

25 JUNE 2020

THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2020

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:10 am.

Prayer.

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

It is felt that this morning the House is sturdy and filled with warriors, because the Leaders of the country have gathered for their work. So I speak with respect and reverence, to offer greetings of good awakenings to the holiness of the Government, with the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet in their respective positions, salutations.

I also salute all the members of Parliament, praises for your travels. I also extend greetings to the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries as well as the Non-Governmental Organizations; I commend you for your attendance and your patience.

Well, we offer devotion and salutations to the beloved country, the country of heritage, the country that is greatly valued in your support Samoa. Well, pray for the leaders of your country as they seek prosperity for tomorrow and the future.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.3) 2019/2020 &
APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021 – continued debate
on the second reading**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The debate on the Bills will continue. The work of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned yesterday after the speech by the Minister of Customs and Revenue, as well as the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Corrections.

And this is a good opportunity to call upon the Hon Minister of Health to come forth and address the issues raised by members, the Hon Minister.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. This member is prepared to take part in the prayers to our Lord and our God to support the work of Samoa today, especially the Meeting of Parliament. I also wish the Deputy Speaker all the best in conducting our Assembly this morning. Good luck.

I offer salutations to the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Well, the honorable Associate Ministers on that side of the House, I greet and formally welcome the Hon Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, as well as all the honourable members of the Sitting of Samoa from all the constituencies of our country.

I can never forget to formally greet the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations, who are the right hand of our Government through their advice, especially the implementation of work and the various services required for the development of Samoa, especially in serving our people. Your work and patience is commendable, thank you for your service to the country.

I also acknowledge the Hon Clerk of the House and the staff of the Legislative Assembly who serve the members of Parliament every time we have a Parliamentary Assembly.

Well, I extend a heartfelt greeting to the people of Samoa who are supporting in all your honorific salutations, Your Excellency Le Ao o Le Malo and your Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady. I also offer greetings to the Chief Justice and the Judiciary. I also take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon Chief Justice on your calling, to this prominent office of our country. I wish you the best, because I believe that it is not an easy task.

I also extend a special salutation and a formal greeting to the appointed servants of God at the various altars who are praying and imploring for the success of Samoa and its journey every single day. Thank you for your support.

Not to be forgotten is the devotion of the elderly women and men, especially their prayers. I would like to thank the Sisters, as every time they contact me, they would always express their congratulations and gratitude to the Hon Leader, moreover we the Leaders of the country for managing our Government. I applaud you the Holy Sisters, thank you for your prayers.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

I also salute the sanctity of Samoa that are listening far and wide from any foreign country that is able to receive this broadcast, furthermore our families and children, friends and acquaintances who are mindful and are rooting for the Proceedings of the Sitting of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, the support of my beloved constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1 will be acknowledged at the conclusion of my speech at a later time.

But I will now move on to make a statement regarding the work of this Ministry and the strategy plans, moreover the members who made statements directly to this Ministry of Health.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful and enthusiastic to God for His sincere love for Samoa as He has shown and portrayed through our Government in this era with the courage and quick-wittedness, especially His gift of life and the ability to make good and appropriate decisions and plans, for the betterment of the future of our beloved country Samoa.

As heard in the speeches by some of the esteemed members of the House, this is where we shape, sustain and establish the best plans for the future of Samoa.

The reunification of the Ministry of Health by changing the status quo from the NHS and the MOH, to be reunited as it is now under a single Ministry of Health, it was only finalized in February of last year 2019 after the provisions were set out as requested by our Government, to ensure and prioritise the public health of the country. I was appointed as the Minister of the Ministry, and we are prioritising and upholding important issues that are needed especially the emphasis that is now placed on all aspects of security.

It was 4 months into my appointment when the measles occurred. I am thankful, for God's love for Samoa, because the framework is new, the structure of the Ministry is new, there are also some new changes from what the staff is accustomed to, moreover the Minister that was appointed is also new. Well, maybe I will come back to this point at a later time, because the measles incident is very much linked to the Government's vision for moving forward.

I believe that my speech will not take more than 20 minutes; however, the statements of the honourable members are very important to me, because most of those who have spoken and have addressed this Ministry, they are conveying their congratulations and gratitude. Well, first of all I would like to express my gratitude to all the honourable members of the House who spoke and offered their congratulations and thanks.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

These commendations are in accordance with the various works and services implemented by the Ministry in the community, as well as the various efforts and awareness programs on a daily basis, not only the use of receivers and radio broadcasts in the country, but also the media which provided all the information and facts that need to be known for the protection of our country from the deadly disease of Covid-19, which has killed over thousands of people in many parts of the world and has infected nearly 10 million people, especially in major countries, and countries that have an advanced economy, but till now Samoa is still safe due to the love and protection of the Heavenly Father.

The support of Samoa that is listening, there is a belief that there is no need to thank the services of the Government through the Ministry of Health, because these are the duties and responsibilities we were assigned, it is our calling, therefore it must be done with love and sincerity, and then we will be blessed by God because He witnesses everything we do. If whatever has been noted, or whatever has been seen by our country in regards to the services of the Government through this Ministry, as conveyed by the esteemed members of various constituencies of our country, let us take this to express our praises and gratitude, and a tribute to our Heavenly Father for the continued safekeeping of Samoa with his love and protection. And there is a belief that it should continue, let us all pray together that God will continue his love and kindness so that Samoa will always be safe from the terrible disease.

Mr Speaker and the honourable members of the House, especially the support of Samoa listening, I would like to offer the utmost gratitude to them for their prayers and support. Mr Speaker, as the words of our country, leading is no better than supporting. I would like to thank the Hon Chairperson of the United Christian Churches, Susuga Leaupepe Kasiano and the members of the Council and God's appointed servants, thank you for your prayers, thank you for your support and devotion.

The devotion and support of the village council, wives and guardians, men and women, the strength of each village from the nobles to the youths, there is nothing that this Ministry can do if we do not work together by heeding the advice, suggestions, and warnings of the Government and through awareness announcements and feedbacks for every group in terms of the safety procedures that should be conducted, as we are in this period of uncertainty, because until now as we all know, there has yet to be a solution or medicine to treat and solve this problem.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Perhaps this is where we wonder and look at the many scholars and scientists of the world, and then we remember that only God has the power and strength to lead and guide us on what we should do.

The Hon Leader of the Country, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Hon Members of cabinet, thank you very much, thank you for your work, thank you for your leadership during these difficult times with this disease. The strong support of the Hon Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee, I commend you for your work and we are grateful for your services to the country. We have been working together since the first day of the measles outbreak, and work is still underway to eradicate the measles, but then we were suddenly affected again by this new virus which has baffled all the countries of the world. So to this day we are still witnessing the goodness of God in our services and deeds to serve our beloved country.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement, as I have said before that most of the members offered congratulations and thanks, especially a few things that the members wanted to understand, as well as a few of their suggestions.

Many of them were thankful for the great relief in terms of sub-centres that have been created for each district hospital not only for Upolu but also for Savaii and the doctors. This is the long-term vision of the Government, which should have been conducted long ago, it has lessen the burden of traveling long distances from the rural areas of Upolu to the main Hospital, it is the same with the big island of Salafai as they all travel to the main hospital at Tuasivi.

The Government will not wait for the services of the Ministry to bring people to the hospital, but the services will be given to the people in the rural areas where they reside as it will also solve the overcrowding problem at the Motootua hospital, the people would wait for many hours, and so these are also the long-term plans to help the poor with bus fares and to save the time to travel, while also developing our country for the future.

The other situation which the Government is look towards, is to eliminate favouritism, but to give all the people of the country equal access to health care at any time of need.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker...

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, apologies to the Hon Minister but an opportunity for the member. Why is the member standing?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you. There is something I want to understand Mr Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Want to understand? You may speak.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you to the Hon Minister, everything is clear, including the preparations by our Ministry, thank you. We have also noted the hard work of the Hon Minister and the Ministry with the protection of our country from the crisis we are currently faced with. But since the Hon Minister's speech has reached the situation concerning the doctors that are moving to the rural areas, this is also interesting. The only concern that I have, Hon Minister, is whether our doctors are well-prepared, because most of the doctors that I have seen are very young, and they do not yet have enough professionalism to work by themselves. There are doctors that I know who have yet to complete 5 or 6 years of observing more experienced doctors to gain more general knowledge. But if it is enough, the only thing I am worried about, is that they might make mistakes in the rural hospitals, and then the doctor that supervised them will be blamed, because they were forced to work at the district hospitals. But I know that they are not fully prepared. With all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It will be clarified by the Hon Minister of Health, as that matter is yet to be explained, but thank you.
I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Mr Speaker, unless it is by your instructions and then I will response to the member. This member never came to the Ministry of Health to make these claims. Well, the honourable member is my friend.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would be better if I offer my advice, I beseech the member that is interrupting, but if it was not included in you speech then this issue should not be questioned. Just a reminder to the Hon Minister, if you do not want to response, you do not have to.

But I still give the opportunity to the member for Salega East.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I apologise Mr Speaker, no I was...my apologies Mr Speaker, it is true, but I talked about the economy, and it includes all these things. If our health sector is good, then our economy will also be good. That is why I was upstanding again.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beseech the member, each issue will be questioned when it is mentioned as that is why you are given an opportunity for 15 minutes, but the Hon Minister will continue her speech.

Well, I call on the member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Mr Speaker, it has been noted that the issue I raised is now being cited by the Hon Minister in her speech. The Minister has now mentioned the request that this constituency made concerning a residential area at the hospital for doctors. And I testify that we now have a doctor, and he is a very young doctor but also very intelligent. And we believe that this is more than enough for our constituency when we are stricken with physical ailments.

