Ministries of Justice located around the country. I also know that it is necessary.

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But to gather our money within the centre into one basket, it should be well-organized. Given that, there may be times when more employees are needed to manage the finances and such things, so I ask you Hon Minister to take a closer look at it.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to conclude your speech.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Then I make my statement in regards to auditing, well it does not need to be noticed as it seems that funds are also being allocated for people to come and re-examine these things. But as of now, all of the Annual Reports of our Ministries are up to date. Also for our Audit Reports that are being given, there is nothing wrong with it. They have submitted their reports every time to this day. But we should also look at bringing some of the people of our country as there are some countrymen that are needed by other countries, to go and try out the programs and the system that Samoa has. This is a recommendation to the Hon Minister of Finance.

The other thing that was mentioned is in regards to the salaries of the Minister's drivers. From my perspective, the increase is huge. It is over \$30,000. But for the students who have graduated from a four (4) scholarship. Their starting salary is \$22,000.

MR SPEAKER: Your time is up, honourable member.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: I apologise Mr Speaker, I will try to conclude and the address my constituency.

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MR SPEAKER: With much sympathy and guidance, I ask that you conclude you speech.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: I will finish off with these few matters please. For the seven (7) Members who have not yet been sworn in.

MR SPEAKER: It has been noted.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: I ask that you be sympathetic towards them, for this is the first time that such a situation has arisen. My congratulations also go to...

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, Point of clarification to this member or the seven members who have had their Seats revoked. I have noted that the application that was taken to court, to have the Political Party sworn in. The Party removed these seven (7) members.

What is the member talking about?

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MR SPEAKER: That is also the reason why it was illustrated in the statement by the representative. These circumstances have been established, as the court has already made a decision. There are many issues because you have raised such things.

Conclude your speech now.

Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, we will not say anything more. As I have said, you are neutral. No one can oppose your absolute authority in our House.

We then conclude our speech by addressing my constituency of Safata No.1 and all its honorific salutations.

The village of Lotofaga in all its honorary salutations.

The sanctity of my village of Sataoa and all its honorary salutations.

And also my village of Saanapu with all its honorary salutations, and especially our constituency.

I want to express commendation and gratitude, especially to the servants of God who dedicated and praying for the prosperity of our constituency. And so I want to convey deep gratitude. Thank you for reconsidering my privilege to re-assume the Seat of our constituency.

It is my desire to live and serve our constituency to serve the Government for the benefit of our constituency. And so I would like to express my gratitude, as the situation in Parliament has become calm, we will have time to meet.

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This is our address, bless you Mr Speaker and bless the House of Samoa. Soifua.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding, following the speech by the member for Safata No.

MR SPEAKER: Commendation for the speech, I believe that you are well prepared. For this, congratulations for speaking, thank you as the House have listened as well as your constituency. Especially as have spoken comprehensively about the economy of the country. Thank you very much for your contribution.

This is an opportunity for our House for another member.

I have noticed that one of the senior members of Parliament is preparing. The member for Vaimauga No.2.

This is your opportunity honourable member.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga 2): Thank you very much Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I salute the majesty of this House, greetings.

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It is believed that this morning is very favourable. In the presence of Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of the Cabinet, as well as the Hon Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge the presence of the Leader, Deputy Leader and that side of the House.

With your emergence to the position Mr Speaker and as you take the Chair of authority of this House. I congratulate you for your work and praises for your services. God bless you for your appointment, as the administrator of the Samoan Parliament.

I would like to thank Mr Speaker for this great opportunity that you have given to this constituency for its contribution to the proceedings in the discussion of the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022 as tabled on this Assembly Table.

But firstly, I would like to salute and offer my greetings to His Excellency the Head of State of Samoa and your Good lady, as well as the support of the Member of the Council of Deputies and your Good lady.

I also acknowledge the presence of the Hon Chief Justice and the Judiciary. I also salute and offer greetings to the Hon Ministers. The holy sacrament and the holy ministers of God, who are serving and residing in every village. Thank you for your prayers and wishes for the success of Samoa and its Government.

I also want to pay tribute and convey greetings to the holiness and dignity of our country Samoa, as well as the support of Eastern Samoa, in all its honorary salutations. Because they are sacred from eternity to eternity.

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But I would like to take this opportunity, for this humble member to voice my gratitude, because of the support of my beloved constituency of Vaimauga No.2 and all its honorific salutations.

