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MONDAY, 29th JUNE 2020

Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriations Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 and the Appropriations Bill 2020/2021 at 3pm.

MR SPEAKER: I do believe that members have understood and also the Chief Executive Officers of government Ministries and Public Enterprises and the public. We will adjourn at 1pm and continue at 3pm until 11pm tonight. The quicker we can complete the task of passing the budget the quicker we will adjourn as tomorrow is a short day and we should pass the budget by then. I call upon the Minister of Tourism to continue his address.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Mr Speaker I am thankful to God for His grace, morning tea provided certainly rejuvenates us to continue with our proceedings at this part of the day. I guess it would take about 2 hours to cover my remarks.

Nevertheless, I will try to wrap it up as I have just about covered everything. I want to respond to the point raised by Faumuina concerning the roads towards the resorts he mentioned. I appreciate you raising this point and I do believe that your view is similar to the general opinion that it must be publicised as not many people realise this resort exists in Samoa. I do believe that Samoa is the pearl of the South Pacific. Tonga also do argue that their weather is great. But my personal view of Samoa is that no island in the Pacific is compared to us. We have beautiful women and shown with the female members of the House the same with the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries. Sometimes I wish I was youthful again but that is impossible as I am getting old. However, God has sovereignty over us.

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I will now address my constituency with the dignitaries pertaining to the prominent chiefs of Satuala, the Maopu, the house of ten and the house of eight. The principal orators Tevaga and Vaifale and Salemuliaga. Why do I need to address you...

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker it seems that the Minister is concluding his remarks...

MR SPEAKER: The Minister will take the floor.

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Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: As there was a lot of talk about the stimulus package where the Government assisted businesses like hotels and accommodations. Let me remind you of the huge government contribution in supporting hotel businesses catering visitors from abroad. After all this industry is the top contributor to our economy. As you all know our tax credit began in 2003. As of now \$142 million has been paid out on tax credit which comes from businesses profits. They should have been paying taxes to the Ministry of Revenue but a Law at the time allowed them to transfer money to be invested in our large hotels.

As of now \$75 million has been used with \$67 remaining. That is a significant amount of money which is channelled to assist the development of our economy and the Tourism Industry. On the other hand, this pool of money should have gone to the National Provident Fund which finances our developments and the budget. That is an ongoing debate and perhaps it should stop soon and go back to the usual arrangement of financing the budget and other macro projects like education, health and similar investments where this money can be put to use. Mr Speaker there was also discussion about the stimulus package where the Government pays 2% of interest rates for 3 months, on loans at commercial banks taken out by businesses like hotels.

The funds earmarked for continuing training of employees in the Tourism Sector but due to the limited working hours available for some and the temporary laying off of some staff members it has allowed them to undergo further training which earns them more money. The other assistance announced is funds available to help out people who have been laid off due to companies closing as there are no tourist visiting and some people have had their working hours slashed.

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This assistance is vital and we do hope that in the near future with the grace of God tourism will grow again when borders do open up again and redundant people can return to employment to support their families. We also have assistance with electricity not only for individual families but the Private Sector particularly businesses like hotels. With the large hotels we have slashed 50% off their electricity bills. We are still receiving requests from some of the large hotels like Sheraton and...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I am allowing the Minister to clarify the matters raised by the Minister of Tourism.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: This is what I am getting at, as the matter has already been explained. I guess it has been clarified twice or thrice already so to save the Minister's energy for he has covered this area. Hence my standing up.

MR SPEAKER: This is one of the most diligent member in parliament, very observant. Thank you to the member for Falealili.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: Thank you to the member for the reminder whilst the people are tuning in particularly the businesses community as they constantly put through written request for assistance. We also have assistance for our airline company as you know and perhaps the Minister will talk about it but we thought it is important to inject some assistance for this vital development to our economy. With the Waterfront Project behind the government building and part of it in front. The Ministry of Finance are collaborating with the Ministry of the Samoa Tourism Authority so as to increase the funding provided for this sector in their preparations and publicities when the borders do open up again. We cannot forgo this area but we must give them a substantial amount to quickly promote them.

Mr Speaker we do have a lot of major infrastructure like our airport, our roads and the likes which are all useful for the safety of travelling public and tourist that will visit us stay at hotels and spending heaps of money which will generate our economy.

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So this is why I have taken the floor as the Minister is concluding to simply remind you that it was indicated in the Budget and stimulus package. With great respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I realise that members comprehend the matter. However, these are quite complicated and

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so the folks in the rural communities do not understand. So we must continue to explain this matter so they may understand the \$142 million of taxes over the profits made by these large hotel developments which should have been paid to the Government. Yet they have pushed through in accordance with the Law to support hotel operations on things like extensions and further enhancements to premises, on the belief that it is the area which does attract a huge investment to earn us more money and to build our foreign reserves for our imports.

What happened to the \$142 million? Well only \$72 million has been used and where is the other \$67 million? It is gone and should have been used by hotels. The total amount was not able to be used during the time the Legislation was in progress. But it seems that the hotels have used this \$67 million on other developments. They are requesting again for another opportunity for them to seek other avenue of assistance to fill this gap. The reason I have elaborated on this is due to the numerous assistance from the Government upon this area as we are keen to have as many people as possible to visit our shores.

It is the same reason we encouraged the procuring of an airplane. It is a huge undertaking. As of now our airline is at a loss. So that is one of the approach taken by the Government to get as much people as possible to come over. Mr Speaker people tend to forget that there is a type of service which although sometimes fails, the Government continues to support it as it is the main provider for other services like hotels, restaurants, retailers the farmers, fishing industry as they all provide the hotels to grow. So it is important for the Government to use this \$142 million to encourage hotels to grow and so as to provide employment for our people.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Minister of Tourism to continue.

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Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: I appreciate the contribution from the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. Every point made is in actual fact true. I also acknowledge the member from Falealili, thank you. This guy whenever he speaks comes across very well. He does exude aura and respect. Thank you aualiitia for the speech. I have given you an outline of where things are with this development of tourism. I do believe that it requires a collective effort from everyone. It is not the sole responsibility of those at the helm of this sector. It is our collective responsibility. We as members of Parliament are the representative of the people and if I may also

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say that we are God's chosen servants. Whatever the outcome will be it should be on the notion that we must cooperate. I am of the belief that we must be united and if we are divided we will not achieve anything.

So I convey my appreciations to members for your cooperation and your perseverance and service and only God will acknowledge us. Whatever good deeds we do will be measured on our children and our families. As with our shortcomings well there is that saying, *e a le matua e ai le vine moto ae magiagia ai nifo o le fanau*, meaning, where parents ate the sour grape and the teeth were set on edge... I do not need to say this. The truth is let us embrace the people of this country and say to ourselves whichever point we are at, let us all cooperate and carry the load together. It is not a light responsibility but a real heavy one. But the future will be sweet if we do things with integrity for the glory of God.

To my constituency, I do not need to praise you and I am not like others who brag about their achievements. The achievements I have made is the best I could do. Let us all praise God as He the sovereign of all, He gives and takes. Everything I have done for the constituency is Gods will. All the things we were able to achieve together is for the glory of God. May I say to my constituency of Aleisa with all the families and the community now under the umbrella of Satuala, The Minister of Works has offered to do the roads and the water supply. I would think that it will not be long when the water supply will open perhaps in 3 weeks time towards Aleisa West before continuing on to Aleisa East and also your request for a field. I have also requested Lautafi for a land space for a soccer field and a golf course or any other kind of field for Aleisa. To my constituency, my sympathy and I am running out of breath for trying to think up what else I could be of use to you for although your representative which you elected has neglected you.

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We have yet to reach the moment when our constituency will become one as in a formal union. Anyhow God has authority over everything and His spirit infiltrates each and every one of us. The achievements I have managed is our contribution. At this particular moment I convey my appreciations to my village of Leauvaa, our school building will be completed soon. The tar seal road will be maintained for the new school and do not worry I will be visiting with the Minister next week to ensure this happens. What is left to be done, well God will provide other opportunities. Let us hope that the Leader of the House and members will support our demands. To my village

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community in Savaii I am being urged to say my farewells but it is not yet time for that. There will be sittings in the days ahead and I shall not forget you. How can I? For it is you that have elected me here. Gagaemauga No.3 this is one European style that has had me removed from Savaii. But throughout my whole life, our mutual relationship shall remain with the chiefs and orators. That is my praises to the Lord. May we have a successful meeting today.

MR SPEAKER: I am of the view that Ministers should be accorded the opportunity to acknowledge their constituencies particularly Ministers placed under new electoral constituencies other than the usual territorial constituencies.

I do think that such issues must be resolved within Cabinet. The old system we are used to is no more due to the recent change. Though I feel that I must allow you the opportunity and I am conscious of keeping order in parliament. But it is like that and we are different from other countries when it comes to elections as they have no culture but with us everything is done according to our culture. There are those that rant and the listeners. That is the view of the Speaker. We now come to the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker, I am so anxious to get on with it but I must first and foremost address the dignitaries of this Assembly.

So before I do get to the focal point of my address I must address the salutations of this paramount forum as the representatives of the people have now occupied this significant assembly. With your honourable Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister who is the Leader of the House.

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I recognise also the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet, Associate Minister and all members of Samoa's paramount forum. I must also acknowledge the Clerk and staff of the Legislative Assembly, and the public servants in charge of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises. Honourable Speaker, *ua sausau fialele le manu nai Utufiu. Ae o le a le naunau i le lauamanu, ae faatali mo le faamulioatu. E ui ina nanau faalupe o tafa naumate, ia se lagona ina ia alualu loa se faamatalaga, e manatua le mavaega nai Pulotu. A paia le pa i Fualaga, sua se tuli aua se alii tu le alii o aiga.*

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I extend greetings to the Le Ao o le Malo and his consort, the member of the council of deputies and his good wife. The Chief Justice, the President and the Ministry of Justice which makes up the three pillars of our government. As understood by everyone, I must acknowledge the prayerful support of our people and the honorific salutations of the royal sons and their families, the oratory group of Tumua and Pule, Ituau and Alataua, Aiga I le Tai and Vaa of Fonoti. The traditional dignitaries of Samoa have been established and I do not need to put it in perspective, for that is the role of the chiefs and orators fluent in protocol. May I say to the servants of God, throughout the four corners of Samoa. I commend and appreciate your continuous role of preparing lives for Christ as Samoa is Founded on God. Your support will never be forgotten.

Mr Speaker you have voiced our devotion to our Heavenly Father. God can do all things yet impossible for us to do. The question is, what can we do that our Lord cannot do for Himself? Mr Speaker the scent of Tamafaiga's lagaali tree fills the clouds, representing the degree of our faith. Our role is giving spiritual offering to God. I appreciate the fact that you have offered our invocation to God as declaration of our respect. So therefore I convey gratitude for the deep serene overwhelms us instead of calamity. We now enjoy tranquillity and relishing prosperity. So let us praise God. Allow me now to respond to matters raised by members concerning the services rendered by this Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development which I will cover in a general sense.

Mr Speaker I am of the view that I will start with the guidelines that was expressed within the House. This programme is the culmination of guidelines for districts called District Development Plans in short. This has now covered 49 constituencies apart from just 1 in Salafai which we still have yet to compile their guidelines.

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At this stage 21 guidelines have already been publicised as I had alluded to before when responding to an interruption and consequently the constituencies are now collaborating with the Ministry to meet the demands of the constituency. There are 14 constituencies with guidelines completed but have yet to be publicised. However, these guidelines are fitting to be applied for the purpose it was initially done for. There are 14 constituencies with drafts of their guidelines complete and the committee are still working on their completion. There is just one constituency that we have not started on the compilation of their guidelines for the constituency developments at

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this time. These guidelines for the community is a living document. We do hope to review these guidelines on an annual basis where the committees throughout the constituencies will be looking at them with the assistance of the Ministry. If there are areas which need to be added or change so as to achieve the objective of providing developments for the prosperity of everyone around the communities.

One of the measures that needs to be revisited whilst promoting these guidelines is the continuation of the gathering of records on villages policies concerning written rules of villages. It is referred to as Village Bylaws. We hope to follow up this project with the villages in the compilation of their rules and policies as provided for in the amendment to clause 5(a) of the Village Fono Act.

This is a vital endeavour to ensure village rules and policies is observed including penalties for any illegal action by anyone of a village community. Some of these transgressions include violence within the families. Particularly violence against women and children and those with permanent disabilities.

A great example initiated by some villages is the community of Vaiee which have publicised in their rules that a penalty of \$2,000 is imposed on anyone committing violence upon their spouse or children.

This is a project which must be made compulsory by the authority of chiefs and orators throughout all village communities to get on with the publishing of the policies and rules agreed on so as to ensure stability and enjoyment amongst citizens. Policies and resolutions as provided for under the amendment of the Village Fono Act stipulates that such must be registered with the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. They will then be given a copy of the Bylaws for the village representatives, the Registrar of the Land and Titles Court, a copy for the Attorney General, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and a copy for the Ministry of Police.

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So this is a very significant undertaking to coincide with the guidelines and developments for constituencies. In saying this I congratulate every constituency that have embraced this concept of putting together their guidelines and developments particularly the 21 constituencies that have completed the compilation of their guidelines and have also published them. Lefaga and Faleaseela, Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, Aleipata Itupa i Luga, Vaimauga No.1, Vaimauga No.2, Aiga i le Tai, Safata No.1, Anoamaa No.1, Falealili No.2, Alataua West, Faasaleleaga No.4, Faasaleleaga No.5, Gagaifomauga No.1, Vaisigano No.2, Gagaemauga No.2, Gagaemauga

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No.3, Gagaifomauga No.1, Faleata No.3, Vaimauga No.3, Vaimauga No.4, Faasaleleaga No.1, Faasaleleaga No.2, Faasaleleaga No.3, Salega No.1, Gagaemauga No.1, Faleata No.3, Vaimauga No.3, Vaimauga No.4. These therefore are the districts that have already been made known together with its policies.

These 14 constituencies, have already compiled its guidelines and have not yet had any formal advertising: Aana Alofi No.2, Aana Alofi No.3, Falealili No.1, Lepa, Vaa o Fonoti, Faleata No.1, Faleata No.4, Sagaga No.1, Sagaga No.4, Siumu, Falelatai ma Samatau, Palauli 1, Satupaitea ma Salega No.2.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me I allow the statement of the Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: These districts have completed the implementation of their policies including District Committees who are working together with the Ministry in completing their policies. Aana Alofi No.1, Aana Alofi No.4, Sagaga No.2, Sagaga No.3, Faleata No.2, Faleata No.3, Vaimauga No.3, Vaimauga No.4, Faasaleleaga No.1, Faasaleleaga No.2, Faasaleleaga No.3, Salega No.1, Gagaemauga No.1 and Lotofaga.

The one remaining constituency for Salafai is Palauli No.3.

Mr Speaker, how is the Ministry able to help out with the implementation of these policies? The aim of this undertaking, once the constituency agrees with the official awareness of guidelines then assistance is sought with the task Committee of the constituency with our Ministry and partners for the development in implementing the laid demands in accordance to these guidelines.

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This work was tasked by the Ministry and all the electoral constituencies in order to compile development guidelines. The constituency trusts that these are the developments that are needed for the wellbeing of all people of their own constituencies.

The primacy for this task, is related to health authority and leadership, education, the development of our economy and the safety and reduction of crimes. This attempt is collectively engaged by the *sui o nuu*, *sui o le Malo*, *sui tamaitai o nuu* as well as the members of the clergy together with the Ministry and its partners. I also take this chance to acknowledge all the

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members for your support upon this engagement. I further wish to acknowledge the dignifying members of the clergy who are living within the village communities and their support upon this undertaking whilst this awareness progresses towards each constituency. The heart believes that your intent for the welfare of our people, so that they are able to live harmoniously through our collective effort and support with the Ministry. The Ministry and its partners have started their responses to some of the constituencies according to their guidelines which have already been compiled and made aware officially.

1. Educational and promotional programmes implemented in controlling health issues, including female children, sexually transmitted disease, and young aged girls getting pregnant and committing suicide. All these attempts comes from the assistance of the United Nations that are partnering with our Ministry, the United Nations Funds for Population Activities UNFPA which is now shortened to Population Fund.

2. I wish to respond to the issue regarding people with special needs through the education needs not only for these people, the same with the members of their families as well as those engaged with caring for the people with special needs. This further included the purchasing of wheel chairs as given in the development plans. All this was possible through the funding from the Australian Government, through a program for the people with special needs or Samoa Disability Programme. And phase 2 has commenced for this financial year for this programme which has been renamed the Disability Partnership Programme for the upcoming 4 years that is currently in progress.

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3. The Ministry did support the request of some of the constituencies on the funding of sewing machine projects and women's eiei print, for some of the village communities to support families through revenue earnings. There was also a response for capacity building on good governance and leadership skills that was implemented for a few constituencies upon their request. There was also a request for gardening under the farming development project in support of earning families a living. There were also assistance by the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP) through a programme that was funded by the Australian Government for the Samoa Women Shaping

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Development Programme. Phase 1 will officially be completed for this programme at the end of this financial year with the hope that preparation for the commencement of phase 2 of the Samoa Women Shaping Development Programme for the next 4 years will be start before the end of this year. The CSSP program or the Civil Society Support Programme which is funded by the European Union, World Bank, Australian Development Department of Foreign Aid and Trade, the Green Climate Fund through the United Nations. The programmes have many opportunities funded under the CSSP that taskforce Committees and village organisations are able to be qualified for through a request put forth through this assistance to implement the projects in accordance to the development plans and guidelines of the constituencies.

4. The Ministry has already submitted its request to the United Nation Development Programme-UNDP for support upon other requests through the constituency development plans which includes the maintenance of coastal areas, as this is one development that is greatly supported by the Ministry given observations on plastics waste cannot be decomposed thus destroying the shoreline and fishing.

5. There is approval for sewing training for some of the constituencies that gave a request on this for women and youth now that we have received sewing machines through the assistance of the Chinese Government, however, we shall await the opening of our borders so that our Chinese teachers can travel here to implement this programme.

6. Trainings for vegetable gardening development projects can also be implemented for some of the constituencies through the assistance of private companies within the country. The main purpose of development plans for constituencies is to clearly identify the development projects which they find vital and given first priority particularly the ones that will be beneficial for all people of the constituencies.

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In accordance to consultations that were conducted, the Ministry will work towards finding assistance, through its partners for development similarly with the other Ministries and Corporations of the State and private businesses on ways to respond to the needs and projects submitted in the development plans of each constituencies. This is one main onus of the Constituencies' Taskforce Committees, which includes the village representatives, *sui o nuu*, *sui ole Malo* and *sui o tamaitai o nuu*, in order to find ways to gain assistance other than the plans put forth from the Ministry.

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Right now, there are constituencies that are exclusive in their proposals in fulfilling their needs, according to their development plans.

Like the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela and Alataua West in Salafai and other constituencies. Therefore, they do not have to rely solely on our Ministry to meet the demands and needs in accordance to the guideline plans. Some constituencies need not have to rely but work honorably to seek other ways to develop their own constituencies. The Ministry is also doing the same by seeking funds to meet the demands of constituencies in accordance to their development plans. A song was mentioned by the Ministry in implementing this part of the program. The reason for saying this is because there are critical areas the constituents must be aware of. I thank the member for raising this matter, for us to gain a chance to understand the Ministry's processes and attempts. This is not based on air, it is based on vital and useful reasons, which is why the Ministry had implemented the works of the State, so that people are equipped adequately. This is the aim as prioritized by this Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and her partners, to make aware to the country the preparations that are necessary to know in implementing our protection from the Covid-19. Although it has not reached us, the aim of the Ministry, is to prepare. Once it reaches us, people are aware of the preventative measures and the impacts of this Covid-19 virus.