I want to thank the Hon Minister for these wonderful plans. The only thing is that it has been announced that the residential area will be built. For all these things all we can do is wait and support the efforts of the Hon Minister and the Ministry. Bless the Assembly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The members should offer their gratitude for the applications that have been accepted, but thank you very much. It was a wonderful statement.

I call on the Hon Minister to continue her speech.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you Mr Speaker. But that is why our children are taken overseas, the children of Samoa that have been well-educated overseas have returned from their trainings, and have worked with doctors that conducted the work and lead the Ministry, they are well aware of the abilities and skills of the children of Samoa. I do not want to diminish the abilities and efforts of our children as they have been taught.

As is the case, perhaps it is the hon member for Anoamaa East who pointed it out, I will then talk about it, as the situation is still underway as expected. And the problem is...

25 JUNE 2020

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

Then I come to the question raised by the member concerning the work for hospitals and housing for doctors, and the district work on the hospital at Saanapu as questioned by the member. Well the work in Saanapu as well as the work for the district hospital in Samatau. The implementation of these district hospitals are guaranteed as funds are available, due to the assistance by the World Bank and our Government. The usual plans are underway, as it is taken to the Tenders Board, and once all the preparations have been completed and when the business had passed, and when the Budget is approved, and then the implementation of these works will continue for the district hospital in Saanapu, as well as with Falelatai listening, as your members have spoken, to voice these concerns, and so it is now announced, in due time when all the necessary plans have been set, the work will then be conducted. For example, the member for Anoamaa, requested for a district hospital and a doctor for Lufilufi. Thankfully, it has been 2 months since the doctor has been working at our sub-centre in Lufilufi.

But we also have plans in place for this hospital which will be upgraded, expanded, improved so that I can become a district hospital, and it also depends on the vision of the Ministry, on how many people are able to come to our hospital in Lufilufi. As your constituency is listening, we are still trying our best. All of the things that have been recorded, and inspections that were carried out, it is difficult because there are a lot of people on this side of the country. Also...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: That speech by the Hon Minister has made me excited, as our hospital will be upgraded, and the constituency has heard the wonderful response given. Thus why, I want to thank the Hon Minister. Yes, if all Minister responded like to our demands, whether it come to fruition or not, but I would be happier that the Government has responded to this situation. Thank you very much to the Hon Minister, but could you also look at the road that leads to the hospital, as it needs to be improved.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you are taking it a bit too far. But you should continue to only talk about the hospital, but thank you to the member for Anoamaa East for the statement. I ask the member for Falelatai and Samatau to stand.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai & Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker, it has also been a pleasure to listen and observe this morning. The member for Anoamaa also stood up, given that this constituency would sit idly, but we are also very grateful. I would also implore the constituency, as our hospital will be built, the hospital for the district of Samatau and Falelatai, but I implore the village of Siufaga, as there is land that has already been cleared for this project. It should not be interrupted by anyone, while our hospital is being built. Mr Speaker bless my constituency and bless the Assembly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Safata West to stand.

Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): It is with the same intention, I am very grateful, for the work of implementing the hospital at Saanapu especially for our constituency.

It is in this spirit that we express our utmost gratitude, because this is the oldest hospital in our district. But thankfully as heard by my constituency, the work on the hospital will be underway. This is my gratitude to the Hon Minister.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is also good if can note down your appreciation. To the honourable members who have expressed their gratitude this morning, note down your gratitude and deliver it properly to the Minister, which is how these things are acknowledged. Apologises to the Hon Minister as I give another opportunity, perhaps it is another thank you. I call on the member for Aiga I le Tai.

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai): Mr Speaker, it is with the same spirit as the gratitude shown by the members. This is an additional belief, because I have never missed an Assembly and I also requested for a hospital for our island of Manono-tai. Samoa has noticed and has also heard, responses have been given for other hospitals, but what is an update on the request by my constituency, in regards to the hospital for my village of Manono-tai. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister will eventually speak on that matter, as I ask that the member be patient. I call on the Hon Minister to speak.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you Mr Speaker, the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry have heard all your gratitude and they have been written down, as your constituencies are happy with the Government's efforts through this Ministry, which is the vision of our Government. Because it is true, when I look at our commitment, I am thankful for giving priority to our Health and our education. As the saying goes, the proper education of the children of a nation is for a successful future while moving forward. But when I look at the hard work that our children are going through, as they return with their PhD degrees and many other degrees we have now, but they end up getting sick due to poor health, I am just saying, that is a disadvantage. What is the use of bringing them back, but then we have to look for more money again to take care of our children that have spent many years and tens of thousands of dollars spent on their education.

Therefore, the country is prioritising prevention and treatments, under the guise, a happy Samoa, a prosperous Samoa, especially a healthy Samoa.

As I have said, all of your thanks have already been noted down, and the Ministry will examine it for the future. And just as the others had jokingly stated, that after... their medical knowledge would improve. Do not worry, after the few months that I have left in this Ministry, because the Parliamentary term is nearly finished, I will have graduated as a doctor. I will meet you all again if I get a job at the hospital, when you come to visit the patients, especially the members that did not express gratitude. It is just something for us to laugh about... do not get mad, we should laugh.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: An opportunity to the member for Salega.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I am very grateful if there is an opportunity...skill. The only thing is if they are able to gain surgical skills. Please do not do that to me.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: No, these are only things that we laugh about. But when you visit...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ignore the unnecessary comments.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: And then I come to the honorable member, who spoke of the need for sub-centres, as stated by the member. As I have said, not a single thing is overlooked, as I have already recorded all the members that have spoken. At this time, it has been registered by the Ministry for the progress of its work for the future, the views that have been tabled in the House. But we cannot implement 20 or 30 major hospital buildings at one time or in one year. We are prioritising projects that are very important and are urgently needed. In particular, with equipping hospitals with the various tools and conditions that is needed, for the public's health. For all of the members that spoke about this issue, Leausa and the management are listening, and it has been noted, and the Government's plans will move towards implementing it. The Lord gives days and time...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beseech the Minister to give an opportunity to the member for Falealili East...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): The speech by the member has mentioned sub-centres.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Was it cited in your speech?

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Well, it was cited in the speech of 2016, when it was the other Minister who is traveling abroad. So, just a reminder, the sub-centre that was requested to be situated in the constituency, because it has now been divided, from where the old small hospital was located, to the village of Salesatele, which served as a centre to facilitate these small-scale treatments, and to obtain medicine, so there was no need to travel to Poutasi. The only request of this member is, if my constituency is included on the waiting list for the sub-centres for the Parliamentary term in the new year, with all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon Minister may speak, perhaps you have responded to these things for a third time now, including all the hospitals and sub-centres.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: For 2016, apologies to the member. I will immediately check the records of 2016. As Leausa and the staff are also listening, because all these conditions are included in the plan, for moving forward. Note down these statements, so we can investigate them in the near future, before it is set aside, as this year is nearing its end and the progress for the future, but it has been registered in the Ministry's plan, towards which our work is directed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beseech the Hon Minister, as I give the hon member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo an opportunity.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you to the Hon Minister, and I do not want to interrupt your speech. Perhaps you have received a lot of appreciations, and they are necessary. A lot of the diseases are spreading especially with your line of work. But I made a speech about the hospital in Lalomanu, but I noticed that you have moved away from this matter. No, we do not want a new hospital to be built or such things; because I know that the hospital is still good.

All I want to ask for is, in regards to our doctor, who is a female. But for safety and an upgrade, it is not a major upgrade, just a few things, as it probably does not cost more than \$1000 to be used to paint and to renovate the room used for screening and such things like that. Or could we get a TV as entertainment for the doctor, which would be great. As for anything else, no need, thank you for everything. Our hospital is great, everything is operational, but that was the only issue. We respectfully ask for the improvement of the room used by the doctor please, as cited in the speech by my fellow member from the rural area, thank you.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you to the member who spoke. Like I said, we now have a program where we receive assistance from the World Bank. It is anticipated that after the sitting of Parliament, we will reconfirm in again through inspection. Not only for Upolu, but also our island of Salafai, we will observe and record everything. Because this program, it also includes the improvement of all district hospitals and sub-centres, as well as the construction of residential areas for doctors during their shifts, in order to assemble the staff, while saying in a pleasant and alluring room.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

So it is also good, because for all of us, when we are assigned to go somewhere to work, if we get there and the environment is unpleasant and the conditions are very poor, it will be hard to motivate us to do any work. But all of these things that you have all mentioned, this is how they are planned out under this assistance, the improvement of hospitals, and the creation of residential areas for doctors for each constituency.

Some of the members also mentioned and requested for ambulances. For the transportation of patients especially during emergencies. I will also officially announce with the utmost content. The Government of Japan has offered us assistance, as we will probably receive 7 or 8 ambulances, and we are waiting and negotiating with them so that it can be delivered immediately. And then it will be distributed appropriately by the Government, with no favouritism and based on the distance, especially the number of people served by each hospital, not only for Upolu but also in Savaii. But we will also give priority to our large hospitals, both in Motootua and Tuasivi which is busy with work that need ambulances, especially during emergencies, like what we are dealing with now.

A member also mentioned the situation of isolating those who travel from New Zealand, or whether they should be sent straight home to their families, since New Zealand does not have any more cases of the virus. The Hon Members and Samoa listening. This situation, as we have noticed last week. New Zealand now has additional cases of people being affected by the virus. It was 9 yesterday but it is 10 today. And the second wave has started to emerge as we have seen before.