These are the divine parables of our constituency, together with the esteemed sanctity to the church ministers and servants of God. To the seat of Fataloa of the Gospel, to the esteemed chiefs and orators, the elders and heads of families, the wives and guardians, and also the untitled men and their wives, and even the youths as well as the many people who voted.

Special congratulations are conveyed to the candidates who have been selected by our constituencies. To the honorable Tofaeono Iupati, and Tamaleta Taiman, I commend you for your honorable service.

Mr Speaker, since this morning, it has been noted as it was stated, the Budget will be considered in due time. Perhaps it is something that this member will try to voice an opinion on, as it is just a section that I will try to explain. But for other segments, the 15 minutes given will be used to address it when the time comes.

To begin my speech, I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance, the Associate Minister and the Ministry, for their hard work. In compiling the 2021/2022 Budget. But there are a few things that I wanted to ask about or give a feedback on as the discussions of the Budget are underway.

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For our Ministry, it is noted that we have \$250,000 of funds for the annual reports for our SOEs we have now. A humble opinion of this member as I have worked in our Government for a number of years, there is a belief that in the Ministries and Corporations, there were those who were specially appointed to take care of this work. A recommendation is also given that when the money is used again to bring someone from outside, but it is not used.

Because it has been noted that we are still using the same process. After the discussions on the budget in June, it will take up to 3 to 6 months for the Ministry to prepare it. By December, the annual reports of the Ministries and Corporations would have been submitted to Parliament. There is also the belief that they are all up to date. Since it is not yet December, I believe that in this month, the annual reports of all the Ministries and Corporations will be submitted.

This is a suggestion, as maybe this money would be useful to be used under another Ministry, rather than having it be duplicated, and it is additional funds that will be used again, but there are people who have been hired to implement this work. This is a recommendation.

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Furthermore, Hon Minister, it has been noted as I do not know if there is a problem with our existing accounting system. As shown on here, there are funds set aside to conduct a full forensic accounting assessment. This is the English translation, as there is \$250,000 allocated for it, which is similar to what was given in the annual reports.

There are also qualified people in the Ministries within the Organizations to do the work. Just a bit of worry, as now additional funds will be spent while we looking for funds to make up the one million which has been mentioned a lot.

But that is the reason why I offer a suggestion to use the employees that we have. There are Principle Accountants, the ACEO division. In addition, to my knowledge, each Ministry and Corporation has its own internal auditor.

Once a year, the audit office will come and conduct this work. Perhaps they are the ones that understand their own Ministries, or perhaps these are the people that have the best skills to do this job. This situation should be re-assessed, but they are being paid with their usual salary, there will be no extra money spent.

That is a suggestion for this matter, under the Ministry of Finance. It is also worth noting that the motto or priority in which our budget is based. The improvement of the welfare of people of the Country.

I extend gratitude to the Hon Minister of Health as well as the Associate Minister as well as the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, and that side of the House. For these two days that have been set for our immunization. Thank you

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very much, and thank you for your vision for what was needed to be done. This constituency also prays, the community and village of Vaimauga No.2, to use this opportunity wisely. Get vaccinated. AS some of the members have heard, it has been noted that the virus has made it to Tutuila. But let us try to protect our families and our communities and our village and especially our Country of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make a comment on this situation, as there are many statements that mentioned our one million tala, but now it is noted that it has decreased to \$200,000 and the provisions contained in the project applications. It was also noted, in case I am mistaken, it is under the Minister of Women.

Hon Minister, you have also served under the Government for a long time especially our Country of Samoa. Thank you very much, praises for your tenacity. It was heard in the speech by the Hon Minister of Finance, that the villages and communities and such circumstances will be rehabilitated, for the programs in the future.

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But a recommendation was also given in the previous Parliamentary term, when we set up our district committees, or the district development committees or the District Development Committee.

In 2017, our district committee was established in Vaimauga. It is very good, since that time, three (3) projects have been implemented in the constituency under the plan that has been laid out.

This committee is chaired by the Member of Parliament, all the honorable members, the representative of the village, the mayor, and the representative for women, all these people are in this committee. I have an opinion, as this is the committee that should register this \$200,000. They are the ones who better understand their communities and their villages for developments for the prosperity of their constituency. This is a recommendation to the Hon Minister in this regard. But if it were to be designated to you, as we submit our requests, lest there be.... There are 10 villages in our constituency, in case one village gets more than the other in this financial year. This is a suggestion to the Hon Minister.