Not only is this a push for our health, it is also encouraging us to do farming and vegetables to supply us food. It is work that is supporting upon the huge projects tasked by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. As witnessed nowadays, since the start of restrictions and orders, people have started to grow and develop plantations not only with manioc, cassava, taro, banana, but also growing vegetables which they can distribute to low income level families in various villages. Some live around the vicinity of the township area as well as in Salafai.

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This program further relays the message to the village chief council around the country to thoroughly consider ways to avoid the careless picking of coconuts for selling particularly the advice about the coconut tree planting.

Our country is also warned about our protection from illegal fishing of the sea cucumber, maisu and loli around our fishing zone areas. All this endeavor is for our survival whenever we are faced with difficult days, and pandemic diseases like the Covid-19. We must stay prepared and vigilant so that whenever we are faced with this virus disease, we are able to counter

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and apply preventative measures for our protection. Even the food supply should be sufficient. This program, as said by one health practitioner, that virus symptoms should be elucidated again. Everyone should prepare so that when time comes for this virus to reach us, the country is well aware and educated in all prevention strategies necessary for our safety.

One of the vital areas being revealed by the Ministry of Health and are re-emphasized presently is hand washing. The recommendation received, is the carrying out of hand washing for 20 to 40 seconds to ensure that the hands are clean. And so, singing the happy birthday song that everyone knows and is a song that all kids know and easy to sing whilst washing their hands. There is a reason for singing this song twice. It does not take 40 seconds when it is sung only once.

Therefore, we are singing this song twice to make up 40 seconds during the washing of hands. If anyone does not like this song, that is your own choice. Sing another song when washing your hands instead. Or say a prayer or recite a play. The important message here is to complete the 40 seconds which is why this birthday song was initiated in the first place.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I call the member for Faleata.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban West): Point of order, I wish to thank the Hon Minister, as it seems that this is the constituency that had brought up the song. Because there was a program that was conducted in our village and district.

I wish to thank the Ministry, I will not demean the wonderful work being done. The only advice that was given at that time, as a lot of water has gone during the singing of this song. Because when this song is sung, some drag it whilst some sing it swiftly. Then it was sung the second time, this was the advice given on that day.

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As observed today, the Hon Minister has spoken that the song is up to the person. We also received a response in accordance to our plea, we will try and sing a short song to save the water. With due respect honorable Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, the song is vital and so as water, save water.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I did not say the name of the member, the concern lies with the fact that it was a negligible

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matter put forth. They said that with the song indicated, it is aware that it is minor to be concerned with water than with life. Life is more important than water. That was the only explanation at that time. There are plentiful thoughts that must be said however, that is enough. These advices, for the sake of safety and assurance in protection of our families and children from this pandemic disease once it reaches our lands.

Not only with the stated matter, it also brings counsel and caution to avoid callous abuse and growing problems in the homes and villages, as we face these difficult times. This is reality, personally and in accordance to international reports, since the start of this virus and with the lockdown and restrictions of people to stay home. The number of suicide have been on the rise and so as violence against women and mental health. Possibly this has happened due to the lockdown of people in their homes and plenty other information regarding this situation. Already, all constituencies have been covered with this programs. Whereas for this week, the Ministry proposes to conduct and complete this program around Salafai.

Mr Speaker, then I come to the Independent Water Scheme. Works of the Ministry of Works are ongoing, which directs to the creation of independent water schemes within the villages as confirmed by the Tenders Board and the Cabinet. These works are following the recommendations of the independent water scheme society, it also follows the requests presented by the villages who requires this water scheme services.

Works on the independent water scheme is funded by the European Union which has this direct funding allocation as confirmed by the Budget of the Ministry in order to implement this job. Ongoing works is still carried out covering the water of Saaga Siumu which is currently undertaken, the same with Paia in Salafai. The Tender process is now complete. We will now move on to approve the budgets in order to implement this service. All these major undertakings follows the Policies of the State through the tender process for their implementation.

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I also advise the villages to implement these major projects with regards to the raising concerns of this House in accordance to funding being alloacted directly to them so that the independent water schemes are implemented with the intent to ensure the safety and well implementation of this work, so that drinking water is protected for the country.

For your information the financial year 2020/2021, it will end the service which is being administered by the Ministry for the development of independent water schemes, auspiciously, the works of the Independent

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Water Scheme Association will continue for this programme as implemented from the beginning.

Despite the given conditions the water association is still available to accept requests from our stakeholders for developments and also countries who are in partnership with us in areas that are in need in order to continue these developments in the future.

There is a funding allocation of about \$1.5million from the CSSP, the Civil Society Programme which I mentioned earlier through the European Union and the independent water scheme association to implement their plans for water safety plans plus other areas in need for villages who are using this water service.

So far, we have about 29 more villages under this independent water scheme out of the 34 that we used to have, therefore 5 villages have now been referred to the Samoa Water Authority from the Independent Water Scheme Association. It is up to the Village Councils which service they wish to select whether they wish to be under this independent water scheme or the Samoa Water Authority.

Nevertheless, the advice for villages, in terms of safe drinking water it is best that you seek assistance from the Water Authority for this service, to ensure that drinking water is safe for the country. There is the continuous service conducted in the villages for independent water such as water filtering so that water is safe for consumption with the advice to... when there is uncertainty with water safety, boil it before drinking. There are also normal inspections carried out to these independent water scheme by the Ministry to ensure that water is safe for drinking.

Mr Speaker, then I come to the printing service. This printing service, is one of the services that is implemented by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. This service is also available for all citizens of the country, organisations, various demoninations, private schools, public school, all Private and Public Enterprises.

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This service also uses the printing of the State's Budget which is ongoing. Electoral rolls and ballot papers, the Samoan Faalupega (chiefly title booklet) all books are compiled by the Ministry.

These are some of the most important prints of the State that is implemented by the printing service in the Ministry. They are records and information that are very critical and must be kept confidential and private during printing.

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One of the most needed service by this country is the print of Bible covers or the repairing or changing of Bible covers that have been damaged. The total number of employees that are working within this service is 26. The current printing machines are full operational except for the two digital printers stated in the Budget that are implemented to prepare electoral papers for the election in the coming year. As known, during the previous election, only the pictures of electoral candidates in the electoral rolls are coloured, however plans for the elections in the coming year will include coloured pictures of electoral candidates on electoral documents so that it is easier for voters to view the candidates they will be voting for. It is recommended that these pictures be made presentably so that the better your photo, the more voters will be attracted to you. So this is a very good activity for us.

I trust that this service is very important, and this service should be under the State, for the protection and confidentiality of information, it will greatly assist our people to meet their printing demands if this service will continue to exist.

Today, majority of the businesses and companies as well as corporations have their own printing service, since we now have advance machines, which are powerful and appropriate with the major works we have. Despite the statements made in this House saying that the house has gone bankrupt, I have already responded to it in the first place, for the clarity of this matter, I can say, that money that was projected to be collected by the Ministry for this current period is in progress, it is \$600,000. For your information, the data of the Ministry in the previous week, there is an achieved target of \$652,000. Such is the explanation I gave in the first place, our printing company is not bankrupt, and it has a surplus from the accumulated money on target for this financial year.

Mr Speaker, then I come to our chiefly title book.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko (Falealili West): Mr Speaker, just a slight chance...

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MR SPEAKER: I allow the member for Falealili West. Go ahead Aumua.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Thank you for the opportunity. I call the Hon Minister for the clarification of the raising matter I made regarding the printing house. The reason for raising this matter is because of the criticality of printing records. For our village communities whereby village rules are done, a request was put forth to the Ministry, as there was no money

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allocation for these village rules booklets that came under the *sui o nuu and sui o tamaitai*.

Another thing as I have mentioned is that this amendment on the village rule act 2017, until now there is no such act on the website. And so the rural vilages cannot access this information as fixed work has just begun for this communication network...

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, to save time, I have not yet come to that matter. Why not be patient? Stay calm.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. That is also what I was thinking about, you have stood up too fast when I have not yet come to that matter.

I call upon the Hon Minister. The papers are now mixed up due to your interruption.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I am confused about your interception, when you have the order there.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I will not tolerate another interruption until the speech of the old man is over.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Thank you. We will proceed, we are not missing any raising matter, and we shall try and go in detail and clarify for the sake of the House.

The *tusi faalupega*, just a brief recap for your information, this book was compiled in November 1990 which initially started the work of the *Komiti o le Faleula* which they were selected to do through the Ministry of Education. In the month of May 1995, the works of the Committee was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Then in 2004, the first printing of the *tusi faalupega* was made.

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In 2005, work was implemented again because there is thought that punctuation marks should be inserted, things like coma, period, exclamation marks so that the village honorifics are pronounced correctly and this is exactly right. Majority have been mistaken in their pronunciation of these punctuation marks which have made the enunciation of the village honorifics or *faalupega* incomplete in our *tusi faalupega*. Such is the work done in 2005. In 2013, there was the second print of the *tusi faalupega* which

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is available at present time. In March of this year, we gave an advertisement as reminder to the villages for their consent plus other necessary information from the court if they were available for the honorific salutations correction for the proposed printing which is yet to be completed before the end of this year.

As such, because of the virus and the SOE, the Ministry has thought, to give it time, for the village to meet and consult this matter, and make permanent decisions to be signed and be delivered to our Ministry for this Tusi Faalupega, and so we have given until the end of August for this deadline to receive any changes should there be any, and any amendments that the villages finds fitting to be made, thus all these changes must be incorporated before the end of August. Once August ends.... and if by that time the faalupega is completed such as the one we now have in our Tusi Faalupega, well it would be nice to still have the notice from the different villages themselves to inform the Ministry, that the existing honorifics or faalupega is now complete and good to go for printing when it is time to do so and achieved.

Well Mr Speaker, then I come to the matter raised by the member for Falealili, regarding our website. For the information of the House and those that raised this issue, the website has already been upgraded and all Acts and Policies will be uploaded on it so as to guide the Ministry and its service.

The assistance for the member, or members of this House and the country listening in, if there is an urgent need for a legislation that is not available on the webpage. Hard copies can be obtained from our Ministry as well as the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

These are some of the Acts with the English translations that we were able to upload on our webpage as raised by the members:

1. Ministry of Women Act Affairs Act 1990.
2. Ministry of Women's Affairs Amendment Act 2009.
3. Village Fono Act 1990.
4. Village Fono Act 2017.

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5. Internal Affairs Act 1995.
6. Internal Affairs Amendment Act 2010.
7. Family Safety Act 2013.
8. Infant Ordinace Act 1961.
9. Samoan Ietoga Samoa Antiquities Regulation 2013.

These are the Acts that are regulating the processes and works of this Ministry. Perhaps it will assist those who are unsure of this regard. Then i

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come to the honorable Speaker in regards to Sui Tamaitai o Nuu that was raised. Just a brief...

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, as I trust that we will resume when we return at 3.00pm. As of now, the constructive matter you have come to has been cut just right as we must go to a break.

And since we have arrived at our normal recess time this afternoon, I declare that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside until 3:00pm. With due respect.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended at 1:00pm and resumed at 3:07pm.

Debate resumed on the reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assemble. The work of the Assembly was set aside, while the Minister of Women was making his speech.

I call on the Hon Minister to stand and continue your speech.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, and the honourable members of this House. Thankfully the Members of Parliament have regained strength during the recess, to continue our work for this day. May God bless the remaining hours of our Assembly. Whatever time it will end, may it be successful with the help of the Almighty Father.

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Mr Speaker, before our recess, my speech was concerning the issues on the representative for women. As raised by some of the members of Parliament. I will make statement on this matter. I have also already explained to some members that raised this issue before the Cabinet responses had begun.

But it would be better to clarify further so that this House and the public are aware of the role of this Ministry.

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The appointment of village women is provided for under the Principle Act, the Women’s Affairs 1990 and the Ministry’s Women’s Affairs Amendment Act 2009. So for Section 16a (1), of the Women’s Affairs Amendment Act 2009, states *“There should be a female village representative for each founding village in Samoa. The female representative must be nominated by the Women’s Committee, and she must also be a member of the Women’s Committee. This decision shall be approved by the village fono, in written form through the village representative”*.

The Ministry is now working together with the Office of the Attorney General to review some parts of the Act that needs to encourage the establishment of a Women’s Committee within every village, so they can be eligible to become female representative of the village. Because it is clearly stated under the Act, a representative is chosen by the Women’s Committee and then given to the Village Council for their approval. In the event that there is no Women’s Committee in a village, then this village should not be eligible for a female representative of the village in accordance with the Act. And these efforts are underway and are being encouraged, as we are also working together with village representatives, to coordinate the women of the village to establish a Committee. In addition, the Office of the Attorney General was consulted to look at a way to give equal recognition to the Women’s Committee and the women’s representative in each village. Because of this situation, as it is not stated in the Act, the number of women eligible for a Women’s Committee, to elect a female representative of the village.

For example, there were some Women’s Committees that stated, “We have a Women’s Committee, and we will elect our representative”, but when we investigated them, they only had 7 or 8 women members which were in their Committee. But when we examined other Committees, they have 40 women members within these Committees. And so the Ministry is currently looking at a way to standardize it, so that these conditions can be included in the Act and become official.

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Therefore, the Ministry is working with the Office of the Attorney General, to review the areas of the Act to encourage the existence of Women’s Committees in all the villages of the country. The aim is to include any women in the village on the Women’s Committee. So that their contributions to the developments being implemented in the community are

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being recognized. In addition, it is to ensure, that all women are included in developments that benefit and include all members of the community.

This is the objective, so that the village has one main Committee, which will be responsible for developments including health and hygiene developments. Economic development like handicrafts, food developments which include inspections of fruit plantations, developments for the protection of women and children, and those who have permanent health risks from any form of violence, as well as other developments for the welfare of all women in the community. It has been observed at the moment, as there are many other women's organizations that have emerged within the communities because they have needs. As we have already heard, these are the women who are said to be ignored in some communities. So this is the response to the needs of these women.

Our Ministry strives to create one body where all the communities work together, with the presence of all women the villages and our country, within each community. The process of registering the members of Women's Committees in all villages has now begun, in order to assess whether a village is eligible to elect a village female representative. The Ministry conducted an inspection and found that as a result of the Ministry's research, the number of Women's Committees on the island of Salafai is 84. The total number of Women's Committees in Upolu is 119. However, the total number of villages in Upolu is 114, so there are more Committees than villages. That means that there are villages with 2 Women's Committees, and that is not a bad thing. It is a good thing as it will organize women because there are some with 4 or 5 sub-villages.

If each sub-village has a Committee, and in Savaii there are 85 villages, that is the total number of villages, but our Ministry is looking at ways of balancing these things, that is the state of these weaving committees. Because if each Women's Committee has a weaving committee, the Government would encourage this development, as it is an important heritage, to empower women to work.

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Look at the many successes of this... the wealth that we are receiving from this has been mentioned multiple times within this House. In addition to the rich heritage that our country cherishes and is proud of, but the financial economy to sustain families, as we receive tremendous benefits from our

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Samoan traditional fine mats. And we are still trying to encourage the establishment of a weaving committee within each Women's Committee.

That is the intention, as our Ministry is looking to inspire and encourage women to attend a weaving committee. They should also participate in work regarding health and hygiene, as well as taking care of the environment to keep it clean, and the beautification of the community. Work associated with women is orderly and efficient, if the women within a community work together. Government representatives for non-traditional villages are often selected from the various churches located in these areas or settlements, because there are no communities like the traditional villages. It is still possible to elect a male or female representative, depending on the person chosen by the congregation, as there... because the congregations are well organized within these settlements, which are non-traditional settlements. So they are given the privilege to choose their representatives, and there is a practice in these villages, as every church within these non-traditional villages takes turns in choosing their candidate to become a representative of the Government. So the Government representatives in these positions, does not have to be only a male, it can either be a male or female.

But this is what our Ministry is trying to do with the hope that the day will come when the Ministry can come up with a way to implement it. Because it is not easy to see the vast number of women in these communities, that do not have a Women's Committee, which makes them ineligible, to appoint a women's representative, and they will also be unqualified to weave the Samoan traditional fine mats. It also disentitles them from other benefits, which are available to women who have a steadfast and efficient Committee.

For example, there are 67 non-traditional villages which are in our country. And the total population or the amount of residents in these communities is 46,109. See how many women are in these communities. Suppose half of the women, half of this population is women, over 20,000 women who are in these villages that do not have access to the service that we want all women in Samoa to be entitled to. That is what we are trying to achieve, perhaps this is not the exact number of the weaving rally, as there are no weaving rallies in these villages, as they are non-traditional villages. Because of the restrictions and limitations used to conduct our work.

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But now the Ministry has started working, to ensure that all women are included in the Ministry's plan and then the goal will be achieved, and this Ministry will be known as the Ministry of Women.

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Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, can I get a small opportunity.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker, before the member's time is not wasted. He did not make a speech on the issues that I am stating. I have already responded to his speech. He made a speech about the guidelines which I have already answered his question. He stated the song, I have already replied to the song. So I do not know why he is up standing again.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: The Hon Minister is talking about the guidelines, and these are guidelines that include all the things in which he is addressing. But I just want to express the spirit of gratitude to the Hon Minister, thank you for these guidelines for the women representatives of villages, as well as the mayors. But I ask Hon Minister to scrutinize this, as most of the women in this village do not vote in these constituencies. This is the effect that I want to convey to the Hon Minister, if it is possible to establish conditions, provided that she is a female representative or a representative of the Government in the constituency in which she resides. They have to vote within this constituency, because there are others, they are chosen as female representatives in this village, but they are voting in a different village. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: It has been noted.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: It seems that the member is confused. Women and guidelines are very different. Women are not politics, and the Government's plans that are being implemented are not political, it is all done for the women. Whether you vote or not, all women are equal in the eyes of our committee. As I also mentioned the other day in here. When you want to make sure no woman or mother is left behind. That is the intention in which we are trying to fulfill, but that does not mean that we scrutinize on whether they vote or not, no, politics should be set aside. It is not included in the plans that we are making.

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Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, there is nothing political being stated here.

The intention that I am striving for, is that if the women representative lives within constituency, as a representative of a village, they must vote within

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that same village. This is because it is not possible to give the funds, or the money that is allocated by the Ministry to pay these representatives, but they are voting in a different constituency. Mr Speaker, this is the order, but there is no politics, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister has noted your advice, and I call on the Hon Minister for Women to stand.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Thank you as the matter is clarified and it has been made clear, Vini and Tapaga are not dealing with the issue raised by the member and the extent to which you are explaining. And so I will continue my responsive speech. Mr Speaker, it is still possible to elect a candidate or a female candidate, depending on whom is unanimously chosen by the church. And one who can undoubtedly bear the duties of the Government, and this will also serve as a recommendation to be delivered in a humble way.

But the goal of our Ministry for the village representatives and the female representatives for the villages and communities that are listening, please elect candidates that work, chose candidates who can traverse the forest and connect the families living on the farms. And be aware of their responsibilities of this task as well. It is a very important role, but it is noted, that there are some young female representatives and village representatives, who are unable to walk 100 yards, as they have become elderly and crippled. And yet, the responsibility is up to our communities and villages, but it is only a suggestion and advice to be set by your side to look at for the future.

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the Minister, as the Hon Deputy Prime Minister is upstanding. I call on the Hon Deputy Prime Minister to stand.

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Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. It is noteworthy that the Hon Minister is concluding his speech on this important issue of women's representation in the work of community

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transformation. The presentation is very important, based on the policies and perspective of the Government but I am upstanding Mr Speaker.