These are these are the circumstances, that the Government is constantly overseeing, and it is observed and carefully monitored, not only by the Ministry of Health but also the Disaster Management Committee on a daily basis, looking at all of the processes on the progression of the virus in each country of the world. But no report or recommendation has been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration and for a decision by the Cabinet from time to time. Perhaps this is how many people that converse with us, as we visit the countryside as well as Savaii, they would give the same advice which has been overheard by the Leader of the Government and Cabinet, and it is still presented before the Table of the Assembly of Samoa. Thankfully we have been gradually opening our restrictions, and everything is almost completely accessible, as this is what we wanted.

25 JUNE 2020

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

It is only a piece of advice, but our desires can be implemented, but if problems were to occur, we would not know who to blame. A question would be raised, where was this House? We are the Leaders of the country, I am just saying. Although it is expensive and difficult, and a lot of time and the various services that will be affected by this situation of isolation. But the priority and precedence is the protection and safety of our country, while we are still at this phase of isolation and quarantine.

There was also a suggestion expressed by one of the members, about the conditions, with the allocation of these people to the hotels, so they can gain some profit for their business. For the House and the country listening, this is what the Ministry and Committee are trying to achieve, to distribute, but it is based on the conditions and the requirements needed for safety. There are some hotels that do not need these conditions, as they have their own reasons so I do not have to explain. Some do not accept these circumstances, but there are some hotels, that do not meet the requirements needed for isolation, from the perspective of the Committee, especially in terms of health.

Regarding our borders as mentioned by one of the members, whether travelling overseas will be opened. The Government is listening carefully and are making decisions based on issues related to this pandemic. Although the Ministry will continue to serve and consider vigilantly, unless this virus is cleared from New Zealand, Australia and Fiji, these are the gateways that enters other countries. It will then provide a plan and recommendation for the consideration of Cabinet. I am grateful that one of the members mentioned the possibility of establishing a scheme for health workers. Or the staff of the Ministry of Health carrying out the work...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoloai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Before the Minister moves on, Mr Speaker the statement made is very important. In the interest of our country, those who are abroad want to return. There is also a lot of recommendations given to Government to try and stop it, and keep them there until there is a cure or a drug to kill this virus. This is the strong pressure faced by our Cabinet and our Committee, on the recommendations submitted to Cabinet for protection.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

This the reason why Mr Speaker, that Cabinet is reluctant to be too open. A warning has already been given, and once someone mentions it again, then restrictions will be back to where it started, and it is more likely that further restrictions will be added. Because this country will suffer more especially the protection that needs to be provided for those who are front liners. They include doctors, and the whole staff in charge of protection. Because they are the first to be affected, they are the ones who are the forerunners of Samoa, in the war that is currently facing the country and the world. This is the meaning of the word, first, they are the first to die in any battle. They are faced with the bullet in every battle. But the Commander always stay behind, and is the last to die. Mr Speaker, these are areas where Cabinet base decisions with agony, not only out of compassion for those affected, but also for those who are here in Samoa, in particular those at the frontline.

Mr Speaker, it is for this reason that we continue to emphasize in the advertisements that are being made, especially to those who think lightly of the restrictions imposed by Government. The usual Mr Speaker, if a serious incident arises, the Government will not ask anyone else for advice. If this Government is affected by a cyclone and people are killed, I and Cabinet and the whole of Committee will never ask anyone for their advice. All that is required is for Cabinet to be guided in the right direction. Good judgment from God, to guide people in times of trouble, the servants of God, and to carry out the work we have to do.

Mr Speaker, which is why the statement now made by the Lady Minister is important, she is the one that conveys the advice of doctors to Cabinet. Also the Cabinet invites everyone to meet with Cabinet. Some days they meet on Sunday, or Saturday evenings, all other work is set aside. That is also why Government strives to provide necessary instructions. Some weeks or every day, for the country to hear, especially in waiting to see what will happen.

Mr Speaker, this is a very important point in our debate, why? Because New Zealand, Australia and America are full of people who want to come. The only thing they consider is getting on a plane and coming here. But they are dishonest, they are not completely honest, 100% dishonest in protecting themselves and bringing the disease. We are accustomed to these things, there is always hypocrisy and deceit, why?

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

The only thing that matters to the people is getting on the plane right away. They do not want to be vaccinated, they do not want to take medicine. But it is broadcasted through media our children, even though they are safe on the boats, but they would not stop wanting to come, making the decisions implemented inadequate. But it has also been suggested, to be careful when you come when you are not affected nor dishonest, why? The girl who was first reported, what happened? As soon as the announcement went out the village met, the village met without delay. A decision was going to be made against her and the family fortunately the doctors were there quickly. This is why those who want to come, you should be cautious, because once someone hears that you have arrived, you and your whole family including your children, will be exposed on social media, by those who are full of hatred, you, your parents and whole family will be criticized. All the bad words of this world will be thrown at you, it would have been better if you did not come.

Then it comes to things that affect the lives of our people and the lives of our children, then the person prepares to come to Samoa with dishonesty, you must think of other people who may be affected, for this is a condition of selfishness, the person thinking of themselves only. Mr Speaker, this is the reason why Government is holding back, because the person doing such things will not end well. The time when we were in the first Cabinet. There was a meeting, where the former Leader of Government was upstanding, this is where he stood, and he said, all those who want to go to New Zealand, if you come to me for assistance do not come back. I do not trust anyone that comes to me, to contact the New Zealand and Australian office. How often has the name of the Prime Minister been tarnished, because of testimonies that you will come back. Some church Ministers taking their youth, make promises before the Prime Minister not to worry, they will come back. However, after it, there are many over stayers in New Zealand, and we try contacting the pastor but he avoids us.

We all know Mr Speaker, the disciples of the Lord, or the 12 apostles. Look at the miracles. Look at the miracles performed. But during the time of the crucifixion of our Lord, no one believed in His resurrection. John was there, as it was hard for him to leave the mother of the Lord. As for the others they went their own ways. The other sold our Lord for money. And the other confessed, I will only believe until I touch him.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Now, when someone stands up and speaks saying I am righteous, I remember this right away, together with the Lord all the time. But then tragedy struck and none of them believed that the Lord would be resurrected. That is why they were surprised, and ran back to see if it was real.

Mr Speaker that is the situation. The recommendation, to some of our families in New Zealand and Australia who want to come. Please pay attention to the orders given, and to abide by it, because the person who comes, if problems arises, I will feel sorry for your family, because all types of offensive language will be made towards you, then you will think if only I knew, I would have done what I was instructed to do.

The world we are living in Mr Speaker, is full of good things as well as the bad things. Mr Speaker that is assistance in conveying the concern of the Hon Minister, the Lady Minister and their Ministry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well, respectable Leader of Government, this House and the people have heard the explanation. It is clear and understandable, the basis of recommendations for the welfare and safety of our people, but served with love. I commend your honour for the speech, the Leader of Government. I now call upon the Hon Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Mr Speaker, I also want to thank the Leader of Government, for his assistance in reiterating the situation that is being appealed at this time. It is not for one person, or for this House, it is for the whole of Samoa.

But I repeat...the reason why I say this is that I remember, in the beginning of this epidemic. There were a lot of complaints and allegations made against the Ministry and Government. Because the plans of the Ministry are all brought before Cabinet. We sent a few of our people back to Fiji, there were 5 of them that returned from India, they have already been screened and now sent back to Fiji.

There was a lot of complaints from the country, not only internally but also externally. I am surprised, they are returning their own people. Other times we returned airplanes. I keep thinking about it late at night when our country sleeps peacefully, but the public servants as well as the Ministry are moving about to control the situation. What is your plan Hon Minister now that the plane with hundreds of passengers is affected...I have been listening to people complaining here and there, going home late at night.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

The only response was to appease and talk with the staff, to be patient and accept advice, let the people talk, that is their right. But take a closer look at the different filters, on what should be done. Compare the eight that have been returned, to the 200,000 or so population of Samoa, which measures the weight of your decision. It is very important that you sit down and pray for good thoughts when making your decision.

Those working at the airport have stated that once something is signed by the Minister it is final. Then I explained to them, no Minister alone decides these matters since we are on emergency orders. That is the significance, as we try and mollify time over time, but this is what is happening. When the time comes to complain, the only suggestion is to be patient, let the criticism go, come light and they will understand, but let us do what we should do, then a recommendation can be given to Cabinet, this is how our work is done until now, with the position we are in.

Now a response to the member who spoke and stated whether it is inappropriate to have a scheme for Health workers, the staff of the Ministry of Health, who are carrying out the difficult task of prevention if they are affected by the disease. It is a proposal that is acceptable in my opinion, and it is a plan that needs to be implemented soon as the Leader of Government and Cabinet especially the House who make decisions, are listening. It could be a special insurance to compensate, for a life that might be lost, in this kind of work for the protection of the lives of our country.

We have heard yesterday the strong arguments of some members, on the work being carried out by some Government Ministries but I have spoken on the terms of work, our hearts and minds are distraught, at the difficulty mentioned by the Leader of our country, to expose their lives, to face death all the time, and when infected they will spread it to their families and children, it will be a big problem, to trace it. But as stated by the Hon Prime Minister, our frontliners are the ones that will be protecting your lives and ours.

Perhaps someday the Government will look into it not only for health, but also for many other Ministries that are undertaking similar difficult tasks. The same member also discussed the possibility of setting up a Nursing Community Training Centre for the training of nursing staff. I commend you for stating important aspects that will generate ideas. It will be noted by the Ministry for future improvement of the Ministry of Health and the country.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

It was also mentioned in opinions conveyed the matter to revitalize the Hygienic Groups or Komiti Tumama as well as members who spoke, for members of Komiti Tumama within each district hospital. Not only for Upolu but Savaii as well. The revitalization of Komiti Tumama, is a task that I would like to congratulate and thank the Hon Minister Afioga Tuitama Tuitama, and the Administration of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, for their strong support in maintaining the work. It is gratifying and exciting to see the resilience and support of mothers in the many community committees we have visited, now health related work will again be part of their daily programs and duties.