Well in regards to the annual reports, what are your thoughts as it would be good if they were submitted there to increase the money requested by the constituencies, to conduct their projects. Bless your appointment Hon Minister of Women.

Mr Speaker, it has been noticed that there is also a portion of funds, in reviewing our Constitution. I also want to give a recommendation, as we have Ministries that are able to carry out this work. I do not know if someone else from outside or another person were to come, who does not understand and

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does not have provisions. Because I believe that we have appointed our Attorney General, he/she will uphold the constitution. With the support of the Law Reform and the Office of the Legislative, so they can work together on this matter. As for the pay, they are being paid, so there is no need for additional funds. As it is their work and their responsibility that they are brought to work on it, for which they were sworn to do.

Mr Speaker, there are many other things that I wanted to talk about, because I am... I was happy when you said that we will get two chances, with 15 minutes each, and so I will try again next time.

And lastly, I want to address the Minister of Communications. He was one of my brothers that attended the same school as me. He is a man full of honesty and integrity, but was very disobedient to the teachers. Congratulations for your determination and your appointment as a Minister, those are all struggles.

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However, my suggestion is that perhaps you are cooperating with the Minister of Education. The \$2 million tala allocated to improve the use of internet technology for schools. I believe that you the Hon Minister have the wisdom under normal circumstances.

We have many providers available. Grant them the opportunity to make requests in this area for school networking. Because these things are very important. I also worked in the Department of Education, and we have looked at provisions like this for a long time. It is difficult as with the school census and things like that, but that is an important part.

As for my request and my suggestion please, there are also sectors that provide this service, and they also have the expertise, so it would be good if the opportunity is given to them to apply. But let us not only focus on finding someone else to implement this. This is an appeal to the Hon Minister.

Mr Speaker, I would like to convey gratitude, for the opportunity that you have given to this person.

I would also like to thank my constituency, for re-electing me as their voice. Well, I ask for your support, with the efforts that your member will strive for in this Parliamentary term.

God be kind for the remainder of the proceedings, as well as for you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Ministers on that side of the House, and also the Leader and Deputy Leader of this side of the House and this Party, God bless Samoa for its prosperity. Goodbye and thank you.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding, after the speech by the member for Vaimauga No.2.

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MR SPEAKER: Congratulations to the member for Vaimauga No.2, who is also a senior Member of Parliament. You have also long served the country through Parliament. And I also believe that you have given good advice to the Government. All for the future, not only for your constituency but also for the country. And so I convey congratulations and gratitude for your contribution. Thank you also for your assistance, to our work which we bear together. Therefore, God bless your appointment, as your constituency is supporting, and as they have heard you raise many important issues, especially your assistance to the Budget for the work of your constituency. For this, thank you for the speech.

I believe that this is an opportunity for another member, as we still have enough time.

I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, the Government is prepared to respond, if that Side of the House is done.

MR SPEAKER: There is still enough time available. The Government is already prepared to respond to the budget. But there is still an opportunity.

I have noted that a senior member is upstanding, Vaimauga No.1, well, Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa. This is the opportunity for the member.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga 1): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, there was a thought that Vaimauga would not be making its speech today. I wanted to go last, but this constituency is filled with compassion. As one of the brethren of this constituency has already spoken, I will follow suit.

Mr Speaker, I would first like to express gratitude and compassion to the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, the Sao Faapito the sao Papa and the sao Falenaoti, Honorable Fiame Naomi. I also extend greetings to the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Tuala Ponifasio, as well as the attendance of the Minister of Cabinet and the Associate Ministers. I commend you for your hard work and perseverance, as you have risen to lead the people of Samoa, thank you for your courage.

I also want to convey salutations to Mr Speaker, as well as the Deputy Speaker. Good luck, appreciation to God for appointing you and the support of the Deputy Speaker.

I also acknowledge the presence of the Leader of this Party. You were the former leader of the Samoa Legislative Assembly. Hon Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi. I congratulate you for your love for the country, thank you for leading the Government in the past, and the many years that have pass. The Lord has placed you together with us on this Side.

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We also extend our support and compassion to the Hon Deputy Leader, as well as the presence of the men and women of the Samoan Parliament. I commend you for your services, and praises for your calling as we were ordained by God.

