

4 FEBRUARY 2021

THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2021

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 9:20am in accordance to Standing Order 27(1).

Prayer.

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

Before I proceed, it is necessary that I greet and recognize the dignity of the House, from the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the House the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, and the dignity of the chosen members of each constituency for the works we carry out in this House. Greeting to good health, well done also to our journey and your perseverance, we have arrived today to continue our roles and duties.

I acknowledge the support of the country from His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and his good lady, the dignity of the citizens of the country and the chosen servants of God. Greetings to good strength and wellbeing. Lend me your support, as your Parliament prepares with its orders of the day, seeking the blessings from the heavens to fulfill our works today.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading – Day 12**

MR SPEAKER: During the adjournment of Proceedings yesterday, the lady member for the electoral constituency of Gagaifomauga No.3 was speaking. I therefore call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 to resume your speech.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you for the opportunity. I support our prayer delivered this morning given our connection with our Greatest Master in heaven Whom Samoa depends on.

I greet the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers and the dignity of the House.

I also acknowledge the Ministry Heads and the support of Samoa in its honorific salutations, the chosen Ministers of God, well done to good health.

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At the conclusion of our Sitting yesterday there was the acknowledgment on the Judiciary which is the other pillar of our Government. However, I wish to voice some of the issues I had overlooked yesterday, and the situation with narcotics, some advice to the Hon Minister. Whether possible to review the Law on penalties imposed on drug offenders, increase the penalty accordingly like other countries. In some countries, drug offenders are sentenced for life which is a matter the House pays close attention to with regards to the protection of our children and the negative effects of narcotics. This is the matter I had missed out on yesterday.

Turning over to my constituency. I convey gratitude to my constituency of Gagaifomauga No.3. Although there is the official member of Gagaifomauga No.3 in this House, I am also blessed to have made it here through the gender quota Law. In addition, if it was not for my constituency, I would not have taken this seat. For that, I express great acknowledgement for your respect.

To our village of Sasina in your honorific salutations. Thank you also to Rev Panapa and your faletua Leafa for your support. I trust our Congregation is engaged with developing our village church, well done to your service, thank you for showing your faith in God by building up His Kingdom in this world.

Thank you to the support of Reverend Susuga Poasa and faletua Feao. Thank you also to assistant Priest Aukusitino and faletua as well as Susuga Arona and faletua. Thank you for your support in your stance as a representative within Sasina village.

To our village of Fagae, where the paramount chief Polataivao and the Aiga Sa Polataivao reside, *afifio le Aiga Sa Igoa, le nofo a vaega ia Saitupua ma lau fetalaiiga Nuu*. Thank you Reverend Afatia and faletua, even though you are new in the village but so far, everything is smoothly running with your support upon the people in Fagae. Well done.

Our village of Letui, *afifio ai le paia o Aiga, le nofo a Ituaiga ia Fatua ma le Falelupe* and orator Sufia who is looking after the village at this time. Thank you Reverend Isaako and faletua Vina, for even though Susuga Isaako is ill, I believe you will find strength to continue your service for the Congregation in Letui. Thank you for your good works within our village especially the nurturing of our youth in Letui. Thanks for the support. I also wish to acknowledge Susuga Michael and faletua and Reverend Fuliese and faletua, and the support of Susuga Tutoatasi and faletua.

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To our village of Aopo who are listening in, thank you very much for your respect upon me and your recognition of me which has made it possible to give a contribution within the Houe of Samoa. This is the abode of *Matua ia Eetau ma le Ati Eetau faapea Tauaanae ma Matofai. Susu le Suafa o Faaulusau tainane le paia o le Aiga Sa Umamoa. Eetai lau fetalaiga Pao ma le mamalu o le Falelima o Saeseese faapea le Tapaau o le Tagalooaopo.*

Thank you for your support Reverend Penaia and faletua Ianeta, Reverend Sosene and faletua. I feel warmth in this House and the works implemented since the start of this Parliament. Thank you very much for your prayers and support.

In relation to our Budget, I support it. I wish to express a feeling of gratitude to the Government, to the Hon Minister of Finance for the budget allocation for the implementation of our services in the country which I support.

I further wish to give thanks to the NEOC Committee, who are working for our protection from the pandemic virus to not reach our shores. Furthermore, as mentioned by previous speakers, it is not easy, their lives are endangered, however they have offered to do so just so we can have this protection for our people. Thank you very much for your service and your love for Samoa.

I must also wish to voice the spirit of thanks to the honorable Speaker and the Leader of the House for the appointments made for this Parliament which is nearing the end. I further observe the recognition of this Women's seat, as majority of the Special Committees, I was part of these Committees and the selection of this seat. For that I wish to convey great thanks upon your recognition.

Thank you, honorable Chairperson Afioga Tafua of our Major Development Committee, for your senior leadership for our Committee. Most of the education received from this Parliament, was from the Senior Members of the House. Thank you for accepting some of the recommendations.

I wish to extend the same acknowledgement to the honorable Chairperson of the Special Committee of the recent approved Bills, the Hon Gatoloai. Thank you for the recommendations, and your engagement in leading our Committee with the challenges faced, regardless it was all made possible through your leadership. Thank you for your courageousness and bravery upon the many challenges we had confronted, although these same challenges have increased our faith.

You have delivered an excellent speech, I had thought we will receive some interjections this morning, however I see that no one wants to interrupt. But thank you for respecting my ride this morning.

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I conclude a statement with a heart to rejoice, my heart is joyful to the Lord our Savior, for pouring His love upon His female servant. Bless the Sitting of Samoa.

The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the member for she was the only woman to have succeeded here through the quota Law. If it was not for this Law, I would not have made it here adding 2 members for Gagaifomauga No.3. It is the reason I did not want to interrupt the speech; I wish to give a response based on 3 main things for the sake of the members and the listening Samoa.

When I first came into this House, the process was, if talks are carried out for 4 weeks without any interruption, then speeches are continued. Despite the severe statements given, the Minister will not even bother to respond. It seems there is the essence of giving respect however more issues are attached in this respect. Because in the past, members would stand up freely and accuse another member of stealing. Whilst the country is receiving all these statements and if the Minister does not respond, after 2 to 3 weeks' time someone presses the question, did you hear about the Minister that was accused of stealing? And by the time the Minister gives a response, the entire country is aware of its allegation. And when it comes time to make correction, different listeners are there to receive it instead of the initial listeners.

The reason for the decision of the Political Party was based on the application of the oldest Law, to straighten up the hot steel that was crooked. Therefore, even with the point of order and the point of clarification these are the chances allowed under the Standing Order for a member to speak. According to Standing Order it is a clarification or an order that needs further clarification. Whilst the Government will always give opportunities. Why?

Policies are laid out before the Government through Cabinet. And when it comes time to question, there is confusion in the House, and therefore it is necessary for me and the Cabinet to get clarification as policies are laid out here for our existing developments. Since 2011, the media are still coming to me or the Ministers or the Heads of Ministries for clarifications, we have the correct reports, and public policies for all development projects and reason why amendments are made for all Legislations.

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Therefore, if the media arrives at the start of February 2011 to obtain clarification on the different development projects, a few days before the general elections until today. Such is the reason they continuously come to me and the Government Chiefs, so the recommendation of the State to all the Government Heads, if the media people come to you, do avail your time to give them clarifications to save them from coming to us. Such is reason why I constantly see various Ministry Heads giving responses. So for the interest of the media listeners, I and the Cabinet are not holding back any information.