I am also grateful for the continuous work with the Ministry, on ongoing programs. Since the start of the measles outbreak in Samoa, the Ministry has continued to have a warm partnership with the Ministry of Women to this day, in dealing with various protection plans put in place because of the deadly Covid-19, which has affected many countries around the world.

The importance of having members of Komiti Tumama in district hospitals in Upolu and Savaii, is a good opportunity to train these members, in health practices that can be taught, and to distribute the members of the committees, to apply these health measures into families and communities, to continue our public health hygiene, to emphasize this matter all the time, to strengthen our bodies, against defenses in the event of such diseases. I thank members for bringing up important matters, since health is very important on this side.

There was also a member that questioned that matter regarding treatment overseas. Thank you for the question because majority of the time it is also queried by many, but a response to this matter is, once the borders of New Zealand was locked, an order was given to refrain bringing over patients from Samoa, this was the scheme until further notice. The New Zealand Government has ordered that patients from outside New Zealand no longer be accepted into New Zealand hospitals, until further notice.

In the meantime, several applications that have been approved by Cabinet for overseas, are still sitting on my desk in the office, I wish we were in charge, as the saying goes, Sitaifune is in charge of her own boat. New Zealand is in charge of their own hospital, but we are still in contact, and once we hear from them our scheme will start again, as many have been waiting and many have been approved for treatment, thus we are still waiting.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I will give the opportunity to the member of Vaimauga.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: First I want to thank Mr Speaker, for leading the country's Parliament Sitting this morning. I have not interrupted the wonderful speech of the Hon Minister of Health. But it was mentioned in my speech the matter of hotels. I was waiting for you to speak on it. A number of hotels have made complaints on distribution. But now your statement is clear on this point. It is not only the hotels but also a few families who own apartments. As for individuals can they not be delegated as visitors and be taken care of by the Ministry.

The matter of our scheme, I am grateful, since my constituency is also listening, on the many applications submitted, for overseas travel. My answer on this matter is, this process is not in use anymore because of the situation we are now in.

Given this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude, our Leader has already addressed the matter in regards to this constituency, on the young girl that was suspected. As one of the member of this constituency was first suspected for this disease. It is true that the village held a meeting. And the village council was waiting for their member to come and say a word, the only thing I told them was, it is uncertain. The situation is uncertain, but we are fortunate to have raised the issue of public awareness.

Now we have this protection, it started from my constituency, because if this did not happen, there would have been no national protection. That is what I said to my constituecny, we are fortunate. Now we are leading, and this is how it has commenced. But the only matter brought forward by my constituency and village was, they are going to sue Government. Then I asked, why? It is uncertain whether this young woman has it however the name of the village is being publicised. You know very well once a village's name is mentioned it is serious, then I told them it was not Government. It is the newspapers and other media outlets that have publicised the name of the village. But I am grateful that we are leading.

25 JUNE 2020

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

This is how grateful this constituency is, another important factor, during the 1918 epidemic not a single person from this village of this constituency died. That is what I said to these other constituencies. We are fortunate, since we are leading in advocating this disease, for the awareness of the country. As for our own village, we have been sanctified, which is comparable to Israel. No one dies from this disease.

This is a word of thanks to the Hon Minister, also another part of your speech, you stated that you were going to get a medical degree, no, you have been promoted to come down and go up to the Ministerial level. You do not have to go and get a medical degree, all you have to do is to tell the doctors what you want and they will perform. Thank you all for the agreement on the leadership of this Sitting, it is such a great morning. It is a change for the country listening in, under the leadership of the Chair. Some of the Associate Ministers are envious, but when a time of blessings arrive, you go up, and tomorrow they come back down again, those are the blessings of God.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is well received and delivered, well, we are old enough. This is always the case with you brother, very well. Thank you since your constituency is listening, you are carrying their views in the House. Thank you for the words of appreciation and recommendation. But I call upon the Hon Minister to continue with her speech.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: I commend everyone for their patience and members upstanding to convey their views. Perhaps this is why I began with a word of thanks in the beginning, I am grateful for the support of Samoa, Alii and Faipule, faletua and tausi and all other committees, you have expressed your opinion again, thank you.

We should be working together and at all times, to keep Samoa safe from the many problems that arise from time to time.

Unless there is another matter but...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I call upon the member of Faleata.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker this is a very important matter that I raised in my speech, but I note the Hon Ministers wonderful presentation has come to an end in all areas. [.....]. It is not something to dispute you Hon Minister, but it is an important issue. Has the Ministry looked into ways to implement publicity programs on radio, using the 2AP radio station. To help people be mentally prepared during this time, and situations like this, because there is alot of harm if...but it is important.

I heard that your mental unit at the hospital is very full right now. But this is an important aspect that you should look into, because this is a disease of stress, it activates all the other different diseases. This disease will come later, but already the majority will be stressed over it, with respect, thank you.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, an opportunity please...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker, I humbly ask for an opportunity...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member upstanding but I will give the opportunity to the member of Vaimauga East. Pardon the member make it brief.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Alright, but I am worried about our records, since the term mental is mentioned. Mental means someone whose brain cannot function. But this member, everyone in the House knows, there were times when he slept at Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena's house.

However look at what he is doing, damaging the airport by Peseta in the House. It is serious, this is a reason for a request, to remove these records. How can it be mental, when I have been speaking. Is this what you call mental? Remove from the records of Parliament the insults made because the member of Vaimauga is not mental. This is the smartest member in Parliament.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will do as the member of Vaimauga East requests. I order the Clerk to remove these words, which are not pleasant to hear by members of the House. Keep our mutual respect. After Standing Orders this is the last order that should be obeyed. It is mutual respect and spatial relations. Therefore..

Words ordered by Mr Speaker to be omitted from the speech of the member of Faleata West - [*O le faamai lea ma le... e le i oo mai le faamai lea e tatou te vevesi ai i le lalolagi, ae o le faamai pito sili lea ua lofia ai le tele o le atunuu i le taimi lenei, e lavea ai ma le sui usufono lea o Vaimauga faatoa uma atu. Mo le faamai lea o le popole ma le atuatuvaile, mo le stress. Mo le mental ona o le tele o le faaletonu lea ua i ai nai isi o tagata ma o latou mafatiaga i lenei foi taimi.*].

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, I call upon the Leader of the House.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: This illness of stress is a result of anxiety. But research shows there is also mental illness. This is research done by those who specialize in this area, on this illness of stress, where doctors usually come in from New Zealand. To assist Samoa, during times of crisis. Just like the time when the tsunami hit. They also came during the time when cyclones happened. This is the reason why I understand it. They come to me and we talk about the work that they are doing.

25 JUNE 2020

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

In other words, the members statement Afioga Lealailepule Aiafi is not referring to what will happen to someone, but to the country as a whole when a crisis occurs. Anxiety is caused by anxiety. And that is to worry, there was a sermon by one Pastor, in the Bible, I read. The Pastor said, worry is the thing of the devil. As for the person who has faith in the Lord they do not worry.

But as for the stress and worry affecting our people, it affects everyone, those who have responsibilities. This means it is especially seen in the chiefs or *sao o aiga*, where all the problems are put upon, taking care of the family one faalavelave after another. When there is one faalavelave after the other you can see the chief will look troubling. It affects all of us, because of the duties and responsibilities that we hold.

The statement of the doctor that we conversed was, everyone who has anxiety is affected. And then this results to stress. The difference between stress and other diseases, it is a silent killer. Your life surprisingly will end. Since all the organs in your body has been affected, but you do not know it.

Mr Speaker, that is also the reason why others are affected mentally. The matter raised by the member is important. Remember that this is one thing that indicts the wrong decisions of others and ideas, a person with mental issues is stupid. Then they are taken to Tafaigata, this is one matter the Government was prosecuted, by another Samoan man from New Zealand who had a seizure, and was taken up there. Because most of this stress, affects the whole body and the mind.

Other solutions, however, are simpler, as the recommendations of many doctors are different especially on the issue of stress. The advice of another doctor. When you know your stress is going up, especially in the event of an accident, or someone saying harsh words to you, your blood pressure will rise, and everything else in the body, and you will get a heart disease. And you die.

Mr Speaker, the advice of this person, is another important remedy. As soon as you know that your stress level is going up, you sit up straight in your chair, close your eyes and think. The only thing your mind focuses on is your breathing. Just take ten deep breaths, relax your body, put your hands properly on the chair, for one or two minutes, after that Mr Speaker your stress will be gone.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

This remedy is very important, for Amituanai and Mr Speaker. This is further clarification on the matter, in case the member of Vaimauga is burdened, but the matter raised is very important. But that is the case, stress is a silent killer. A lot of people just jump in, and then think, alright they are just teasing... then other gossip will suffice the other, but it is that easy. Being worried, is not living with your wife for two weeks who is overseas, you have waited too long. Mr Speaker, this is another thing that creates stress, bless our council.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, I want to speak briefly on the matter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies to members to be seated while the Chair speaks. I am of the opinion that our meeting will be well conducted in the proper manner of how speeches are carried out. The Leader of Government has already clarified this matter on the affects it has on our people. And I believe it is best if we conclude the matter here, the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister of Health to continue, her time is nearly finished. Let us be patient, let us finish the remaining issues and then you can stand up and voice your opinions in relation to the wonderful speech of the Hon Minister of Health...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, with utmost respect since the Hon Minister is nearing the end of her remarks, there is a matter I raised in my speech.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give the opportunity to the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Thank you. I will not speak on the matter of stress, because I am a stress free man. Yes. I just wanted to thank the Hon Minister, as I was sitting here listening. I commend you. Samoa have heard about your induction in such troubled times, and thank you. There is nothing better to say than this. I also commend the Ministry, as the duties are not easy. We are ahead of storms, bordered by storms and many other things.

