

*11 FEBRUARY 2021***THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2021**

Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 9:22 am pursuant to Standing Order 27 (1).

Prayer.

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

As the usual Samoan proverb goes, we have finally met in good fortunes as per saying about the Relative of Tupua. Apolima has also gone by with reference to good health and spirit upon the respectable Parliament this morning. In honour of our Father, we have offered a thanksgiving prayer to Him for His grace and goodness upon His people.

I offer greetings to the Leader of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers, Chairperson of the Special Committee, Parliamentary Committee, the Parliament especially the Chief Executive Officers of all Government Ministries, Corporations and the Private Sector. I would also like to acknowledge the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Greetings and welcome.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– resumption debate on second reading – Day 17**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday when the member for Palauli le Falefa voiced the concerns of his Constituency.

With respect, I will now give the opportunity to the member, to continue with the remaining of your beautiful speech as it was yesterday.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I think it is pleasant to call out the chiefly titles of Members who are being given the opportunity to speak because people are wondering which Member for Palauli le Falefa, but that would be more appropriate as our Constituency are listening Mr Speaker. However, we shall pass this. I am grateful that you have already defined the limit...

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to clarify something to the Member. Pursuant to the Standing Order, the Chair is very cautious when it comes to stating the chiefly titles of Members of the House, but if that is what you want, then that will be fine if you let your Constituency know once you make your speech. Nevertheless, my concern is the protection of the Standing Order of the House in regards to stating the chiefly titles, yet, I will still call the respectable Members using the matai titles bestowed upon each member by your constituencies. Hence, you may continue with your speech.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, respectable Togiai Fagamalo. That was the reason why I...because our constituency are praying and cheering for us. Anyways, you have already acknowledged the favours of God upon us, you have also mentioned in your prayer the crying of David the Psalmist as cited in the book of Psalms chapter 24, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in his Holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.” That is indeed the intention of this morning, as we speak about the temple of God, which is your heart and mine. With that being said, the things we do must be pure as well. I am being reminded this morning about the cry of the Psalmist who said, the blessings of the people come from the mountain. That means, Hon Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Cabinet Ministers and Members of this Parliament, your thoughts and mine are put together to mould the prosperity of Samoa. As I mentioned yesterday how grateful I am for the excellent work which indicates the existence of well-planned deeds and what our country has accomplished. Prosperity comes from careful planning by the heads. Since the cloud of blessings is on top of the mountain, then that means, the rain will drizzle down and wash towards the hills where the plants grow splendidly.

Hon Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele and Government, likewise this Parliament, this is our investment; today builds tomorrow, because your children will someday enter this House, or work in Government Ministries and Corporations or Non-Government organisations, because whatever we do, that will be our contribution to the well-being of Samoa. That indeed is the opening of my speech this morning.

Yesterday, I have always talked about one of the accomplishments, which was a record we had achieved and used to build the Unit Trust of Samoa. I thought I would not bother to go there again, but the Old man said something unintentionally, therefore I should speak about it, or he would assume that I know nothing about what I am saying.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

I am saying this because at that time I was appointed to oversee the Ministry of Finance, I had called all Heads of Ministries to bring reports to brief me about the stages of this part of the financial sector. One thing that drew my attention was when I saw that there was an error. Then I asked the Advisor if we could talk. The Advisor brought me the plan, which said that it takes 3 years for us to find \$40 million and the thousands of people who owns freehold shares.

So what happened was...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member while I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, the reason I have distracted the respectable Member is because, the UTOS as I clarified, you might perhaps broaden it, but the issue is very small. The UTOS is an organisation that was planned for a very long time. It was proposed in the year 1972 when our NPF was set up, so I thought, the NPF will be responsible in handling our financial savings that the country can turn to for development, and so as the people who owns these monies so that they could receive their retirement allowances once they retire. At that time, the only thing that was there, was the Superannuation of the New Zealand Government. Thence, the NPF was established. However, it was difficult for people who resided in rural areas.

So, an idea came to mind, that it is a must to establish the Organisation of Unit Trust Samoa. The purpose of the Organisation, is to collect the funds from people and save it there; so that they could use that money to buy their shares from other Organisations and Corporations that have already being outsourced by the Government.

Before the project started, the shares of our SamoaTel would be released, but the Government have already privatized some of its' Companies. I noticed that the establishment of the UTOS was late. I referred it to the Ministry of Finance to operate it. Hence, it has not been done yet, but there is a handful of Government Corporations that already have been privatized such as the Tusitala Hotel and our Vailima Company.

So that is the case, pardon the respectable Member, this is what my thoughts meant, I did not try to amplify it. Therefore, when the Cabinet ordered the establishment of the UTOS and the shares of Samoa Tel was not yet sold then. The decision by the Cabinet will be, the shares of the SamoaTel will never be sold unless the Organisation of UTOS is launched.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Therefore, it was enforced upon the Cabinet's directive, that there is no way to implement this part of the asset release program, until the UTOS is set up. The intention of the Government is that, there will probably be a lot of money and employments for our people.

For that reason, those who work in the Ministry of Finance saw, if the order is not followed, the SamoaTel Company will not be privatized. This is very important for our people, if people get money they can then invest it here. Hence, this Organisation will be in charge of selling the shares of SamoaTel and the shares from other Companies. The old women who roast cocoa beans as mentioned by the member will then say, that is our company, we have our shares.

Therefore, what I am saying is, the issue is a bit broad. The basic legacy starts from back in 1972, but it was only implemented in 2011. That is the reason why I brought forth the issue because you have no understanding of this history and the reviving of this Organisation. Now, these old women would go around, as a figure of speech, they will crush their roasted cocoa beans and say, Vodafone is our company and Samoa's company because a quarter of shares are owned by our people, and this is through UTOS.

The reason for taking the floor is to give you some piece of advice, quit it, stay away from this matter, because the words that we say in here, might cause upheaval from some people who do not have a full understanding of the history and effort of our Government. Many people have money to invest here so that they can earn a little extra money because the interest earned in it is more than the Banks. The history for this issue started back in 1972. The Government can also rely on development loans from the UTOS. This is another benefit. The Government borrows money from there to finance its developments because there is literally no money to depend on, besides we did not have many loans granted by overseas Governments at that time. The situation is different now Mr Speaker, that was a long time ago and that was what I meant earlier, the member does not have the whole account of these plans, because it is a bit old. I also mentioned yesterday, the spirit brought by the member is correct. However, there are flaws noticed from the back towards the front that we should be cautious of, it is our concern that this issue might be used to create inaccurate information to challenge the great deeds of the UTOS.

Perhaps that was when my brain quickly reacted, which proves that one old man's metaphorical story, pardon me. He had a rabbit, and one day he chased after the rabbit to kill it because it disobeyed. He was chasing it while the old man next door was standing and watching them, the rabbit came running and hopped in the piled of leaves and hid in it, and he noticed that the neighbour was looking.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

The old man said to the rabbit, “What has happened?” The rabbit answered, “The old man is chasing me and he is going to kill me, please be kind to me and do not tell him where I am.” The old man replied, “Alright.” The old man asked his neighbour, “Have you seen my rabbit?” The old man answered, “I have not seen it” while pointing his finger at the pile of leaves where the rabbit hid. So what did the rabbit say? “Old man! Your finger is right but your mouth is wrong.”

Mr Speaker, my mind is right but it seems like my mouth is wrong. I apologise... let us move away from those things.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well Hon Prime Minister. It is crystal clear to the House and the Chair, you are old. You are the Old Man who is used to these things. But it is best if we withdraw from here, to save your time.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you. The things we are discussing are very important because the Prime Minister is right, a lot of people have understood the history. He had also told me the same story several times. Therefore, if I had said something wrong, please forgive me.

This subject matter is our...this is one of the evidences on the improvement of our developments, and the standard that Samoa has been in comparison to other small countries like us, not only in the Pacific, but also outside of the Pacific since our graduation from a Least Developed Country to a Developing Country. The thing that amazes me and it should be a milestone of our gathering here in making decisions of the country is, cyclone Heta struck in 2004, the Tsunami hit in 2009. Then there were several other storms, cyclone Evan in 2012, but we did not use those natural disasters that wrecked us to take away or be an excuse to delay our progress and the upgrade of Samoa from least developed countries to developing countries. I am grateful to our Government especially this Parliament, because if the cost of recovery from these natural disasters add up, I know it is close to \$2 billion.

The cost of the Tsunami alone according to the report that was given, is worth \$700 plus millions of the damages. Cyclone Evan, worth \$400 million. Cyclone Heta, cost more than \$400 million. If we add all of these up, the cost of our recovery perhaps was close to \$2 billion. So what happened? We still marched towards the top where we were supposed to be. The graduation of Samoa is the evidence.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

The only thing that I asked the World Bank was, whether our special treatment as of now in loaning without interests will be affected. Their answer was, no. The graduation, it will not be affected, you are still entitled to take it to that level if the policies of which ever political party takes over the Government of Samoa is trustworthy.

I offer gratitude to our Parliament, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, that is one achievement that will be praised by many...I also brag about it during international conferences, because it was not easy. Well with the use of our fields and stadiums in hosting the Commonwealth Youth Games, and another game that was held recently. The matter is if another Pacific country is not able to host, we host it. Everything is here in our country. So those are some of the things that I thought I still need to advise on.