The intention of the State was to advertise its projects. Why? All the works were dependent on public policies, on the 2 Policies of Good Governance. What were these 2 Policies? All matters must be transparent and avoid any secret matters.

Secondly, all works must be accountable and transparent so that when a culprit is sought, they can easily be found. That is my own Samoan translation for the terms, accountability and transparency.

Mr Speaker, that is the advantage for me to clearly clarify this matter, this is a good chance for the country to have a thorough listen to our discussions because even with the launching of new roads and other developments, for if we all believe in what we do given that we only plan whilst our Lord fulfills everything, and the words stated in the book of Psalm, no work is possible without God, it is impossible to do. It is stated in the book of Psalm in the verse, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it, unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.” This Psalm was written following the return of the Persian Empire by Cyrus during the first 20 years, there was the Babylonian exile and the full destruction of the Temple of God in Jerusalem, and all valuables and fine gold were all taken.

20 years later, since the remarkable miracles he expressed through his dreams and the execution, it is very true there was a submissive heart for this pagan king and he said, “God of Israel, God of Heaven and Earth.” He ordered the Prophets to return and take all the riches to rebuild the Temple of God of Israel in Jerusalem which gave this pagan King the belief that God is the God of Israel, God of the Heaven and Earth. So what happened after that? Upon returning to build, some of the true Jews were already there to give support, however they were rejected. They were like pagans, and God did not like it. But the will of God is to continue his work, and it did. Why? So when the Israelites returned to rebuild the Temple there was an opposition. It is the purity of the heart where God dwells and love which the Commandments of God is based and the Prophets.

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That is the reason God was angry, and why this Psalm was written. When God disagrees with a development it will never be achieved. It is reason we should seek the Government. Works are launched to give God glory for His good accomplishments for the Government whom Samoa is founded upon. How many years has it been implemented?

Ever since the HRPP administration, this was the normal practice, they would go to project launches and a religious minister was always present to give a thank you service. Why? The Psalm is specified here in the Bible. Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. These are no campaigns; this was done when this Party took over administration from the first Parliament – this was the custom of Samoa. There is the launching of any good development. Our Culture goes hand in hand with our Christian values.

So what the Government of the day is doing is to get a clear understanding of the works implemented as mentioned by the members, as it is necessary to give a Thank You service for the opening of new developments achieved for if it was not for God, we would not have been able to implement them. Coming on to reports, as stated clearly by the member. The submitting reports are very important. It is clearly given in his speech; it is he who is sitting in this Committee. I did not have a chance to sit in these Committees, which is why these words are done. Why so? When I was chosen to be a member, I was automatically selected as a Minister and there was not a chance for me to sit in these Committees. But these Committees, if a member wants to know the orders of the Government, it is here in the Committees where you will find it particularly for those people who have not had a chance to work for the Government. It is here where you will find understanding about all the works of the Government. Why? All reports are submitted to the Committees with the attendance of Government Heads to give detailed information and reasons for the various roles and responsibilities and the different Laws. So comes the end of the Term for a member and they will be professors in all areas of the Government, and those in the Cabinet will also be able to acquire full insight of public matters when engaged with the Government plans in the future.

Mr Speaker, what is the word stated by the member. I wish to thank all the Government Heads for the many ongoing works implemented. There is verification that all reports are now up to date including the Auditors reports and financial reports. What were the events during the time I came into Parliament. Even the 15 years backlog none have been received from other Ministries, particularly the important finance report for Government operations including revenue and expenditures.

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Now that the member has mentioned in his word of appreciation. What is pleasing to hear is the acknowledging remarks made whilst we have the presence of the Government Heads in Parliament, and therefore they are the ones who deserve this congratulatory remarks for their services implemented which is also vital for the members of Parliament to take heed.

So these matters will also question the Cabinet. Why? Because you have deep understanding of these submitting reports and discussions made. So no one is above this, it is these members who are advising the Government, who are there to face them. They are the orators and chiefs of the country, for your questions to be given to regarding all matters so as to obtain more clarifications on the works implemented based on the Law that is guiding the State, transparency and accountability. Nothing is hidden, such is the advice, and Cabinet meetings are still carried out involving Government Heads on a bimonthly basis. These Cabinet meetings are attended by the Government Heads and Associate Ministers regarding the update of government projects. Furthermore, it covers issues they can give directly to the Ministers who in turn, respond immediately through a collaborating spirit.

Mr Speaker, the reports made is one vital method the Government is implementing so that they can be achieved after each year. I have constantly talked about this matter, because what is the use of receiving these reports from 3 to 4 years ago when it is too late, it is done, and they are no longer needed. But the reason why it is necessary to receive reports on time is for the sake of Associate Ministers and members of Parliament to get full insight of them, to look at the issues, as our works is done collectively. If you discover any issue with any Ministry do not avoid it bring it here, such is the importance of the member's statement. I have thought that the State should not remain silent with these matters, I must thank the member for clearly raising the core execution of these public works. The heart of implementing and overseeing these works, the works of Parliamentary Committees, and members of Parliament, is to research. It is why the works done by our Party is very important when there was no Opposition side in relation to Samoa's decision, it was the reason the positions for those without any Ministerial appointments was done to make up the Opposition side to oppose the Government. The statements of opposing members are still witnessed today as they do not mince their words which needs no confirmation. Why? The country is listening in to our debates conducted in the House as the HRPP members are debating each other's. These are the good characteristics of leader who bears honesty through its oath of allegiance.

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The second Part regards the shortage of good supplies. It is true. It is no longer short, even when during the pandemic, there should be no reason for this shortage. That is the exact reason the Government Policy on good exemption was imposed, including permission for vessels to enter our ports so as to continue good supplies to avoid any good shortage in the country. However, there was a time the chicken box and timber supply were short, pardon me. For what reason? There is always the mistake of suppliers in making their orders. Too much work is faced by the suppliers. Nevertheless, other countries are still in shock because of the fast development of our building projects. Many have returned with money to build their homes even though this is not the time to do so. Thus, with the continuous building of houses, companies are running out of supplies and given their own judgement, this is normal for them. It is why there is slight shortage. Regardless we still have cargo vessels coming in. However, the issue lies with them and their long-term vision given the fast selling of timber, and the continuous construction of buildings from large revenue earnings received, and those chosen to go overseas with regards to conditions and consultations carried out with the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Australia.

Then I come to large number of trees in the country that have been cut down to ensure there is a current restriction put in place today, to firstly resolve the issue concerning the border between Aopo and other villages like Sasina. There are still disputes due to the Court's decision on boundary lines. But what has happened now, we have trespassed restricted areas. This boundary has had the complaints for some areas in Aopo and some areas of Sasina as there was the long need for land survey. Court cases have already been done. From our meeting with the villages of Aopo, Sasina, Fagae and Letui, these villages have confessed that, 30 years have passed since they have been engaged with this problem. However, there is still no solution. Talks were carried out last November. There are Government Policies in place to respond to these matters, and my respond to it. If this matter was submitted before Cabinet 10 or 20 years ago, you would have longed received a solution.

This is the meaning of these works, the Head of the Ministry would try and find a solution to solve a problem, the constituencies and the Minister would come together to consult. Whenever there is a problem they cannot solve, they will take it to the white house or the Cabinet. Then the solution will be given to solve it as they normally say, if this had come to me sooner, I would have solved it earlier, and you need not have to wait 30 years later, although I have only received it in November. Now that it is finished, why publicise it, Government will give its assistance.

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Lest there is further difference arising. I had called a meeting last week and from this meeting, the purpose for continuing this job is now set out.