25 JUNE 2020

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

But I just want to remind the Lady Minister about a matter I raised, the strength of your staff, which I requested to review the allowances or the salaries of your staff. You are reliant on the doctors, nurses and your staff to carry out the work. I just want to remind you about this matter, because there have been grievances on their pay and allowance. I will leave this beside you, I can see in the paper that you are speaking about transparency because I said this in the House. With all due respect.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli (Palauli West): Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the speech respectable member. Since we have reached... pardon the member please be seated. We have arrived at our usual recess time of the morning. I believe the Hon Minister will respond to the query of the member who just spoke.

I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for normal 15 minutes recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended for its normal recess at 10:43 am and resumed at 11:30 am.

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

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

I believe strength has been renewed with the morning tea provided to continue our work this morning.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside during the Hon Minister of Health's speech. But I believe an opportunity will be given to the member of Palauli West to speak before the Minister responds, as queried by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

I call upon the member.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I do not know who exactly the Hon Prime Minister was referring to whether it was Amituanai or Afoa Amituanai regarding stress. Because Afoa Amituanai absolutely has no stress at all right now, I am stress free. But I take the floor to thank the Hon Minister of Health and the staff for their dedicated work during this period. I am sure that when you look at Afoa Amituanai's speech in the previous sitting, I voiced many thanks and congratulations to the Minister and staff. It is not an easy task, it is very difficult. I would also like to apologize to the Minister if you were hurt with my previous speech. No, Afoa only speaks the truth and honesty within this House, I do not bring lies or rumors into this House, because I remember my oath, only good things especially things that will protect our country especially our children and everyone in our country.

Therefore, apologies to the Hon Minister, no. The Minister is like a sister to me, because we grew up together in Sinamoga at the place called lulu o le aoa *owls of the banyan tree*. The only problem now is there are no more banyan tree it was swept away and the owls have fled. I want to take this opportunity to request the environment conservation to plant a small banyan tree at Sinamoga, to preserve the custom at Sinamoga, owls of the banyan tree. I still remember the Minister as a very beautiful girl at that time when we were young, while she was working at 2AP and was the number one announcer. No one else could beat it. If I awarded gold medals, the Minister would have received the gold medal. Therefore, I would not do anything that will affect the Hon Minister.

I am merely giving advice to assist in your role since a lot of the recommendations you are getting contains some real terrible ones. So this is why Afoa Amituanai is giving you and the Prime Minister suggestions. After all the Prime Minister spoke about breathing in and out. If you wish to be stress free, sit down and take 10 breaths and on rebound you will be stress free. With me Afoa, I am stress free as I have hand over all my businesses to my children on a bond to carry it on whilst I concentrate on politics. So I am no longer stress and have no debts with NPF.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies to the member but I will allow the Minister of Tourism.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Tourism): Thank you for the occasion and I do apologise Mr Speaker but could you allow an extra 10minutes to the member's remarks?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is best that I caution the Assembly, that interruptions are for clarification, but not to make a statement that takes up additional minutes. The member will continue.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Thank you. This is what I was saying earlier, to remove your masks. The only person that should wear a mask is a doctor to protect the person being operated on in case someone sneezes and possibly infect that person....and those sick so as to isolate them from their families. So just by looking around there seems to be quite a number of sick people in this House...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will allow the Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker I want to ask whether that side of the Chambers are making their speeches again. The recommendation concerning SOE is that people wear masks so it seems this is one of those people that does not understand.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you to the Minister, but I think otherwise as it is inclusive within his point of clarification. Wrap up your point of interruption.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: I appreciate your understanding as this is the kind of issue which the Prime Minister describes as very complex but as far as I am concerned it is very simple. It's a simple subject if God whom we praise has blessed us with a solution to the problem. The geniuses of the world are puzzled but I am happy that Afoa has received a whisperer from our Father in Heaven to disclose this solution in due course to open up America's economy because it should be.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you I got you. The Minister has heard you and I salute you for your vision. But conclude your interruption on the point you are seeking an explanation for.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: The doctor also interrupted as well as the Minister of Finance, claiming they are praying for a vaccine to solve the problem. I am sad to say doctor that God will not hear your prayers for a vaccine. Why? Because that vaccine will...

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am of the opinion that the opportunity given to the member will now cease as he is going into areas which were not covered in his remarks.

I call upon the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Well since it was covered in the remarks from the member and although his drift seems strange this morning it should be applauded that the Chair allows members to speak twice, but this issue must be corrected. I am not making this up but it is the result of research by scientist currently continuing for this purpose. As I was trying to clarify before corona virus or COVID-19 is a new virus and not found before. There have been other types of corona virus found in cats causing peritonitis disease and leukemia in cats. Similarly, there was efforts to find a cure and thought it might be an idea to apply the vaccine that was used to cure cats in this case.

However, the findings from scientist research showed that the corona virus causing COVID-19 is very different from the one before. Which is the reason the vaccines used for the former disease like retromadl used in Singapore and Indonesia to cure peritonitis and leukemia in cats. So scientists are currently searching for a vaccine to cure COVID-19. I think that would be the only hope for protecting Samoa from this disease if it does get here and I am not making this up. Because if a vaccine is found before the virus gets here we are safe.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

The recent measles that ravaged us caused the shutdown of Government Ministries to allow public servants to get vaccinated. You all witness the effectiveness of that effort, the measles was totally wiped out after finding the immunity to vaccinate everyone and protect Samoa. We plan to do the same when a vaccine is found for this virus so as to protect everyone. So when people do get here with the virus at least we are all vaccinated and cannot possibly be infected with the virus.

But if it does reach us at this point in time we have absolutely no protection from it. We are all listening to the news and they are not made up stories by journalists. With thousands of people dying each day. If this does strike Samoa today can someone tell us that things would remain the same? By tomorrow we will hear that say within 24 hours 1,200 have died and the next day 500, the following day 600. Look at the number of fatalities in America, it is now 120,000 and that is almost our total population. If this does reach Samoa and say 120,000 people perish can Samoa respond? The streets would all be empty right now with no one in sight as everyone have died. In saying that, what we state in this House must be of integrity with the high hope of providing assistance in Samoa's preparations to protect the country and keeping away this curse. Mr Speaker that is my explanation of this matter as members are tending to speak about it again. May we have a constructive Meeting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I beg tolerance of the member but the matter is now understood. I call upon the Minister of Health for her address on matters raised.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota (Faasaleleaga No.2): Mr Speaker I seek an opportunity to make my brief remark please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is this a point of order or clarification.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota: I am seeking an understanding on and I did raise this....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota: Thank you and it will be brief. Now since the Minister is near conclusion of her remarks I thought I would bring up the hospital at Tuasivi as it was mentioned at the beginning. I extend my gratitude for the doctors whom are now rendering service at this hospital. I must mention Dr Fuimaono Aleki leading the team of doctors like Junior Posini. Quite a lot of operations are now done at Tuasivi, for the community from around Faasaleleaga and the district. But I have heard stories that Fuimaono will be returning to Apia. My desire is for this service to continue even if it is another doctor. I will certainly not be involved with your appointment process but all I will say is a big thank you. Our community in Salafai are so delighted with the top service at Tuasivi and the other thing is our local community are now getting employment there. All I can say to the Minister is to maintain this service, with respect thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister for her address on matter raised by members.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you Mr Speaker and my appreciations for the refreshments provided to sustain our energy. The honourable has spoken on the issue of concern and anxiety so I will not be saying anything further. But I will remind you that it is all covered within the program delivered by the Ministry for the community preparations so as to avoid any situations of panic and concern. If I may also remind you that Samoa is founded on God, and so Jesus is the answer to everything. Make sure to often pray and uplift our needs to God at all times. My apologies to the member and Laauli it is true that they are in my notes but it is just that the group here have been very disturbing.

Well with the issue of overtime, the Ministry are listening and I believe that all overtime payments have been made. I have also checked with the office about the employees dealing with the actual paperwork for payments. There was a recommendation from the Ministry of Finance in light of submissions they received concerning special payments on health related services with their advice to prioritise the overtime payments for the vital service being done and I also made the call to check in which they have done so. If the Ministry are listening in let me tell you if there are such issues, then do disclose it during our regular meetings done every 3 weeks. We will not know about these matters if you do not reveal them.