The member Tofa Hon Lauofo raised the topic about the establishment of our...about the dam that will be built on Alaoa. He said...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg indulgence to the member for Palauli le Falefa as I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, I apologise, there is still some injury time, so there is nothing to worry about, the Cabinet and myself as well as the Speaker are urging you about the injury time, because the injury time does not mean you are through, but that is when the Member takes a break before moving on to the next topic. This is the important part that people forgets, now that the great damages caused by cyclone Ofa is presented clearly. It has not been a year since Ofa, then cyclone Valelia struck, and it was worse than Ofa. And I remembered a lot of houses were destroyed by the storm. We did our visit during the storm, and I went with Tofilau and the Chief Executive Officer, Hon Leiatua Kuki.

As we went on the road, we tried to find a clear pathway to avoid rocks and fallen trees. When we got to Siumu, we were about to turn right, when we saw the roof of a house lying in the middle of the main road, the whole roof had been lifted from the house and placed on the road, so our visit could not go further. Even when the car got to Alaoa and we looked down the alley, the strong wind of 125 miles per hour shook our car, but when Valelia hit, it was 175 miles per hour.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

These are attributes learned from our Leader, even if you see death, go and visit. The damaged cost half a billion tāla, from this cyclone to this cyclone. But what is remarkable is the immediate recovery. By the time cyclone Ofa crashed the country, the agreement had just been signed, of aids from the ADB, on the month of December 1989. The cyclone struck on February 1990, whilst the agreement was signed earlier on December 1989.

The agreement with the Asian Development Bank was done, and it was the first time we had been granted a US\$15 million, which is called a loan of public programmes. But be reminded Member, it was signed in December, January, and then on the 1st of February the cyclone of Ofa attacked.

So that means, we only had 30 days for some developments then cyclone Ofa occurred. So I have been thinking, it seems like the Government felt intimidated, we initially discussed this issue with the Asian Development Bank, and then 30 days after the money was granted, the cyclone happened. So the destructions of the cyclone were immediately recovered and then several guidelines were laid out which must be handled by the Government for the rehabilitation of the country.

So when the following cyclones like Heta and others struck the country, we already knew what to do. Heta was coming towards us, and it was only 200 miles away from us when it suddenly stopped, and orbited at one place. It stayed there for 12 hours, and when I saw the New Zealand's weather report, that person who is a Scientist said this, "This is the first time that something like this has happened. The storm was coming straight through the centre of Savaii and Upolu, and only 200 miles till it arrived, but then stopped. The winds circled around the same spot for 12 hours. It moved again, but we noticed, that it slightly moved away, and proceeded towards the Cook Islands which greatly ruined the Cook Islands, whilst saved Samoa."

Mr Speaker, the scientists words were, "He has not seen something like this before." It was a miracle. Mr Speaker, we were affected by some mild winds.

I remember one time I went and cut down all the leaves from my banana trees roughly 20. I cut and cut, but on the very next day the hurricane never came, it only rained. There was a damage but it was little. So on the next day, the bananas stood out very hideously, so I went and cut them all down, pardon the House, it was not a nice view to people. Nevertheless, I was planning that, if every banana trees fall down, these bananas of approximately 20 would still stand.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Mr Speaker, even Evan. It started raining, whilst 2 or 3 cyclones had already struck Fiji. Why do these things happen? They derive from the prayers of Samoa. Perhaps, we are the only country that has a week for fasting and prayers in the beginning of the year. There is a week of fasting which is also the week for prayers. I think Samoa is the only country who kneels before God in the beginning of each year, and we see the blessings from God.

The reason why I raise this matter because it is important that the member revisit them. The Member has been in the Cabinet for 14 years. In addition, the Ministries he is responsible for were not easy because he was reliable. Despite the many critics, he still did his job. So he understands these things, but for me, if I look at the things which are happening today. Mr Speaker the HRPP Government was able to deal with them, and trying to make it through the journey. Over the entrustment and the whisperings of the Holy Ghost. Mr Speaker, the concerning issue is very important.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well to your respectable Leader of the House. I would like to offer thanks to the Member, whom is the cause of the clarifications. It is now very clear and understandable to the people of Samoa, about matters of good Governance, and the immediate response. This in regards to catastrophes that were faced by the nation. Hence, I hereby offer acknowledgements. The address made by the Prime Minister is entirely true, because the Member who was talking. He was in the authority of the Government in respect of the Cabinet family, and he totally understands it, that is why it is important that he should be reminded.

I certainly believe, when I was working at the Ministry of Prison, regarding the early recovery, everything that the Leader of the House touched on this morning, that is important, consequently the people of the country offering appreciations to the Government. That is because of the immediate responses to difficulties. Considering that we do not predict with urgent situations, natural disasters. However, the continual kneeling of the people, through prayers and fasting, which provokes, and then the wind conversed and saved the Christian country. Therefore, respectable Member you may take the floor to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, to God be the glory, because He possessed the miracles that Samoa receives today. Just as I mentioned before the issue that was addressed by my brotherly Member, respectable Laufofo, concerning the establishment of our dam which is planned to be set up in Alaoa. My suggestion Hon Minister Sili, you stated that the biddings would be advertised to overseas countries.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

The situation that I am looking at...I am of the belief, which you are right about what you said. But we should also consider the situation that our local companies could also be able to participate, in terms of joint-venture. The joint-venture is important because, the companies from abroad will be able to cooperate, because of the...There is a certain requirement that I am not happy about, regarding the World Bank, as well as the Asian Development Bank, and the cash flow requirement. Is there anyone else here in Samoa that has \$10 million in the bank? We have a lot of things, but those are assets.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member of Palauli le Falefa taking the floor as I call upon the Minister of Finance.

Susuga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): This is the spirit; I have also talked about. In regards to the ability that is needed in these kinds of huge developments, we continue to depend on our partnerships from abroad who have adequate abilities for these types of big developments which our local contractors do not have. But that will not take away the standard of giving opportunities to our local companies to collaborate with big contractors from overseas. The intention is to be able to share the ability and the experience that we gain from our outside contractors. Besides, that will improve the capacities of our local businesses.

There is no thinking that it will be left to the foreign companies inattentively. We must use the opportunity and they shall work together with our local companies, and that is going to be happening. We have several other works in which our local contractors take the lead.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies to the member, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: In addition to the clarification by the Minister of Finance. He has included this matter in his address again, the Hon Faumuina who was also a Minister of Finance, both understand these things. There are a lot of tangles in cases like these Mr Speaker.

The large Banks of the world that are helping us, every single Government contributes to it. And the considerations we give are also brought up by other Governments of the world. However, on the bright side, as we see it, we shall follow the manners of these great international Organisations.

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

They should also consider our suggestions; we are more knowledgeable. The problem is, that is also the case for 200 plus other countries, who also bringing forth the views we give. So the problem is, the ones who are requesting are the poor, whilst the wealthy is where the money comes from, and are also sitting in the administrations of Banks. They are indeed looking at our side, and with a different point of view. This is where the administrations of the Banks are uncertain because the director, not only the ADB and their policies, the Japanese to be the President, that is their respective basis.

The reason is because the Japanese was there from the beginning and Japan has more money in the bank of the ADB, but there are also members of big Governments on-board. For instance, America, Britain and others, from which a lot of money comes from. As for huge Organisations such as the IMF, the world funds, as well as the World Bank, IDA, IFC, the IFC is the special branch for bigger establishments that cost billions and billions of dollars. That is the particular comment that these countries and Ministers usually bring up, to the IFC, International Finance Corporation you certainly have no use to the Pacific.

It is the reason why they set up their own small branch, called the South Pacific Facility that was located in Sydney. Their selection was also questioned, to provide help for small island countries in the Pacific. So the hotel was set up in Siumu, owned by Hon. Tuatagaloa. That was the very first assistance, which was used to build the hotel with the intervention of the Government. It was then used to set up a big factory in Vaiala by Wilson, which was later on destroyed by a fire. There were 3 assistances grated, and then it stopped because problems emerged from it.

What I meant Mr Speaker, there is always an end to everything. Because a number of countries, especially during this time of the Covid19, they are now approaching these Organisations for support. So that means, our job is to mould our decisions thoroughly. We discuss with our partners, in the spirit of give and take and, meet half way, so that it will be possible for our partners to continue providing assistances.

Nevertheless, that was what the intention of the Minister of Finance. This is the usual manner, usually there are consultations with Organisations who offer assistances. It is true that we do our utmost, but they also give their suggestions. We should be cautious with our part. There comes a time that they will inform, the Ministers of Finance, to increase their contributions. Therefore, they also reach out to us for our input, you look at the tāla, that is our share that goes to international Organisations, and by then you will understand the reason. It is reported in the financial statement, nothing is concealed. Everything that is presented by this Government is understandable.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Mr Speaker that is what I wanted to add on, to ensure the full understanding of the concerned issue that was raised by the Member, who was a Minister for many previous years. Yet, the Minister is also saying, he is responsible for consultations of these issues with these big Organisations of the world.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well, thank you. I appease the member of Palauli le Falefa, as I give the opportunity to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you for the opportunity, thank you also to the Prime Minister, perhaps the clarification of this matter has been made clear. But I would just like to add on, since it has been noted in the speeches by the members. They stated that this would be a good opportunity for our local contractors. However, there are conditions provided by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank or the International Monetary Fund, for us to negotiate this assistance, and to look at eligible contractors. That is why this assistance is given extensively, as their conditions are also provided. If these conditions are not satisfied, our local contractors will not get these jobs. For example, there are many major projects that have been completed recently, such as the Maliolio project, which was acquired and was obtained by a foreign contractor. However, our Government's request through the Treasury Office was accepted, with conditions to make it easier to qualify our local contractors. Hereby, the construction of the concrete road in Maliolio was obtained by the Ah Liki contractor.