In relation to grass cutting, there is the banning of timber shipments from Savaii to Upolu on Government ferry. This sort of crime can continue easily between Sasina and Aopo, if supplies are opened, timber on ships. As one can easily come and say that these timbers are from Salailua. It is why the decision on transporting timber was stopped until the project was complete. There is belief that this project should be completed by the end of March or April and the Ministry will have to assess the status of our forestry for the protection of our environment and our contribution to the negative impacts of climate change. It is something we must consider carefully as Samoa is another country in the circle of nations that have signed the agreement in Paris. I did sign that agreement in 2015 together with all the leaders of the world. Why? Because these islands will be the first to get destructed, they will be the first to tip over and capsized into the deep blue ocean if nothing can be done to halt climate change.

So the meaning of the clarification is for those who have purpose in life. This is not an everlasting ban. It is a minor cease to settle down the villages that are in dispute. That is the nature of Governments. When a matter comes before the Government, the State make its decisions to support peace and harmonious living through village councils. So as to maintain good heart, and to avoid turmoil and to allow the Government to implement its role by finding solutions in relation to rising issues.

Mr Speaker, another regards part of the Law on increasing penalties raised by the member which is necessary. This issue has been raised before. The Attorney General has received that I have also discussed this matter with the former Attorney General. Parliament intends that the chiefs are here to discuss matters of this sort. Therefore, penalties must be monitored as light penalty will further encourage people to commit more crimes. The problem with our current practice, even with a million-tala penalty however the Legal term stipulated in the Law is a maximum penalty of million tala. Penalty can start from zero fine, \$1 to a million tala.

The statement on Government wants it, at a minimum of a million, is just an example, minimum. Therefore, minimum and above, but the Law states this is the norm of Government Laws. A minimum of \$10,000 meaning the penalty starts from zero. Decisions have also made resulting in a major concern of the Government and the Attorney General. These decisions must be reviewed by the Court as commonly raised by the Commissioner of Police.

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The police are the ones that are mostly affected for our protection in order to save lives. Whenever cases are put forth, bail, that means they can be released from jail when the penalty committed was very serious. The Commissioner of Police is crying out loud why? This is exposure, the lives of Samoan generations are protected by the Ministry of Police together with the security of the country. So the Court must thoroughly look into the decisions they make. That is also the reason, whenever statements of this sort come from within this House, they are statements from the members of the public. Therefore, the Court must review properly, and their long service should not be an excuse for them to make careless decisions.

So that is the response on this matter, the view of the lady member is very important. It constantly reminds us, this is the nature of life, until it is raised a hundred times, then others would follow suit and easily accept it.

The country is listening in, at the severity of what is happening, the simplicity of freeing criminals when he or she has committed a serious offense. Now that we are heading towards individual rights instead of communal rights which can easily affect the careless decisions of the Court. The matter on the release of a very harmful offender who ends up committing a more serious crime. Who then will be blamed? It will be the Police, the Minister of Police and the Government, and the Dishonest Judge that caused it will hide from all this. But thank you for being provocative to bear us good thoughts for our protection. Mr Speaker, the assistance I wish to provide is to clarify these issues, as I am still alerted to receive the statement of the lady member. The Cabinet and Government Chiefs whom these matters pertain to are also listening.

Mr Speaker, the clarification is lengthy, even though the clarification is fitting and necessary to start our work this morning, soifua and blessings.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I congratulate the Leader of Government for the speech. The truth is that although it was long, but the desire to listen will never end especially this House and the observational support of the country. Because these issues are important for the well-being of the people of Samoa. The Chair also wanted to make a statement to convey congratulations and appreciation to the member for Gagaifomauga No.3. For the preparation and the speech, yesterday and this morning. The constituency is listening as well as Samoa.

From the observation of the Chair, you have made more than one suggestion, so I recall in 2016 when we were in the Special Committee, you made many suggestions. This is a sign of a person appointed by God, for this role, a true representative, as the district is listening.

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I am not enticing the respectable member, even this morning, from yesterday until this morning. Now your work in the Government is complete, with the completion of clarifications and explanations that have been presented to the House. You have given your recommendations, therefore, the Chair wanted to convey a message of congratulations for your duties, from 2016 until 2021. But I am also cautious, as the words of the country, we ought to be mindful of others in what is said. So I am careful, as the Leader of the House has spoken to clarify all the conditions, your suggestions and your hard work is commendable, so your district is very lucky. Yes, we yearn for the wealth that God has given you. It is different, as there are times when a message is delivered, just like the Holy Words of God. As a peaceful response and the conveyance of the message, honors the wisdom and foresight of the Government.

Your suggestion has been accepted, what is the date? Now that you have heard, everything has been made clear. The appeals have been accepted. That is the sign of your hard work, self-sacrificing efforts, love for your constituency and especially the sanctity of this Parliament. May God be kind and let your wealth of thoughts grow. I usually talk with the member, and he always gives very constructive comments, you do not make any pointless comments, but now it seems that I am enticing the member. But the essence of the Chair is to congratulate you for the preparations, because these are the final speeches for this Parliamentary Term, so all the wisdom should be showcased.

I ask the member to stand, as I see you are trying to rise.

Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers: Thank you Mr Speaker, there is a pastor from our church that is in our Ministry. When such statements are made, the pastor would say to keep it going.... Mr Speaker, thank you for the wonderful statement, thank you for the praises, thank you to the Hon Prime Minister for reiterating the opinions that were presented. But there is one matter that the Prime Minister did not cover. And I believe that this is what the Hon Deputy Prime Minister talked about it, yesterday because you were absent, regarding the requests and appeals to the women and mothers. With all due respect, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I advise the member; in case your wonderful speech is interrupted. We did not appoint a Deputy Prime Minister, but directly state the Minister of Women given that another member might stand up and show their indifference to the Chair, but you may speak.

I call upon the Leader of the Government.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, our Cabinet is exhibiting different characteristics at this time, and I also mentioned it. The members are appointed chronological, so when I am absent, it is not impossible to appoint a Deputy Prime Minister. If I do not announce it, then it means that all the Party members are Deputy Prime Ministers. Mr Speaker that is the way that we are doing things now.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has now been clearly clarified. The member has concluded their speech.

Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers: Thank you Mr Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to express congratulations and gratitude; I commend you for the preparations for the new Parliamentary Term.

This is an opportunity for another member to speak, as their constituency is listening. These are our final speeches, and I have noticed that Tuiatua Faanofonofu of Aleipata Itupa I Lalo is upstanding. Afioga Tafua, you may speak.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): If only I was able to attach wings on you, white wings so that you can fly to the heavens Mr Speaker. Congratulations and thank you very much.

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, as well as the sanctity of this Party, the holiness of the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and the Legislative Assembly, as we have gathered this new morning. This is a morning of thanksgiving and praise to God, for the many good developments that have been implemented in these 5 years of our Parliamentary Term. I believe that the speech will not be long, as it is mostly conveying gratitude and then I will sit down. But this morning I have noted that the speech of the member that has just concluded was very interesting, because they have given praise to the Chairperson. I would also like to thank the Hon Faaulusau. While I am still on the Committee, I would like to express my gratitude to the Major Developments Committee of the Government. Let me make a brief statement because Samoa is listening, especially the servants of God who are supporting.

On this new morning, thanks to the love of God, we have found the opportunity to meet and converse, and continue to praise His holy name. Therefore this morning is high, in His blessings. As are the respects of this House with the presence of dignified members, compared to all the colors of the rainbow that are altogether. More so the circle of the moon is complete.