I would like to set this issue beside the Hon Minister and the Ministry, to support this scheme, and to coordinate these plans. But it was interesting listening to the speech by the Hon Minister, with the word Committee. The word Committee, it is not a Samoan word, it is an English word. And it was used when the Government programs started, in the field of Health. This was then applied to other important developments, but what I want to propose to the Hon Minister. The settlement of communities and villages, based in the title of the matai, concerning young women and wives, wives of orators and chiefs, as well as the untitled men and the strength of the village. It is the foundation of our communities

I have a concern from a feminine point of view, such as when we talk about the female gender, because it seems like we do not value the constitution of the village and the existence of the church minister's wife, orator's wife and women. As it would seem, these things are being implemented because of an ongoing program by either the Government or some other Organization. But it seems that the foundation is lost, as there are gatherings of these bebies within our villages. And in fact, Hon Minister, thank you for pointing out the amount of Committees there are in Upolu and Savaii. It is also undoubtedly stated in that report, the villages that has large committees and which villages have smaller committees. But that same question is always raised, what has happened to the gathering of these bebies in our country? We never question the gathering of the titled men and dignitaries. That is the foundation of strength, as we can say, the men's committee will work on the plantations, or fishing, or other responsibilities designated for men. This is always on my mind, thus why the statement by the Hon Minister is important to me, and we rarely talk about these kinds of issues.

But I pray to the Hon Minister and the Ministry, to take a look at this foundation. This is the root foundation, which includes the gathering of your wives, who are the guardians of these gatherings and your daughters. Because on the other hand, when we look at the villages, we can see the authority of the village council.

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But when we look at the gathering of women, it is like we see them in a different perspective. These are the other constitutional entities of Samoan villages, the assembly of wives and female caregivers. That is the only advice to be given to the Hon Minister.

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MR SPEAKER: To save the Minister's time, I call on the member for Faleata West to stand.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Since the Hon Deputy Prime Minister addressed the traditional villages, in particular. The issue that I stated in my speech was the issue of women representatives of urban communities, because it is something that needs to be done. This is the important matter that was stated by the Minister and these words were consistently uttered. No one is left behind, it is inclusive. But since the Hon Minister has said that the time is near. So I do not understand how close that time is coming. Remember also that the millions of dollars in the budget are for the Sanitation Committee. This means that these women miss out on this. I also saw the paper yesterday, as about 2+ million is distributed to other committees.

Because another thing is Hon Minister, to examine, as many of the foreign aid are going into these Committees and Non-Governmental Organisations that are being established. Especially in the case of married women, as they should all be included under the supervision of the Government, and also the Government should be the ones to allocate money to these things. There is a lot of foreign aid being given, but they are allocated all over the place to these things, as it should only be received by one body, and there has to be only one Women's Committee. The Minister and I also grew up nearby the urban areas, though it is true that there were no Women's Committees in those days, but there were committees for women to administrate immunizations to children, and such things. But keep in mind, no matter how soon, I am grateful that you have spoken about this. Whatever time it will be implemented, because it has been made easy, now that we have village representatives, why not include the women.

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the Hon Minister, as I call on the member for Aiga I le Tai.

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Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki: Thank you, it was mentioned in the speech by this constituency, issues concerning our Committees. It is with the highest spirits, I ask that our Governments contribution be also directed to these groups. This village, it is true that it is located in the rural areas, but

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the whole of Upolu is inhabited by Manono, till this day it is not known as a traditional village. That is why it was mentioned in the application. On the other hand, hopefully the Government is awaiting our opinions. But the other thing I would like to ask about, as it was stated in the report, as it seems that it depends on the time available when most of these reports are given, it is mostly on Upolu and Savaii. It appears like they always by-pass Apolima-tai and Manono-tai. But there are also committees that register from these islands and are included in our reports please.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Examine this, as this should not happen. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 to stand.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to urgently express my opinion on the issue I had raised earlier in regards to the village representatives. In my constituency, there are two large villages, Sapapalii and Fusi. Sapapalii has 3 different villages, and they have 2 mayors and one female representative. For Fusi, they have a *falefa*, and they also have 2 mayors and one female representative. The guideline that has been provided is very good and especially with the current state of the work of the honourable members and village representatives, that is the request that has been submitted. I implore the Hon Minister, to look at this situation, to balance out mayors because villages and women's committees work together. With all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call on the Hon Minister to stand, please remember the situation as... Fasitoo has 4 sub-districts, with 2 mayors and 1 female representative, yes, but they are large villages as after the creation of Adam and Eve, Fasitoo was built. Look into this when you have the opportunity. I call on the Hon Minister to stand and continue his speech.

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Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Congratulations and thank you. Well, I have already noted down the names of those who spoke, and I am responding to those who stated the issues that I am currently talking

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about. So issues that are different, they will be prepared for our next Assembly, including the issue stated by Mr Speaker.

But I would like to give a brief response, according to the statement made by the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, her advice is important to me, but the areas that are being prioritised by our Ministry, is the English word, the inclusivity of all women within the women's administration, otherwise it should not be called the Ministry of Women, if there is a fraction of women involved, but there are also others. Therefore, in my opinion, the statement made by the Hon Deputy Prime Minister is important, as it has created opinions for the Ministry that is responsible for our Culture, if it was included in the culture, but the Ministry is trying to accommodate and reconcile the culture with the need and the inclusivity and then the body of Vaatausili will be complete. However, the Ministry is still following the mandate, to include all the women in the plans that our Government can offer for the benefit of all our women.

It will be arranged, perhaps in due time this House will make its decision on it, whether to change the name of the Ministry or to add more Acts to be carried out by the Ministry, and then our Ministry will obey and comply with the Acts that guides its services.

Mr Speaker, there was an issue raised, which is not connected to our Ministry, but since it was linked in the end to our Ministry, so I will help point out the Ministry to which this matter should be directly addressed to.

The case regarding the hibiscus fence that stands beside the road. My simple response to this is, that is not our responsibility, as there are already people, who manage the lands along our roads, and there are also Ministries that look after Government lands that are supposed to be on the road, but it is true, these things are an eye-sore. They are aware that their gardens are growing too close to the road, yet they continue to plant them along the roads. There are also people from the East, within the newly garnish ditches, and they would use it to grow taro-tops, shrubs, hibiscuses and other plants. I do not know the cause of such things. Even though they are aware that these trenches have already been prepared for the safety of the roads, but that is how it is, and it is a weakness which affects our country and it should be examined and improved.

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And so my recommendation, as the Hon Minister of Public Works of the Government is listening, as they are the ones who are looking at these areas

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to safeguard and to ensure that Government lands that have been identified and planned for our roads are not damaged.

Nevertheless, we will leave it aside for perhaps another time, if the name of the Ministry will be changed and whether there is additional Legislations to legislate the Ministry, then compliance will be followed by the Ministry in accordance to the Legislations that will guide its service.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say a few words to my other constituency. Even though the constituency has been divided, but it is still the same district of Aana Alofi No.1 East and West. Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to respectfully address the devotion of my constituency and all its honorific salutations. These are the sanctities that remain, and they cannot be diminished, but I am thankful for your support, as this is the last Budget for this Parliamentary Term, and the work for this past 5 years are coming to an end.

Whatever the efforts of your member in terms of taking on the duties of the seat of our constituency, it was done to the best of my abilities, in collaboration with the Government, as we carefully arranged the planning and the availability of funds to implement our needs. This is the allocation by our Government, as well as those designated for the distribution of funds from time to time.

But I am grateful for this year and this Parliamentary Term, as our Government has made a significant contribution for our constituencies. As you can see, perhaps by the end of this week or the beginning of next week we will officially open our water source in Sapulu. We have worked on this water source for 2 Parliamentary Terms now, and the beginning was not easy, because in the previous Parliamentary Term, the water circulation halted as the reed was broken, and so another reed was requested because the location was too low, so they we tried to move it far inland so that the water is kept fresh. And the location in which the water is being circulated is quite deep and it eventually damaged the machine, and so it was acceptable. That is why this work was delayed. The circulation was complete, however only the families that are near the coast benefitted as the water did not reach the families that lived inland, so our Government is working on building a tank inland, to pump water from our wells and then distribute it to the families that live inland of the well.

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These things are not cheap, as if it is combined, the water excavation project, the tank construction project, the pipeline project to redistribute

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water, it is not easy. So the total cost of the water project is \$3.6 million. This is a huge amount of money considering the large number of constituencies that are also applying for this same benefit, but our Government is still struggling to allocate the funds.

In addition, the road in Sapulu which leads inland to Aleisa, as we now have a plan that have been set up, this year before the end of this Parliamentary Term, to work on our road from the village of Sapulu to the inlands of Aleisa.

Mr Speaker, it has been seen in the past the state of turmoil faced by our constituencies because of our school buildings, and so we have witnessed the magnitude and importance of this plan. It was evident, in the very speech that was made by the Hon Prime Minister for the inauguration of the school building in Moamoa, and our village is the only village with two secondary schools. We have broken the Act which was used by the Government to allocate funds. What has happen now?

All the schools are full, the school in Sapulu is full, and the school in Moamoa is full, as there are up to 400 students in one school. Were it not for the plan to build this school, we would be searching for other schools for our children to attend because our schools are full. However, no one knows what the future holds, only God knows what is to come, and we work with the hope that it will be so. Our village also has its own access roads, the road at Tauoo, the road at Moamoa, the road for Lealalii, the Sapulu road because it is connected to Aleisa, and it is still being maintained by our Government. Well, those are the benefits and some other benefits that could not be stated, but nothing is hidden from the sight of our Almighty, because you cannot hide a chick, as it will cry continuously.

Bless your devotion Samoa, thank you for your prayers, thank you for your support, may we have a very successful journey towards the end of this year.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, there is just something I want to understand from the speech by the Hon Minister. An honourable member mentioned the plantations and the hibiscus fences that are constructed along the road.

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I would like to know where, but it should be corrected, as they should make a request to the Ministry of Works, because the statement made by the

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Minister is correct, hibiscus fences and plantations do not equate. But the Ministry is right, once the taro is pulled out, they should be used. With all due respect.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, there is something I want to correct as it cannot be set aside because the constituency is listening, the misprint that is being given to the constituencies that have already prepared their guidelines and have announced it, this also includes the constituency of Vaisigano No.1, they have already prepared and publicized their guidelines which I forgot to mention in my previous statement, it is also the same for the constituency of Falealili No.2, as their guideline has already been prepared but it is yet to be announced.

It is the same for Palauli No.3, no, it is Palauli No.2 which has not yet finalized their guideline, but Palauli No.3 has completed their guideline before it was announced.

This is the revelation Mr Speaker, to correct some issues that were stated. With all due respect.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Mr Speaker, there is something I want to correct, Falealili No.2 has been completed, while Falealili No.1 have finished their preparations but have yet to publicize. But the Minister said that...

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The Ministry will look into that matter, but thankfully the Hon Ministry's speech has concluded.

I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I am upstanding again because the constituency is unique, as we have a song; I want to be like Falealili. But if there are any issues regarding this matter, it is not a failure of a constituency, we still have time to analyse and revise, to straighten it out for when the time comes these documents and records will then be submitted, but thank you to the member for his assistance. With all due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Well, that is the reason why the Hon Minister of Works was upstanding, the way from Vaimauga going towards Fagalii there are hibiscus hedges that are closely built near the road... That is the situation.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: It is better if the member for Safata were to stand, as he was the one who mentioned these hibiscus hedges. Please explain your hibiscus hedges.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini (Safata): Mr Speaker since I was the one who brought up this issue. No, this is the general view when traveling within the town area especially the constituency of Vaimauga that was mentioned by Mr Speaker. It was generalized because the roads are used by the public to travel. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Health is important, but the hibiscus hedge is not important to determine where it is grown. That is the reason Vaimauga was mentioned...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, since this constituency was mentioned.

MR SPEAKER: Well that is the native of Fagalii who is like that.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Perhaps since it has been heard by this constituency, maybe they will implement these conditions. The Hon Minister of Transport is also required to give monetary compensation to the families affected by these circumstances, but the issues concerning the hibiscus hedges will be dealt with for the public traveling.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, the voice of the hon member will be.... Oh I call upon the Hon Minister Afioga Papalii.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, the speech by my fellow Minister this morning is very good, now the honourable member has spoken again on the assistance of the Government. The statement that was made is good, do something for your country and do not only rely on the Government to do it. Trimming the hedges properly does not cost any money. With all due respect Mr Speaker.

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MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you. Let Apulu Toleafoa be the voice to express thanks on behalf of the constituency of Aana to thank and congratulate the Hon Minister for Women for your wonderful speech and your inclusion of this constituency, as such. Like the words of the country, *ua malie mata e vaai, ua malie taliga e faalogo*. The words also used to address Gods, *ua se togi le seuga lagatila ua faapulou le tualima, ua faamalo le fai o le faiva*. The prayer of the constituency to God, if you will not be participating in the race, may God grant another warrior candidate like you, yes, to bear the seat of the constituency, but if you are still strong enough, your seat can never be removed because you are a warrior of the constituency. Thank you. As the constituency listens, it is Apulu who is offering gratitude on behalf of our district. May there be another member elected.

Well, it is now the opportunity for the Hon Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour. Well, I call upon the member.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker. I thought that we will resume our discussions on general issues, thank you for the opportunity.

Before the member for Satuipaita speaks, I would like to address the lands of Tiafau, the land of the Government, the lands for the *faalelegafulu* of Samoa; it is also the lands for the *faautugatagi* of the country.

I acknowledge this House, with the presence of the Hon Speaker, the attendance of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister as well as the Cabinet. I also acknowledge the Hon Associate Ministers. I also salute that side with the presence of the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and the members of the Committees, as well as all the members of this House.

I also address the triangle of Government, with the presence of the Hon Chief Justice, and the men and women of the Judiciary. I also pay tribute to the kings and nobles of our country who lead the Ministries of our Government, Deputy Leaders, those who are at the forefront of implementing developments for our benefit.

I also acknowledge the support of Samoa, with the presence of His Highness the Head of State and your Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and your wife, and also the devotion of the Gospel on the many altars in Samoa as you are worried and anxious for the welfare of Samoa and its people.

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Not to be forgotten is the devotion from the homes of “*Aiga o Tupu, Aifa o Nofo, aiga sa tufalaia ma tafalatoa, a o loo silataufao mai foi le mamalu I le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga I le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*”.

I also pay tribute to our brothers and sisters from the east, with the presence of Your Excellency the Governor General and your Good Lady, and also the attendance of the Hon Speaker and the two Houses, as they are sacred to Sua and Vaifanua, Fofu and Aitulagi, Saole and the glory of Launiu na Saelua. The attendance of Your Excellency Laau na Amotasi, Faatui o le Motu, and Tootoo o le Faleula, and words to you Manuatele. These are the sanctities of Western Samoa and Eastern Samoa.

At dawn at Saua the house of the lady of Alataua I Agalega is then illuminated. Mr Speaker, I will address my constituency near the end of my speech.

But I stand at this hour to talk about the progress of issues raised by the honourable members of the House regarding some Ministries that are under my supervision, and I will endeavour to answer it in its entirety, except for certain matters raised by the members and then I will consider it in detail.

For the information of this House, there are 9 Ministries under my private control or direct responsibility. And these are all the Ministries, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the Ministry of Public Enterprises, Government Housing Corporation, Government Land Corporation, our Office of Sports and Betting, the Development Office of our small businesses or the Samoa Business Hub, the Accident Compensation Corporation or ACC, our Housing and Recreation Corporation and our Airlines. Some of these Ministries were mentioned in the speeches by the members but I will try to address some of these issues.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the mission of this Ministry is, to create a conducive and advantageous environment for business development and increasing employment opportunities. That is the goal. So how do we get this job done to achieve this goal? Everything in this Ministry is very broad and complex, but that is the purpose. Good businesses and job opportunities.

There are 3 key divisions within the Ministry that work to achieve this mission. Section 1: Develop the Private Sector and develop encourage investment, foreign investment.

Section 2: Encourage industry productivity and fair trade to ensure healthy and a competitive market.

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And third, increase employment opportunities for Samoans in a safe, healthy environment for employers and employees. So these are the 3 sections that are working to achieve the mission I mentioned earlier. So what are the actions of the Ministry, done by the Government and then transferred to the Ministry that encourages our private sector to invest well?

There are many departments of our Ministry that are working with our private sector to ensure that all of our Private Businesses are granted opportunities to development their businesses, with the assistance of the Government, to achieve results that they wanted. These are the results they will achieve if they receive assistance from the Government. There are ways to work together in policy making and such things, but there is also direct Government assistance to the private sector. For example, we have an annual grant of \$200,000 given to Corporations, Association of Entrepreneurs, to assist them in the smooth running of the operations, administration, of their Ministry. It starts with \$50,000, to all the Ministries that have achieved all the standards, your Ministries are suffering, as they are known as small associations, they receive \$4,000 or \$5,000 every year, and the money is placed directly in their hands.

The Ministry will then follow up to investigate whether the funds have used effectively for the purposes for which it was requested. We also have other Government assistance, which also have a program called Code 121. To help other businesses that are not able to reach the main standards, but they are still trying, they have a total capital that their business has to achieve in a year and then they are qualified for these grants, they are under the umbrella of assistance which is known as Code 121. There is also assistance to be sent directly to duty, the duty concession which is specifically for private businesses that want to conduct businesses in improving the tourism industry in the country. This is one of the assistance that is being provided by this Ministry. This is to develop the private businesses within the Private Sector.

There is also other assistance that another member spoke of, like the assist given to small businesses, or the micro business. It was funded and operated by the SBEC division, Small Business Enterprise Centre. It is now called the Samoa Business Hub because it no longer deals with only small businesses, it also includes medium businesses, it is no longer Small Business, but now it is known as Micro Small Medium Enterprises or MSMEs.

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This funding is jointly funded by our Government and the Government of New Zealand. This reform was also done last year, but the circumstances are different, it has included medium businesses, which has now been replaced by Samoa Business Hub. A member asked about the process of the assistance that is being given to our small businesses, and why it does not follow the approach taken by the Development Bank.

A short response, this process used being used by the small businesses is better than the approach used by the Development Bank. There is a change, as the system they are using is what we used as a sample. It provides assistance for minor groups, who have micro businesses. The amount is \$10,000, as there is a section to guarantee the loan for these small groups.

The desire is to make these funds easily available to the people, or easy access to finance. So this section is working on it, as up to \$10,000 can be guaranteed by them to insure what has been done. It is also simple, as it can now be done over the cell phone, the MTala. It sent to the phone and then you can go and withdraw the money there. These people, they have already been investigated by this group, it is not given lightly. Simply put, those in Savaii do not need to come all the way from Savaii to receive the money here, the money will be sent over the cell phone, and then it can be used.

There are other groups above, these groups that receive more than \$10,000, it is also easier for the Business Hub to guarantee them, which is above from... 80% to guarantee these groups and 20% is guaranteed by the person. It has been made easy, as we work together with the Development Bank and other banks of our Government. That is one of the direct assistance of our Government in the effort to develop our private sector. In terms of investment, we are still working on it, so that in the eyes of foreigners, Samoa is a favourable environment for entrepreneurship. The Acts are good, they conduct their duties well, it is understandable and everything is transparent, everything is easy to encourage foreigners to come and invest in Samoa, so the Ministry is making an effort, to pull them into our country, to establish their businesses. Because there are a lot of investments, this will also provide more jobs for our people. That is also part of our goal. The Private Sector should be big enough to drive their businesses, as they are employing our people. Foreigners come into our country and establish their major businesses here, who benefits from it? Our employees are the ones that benefit. It generates income, as I have stated. To sustain communities and families and churches, but it also develops our Government.

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The other thing is we try to create fair competition. That is one important property of this Ministry. Letting the entrepreneurs know, these things are consistent, like a field where everyone will be playing on. The Ministry is also striving to ensure that no one plays from here, while others are from more advantageous positions, it should be a level playing field. There should be equal opportunity for business owners to compete for the market, to compete for consumers, they receive their shares, but the consumers are also happy.