25 JUNE 2020

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

I apologise to the member for Palauli West or should I say congratulations now that you are stress free. But I interrupted you that night as you stated just like you are doing today about you stating the truth and facts only. What worried me is the fact that your integrity has somewhat contradicts the facts which the Ministry are publicising and particularly this House, the Government and the Committee are trying to make the public understand.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The distinguish member, what would you like to share and you may go ahead and address the Chair.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: Yes please there is an issue that needs to be clarified since the Minister has brought up again what I said.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has not complete her clarifications on the matter of concern which you raised this morning.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: Toe tuu tasi mai lava lau Afioga, o se tamai vala lava lea e fia...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright then. I am conscious of your constituency tuning in.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: As I have stated earlier the view of the doctor which is that, we cannot wait around for a vaccine. My advice is we should not acquire a vaccine to vaccinate Samoa. 20 years ago doctors have been trying to find a vaccine for the 7 types of flu. As of now they have nothing. Trying to find a vaccine....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear what you are saying. My apologies to the member but I understand the small matter you were wanting to share. This is your own view but the Minister has spoken and the country are listening in and particularly this Assembly. I call upon the Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: I appreciate the assistance Mr Speaker. I do not want to counter a fellow distinguish member as we are all representatives of the various communities.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

But I interrupted to avoid the view of a single member contradicting the great work done by the Government, members of this Assembly and the public service especially this Ministry getting out there to spread the word and clarify to the public every detail which they should know about safeguarding us from the virus so when it does get here we should not be too concerned. The second reason I interrupted that night, which you have alluded to is the general public tuning in as this Assembly is the paramount forum of the country. So I was saddened since the public are listening to members instructing the Speaker. That is why I got up but I do have courtesy and understands our mutual respect. I applaud Namulauulu for mentioning the hospital at Tuasivi. That is the objective we are acting on to meet the demands of the public in any area of the community. It is the same thing with the request for Susuga Fuimaono Aleki who is currently the Chief Surgeon travelling on the job and perhaps he is listening. If I receive many...

As you know medical operations are now done in Savaii the result of the Ministry drive to procure machines and equipment required by doctors to carry out these operations. We rotate doctors based on the demand from hospitals from time to time particularly for Motootua and Tuasivi and there are specialist doctors for this purpose. I am happy though if the service at Tuasivi Hospital is acceptable. The Ministry will be delivering on a wide range of programmes and goals but I do want to refer members and the general public to the end of 2019 when the measles broke out. Which impels me to urge everyone about a program which the Ministry is apprehensive about right now so the public must understand the difficulty we went through so as to avoid repeating of a horrible outbreak which will see Samoa in a dire situation in future.

Mr Speaker due to the fact that we are still in a period of uncertainty with the prevailing number of people affected by COVID-19, the Ministry is of the view that it is imperative that we cooperate to strongly encourage immunisation to protect young children from contagious diseases. For instance, immunisation from tuberculosis, hepatitis, meningitis, hemophilus, tonsillitis, pentavalent, pneumonia, typhoid fever and various other sicknesses which the Ministry is concerned about. As the Government has dictated, we do not need to go through this again. Since we are hearing and seeing via television and broadcast from abroad the spread of several viruses around the world. The usual health adage we are familiar with is "Prevention is better than cure"

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Mr Speaker I thought I would take us all back to the measles outbreak as close to 6,000 people were affected. To be exact 5,700 people were infected with the measles with 83 fatalities of mainly children at Savaii from the total population of 200,800+. The measles outbreak brought in several challenges to our country.

First of all was our view that the vaccination coverage was very low, and this was reflected by the challenges that came up. On top of that was the traditional belief in mothers and carers to take their children to traditional healers. Now we do not discount this method as we have all witness the effectiveness of our Samoan healing alternative. As I was growing up I saw the freedom in parents to vaccinate their children or not. Moreover, there was an incident back in 2017 and from reading through records that vaccination number reached 74% high but dropped again 2018 mainly due to the incident at the sub-centre at my village of Safotu where two toddlers died after receiving their injection. That incident put a halt to the campaign making way to a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the cause of death to the two infants, whether the vaccination was properly administered, and were the vaccine stored according to guidelines. These were all issues covered in the investigation which caused the long delay in administering vaccinations. The end result of this saga was the admission of the two nurses of their fault in the executing of their duty. The dose of vaccine applied to the injections was not right. So when the Ministry in February made the effort to continue the vaccination campaign most people have lost trust. They have overwhelmingly thought it would be best seeking traditional healers.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker I raise a point of order. I had thought that you would not bring up this pandemic again. The public are following this and be it wrong or right, whether the nurses were at fault or not, the mothers were right or wrong. There should have been a Special Enquiry to record all of this down for the purpose of going forward. Yet you are going backwards and it is a concern. My point of order madam Minister is that I do not agree with your statement referring to the old days when mothers had the discretion to vaccinate children or not. During the days when Beautification Committee were operating, it was compulsory to do this. Every child must be vaccinated. But like I said, your statement visiting the past has evoked a thought.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the recommendation. The Minister will now continue.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Mr Speaker, I raised this again because it happened not long ago. It was in fact towards the end of the previous year. It is not mid-year yet and it does relate with the meaningful endeavour currently undertaken by the government via the Ministry to entice the public towards where it should be. So that is the whole point to remind people because as long as they understand they would accept and support government initiatives. As I said before it is not for a single person but for the welfare of everyone. There are no records and I did say that I looked into it and it was 2017 where 74% and compared to other countries in the South Pacific with 99% showing so that is why I said that. For the public to hear and to avoid the seriousness of the grief experienced during the measles pandemic. There was a lot going on. Some of the staff realised a lot of people from overseas objecting to the vaccine, the so-called anti vaxxer persuading people to follow their belief. That was February last year and I have said before, the structure of the Ministry regarding public health is not yet solid and establish and the reason for not progressing was due to the Special Committee of Enquiry probing the organisation structure and the newly formed Ministry of Health. But we learn from our mistakes to develop progressive policies. You understand the huge undertaking by the government with the 2 Commission of Enquiries to investigate the matter. In my view, there were too many commission of enquiries because we do not understand about the incidents that occurred. So we learn from it and create policies for moving forward. The intention of government is never letting this happen again. The Government has a lot on its plate...and so went ahead and declare the State of Emergency. It is the first time in our history that we have done this because of the pandemic. It was usually done due to reasons of a cyclone or flooding and such natural disasters. The Government initiated the relevant assistance...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies to the Minister but I will allow the Prime Minister.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Let me ask the Minister since it was perceived that the majority were disinterested in the Government vaccination program for the measles. This was seriously monitored as this announcement was in two parts. Which is of a person standing at the hospital for only 5 minutes and on the other hand it was noted the many families living nearby the hospital but only bothered to show up there when we went into lockdown whilst mobile clinics were carried out to vaccinate people in their homes.

A notable scene when hospital staff got to people's homes were the number of cars they saw. They could have easily come to hospital in their vehicles. The third factor was after the vaccination programme the Minister of Community and Social Development during his visits for their respective programmes came across 200+ from Savaii that have not been vaccinated. These people have that mentality of approaching our traditional healers instead of taking heed of the various announcements from the hospital to get vaccinated. The question that comes to mind is, what is the feeling now with the number of new born still rising every year. Which requires them to get vaccinated as there are a number of ailments afflicting children and I think one requires to get 10 vaccinations. What is the general feeling of the public right now? Are they still reluctant or have they understood?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on the lady Minister to clarify this point.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Prime Minister. Perhaps it is the mission now of the Ministry since the Prime Minister is absolutely correct about the obstacles and attempts to inform the public but falling on deaf ears. Some people are just not taking it seriously. But we all understand one of our adage, which is, children are parents treasures. Unfortunately, a lot of them out there do not prioritise the protection of children yet they are the future of Samoa. As long as the country are in good health we shall become a strong nation. Our economy will of course be solid without having issues to be concerned about if we plan well.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker I have a small matter which I also spoke about on this note.

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Gagaifomauga No.3 will take the floor.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Faimalo I have no intention of covering the same topic again. We have submitted our recommendations but you have brought this up again. You have clearly stated that the matter is now sorted and you are now concentrating on finding solutions for the future. I say to you that if you have any compassion let us not ask again what we did about this. 80 children have died so organise a proper investigation establish a Commission of Enquiry so as to clear the matter we should not progress forward with ignorance. A genuine investigation should be carried out.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Minister I understand that the cause of the children's deaths was because of the desire to take them to traditional healers first and when they do take them to hospital it was too late. Everyone understands this, so what do you think? There have been two commission of enquiries, so should we carry out another to tell us what we know already. That is the question.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker with respect the government is sluggish...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: This member was once the Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Get to the bottom of the matter....

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is best to advise members particularly the member for Gagaifomauga No.3. You once occupied this Chair and you do understand Standing Orders of the House. A member may only speak when permitted by the Chair. I beg tolerance of the member but it is best that you comply with Standing Orders. It may be good also to advise the Minister as it is the role of the Chair. The report on this pandemic has been tabled and the Parliamentary Committee have addressed and in due course you will be able to speak on the report when it officially comes back to the house. I have allowed the interruptions since you are mentioning it in your remarks. So I suggest that the Minister address only matters raised by members.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you Mr Speaker but it was a thought I had. There was not a single member that spoke on the measles but I thought I would share with you the government strategies planned out for this Ministry in going forward. The stance of the Prime Minister is also my take on another investigation. I am reluctant to address it because in my view it would be a mere waste of resources as we know what happened. The desire now is to find solutions to avoid this from ever occurring again. It seems that they are taking the floor due to my covering this matter again but it does relate to the government strategies instigated by the Ministry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker my question has been adequately addressed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies but I advise the Minister to try to wrap up her remarks for the sake of the public and this Assembly.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: The undertaking I am trying to clarify in order to make the people of Samoa understand its vitality, is the fact that there are many other vaccines we must administer to achieve a healthy population of children. With corona virus I do not need to explain the state of uncertainty the world is in right now right throughout the large nations with strong economies to small countries.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

According to United Nations records there are 193 countries recorded with 12 currently safe from the virus including us. Therefore, we must applaud the various actions taken including planes coming in and sailing boats and ships from abroad.

I congratulate you all for your patience whilst the Government engages in its role to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone, our National Health Security. I applaud the clergy for their part as it was foremost in our public announcements the week of fasting to pray for our whole country. We are all certain of God's grace upon Samoa. I congratulate the Government for its policies and provisions which has brought about a nice change to our attitudes towards protecting ourselves and the country from the pandemic.