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I will not reiterate further, because respects have already been voiced such as the word in Atua, for Ulumu and Lefaoeu. I will not say anything further but will stand like a tree in the valley like the story in Aana of Lemalu and Le Mamea and their house that was taken.

I stand with utmost respect and reverence, because Samoa is known for its stories of divisions, while Tonga is known for those of war. But I would like to make an address this morning, since we were separated but now, we have gathered together. As we sleep at night, disaster lurks to strike us. These are the same words that we keep hearing, but at this hour, I believe that there is a dark cloud over this Parliament, as we send love and condolences to the wife of Vaafusuaga, as well as the family and constituency. May God grant him a permanent place in heaven. On that note, although the day has passed, was it yesterday or the day before yesterday, I would like to express my condolences to Tofa Lealailepule regarding the loss of his mother, may God be kind and comfort the member especially the families.

The same goes for my family, Mulipola where are you from again? I think it was Apolima-uta with Susuga Siliafai, a woman from your family who also voted for me. Now it is a crime, but there is nothing wrong with it, since the elderly woman has passed away.

In spite of our sorrows we have gathered, as we have assembled happily at Tiafau in good health. I will not state the complexities of Samoa and its customs, because I believe that the sanctities and honors of our country are well-known, after they have been laid and placed in front of the houses, by your ancestors and our parents, and so I say, excuse the dignity and respects.

Deputy Speaker, I offer greetings and blessings to the elder Mr Speaker. Even though he is not in attendance, but I am sympathetic towards the Speaker as I have heard from the speeches and statements that were made, that this will be his last year and will not be returning again. Therefore, even though the Hon Toleafoa is not here, but we send our love and blessings for his successful retirement. In addition to this, is the Afioga Faasoo, the Hon Afioga Aeau, one of the Elders of the House, the acting Deputy Prime Minister Hon Leao Tuitama, as well as Mulipola, or any other member that I have missed. Well, those are your blessings, those are your congratulations. If I have forgotten anyone, I ask that you forgive me, but good luck with your retirement. If Toleafoa is listening, it is a pity that you are leaving with an abundance of knowledge. Well, we will pray and hope for the best, congratulations on your retirement. Well, it is the same with all the members that I have already mentioned.

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The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the Deputy Prime Minister Tuitama, who is laughing, well you are all Deputy Prime Ministers, but let me praise you today, since this is the only day that you will be Deputy Prime Minister, as it will be recorded in the records, pardon me Mr Speaker, I implore you to let my fellow member be the Deputy Prime Minister for today.

I also offer salutations to His Excellency O Le Ao o le Malo...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beseech the member who is speaking as I call upon the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the statement I made should be understood clearly, for when I am not available. But when I am in attendance, you will sit on my right side that is all.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. Thank you for acknowledging the senior member whose services has been well- known. I will now come to our Government because of the 3 Arms of the Government, His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo, Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa and your Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies, Afioga Le Mamea Ropati and your Good Lady.

I also acknowledge the Chief Justice, Afioga Siatu Perese and the Judiciary, as well as the Men and Women of the Criminal Court. In addition, I also greet the President, Afioga Fepuleai Attila Matau and your wife, the attendance of the Deputy President and the Judges of Samoa of our Lands and Titles Court, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry especially the Deputy Registrar and the sanctity of the Court.

Greetings Mr Speaker and respectable members of Parliament, especially the Clerk of the Assembly and the Management. I also convey salutations to the Chief Executive Officers of Government Enterprises as well as the Private Sector, in particular the local business owners of the country.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to officially convey greetings to the Ambassadors and Representatives of the United Nations who are present here, and our permanent partnerships who contribute funds to help with our budget. On this note, I would like to thank countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Korea, the United Nations, but in particular the United Nations for the programs we receive aid from, furthermore, our Budget Support, because this is one of the important issues that I must mention in my speech.

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We would like to express our gratitude to our partners who provide us with the funds to assist in implementing our major developments, in addition the small developments like rugby fields and school facilities. So we can never forget the assistance provided from the kindness of these countries.

But I would like to make a brief statement on this matter, because the reason why we received Budget Support or these funds that is being provided by these big countries to help us, since Samoa has achieved the policies, which were given to direct the usage of these funds. If we do not adhere to these policies, then they will no longer provide funds.

But I would like to convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Associate Minister as well as the Chief Executive Officer of Finance, Faasisina and especially the Ministry. Congratulations and thank you for your distribution of the funds. Although there is only a \$40 million increase in our funds, but if it continues like this, I doubt we will have another Supplementary Appropriation. What I mean is the virus, because if some of us were to get infected, I predict or I prophesize the events that will occur, if we are affected by the virus, it is certain that we will have another Supplementary Appropriation Bill in the near future or in the next 2 or 3 months, or next month. This means, the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will be discussed again, and an increase will be made to our funds to assist with the virus if people were to get infected. But we are grateful to God that Samoa is doing well.

I do not know what we are disputing over, due to the differences between Parties and the different opinions of the country. But the truth is, to our families, brothers and sisters as well as all the Samoans who are listening from abroad, please, there is nothing happening in Samoa, nothing at all. I am shocked that you are declaring and saying that Samoa is struggling, you are proclaiming that Samoa is impoverished? There is nothing like that happening. In our rural communities' banana trees are flourishing, the taro has also grown quite large, and the coconuts trees are bearing coconuts. In the countryside there is no modern food, we eat *palusami*, yes, we make our food with our own hands.

This is why I am grateful to my friend Lopao, the success of the Hon Minister does not need to be assessed, and the words of the country cannot evaluate the Hon Minister, as when I go to the market, it is \$10 for a sack of taro. Alas, my village and constituency is striving to cultivate the plantations, as they come with 3 sacks of taro, but they come through me, "Tafua, give us something for remuneration, we are unable to sell the taro, since there is an abundance of foodstuffs at the market". These are the visible results of the work of the Hon Minister, and so I convey our gratitude.

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Thank you to the Ministry, thank you to Tilafono especially the Agriculture Administration, as these are the visible results and the signs. The only thing that I recommend is that we do not have enough Tahitian limes, and also other plants that cannot be found in our country. The Prime Minister mentioned that you have to sow your own seeds, it is true. When I checked my pocket today, I felt something large and warm, but when I checked Gatoloai and Lauofo also saw that it was watermelon seeds. Yes. I was having lunch at a restaurant this other day, I had a Tongan watermelon and so I brought it with me. Look at this, take a look, because these are the things that I would reap and then I would go and plant it in my plantation.

So that is the issue, but now I remember another matter, Hon Leader of the country and the Cabinet, it would be interesting if the CEO and ACEO could travel in their cars to visit our roads, since this is what I would always request to the Ministry of Works, and the Land Transport Authority, and the other Ministries under our Committee, well, in our records, there are almost 20 main roads in the town area and going towards the rural areas and towards the airport, and when it rains that small part is dug out. Thank you very much Galumalemana, thank you also to the Ministry of Works and the Hon Papalii, for approving the requests. Perhaps I have been annoying and irritating the Hon Minister, but thank you, it is well received.