That is one thing that has been done to make the competition fair. We also had an Act known as the Consumer and Competition Act, which was great. It was also the desire of that group, for those who own products to compete amongst themselves but also beneficial for consumers. That was the purpose for these things, because no one wants to compete for consumers but they increase the price of their products. If it is known that sugar sacks are being sold here for \$5, the opposition cannot increase the cost of their sugar sacks to \$7, as no one would buy it. So that was the idea behind this competition. For the time being, it is being set aside for essential goods. When the virus transpired, perhaps we have seen with other countries overseas, when the virus broke out; everyone panicked and rushed to the shops to buy goods, as you all know there were products that were bought in large quantities by the Australian people, and we do not know why they bought so many goods. They were panic buying, which seems to be happening here as well, and the prices of products which were affordable for the public were made expensive. Products like sugar, salt, rice, flour, herring, and so the Government decided to repeal the Competition Act, and enforce Price Control.

We are still using it now, as this is also part of trying to create a fair and healthy competition. There are people who carry out inspections on the prices of goods. And other areas that should be enforced for shops, as these things were questioned by some of the members. And I assure you that the Ministry is doing its job faithfully. There is no room for negligence, but the only request is that we inform the customers, as Samoa is listening, for I already spoke on this issue before. If you are aware of a shop that is in violation of the costs of goods and other conditions, you need to notify the Salelologa Office and the Office in Apia, as the Ministry has an idea, a free dial line will be created so that people can use, perhaps that is why other stores continue to violate the Acts, because people do not have credit to call and report them.

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The old man cannot call because he does not have credit, and this process continues. So there is going to a change, to help monitor the compliance of people with the conditions that have been given, so that our games are equally played. The competition should be fair, and the competition should be healthy using the appropriate prices for products, to create a service which will entice people. To increase products so that it can be sold to the people. For the report on the investigation that was conducted in March, that started at the end of December to March. 438 stores were inspected. It was not only for small shops, every shop and everything related to goods was inspected. There were 131 in Upolu and 307 for Savaii.

The following things were inspected, the displaying of the price of the goods on the goods. Having a receipt book, because that is one thing used by owners to trick consumers, they temper with the scale. As they are given a product that is less than a kilo but they temper it and it goes for the prices of a one kilo. These are all the things inspected by the Ministry so that everything that is used is proper. Let no one be deceitful. And use kilograms to measure, because we no longer use pounds. The rate of compliance in Savaii is 82%, 90% for receipts, and 92% for product rates. For Upolu it is 86% for the cost, 87%, 99%, 97%, these are not small percentages. There are a lot of people who are complying with what we set out. But there is always something missing, and there is always a mistake. There are some stores that we have missed, and another thing is, after the inspection is done in the morning, they will then return everything back to what it was before. We cannot do inspection continuously as we do not have anyone to supervise these stores for 24 hours. We rely on the customers, as they have to notify the Ministry about the stores that are sell overpriced goods. The list provided by your Ministry is not attached, for it does not include the price of the goods. That is what we need. And so, we will now have this free dial line, use it to call us.

Also for Savaii, call the office there and report the name of the store, and then the Ministry will come to inspect as that is the only way we can deal with this issue. We all have our uses in dealing with this matter. As they would report it to the honourable member, and then the member would then bring it in here, but there are people there who deals with these things. The onus is on the customer. It should be reported, so that we can note down the problem.

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In terms of the increase of employment opportunities, as I have stated, jobs will be provided for our people, to encourage the Private Sector, to encourage our foreign investors, to facilitate the entry of people. We also have groups of people that have been employed in the seasonal employment scheme, which has grown with 3,000 working opportunities. As 3,000 of our people who were unemployed before were now given jobs.

This is a very useful approach which is being encouraged by this Ministry. Not only apple-picking but there are other jobs as well. There are opportunities for carpenters to work in New Zealand for 3 years. That is also a different scheme, as butchery is different from the fruit pickers. It is the same for Australia, as the Seasonal Work Scheme is different from the Pacific Labour Scheme. There are able to work for 3 years and can be extended to 5 years to work at hotels. There are also butchers who can work for 3 years. There are plenty of job opportunities, but they are in need of our people, why? They are strong, they work well, and they behave well, as they were properly disciplined here before they were sent over. Untitled men and dignitaries were drawn to testify that the people of their villages that are going are good people.

It is not something that you can just carelessly select anyone to go and earn money, because if one of them causes a problem, it will affect their whole village. And they will never get another chance. So now they understand that there will not be any more opportunities given to them. So when they leave for work, they are fully aware, and this produces quality performance. And now that the virus has escalated, the Government is currently trying to bring them all back, because no one had anticipated that the situation would intensify. We expected a lot of available work these days, with the virus outbreak, and the looming winter season, as there are other different jobs to be done in New Zealand, but the weather has changed dramatically. There are different jobs to do in the summer, which is also different from the work of pruning these trees. So it is common for many of the people that work in the winter, doing these type of work, such as picking apples and picking other fruits and vegetables, which is why our people are needed.

As a result, many of our people are unable to acquire jobs as planned. It was expected that they will all get jobs. However, the futia and umele were not in harmony. Many New Zealanders have also lost their jobs due to the virus. So now they are looking for work at the farms which we were supposed to work at. It is true that the pack packers have left but numerous New Zealanders are now looking for work.

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The New Zealand Government have prioritised its own people, when it comes to these things. So now our Government is trying to bring our children and grandchildren back home. As Samoa is listening, I offer my guidance, do not worry, our children are safe in those countries, they are also being assisted by those who worked and are now living there permanently. The New Zealand Government has also offered their shoulder of assistance to find a way to help our children with repatriation. At this moment, their repatriation is underway. No one expected the virus to become this severe, but the Government is still conducting its work, as there is continuous communications with this Ministry to make sure none of us is affected, and it is safe, but that is the situation as we have started to transport them back.

In attempts to find employment, there are jobs that must be prioritized in order to improve the proficiency. For you information, regarding the apple pickers, our Government has a desire, as New Zealand are also aware of it, to return these workers who have gained knowledge and skills, whether they know how to drive trucks and tractors, or they either have skills and a license to operate these machines. They are aware of all of these conditions, as they are also doing it, to bring back some of our people who have gained some knowledge, instead of only focusing on being an apple picker until the day they return. Our Government is working; perhaps there are villages and communities that have people with superior knowledge than these returning men.

This is part of educating our children, which is under the main goal of MCIL, to provide employment opportunities for our people. These are also the areas that are highly valued by our Government for the development of Samoa. The Strategy for the Development of Samoa is to focus on the improvement of our skills in various professions. There is no argument to be made in this regard, because not everyone will choose to become lawyers, not everyone will aim to be doctors, nor will they all become auditors, or chose to be scientists. It is all a part of God's plan. There are those who are skilled in education, academically gifted. They can achieve advanced levels of education which can lead them to these professions. It is a good thing, but there are also those who are not academically gifted, as I have said it is the work of the Almighty God. To ensure that every there is a balance between the citizens of a country.

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This is what I always say when I attend graduation for apprentices. No matter how extravagant a lawyer's vehicle looks, but they are unable to turn it on in the morning, his laws skills will not be able to start the car, unless he calls the mechanic, to send an engineer that can easily start the car. At a doctor's house, there is plumbing problems as the pipes are leaking, while the doctor is sound asleep because he does not know how to fix it. And when morning comes he calls the plumber to come and fix the plumbing problem. Those are the skills that our country wants to develop, the various vocational skills. That is why we are encouraging our Government's apprenticeship program. 50% of the apprenticeship fee is paid by the Government, 30% is paid by the employer. While 20% is paid by the apprentice.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo to stand.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: I noted that the honourable Minister has stated the doctor, but the doctor beside you is fluttering his eyes, your brother Tuitama. I am uncertain, perhaps I am interrupting, but what if Tuitama were to state that he is also a skilled plumber. I just want to offer some assistance, which is why I feel sympathy towards your speech. As the doctor sitting beside you is blinking constantly, with all due respect.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: The meaning of what I said is, for doctors who have not yet reached the age of 60, but these elderly men are veterans of various professions. No, these are words of comparison, words of contrast to showcase the importance of what the Government is trying to do. We have these high-rise buildings, so we also need electricians. We should also have welders, plumbers, all these developments in the country. We should also have engineers, auto-body painters, home appliance repairman, and an air-conditioner repairman. Because nowadays, when I was growing up with these air-conditioners. There was only one store that had an air-conditioner, only Makesi's store. But now, I believe that each and every one of us has an air-conditioner. The development of Samoa as of now, we each have our own air-conditioner. So we have to have people who know how to fix these things, if not, then we will have to bring our people from overseas.

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But that is the development that our Government is enthusiastic about, the development of infrastructures and people to operate these things. Let us not rely on people from overseas.

There was a member stated the issue on apprenticeship, such as the grade test 2 and 1. It is important, this thing known as a grade test is for students who have achieved Form 5, and then they are able to apply for work in this field. They will then work in the auto-shop, wiping the oil leaks and learning how to fix vehicles. This process continues until he becomes proficient, and after over a year of working there and they will desire to continue working in that field. That is one way to get an apprenticeship. When they pass the grade 2 test, because grade 2 comes first, and then grade 1 before they can be eligible to go year 3 and year 4 of this apprenticeship. This does not mean that it is limited to 1 or 2. There is a desire that after they pass these tests, and then they will move to attend apprentice official, which is being taught at the National University of Samoa. That is the assistance for these students, because there are 2 ways to get an apprenticeship, either they graduate from the NUS under the Pre Apprentice Scheme for schools, or passing through the various vocational institutions that we have now, like Don Bosco, Punaoa and other existing Technical Institutes. Once they graduate from these institutes, and then they will qualify for the Apprenticeship Scheme. But for those who were unable to achieve this, the few students who drop out of school, but are still active. But they still want to work in this field, so even if they work as a pipe carrier for a plumbing company, and they are seen as eager to learn the basics of plumbing. The employer can then submit his name to the committee for review. If the student is passionate, this is a good opportunity for him or her. When he passes his grade 2 and grade 1, and then he will move up to year 3 and year 4, and then he will receive his certificate.

So if the Ministry were to give this student the grade 1 and grade 2 certificate, but they do not encourage them to continue the apprenticeship, then that is their loss, because it will mean that the students skills will be utilized in areas that he has yet to experience, like being given work that should be done by veteran electricians. So that is what we expect from our Ministry that is in charge of these things, and the buildings are approved by electricians, as they have an association of electricians, plumbers, and people who set such standards.

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If they were to inspect a building and the plumbing is unsuitable, then it is up to the employer to hire students. The interest of the Government, the higher-ups, is the assistance that is being provided by the Government. These students should continue their education at higher institutes like NUS so that they can pass with full apprenticeship certificate, so that they do not end their education at an early stage which will limit their expertise.

That is a response to the member that raised this issue, the Government prioritises this scheme. Well, we have...as I said with our assistance to our private sector; other areas have already been disclosed, we also have awards which are held by these groups to promote manufacturing units, as we have the SAME award whereas the Government gives money to develop and to motivate product manufacturers, to create high-quality products so that they can be entitled to these things and to promote their products under this patronage. Recently we joined a covenant that protects our intellectual properties.

All of these things are connected to this work, our intellectual properties under the terms of the contract that we had with the protocol that we went through earlier this year after we entered into 3 other covenants, all for the protection of the intellectual property of our people when they are in a situation to protect their own intellectual property from being stolen by others, because these things, it is a person's own ingenuity that he has set these things up and worked on it on his own, and yet it could be embezzled by other people. Now our Government has made it easier for everyone under the conditions that we have entered, there is only one registration of all the items that you want to register, and they will all be given to over 100 villages that are in this organization, and then it will be protected and it will ensure that no one will be able to sell those products, knowing that the manufacturer does not approve...that is also useful, as it will help our people, and it will be important for our students, whereas the Ministry is also conducting education to ignite the children's intelligence and the desire to explore and gain knowledge. I went to these schools twice, year 12 and year 13 high school grade.

I am just amazed at what is taught in school nowadays, they are now competing on issues like renewable energy and the utilising of organic materials and much more. I am just overwhelmed by it because when I was at school these subjects were never taught. The level of understanding with school children is just very high.

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So here we are trying to play our part because if a child can achieve a concept that can be commercialised we must protect it as it is an intellectual property belonging to that person. It would be such a waste if someone else takes a photograph of the design and claims it to be theirs when it is the other person that thought up the idea. So this has been made it convenient and compulsory to register through the use of technology at present. There is so much going on where the Ministry of Commerce, Business and Labour, Revenue, Immigration and Police are cooperating to ensure security and that people wanting to come to Samoa to open up businesses must adhere to the law. There is a Committee which comprises of all these members who reviews all these these foreign people coming in to determine whether they have followed the laws so that dodgy people do not enter our country to start-up businesses have such shortcomings.

The Ministry also continues to visit the rural areas to make people aware of the programs carried out by the Ministry and that if there are queries make contact, the same with other Ministries that are joining these awareness programs like ACC. This is to avoid communities having to host each Ministries every time they come around. So all these Ministries go together with the Revenue Ministry joining them to explain to people this outreach program. That way everyone turns up once to avoid any misunderstanding possibly causing complications.

I will now proceed to my other Ministry.

MR SPEAKER: I apologise to the Minister but since you are now about to address the other area of your speech and we a have now approach our usual recess hour. I now announce that Proceedings will be set aside for normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its usual recess at 4.45pm and continued at 5.11pm.

Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Estimates Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 and the Main Estimates 2020/2021.

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MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now resumes.

Upon suspension of Proceedings the Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour and Public Enterprises had the floor. I respectfully call upon the Minister to continue, perhaps you have little left to cover.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Mr Speaker, I guess the refreshments we had was thoroughly enjoyed. There are 9 Ministries under my portfolio, I have only covered 1 so I will try to speed up things.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Mr Speaker, before I speak on my other Ministry, I want to cover this one thing I missed as it is very important as it relates to the Government Strategic Development Plan and so as the Ministries. I acknowledge the Minister of Education and the staff for the reform they are now engaged in to swiftly track down students that should be transferred to undergoing trade courses instead of continuing on with the old process whereby students would continue blindly into studies and get discouraged from attending school due given the old school system that was in place.

The meeting of the International Labour Organisation I attended focussed on this particular area which they emphasised as discussed with the Minister and the CEO when they made this presentation to Cabinet. They look at jobs for the future and the future of work and where it is heading. This is what they encouraged and countries of the world should take heed and coerce the school curriculum and the job market after all the sole reason one goes to school is to acquire knowledge in order to gain employment.

The Minister of Education and the Ministry are looking at progressing and looking ahead as we are not certain whether the jobs today will remain in the next 50 to 100 years. So we are looking to the future and our education system should focus on the future at this point in time.

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Mr Speaker my other Ministry queried by a fellow member concerned crown land under SLC. For the information of this Assembly 24,000 acres was handed to government from SLC which were land formerly under WSTEC in the year 1990 under new reforms when SLC was established to operate these land on a commercial basis in order to gain some returns for the government to lend a helping hand to disadvantage people with limited resources and no land. This Ministry is currently operating in this manner. Only part of this land area have been occupied and have been surveyed but over half of the 24,000 acres have yet to be appraised and the Ministry is getting to it. So the bulk of the land have not been surveyed and most of it is in Savai'i. They are currently being cultivated by villages but the Ministry have yet to do the survey and allocate them fairly to villages for use. But with government land there is a system applied to it which is lease it for residential, business, farming with other land given to some Government Ministries like EPC, Water Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture. That is how these land have been allocated at this stage.

Some of the lands have already been surveyed whilst some are still in the process and they are located around the inland areas of villages around Apia and also Savaii. Here in Apia the surveying and leasing has begun to some of the villages being given .5 acre or 1 acre for cultivation and on the other hand the Government gets a source of income. The way to go about it is SLC are working with village communities as mentioned by a fellow member that they have acquired an area of land for their village to turn to. That is the view of the Government to allow villages the opportunity to develop themselves. So the Government allocates land to the villages and their respective authorities allocate them to the people which they will occupy on a lease basis. If problems arise the village will be informed of the person that is not keeping to the lease agreement but it is a very simple arrangement.

If you compare these lease agreements to leases on freehold land and private land it is very cheap. There are also special leases for villages near town and the agreements done with these villages are special it covers the villages of Vaitele, Saina, Toamua Faleata, Fagalii Vailele and Letogo at Vaimauga. The view of the Government is such that these villages are near town and they are traditionally established communities. With the influx of the urbanisation drift and people from the rural areas flocking town. Cabinet resolved to sell these quarter acre lands to villages at a special price of \$35,000 per acre and that prize remains to this day.

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A certain member usually speaks on this matter. This decision was made to keep the lands as customary land but on the condition that it be sold to people of the constituency itself making contributions to the community and not outsiders. The committees of the respective communities ensure this and the reason for keeping it as customary land is to prohibit the possibility of selling the land given to them. The other vital aspect here is the protection of chiefs and orators of these communities so as to avoid any possibility of the occupiers selling the land to someone that has no connection to the community. So the assistance from the government must be maintained by the authority of chiefs and orators to ensure the land will only be sold to members of the respective village and will be passed on to their children.

This arrangement was specifically done to these particular villages. There are other lands located further inland for cultivation other than the lands divided into quarter acres. At this stage some villages are doing very well without any problems whilst other some villages are becoming difficult. The challenges the Ministry is trying to resolve stems from the fact that these people have occupied these lands for quite a long time. Their claim is that the cost imposed by the government is way too much and if they decide to leave they demand some sort of financial settlement. The Board of Directors and the Ministry with Land Board and chiefs and orators are working together to reach a favourable outcome.

Some of these occupied lands is claimed by the families as their own despite the Ministry presenting them with information and records showing it to be Government lands which does make the work difficult. The Ministry continues to do its role with the desire that they settle themselves on a legal property other than living outside the boundaries of the law. That is important for them because if they occupy the properties illegally at the end of the day the law prevails. The mission of the Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer and the staff is to avoid such problems.

Some members raised the fact that some of the lands is unused. The situation is that after looking into this some of the areas of 50 to 100 acres occupied by some people. I was of the view that they should be spared for others in need of land to cultivate. Let them keep 40 acres and allocate the remaining land to people in dire need of land to live on and to develop. The Government feels that everyone should get opportunities to prosper their families and that will in turn advance our economy and the nation.

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There are still large areas of land at places like Fiaga and around that vicinity and in case the member is mistaken that those lands are unused but they were formerly under other legal requirements. The Ministry finds it hard to action the removal of land as there were agreements that the lease would be for so many years and so that was the argument we used.

The Ministry is now inserting to the agreements a provision such as, if after 3 months and the land remains unused it will be returned after the 3 months due to the objective that the land be used and the benefits from the land will repay the Ministry through the cost of the value of the land. Instead of not using it and allowing the grass to grow high arguing that it will be develop in due course. With the majority of leases there are more than 2,000 people demanding land. The new arrangement with the lease is to be renewed every 20 years. After 3 months and the land remains unused the Ministry will take it from you and lease it to someone else. With some leases you would think the land is not being used but it's actually used for cattle grazing and other animals. We are recommending to people to make use of the land and it will assist in developing the country.

One member asked for a slash in the price of these leases but there are policies which applies to all leases including residential, farming and business as I have stated. There is a seasonal lease agreement but the prices remain the same. Where do we turn to and as I have said before, make use of the lease and it will pay for itself rather than not using it and people turn around and say it is.