I would also like to express salutations to the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly. For your services to this House every night and day. Please do your best for the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

I also cannot forget to convey greetings to the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Corporations of our Government. You are the hands and feet of the Government. We are only here for 5 years, but you are the children of the chiefs of the country, so your service to our Government continues. I commend you for your hard work and your services to our Country.

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As the words of the country, it is not possible for the king to conduct the services alone. So congratulations for your services to our country.

Greetings are also given to the sanctity of this House to the Media like the radio, newspaper and any station that is broadcasting this Assembly abroad and within our Country. This is one sector that is forgotten most of the time. But you are the ones who are reporting the things that are happening in our country abroad. Good luck.

The speech of this constituency cannot continue without expressing salutations and compassion to the support of His Excellency the Head of State. Your Excellency Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano and your Good Lady, your Excellency Maposua.

Greetings are also conveyed to the Member of the Council of Deputies and your good lady, Afioga Le Mamea Ropati.

This constituency also pay tribute to the presence of the Hon Chief Justice and the President of the Land and Titles Court, as well as the presence of the Hon men and women of the two (2) Courts. Congratulations to your sector, I commend you for your pledge given to God, to serve Samoa through those areas on that side of the Region.

I cannot overlook the devotion of the Servants of God at every Altar, who are invoking to God through kneeling, fasting and prayer, for the prosperity of Samoa. So far at this hour and this evening, no rioting has been heard in Samoa. Because of this deadly virus that is getting closer to us. Thank you for your prayers, thank you for your support which has kept Samoa safe.

I cannot disregard the devotion of Samoa with all its honorary salutations.

And also the support of that Region, of the islands of Tutuila East.

This member has a very high regard for the devotion of my beloved constituency. It was Vaimauga East, but now it is called Vaimauga No.1, and with all its honorary salutations.

And then I come to the support of my village of Letogo in all its honorific salutations, and also the devotion of my villages of Vailele, Niniva and

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Punialavaa with all its honorary salutations, as well as the support of my village of Fagalii in all its honorary salutations.

The holy servants of our constituency at every altar, I ask for your support and blessing.

I also cannot forget my village of Maugafiafia, we will now make our contribution to the economy of our country that is now before the House.

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First of all, I would like to express my gratitude this morning for the peacefulness that we have now, as my heart is satisfied with the word of the Bible of God that I love so much. When you go Home and read Jeremiah 33 verse 3, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” That is how this member feels. The beginning of this Parliamentary term was difficult. But I am grateful to God, as this is the first time that the representatives that were elected by the country had a difficult time obtaining their Seats within this Parliament of Samoa. That is why I was happy for these 6 months and have depended on God for this situation. Since this is a new morning, there have been no problems this morning. This is my gratitude to God. The appointment by God and the things that God have given to my person to be re-elected, hence why I am here this morning.

But looking at the idea or purpose of the Budget that is now in the House, your family, your country and your culture and your Christianity, this is our joint responsibility. Where is the family? Where is the Christianity? Where are the traditions that keep Samoa safe? No. It is impossible to forget about the 15th when the chiefs stood outside in the sun, especially the members, who had been appointed by their constituencies to come into this House, it is their calling, these Chairs...

MR SPEAKER: I would like to offer the member assistance. I also believe that we have already gone through this process, and the statement by the Chair has already been given. It is also believed that it is how we do things, as we are very considerate of our House for we are the leaders of the country, and the things of the past have already been forgotten. This time, we are sailing in a new ocean. So, take back the statement that was made, those days are over, as we are now in the peace and beauty of Jesus Christ and our happy fellowship in Parliament.

Therefore, the Chair has already made its statement, I also believe that those times have past, let us go forward as the blessing of God awaits us. Well, I give the member another chance.

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Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, this member is very obedient when you speak and give commands, but just a suggestion, what has happened in the past is useful for the future and for tomorrow.

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Gratitude is conveyed to the Hon Minister of Finance. Your calling is not easy. Perhaps this is also the first time in our country's history that you have been venerated and appointed to lead our country through the Hon Sao Faapito. God has already a Leader. The previous Leader that led the journey of Samoa has retired, now you have been appointed. Praise the Lord. What about you the female Minister of Finance? Praise God.

But a recommendation of this Constituency regarding the Appropriation Bill or the Main Budget, as there have been a lot of things noted in this Budget, thankfully it is still following the process used by the previous Government. This member does not interfere with the innovations that you have made, for you have the leadership of the Government. But this constituency is grateful for the response to some of the demands that were made in the previous Term regarding the increase in salary for the mayors, praise the Lord as the records have shown, the salaries of the mayors will be increased. Thank you.