We also have projects that are being prepared at this time, such as the project funded by ADB, the cross island road. The preparations are underway and suggestions are being given so that our local contractors are qualified. Now the opportunity is given for joint ventures, for example Mr Speaker. The road that starts from here, and going towards the airport. The Ott contractor was the only qualified contractor. However, it is the desire of our Government to give the opportunity to our other local contractors so that they can receive job opportunities. Therefore, this condition was made and it was accepted by the World Bank as joint ventures will be established. And now one of these joint ventures earned the other part of this project. This is the case in the desire of the Government for our local contractors to profit, but there are conditions that are quite excessive.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

That is why the Government is trying to negotiate so that our local contractors are involved, so that the profits remain in our country. Because if it were up to us, we would cut off the funds received by foreign contractors, and use it to help with the development of our people, and also to develop our economy.

The dam that was mentioned by the member, the discussions are now underway. We have received a \$100 million funds from the ADB and our other development partners to help in this project. So discussions are ongoing at this time for conditions to... preparations will commence, and then a bid will be announced for a contractor.

But that is the spirit of the Government, to help out our own companies. This is my assistance on this matter with all due respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I apologise as it would be good to add on to this matter, because if it is set aside for later, there will be no relation to the actual issue that is being raised. The matter that the Hon Minister of Works talked about is very important, in the efforts to get more Samoan workers to gain experience in road construction. And that is exactly the reason why the implementation of the work is delayed, because not only are they requesting for work but we fully understand the Ott Construction Company, as it is a company that has all the skills. Their work performance is high enough to compete with any foreign company.

The Ott Construction Company is capable of implementing all of the roads, and making it high quality roads that are required. But this is the intention of the Minister and the Ministry, as they try to encourage our children who have these sets of skills, to further increase their knowledge. That is why after multiple debates, three of the road construction companies were accepted, to be a company and to bid for the construction of the main road to the airport. And when you go there, the Ott Company have completed their work ahead of schedule, while the group of three construction companies are still working on their part. So I have already talked to them these three companies to pay attention, to speed up and improve the quality of their work.

I do not know how many times they have attempted to mix their tar and were always rejected by the LTA, because the strength of the tar was not consistent with the amount of tar required. Also with these contractors, they have a belief that if you can find a faster way around the curve, you will use it immediately.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

They do not understand even though accidents will occur due to the poor implementation of the roads, and thus why as you can see, the Ott has already completed their work, while the group of three companies are still working, as it is important to raise their awareness so that the World Bank will allow them to continue implementing these major projects from abroad. Keep in mind that the continuation of the road all the way to the airport has been approved, but we also have another road that has been planned, the restoration of the road at Tiavi going towards Siumu. So all these developments have been planned, but the advice to the local contractors is that there are plenty of profits and major developments like this, but the restrictions for these foreign contractors depends on the proper and honest implementation of the work by our local contractors.

It is also useful to raise these issues in the House of Assembly so that the message is clearly conveyed to those involved. I cannot count how many times the Cabinet has summoned them all and told them to work righteously, to be honest. Especially for those who are improving the roads. The roads should be properly cut and renovated instead of just tossing sand on it. There is a lot of misconduct occurring, but the Government is encouraging these companies to do their jobs properly. Because if the companies are good, the competition will also be good and that will result in the emergence of capable people in our country in the future. Even though there are some who conduct inefficient work but be patient, and encourage our own people. It has been noted that this is the intention of our House, to encourage our young people to improve our services. But there are opportunities abroad; there was a year after the war between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The Americans were the ones who rebuilt the houses and roads that were destroyed in the war.

This was also the time when the World Crimes Court was set up and they were judged for their crimes. Vacancies were advertised for Judges, with which we elected Tuiloma while the Government carried out a campaign. The Government's campaign was very successful, as Tuiloma was appointed as a judge of the World Crimes Court in Rome. The United States Government did not support the World Crimes Court at that time. But with major events such as this, the Americans also campaigned by writing to the Governments, to not support this Court. If supported, they will not provide jobs to their companies for the reconstruction of Iraq, which means that the standard letter is the letter that is sent to all the countries of the world that are part of the United Nations. I was also given a letter, and I responded. I apologise but we do not have any companies that are able to receive the opportunity in your reconstruction. Also, how can we not accept the World Crimes Court where one of the Judges is a Samoan gentleman.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Mr Speaker, that is how the world works, they try to offer assistance to countries, but there are also strings attached, as raised by the member. While it is our duty to converse with them, since this matter is not mandatory. The people that are in command, they are people who understand, especially since their representatives are in Samoa. The initiative should always be taken first by Samoa. Especially, those who are born and raised in Samoa, and are then sent abroad on scholarships and to work in these world financial organizations.

Now they have returned and are working in Samoa, they have a better understanding of the terms of the decisions made in International Organizations. Their representatives are here in Samoa. This is where we initiate our politics and move towards this goal.

It is understood by our young people who are working in the Offices of the Asian Banks within Samoa, as well as the World Bank in Samoa, the IMF and in all those Organizations, they are all children of Samoa. They understand our customs and traditions. Mr Speaker that is additional assistance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is noted that the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo is upstanding.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): There is something I want to clarify further, thank you to the Hon Leader of the Government for the speech, the Hon Prime Minister, thank you also to Faumuina for clarifying this matter. I stand to address a minor issue, since there are many social implications, which we are talking about now. But I respectfully stand to further explain this matter. I am grateful that it has been explained, especially the renovation of our roads. Particularly the road at the airport. I am standing with respect, since we have inspected the implementation of this road at the airport two or three times. It was also included in my speech, and I fully support the suggestion that was given by the Hon Prime Minister. There are many engineers and experts who have studied abroad, that came and offered the Government good and interesting advice.

But I am saddened because it is not all the same, as stated by the Prime Minister. Not all road contractors implement our roads the same way. And so I respectfully stand. Perhaps there is a situation, since it has been noted that the Ott Construction Company, they have all the tools and also the expertise in various things, not only in road engineers, engineers for water supplies and everything like that. Why not make the Ott Company exclusive from other companies, to exonerate the economy in our country.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

That is why I am standing with the utmost respect, to make a request to the Government and also with the audience of the contractors, whether it should be designated to another major company like the Ott, which has all the skills and everything, but with provisions from the Government, for sub-contractor with the major road construction companies that we have now. So that only one company will oversee everything, while other minor or major road companies become sub-contractors. Mr Speaker, the reason why I am respectfully standing, in regards to our access road in Saleaumua that was implemented for the past 3 months, and if you look at it now, there is a huge problem with it. Although it was raining and the weather was bad, but it should not have gotten to the state it is in now. That is why I am upstanding, as it would be good to have provisions, terms and conditions, or provisions and agreements under the consensus within our country. As it is the intention of the Government for the economy to be exempted. We cannot just give all the profits to the Ott Company so that they can become richer, but the Government were to also include its conditions, so that it can be exonerated to other companies that also have the skills and knowledge, but not the level of skills and knowledge possessed by the Ott Company. This is the reason why I am upstanding with all due respect. It is just an appeal.

And one more thing that I would like to add on while I have this opportunity, is the monitoring, if we properly monitor our roads and work after it has been completed, because it can be witnessed even now, the connection of the roads that is in front of the area that I mentioned in my speech a little ago, it is not connected properly. However, in case I go off track with my statement, but in the essence of gratitude, the matter that was stated by the Leader of the country is interesting. Thank you also to Faumuina for raising good points. Have a good day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I first give the opportunity to the Leader of the House, I call upon the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The matter is important, and it is not a new issue either. And these are the words offered to the Ministry or the Organization; look for the group that is implementing faulty roads, and revoke them from receiving any more work opportunities. But I would like to say something since Hon Faumuina is present. Most of these things, common sense should be used for it, the use of proper discretion.

I have talked with Faumuina many times, the Minister of Works, to remove all the speed bumps that are being implemented, they are deficient.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

But first construct a prototype speed bump at Malifa, on the road that goes to Falealili, make sure the speed bump is this big, like the speed bumps I saw abroad, and I also watched a car race where the police were chasing the thieves by car. But when I saw the speed bumps in America, they were a bit flat, as it was only a few inches high, but the length was 2 meters wide. After a few weeks, Faumuina said, it has been completed and we will go and take a look at it. I said, “Faumuina, go tell the General Manager of Works, the width should be in meters.” Soon after, Faumuina said, it is good. I replied, “Look, it is only one yard. Faumuina, I told you that a meter is this wide. To get a meter it has to be stacked three times. But he is the General Manager of Engineering. Now he has setup a large consultancy, but I know that it is untrustworthy. Well, when we went for inspection, he said that it is good. And when we got there it started raining. Then the water would flow down and settle on the edges of the road. And then a pipe was inserted to allow the water to flow towards the sea. Then he said, now it is good, and proceeded to construct a speed bump on the road to the hospital at Motootua. After the completion of the 2nd speed bump, we went to inspect. It was only a yard and a half. I said, “Faumuina, I told you to use a whole yard.” But the Manager replied, “Because there is no more gravel.” “Then go get some gravel from the ACP Company.” Even getting gravel is something that need be told to do.