I went to Vaipuna, at the intersection next to the house of Michelle Meredith which is opposite from Lauofo, they installed a water drainage there, so thank you as our request has been approved with pleasure. Also, for the road in Vaivase which I mentioned in my previous speech, Galumalemana, when I went there it was constructed, it has been elevated and it had a sewage system. It is very wonderful. Thank you. I take my hat off to the Hon Minister. The statement made by Faaulusau yesterday is correct, because Faaulusau is the Auditor of our Committee. Thank you also to the Tofa Olo, the Afioga Faumuina, the Afioga Laauli, the Afioga Faaulusau and the Afioga Tapulesatele who are the members of our Committee. Even though Laauli is no longer a member as well as the other members that were mentioned later since I rarely met with Olo or Faumuina, as I heard they were banished by the Speaker. They were not kicked out, maybe they left on their own accord, but no, the members are right, perhaps the Speaker gave them a letter of expulsion. At least, I am happy to see that they are able to return. But long story short, this Committee is very interesting. It is interesting because no matter.... if we are discussing for example, the Shipping Office, but perhaps the ships will travel abroad, to all corners of the world, our Committee will question it.

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Although it is not relevant, but I let the Committee do whatever it wants. It is the same for when the Water Authorities come; perhaps all the waters have been discussed except for the Mediterranean Sea. Oh, I forgot the about Hon Lopao. The Hon Leader and the Members of Parliament, as well as Samoa listening, this person Lopao was in our Committee, and we visited the port in Matautu. The large concrete blocks underneath the port, the pillars to support the wharf but the floor has yet to be constructed. So when we got there, perhaps there is about a 3 inch gap because the cement blocks are not properly laid at the bottom.

Then our special engineer Lopao came and told him...we wrote a letter, and it was submitted to the Japanese Embassy who came from abroad to build the road, these blocks are not attached properly, they are not secure, and the wharf will collapse in the event of an earthquake. And we received a response immediately. We received a response from the special engineer, a Structural Engineer. Tofa Olo and Afioga Faumuina as well as the Afioga Faaulusau and Tapulesatele can testify, that is why this Committee is great.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I implore the member as I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, the member who is currently speaking should get some rest. Just so you know, these things are rarely known. The Hon Lopao, is a registered engineer from New Zealand, and another registered engineer who is rarely known is Peseta. And he used to weld rockets. Our people do not know the great engineers who are in our Government, and in our Parliament. In case a representative need something like a rocket for their constituency, we have the Associate Minister or the Assistant Prime Minister, Peseta. This is not something that is made up. There are records, and there is a picture of him next to a rocket that was about to be shot, but the member went there to check if it was functional, this is when he was traveling around the world but ended up in America.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beseech the member that is standing as I give an opportunity to Peseta since his name was mentioned.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4): Thank you Mr Speaker, perhaps this is a good opportunity because the country is listening and.... especially my constituency, since the Leader of the Government has spoken in this regard, and it is not a statement to gratify this member.

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But it is something I am grateful to God for since the Prime Minister has displayed his wisdom regarding this matter because the period that the Prime Minister is talking about, perhaps it was in 1980, and it is near the schools in America with the Hon Fonotoe. Hon Lauofo attended the University in Long Beach, but I studied in San Beda, these cities are bordering different professions, and then my education ended in 1979, 1980, 1981, then I was appointed a position in the major United States Union, which is now known as the International Iron Weapon Union.

In this Union, they put in place and built pipelines in Iraq, Iran and... thus why America is able to obtain oil trading rights. Because most of the pipelines are in these big countries. They are provided with people to weld large pipes like this and large steel.

In 1981, I was chosen by this major union, known as the International Iron Weapon Union Structural local Fort Worth thread in California. Perhaps if you were to look at the records on Facebook and in LA, which has the name of this state, Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena, I was chosen, but I was the only Pasifika member that participated in the construction of the long smart. The long smart, these are the parts whereby the rockets are attached to be sent to the moon.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker, I ask for an opportunity to make a point of clarification. We are wasting our morning listening to the lies of Peseta, but we want to listen to the proceedings of our Assembly. If he could just discontinue his statement for later and then we will listen to it during the break, since our Assembly is progressing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I implore the Hon Minister, I have given the member the opportunity, and it has its importance with the observation of the constituency. I ask the member to speak.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Mr Speaker, I do not want to reply to the Minister, because he is only limited to the school at Faleula. Yes. He only played rugby, and now he is sitting in here. But for the constituency of Faasaleleaga No.4, since my village is listening, I am everywhere I am international. Not just local but international. Well, this is the case. But I am grateful to the Hon Leader of Government, for he is in possession of the records, the pictures, yes, to indicate that I was not chosen lightly to be in this House. As for the next Parliamentary Term, I am ready anytime, anywhere, I am ready. Mr Speaker, thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, the opportunity for the member has ended.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is said as a joke, but it has its importance, because the Leader of the House has spoken, and your talent from God has been revealed, as these are things that should not be hidden, thus why you were still given an opportunity, but it seems you are taking it too far.

I give the opportunity to the Afioga Fonotoe.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pieree Laufo: Thank you. I am grateful Mr Speaker, as we resume our Assembly this morning. Since my fellow member the Tofa Elder Tafua spoke about his seeds that...it is true, he showed it to me and the Hon Gatoloai. But I tried to inform him that it was not a watermelon seed, because I owned a watermelon garden in those days, yes. In case you try to plant your seeds, but it might get you in trouble, yes. So that is my recommendation to my fellow member.

But the Afioga Peseta is correct, I can testify, Peseta, at that time when we were wandering around looking for a future in those countries. We used to stay at the Mohabbit Desi, where the rockets as mentioned by the member were built. It is a major work. Peseta is right, the rocket that was shot, which was shown on TV and watched by the world, it exploded before it passed through the clouds, the explosion was widespread, and I believe eight people were killed. But the important thing is the welding and not the explosion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. And the interruption by the member is also useful, to inform us, I ask the Minister of Agriculture to please check the seeds if they are genuine watermelon seeds from Tonga. But I give the opportunity to Olo since he.... Thank you.

Well, I ask the member for Alataua West to stand.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Alataua West): Thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker, there is something I want to understand, what is the connection between the statement made by Peseta and Fonotoe on the matter that is currently being discussed? Thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, there is a huge relation perhaps the Chairperson of the Finance Committee is unaware. The Chair is well-aware of the massive connection. Therefore, I believe, this is why he was permitted to speak since he is associated with various skills, yes. Now the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo has mentioned it, it is in attempts to give opportunities.

So I apologise to the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo who is currently speaking, since we have arrived at our usual recess, perhaps it will help regain the strength of the House. The work of the House will be set aside for its usual 15 minutes recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:42am and reconvened at 11:38am.

Debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021 resumed.

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

I believe that the Parliament has received a surplus of strength from our recess to continue our work for today.

Before the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo was speaking. I call upon the member, the Tuiatua Faanofonofu to stand and continue your speech.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you also for at this hour of the day for the additional strength received by the Parliament especially the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Private Organizations of the Government, as well as the observation of Samoa. At this hour of our Assembly Mr Speaker, the recess was useful as it made me recall that I did not greet the servants of God, especially the Chairperson, since my speech is halfway done, and I just remembered. But at this hour, with a happy spirit I convey greetings to the servants of God, especially the Chairperson of the United Churches and their committee, as well as the President or the Leaders or the Heads of each church in Samoa, especially the sanctity of the reverends, not only here but also abroad. I offer greetings to them all.

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Furthermore, I give salutations to my constituency, the support of the Elder Fuataga, especially the devotion of Alaalamalae Saumalu and Laupola as well as Pule na Taitai and Malaefono to Tiavea and Satitua. Well, the presence of the Alii of the Itu Tauiliili of Amoa and the sanctity of Saleaaumua.