My concern is considering that I do not want to relive the past, so that you will not be satisfied with the promises that have been made. The member for Vaimauga is worried that we may face problems with the salaries of the public servants and such. As long as there is pay, which is the only thing this member is interested in. But my advice for that Side, take care of the Government employees. It is with sadness that we see the concern of the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and the staff, as some were removed, others were suspended and terminated. Our calling only lasts for 5 years, but for the chiefs and nobles who were given the head, given the leadership role for Government Ministries, as it is their duty for which they had been educated abroad to do.

MR SPEAKER: Well, an advice to the member, the Chair is saddened to hear the statement... as the Prime Minister has said in the past...no there is no such situation. There are still reasons and formalities. And it will be addressed in due time, but it seems that you are generalising your speech, and that is what worries the Chair. The employees are also listening with concern wondering about the plans. But there is a thought, for we are the leaders of the country, and we should maintain the dignity of Parliament and such circumstances for the public servants. Therefore, I implore the member as these things have pass, and we are looking for ways to bring peace to the Parliament and for all of us.

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I call upon the Leader for the Opposition.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, in the event that me standing up yesterday makes it seem that nothing had happened, there were things that happen. But for the member to reiterate this matter, I offer a recommendation to the Government to value the services of the Government employees, because the work conducted is reliant on them, they are ones with the skills. So this is my interpretation of what the member is trying to say, a reminder.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Congratulations, the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition is wonderful. Well, a reminder and a suggestion. The Government is also listening, the issue mentioned is also important, but there is a concern of making it too public, since it is our work that we conduct together especially to the sanctity of Parliament as well as the employees so that our speeches in Parliament remain dignified.

Well, it is thought that this is one of the senior members, and I ask that you continue ...

I call on the member for Faleata No.3.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata No.4): Mr Speaker, we have had a wonderful assembly today since the commencement, as you have spoken about forgiveness and with our meeting on Friday. [.....].

I would just like to remind you Mr Speaker. Thank you very much.

MR SPEAKER: Well, the Chair is also concerned about the situation that you have raised, because it is thought that it is not something that needs to be addressed in the House, there are already channels and procedures in place whereby the Speaker is working in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Therefore, it has been received and we have prepared ideas and data with the hopes of moving forward. I believe that it is not a situation that should cause chaos within our Parliament. It is thought that feedback has been given, as the Government is carefully observing.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Thank you for the opportunity. Since it was mentioned in the statement by the member, which was made public, to remove, to suspend, to terminate.

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My suggestion Mr Speaker, I would not mind having a discussion on this matter, and I want to respond in detail to those who have been terminated. And I believe that it is useful. If the member that is speaking did not perceive it before, then I will reiterate the statement.

The people who were released were the Attorney General. The reason is because of what happened with our politics and then we went to Court, which also involved the Attorney General, as there is no chance that we can work together with confidence.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is caution in this regard. Now the issue has been...

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: And that is the reason Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Please be patient....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: This is very difficult.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, I am responding to the member that is speaking, so there is no reason for him to stand up.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: If this matter is to be made public, then we will talk about it because what happened was bad.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: If it is being raised, then I will respond.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize.... for the derogatory statement raised by the member, which is the reason for the Hon Prime Minister to intervene, so that it be clarified.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Thus why I am upstanding, I ask the Hon Prime Minister to be patient....

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: You can tell your own members to be patient.

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MR SPEAKER: Therefore, this is the reasons why the Chair is wary of when a member raises such matters in public, as when it becomes to in-depth then you would not want to listen. Therefore, I implore the Hon Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, we are moving towards harmony and cooperation. And for the things that happened in the past, we have already talked about it, let go of the past and move forward for the betterment of the future of the country and our House and its activities.

For that reason, honourable member, that is the essence of the feedback given, so be mindful not to make your statement public as the staffs are listening as well as the country. There are situations in which we do not mention in our statements and words and expressions and wisdom. Therefore, honourable member set aside these issues and continue your speech for your constituency.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker, please...