That is my advice to those who have academic degrees, consider using your common sense.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: It is true.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give the first opportunity.... I appease the Minister of Works since the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries wants to take the floor. Proceed.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a different issue, I will not respond, but from my understanding of the statement about the....since the Minister of Works is present to respond.

For your information, I was the one who established the first local joint ventures in this country, I introduced it. However, I think that these are... Mr Speaker, my matter is very different, but I just want to make a suggestion to the member on what should be done, as it seems that our phones might need to be collected and taken somewhere so that....when we come here for the Assembly of our country, we attend the Assembly and listen to the matters of the Assembly, since it is our duty.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Because this is exactly what I have noticed, some of the members on that side are always on their phones....it also seems that when they left the Assembly yesterday and the day before yesterday they did not ask permission or gave a false excuse..... But that is the intention Mr Speaker, I am not trying to give orders to Mr Speaker, but these things need to be corrected, we are being patient with all the information that is being said outside. However it has reached a level of frustration.

Mr Speaker I humbly request that you do something about this matter. With all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies Hon Minister of Works as the Chair would like to address the issue that was stated by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. The suggestion by the Hon Minister is not taken lightly by the Chair, since we already have rules in place, and the conditions of our Standing Orders are also in place to maintain the honour, peace and tranquillity. As you can see that is the task to be done at the front door to ensure that the conditions you speak of cannot be used.

Therefore, for all those in attendance, whoever is using their phones in this House, we have Standing Orders to deal with this specific matter. Therefore, it has been entrusted to the Sergeant of the House as well as the Deputy Clerk of the Assembly and the staff to carry out their normal duties, as the Chair cannot ignore the things that the Hon Minister stated, about the usage of phones during our Assembly.

That is why we have our recess, if you want to use your phone for emergencies, because we all have family obligations and responsibilities to our constituency. These reasons cannot be ignored, but you are allowed to leave your seat and use it outside and upon returning leave the phone at the front door before entering the House as a dignitary of the country.

Therefore, I am grateful to the Hon Minister for bringing up this matter again, the Clerk and the Sergeant of the House will pay close attention to maintain our Standing Orders.

The opportunity is given to...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, I apologize but can we get an opportunity please...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright I will give the opportunity. Apologies Hon Minister, as I give the opportunity...

Pardon me Hon Minister as I give the opportunity...do you want to discuss what the Chair clarified?

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Well, the issue raised is very interesting. But it has been noted, there are accusations being thrown, and statements talking about false excuses and such things. Well, do not worry, that is how the game is played. You are going to say that you are not worried, but you are worried.

Mr Speaker, I am upstanding, in regards to... the matter in the engineering of such situations... Our Chairperson can bear witness...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beseech the member, as I permitted the interruption... sit down so I can say something... please. I allowed your intervention because of the circumstances of the issue that was raised, but now you are moving onto another matter, which I will not allow. What is the reason for it? As stated in the Standing Orders you did not mention this in your main speech.

On the other hand, another member cannot intervene to the interruption of another member. You are a senior member of the House, so there is no need for the Chair to further explain. I beseech the member, as I am stopping you from moving on to another matter, the matter I allowed the member to speak on has concluded.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, I apologise, it seems my intervention is being disallowed while the interruptions from other members are allowed, and that is exactly the reason why we refuse to sit here, as we never get the chance to express our opinions on matters. My intervention is directly addressed to the engineering, since I am in the Infrastructure Committee of our Parliament. I understand these things and that is why I wanted to say something about it. But if this is your desire, then....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Let me just address something, since you are still arguing with the Chair, but we have already clarified the conditions for our interruptions. Read our Standing Orders. If the point of your interruption to the clarification of the Government was included in your main speech, why would it be ignored? It is allowed. But to intervene in issues that were not... unless it is an intervention to the main speech. Since you pointed your finger and went like this. Therefore Olo, no, the Speaker's eyes are still in good condition. I sooth your resolve, as we are still upholding the honour and peace and conditions of our Standing Orders. So address your interruption to the main speech, you cannot intervene with the clarification of the Government, since the Government is clarifying the context of the main speech of the member for Palauli le Falefa. Well, this is my attempts to explain this...

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is something that I would like to suggest to the Chair. If you listen to the statement that was made by the member that just finished, he said that this Assembly of the Parliament is a game. This is not a game; the Assembly is the Honourable Assembly of the Parliament to express the opinions of the members for a prosperous future for our country.

As for the words of the member who has just sat down, that these are games we are playing. These are not games. The member seems to be making fun of the Parliamentary Assembly with his statement. This Fono is not a game; this is the honourable Assembly of Samoa which is in session.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, I apologise, that is not true. The Hon Minister is concerned about the ongoing FAST programs. This means that he is worried about his votes. These elections are like games, there is nothing to cry about.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries because the matter has diverted from the main speech.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you. No, your assistance on the matter is valid, but I did not say that I was scared. This member is concerned about this, but there is nothing to worry about for the election, because you will never sway my constituency, my constituency will always win. But that is not the case. It is regarding the level of respect and recognition of the Legislative Assembly of the country, and the acknowledgment of Mr Speaker and the Chair of the country.

That is what I am trying to remind them, the recognition, but it is not about the attendance. See, listen to the declarations they are making, not only that but these statements are also made on air and everything, the declaration that they do not acknowledge you... but they ask to be excused and then they go to Savaii to take pictures and laugh. Are they laughing at the Chair? See? Look at what you are doing. With all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, I implore the Hon Minister, I have made the decision. It would be good if we move away from this matter, as the Chair has already given its decision, together with the decision regarding cell phones. A decision has been made, and it is not permitted. Except for communication purposes, especially during the discussions of our Budget, to communicate with the CEO and for other urgent matters where the Minister is needed.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

As for other uses, I am saying it now, the Chair has already made a decision that it is not allowed, and should not be allowed again during the proceedings of our Assembly. Therefore, I ask the Sergeant at arms to pay attention and advise them. On that note, I have ended this matter, so it would be best if we now proceed with our work of the day.

I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Well, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Speaker. Thank you for my opportunity. I thought about it because I stood up to continue the speech of the member who addressed this matter, especially the interruption from the Afioga Tuiatua.

However, it seems like we are going way off topic, but we have yet to finish the issue in response to the speech by the member.

Now the Afioga Tuiatua has expressed his unhappiness in regards to his road in Saleaumua, and the phrases used is a bit unnecessary, as the contractors are listening, he said that this contractor is getting more money from taking the work. In my opinion, we should not utter such phrases. The first thing is that the contractor is not here to respond, but in this case he should have spoken directly on the affairs of his constituency, and not talk about the contractors. Because the truth is, Afioga Tuiatua, there are advertisements and tenders. This is where the Tenders Board decides that the contractor has met all the conditions to satisfy the conditions of the tender, especially if it seems that the opportunity should be given to another contractor, which is why your road is in a bad condition. But we will talk more during recess, and then you can tell me about that contractor who built your road which was ruined after 3 weeks, because I do not want to mention the contractor in here since they are not present. These are the types of work that should be protected, not only by the Tenders Board, but also by the Land Transport Authority, to ensure the roads are constructed properly and they last, and it is also suitable with the money that is being paid.

But that is the case. Please, Mr Chairperson, if the speech by the member is within the time limit, since there was a lot of time wasted with interventions, but that is the situation that I wanted to assist my fellow member on. Tuiatua is my brother, but unfortunately I still have to address this issue because our LTA and especially the Tenders Board is affected by these kinds of statements. But I also want to apologise to the Honourable Tuiatua for making such informal comments, but I just want to correct these conditions, since the Tenders Board will be blamed for it, and the LTA will also be blamed. So, we will talk more at the back and then you can tell me the name of the contractor. With all due respect.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Thank you very much. I have no intention of arguing with you, Mr Speaker. I stand up with utmost respect as it was my own suggestion that was conveyed to the Honourable...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the member to sit down, as you were not permitted to stand. I will not allow a debate on this matter; it has already been made clear to the House, clear to the observation of Samoa, as well as the Chair.

I apologise to the Hon Minister of Works. It is also the work of the Chair, to always... first come first serve. The Minister of Agriculture's light was on first. There was a notion that this exact issue, since it is a joint work between the Leader of the Government and Cabinet. However, this is a different matter, therefore the Chair has ended it and the opportunity is given to you. Now that you have spoken, thank you very much. Thus the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo is also listening, of the *Aiga Satuiamaa* on this situation we must also maintain the relationship with the people of our country who are dealing with our contracts, which is not easy. The member is also aware of it.

Since we have come to the usual morning recess, I announce that the Work of the House be set aside for its usual 15 minute recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:43am and resumed at 11:34am.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

There is a thought that the sanctity of Parliament has gained new perspective and new ideas, as well as the strength regained. Therefore, the Proceedings of our Assembly will now begin.

Before the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside the member for Palauli le Falefa was speaking. And I ask the member to stand up to continue his speech and move away from the issues that have already been clarified and explained by the Government, but move on with the speech. With all due respect.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to this constituency to continue its participation in the decision making and development of our country. I am talking about the policies that I am used to as I know it very well, in terms of international tenders, but it does not matter since the Minister has already spoken, and it was also addressed by the Hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Works, and so it has now been laid out. It was not easy getting the Ott Transport inside, I have twisted a lot of arms, in order for Ott to be included, they are aware of this as they are listening.