Lastly, I address the respects of *Aiga ma Tama, o Tama ma Aiga, faapea foi le usoga ia Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

Well, we cannot forget our brothers in Tutuila and Manua, American Samoa especially the blessings to the previous Governor Lolo and his administration, and also to the new Governor and his Lieutenant Governor, and the Senate. Furthermore, Mr Speaker and the sanctity of the House, not forgetting the Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice. Well, perhaps these are all its honorary salutations. But it is my belief, these honours, are honours that will last because of our relationship and our meeting this morning, well, God continues to be kind.

But I express greetings to the holiness and glory of Samoa who are listening, especially my constituency. But thank God that there were interruptions during my speech. Thank you for the interference, but I was speaking the truth. The only thing that I am sure about from the recent interruptions, Afioga Peseta and the Hon Lauofo, they are people, who have lived for a long time, not only in Samoa but in other major parts of the world where you both lived, at a place called Mojave Desert. Well, for the information of those who have never been to America, the Mojave Desert the road goes all the way to the coast road in California, going towards Las Vegas where there is a museum that some have said is the 2nd heaven, or the underworld. Now I am sure Mr Speaker, the reason why the rocket caught fire is because of Lauofo and Peseta, since they did not weld the metal of the rocket properly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, I call upon the interruption. Since his name was mentioned. I will give you the opportunity to speak, do not make it long.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Mr Speaker, I have been fixated on the wonderful speech by the Tuiatua Faanofonofu. But in my observation from the beginning of the Tuiatuas speech, I carefully observed the watermelon seeds. I thought they are new seeds, but I was surprised when he showed me outside, the watermelon has grown. That is one matter, but I now have this opportunity to want to address the matter raised by my brother Lauofo, no, it is bad that the country is listening.

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The ship I was on in Florida, was built in the city of the Airforce that is called Venabur Airforce in Los Angeles, the ship that was shot but did not blow up. The ship that exploded is the one that was shot somewhere in TATTIS near Miami. The reason why it exploded is the stupidity of the pilot, he saw that it was already daytime but still left.

This is why I wish to correct my brother Lauofo, no I was not on that ship. This is an amendment on the matter Mr Speaker but thank my brother Tafua. Since my constituency is listening. Mr Speaker with respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is now clear, Peseta worked on a different ship, from the one that exploded.

Therefore I call upon the Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu to continue his speech.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, perhaps as I said earlier, this morning is a morning of thanksgiving, it is a morning of praise and congratulations. Not only for the Cabinet and Leader of Government, but also for Chief Executive Officers of various Ministries.

I will now speak upon the matter of benefits for pensioners. For clarification I am one pensioner. From 2018 we received \$135, 2019 it was increased by \$10 then it was \$145, now it is 2021 it is \$160. A humble request Afioga Sili if there is any chance of an increase to assist Toleafoa, and the elder members Tuitama and Faasootauloa the group who are retiring, and all of us. Whether there is will be another increase, whether there is enough funding in your budget.

Another matter I want to add, this member fully supports the Supplementary Appropriation, if there is a slight increase, perhaps it may not be appropriate at this time of the pandemic, but maybe in the future. Also I want to thank Government for the blessings upon my constituency, we now have water, the airport has not been completed but it is almost finished. I am also grateful to Peseta for the contractor, now all it needs is tar sealing. I talked with the Chief Executive of the airport, sometime in February this month, they will be opening the airport. But maybe because of the disease and other unavoidable circumstances, perhaps that is why it has been postponed for another time in future. Thank you for this major development, it is a good development thanks for the foresight.

Thank you also to the Hon Minister of Tourism, a few important buildings have been completed, which is very good, with the tourism office taking care of it. But I want to speak to the other side, to the Minister of Communication, Afioga Afamasaga, on the matter that I have been mentioning for 4 to 5 years, about our television which does not work.

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Not only that but the radio, it usually loses signal, especially travelling over Lemafa once you get there the voice is cut off. But I am grateful that it is now working well, everything is now clear and there are no further issues with our television and radio. However the mobile phones that we have today are quite expensive, I am not certain if the Regulator is listening, I do not know who determines the costs of our mobile phones. It is very expensive now. I paid \$20 last week, after 2 days there was only \$4 left. I do not understand how to remove such things, or what kind of things, I do not understand, and I am baffled at how expensive it is. However this differs from what is advertised, this is another thing, try and minimize our advertisements. Everywhere is red, Samoa is noted to have a clean green image. However what we are seeing today is red everywhere. Advertisements should be minimized, it is true that they earn money from it, but you should look at these areas with respect. A suggestion, I am not complaining at how great the phones are, but the costs however is too much.

Now to the matter regarding promotion and thanks to Government. I feel grateful and proud. First, who initiated the idea of Christmas lights? We remember the situation the world in is today, however Samoa is blessed because there is no disease. Covid is existent over here, how about us? My first response is, everything is fine people are happy, however there are also those who are sad, and those who oppose, but these are the characteristics of life.

But that is human nature there is always resistance, there is yes, and those who are uncertain, and others who come here and go there, that is how life is for us. No matter how five people gather together there is one that is guaranteed to break away. Another person always plays up, that is human nature. But we are at a time of sorrow, together with the world in this pandemic. But our light show was outstanding, word travelled overseas, they called and emailed, to convey how thankful they were of the beautiful lights. Especially the loneliness in their rooms, for people who were quarantined in other countries. In the spirit of gratitude and congratulations blessed are Samoa that the weather is warm, and the lights on the Christmas trees are beautiful.

On the same note, I also remember, one of the sons of the country, I do not recall his name. But he organized a group of people, singers from Alaska, New Zealand, Australia and other countries around the world. He put together a choir that sang some beautiful songs, it is very soothing to the soul to listen to it. It was great for those quarantined for 3 weeks in their rooms. This is a word of gratitude for such good ideas. Not only the ideas proposed by the Government, but also individuals.

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I feel very touched, grateful and congratulations, for the comfort these songs brought to a few people who live alone, the elderly, for families who have been locked in their homes for weeks, or for 2 to 3 months, because of the lockdown by Government overseas. What a pleasure to hear the beautiful songs of the Samoan people. Thank you.

Now to the matter on the proper use of opportunities. I just now heard this word during morning tea. One of the members whispered to me that is a good matter to talk about, to make good use of the opportunity. What does this mean? Thank you Lautafi, for the great program, it has already been prioritised, but I once again want to convey gratitude and congratulations of this constituency. For the clarification of Samoa, if you go towards our side, you go through the Tiavea road which is the Richardson Track, there are almost ten plus houses currently being built. There are cement houses, brick houses, wooden houses, where does the money come from? It is from the RSE Scheme that is the majority. Remember during the outbreak, sons and daughters were working abroad, and money was being sent back. Perhaps this is the only country, even the economists are surprised that during the pandemic our people are still living well. This is how kind love is, it is based on love.

Then I recall a statement by the late Tofilau, I hope I can find the piece of paper where could it be. He told the country in his farewell speech; I believe these are the words he spoke. Everything is enclosed in peace, it gives Samoa peace, but all those things are rewarded with love and respect. It seems he emphasized in his last speech on November 23rd, 1998, the importance of Samoa's customs and traditions based on love and respect, which brings peace to Samoa. Such a statement is relevant for this time. Our Government has ups and downs, but thanks to the Leader and the Leader of Opposition, no matter the disagreements in Parliament, the tide is calm. Thank you for your kindness, also thank you for taking into account the country, especially their support. Let us not be misled with the information that is heard from overseas. I also grew up overseas, and I am used to the lifestyle. The majority of the people know, those who are employed, unemployed and those who have benefits. Those are the people who are quite mischievous.