MR SPEAKER: Well, I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture to stand.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: I upstand again due to the emergence of the member for Faleata. This is serious as it was an instruction given by the Hon Speaker. The Prime Minister also attempted, if we were to scrutinize the reason why the public servants were affected, they are the ones responsible for these things.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, you have already spoken, I withdrew my statement but the Hon Minister had to stand up again. I have a suggestion.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: I apologise as you have not yet been given the opportunity. The Hon Speaker is giving me the opportunity. That is why I am saying Mr Speaker, do not make decisions lightly. You are the reason why the Clerk of the Legislative and the Attorney General were affected.

MR SPEAKER: Well, we... we should be patient. Well, I beseech the Hon Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: We are being patient but the things that were done are bitter, especially the member who just stoop up.

MR SPEAKER: I believe I ask the House to be composed. Well, we have also noted the... Although the member for Faleata put forth his statement, but I am still thinking about the words that have been said within the House, because for me, it is not easy to comment on these situations. But leave this matter be so that the Speaker can consider it deeply. However...

Well, honourable member, I ask for your compassion, do not mention the employees again as it will cause chaos. Continue your speech as your time is almost up, and also the ending prayer for our Assembly is left to you. Therefore, do not state such matters as it cause problems.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Perhaps this House did not know about your son who was martyred. I will always remember this assembly of our country. After every assembly, when I get home my son would ask, “Dad, did a bomb go off.” I would reply, “Yes, a bomb went off.” So a normal bomb did not blow up, but an atomic bomb went off.

Mr Speaker, the reason why I mentioned this is because our country might be wondering what is happening. Which is why I am determined about this. So if the people were to investigate...where will the Government get money to pay for it?

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, the member is still talking about it but their Leader has already spoken, and I was satisfied with it, and yet he continues?

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: You did not give permission to the Hon Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable member, wait. I thought that when you said bomb maybe it was a good bomb. But it was a bomb that will cause mayhem. Try to talk about good bombs for the House listening.

Well, speak like a wise member, and move away from this matter, let us utilize a way that is peaceful for the Assembly as we are nearing the conclusion of our work today.

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Mr Speaker, I will move to the demands of this constituency. When the Hon Olo was appointed as a Minister, well, I am grateful that God has answered. I ask that you consider the existing access roads of this constituency starting at Laulii, Letogo, Vailele and Fagalii. In addition, the conditions of the water supply of this constituency. For your information the villages in Vaimauga that are blessed with water. The villages of Vailele and Fagalii, who are drinking water from the metre that comes from Vailele, which circulates throughout the whole of Samoa, but this community and this constituency have not benefited from any Government relief like paying only half of the water bill.

I am also requesting to the Hon Minister for water, take into consideration my villages of Laulii and Letogo, which are still drinking from this dirty water or private water source. If you say that it will be possible to meter our water source and will be placed under the control of the Samoa Water Authority so that it can be purified but there should be a relief for us if the bill is halved or free of charge, well, then this constituency will approve.

Thank you to the appointed Minister, there are many roads of our constituency as well as these communities located in the town area, the roads in my villages of Letogo and Vailele and.... nothing has yet to be implemented. So I pray that we visit and reach this part of my constituency to improve the roads in it, as there are many people living in that part of Vailele or Maugafiafia, but the roads used are not good.

Then I come to the Hon Minister of Samoa Land. Leatinuu, as I have said the lands of this constituency have long been disputed, so please be sympathetic and lower the prices, as given in the relief of \$8,000 or give back our lands free of charge as per our agreement.

Another thing that is in our constituency, as mentioned most of the land there is under Samoa Land. I ask that you re-examine this matter. It has also been planned in previous Parliamentary terms to be distributed to our constituency in the form of a lease, but in that case I ask you look at it again, as our constituency is eager to come and pay for it, but it cannot be released on lease terms and the like.

I also pray to the Hon Minister Leatinuu, bring our aircraft, bring this service. That partnership is good, as payment is only made when it flies. Bring that worthwhile development to our country as we have already spent our money on it. Well, suppose that Olo is also under your Ministry for the airport in Fagalii, suppose that it is observed that it has been neglected.... reopen Fagalii so that it can be....

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Because it can be seen that after the airport was removed, the Ministry of Police have taken over. While there is still a lot of land, would it be possible to re-evaluate so that the airport can be restored so that the village of Fagalii can receive job opportunities and income.