One of the members requested the construction of the road to Fiaga. I can say that the member resides at Faasaleleaga but has a huge plantation at Fiaga. He is one of the people that is affected by the poor state of this road. Yet there is large quantity of taro coming from around these parts. I have raised it with the Ministry and they will try to accommodate this demand and get your road done soon. As the member who brought this up said, the road has already been done but it is the strength of the water flowing through it that has ruined but leave it with me I will share this to the Ministry. This Ministry has a lot of projects under the stimulus package, which was released to pay for small businesses within our market where their lease was waived for about 6 months. That is one of the assistance from the government under the stimulus package. There are also other companies under my portfolio covered in the stimulus package to help out people with loans for homes. That Ministry has contributed a lot to people in unfortunate circumstances so they may get good homes to live in.

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It is the same with ACC, they too had a stimulus package from the Government to help out. The vendors at the Fugalei market were also fortunate to have their leases waived to help them out with their businesses due to the pandemic. With Government lands we are trying to make sure that everyone gets a piece of land. Some people do have land already but still ask for land. The desire is to give land to those who need it those from the rural areas and from Savaii so they can build homes to develop themselves and also to put kids to school and to be closer to work. We all have rights and everyone must be allowed to contribute to give something back to the country be it employment through a company or the government, but the sad reality is they have to catch the early bus from the rural area. So the Government is trying to ensure that its land is of good use to our people to help them develop our country through employment and children's education.

There were members that asked about the surplus funds in the government coffers, and all I can say in short, is that there are policies concerning dividends. All public trading bodies must give their surplus funds to the government to assist the budget. Since the establishment of the Ministry of Public Enterprise there has been a lot of changes with the contribution from these public enterprises. The Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee is present and can vouch for assistance towards our budget where the many changes were acknowledged concerning the profits of the Ministry for these public enterprises and their valuable input. The reason they were established was with regards to trade and generating them like businesses to make profit. That means these businesses are going well generating profits. The cost of electricity and water rates should not affect the capability or not to provide this surplus or dividend we are talking about. Tariffs will be imposed but it should not affect the normal work of generating a surplus.

MR SPEAKER: The member for Palauli le Falefa will take the floor.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker thank you and I think it would be good to allow to let the Minister rest for a bit. I did mention the matter which the Minister is on right now. Surplus fund is a good thing not bad at all. But with the Public Trust it is like the Parliament Pension fund, like the NPF where there is no deduction. It is the same thing with the contribution of those in units.

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Therefore, my suggestion is to change the law the surplus funds should be invested. When companies cannot use up all the funds its should go to the person providing the units and it would benefit the cocoa provider, it would reward the fisherman and the farmer and so it should go back to the person that generated the unit instead of investing it. There is a lot of money to finance Government projects.

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the member for Faleata.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you Minister. I did mention in my remarks the situation with Public Trading Bodies which provide the funds for the stimulus package. There are quite a number of SOEs providing assistance and it will affect their profit margin. What is the plan from the Ministry of Public Enterprise? This should be suspended this year or perhaps 2 or 3 years so as to help out the Government. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Minister.

Afoga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Mr Speaker and also the member. With UTOS as I said before the government does have policies in place. The UTOS Management is a company established under the Companies Act. It is operated as a company but I do appreciate the thought from the member. I will instruct the CEO of the Organisation to speak with the management of UTOS to find out what the situation is with the fees they charge. It is possible that is where most of the money is leaking but I do accept the recommendation and will be considering it. As I have said we do observe the laws and policies which these organisations are operating under in terms of trade.

The matter raised by the member for Faleata has long been sorted and it is the same with other organisations. As long as the intended projects are implemented and somehow the results will not yield the target profit. Well the office is open for discussion and to do the solvency test and find out whether dividend should be paid out or not this year. The Ministry of Public Enterprise and the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries will analyse this.

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As you all know with businesses there are times when its good and times when it has off days. Then we decide whether we should respond by giving a dividend or not. It is the same scenario with the recommendation raised and perhaps the Ministry will provide Cabinet with a recommendation like the one the member spoke on.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The manner in which these organisations are run like companies is a challenge. You will remember that it is one of the policies which does include the government. It is the reason for the privatization policy because sometimes government companies are a bit slow compared to private companies. The Ministry of Public Enterprises observes these organisations and it is a way to encourage them to think and act business. When they do get profits transfer that money to the Ministry of Finance to finance the budget. After all these organisations and companies is narrowed down to the channels of responsibilities and even towards the Board of Directors. There is no sense of general outlook on the government and the need for funds to spare for the governments general projects. So if the Ministry of Public Enterprises are not vigilant to push these organisations to operate like a business.

You will remember that it is the reason behind the privatization policy. Since if we do not encourage them it will get to the stage where they will not look back and consider what should be done particularly the need by government of your profits to finance the demands which you ask for. It seems there is a notion that there is an avenue where money is flowing from for the government. Which does evoke the feeling not to give it to them but how will we finance the Governments projects? Mr Speaker that is what must be remembered at all times. That is my assistance.

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the member for Salega, perhaps he will not take long...

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Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker my subject is different. I appreciate the explanation from the Minister which clears up the situation with the sorting of dividends towards SOE's at this particular time. My request stems from the fact that SOEs are different with some being able to operate at this very time. On the other hand, with the employees at the airport and Shipping. Is there some form of assistance for the wages of these people to salvage them from being laid off. Mind you these poor people are the providers for their families. That is what I wanted to share with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Mr Speaker, and members. I also appreciate the Prime Minister for his further clarification of the matter. I was actually getting to that. If you do not inject these funds, what about the other areas which the Ministry of Finance depends on. That is the endeavour of this Ministry to encourage and to operate our businesses. These were established to be operated like businesses. Even with the Board of Directors, we appoint people that have business acumen. It is not easy and we do not accept just anybody. The review process is strict and we search for expertise to be placed into these government businesses in order to amass money for our government and to execute the works of the State. The money that is generated and where it goes and no doubt goes to the Government purse. The matter raised by the member well let me say that we will look into it and find out whether there is work for these people to avoid being laid off. It is the Government's desire to provide employment. But bear in mind that during times of emergencies it is difficult to predict when such things occur.

If you look at other countries millions of people are out of work. Do not think we would be exempted from that reality. What we can do is to alleviate the degree of people being laid off. We also have assistance through our stimulus package for situations like that. Leave it with us we shall wait for representatives from their Ministries to find out what the governments general plan is. Mr Speaker the Prime Minister talked about privatization, this Ministry is currently working on the process of making one of the companies to be privatize.

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The last company to go through this process was the Agriculture Store which was privatised and they are doing very well functioning like a business. The same will happen to other government Ministries becoming business like. There is no need for it to remain under the government when it can be relinquished to the private sector where there is business expertise to run it which cannot be done at this stage or for whatever other reason. Mr Speaker I will now come to our airline.

I will firstly accord my appreciations to members for your continuing support for this Government development. It is a business which has been greatly affected at this time and it is the general state of things everywhere in the world. This venture is 2 and a half years. We had not envisioned it will get this far making profit. Since it is an industry which is rather difficult to take off and make money from it after 2 to 3 years, as that is the bottom line with other people's views. The advantage or disadvantage of this business project as it's been 2 and half years and we have not been able to acquire a plane of our own. Or in other words it's been 2 and half years without profit.

The fact is, I do not know of a company with 1 plane and after 5 years it earns profit. It is a business which is very difficult to reach a stage where profit is made at a quick period of time. If we are to look at this in the general sense, we ask ourselves whether this is good or bad for Samoa. We are now heading to having 3 planes on lease with the one we should get soon. We are making arrangements for this plane to arrive here if not next month, then the beginning of August. That is provided travels open up again by then between here and Europe where the plane is. We are also keeping an eye on our closest markets which we rely on for the itinerary of the planes mainly New Zealand, Australia and other Pacific countries and hopefully Hawaii in the near future. Now that we have this problem before us our company will have to look at ways to mitigate the expenses for the planes if this lockdown continues.

As I said before we did not anticipate this pandemic. But we will be in dialogue other avenues to ship in freight and the catering our people wanting to travel overseas. I would think tourist will be sometimes yet before coming again but we will rely on our travelling public and the business community to be using our plane when it does arrive. The cost of the plane is cheaper than the one we got first.

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It is the reason for the difficulty in finding such. There have been things said like, well there are too many planes and now there is one idle somewhere, it is not as easy as that. It was a quite a mission to find the exact plane that suits us. We should not procure an old plane because what will happen is that there could be a motor problem, so although cheap but it gives us a lot of hassle. But we must get a plane that will not give us complications, a plane which we can operate on a dry lease and be operated by our own people

Majority of the staff at our airline have been temporarily laid off, with some still working at half the rate of their usual salaries. Our desire is not to sever their services and the service of our plane. There are scheduled flights to Tutuila which is employing some of these people. But that is the story, a lot of them have been laid off until we get the new plane and calling them in again. But considering the plane we have now I believe this is best for us in terms of the price which we should be able to make profit in a short period of time soon. The planes we use to lease were quite expensive. There were 4 huge occurrences which really hit us. The closure of the travelling schedules for the Boeing Max, it was close to completion of its paint job and then this happened and so it was stranded over there. The plane we had before had been demanded by Italy, so we had no plane as the Boeings were all grounded really putting us in uncertainty.

So the Government tried to find a plane to continue our services and we should not desire the high and dry lifestyle. We should continue just like we did when we got Melindo though the lease was a bit expensive we tried to manage our plane and bring in our people and tourist and the travelling public. That is the purpose of the plane when we came up with the idea at the time. To make travelling for our people convenient for the fares were cheap and heaps of tourist came in, such is the assistance for our people. We do not desire to be equal to other planes as that would be pointless to have our plane operating. We wanted to be affordable for our people and at the same time we have made profit to pay for the planes expenses so we continued with it.

The second occurrence was the 2 massive fires in Australia which affected travels from Australia and vice versa. We had 3 scheduled flights to Australia within a week. So that is a huge blow. Then came the measles which stopped people from coming to Samoa.

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So those are all the factors that affected the industry, then came the gigantic problem which you all know about affecting the whole world. All the big airlines except Qatar Air became the only airline that is still operating as they are rich. They are loaded.

But all other companies including Fiji, Air New Zealand, Emirates all the huge airline companies have laid off thousands of workers. They have decided to cut their company down to say just 1/3 of it or even less. So the effect on the Aviation Industry due to the pandemic is a global one and we are still trying to keep our plane so as to avoid the hard times we experienced of travelling overseas at the tune of \$4000 for airfare. Who can take that? So if we did not procure our airline the cost of airfares would not have decreased due to competition. We are also contemplating working in partnership with other airlines when people start travelling again. Companies like Qantas or even Air New Zealand. It may be true when you consider the spirit of competition but there are ways we can work together in and it is the same with Fiji. We are continuing consultations with them regarding group share with Fiji. The problem is that we cannot jump into just like that we must alter our system in order to manage these conditions and therefore these are not cheap.

The systems used by the huge airline companies cost millions of dollars. We cannot afford it. We are trying to take on a system which we can manage without breaking the bank. So there is this system called Radix which we are trying to upgrade our system to so we can work together with Fiji so that way we can do things here and it will show up in Fiji. And it will be the same with other countries. So these systems are quite costly and we cannot afford it. So we are opting for this affordable system. It is not too big and we have tried it out however it did not work, we cannot afford it and things like that. Hence we desire to go into partnership with other airlines.

It was indicated by the Prime Minister that we are looking at measures to allow people to buy shares in private sector. This is not a novel idea but has been in the pipeline for sometimes and we were wanting to stabilize the airline first before drawing in people to invest. There have been a lot of enquiries from people interested in investing and were asking if there were shares available. Our response to people at the time was, we were considering it and in due course it will be done with the aspiration to establish the airline.

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We do plan to further develop our Samoa Airways so it may fly to Fiji as it is our region and Air New Zealand are flying their planes here carrying our people to and fro whilst we and other countries with airlines sit back and watch. It seems that they are taking over our region when we should be catering for our own Pacific people.

Mr Speaker our vision of the airline as I have said, is determined by the end of year results. We are still a fair way from enjoying the benefits or losses to the airline if that may be. I do have records of research done by the Tourism Department of New Zealand on our Tourism Industry. It shows their calculation of the average spending by someone visiting us for 5 days and their spending on duty free items and so on comes to ST\$2,800. Now if you re to consider the number of people flown in by Samoa Airways in 2019 was 92,395. That is 37% of people who came to Samoa in 2019.

Air New Zealand was second to us for flying in 81,000 people or 32%. If you calculate the money spend according to the survey which is \$2,800 for 5 days. That equates to \$187 million Samoa Airways raked in for the country. That is the focus which is bringing in people to Samoa to have them spend their money here. As I have said I did not anticipate that after 2 to 3 years we would be making a profit. The other benefits as mentioned by the Prime Minister, there are so-called spin offs because it is not just the hoteliers that benefit but even the fisherman that goes out and fish for octopus, the lined surgeonfish, the surgeonfish to sell at the restaurant shops and hotels to feed the tourist.

These are the realities of life and now that we do not have a plane we realise the practicality of tourist visiting our shores. It affects even government Ministries as when there are no people there is no need to turn on lights and so EPC will not be used and their profits drop and is the same scenario with water. So I think we must contemplate the vitality of these businesses. Perhaps it may seem that we are not making money but, it does have a range of benefits when you look at the general picture. I recommend that you all have a sense of belief in the decisions of Government. There is an adage, that goes, *e toe oso foi malama , ona toe foi lava lea o le lalolagi i le mea sa i ai* the sun will always shine and the world will return to normality but we must try to persevere and try to find avenues to get pass this. We will go through it and we shall find calm. But with the reality in the world today well we are not the only ones suffering, the whole world is doom.

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So we must be patient and have faith in God hoping this catastrophe will be over soon, so that we will see blessings again in the world particularly our country.

Mr Speaker...is it TV bingo which you will be talking about?

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: Mr Speaker, I wonder If I may be allowed to speak...

MR SPEAKER: The member for Palauli West will take the floor.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: Thank you Sir. I wish to thank the Hon Lautafi. I am sympathetic towards him for trying to explain this when the whole country understands the problems with our airline. The only thing we should regard as of importance and it is true that we should have faith in the government. The lockdown should be lifted and open up our borders so we can focus on dialogue with New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. These countries will be sufficient to deal with at this stage as long as our borders are opened quickly.

MR SPEAKER: This is the problem with you, you say may sound soothing but it comes across as condescending. You started with appreciations but that contradicts the point of order you raised. You are repeating yourself.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: I have one more point of clarification on that note...

MR SPEAKER: You are a troublemaker. I beg tolerance of you...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: I will finish off what I was saying if you wish.

MR SPEAKER: No I will not accept you to finish off the error you have started. I ask you to take your seat. The Minister will wrap up his remarks.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: When my brother from Palauli took the floor I assumed he was going to talk about TV Bingo, but I do welcome the suggestion from the member.

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It was very important to continue our schedule flights to Maota and the Minister of Works did state that the condition of the airport is very good. Although they were not present but they are continuing maintenance. Our airline management have consulted the business community to agree on schedule flights on certain days to ensure that is profitable instead of coming and going at a loss. The business community in Savaii I think like the idea of coming over by plane and then return on Friday. I do applaud the members that spoke on this point. I myself am keen on taking the plane to Savaii as it has been a while. I could tag along with my brother Faumuina and return by boat.

Mr Speaker I have one more Ministry to cover, the Samoa Sports Federation and Gaming. Their role is quite difficult trying to maintain our sports facilities.

But the country will confirm the great state they are in when they do get to use it. These macro assets are well look after and maintained by the Ministry and not forgetting the assistance from our partner the government of China whom the CEO is very close too and he even speaks Chinese. He converses with the contractors from China in Chinese. Sometimes when I speak Samoan to the CEO he would reply in Chinese.

That is it your honour...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, only facts must be presented in this Parliament. It would be good to invite the CEO to speak Chinese whether this is a fact. I think he is here.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the Minister, do not mind him.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: This guy... Only I can understand my boss's Chinese, no one else understands it. It is Lufilufi-Chinese which you can't understand.

Your honourable allow me to address my constituency but before doing so I applaud the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries under my portfolio. I commend you for persevering and the effort you put in for the Ministries. May the Lord reward your integrity. If at times I may have been hard on you well that is how it goes but I salute you for your service to Samoa.

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Mr Speaker, to my cherish constituency of Satupaitea with the venerable Asiata whom has the privilege to any principal court throughout the country. The fourth staff of Tumua and the sixth Authority in Salafai. The Samoeleoi family with Gasu and Tavu'i. The heirs of Lilomaiaava whom are Fanana and Tuimaseve. The Tapaaufanua of Sa Valomua and the title Fauatea. Tapaau and the various dignitaries of Alataua, Nofo a Pule and Matuafia.

I recognise the support from the womens group and untitled men. I shall not forget the prayers of the clergy throughout the constituency.

My greetings to the senior citizens of our community if your tuning in at this hour. My special recognition of my mother Nasoa I would think that you are probably saying your rosary. Thank you for your silent prayers whilst your representative attends to serve you. My role has been performed to the best of my capabilities and if you are not satisfied, well as I have said my knowledge and effort has reached its limits. But if you are happy that is the main thing. I appreciate your support, the term is not over yet so I will have other opportunities to address you but for now may God bless our constituency and may Lautafi's voice be heard still. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you I am of the view that the next speaker is the Deputy Prime Minister. I respectfully call upon your Hon.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker and the dignitaries of this Assembly of Samoa, and recognising the prayerful support of the public this evening. Daylight has passed and the dark covers us for it is the nature of things it is time of rest but here we are.

Therefore, I respectfully extend greetings to you Mr Speaker, and acknowledging our mutual relationship with the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers. Also the Associate Ministers. I acknowledge that side of chambers with the chairpersons and members of Parliament. We are also grazed with the presence of CEO of government Ministries and Organisations and also the Clerk of the Legislature and the staff giving service to Samoa's paramount forum.

My greetings to you this evening, and I do believe that it has been a long day and we continue this evening and so everyone must be tired. So I do feel Mr Speaker that I will now get straight to addressing the matters raised as Ministers have been doing to respond to our debate on the Budget now Tabled.

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Mr Speaker there were not that many issues raised by members concerning the Ministries which I hold. Most of the opinions voiced relates to the effect of climate change. If I may respond in the general sense, the government policy on climate change is shared amongst Ministries and Organisations. As you know Mr Speaker and members there is no specific Ministry for climate change. So the Government realises that the effect of climate change reaches every part of human life and so the government accordingly responds through the Ministries.

Mr Speaker there are two measures to take for climate change. 1. Is the effort to reduce the prevailing gas emission which is warming up the world which consequently melts the north and southern pole causing the rise in sea level drowning some countries particularly small islands in the Pacific region. It is also causing natural disasters which we have become use to like cyclones, heavy rain and flooding. There was a time when the weather was steady. But the state of the globe now and our testimony of the climate change, is just extreme with natural disasters occurring more frequent and the challenges to the environment has just strengthen.

Government action then is explained in the English word mitigation and we are prioritising the private sector or energy. The Pacific countries are united in their effort to reduce emissions and have prioritised the energy sector. By reducing dependency on oil and concentrate on renewable energy like solar which we have now and energy from the wind.

The Minister in charge of STEC has also spoke about energy gained from the burning of trees. I beg tolerance Mr Speaker and members as we have been talking about the economy. But with all due respect let us not leave our eggs in one basket. There is this vision with the energy sector so that we are not focussing only on one thing which we think we will acquire our strength from. It is the reason there are more than one avenue to achieve renewable energy since if the sun don't shine it will have an effect. When there is too much sun it causes overheat drying up water sources. If there is no wind our windmills will not run at the Aleipata region. That is my outline of Samoa's effort to prioritise is at right now and the Pacific on energy. So the measures to counter climate change seems to be the focal point of remarks from members with regards to seawalls, catchment areas our escape roads or access roads and the planting of trees. Not only the inland areas but also the coast line as with mangroves.