But the Hon Prime Minister mentioned the reconstructions in Iraq and the Middle East. I was in this very group, and I supervised the allocation of \$2 billion US dollars every six months. The reason I mention this is because the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 stated that it was their company who welded the oil pipelines in Iraq, and the pipes were leaking, but it does not matter, perhaps they were old pipes.

Mr Speaker, now I have explained part of this issue... it is my desire, to upgrade the skills of our companies not only to compete in our country, but to also compete abroad. The field should be increased because we have limited work here. That is why I am determined to build our... What I always say to the donor countries, your vote is the same as mine. You are a donor country, I am a recipient country, but the vote is the same. These are some of the humorous statements that I make, allowing additional suggestions to be submitted.

Mr Speaker, in regards to the National Provident Fund. During our Assembly at the beginning of last year or the year after, I made a suggestion to the Hon Minister, to see if the Act should be amended so that the benefits are equal for the employed contributors and the voluntary contributors because there is a difference.

The reason I am keen on this matter, as there is a benefit for good incentives to be given to these contributors who are the same as the employees to attract people to give their contribution to this sector, especially the Church Ministers. There are pastors who have good bigger communities, and there are also pastors who have small communities. But let me start with the pastors of my Congregation. The pastors were grateful because they do not have enough money accumulated to live on when it is time to retire, but these are the exact conditions that should be examined, because I also questioned the NPF, but they stated that voluntary contributors will only be entitled after 2 years, as for the contributions of the Government employees, they are entitled to these benefits soon after joining the NPF.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Another important matter, since I continue to hear about the pensions for the Parliament, pensions for the Judges, because if we leave, like some of our brothers that will be leaving the Parliament, not only will these elders receive pensions, but they will also get their pensions from our contributions to the NPF. Well, another example; if the Members of the Council of Deputies were to also retire. The same goes for the Head of State, the Prime Minister, the Ministers, and all of us. When we retire, not only will we receive \$160 every month, but majority of your money is used to pay your pension to increase it, since I continue hearing this issue, there is nothing being done for us who are working in this kind of occupation. The reason I am conveying this statement to the Hon Minister of Finance and our Government, it is necessary to consider this matter, since something should be done for those who are Government employees for our country, especially the management of our country.

Mr Speaker, another matter that I mentioned, because of the life that I lived, regarding the child vendors on the streets.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I implore the member that is currently speaking as I give the opportunity to the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, thank you to the member for raising this issue, which is important for the office bearers who are listening.

The process of making retirement pensions for us was first initiated in the year 1996. Not only the Parliament, but also for the Head of State and the Council of Deputies. The important thing is at that time the contribution was 5%, but this contribution was increased to 10%, which means that it has been doubled up. This is our contribution, which is all carried out by the Government. Also remember that we are being paid by the Government and then your 10% is deducted and there is also a contribution to the Government. So that is 20% which is a pretty substantial amount. That 20% can increase very quickly. So after 5 years Mr Speaker, you would be getting a lot of money. There was a scheme to remove half of your contribution, meaning the contribution from your salary, but the Government contribution will still remain for your retirement. So after every 5 years, you would have saved a large amount of money. But there was also the intention that another portion can be withdrawn, after the Parliamentary Term, but the remaining portion is retained as reserves. And that is for retirement.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Therefore, the retirement is fully covered by the Government, because you are being paid by the Government, and you are also receiving the other 10% from the Government. As you get 10% from your salary, which is being paid by the Government and the other 10% is from the Government. So the contribution is quite large, but the employees are only getting about 5%. That is why the Cabinet has encouraged the NPF Board, to use this process, because the Cabinet is aware of the outrageousness of this fund based on your salary. As for the higher offices like ourselves, the Representatives, as well as the Head of State, we have more than enough reserves. By the time you retire, you will start by retiring from your work, retirement pension, in addition to our general pension, that is enough money for you to live on. So if a person were to withdraw all of the money but does not set aside any for their retirement, then they are to be blamed for their own incompetence. But this retirement can be used, especially for us, to buy a car and a house, with the inclusion of the pension to live a good life. By then, your children would already be working. And at the end of the month you will receive another pension, which should be used to plan out your livelihood.

So if you want to live a life where you can enjoy breakfast at an expensive hotel, then have lunch at another expensive hotel and dinner at another expensive hotel, it is for your own amusement, and it is your own choice on how you live, but you cannot just demand to be given the country's money, to pay for your lavish lifestyle. The country should not be contributing to take care of you. As for us, we should be mindful, since this was done because the Leader of the Government at that time in 1996 had a belief, as we also discussed it extensively, the practices that is occurring in this House is unacceptable, but it is more shameful when it results in the dismissal from appointment. There is an elder gentleman who retired in 1988, as he did not retire on his own accord. But he was instructed by the constituency to retire, and to give the opportunity to the High Chief, and so he retired. Then I met him one morning, I asked, "what are you doing for a living nowadays?" The elder replied, "I am making a living with the *fue* and *to'oto'o*." What do you mean by your statement, "in the morning, I take a shower, then I grab my *to'oto'o* and my *fue*, and then I catch the bus and I go to Mulinuu. Whatever court proceeding that is being held there, my *to'oto'o* would always be ready, and when the day comes to an end I will earn enough to live on. Now I am living the true Samoan lifestyle." This gentleman has no job, and now this is his way of life but he was respectable at the time he was a member.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

That was the statement made by our Leader at that time, this is very unsightly, whereas an appointed representative who was once revered by the Government employees, but is now seen walking around like a beggar in town, with a *fue* to find a gathering of two or three people, and then goes up to them and gives his oratory speech.

Mr Speaker, now the policy is set out, the retirement from the office, in addition to your retirement when you are 65 years old. Mr Speaker and the sanctity of the House, this is a huge relief for us who will be retiring from the House. I conversed with my brother who is sitting next to me. “What are you going to do when you retire?” “Well, I have enough retirement funds, so I will retire and sit back and I am going to watch your meetings.” Mr Speaker that is the situation which also increases the desire to retire. But if it were not for the retirement, he would run again in the election.

Mr Speaker that is a further explanation for us who should retire but are still persevering, due to their consideration for these things.

Mr Speaker, that is my statement, because I have noticed that there are some members who look older than me. I am quite old but I look younger than some of the members who are walking around that look very old.

Mr Speaker this is my assistance, as the statement made by the member is very important.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I implore the member for Palauli le Falefa, as I give the opportunity to the member.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Since my name was mentioned in the statement made by the Hon Leader of the Government. And I stand to support the honesty and correctness of the speech of the Hon Prime Minister. And I also advise our House, let us retire together. All the best with our Assembly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The opinion of the respectable member is very important, as the member for Palauli le Falefa is one of the senior members of the House. Now that is has been heard by the Parliament and Samoa, the conditions stated are also important.

Therefore, I call on the member to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you for the opportunity, thank you to the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister. A friend of mine that brings me yams, since he has a large yam farm and that is one reason why the Hon Minister is retiring.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

He has a large yam farm, a large cocoa farm and a banana plantation. I commend you Tuitama for your hard work. These matters will be put together because of the limited time. The street vendors, the school drop outs and the sports fields. All these issues are related so I will address each one. The children who are walking around selling goods are important to me, because it is a life that I also lived. I strived to help my parents, to help our family, and to help with other things and my school fees and my travel fares. Because according to some Government employees, these children are not going to school.

When you are selling goods, it is a practical way of training. I tested these children, I said, “what class are you in, “and he replied, “I do not go to school anymore.” Then I said, “What grade did you finish school?” “Year 6” And then I said, “Say the 6 times.” And he said it effortlessly. Then I stated, “Do you know your addition?” He said, “Yes” Then I asked, what is your name? He told me his name and I said “Spell it.” You know, these children are ready for a life they know is comfortable. So this situation is fixed, as we are employing children. No, we are not employing them, since they just ran out of mental enthusiasm. So now they are looking for an alternative way for their future. Last year a showcase for traditional fine mats was held, and I heard that there was one which was the best and the thinnest of materials and it was number one. It was weaved by a girl who was less than 12 years old. Now she is training to be a Samoan woman, that means it is not useless, now this young girl knows that this is her future.

We are all like that, when I attend village meetings, upon seeing the young untitled men, I think they were 14, 15 years or younger. And the words they use when announcing things are very sharp. Mr Speaker, it is intriguing, if any of the children who live in the town area were to do these types of things, they would completely wet their clothes when you ask them to announce things that are presented before the village meeting. All these things are educational, and yet we are saying do not do this, do not do that. I have a suggestion, Tuitama before you retire, make an Act, to protect children like me. I used to sell goods on the streets, I sold bundles of tobacco, I sold tobacco, and I went around selling them. Like I said yesterday, I was a good coconut tree climber and if there were competitions for climbing back then, no one would be able to beat me in climbing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, as I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: The matter stated by the member is important. This is the same for the Elder and me, if we have different opinions on something, we will show it. The recommendation is quite good, but where is he now? Now he is a politician, a former Minister.