Then I come to the Hon Minister of Health, I would like to express my gratitude to you, since Samoa is still in a state of tranquil, as the virus is approaching Tutuila. The prayers of this constituency is that the borders remain closed, but if Tutuila is affected as stated by the member for Aleipata, we should have patrol boats monitor that side because the villages between Aleipata and Tutuila can be crossed by fishing boats. It can prevent the spread of the disease in our country. But I am thankfully for these two days of rest so that these services can be conducted.

And then I come to the Minister of... this man Toelupe. Use the intelligence that you received from abroad. The internet and external network, as there is a lot of cyberbullying on the internet, perhaps it is because there is nothing to filter it, with more flowing within our country but there is nothing to control this and detect those who are misusing these services. I ask that you look into this.

Second, only SamoaTel and Digicel provide this service. Why not sanction it so that more companies from overseas can set up their businesses to make this service becomes cheaper in our country. That is the essence of this member as most of the time... but it seems that the services have become slow since you were appointed, but in the previous under the management of Afamasaga it was fast, but it has slowed down ever since you were appointed. But take a look at my village of Laaulii, the TV is still not working. If possible a television pole should be placed between the mountains of Letogo and Laulii so that the TV can reach the village of Laulii as it is very mountainous. And then I return to the Hon Prime Minister, remember the previous year and Parliamentary term, when the seawall for my constituency was approved especially for the village of Laulii. I think it was I and Leaana who were...

Well, it is a request since you are in charge of the seawalls, despite the impact of my district at Fagalii, Vailele, Letogo because these are the villages closest to the sea, but the village of Laulii is at risk because it does not have any reef, so the waves would break near the shore. But when they escape inland, they would be met with a water burst from the many waterfalls there.

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So carry on with the seawall for my constituency. Because it looks like we will be giving priority to Manono and Apolima, while the coastal villages of our town of Apia are at my seawall.

Then I come to the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, congratulations on your appointment.

The situation as seen with the Budget, there is a lot of money as I have said, thank you that my request in the previous Term was answered, in regards to the salaries of the mayors. Thankfully the payment for the mayors have been increased but in the case of the money that has been given to those organizations, in my opinion, the funds that will be given to those organizations like the Victim Support should have gone through the Ministry of Women. Everything has to come through the Ministry of Women, and then it will be redistributed. I have also seen the overview of the Budget as well as other funds that are given to external organizations that deals with obesity. Why not let the Ministry of Health continue to control this, but it seems that it is given directly to that organization. There is a thought that it would be better for these funds to go through a single Ministry before it is redistributed to other organizations.

Thank you very much to the Minister of Agriculture. Many of the members spoke about the authority that will be implemented. Since a lot of our money is going into the implementation of this which is also good. But an opinion of the member is that the Government will conduct that service, as we already have farms, for the farmers and those related, but the Government will also be involved as well. But it seems that it is not possible, we still have a few farmers and those who provide that service in supplying the products of our country overseas for sale, since we have property in Auckland which was run by STEC. Perhaps the process of exporting produce overseas should be left to the farmers to implement themselves.

Well, then I come to the Minister of Police. I pray to the Hon Minister, thank you for your appointment. The situation our country is in, now that you are in charge of the Ministry which was also looked after by your father when he was Commissioner. [.....]. Well, please look into that matter. The police officers are still going to the farms and other activities...

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker...

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Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: But observe the leaders of the country for...

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MR SPEAKER: I implore the member as I call on the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Yes, I very respectfully of the records of our House. The saying that the treatment of the Government officials is comparable to way prisoners are treated. Remove these words as they are offensive to the public, it will put insult on the Minister and the Ministry. This was not the essence of what happened on that day, as the police and the Ministry stood to ensure safety in the events that occurred. So my request is to remove these words because the police officers did not do these things.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I do not understand why the Minister of Agriculture continues to stand up, the Minister of Police is present. This Minister is standing up too much.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I apologise to our House. I believe that these are the discussions of the House. I also believe, no, as the words declared before the House must be protected, because I would like to correct the statement made by the Minister, because these words.... are not good. Therefore, I instruct that these words be removed.

And my prayers to the member, well, your time is almost up, so I implore you. We must think about our boundaries to maintain the dignity of our Parliament as well as the speeches.

I call on the member to conclude your speech.

Mr Speaker instructed the words of the speech for Vaimauga No.1 be removed from the records: “[Well, since you were appointed, the treatment of the police by the leaders of the country is like that of a prisoner.]”