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I will respectfully respond in the general sense concerning the government's response in the area of projects being implemented. The Minister of Women talked about the Ministry objectives focussing on constituencies and emphasising sound management of projects and other areas around the community. This Ministry did the same thing and our preparations was specifically on the laid out policies for all constituencies covering the highlands right down to the coast. These set policies will be for ongoing projects and also on necessary projects mainly to do with countering climate change. This strategy has already been done for every constituency. There are 2 funding supporting this policy. The funding from the World Bank called the Adaptation Fund which is \$8.5 million. This would run from 2012 until 2019. The other project is called the Climate Resilience Coastal Resources and Community and that is worth \$16.6 million, and it began in 2013 and runs through to this year.

Mr Speaker and members the policies that have been devise for the implementation of projects to counter climate change. We are receiving money from our partners through their assistance, and we are also providing appropriations through the budget. The plans we have implemented to counter climate change are similar to what the Minister of Women talked about. These policies the government intends to apply to its projects. As I have explained the government does not concentrate in one area when it comes to projects and measures to counter climate change. So the funds will of course be allocated to the various Ministries to implement their respective projects. Most of the Ministries will be spending their appropriations on their set projects.

Mr Speaker that is the overview of the government policies and some of the funds reserved for projects from one year to another. As you have heard the projects beginnings in 2012 until 2019 and the project that began in 2013 until 2020. So in essence these projects takes years. Mr Speaker one of the measures that was noted from member's remarks as well as actions taken right now is looking at mangroves. This is important in holding off the rising sea level but mangroves also create land which will extend our coast.

It is a measure that we must cooperate on. I beg tolerance of the Minister for Tourism with his view particularly with this period in time and the challenges we are presented with and the effect of the COVID pandemic. It seems that it is only the government that can respond to problems arising. I do agree with the Ministers view.

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At this point in time we must collaborate and with projects like mangroves and the planting of trees. There are projects which we can do ourselves. The government does not need to initiate measures as there are the village councils that can instigate our projects. So that is one of the actions we can take to counter climate change which is the protection of the coast from erosion. It must be regarded as of importance. Like the town area and the mangroves at Moataa for instance.

Mr Speaker another matter raised concerns lights. Now there was a project where lights were given out to the public, to the rural areas for Worship centres and public places so as to ensure safety by providing light. These are solar lights and I know that it is welcome by the public and I know that members are still requesting for lights. So we are trying to find a way to extend this project as it has a lot of advantages.

Mr Speaker one of the issues raised was steel from old rusty cars. It was asked what measures taken to deal with that. I wish to clarify that first of all there is an organisation that now deals with waste management. This was established to unite these people who are working in this area which is not only important but necessary. Particularly cleaning up the environment. So they are in partnership with our Ministry and I do believe that it is useful to have this dialogue in relations to the economy. With waste it is an avenue to create business in the country. It provides employment and the service is valuable to everyone.

So the response is to scrap metal is there are 5 companies or organisations doing this service. They collect and crush them together before sending it overseas. When we discuss old cars and mangle cars it goes together with old oil and the likes. This is the other area which is collecting old oil to filter clean and reuse or send it overseas to companies specialising in these kinds of waste.

Mr Speaker I think that covers matters raise by members concerning our Ministry.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: To whom does your interruption concern as the Deputy Prime Minister has concluded. Let's hear it whether your interruption can easily be resolved.

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Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: If you desire that I take my seat I will. I did speak on this very issue. The road I lived on has 2 garages further down with piles of junks on the side and the front. It is not only an eye sore but it has a lot of possible health risks. The Minister is correct about these companies but after having talked with them, I found out that the companies no longer engage in this area as the money they get from it is very minimal so they do not ship them anymore. My request to the Minister is the possibility of acquiring a machine to crush them into small junks which makes it easier to ship. My other request concerns the 3 quarries at Vaitele within the residential area. I believe it is no longer suitable to be located at this area of the country.

MR SPEAKER: To save time I think there was member wanting to speak, there are two now.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Thank you Madam Deputy Minister, but I began raising this very issue in 2016. I have gathered that you do speak in the general sense regarding climate change in particularly sea walls. I would think that you do know about my village of Sataoa approaching you to request the construction of our sea wall which is over 20 years and yet is not complete and is the same case for Saanapu. That is the research I did and am wondering where the Ministries priorities are with sea wall areas.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Mr Speaker in saving the Deputy Prime's time I spoke on water catchment area concerning the river at Salailua and the one at Sapunaoa. The Ministry should create a project to plant trees for our catchment area.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker I seek an opportunity as I get sleepy when I sit for long, it will also save time for the Deputy Prime Minister...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, go ahead Tafua.

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Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: The summary on the Ministry's strategic plans of the Deputy Prime Minister and the State has our acknowledgement. The matter is brief, the mangrove plant that is vastly found in Moataa and Fagalii. The malauli is grown in the mangrove between Malaela and Lotopue. There are other pipelines that supplies water and when the tide is high, the malauli would come in, and when the tide is low, they would swim back to the sea. We would watch it with the pastor named Malo and the location is very nice. I have requested this twice, on whether the Ministry has assistance to put roof on this area. The Deputy Prime Minister has said, the advantage of this is land extension as well as filtering of seawater flowing to the coast. But this is the request with respect. Bless this Sitting.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, to save the time of Saofaapito. This constituency also mentioned seawall areas. You see, this constituency is close to the sea. I see that no one is going against us. This constituency wish to thank God for no natural disaster, particularly the village of Laulii. As discussed, the village of Laulii has no seawall. And when we have rain, it almost builds up waves. I also mentioned whether possible to receive money to implement it. Because it seems irritating to the hearing that we keep raising it but it seems that we are getting the response in summary. But I thank God for his goodness upon our constituency. Such is the intent on this request for an update. It is impossible as it is my constituency. As the Hon Minister spoke about in regards to the statement of the Minister of Tourism, how is this possible when there are no machines to erect the seawall area. Even when we go inland, water would explode, such is the plea of the State, I see that it began with \$8.5million and it went on like that but why not consider these villages and prioritize the villages that are situated along the coastline area.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the general speech. I call upon the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I see that the member is rejecting our general response. The rule of our debate, discusses our Constitution. When we talk about the consideration of individual matters, you speak and the Chairperson Responses on what allotted money is used for your development projects. Lest you think I do not want to respond.

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With regards to seawall areas, as I said each constituency has its own development plans. It is therefore not the Ministry's plan but the proposal was to carry out consultations with your constituencies and what they want to implement and prioritize. So based on personal observation, as we now have the question, what exactly is the Policy for seawall areas.

As I elaborated in our current Budget that is about to end in our previous Sitting. The Policy that the State foresees, our seawall prioritizes huge public assets such as our roads. And the impact upon our coastal village and communities. Because if the seawall areas are being constructed and the sea level rises keeps coming, then money will still be utilized to upgrade these seawall constructions. The query on our money being used wisely for our economy and our long term goal. And whether possible for us to relocate from the low lying areas to higher grounds for our safety.

The member speaking for the sake of Laulii village, I am holding the plan for our village. The priority here, is to find storage tanks, to supply water from the river to avoid any negative impact on the village. With regards to the raising concern on seawall area, it is true as this part of the country is massively affected by the ocean waves. Our response to that question put forth, we had a talk with the member about the road going inland. If money is sought for the many years ahead, I feel for you members and your constituencies lest you think that the seawall areas are not prioritized.

In relation to our discussion on seawall areas, they will keep on coming as there is no rising... well we do not know, whether the Covid is due to the acts of this world. This weather gave a slight impact on us given the land catchment areas and the plentiful plants within the village communities. Tell these old men to plant more trees for this ongoing project.

MR SPEAKER: Remember that the Prime Minister can respond on the overall.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: That is a question that is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister, thank you very much.

MR SPEAKER: Well done no need to be concerned, the selection of the man of success. Thank you, the Deputy Prime Minister has responded with remedies on the issues. As such, to look thoroughly for harmony in a longer time. We have come to our normal recess when we return, from our break...

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for normal recess at 7:11pm and resumed at 7.44pm.

Deliberations over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 and the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: I wish to announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. There is thought that new strength has been added to the dignity of Parliament to resume its work. During break the statement of the honorable Deputy Prime Minister was finishing.

So this is the chance to respectfully call the Hon Leader of the Nation, the Hon Prime Minister to make your statement regarding other matters that was not covered in the Cabinet's clarifications. With due respect Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker and the dignity of Parliament, we have been rejuvenated from our break, well done to all the members and their statements, we are going into 3 weeks and weary are we from our deliberations of the Main Budget for the next Financial Year.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet have already given their responses on the raising matters in developing Samoa which is done through collective effort. We have a few more matters left, I will not elaborate it again and then we will move on to our conclusion, pass the Main Budget for the new financial year 2020/2021.

Despite the various thoughts, no doubt the aim for us is to have a safe journey over the next financial year that is arriving soon. We are heading towards the difficult days and the negative effects of climate change we are witnessing nowadays.

If observed, whilst members are speaking, we have stood up to clarify some of the matter that were not in line with our State's policies laid by myself, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministers of Cabinet. All policies of the Government go through this Cabinet.

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The normal saying in our debate, be quick to straighten a crooked iron whilst it is hot. This is the nature of this HRPP Government since it took the helm in 1982. We do not mix words during our deliberations, this is the normal practice. This stems from our culture and tradition. When it comes time for food distribution, this is the noisiest time for the village.

As observed, the Ministers of Cabinet and members of the Political Party whom are not part of this Cabinet, they have become the opposition members of this HRPP Party, the HRPP has opposed itself, in all limits. This is a new beginning for this HRPP Party, for this Party to oppose and query the works of its own members or the Government during deliberations in Parliament in addition to other opportunities, whenever the caucus meets and raise again matters for further clarification, even when it comes to upheaval thoughts, they must take heed of forbearance.

E le faamaonia ai upu e faapea, e le o saoloto le fefaaaliai o taofi i totonu o le Palemene lenei. A lea e tumatila ma molimauina finagalo faitau eseese, o tatou felafolafoaiga i totonu o le Palemene lenei. O lea lava e le tau taofiofia le sui usufono le Afioga ia Lealailepule Grey, e toe finau lava ma lana ia lava Minisita. Faapena foi Sulamanaia, finafinau mai lava ma Minisita.

The Cabinet Ministers have already given the policies of the State of Samoa on the various sectors that are ongoing. Together with other strategic plans in accordance with the duties that have already been allocated by each Ministers and Ministries and Public Enterprises. Public servants already have the knowledge, experience and required qualifications to execute special responsibility which have been legally provisioned.

The question is what is the aim? What is the purpose for these various developments the State is implementing? The apparent brief response, is for our people to gain modern products that are good, nice and affordable. Such includes the ones that are available in other countries of the world. Things that are good and useful for our children. For us to gain good health benefits and medical treatments when ill. To gain good drinking water that can be installed in the homes and watch the Covid-19, in many countries that have white people. The many families that queue up to fetch water and fill up buckets from one main source.

It has taken long since we have not been doing this. There is also no famine as there is a wide availability of crops and food for our good health. We are also living in a peaceful and safe environment, we laugh and enjoy whilst we are protected under the leadership and authority of the village councils, the respected Alii and Faipule, and the Women's Committees.

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Furthermore, there is no regard to avoid the freedom of our people to attend their religious beliefs freely. Our culture and tradition must be strengthened and protected continuously. Those are the ancient blessings that had guided our samoan life thousands and thousands of years ago. These are gifts from the God of Samoa. We must maintain and uphold our individual rights. Our village governance, was granted freely from the Omnipotent in Heaven, thoughts that were based the authority so that no mislead by an uneducated person is done for those who are not village members including the in-laws who have become part of the village. Or those that have been given matai titles, but are not sitting in village meetings to understand well the practices and protocols of the village.

Samoa is a divisional country that has been blessed by God, with its tranquil lands. Plants grow and blossom well, her crystal ocean is natural with marine life, and so let us continue to protect it. Let us continue to supply food for our children, our soils and land should be liquidified with rain and flower blossoming, fruits and vegetables and the increasing growth of our coconut trees for our consumption.

There is reason for everything. Let us not disregard these blessings from God upon Samoa. Let us not joke nor laugh and ridicule the blessings and the many miracles poured down continuously from our Master who is the Foundation of Samoa every day.

These are the wonderful things granted to us by the Most High in Heaven for us to exalt him always, and say our thanksgiving to the Almighty Father is a must. One of the speeches said by one of the members, there is no answer from God upon all these many developments that seems to be a waste as this Government is worshipping Baal, it is a pagan God. There is no such God here in Samoa that we worship. The belief of the HRPP, according to the bible, be careful with your words...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Prime Minister as I allow the chance to the member for Salega.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I pity the Hon Prime Minister's attempt to clarify this issue. The country is well aware and is elucidated of the truth about your statement made. But prolonging it like that. It is the same with the evil who aims to fabricate the truth.

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MR SPEAKER: You are mentioning the Prime Minister when you were never mentioned. He is making his speech, nevertheless I call the Prime Minister...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I was the one who made this statement your honor...

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Is there any other statement, do bring it forward and do not avoid it, bring 100 for me to hear...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: It is alright, the country is tuning in well at your attempt to twist the statement we are making.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Salega...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Do not stir up conflict...may God be with you.

MR SPEAKER: Who me or the Prime Minister?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Both of you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks, praise God. I call the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, if there is anyone who wishes to speak go ahead. *Aua le poia faleolo*, I will record it here. I will come to it in the end. I will press this white button every now and then, for people to get up whilst I rest.

Mr Speaker, the words of the bible, be careful with your words. Because every word you say will be recorded in the Book of Life, for angels will hear and observe the words of people all the times, and these words will be on you like fire, words that are thrown carelessly without fearing the Lord whom Samoa is Founded on. And the abundance of his blessings upon Samoa.

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With all various developments and all international developments that includes Samoa, the golden rule must be taken into account. There must be a balance with our economic development projects including our major road developments, access roads, airports and ports.

Additional developments rely on this to provide a good balance for these major projects including other health developments and educational developments for the wellbeing of our people, so too is the collaborating initiatives involving social development projects.

As reiterated by the Minister of Health for instance, a son who has returned and has completed his education, all of a sudden becomes sick and dies, or even a daughter who is physically weak and is uneducated in these things, international developments plans of any Government revolves around them to provide a balance.

There was another view that said, let us go back and cultivate our lands. Such as what our country has been doing in the past 58 years ago just after we were self-governed. Our Government did not have any debts. We used to rely on cocoa and coconut. This is not true. The initial loan of the State, there were soft requirements for repayment. It was done through the Asian Bank in 1969 to build the international airport at Faleolo, during the time Fiame Mataafa Fauimina II was Prime Minister. This was the long term vision to building up our tourism sector so that our revenue earning can increase quickly particularly our savings for our trades.

This airport was later expanded by the HRPP in 1983 for large aircrafts like the Boeign 747 which was opened in the month of December 1995. The recent speaker reiterated that the people was poor but with joy in those days. Today the country is now poor with tears. In personal belief, a poor person is someone that has no clothes and no money to buy his or her clothes. He sleeps under the coconut tree, he is homeless and has no food to eat. No water to drink. I do not think there is anybody like this in Samoa?

There are people like this in rich counties of the world like America. I have witnessed them myself underneath the bridge. Homeless. The Bible clearly speaks of the disciples, you will live amongst the poor until the end of times. Why? Because there are people who wish not to develop based on their own choice.

They have drank from the village of Tufu honorable Speaker, these are the wells that are dug from the sandy beaches when the tide is low. I used to fetch water from this Tufu beach. All the beaches in Samoa or the village backyards, pardon me, this is where our toilets are situated.

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Even until 1980, this is the same stance in some of the villages, whenever there is famine, we seek yams and water from the streams. These were the food during the time of famine. Our country was used to it in the past.

The brief response to these raising thoughts, we are not floating on air pardon me, our feet are still fastened firmly on land and continue with planting taro, coconut, cocoa, yams, cassava and manioc. And we must continue to fish in the sea for our food. Since HRRP took over administration, I do not remember that this country went into poverty. That is the response with regards to the abundant blessings from our Master.

It is good that we did pay a visit to the produce market every day for us to know the variety of food and crops that are available in Samoa. These were the supplies and blessings from God for our people who are tasked with cultivating our lands.

Mr Speaker, what about the cocoa and coconut? As mentioned. When HRPP took over in 1982 the development was in big trouble from cocoa, coconut, banana which was the survival for the country during colonial times under New Zealand until we became Independent. It stems from diseases, climate change and foundations based on the good beliefs, nevertheless, we did not expect that these impacts would happen.

I wish to speak of these developments individually including the banana produce. Samoa had reached a million boxes of bananas that was exported in 1960, which dropped significantly due to the lausului virus and many other plights that followed. This is still affecting our banana up until today. Rather we are still trying through the Ministry of Agriculture to develop the banana but chemicals to exterminate the virus is getting expensive. The advise by some of our members is very important. We must develop the real Samoan banana we used to have in the past.

Taro, this crop used to be very strong until 1993, when the weed eater was applied including the claim for various farming chemicals to expand taro plantation for overseas markets. There was a revenue earning of \$10million received from the exporting of our taro to New Zealand before the virus came around. There was a total of 33 taro in variety that was received from investigations done through our scientists who had worked day and night for the New Zealand market, which had the taking of our peeled taro overseas. It lasts longer and thus easier to be accepted by overseas markets which I had talked about, and had relayed it to the Minister this morning.

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The Trust Estate also has plans in recognising our own stores in Auckland so that our taro can be sold in high supplies there as majority of the people there are Fijians and Indians. Therefore our taro farmers are not gaining much there.

Coconuts and cocoa. The main key for coconuts and the Samoan cocoa from the back area, is the work of the producers. People who are setting up shops within the villages, weighs the coconuts and cocoas in the villages. These are the branches for large companies like Nelson, Pipi and others. I used to do this job when I was little of taking the coconuts for weight measure from these coconut house in our village of Lepa. Borrowing was also allowed back then from these stores which could be paid later with dried coconut flesh weight and fresh root coconut weight and cocoas, given this very constructive view.

In 1926, we had 45 stores, 100 coconut house for this one large Nelson company in Savaii and Upolu. This was the largest company in Samoa in those days. The Government had moved to establish the Coconut and Cocoa Committee, so that these items could be weighed in Apia, then there was the closure of these stores in the backside areas as they were no longer needed and we saw a huge devastation in this part of our farming development for our people for many years. Why? It was very pricey to dry a coconut basket for a person from the rural side or from Savaii, getting here by ferry to Apia, and afterwards the effort becomes worthless.

Expenditure has now outweigh revenue. With the passing of Legislations to enforce it, to pay labour who were tasked with cocoa farming, which was the last issue that closed down this huge cocoa farming in which the country relied on for our export to countries like Europe in Great Britain and Germany. Why? Many a times the cocoa season was destroyed by the black pot virus which led us to no money to pay the labour, as normally labour was paid from yams, taro and other crops before this Law was passed.

The purpose for these Bills is good to improve the revenues of farmers, although the issue is that it has demolished the farm supplies that the country was relying on for their survival. Next were cyclones Ofa and Valelia including other issues which gave the refusal to resume our reliance on cocoa and coconut. We must therefore move on and use our common sense to seek other means for our survival.

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The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries have already read out the many ways that the State can do to grow our country, through planting vegetables and gardening development which we were not used to before, particularly the improvement of roads and changing of transport law to ease procedures for families in New Zealand and Australia to send home vehicles to develop their families in Samoa. What about the upgrading of traveling ferries between Upolu and Savaii as well as Tutuila, and seasonal workers who are required to work for 3 years in New Zealand and Australia and are able to return home for a rest before continuing this work again.