But I have a concern, in case the public is misled by the suggestion. Because opinion is important in the House, it is true, at that time we all sold these things, since they are goods that were found in our lands, in the evenings when we would go shopping. But I have a concern with the new system, whereby Chinese products are being distributed to the local stores and such places... because as I have said, it is occurring in my constituency and in the town area, and it rarely happens in Savaii and in the rural areas. But also keep in mind the objective of the Government, which is the reason why the children are able to attend school for free. In order to encourage the children to go to school, as this is the only freedom a child can have. The suggestion made by the member is good, but that is the concern, because if we create a Law. The Act is already passed, for compulsory education up to 14 years, but it should be extended to 18 years of age. This is my concern with the belief of the member. Because I am careful and worried that our opinions might cause confusion for our country listening. With all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the member for Faleata for the intervention. Pardon me Faumuina, as I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Thank you Mr Speaker, since this Ministry was mentioned in the speech. I did not want to interrupt, but now that the opportunity is available, and our Ministry should convey its suggestion. The matter that was mentioned by the member is not an easy matter, and it has already been considered by the Government for a long time. And it is frequently discussed in the Cabinet, regarding the numerous child vendors who walk around selling goods. And because of this, the Police Department were ordered to look out for these street vendors.

There are 2 Acts that currently exist which include these terms. First, the Education Act for the schools, making it mandatory for children from the ages of 4 to 15.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

They should be at school during school hours, this is the time when the police have the authority, so they are permitted to apprehend the child vendors who are on the streets during school hours. Because they should be in school, in this generation.

Secondly, selling goods at times other than school hours, the Police do not have the authority to stop them at this time, because this is left to the decision of their parents. We do not have an Act to prohibit children from selling these products. And it is also witnessed by this House, as the member who is currently speaking can also testify, how important businessmen of the country start off, and their beginnings. That is not the reason why the Ministry and Government are not conducting their duty towards those who are selling these goods. But this is the circumstance for which the parents are advised on, and the concern we have, because of the safety of the children selling goods during the night time. So this is the main focus of the Government at this time, and it is currently in progress. The Cabinet has already passed the policy for the protection and safety of the children, which is currently underway. It has now been given to the Office of the Attorney General, who is working to compile an Act, to look into the protection of our children from these situations. Perhaps this assistance and clarification has made things clearer. Maybe there will come a time when we will carefully consider this issue so that it does not happen to our children again, as with the concern of the member who is speaking.

Furthermore, the Samoan fine mat was mentioned, and as the Committee of Women in charge is listening. The Government has done a lot of work regarding this matter. It started in 1913, with the determination of our Government. In order to remove the large traditional mat, since it can only be handled by young muscular men, to conduct our Samoan traditions. But we should turn to weaving the mat known as the Samoan traditional mat. The measurement is also given, as the size of the fabric is 9 to 12 feet so that....and the numbering is also set, number 1, number 2, number 3. In order to measure the cuts of the pandanus leaves. Number 1 means 1 strip and it is 1 millimetre, number 2 or strip 2 is 2 millimetres.

And number 3 or strip 3 is 3 millimetres. Ever since the 1 strip was used, the weaving of the fine mat is to be done thoroughly, which no longer need patterns since it is a fine mat designed for family functions (faalavelave). This Samoan fine mat is expensive, since it is well woven. And the estimated price for this fine mat is \$5,000. And the Government is also concerned, as this fine mat is now being woven, but it is no longer used for family functions (faalavelave), instead they are using it to... as a good way of income for women.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

But the assistance that is now provided by the Government, when you weave your own traditional fine mat, you are then given \$1,000, so that it can increase the motivation for the women, and to help them. Because the time it will take to weave this fine mat is about 6 months for one fine mat. But what has happened is that many women who have the desire to weave the fine mat but unable to do so due to not having the skills. Now the Ministry is conducting teachings, to teach them in the preparation of the *lauie*, the stroking/cutting of the *lauie*, and the weaving of the traditional Samoan fine mat. So that all the women in Samoa, those who live on the coasts of Apia, and around the town area, as well as those living in the rural areas, so that they all know how to weave. The Ministry is also conducting inspections, to inspect the *toga u'a* for the *siapo* as well as the *toga lauie*, for the weaving of the Samoan fine mats. And the statement made is absolutely correct... now we even have our young girls who are no longer going to school. That has caught the attention of the Ministry, and to find ways for them to use this opportunity to earn money for themselves.

The Samoan traditional fine mats showcase that just ended this year, one woman earned nearly \$20,000 in the showcase through the Samoan fine mats that she wove. But this was before the fine mats were sold, which means that if these mats were to be sold, the price is about \$5,000 if it is sold to countries like Tonga, America, Hawaii, since they are looking for local fine mats to purchase. Upon reading about this showcase, she would earn \$100,000 from 11 fine mats that she owned. This is a great source of wealth, to help the women of our country, to utilize their skills and time for this great revenue. And also to experience the implementation of our cultures and traditions. I believe this matter is understood with respect. Best wishes to the Assembly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I implore the member, as I give the opportunity to the member of Anoamaa East.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Due to the importance of the matter that was stated by the member. As I sit here, there were many other issues that were raised in his ongoing speech. But our point of view on the child vendors on the....

This is also a concern that often comes up in our Advisory Committee meetings, especially in the Education Committees. We are looking for a way to solve this issue as soon as possible. This means that our House should take the lead in providing advice, so that...

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Since this is one of the indications of poverty in countries. This means that we should convey advice from this House to reduce the occurrence of this matter. Since it has amplified, as not only are they selling goods late at night, but it has come to the point of assault and other similar issues, it is a huge problem that has arisen. There is also a statement by the member who mentioned...the people who are using the dialysis machine, and also people who are afraid of dying. I have a parent who is being treated with this machine at the moment, and I am saddened by this statement. Since it is the duty of the Government to find commodities that are useful for its citizen, because life is important. There are also some dignitaries who were using the dialysis machine, but they were visited by the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries. This indicates that they still have the ability and the knowledge to continue their services. These are some of the things that I picked up, and another member was talking about what happened 6 months ago. But it seems like this member is discussing the events that occurred 20 years ago. With utmost respect I assist our Assembly. Bless the Assembly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I commend the member that conveyed his suggestion. The speech of the member for Palauli le Falefa is also advised, in the efforts of our Acts that affect the children of our country. There are also some concerns. But it is better to cast the net at the deep end, because... I am the other member who chaired the merged Task Force between the Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Education.

To make an effort to deal with this issue and to encourage children to go to school, instead of doing these things. This is why interruptions are important for me; however this is the will of the representative in his preparations and his foresight. But it is the advice of the Chair, with the country listening. It would be good if we continue to talk about the situation... the Government has spent a lot of time trying to solve these problems. Any country that has intelligent children is a prosperous country. But there is also the level of desire to learn from it, as stated by the member. The advice of the member, following those things is the work that was carried out in the presence of crimes that arise. That is why we should continue looking into it, but the decision is up to the member.

Therefore, I call on the member for Palauli le Falefa, these are the efforts of the Chair, but I ask the member to continue the speech.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you, there is a proverb, *“you can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.”*

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

I know these are the statements made by members who did not read the reports. In the latest report by the Minister of Education, in Section 1 – Section 8, there are 43,000 students. It includes Government schools, Religious schools and Private schools. And then the Year 9 to Year 13, there are only 16,000, as school continues on to higher levels. So the question is where are the other 20+ thousand? We should sort it out, if 10+ are proceeding to utilize sporting opportunities and other things. This means that there is a group missing, the children who do not want to go to school, as they have lost interest in attending school. But the statement saying that I am trying to encourage the people to do this. No, that is not it, the statement I made was very clear, it would be good if an Act was established for these people who are disadvantaged, and those are the people that this matter is specifically intended for. Mr Speaker, I am not trying to initiate things that will lead to dependency and corruption. As this is one method we can use to create an Act to set a time restriction and the types of products these children are allowed to sell. I have a lot of coins in my car, and the reason for that is because when these child vendors come up to me, I would tell them, no, I already have that product, but take these coins and go.

When I see these child vendors, I also see myself, so I am not saying that we should establish a group like this. There is another religious channel, it is owned by the Congregational Christian Church, they have a program that usually comes on, and the hosts seem like people who are interested in salvation. But when these child vendors are brought up, they would say that these children start off selling goods and will end up stealing goods. It makes me sad seeing these types of people.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I believe that this issue is simple, because there are children who are selling goods and are also attending school. But there are also children who are selling these products, but their parents do not send them to school, since they have feeble outlook. And I also feel that this Act is implemented upon what is being seen. Just like you have witnessed, and as I have also witnessed, the children are still walking around and selling small goods to live on.

This is why people are being harsh, the parents who do not take their children out during school hours, but when there is no school, the parents are helping with these things, so there is nothing wrong with it. Whatever happens in this life, we do it with due discretion. It is the same for the police officers; they are also exercising their due discretion.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Mr Speaker, this is the more accurate clarification of the situation. I have gone many times to buy medicine from Maria Westerlund and you can see them walking around outside. And then I would do the exact thing you did. Because when I look at these children, I see an image of myself and what I used to do. It affects all of us who did this kind of work, there is a spirit of content, but there is also the thought that the parents should encourage their children to attend school.

But whatever we strive for that should be implemented; we will always seek out ways to get the answer. Where the answer is found, the wheat and tares are twofold. We strive to do what is best for them, but things happen. Our Lord also proclaimed, ‘you will live with the poor until eternity’.

There is an answer to everything, and the Bible that you are reading, is also the same Bible that we are all reading. But the Minister has responded, and you have also conveyed your opinion, there is a due discretion for the implementation of the Act.