The saddest thing is that the people who come before the law, because I have been a law enforcement officer for 20 plus years, are people whose families are not well founded. They do not go to church, they do not have a lot of money, they live in rentals, and they are the worst people. But hopefully it has changed nowadays but try to have financial grant or money given by Government to balance rich and the poor. The characteristics of these financial grants are given as grants, through vouchers like America in Tutuila they do food vouchers.

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As for there, they have benefits, it is given to couples who have a lot of children, like in Australia. Those benefits are used to pay children school fees, lunches especially for their education. This is why, I thank Government, I thank the Leader of our country, for being calm, and there is no conflict. I am grateful for the situation of our funds over the last 5 years. In my observation, it is \$880+, \$900 million, am I right or wrong Sili. But I believe that is the bulk figure of our Estimates it is \$900 million, then there are additional estimates for other millions for developments that have not been implemented or completed. In addition to this, a billion is earned from the private sector, we get more funds that is how much money we receive, if we look into it. A billion is used for Government developments, to pay workers, and the other billion is used by the business owners for their supermarkets and their other projects. This means that our Government is very efficient on the Treasury Management Policy, and all policies of our Government. That is the blessing that we have.

Others have also questioned, that in our current budget there has been excessive borrowing. But the policy is very clear, in terms of financial matters, there is always a figure (percentage) that limits a loan. It should not be more, but to be consistent and affordable, the Government can pay their debts. I read the Budget of the previous year and saw that there is enough money reserved for the payment of debts. This is also the priority of the Government, therefore I am gratitude for this part.

Another matter, I am grateful for the long-term plans of the Government, for our people who have graduated school. I am talking about creating employment, implementing opportunities for employees. For example, I have already thanked Lautafi, but also thanks to the Minister of Education, Loau has not mentioned it, but it is good news that we now have a school for Marine Training. For sailors to train to go and earn money, a lot of money is gained from it. This was stated in the speech by the Chief Executive of Shipping, Soalo and staff. Thank you for the services, I know that you keep contact with them, and have seen them on television. But I am thankful if no one has come with a virus that is the only worry. Our Marine Training is for sailors and captains. The money received also contributes to the economy of the country. This means after graduating they already have a job to go to. In addition, there is also the Police Cadet Training, where some are heading towards, and earn them income. The nursing school, the OUM, this is where we train our doctors. I heard someone spoke about this yesterday, the clarification by the Minister and the member was very good. Oh no, it was on TV last night, the grant that was given by UN, for the MNRE, and others, and for education of our children. So that they will acquire the knowledge for the job they get. This is a matter, I have been arguing for a long time, for it to happen.

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What I mean is, after a student taking engineering graduates, they have a job to go to. It is similar to accountants, lawyers, teachers, scientists, etc. Now the Government has a long-term plan therefore I am grateful. To the Leader and Cabinet, especially this Parliament. The vision for the development of the country. Where is Samoa headed? How many hundred people are in NUS, where will they go after graduation? Are there jobs? Thus I have explained the method stated here. There are opportunities, it does not mean that all will be successful, we also have a lot of land. The person that is not happy going to school, well there is a lot of land to cultivate to grow taro and banana. This is not to say that all people are the same that is your own opinion. If it is not appropriate in the view of some, I apologize for the idea.

Thank you have already been conveyed to Lopao, the work of the Minister does not need be disclosed, it is evident if you look at the amount of taro, banana, yams, cocoa and everything. Even the chickens, thank you for your efforts. Then I come to the division that is under our Committee, the LTA, airport, the Shipping Corporation and Shipping Services Limited. Not only that but the Environment, I recall there was an Act similar to the three Acts that were passed recently, which was not controversial. The matter regarding the leasing of lands, I cannot remember the title of the Act. Lands are leased and is signed by the Minister, then a contract is drawn. We were with Manumaleuga, and Tagaloa, of the Office of the Attorney General. I thank Afioga Peseta and the some of the ladies, Teleiai, whom we worked together in drafting the Bill. It took us a year and months to put it together. I also thank Afioga Fiamé at that time, it was her Bill that was brought to be implemented by the Committee. We went all around Upolu and Savaii, there were those who opposed as I mentioned, but everything went well, because the Spirit of God was with us, especially the faith of the country. Everything went well because of the support. No one questioned this Bill, the leasing of customary lands. We were with Tofa Olo and Faumuina, as well as Faaulusau and Tapulesatele.

I want to thank our Committee, thank you for the ideas, and queries that are useful for the future of Samoa. Because this is what we were looking for with the professor of Law, and the Attorney General, Afioga Lemalu at that time, whether it is something that benefits Samoa or a loss and lose our lands. While I am still on this matter of land, please Hon Minister in charge of our lands, I only have one request upon this matter. It is easy to buy our land, freehold. We should also remember that only 80% is customary land and 20% is being allocated to the country, for quarter acres, half acres and acres.

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A request of our Committee that we have been deliberating, is to make it harder to sell freehold lands, especially for those who just received citizenship last week that come and buy 10 acres or half of Apia. There should be no prejudice, but the difficulty is trying to compare. If we look at Rarotoga, there is no land there being sold. All the lands in Rarotonga are leased to businesspeople in the capital. This is why it would be nice if we could draft something, while the Attorney General is listening, so that there will be no prejudice, with a statement. After 15 years of paying tax in Samoa then you will be allowed, or maybe 20 years to make it a bit difficult.

Because the way it is done now, the person who became a citizen yesterday lives with a Samoan woman or man, that is the method used to buy a piece of land. To me it is too easy, because there is something that might happen to the couple, circumstances we do not know. This is humble request to the respects of members and everyone, to overlook this matter.

To the Samoa Water Authority, thank you Saunoamaalii, thank you for answering our questions when you come over for considerations. Heseti, I see that you are smiling, because you are one of the staff of Water Authority. Congratulations on your new appointment. But this was area that was hard for us, especially when the water suddenly stops working. Either that or it becomes dirty, together with other problems. People who are in debt, saying that the water is leaking, but they say that no water is leaking at all. But for your information, with sand you cannot tell there is a leak, only with dirt, it is easy to become dirty, therefore when there is a leak it is easily identified. I thank the Samoa Water Authority for everything. I also thank Government that we now have water, the water we are using now is from Saleaumua, going towards Lalomanu, Samusu has already been dug, now it will go to Amaile. The water has returned back to Lalomanu, this water is from underground boreholes, now the whole constituency is using it as drinking water. I thank the Chief Executive and Management of the Samoa Water Authority for the water received by this constituency. Because these are the words that I said when the Leader of Government and the Minister attended the water opening, even since Jesus travelled in Israel and the holy lands those days, a few Saleaumua people have also traveled inland in our district, but there was no water. But I am grateful for last year, that we now have water, I am talking about villages inland, as for those living on the coast water has been there for a long time. This is gratitude to the Water Authority; I commend you for the hard work.

I also thank you for the report, because that is the other part, as Faaulusau stated, it is right. Because you suffer from our audits because if there is an issue with your funds the Committee analyses everything. But thank you for your patience, Faaulusaus words are correct.

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The EPC, Tologata is not there anymore, but blessings to the new Chief Executive, I cannot remember your name, thank you. We have met, therefore thank you respectable Faumuina, I wish you the best for your new position, thank you for your patience, Faaulusau is right the preparation of the Annual Report is very good.