In relation to borrowing implemented by the State, this is another way to grow the various developments implemented by the State including businesses for individual entrepreneurs which cannot go ahead due to lack of money. This is the benefit for our local business people, to borrow from the banks based on conscience policies which measures the maximum amount of borrowing that can be done from the banks of Samoa which are administered by the State. Borrowings from international bank institutions with soft interest rates plus longer periods to make loan repayment are used. By the time loan debts are over, the developments are growing gradually to earn employment and to repay these debts. There are plentiful business entrepreneurs and individuals in Samoa that are living on debts. That is reason why the HRPP government had generally made license for bank institutions. When the government of the day took over, there was only the Bank of Western Samoa including other banks for trade, commercial banks, so that majority of our people are able to make loan for their developments. The big difference here was, these loans can only come through the State from world banks that were specially set up to support the developments of developing countries. It covers grant element and borrowing of up to 35% which comes with low interest and longer periods to pay these debts. Some people take up to 30 years to repay their loans. Different governments have different priorities for the leaders to plan well in those days the challenges they faced, and the number of population in those days was minimal compared to today.

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Then I conclude my statement with advance communication development using the internet and cell phones. This was a huge development that the State had outsourced through a policy the same with the privatization of our people's lands to the Trust Estate that went bankrupt which lived our people on leased land or lease land to own here in Apia, similar to the bankrupt Tusitala hotel that was privatized and administered by the State.

Like the bankrupt SamoaTel and the solid competition with Digicel, it is an international company from Ireland, which holds special expertise of advance technology. This is one way by the State to keep this service affordable through competition, to lower the service cost in order to earn people with the expertise, since the time the Samoa Tel was sold to BlueSky it managed to leave behind two old workers. The Telecom New Zealand had initially brought the cell phone which the connection could only go as far as Vaialele, the same with the western side. Although advance technology was secretly originated in the big State of America specifically for wars specially and directly for the Communist Nation of Russia, which also holds some of the most powerful nuclear weapons/bombs that were far more dominant than the initial automatic bomb that had bombed Japan during the end of World War II in 1945.

During the collapse of Communism Russia in 1990, a decision was made by the Government of America to open the internet to the world to be used by the various sector developments, for as aware today, the American people are still saying that the Government of Russia are using the internet and cell phones to spy during America's previous election. There is view that there were secret talks which is reason for the success of President Trump, which almost allowed the Democratic Party to impeach the President due to these internet networks blaming Russia for interference with America's internal affairs, something that has posed a great risk to the security of the American Government.

For Samoa's case, we had also started work for our own communications in the year 1999. The first step is to cut off our Acts, remove communications from the Ministry of the Postal and Telecommunications and move these businesses for operation. Such is reason why I removed EPC from Leafa in November 1998 on the day that I was sworn in as the Prime Minister after the resignation of Afioga Tofilau Eti Alesana. Their entire motive is for Leafa not to be engaged with any other duty but to put his whole time to amend this Telecommunications Act in order to implement this work.

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The transference of portfolios from Leafa to Luagalau was the entire reason for the assassination of Luagalau by Leafa given the reasons that were made known, in accordance to the explanations that was carried out in court. The purpose could not be pursued and Gafa was appointed as the Minister of Postal and Telecommunication. Gafa was engaged with other problems, due to the strong protest from various public servants on the new changes which they refused to accept.

Then I became the Minister of Communications, then a Legislation was drafted urgently to remove Telecommunications from Postal and Wireless to business administration in 1999, the privatization policy of the Government or the separation of Communications to operate business administration to avoid bankruptcy gave birth to our SamoaTel. Then Gafa took on the Ministry of Customs which was separated from the Minister of Finance for the first time since 1962 the Ministry of Customs was normally under the Ministry of Finance.

This time in 1999, Samoa's communications was not this advance. Right now, Samoa is up to this level. Then the State had set up a communications competition so that our communications standard is lifted and become more faster than the other Pacific island states. Three companies took up this competition, the Government's SamoaTel, Telecom New Zealand who are now here in Samoa and Digicel which won the last bid, it was the third license that was tendered. It did not take long for this competition to press through and the Telecom New Zealand which held 10% of our share left, leaving behind SamoaTel, it was like a tiny donkey walking stumbly with Digicel, it was like a racing stallion, it was a competition that was totally unfair. Digicel is a telephone company that is based in Ireland and is situated next to Great Britain, then I appointed Palusalue to be the Minister of Communications to continue the development that has started.

As known, the State had implemented a new policy that was useful for our left hand side of the road vehicles for people to receive motor cars from their families in New Zealand and Australia for their developments, Palusalue also rejected this matter, this was the sole reason why Palusalue was removed from the HRPP caucus and became the leader of the Tautua Party after he resigned officially from this Parliament, three of them went back to their constituencies a few weeks later before the next General Elections. Palusalue and Papu Vaai made it back with ballots in accordance to the Law, and Lealailepule Rimoni Grey took a rest, he was the one who named this Party as Lealailepule Tautua Party which was shortened to Tautua Party.

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This led to the reincarnation of Mr Rimoni Grey who still upholds the pattern of the Tautua Party. These were the funny things that were happening in our small island world with some very condescending politics and for those who want to establish new Parties, they should follow it.

Mr Speaker and respectable members, reflecting back to the establishment of this business communications development, for further understanding. A law was passed in 1999 to separate Telecommunications and the Ministry of Postal Services. SamoaTel was set up in 2000, tele-connecting lines were installed around Upolu, the first fibre network at a cost of \$10million, 2003, and local loop was established in Upolu and Savaii at the value of \$5USD million. In 2007, sites were set up for 27 towers. In 2009 to 2010, an additional 27 sites were set up thus totaling to 54 sites at a proposed cost of \$18million. Then Samoa was struck by a Tsunami, with huge tidal waves which destroyed these fibre network which were buried under the main road towards the coastline areas. I remember straight after the tsunami hit and whilst driving on the road and upon reaching Solosolo, I was able to witness the destructive pipes attached to the damaged fibre network covering the entire road in all parts of Upolu and Savaii, it was all cracked by the vicious waves.

Not only did the 2009 tsunami destroyed our fibre network that were laying underneath our main road the same with installed post lines, these were some of the natural disasters that had occurred in the country at a radius of 200 kilometers in Apia which seriously destroyed our structure and telecommunications. Cyclone Heta struck at the start of 2003 to 2004.

The recorded wind force was category 5, 2004 to 2005 cyclone Olaf started gusting at category 5. 2006 to 2007 Adele was recorded at category 2, 2009 cyclone Nisha struck in January on the 10th, the number of the cyclone, No.1 February for 2010 was cyclone Rene, number of the cyclone, No.1 10th of March there was cyclone Thomas, number for this cyclone, No.1 2010 to 2011 there was a cyclone in January called Wilma the recorded winds was category 2. This was the exact time the shares of SamoaTel were advertised through a tender. There was one tsunami and 7 tropical cyclones before the purchasing of Bluesky which severely destroyed our fibre network and so much value to our properties. The other five cyclones that struck later on when our Bluesky company was the existing company at the time. In December 2015, there was cyclone Evans, the recorded wind force was Category 3. 2012 January on the 13th day, there was cyclone Gary.

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The recorded cyclone force No.2 2015 to 2016, April 16th there was cyclone Amos. The recorded cyclone, No.2, 2015 to 2016 November 15 for Tuni, recorded strength of cyclone No.2 2017 to 2018, February 18 for Gita. The strength of cyclone No.1 which had greatly damaged the Vaisigano bridge washing out so many vehicles. The importance of these 5 cyclones, from 2011, whatever destruction we had, it was all repaired by this share from Bluesky company. There was no Government spending from 2011 until now, we now have the 3G which is way faster than LTE even cellular towers plus many connections using quality copper. In addition to this, the Bluesky even had to spend \$74.7million to carry out upgrading work in order to restore all these connection services that was destroyed by the cyclone.

Then I come to the purchasing of SamoaTel. On the 31st of January 2011 the Cabinet had stated the report by the Committee of Inquiry on tenders which required Cabinet's approval on their recommendation in relation to their general announcement that was done. There were 15 companies and individuals that gave their bids however, only one bidder managed to meet all the tenders requirements which was the Bluesky. The bid of \$11million for 75% company share. Therefore, if 25% is included to complete the 100% share for this company's cost or value, the cost will be \$14.6USD depending on the Bluesky bid. The other 25% share by SamoaTel is saved for our people through the UTOS, it is savings that will particularly be allocated for this purpose so that our people can hold shares for the Bluesky Company and other companies.

Since majority of SamoaTel properties were damaged by 7 cyclones and a Tsunami from 2003 to 2011, therefore, an investigation is necessary to be carried out to determine the value in monetary form of properties that were ruined, particularly assets that were completely destroyed from the cyclones, Tsunami and the depreciation value of these assets since the year 2000, depreciation of assets. This is the research carried out by the American company called the Nathan Association which was selected by the World Bank who is used to purchases like this involving international companies. There are 4 different methods that was used to find a suitable bid, we used the net asset, discounted cash flow comparable sale and economic model. These 4 methods were used by the Nathan Associates which was appointed by the World Bank and is an ongoing contact with our State when it comes to complex issues like this.

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These 4 methods were used to find a fitting cost given the huge impact on SamoaTel properties including the bankruptcy of its business. In 2009, SamoaTel expenditure outweighed the revenue. The State had \$48million debt to operate SamoaTel which should have been paid by the State, write off it was so that the cashflow of Bluesky was not affected, these are monies that was needed to continue the operations of the Bluesky company.

Secondly, in 2010, another donation was made by the Government at a total value of \$1,800,000 given the Tsunami destructions during the privatization of shares to SamoaTel. These are issues that will greatly affect the offers of any company that is interested or is prepared to bid. The Cabinet has advised the Tenders Board, the offer of \$11million from Bluesky is highly suitable with regards to assets that will be privatized.

Mr Speaker, with the vitality of privatization policy, outsourcing of SamoaTel assets to Bluesky. Since the privatization of the 75% shares from SamoaTel to Bluesky in 2011 to date there was further change, these major changes that have been observed. \$74,500,000 was spent by Bluesky to fully improve and expand its service to Samoa from 2011 to date. \$1million is spent annually on license and other expenditures like Spectrum fees, to the Regulator, the 9 years in total for this Bluesky operations is \$9million.

The UTOS made a distribution of \$7million, \$500,000 gained since 2011. Millions will be distributed soon. Therefore, the total distribution by UTOS is \$8.5million since its establishment. UTOS is the main savings unit which holds Bluesky shares of 25%. It also includes other major Companies from abroad that could be set up in Samoa in the future, in which our country can hold shares with, the successful businesses and not the bankrupt companies. Our Sevens Rugby team was sponsored with \$5million four years ago. There are also financial assistance donated to the Cancer Society, Red Cross and other charity organisations, the total shares by Bluesky for all these 5 things I mentioned, is no less than \$153million since 2011. That is an expansion of our locals' dividends with Bluesky or Vodafone.

Mr Speaker, the year 2015, Bluesky bought shares from the Cook Island's telecom as UTOS is also in partnership with Bluesky. That said, UTOS Samoa is also holding shares with the Cook Island telecommunication through Bluesky. We are therefore heading into expanding our business with this country of the Pacific.

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In 2019, the Almulcommated Telecommunication Is Holdings Limited which is a joint Company between Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea. They buy shares of the Ampire Group which is also part of Bluesky, these telecommunication companies were our partners with Spain in Europe and Latin America, we have wedded with Bluesky and have now been officially separated constitutionally.

We are now espousing the new Eight Age Company. The connection is half caste, Fijian, Papua, Vanuatu, Kiribati and the renaming of Bluesky to Vodafone. It is also through Vodafone that continuously holds shares for UTOS with the shares of our people which are rare investment opportunities for us in the future. The UTOS and Vodafone partnership invests in all these 4 countries, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea. This will further increase money for UTOS. For our shareholders at this time, honorable Speaker, this is a serious challenge for our local businesses. Our businesses is ban outward toward our neighbours which is what UTOS is exploring through its investment in Vodafone.

Moving forward, since the vital initial stage we undertook in 1999, businesses were able to operate through our communication technology. The strategic view in outsourcing public assets will resume using the necessary power and will move on to modernize further upgrading of various new technology for Samoa to achieve the highest standard based on modern technology we have in the world for the advancement of our people going forward. That is the main focus of all these plans, the setting up of good governance through our digital. Cabinet has approved the wise regulation of fitting utilization for advance technological methods for all our economic sectors in the next 10 years ahead.

Mr Speaker, that is just a brief clarification, the complex issues raised by some of the members in their speeches. Before I conclude, Mr Speaker, I wish to take this minute to acknowledge Hon Laauli. Time has gone for those matters, well done Peseta Vaifou Afioga. Only one takes the win, that is the decision of the court, let us carry on with that. Let us work together, whilst we still have time for this Term given our oaths to our constituencies. Mr Speaker, let us proceed with the consideration of the Budget 2020/2021. Bless this Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, pardon me if I can have a small chance as the Hon Prime Minister is right on this topic. I have observed, just shortly honourable Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Go ahead. Be brief.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Thank you for the chance. I trust we have delivered our prayer in the start, it has been fulfilled, and sanctity has been received for the purpose of the Cabinet.

Mr Speaker, with great respect I stand before you, it is no hidden agenda that this matter is well known by all and has gone viral around the world. We have sat on shaky rock particularly the Cross of disgrace and the intent for the listening Samoa, which questions your faithfulness. With greatest respect, I wish to use this golden opportunity, to voice my humbling heart before the Parliament of Samoa. We have reached this time, *ua tini pao le uto e pei o le faiva i vai, fuga foi i upu o le seugagogo*. It is finished Mr Speaker, I wish not to rise mutely, as the word you made in evenings like this, "Laauli, go with God, may you rely on God."

Such is the spirit here honourable Speaker, I have heard my parents say it, when they said that night. I went with a contented heart, because the journey I went through was not easy to take. The life of suffering and difficulties and disgrace. Living when truly dead due to words pointed against me on this matter. I have been crucified not once, twice nor thrice but many times. This evening Mr Speaker is a new beginning. I wish to say that I have forgotten about yesterday. Except this to say, I plead the members of this House not to walk through the valley of the shadow of death again, instead, God has answered in accordance to purpose. Mr Speaker, I wish to extend my great appreciation to the dignity of the House, you have seen and heard, it is worse to hear a bad reputation and good reputation than murder. My final words honourable Speaker, may blessings be upon our Parliament particularly the listening Samoa.

This is the least word he said to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, I may be down, but not out, and I will be back. Tonight I am back. Thank you to those who have supported and prayed for my purpose. I have also forgiven them, those who saw me as their enemy. But watch out be very careful, I will go after you.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

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With respect honourable Speaker, Samoa has gathered, I thank my families for keeping the peace. To my colleague Peseta, our friendship is genuine. The heavens is witness to my love for you. I will help you man, however other people have used you for other things.

Nevertheless, I shall move forward. My heart is full of forgiveness and will not look back on any issue. The essence is for us to make decisions. Leave aside our guessing game. The greatest commandment of the Lord. His greatest bitterness is upon those who create animosity amongst brotherhood. Bless the honourable Speaker, bless this Parliament, and bless the listening Samoa. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thanks. The Prime Minister has laid out his statement in response to the raising concerns of members. As such, no member of this Parliament has spoken of this matter. The same with the Cabinet, it has just been mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister and therefore, who is he to us, like the story about the father then the father can say no. Preparations for the welcoming of the prodigal son was fully done. Such is the intention made by the Hon Prime Minister.

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister for your will in order to...the helping hands so as to greet. Whoever has returned to join our fellowship that is the utmost spirit, as the government become the arbitrator in anything. Whether it regards the church, or between Kome and Simi, pardon me. The State becomes the mediator as this is its sole duty. Such is the acknowledgement Laauli. If those are the feelings, I thank you pardon the Parliament. I further wish to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister. Who will father this Parliament? You are the father of this Nation. This is not a joke as that is the nature of a leader, even though we make mistakes but there is always the righteous Divinity to correct us. Now that you have greeted Laali which is seems to look like a father greeting a son who, there is a parable I wish not to mention as he is not the prodigal son. But the lost son as often times seen nowadays for we do suffer at times because of the devil. The devil can overcome us and so can we when the power of God is with us. As such thank you. Lest time prolongs rather we ought to work together.

The response of the State in accordance to the raising matters have already been made in regards to the economy of Samoa and financial policies. The motion has been put and has been seconded for the second reading of the Bill on the 26th of May 2020.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

29 JUNE 2020

The Question was put and the motion moved on the 26th of May 2020 was approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2018/2019 and the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 was read a second time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative will proceed to consider the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020. To proceed with the consideration of this Bill, members can speak according to the order paper 2020/2021 (No.1). The Appropriation No.3 of Revenue and expenditure of the State of Samoa for the ending period 30 June 2020. Including paper 2020/2021 No.23, Revenue and Expenditure Committee Report of the Samoan State for the period ending 30th June 2020. Pursuant to Standing Order 134, Consideration of the Bill will commence with the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

VOTES AND APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
		COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: \$40,700.

Approved.

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE:	-\$500,000.
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MR SPEAKER: The Committee has an Amendment to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. I call the Chairperson of the Committee of Revenue and Expenditure.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

29 JUNE 2020

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, I move the Amendment to the Supplementary Appropriation to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.

“AMENDMENT:

Omit the Additional Appropriation of \$500,000 from the Supplementry Appropriation (No.3) 2019/2020 from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. The reason being, the Committee found that the Ministry had a huge balance left in the current financial year ending in June 2020, which allows the implementing of public servants salaries for the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.”

Amendment Approved.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE **\$3,161,155.**

Approved.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS **\$124,200.**

Approved.

HEALTH **\$1,000,000.**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No 3.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

29 JUNE 2020

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I wish to advise the Hon Minister and the matter regarding our protection. Not only with the Covid but also the Measles and many other deadly diseases like cancer and so forth. Just to remind the Hon Minister that it is useful to bear assistance. Whether possible to look into it honourable Speaker and our SPAGHL Parliamentary Committee that had undertaken the awareness on non-communicable diseases which covers all awareness needs or health inspections upon health clinics, restaurants and schools for the purpose of cleanliness and the situation with toilets and things like that.

The view honourable Speaker, this matter is very vital. Because it gave birth to plenty other good development projects, when we saw the closure of some of the schools due to problems. Just consideration and advice for the long run and effectiveness, the public is looking at our Parliament and the push for protection and the importance of our Parliamentary Committee approaching them to inspect all areas in assistance and support to the State. Just saying Hon Minister the vitality of bringing forth help for our protection. Particularly when we are faced with many diseases that are spreading here and there. With due respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. I call the member for Salega.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Thank you for the opportunity, I will be brief, I know it was noted during the measles outbreak, the meaning of what I requested in bringing in oxygen supply from Tutuila. Mr Speaker I believe the Minister and the Ministry should look into our oxygen plant. There needs to be more and enough for patients especially with the Corona which I see is needed for patients. If we have 20 to 30 people, the oxygen that we have will not be enough. This is a recommendation that should be considered. Another area is the backup for our CT scanner. I know there was a time when our patients were sent to Tutuila, when our CT scanner failed, there are a few things that you have to prioritize because of the state of health in our country. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

29 JUNE 2020

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, the budget will probably be over in 8 hours. In case there is additional matters. But tomorrow is the last day of the financial year for this Supplementary Appropriation lest the members forget.