Mr Prime Minister and Cabinet I salute your vision and perseverance I appreciate your courage in times like these. To the Chairperson of the State of Emergency Council thank you for your contribution.

My appreciations also to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for your functions and service. Nothing is obscured from the Almighty Father, with the execution of your duties day and night. So thank you to the country at large for your support and prayers.

Thanks for the Budget. Not only does it bring priority for the health sector, it reflects the distribution, there is control and saving for uncertain days like these. Because we have not yet found a vaccination nor medicine for this virus. Such is the attempt, for us to be vigilant of our protection from the incalculable viruses which we are hearing in other countries that we ought to focus and contemplate on.

Mr Speaker, strategic plans are clear moving forward, although there are several issues faced by the Ministry. Instead...another alarming problem is the lack of public employees in the various sectors. In comparison to the measles, thanks to external grants and the various foreign teams because without them, our local doctor would not know where to turn to. Right now we have only 68 doctors working in the rural health clinics that cannot cater a population of over 200,000 people. Such is the emphasis of protection we have right now, for us to prepare for, and our plea that this virus will not reach us.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

There a lot of things that are required in the hospital, especiall Motootua and Tuasivi hospitals, the need for medical equipment to remedy the sick and the need for staff members to implement this operation service for the general public. If we can receive all the requirements, it would be more affordable to bring in health specialists to work on the operations here at the same time to upskill the expertise and knowledge of our local doctors in this profession. These are some of the long term goals at this time. There a lot of things that the State is envisioning for the sake of the health sector plans and the benefit of Samoa in the future.

Then we come to the Main Estimates 2020/2021, and the Supplementary Appropriation No.3 2019/2020, thank you Hon Minister and the Chief of the Ministry. This constituency supports your great effort put into the Budget.

Mr Speaker, before I conclude, I think this is a great chance to acknowledge the support of my constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1. I fomally greet the members of the clergy who are ministrying in our constituency for blessings upon our district and Samoa. Well done to your prayers, the elder Tanielu and your faletua, the Priets and Bishops. The lay preacher and your faletua, the Church Leader of the Methodist Church and your faletua, as well as Susuga Filipo and your faletua and the EFKS of Manase. The Archbishop of the Mormon Church, the women of the Gospel. Well done to your prayers and support and blessings everytime we meet you give me your blessings, let us hand it over to God for his assistance.

To the respects of the constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1, in your honorifics. To my constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1 in all your honorific salutations, thank you for your advice all the time. The feeling of the heart is warm and courageous all the time. I believe in your prayers and support particularly your advice. May God bless you abundantly in your duties and engaging roles, for the blessing of families and village, particularly the constituency and the country. I further wish to acknowledge our constituency for the meeting they had with the Parliamentary Committee, the Committee has extended their great appreciation, it needs no clarification. Particularly your deep distribution you have discussed, well done.

25 JUNE 2020

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

To end the statement, God be good to us, manage the Sitting of Samoa which is not easy, particularly when thoughts becomes a heated discussion for members. May God bless the Leader of the Nation, the Hon Prime Minister as well as the Deputy Prime Minister, and the dignity of this House. God bless Samoa and may the member for Gagaifomauga No.1 live. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well thanks. It is like a wind that blows silently in the thoughts of the country and this House, the belief is that Tutuila and everyone has received well the statement of the Hon Minister. Well done. Since we are in a complex issue at this stage in time in relation tot his virus. I officially wish to extend great thanks to the Hon Minister, Associate Minister of Health and the Ministry Head who are engaged with this task day and night in protection of the country witht his Covid-19 pandemic. We plead that God’s love and kindness be upon the Hon Minister and the Associate Minister and the Ministry. To strengthen as frontliners for the protection of the country.

Glory be to the Almighty Father, Samoa and her people are safe. Well done to your service, exltations be unto the Most High for everything. The same with the various Government Ministries who are working to gain this high purpose. For the safety of Samoa. Bless this Sitting and the Hon Minister as well as the Associate Minister.

Well, the turn now onto us, I respectfully call the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, to give a response to the other raising matters by the members.

Afioga Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa): Mr Speaker of the House, and the respectable members, before I go ahead with my speech, I wish to acknowledge the honorifics of the country *afio o Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma Tama, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. These are the honorifics of the country that remain intact which starts from Saua to Agalega.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House, I wish to thank the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa in response to the raising matters from the members. In particular to us is our service. Allow me time to convey our tribute from the Ministry Heads of the Office of the Regulator and SROS your honour including the staff to your honorable Speaker and the House, furthermore, our regards to our constituency of Vaisigano No.1 and the dignity of this House.

Ae seu pea le manu ae fefe i le galu, during my speech lest I err, allow me to greet and acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister or the Leader of the House of Samoa, the Hon Prime Minister and the respectable members of Cabinet, Associate Ministers, the dignity of the honorable Chairpersons of the House of Samoa. The chosen members of God who are ministering his will through consciousness and prudence. Greetings to good health.

Because I started out with this Side, I will turn to the other side of our administration. To the honorable Chief Justice, Afioga Satiu Simativa Perese, the President of the Lands and Titles Court, Afioga Fepuleai Attila. The Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration. I also take this time to extend our warmest greeting to the honorable Chief Justice Afioga Satiu Simativa Perese, in your appointment as the Chief Justice of the Court of the Samoan Government.

I further greet the Ministry Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises of the Government. Well done to your efforts. I also would like to use this chance to greet our neighboring island in the East in your honorifics, *Afio o Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma le Launiu na Saelua, Faatuiolemotu ma upu ia te oe le Manuatele*.

Furthermore, I greet the Church Leaders who are engaged in the spiritual ministries in all four corners of Samoa together with your wives. Thank you for your prayers and support.

I also take this wonderful opportunity to formally greet the members of the clergy within the district of Vaisigano No.1 from Asau to Vaisala. Greeting to good health and spirit to you all and your wives, together with your ongoing prayers everyday. Which has brought blessings upon the works of your representatives. I specially wish to voice special thanks to Church Secretary Sinod of the Methodist Church of Salafai West, Susuga Reupena and faletua Malaea, thank you for the recommendation.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

I greet Vaisala in all your honorific addresses.

Greetings and thank you for fulfilling your duties and administering and nurturing the village communities. I also thank and greet farmers and fishermen and livestock farmers. Together with the partners of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the SROS in the country. And our usual partners in the Private Sector or Private Companies, well done to your work.

To the farmers and fishermen, thank you for Samoa has been blessed from your bloodshed. Your struggle and suffering in the early dawn to cut the overgrown scrubs, your struggle in the open seas and beyond the mountains in order to serve the village, family and Church especially the country. Your task is nothing new, it has been done way too long. The programs and plans of the Government implemented right now is to bring your courage. So that the developments can grow that are implemented by you within the country.

In truth, no Samoan had to stand in line during the Covid-19. No one had to stand in line to beg the Government for food to eat. As we have witnessed, most of the countries like America, and other European countries, they had to stand in queue on the road for food.

Such is the appreciation to the Minister and the Ministry, also the Government, for your great work and service to Samoa. No Samoan went hungry. And so doing the job and service, you have matagia and faamaia, nevertheless, both of you, do your job. Leave it to the Government, the set plans that have been laid out as the country has been informed. In assistance to your attempts that are implemented, to provide assurance, grow and increase the service for family, village and Church together with our country.

Thank you very much to the workers who are taking good supplies overseas. During the Covid it was observed that some of you, if the ship was to leave next month, and if the ship was to leave next month, half of the taro supply payment was to be paid until the ship arrives, then the taro is collected before full payment is made through the help of our farmers. So that the normal demands of our people is not avoided for the families. Well done thanks. This needs no mention of names, God is watching everything.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

We wish to specially acknowledge the United Nations, we had requested a machine in finding the African swine fever. As well as the research of Covid-19. The UN Office had responded thank you very much. I also wish to acknowledge the Head of the UN in Samoa, honorable Simona Maranessque for her assistance in bringing forth this machine. Not only this, as well as the 2,000 vaccinations in search of the Covid, plus another 2,000 that has arrived, in order to find out the African swine fever. If the Hon Minister needs it well we have it, if you can hear this what is your will.

It may be a laughing matter but Hon Minister Afamasaga Rico Tupai, thank you very much. Because of your connection with the UN, we were able to implement this. Thank you Hon Minister of Finance for supporting this request with the Leader of the Government including the entire Cabinet. Because we have now received this machine which is very important for our country.

Then I will proceed forward, on the raising matters by the House. 11 of those spoke on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and majority of the speeches were thank you ones. One of this speeches was...well I am unaware of this if he is aware of what he wants. Perhaps when we have the consideration of these matters, to stand up and state exactly this matter for clarification.

With regards to the lab in Nafanua, it was a great dream, to set up this program of the State. We are in the time of life, the country is starting to refuse the exportation of raw products from our lands. Because this is more critical to them and their farms. As stated by the Hon Leader of the country, that is the entire purpose for setting up this lab...but in truth, that gave birth to the many beautiful developments that have been implemented and achieved in our lab.

This was therefore the encouragement of the State, more than 10 years ago was reason for setting up this research office, we are in 2020, and we now know, a lot has been achieved not only with our children, who have gone overseas on scholarship and return but also the implementation of investigations like this in the country on plants and gardening in our lands and the coast.

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Not only with food supply through farming, and a lot of oil produced from copra, as well as the implementation of plants which we normally disregard like the fetau and many others. It shows an increase in our economy that is available within the country. We have now received the weapon which we used to strengthen our attempts within the country through farming and fisheries.