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Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: I have prepared a lot for the Hon Minister, but it seems that there are too many interruptions... but considering the amount of time given to this constituency, I believe that it is not enough, but I will obey you Mr Speaker. Like I said, this

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constituency has yet to address the budget, as I was trying to convey the thoughts of this constituency.

Therefore, well, in spite of the many desires that we wanted to convey, but I am respectfully to Mr Speaker and the leadership of this House. Regardless of the many things I wanted to address concerning the repatriation of some sectors to implement some services such as the Law Reform as well as some auditors, but no. This constituency is filled with respect, the only recommendation given to the Hon Minister of Finance. You are the heart of our country. It is noted in the summary of the Budget, thankfully we are proceeding with the initial plan. There are only a few features that have been added and additional terms. It is the request of this constituency that we pay attention to the salaries of the public servants, let them not be satisfied with the promises that we made to the country, but above all, the government employees should be protected and continue to receive their salaries.

The Hon Minister of Customs. I would like to convey gratitude for this Ministry, perhaps 90% of the Appropriation Bill that is being used by our country is coming from the Ministry of Revenue and Customs, with the appointment of the Hon Minister. Well, good luck, there is a lot of work to be done, especially as the country is being burdened by the situation regarding the TIMS and the current state it is in, I ask that you look at those areas again to improve and thus solve most of the problems.

Well, since this constituency is compliant with your instructions, so I will say, perhaps because the time is almost up, and perhaps some of the issues will be finished tomorrow. But because there are many things that have yet to be addressed by this constituency, as it is noted that I did not address the Ministry of Justice as well, and almost all the Ministers interrupted the speech of this constituency, and so I thought, what are your thoughts? Now I will say a prayer since you have chosen me to pray, afterwards I will wrap up the demands of this constituency to you Hon Papalii.

We are grateful that you are leading the House, as you are also a Lawyer so you understand all of the Laws. Well, that is a word from this constituency of Vaimauga. If it is your desire for me to say a prayer, I can finish off some of the issues I wanted to address tomorrow.

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MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you to the honourable member for the speech. As I have already stated before you are the other senior member of the House. I also believe that you have the vision and the foresight to ensure the prosperity and peace of the House. Therefore, in case the honourable member blames the Chair stating that I have stopped your speech, no, it is clearly stated in these records, your speech was 37 minutes long.

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For that reason, I implore you, as most of the demands have been conveyed, and the Government have been observed meticulously, I believe that they will also give a fitting response. I also believe, you will be given another opportunity when we consider in detail... this will be another chance of 15 minutes to finish your speech. So the honourable member, I commend you for your speech. Thank you for this day and the speech, but since, I have noted that our time of adjournment is near.

Let us pray for the guidance and love of God for tomorrow so that we can continue with some the issues and the speeches of the remaining members of our House. I take this opportunity to convey gratitude and congratulations to the members of the House, with the attendance of the Hon Prime Minister, the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Ministers of Cabinet and the Associate Ministers.

I also convey gratitude to this Side of the House, with the presence of the Leader of the Opposition and all the honourable members of Parliament. Congratulations for your attendance and your patience. The task that the House is dealing with is not easy, however your patience for the sake of the calling and support of Samoa has been observed. Thank you very much.

Congratulations and gratitude to the members who spoke today, I commend you for your preparations and your speeches. I also convey congratulations to the constituencies for their support, as they pray and support your efforts.

I would also like to offer gratitude His Excellency the Head of State and your Good lady, Members of the Council of Deputies, as well as the Chief Justice and the Judiciary for your devotion. I also acknowledge the support of all the Heads of every Christian Denomination in Samoa and the ordained workers of the Gospel.

The support of Samoa in all its honorific salutations, thank you for your devotion. The Sitting of your Parliament today has been successful thanks to the power of your prayers and your support. And whatever offensive languages that your Parliament is guilty of using, I ask for your compassion and forgiveness.

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It is also an opportunity to address the honourable members of Parliament, if ever the language of the Chair was offensive in the conduct of this day; I ask for your forgiveness. Let us pray for the love of God, to grant us life and well-being for tomorrow, to resume our work.

The continued service of the Police Force, the Fire and Emergency Services, 2AP, the Ministry of Health and the Red Cross, thank you for your continued service for your Parliament. God bless you for your calling. What we have done well is to the Glory of God.

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Before we adjourn, I ask the member for Vaimauga No.1 to say a prayer to close our Sitting.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 6:01pm until 9:30 am on Tuesday, 21st September 2021.