MR SPEAKER: That is the Main Estimates, there are matters you have mentioned, but we are considering the Supplementary. But it is also good that you have mentioned it for us to prepare.

Approved \$1,000,000 for the Ministry of Health.

JUSTICE, AND COURTS ADMINISTRATION:	\$530,600.
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Approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT:	\$134,400.
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Approved.

CUSTOMS & REVENUE:	\$150,000
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Approved.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:	\$107,930.
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Approved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

BUREAU OF STATISTICS *29 JUNE 2020*
\$123,020.

Approved.

CONTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL: **\$39,950.**

Approved.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: **\$86,300.**

Approved.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION: **\$210,642.**

Approved.

OMBUDSMAN: **\$115,000.**

MR SPEAKER: There is an Amendment by the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the Office of the Ombudsman. I respectfully call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker, I propose the Amendment to the Office of the Ombudsman as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

To deduct \$95,000 from the Supplementary Fund of the Office of the Ombudsman for the purchase of the vehicle and change the total amount to \$20,500.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

29 JUNE 2020

The reason is, Committee has found that \$125,000 has been allocated in the Main Budget 2020/2021 for the purchase of the same new vehicle with respect. No provision should have been made in the Supplementary Budget (No.3) 2019/2020. (Nu.3) 2019/2020.

Amendment approved.

ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2019/2020: \$6,324,398.

MR SPEAKER: There is Amendment on Total Additional Overall Expenditures 2019/2020.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move an Amendment on the Total Additional Overall Expenditure 2019/2020 as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

To omit the figure \$6,324,398 and replace with the figure \$5,729,398.

Amendment approved.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS
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FINANCE:		-\$ (950,000).
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Approved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details**

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE:	29 JUNE 2020 -\$ (45,872).
<i>Approved.</i>	
JUSTICE & COURT ADMINISTRATION:	-\$ (223,200).
<i>Approved.</i>	
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT	-\$ (105,000).
<i>Approved.</i>	
BUREAU OF STATISTICS:	-\$ (66,200).
<i>Approved.</i>	
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:	-\$ (170,000).
<i>Approved.</i>	
TOTAL REDUCTIONS OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2019/2020:	-\$ (1,560,272).
<i>Approved.</i>	

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020
- consideration in details

29 JUNE 2020

CLAUSE 2: Grant and appropriation of \$6,324,398 out of the Treasury Fund.

MR SPEAKER: There is an Amendment on Clause 2.
I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move an Amendment on Clause 2 as follows:-

“AMENDMENT:

To omit figure \$6,324,398 and replace with the figure \$5,729,398

Amendment Approved.

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

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020

Approved.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 progressed with Amendments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.3)
2019/2020 – third reading**

29 JUNE 2020

MR SPEAKER: I respectfully call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, that *the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Revenue.

Motion approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: The Assembly will now proceed with the consideration in detail of the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 and the Main Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of Samoa for the financial year ending 30 June 2021 and Parliamentary Paper No.24, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Main Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of Samoa for the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 134, consideration in detail of the Bill starts with Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE

VOTES & APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY:	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES:		\$19,383,976.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga.

**Appropriation Bill 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

29 JUNE 2020

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you for the opportunity. Just a few recommendations and ideas to convey towards our projects for further improvement of our organisations with the assistance of our Ministry. I am grateful for the continued support of \$300,000 given to WIPDI every year because of the importance of their work. The reason why I have raised this because we also have our Farmers Association in Upolu and Savaii. Can the Hon Minister look into the proposals of our Farmers Association in Upolu and Savaii. The continuation of their work is also important in this aspect.

My apologies Mr Speaker but I have requested this on behalf of the 12 applications made by farmers from Savaii in our Agrobusiness. Perhaps this is known by the Minister of Finance. These applications have already been submitted. Thus I humbly ask the Hon Minister for his consideration, there is a premise that the requirements and materials are quite complex. But I will just leave it to you, there are 12 applications from the farmers in Savaii, this is a reminder with respect.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Salega.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Part 6 please. It is not, Mr Speaker since this is the last Main Estimates for this Parliamentary term, but in 2018, I questioned the same concern with revenue for the Ministry of Fisheries on dividends for fishing boats registration. Therefore I want to ask again since this query was not answered in 2018, where is this money allocated to? This is the question to the Chairperson and...

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, I call upon the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Mr Speaker, I believe a clarification was given by the Minister of Finance at the time, that is money from Foreign Affairs that goes into the account of the Ministry of Finance. It was already explained back then, but that is the response, now it is being asked again, but it was already answered in 2018 with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you...

**Appropriation Bill 2020/2021
– consideration in detail**

29 JUNE 2020

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker I stood, since it is clear that the money is under Treasury under space. In my mind where the money is allocated should be specific. I just want to know where exactly in the Ministry of Finance is it located? Because I know it is similar to other years.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps, the speech given by the Hon Minister of Finance clarified all these matters. There is a vast ocean where this situation has been propelled, however... I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: This is my second opportunity Mr Speaker, on the same issue of farmers. I note with sadness the speech given by the Minister on our Isaraelian banana. This is quite a big project. When I arrived at the Ministry it was a project started by Afioga Le Mamea Ropati. Then I proceeded doing it because I believe that the Ministry had already done the research, a lot of research has been done under our SACEP Programme. I have noted they are growing the bananas however now they are the ones banning it. I have also noted with concern that the banana farmers are saddened, they have taken up this project growing the banana again but now it is going to be stopped. The problem is, it is not being blocked by overseas markets, but by our own people. I just want to say Mr Speaker, it is not great that the Ministry and the previous Minister have already carried out research, but the other Minister has come and banned it. This is a concern with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Your concern is noted...

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you for the feedback. Well first of all, I will not neglect the research that has been done and the situation it is in now. The only thing is, all banana growers are now aware that the cost of maintenance is not low, and most of them cannot afford it. Who is to blame? I am not blaming anyone, the only thing is to look at the results. As for the case of banning this banana we are not, we only stopped the Association from taking it overseas because when the container arrived in New Zealand 60 boxes of bananas were not accepted.

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This nearly resulted in our pathway from being banned altogether. The way this was handled together with the decision made, quickly restored the confidence of the NPI since we are taking the necessary steps also for the monitoring of their interest for the impact of their farms. When the container arrived in New Zealand, 60 boxes were ripe when this should not be the case, that is why we stopped the Association from taking any more containers of banana so that you can come work and observe why your first container failed. This is the reason why Mr Speaker it was stopped because of the protection of our pathway and the protection of New Zealand with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, Susuga Laauli Fossie is a farmer, it is time. If it arrives and the banana is ripe then it is the timing that is wrong. It is that simple. Now the opportunities for members have concluded, we will now move on...a question will be put forward. Is there anything else since the two opportunities for these members have been used. Alright.

\$19,383,976 approved for Agriculture and Fisheries.

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR: \$20,139,982.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Just this minor matter, it has been noted nowadays what we have been arguing about regarding foreign businesses that come in and take over our local manufacturers. I will leave this matter to the Hon Minister on our Reserve List. Let us review these businesses which we should operate, and businesses that should be operated by foreign investors.

It is sadly noted that there will be a take over. But it would be great to restrict our reserve list for our people. In order for the wealthy not to cross over, and let the efforts of the a few people go to waste. This is a reminder to the Minister to review, especially the standardization of products that are allowed to foreigners on standard control.

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This is like the incident I mentioned on exporting kava, it was done carelessly and we suffered for almost 10 years not being able to export it anymore. This is a matter of carelessness and neglect, it was only checked upon but there was no restriction on what is produced overseas.

I respectfully speak upon the nonu fruit that I also mentioned. The Association of nonu growers are listening. Quality control is very important. But it seems people are also picking the green fruit. If this market were to close down, it will be closed to all of Samoa. I have now heard the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture, that is the protection of our borders. This is just a recommendation Hon Minister, with respect.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Your honour...

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the member of Salega. You may speak.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I just wanted to query the matter regarding associations and companies and their financial statements. I strongly believe that they are not following, or whether the Ministry is not emphasizing this matter. There are a lot of problems that I found in our Ministry since there are no monthly financial statement reports. Even with the Human Rights Protection Party financial report, I am sure there is nothing available with your Ministry. It seems that HRPP have started to violate the Act, such includes the giving of these things.

Second Mr Speaker, is the matter of police reports for investors entering our borders. Especially countries that...

MR SPEAKER: Which of the following does the members statement refer to?

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: It is 6 Mr Speaker. And another thing is the Police Report, especially those who have a different language. I believe there is no thorough check up being done, on these police reports whether it be in Chinese or Asian. Therefore I want to make a recommendation to the Hon Minister, to look into this matter with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I will leave this matter to the Hon Minister, I call upon the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: The matter raised by the member about our reserve list, well it still remains the same. Investors from overseas who are non Samoans cannot continue the lease under our reserve list.

These list of investors come from China, but now they are citizens of Samoa. This is why they are able to do what is on our reserve list. There is also a review done on our reserve list, whether or not we should add more provisions. As for this reserve list, it still remains the same. As I earlier stated it is easy for some, because they are now Samoan citizens. This is why they are able to manage it, also the Ministry is monitoring these new people, they are not Samoans and they cannot do these things.

The matter mentioned by the member, we are the investors, as I stated before, there is an appeal, to try and make it simpler for investors that come. This is why they are happy to come, we do not have many restrictions. For example, financial statements must be submitted on monthly basis or similar.

The only group that is enforced, are the people who come under our citizenship, or the citizenship by investment. Those are the people who are under this provision, to bring in their financial statements every month.

As for groups that are registered like HRPP, there is no need to give a statement, unless there is a need, if there is a reason to doubt, that what they are doing is not right. Otherwise, it is...

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: This is the second opportunity, if the Hon Minister has any compassion, if you look at it there is.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: You can say that there is, but I say there is nothing, your second chance is finished.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker, this is a small matter but I just want to address this matter on agriculture. Now I see that other people from abroad have set up fruit and vegetable shops. This is a concern to me. I have also seen others, there was a Indian that I heard was in Falealili this other time, that set up a commercial farm, a taro farm.

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There are also many Asians that hide or diasppear when I go to the market and in their place is a different person selling the taro and vegetables.

This is an opinion, to make it indpendent since our people are dependent on the land. It would be a pity if in the next 5 years, and we see our market full of foreigners selling us our own produce. Let them be categorized under export manufacturers only. As for the market it should only be for our local produce, I have noted, the farmers and vegetable growers who used to supply more than 20 longline fishing boats at the wharf no longer supply it anymore. All of these fishing boats are now being supplied by the Chinese. This is a request. I humbly ask the Hon Minister, to review this to determine our reserve list.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister...

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: This matter mentioned we are already at another Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture have passed but this question was not asked.

However the reason for taking the floor is to put order to the opinions raised. Some Chinese people as mentioned earlier, are those who are now Samoan citizens. They have Samoan families and farms, but this is a clarification Mr Speaker, incase the matter is taken wrong, especially with the country listening. With respect, as for the case of fishing our people are still selling their vegetables to these fishing vessels.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I am puzzled with what we are doing, there is no such thing also we are talking about the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour. I do not know what the member is talking about, the reason why I say this, it seems the issue is going back and forth, and talking about the Chinese, but he is one person who has many Chinese people. Why point out other Chinese people but not look at his own Chinese?

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you...

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Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: In case there is a misunderstanding, they are not my Chinese, Chinese are international and they go overseas. They are people who come into the country. They are entrepreneurs to the Government but it is not my Chinese. He is the one in partnership with my constituency.

MR SPEAKER: You have been given three opportunities already, now you have none left.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, there is something happening. Because the Hon Minister has already clarified, that there are Chinese people who are already citizens. I also have with me the letter from the Chinese businessman you are partners with saying you two want to do business in China. Then why are you indicating other Chinese but how about your Chinese? This is the reason for argument.

MR SPEAKER: Very well...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Yes Mr Speaker, I stood up for a different matter. Also I cannot confirm the statement made to take the Chinese overseas for a partnership. This is the reason for arguments, is saying whatever you want to say. I am talking about our reserve list.

MR SPEAKER: Well, so be it. It is hard to remind this matter, since I have mentioned it so many times, that it is best to address matters raised by Government, then we move on, it should not be hidden, Government should also stand to respond based on what the member queried. This is why we should now move away from this matter, but...

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUEL TEO: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member...

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Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: It is hard because my constituency is listening, which was mentioned by the member, especially to all of Falealili showing their support. It is probably the Indian since now he has already mentioned the Chinese, let me respond on behalf of this Indian. This Indian was trying to assist our constituency, because our container of taro taken, then it...

MR SPEAKER: There is no reason to mention the Indian when he is not involved in this discussion.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: Well the name of the constituency was mentioned. This is just a brief summary, the Indian wanted to come and set up a big plantation in our constituency and supply this, but I saw that the constituency did not earn anything from it. I have already told him to leave, the Indian has now returned to New Zealand, meaning he is not here anymore, and is not part of this reserve list. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to Parliament, but I will give the opportunity to the member. I call upon the member of Palauli West.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity...

MR SPEAKER: What individual matter will you be talking about?

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: It is the citizenship business mentioned by the Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: We are not talking about citizenship.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: It is businesses carried out by those who are citizens.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, let me assist. If a member speaks, state where the matter you are talking about is mentioned.

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There is nothing wrong with speaking on the Budget, but it seems general matters are being reinstated. These three are all the same. State a matter and tell us where it is and the figure whether it is \$200,000 stated here.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. This is the exact matter I was trying to assist in, yes, you have taken my compassion and respect for you as something to disregard...leave it to me. But do not do it again. Do not do it again alright?

\$20,139,982 approved for the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: **-\$7,711,384.**

Approved.

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE **-\$124,636,643.**

Approved.

FINANCE: **\$133,339,464.**

Approved.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE **\$26,749,153.**

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker, I rise with respect, on the matter regarding 3.0 to 3.11.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

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Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: The expenditures allocated for our posts overseas, Ambassadors and our people who represent our Government in overseas countries. I respectfully appeal to Cabinet and the Hon Prime Minister, we have been receiving these posts for some time, like air point. However, with all due respect and a suggestion, should it be time to officially advertise these opportunities so that everyone in the country will be able to apply for these posts? This is an opinion...

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, such opportunities cannot be published, because there are special conditions. It cannot be advertised based on special conditions for those whom the Government considers appropriate.

MR SPEAKER: Well, that is the answer.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Well, Mr Speaker, we always observe the performance duty and responsibilities to be made known to the country, so that whoever wants to apply to this opportunity can do so. But this is the reason for a suggestion made, however you decide.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

\$26,749,153 approved for the Ministry of Foreign, Affairs and Trade.

HEALTH: **\$128,495,959.**

Approved.

JUSTICE & COURT ADMINISTRATION: **\$13,817,618.**

Approved.

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NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT: *29 JUNE 2020*
\$26,846,930.

Approved.

POLICE: **\$35,141,515.**

Approved.

PRIME MINISTER: **\$8,411,237.**

Approved.

REVENUE: **-\$13,172,045.**

Approved.

**WOMEN, COMMUNITY & SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT:** **\$10,755,210.**

Approved.

WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE: **\$70,858,658.**

Approved.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: *29 JUNE 2020*
-\$5,337,037.

Approved.

CONTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL: **-\$3,978,992.**

Approved.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION: **\$8,270,121.**

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3. You may take the floor Susuga Laauli Schmidt.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I want to make a request with respect to our Electoral Commissioner as mentioned by other members of this island, if we could get assistance for the boat, it will be enough for us for now. Leave the matter of buses and other means for later.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker where exactly is this matter addressed, what number is it?

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: It is for the preparation of our election. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Respectable member, you once sat in this Chair. Therefore, while taking the floor you must first state the matter that you want to speak upon. If you cannot then we will proceed with our work.

Approved \$8,270,121 for the Electoral Commissioner.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: *29 JUNE 2020*
\$6,886,059.

Approved.

OMBUDSMAN OFFICE: **-\$1,583,361.**

Approved.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: **-\$5,154,961.**

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I want to ask about each item 1 to 8.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Can the member be more specific on which number is it between 1 to 8. What exactly does the member want to speak upon, because we want to take a look at it.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I think 8 will do. Because I want to ask the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on this matter because our Ministry is asking for a justification on why the salary for Principal level for the Public Service Commission different from other Government Ministries. It has long been stated that pay will be streamlined, however the salaries of this Ministry seems to differ from other Government Ministries. It reflects that it is inappropriate. Some of the principal levels in our Ministry, have been working 10 to 20 years but they are still under the entry point, but the entry point advertised by this Ministry is above the maximum salary of \$60,000. I want a clarification on this matter with respect. Thank you.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: A clarification on this is, if the entry point remains this means it should never be changed.

Approved \$5,154,961 for the Public Service Commission.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: \$2,888,293.

Approved.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS: -\$5,629,929.

Approved.

SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION: \$1,445,678.

Approved.

PRISONS & CORRECTION SERVICES: \$8,060,410.

Approved.

TOTAL OVERALL EXPENDITURE FOR MINISTRIES 2020/2021: - \$688,694,610.

Approved.

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SCHEDULE:

Approved.

CLAUSE 2: Grant and appropriation of \$688,694,610 out of the Treasury Fund.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Grant and appropriation of \$490,045 out of the Public Trustees Account.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Grant and appropriation of \$20,660,838 out of the Treasury Fund.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021.

Approved.

The Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 progressed without Amendments.

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021
– third reading**

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker, before I move a motion. I would first want to commend and thank you and also respectable members of Parliament. I also want to thank the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Organisations, and to all those who assisted with the Budget, I appreciate it.

Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *that the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Revenue.

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

MR SPEAKER: Work well done, let us give a hand of applause. Thank you.

Members of the House showed their appreciation with an applause on the passing of the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: We have now arrived at the end of our session for the day. We have not yet arrived at the time moved in the motion. The motion was whatever time we finish passing the Budget then our work for the evening will conclude. Therefore, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister for his statement.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAIPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move with respect, I convey heartfelt thanks to you and to all members of our Parliament.

Motion for Adjournment

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Perhaps since the start of this Parliamentary term, this is the first time we have had the longest sitting. And it is necessary since it is the last Main Estimates of this term. Then we have a Supplementary, like this Appropriation which we will base much of our work, it should be done in preparation for the General Elections next year. I congratulate everyone since Parliament has been immersed in this sitting for a long time. I want to thank all of Samoa and the support, to the respects of *Aiga ma Tama, Tama ma latou Aiga, faapea le Usoga a Tumua ma Puleono i Salafai*. I acknowledge the support of the Holy servants of God, His Excellency Le Ao O le Malo, Member of Council of Deputies, also to the Judiciary the Chief Justice and Judges of the court. I acknowledge also the employees of Government. Mr Speaker we still have some work left. Let us consider it tomorrow, I am certain we do not have much left to do, but we will follow with the Government orders already set out for this Sitting.

As for this evening, I want to thank you all. Our work day and night is not easy, thus we have reached a successful conclusion of our Budget, and we will now proceed with our developments, for the benefit of our country. This is a statement, but I move a motion, *That we adjourn this Sitting and return to our normal sitting hours from 9.00am to 1.00pm for tomorrow.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I also want to extend congratulations and gratitude, to respectable members of Parliament especially Cabinet. As for the efforts of the Chair, it was done so, to implement the standard of our work, I apologize but this is the nature of the work. If you were to sit here in this Chair, I am certain Susuga Laauli Schmidt can attest, this is how we push our work so that it can be quickly implemented, to respond to the needs conveyed by members for their constituencies.

Therefore, I apologize if there have been any offensive statement made that has made anyone uncomfortable, let us follow the will of the Lord for forgiveness. Before we adjourn for tomorrow, I will conclude our Sitting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned at 10.15pm until 9.00am Tuesday, 30th June 2020.