For awareness, SROS can produce whiskey from taro. Flour can also be produced using breadfruit and cassava. We can also produce margarine using orange fruit that is available in the country. We can also make rum using the sugarcane. Other available plants are the mosooi, eucalyptus, tigamoni and orange. We can also produce the Bourbon spirit using the vi fruit. These plants are widely available in the bushland in the country, and so, if these spirits can be produced from them and can get people intoxicated, incase conflict on the olioli follows tensions on this whiskey and...

The intent of the State and the Ministry that the whiskey is very good and is in competition with outside whiskeys. We have also taken our whiskey abroad for exhibitions in Shanghai and the feedback we had was very good. There is high demand however we are in shortage. Such is the support of the State through a request from SROS to set up a production house for this whiskey.

Such is reason, the Private Sector has longed consulted other people, or is released...the attempts is to try and submit all completed assessments on these plants for implementation processes. However, no one has raised their hands to say they are interested. Except for a few small scale businesses like Mahealani, the old man Uaea Apelu, these are a few of them that have begun these small undertakings, to get the coconut oil to get the scented oil to be put up for sale. The same with the WIBDI or the Women in Business Development Incorporated who are also producing their own oil that are sold to big markets in Great Britain.

As for the situation with the need for huge capital investments, it is not easy for the Private Sector to come and obtain this. Such is the reason why the Cabinet is awaiting this request, and implement it. Because in reality, almost someone will get in and... whether Fiji or whoever? The whiskey was produced from taro, however, we have long implemented this.

25 JUNE 2020

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

Now that the State has allocated \$2.5million, as stated in our First Supplementary Budget through the stimulus package, which is appropriated from this funding allocation.

Another thing is the taro and the findings by SROS which can be frozen for another 12 plus months for freshness. The price fluctuation of taro is one way to stabilize this price. We can therefore bring our taro here in the next month or so...or by the end of this year as there are plentiful taro being planted. Seeing this high taro supply which are taken to be frozen...and once the SROs machines are ready, then they can be used, however, this cannot be so as this taro has just been planted about 2 months ago, which costs about half a million. In addition to other taro produce, as planted by the farmers.

Such was my concern, nevertheless we now have a way, it is... not only taro to produce whiskey, but taro can also used to produce sanitizer, the ethanol that can be obtained from taro. That is one saleable item nowadays, if not, our locals can use it, and then we do not have to import anymore sanitizers from overseas rather we can use our own local-made sanitizers, this can save our money.

Paper can also be produced...investigations have already been carried out using the banana peel. I think that a box for eggs storage will be produced from this, the dozen eggs that is bought from the store, I can see the...I was a bit inquisitive that attempts to...which are implemented by SROS uses the banana peel.

The avocado oil, coconut oil, and butter being produced from avocado, coconut butter, frozen taro as mentioned, frozen breadfruit, scent oil, that can be applied on the body produced from coconut oil, cocoa butter avocado and wax as well as various fragrant oil. When it comes time for you not to purchase this scented oil which you apply to your bodies when it is imported from overseas these items being made by SROS.

It is very odour which is made from mosooi leaves and what was the other thing? Mosooi, tigamoni, these leaves can be used to produce in Samoa in their lab. The lagaali which I am unsure if you know it is largely available in Savaii. Yes, I am not sure whether an avaavaaitu can be applied to this fragrance but never mind...

*25 JUNE 2020***Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 - second reading debates**

Not only are items being produced, SROS is also working on finding a remedy for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. There have been 200 plants that have been collected which is currently ongoing. There are also investigations for loathsome skin sores or scabies disease caused by a virus that cannot be destroyed by medicine, antimicrobial resistance, 200 plants have already been collected, and there is confirmation that these 200 plants can be used to destroy diseases like this.

Not only that, investigations for cancer disease is carried out by SROS, including 50 collected sea animals which are currently undertaking investigations. We rely on God, to help us with our Scientists. All the Scientists in SROS, there is no white person there, only Samoans. Those who hold Masters, PHDs, as well as Professors. Thanks to them for implementing this process. They can earn higher pay elsewhere, however due to the patriotism of these local male and female employees, this is the reason why they are still working and assisting Samoa in the development of our country.

I will move on to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are not sitting idly in its role that must be implemented. I wish to start off with the rhino beetle. If you have a look at your backyard, almost all the coconut palms in the country have been affected by this rhino beetle.

Such is the attempt of the Ministry. There was a program implemented at first for the pulenuu to collect the rhinoceros beetles. There was also money given like the money received by Tafua and his constituency and Anoamaa. In the previous year, I think they managed to earn \$2,500 revenue. And so this program is continuously ongoing, however it is not enough. So as you can see in the Budget, we have \$5million for the program on rhino beetle. I wish to thank the village of Satapuala who requested for two chainsaws to be used for their work, a sanitation for them was also done as well as...cut down the coconut trees and cut them in pieces pardon me, in order to eradicate the rhino beetle and curb them from existence as per normal undertaking and assistance by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Mr Speaker...

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I give the chance to the member for Anoamaa East.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: I am reverentially listening to the speech of the Hon Minister. Even with this rhinoceros beetle, the statement of the Minister about my district is correct and the huge work that is undertaken to collect these beetles. There is also the good advantages and the disadvantages, because even with the coconut trees of other people, scientists have gone there to investigate as money can be earned out of it. When I got to my coconut tree plantation, a lot of them have been cut down by these investigators in search of... Whether there is a chemical to fully destroy these beetles as they are sole enemies of our coconut trees. This is our recommendation as it seems that they would only go and collect these huge beetles, but we must destroy them while they are at the first development stage.

This is another thing as statement has already been released to scientists and their assessments, whether they are searching for remedy for this virus? And whether these were the scientists that the member for Palauli West was referring to and reason why they seem to be showy with the reports of scientists that they are reading. With all due respect. Bless this Sitting.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, let us have the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Thank you very much. I wish to make additional thanks to the Hon Minister of Agriculture who is my dear friend. Point of order, please our money is not \$1,500 nor \$2,500, it is \$3,000. This village contains a lot of rhinoceros beetle.

Additionally, with respect, there are several pipes there, some have thought I am building... what these white pipes are doing there which are filling up space and nothing is being done about it, I am unsure and no one is aware what this is for.

25 JUNE 2020

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

The only statement is that these are used to capture these beetles, and I have not seen anyone there to collect it. I plead that you look into this issue your honor please. And whether we can gain some taro shoots if possible please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, I allow the member for Palauli West.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Mr Speaker, since I have been mentioned by the member, I will not use our scientists who specialize in studying flora. Whilst the scientist that we consult with, well he is the best in the world. That is the clarification.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: You mean to say your honor...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You will not argue on this matter, the House heard you and that is the main thing.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Point of clarification, henceforth, I am referring to foreign scientists and not the local ones in here.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well. I grant the chance to the member for Faleata West.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: I wish to ask this member, what you think of this hydroxychloroquine medication. It is useful to destroy this virus?

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you wish to respond, go ahead, if not...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleula Maui: You are aware of it, it will not...we are discussing vaccine here, it will not, and it will never be found. The only thing is to wait...because it will never bring its...whilst the medication he is referring to, that is one medication that has begun the remedy....

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I get you, sit down. I allow the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I see that it is now 1 o'clock, pardon the scientist speaking from Palauli West, leave those scientists and do not speak of them anymore. Nobody understands those scientists including those who flew to the moon. Perhaps it was one of those scientist that was brought here, but let us pass that scientist matter. If we get the vaccine then take it to his constituency to vaccinate all of them there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: These are brief matters to end our Sitting today. That is what you get for allowing this member to speak after the member of Anoamaa East.

I will allow the member for Faleata West then we will have the Minister's response tomorrow.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you, Faleata has ended our wonderful Sitting for today. What it is now, the Minister of Agriculture has been trying to find a remedy, however, the fuesina can be used to apply it on the body before you sleep at night and wake up with refreshed mind the next day. As for this...I have mentioned beetle nut, as there are 3 types of beetle nuts. As for the bug which existed since my living in Vaitele for 20 years now, it is my first time seeing this beetle becoming common in my house which is rare.

The only thing which I wish to ask, because there is a remedy that the Ministry is trying to apply as those from abroad are saying that there is a virus from New Zealand that will be injected into these beetles and will be released in the villages. Such is these beetles, I believe this bug is increasing within the districts, and whether this attempt will work, whether it will exterminate this virus. Because in my belief, it has been 10 years since, this beetle is growing in numbers, there is a new remedy being undertaken by the Ministry and the release of these bugs to the back communities to build the immune which I lack understanding about, as there seems to be that there was a virus brought from New Zealand and was injected in these insects. I think this is providing an increase to these beetles within my district. What then is your response Hon Minister suggesting that you get a good review on this and we can meet back here tomorrow. Thank you. Bless this Sitting.

25 JUNE 2020

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to all the respectable members that have had their turn, during the Hon Minister of Agriculture's time, the Minister will prepare a response for your queries tomorrow God willing.

We have arrived at the end of our session according to our sitting agenda. With respect I wish to extend great appreciation to the dignity of the House in all your honorifics. Well done for your statements which have been heard by the country. The practices of the House is like that, the deliberations, we make our exchanges which seem threatening but it all appears harmless, ae matua lava i le oo. As such, despite of what you hear of me and the administering of our proceedings today, that is how it is, I also rely on you the dignity of the House.

I gather the listening public for their support, thank you for your great support and blessings upon your Parliament, May God bless you. Before the adjournment of our work, I ask the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 with respect to end us with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:07pm until 9:00am on Friday, 26th of June 2020.