Mr Speaker, we are all headed in the same direction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I commend you on your statement, thank you to the Leader of the House for the clarification, and I believe that this has been made clear for the member. But it would be best to move onto another matter since we do not have much time left.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. It also happens that there were a lot of interruptions... but it does not matter. But the matter concerning our sports fields, because it is related to what I was talking about. In this regard, I know that only when the players from Palauli le Falefa are playing, that is the only time when the Manu Samoa 7s team will win. Now look at what is happening, as you are all aware, a gentleman from my district is now the coach of the Manu Samoa, the Hon Vaovasamanaia Seilala. He is a man from Palauli le Falefa. And he is also a player who won the game for the Manu Samoa.

Therefore, Hon Minister of Education, for the sports fields I requested, one is enough for now, and then you can construct the other field slowly, in order to find some more players that can win games for the Manu Samoa, not only for the 7s but also for the 15 a side team. Because this is the only constituency that produces fast players and players who play with a strong heart, so that our Manu Samoa will be successful in the future.

Mr Speaker, this is another important matter, since this is one thing that we are being accused of, the leasing of customary lands. When the cultural lands are leased, then the village lands or the lands for each family will also be leased.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

There are families that have leased lands within their own family boundaries, but there are also villages that lease customary lands, under the authority of the chiefs. Mr Speaker, the reason for my statement is because there is land in our village of Gataivai that was leased by the Forestry Division for a long time.

Then the lease expired in 2003, but they remained in the registry. But the lease is invalid. Therefore, I have a suggestion... when the lease expires, then they should be removed from the records, since if people were to inspect the land, they will say that the Government has taken it. But no, customary lands are customary lands. As for these leases, it is up to the family or the village, whether to accept it or not. But it cannot be taken by force in such a situation.

Mr Speaker that is the case, which is often misinterpreted by some who are also trying to fabricate the records and things like that.

Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking as I call upon the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I am grateful for the response of the member, but leave it to us, I am in charge, but if you had come over to remind me it would have been removed long ago. The reason for this, is that we also have a duty to communities where they come to check and ask for it to be removed.

Such things happen. When you guarantee a loan, after the guarantee is over, if you do not go to remove your guarantee, it will remain there in the records. But this is useful to generate ideas, also the Ministry is listening, as soon as the person comes to voice the reminder, it is revoked. This duty is shared together not only by the Ministry, but also by the owner of the lease. No matter which community or person, the work of the Government is carried out the same together with other day to day duties.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalu Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, I will give the opportunity, I call upon the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: I do not want to interrupt the member, but I am grateful as the Hon Minister has spoke about about our phones, this is why bringing in telephones is important. I just called our Ministry and they said that work is in progress for the field of the member. Perhaps when he goes over to Salafai this weekend, it would be completed. This is also the benefit of holding a phone to call and be informed that work is in progress for the member, with respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, but a word of advice to the Minister, to not call but text, because if you call and it rings in here it will interrupt our Sitting, but the comments made are important. It is the progress of Government work for the benefit of our people.

I call upon the member.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: I thank the Hon Minister as well as the Hon Prime Minister. I know because these are the fields where the \$50,000 is given, where people exercise not use for playing rugby. It is used for exercise, for pushups and other stuff. But I am grateful for the respect given to the Toetaufanua of Malietoa.

Hon Prime Minister, no I just mentioned customary land lease in a general sense, our lease have already been removed, but there are still people who are being deceptive saying I have given this land to the Government. But it is quite clear that there is nothing there. But I want to thank you for the clarification, it is the reason why I mentioned it thank you.

There are other matters but I will leave it until tommorrow. But I take this opportunity to convey a word of graditude to members who will be retiring. I know that Mr Speaker is not present, Hon Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Taimaaiono Faafisi, I commend you for the hardwork. You have served this Parliament for many years, not only for three Parliamentary terms but also when you were Speaker as well as a Minister of Cabinet. As I mentioned yesterday, you have contibuted a lot, and you have made many sacrifices, especially during the time of the road switch. I praise you for your courage, and your patriotism, those are your blessings.

My brother Aeau, I commend you for your services, thank you for your speech. Not only were you once sitting in the Chair as the Speaker, but you contributed alot to the political affairs of our Government. Thank you for your services, thank you for your remarks, you have lived to serve the country, such are your blessings.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Honorable Tuitama, I remember when we tried to change the Constitution I think it was 2006, but the number of HRPP was not complete. I remembered that there were two of you who came to this side and completed this Party, I take my hat off for your courage. I remember when you were the member of Vaa o Fonoti, you were determined to build a tarseal road in Uafato. Then I told you it would be best if I have a word with the man in charge since it is very expensive. The road can be leveled but not tarsealed. Well done for the hard work, those are blessings. I remember you when we do socials, you are a great dancer. Even when you waltz, you bump into the other person, and they get hurt however I do not worry since you are a doctor who can treat injuries that may occur.

Honorable Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa, congratulations. Your Excellency was also a Minister. You are an Elder and also Pule, I commend you for your services. May the Lord bless you in retirement, I pray you have more time to spend with your children as well as developments you are working on. May Gods blessings be upon you.

Mulipola I will not say farewell because I know you will come back. If you do not come in a By Election, come back in 2026. Go and prepare, our community is good. You mentioned seawalls, because there are no rocks in the sea to build one. Also if seawalls of Manono are constructed the resources will be taken from our families land. But there is not enough rocks, will need to find more, then we will be able to construct a seawall for our island Manono tai. All the best with our gathering, I pray for your support in serving our village, and I hope you are given other opportunities to serve our Government or any company, business that you may succeed.

I know that there is a cloud of darkness over the House.

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa (Gagaemauga No.2): Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member but the speech is nearing completion perhaps it is a vote of thanks, to say thank you or is it right, are you trying to intervene in the context of the speech?

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: Interruption please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member of Palauli le Falefa as I call upon the member of Gagaemauga No.2.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa: I thank the representative of the constituency of Palauli le Falefa, who mentioned my name. But I want to take this time to say something because the remarks of the member has given me a chance to say a word to my constituency, because yesterday...my son I will use the term son. I have been asking my children to teach me how to use facebook since I do not know, but they do not. However I was surprised yesterday, when my youngest son said to me, Dad, read this. I told him to give it to me.

Therefore my constituency, I am not running away. Thank you for everything I returned. It is not you either, but this is what happened, which has created tension with some of our families. The matai of our family in Savaii called, that they have responded to the complaint made against me, the Parliament has spoken, that the member of Saleaula has been removed. If it was not for Laauli and Vaa, then the member Faasootauloa Taulapapa Pati would sit and not speak.

This is why Mr Speaker, this is my nature, I do not stand up often, and do not speak alot. I am humble, I am also forgiving. I have no criticism of those who spoke of me. Laauli and their group are good, with what they do. As for me, I am just sitting here, I am old. I do not want to debate anymore. I am old.

My village, I have already voiced my resignation, and have also came by. I am in control of my own heart. Everyone knows, that actions speak. Whether I stand up or make a request, or whatever comment I make, everyone is well aware of what happened during my time. This is not to say that I will mention anything.

As for the humble spirit of Saleaula, I say, I have control over my heart. I have resigned, I refuse, because I am now old and it is also time for me to retire as it is Gods will.

This is what I am praying, Mr Speaker, I am not disparaging anyone from our village, the only thing is, I have told my family, to keep the peace. Do not listen to rumors. But find harmony in the community, that is the meaning of our village. That is also the attitude upheld by this member. I have the spirit of patience, tolerance, humility and forgiveness.

This is why I pray to Saleaula, and also to Salemumu, is it common for previous members to return to their villages? I am not used to it, but I did go to Salemumu. The statement made was I am sedentary. Saleaula we went and saw the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I was not inactive, our village was informed to come to Apia for our meeting but I was not sedentary.

This is why I want to thank you Mr Speaker, that I was given this opportunity to clarify this matter. Everything is fine, also thank you Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. I also thank all respectable members.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

I thank as well candidates who will be competing in the Elections I have stated to our representative that I am not running away silently. Saleaula, keep calm. God is in control, whoever is chosen He also listens.

I have not said a word to our village, but I have now, you asked me that you were all waiting. Therefore I say there will come a time. I have already mentioned that I have resigned, and we now have another candidate. Come a time we will meet, but the humble spirit of your member, may the Lord be kind, to bless our community of Saleaula, also Salamumu. I did not say a word that the member has been removed. I also still have with me, the speech that I preached, 'Tuilaepa, if it is an example, then God has authority. There will come a time whoever will come again, negotiate again and change the situation,' but I have not said anything.

Saleaula your member is clean in everything, and with utmost respect, bless our Sitting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, our Parliament Sitting and House at this time is quite unique. The Elderly member from Saleaula has spoken, Hon Faasootauloa Pati. It is also difficult for the Chair, as are the words that we live with, *e tua Vaituutuu i le Falefagamalo*. This is where we sit.

The matter has been clarified thus the support of our village of Vaituutuu. Matautu will not speak upon it further. Moreover that is the spirit. Alas, these are also the stories that I have heard. It has even happened to me. It is reason the Chair tried to convey a statement. Now that Senior member has spoken, well let us leave everything to God. He has the integrity and truth of all things.

Information that travels in the wind, we should send it to uninhabited islands. As for our constituency of Saleaula listening in, that is the speech. The member has conveyed his gratitude, the Senior member of Palauli le Falefa, between your relationship. As for actions of today, the Chair is cautious to speak on it. However your words are heard by the heart and body, because this is also the case with me. But I am putting my faith in the Scriptures of our God. A peaceful response, turns the ruler of the world and his company, and his arrows. Put our hope in God and Saleaula have heard, that is the will of your member.

The Seat of Saleaula still remains it has not been removed up to this day. Therefore I convey thanks to Government. Let us await the results of the future. Let us leave it unto the heavens and God Almighty to choose our constituency, so that the Seat will remain for our constituency. This is a statement of the Chair, but thank you for the fatherly speech. Now the House and the country have heard your pure will and it brings about a sense of solidity of today. I commend Saleaula for the speech.

I call upon the member of Palauli le Falefa.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you, I thank you Mr Speaker. I also thank the Elerly member who spoke earlier today.

There is a matter that I missed but is important as it related to our children who have reached College especially University, involving the RSE program. The significance of this, is many families have benefited from this program, not only do they now have nice houses, cars and everything, but also the development of communities and churches. This is evident with the constituencies that have been blessed with this program, Hon Minister, thank you for this program.

If it continues to be expanded, I humbly request the services of Alii and Faipule to be put to use in guiding our pickers, to reduce the problem of bad behavior in New Zealand which might affect our partnership with that Government. But I am grateful for this, I believe this is one way to accomodate some of our young people who have decided not to continue Class 9, 10. I believe this is an important part of expanding it, to encourage developments in communities and constituencies.

Most of the other Churches have used these benefits from these young people, to improve not only chapels, but also halls which is used for church gatherings. Thank you Hon Minister for these programs...

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Mr Speaker....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member as I call on the Minister in charge of the matter raised by the member.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: Thank you for the members comments on this issue. The only matter I would like to take into account is the comment by the member saying that there are villages and constituencies who are under this program that has been successful.

It is the desire of the Government, that all of Samoa will prosper. That is the effort that we are trying to make at this time, so that all the villages have their own people register, and the opportunity to go, opportunities for all the people of Samoa. It does not mean that only the villages that usually go, take this blessing.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

All the villages of Samoa, the participation of Alii and Faipule, well we have the same spirit. If the workers are from a congregation, or a youth group, together with bringing in the support of Alii and Faipule, they will be the ones that will bring security, for the people going, good and well behaved people. It is also known how good these people are that blessings are put upon them by Alii and Faipule as well as Church Ministers. When they go overseas they work honestly, because there is a reason for going, like you stated, to build a hall, a church and so forth.

No disputes ensue from these people. But that is the determination of Government, to include Alii and Faipule, Church Ministers, and everyone who support this cause, then when their children go overseas they are well mannered and behaved. When they return they bring the income to develop the village, or the Church. I will speak further on this matter when my time comes, but I thank the respectable member for the subject raised. But that is how it is with respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the remarks, I call upon the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Just to add on. The clarification by the Hon Minister is clear. We have recently met on a few matters to improve the situation which is not an illustration voiced by the Minister. Thus it has reached the point where it should be looked at again, because there are a few things that have happened.

It is necessary for those who go overseas to look at this scheme and know, that Government programs, are led by Government. If they misuse the authority that has been given to them and advertise as if their decisions are independent, it is easy to remove it, and return it to Government, because there are sides noted that security is taken lightly, and there has been alot of complaints put forth in regards to it. Most of the time it comes directly to me with money deducted from the workers, others have quite a lot of money deducted, or deducted by force in a fradaulent way. That is why the Minister and I are looking at it again so that there is no way the implementation of this program is disrupted.

Mr Speaker that is the matter, the Hon Minister has spoken, the Minister and the Ministry are not resting in looking for changes that should be made.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done Honorable. Perhaps it is now very clear with the clarification given by the Leader of Government.

I call upon the member to continue.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. The presentation by the Hon Prime Minister is clear, as well as the Hon Minister. I convey congratulations because of these works, because of the increase in the wealth of families who have been blessed with it, but thank you for the foresight on the general welfare of our country.

Then I come back to one of our brothers with whom we worked, the Hon Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken Poutoa. Vaafusuaga is a gift from God for Samoa, a blessing not only for this Parliament, but for his constituency. He was a member who is happy, and he wanted to do this and that many other things. There was another statement saying that his work was carried out in a rush, it seems it is why God has called upon our brother. Vaafusuaga, I take my hat off to you, you did a lot. Although your time in the Parliament of Samoa was short, you contributed so much. May you rest in peace, if I am able to come, I will try my best on Saturday when I return from attending to community matters in Salafai, but thank you for your hard work as well as your services given to serve Samoa.

Mr Speaker I cannot forget to thank the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Private Organizations for serving this Parliament, and our country. Your reward is from above. The blessing of Palauli le Falefa, all of you who are Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Organizations especially all Government employees whatever you touch, may it be successful. God bless your families, God bless what you do, not only the responsibilities in serving the Government and the country, but your families and the churches you serve.

I would also like to thank the Special Committee of NEOF, I sit and watch television and listen to your broadcasts on different channels. Thank you to the Chairperson, thank you to all the Ministries who are doing their part, your role is not easy, it is full of challenges, but your life and ours, use it to serve our country. No matter how much or how little we do, let your lives be a blessing for Samoa. I will not forget our Finance and Expenditure Committee, Afioga Aliimalemanu, thank you.

Thank you for your patience with your brother, there are times when I am persistent in what I say, but thank you for considering your brother. Afioga Toomata I know that you are listening in from Savaii because of some personal obligations. Namulauulu, Tanuvasa, thank you for your work.

I thank all other Committees, Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons and members of this side of the House, job well done, thank you for supporting Cabinet, and also for the support given to our Associate Ministers. You did your duty and you were not interested in a reward, but you were interested in the success of Samoa. Let us be useful servants, and make our decisions with wisdom and integrity.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

When it comes to the time of elections, God already knows who it will be. Our calling is not done by us, it is from heaven. If God chooses us, no one else can change it.

I thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly Tofa Tiatia as well as Leatisa and staff. Thank you for the work. There are times when I raise my voice, but I can see that you do the work, especially in the determination to serve the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

Special thanks to the IT Division, the Division that comes over to the house during the ACB and EU meetings. I told our group in Brussels, if I am Chairperson, I am in charge of the time of the meeting not you. You will meet at night but me during the day, because we are determined to prepare enough for our international meetings and seek success for Samoa. Thank you very much, thank you Tiatia and Leatisa and staff.

I also want to thank the Police Department who are guarding the House. Fuiavailiili, the Ministry of Police and Prisons, the Hon Minister, thank you for protecting the House of Samoa. There are no blessings from the member of Palauli le Falefa, but may God bless the leadership of our Ministry.

Hon Prime Minister, I commend you for your courage, and bravery, you are not hiding anything that benefits Samoa. Hon Ministers, men and women, thank you for your support, you have responded to most requests conveyed by the country especially this constituency. Thank you for the support.

Mr Speaker due to some constituency matters, I wish to ask permission for my absence tomorrow, but I will try and listen in, and Palauli le Falefa will come again to make a contribution on Monday.

I have already told Tofa Lealailepule, that is why... he does not want to go sell goods on the street, because he is embarrassed.

All the best with your speech tomorrow Tofa Lealailepule, those are your blessings. Thank you. Thank you, Mr Speaker and all the best.

Parliament expressed their happiness with applause after the speech of the member for Palauli le Falefa.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Congratulations Hon Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga on your speech, we have heard well your remarks from this morning until this time of the day. Samoa and the House have heard of your wealth and great contribution, this is also the cause of many interruptions and the Government tried to explain and clarify, it is good that you prepared the matters today and yesterday. We do not have to praise you, may God bless you in returning, you are one of the senior members of this House, and you are an example in many of our liaisons.

11 FEBRUARY 2021

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

You have conveyed gratitude to the dignity of Government, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as Associate Ministers, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committee of the House, and all respectable members of Parliament. Let us take it to shore, as a praise to the Lord for all the good things we have done and maintain our humble life to serve Him in the remaining days of our lives. I commend you for the preparation and speech.

I believe we have reached the end of our work for today, I believe, this is an opportunity, for the Chair to convey a word of thanks to the respects of Parliament, to the respectable Leader of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Hon Ministers, also Associate Ministers, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, as well as to all respectable members of the House. I commend you all today, for your patience and perseverance, on our calling.

I also acknowledge and thank the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Private Organizations of Government, thank you for your patience, and for your compliance with orders. Because the truth is that the Government is in your hands. This is the living testimony of a solid Government, an orderly Government. The Chair testifies this day and most days.

Therefore I convey congratulations and thanks. May God bless you with your caregiving responsibilities and your calling to work for the good of the country. Thank you.

The respects of Samoa and your support, I convey our congratulations and gratitude. The truth is, our duties have succeeded, also our Sitting today, because of your prayers and powerful worship. This is your authority. As for any good deed done by the House today, do not glorify the person, but glorify God, and let us remain in humbleness.

I apologize to the sanctity of Parliament, the dignity of the House especially the support of the country, if the Chair has done wrong, or portrayed a behavior that is not noble, I humble myself, forgive a fault of your servant in what you heard and saw, house it in the house of God where everything is forgiven. May our Master in heaven continue to be kind because the work is waiting for us and the remnants of today. Stay safe in the love of God, but we will continue our work when we return tomorrow.

Before we adjourn, I respectfully call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.2 to conclude our work with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:02pm until Friday,
12 February 2021 at 9:00 am.*