The same is true for the Ports Authority. I have already spoken to Communications, for the usage of our phones, I also thank Ah Sam and Mata'u, thank you Tala for everything. The Fire and Emergency Department and Regulator I also thank you all in this area, in case I forget, especially to all other Government Ministries.

As for Covid-19, thank you, in case the Hon Minister of Health thinks I have forgotten, I have not, because of the difficulty of the work. The majority of members have already spoken, but just to add, a word of praise and thanks. You have been outstanding in facing these problems, there is nothing that worries the country. The only thing is, to let us know of the orders, because we are constantly asked by our constituencies. But we would say we have to listen to the news for a proclamation from Government. But I thank you for your patience.

Now to the last matter, our drains, perhaps this is one thing that destroys the road. This is the main thing that our committee does, is to go around and see where there is blockage, we go and see where there is no drainage. We even wrote to the contractor that is fixing the road towards the airport. During our site visits we saw that there were no drains dug out past Toamua, I do not recall where exactly it was, but it was close to Faleula. Then we wrote a letter, their response was, it has been carried out. Thank you Galumalemana, I believe you know what I am talking about. Because this is an important aspect, there is no use of a road if there are no drains installed. Why? Because once it rains, especially if it is a downhill road and is crooked, that road will break away, it will definitely break. This why we kindly request, we are not engineers, we are just experienced since we are used to doing site visits often. I would like to express my gratitude and congratulations to all divisions.

I believe I am nearing the end; I do not know if there is anything else missing. But I will now conclude with my constituency. I want to thank our school, Aleipata College, I have written it, thank you Lautafi. Our overseas partners, our sports field, I will now speak on it. Our sports field is great, thank you to the Government for the \$50,000, this is a good allocation by Cabinet, to give each constituency \$50,000 to plan their sport field. As stated by the Prime Minister during the time he was the Minister of Finance, the size of the coat is dependent on the money earned. This is the material used to make a coat.

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Our field is also being planned with the amount of \$50,000 given, but I believe the size of this House is similar to the size of the area that was buried. I would like to thank the contractor, I will not mention their name, and only a quarter of the field has been buried. It is probably half a meter up, or 1800 meters high, only a quarter of it is buried. I just want to let the Minister and the Associate Minister know for another time in the future. If we succeed in the next budget, would it be possible for additional funds to complete the field in Vaisuli. These are some of the things I wrote down. As for our airport, as I said, the concern I had, I have heard news that Peseta was part of the group that made rockets and such. The matter that worries me, if the plane caught fire, which flew up less than an hour after takeoff, in case it lands, and it be damaged because of our road, I am not blaming the contractors. I want to thank you who oversaw the construction for the road of our airport, our airport is very good.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking but I will give the opportunity to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I did not want to interrupt the wonderful speech of the member. But since he has mentioned the airport, rockets are different from airports. Do not worry, the rocket that exploded was constructed differently, as for our airport it is in good condition, do not worry. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member but I will give the opportunity to the member of Anoamaa East.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Since the member has stated additional funding for sports field. I have taken note of the matter since the Minister is not present. This is why the speech voiced by Peseta is not good, it seems it has affected the Minister which is why he is not present this morning. But I will take note of all the requests made by the member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the member, the Associate Minister of Education, I would also like to inform the House that the Minister of Education has given the Chair his reason for not coming, to attend to a funeral of a family member. This is why I think should be disclosed, since the Associate Minister has spoken. That is the reason the seat is not occupied, and there is also permission for his absence from the Meeting, due to some important matters.

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While I have this opportunity, regarding the upholding of the dignity of the Parliamentary Proceedings of Samoa. In the context of speeches, I advise members to refrain from mentioning the name of members. As well as public servants of Government and Organisations. This is common practice in our Standing Orders, even though it is conveyed in a manner of gratitude, we must also protect them in these situations. Speeches should be made directly to the Minister in charge of the Ministry, if there is anything that need be addressed, they are the ones that will respond. But God is aware of the involvement of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries, as well as Corporations. A recommendation for the recognition of our Standing Orders. I give this advice to members with respect to uphold. I call upon the member of Aleipata Itupa I Lalo, you may continue you do not have much time left.

I call upon the member of Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you. The speech by the member of Aleipata Itupa I Lalo, has reached the matter that I usually mention in some of our previous Sittings. The Hon Minister has also spoke about the airport at Tiavea. This is one important development of Government, because the airport that we have now, is 1400 meters long. It only needs about 500 more meters for a 737 to be able to land there. We only have one international airport which is Faleolo, Tutuila is close by, therefore it would be great to finish it, and Tiavea can be one of our international airports for bigger airplanes. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu to continue.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: I thank the member for the interruption, also I thank the Associate Minister for the encouragement especially the Minister of Works Afioga Papalii, Susuga Papaliitele. The main point of my thoughts this morning Mr Speaker, with respect to Samoa listening. Our culture should be valued, this is based on dignity and respect, customs and traditions, founded and embraced on love. Gatoloai just whispered to me to remember love in case I forget. I am not sure if Gatoloai is saying that she loves me or to deliver this concept of love to you all. Thank you for the reminder, Snow White is right.

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I would like to thank Olo, the princess of our committee, also those who were there before, Laauli, Faumuina and Tapulesatele, as well as the respects of the country that came to Committee hearings. One other thing Minister of Finance, please look into it, it is not for now, but after the pandemic. It seems the excise tax of 8% for sweet food is too high, I do not know if there is a reason for the increase, whether it is for health reasons. The only concern is, the basics like rice, chicken, sugar, flour these are the few things that feed the country. If it is possible for a decrease Hon Minister of Revenue, thank you. It is just a suggestion, I do not have the right on taxes it is up to you if it is 100%, but this is just a concern, for the affordability of the country on these basic items. It seems I have missed this, apologies Hon Minister of Justice, on the recent 3 Bills, I was asked by my constituency, on my opinion. Therefore, my opinion was based on three aspects.

The first part is the importance of traditions and customs based on respect and love. In addition to this, this is also found in the records, thank you Hon Minister, this is the only speech that I really praised the Hon Minister, your explanation of our 3 Laws. It is true, Professors Davidson and Aikman admitted that during that period the mediation of the Law was done. It was admitted that they did not understand the customs and traditions of Samoa, the same was the case with the quotation or the story that was said. "Planning for the future," the future we are in, which you spoke about, thank you. Thank you for clarifying the records that has made it clear to us. There is also the power of these Laws and the Laws of Samoa to be continuously used, setting aside the British Laws that we followed, as well as the Laws of New Zealand and Australia.

I also want to convey an essence of gratitude to the Honourable Member, as the explanation was wonderful. This is your best speech, but now I have obtained Tofilau's speech that I mentioned on the 23rd of November, he said in the speech. "Value the customs and traditions of Samoa based on respect and love. No wonder this woman whispered with love because that is where the true peace from God is contained". This is the statement of the Prime Minister in his farewell speech.

But in 1960 when I mentioned the professors Aikman and Davidson, it is still clear in my opinion, that it is time to implement our Act. Some have stated it in their speeches so I will not reiterate these circumstances. But thank you to the Committee, your commitment is remarkable, your endeavours are amazing. Thank you to the Chairperson of this Committee, since you have set a new record in our Parliament in this Parliamentary term. You are all blessed, I envy you for continuing our Acts and these are the characteristics of the Constitution that some would praise.

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Our village would often preach in the news saying that this Constitution is the Constitution of the village. I stopped it, prohibited any elder from mentioning the Constitution in their speeches, for that is something that only I have authority over. Secondly, in the Constitution, the traditions and customs, and the lifestyle from time to time will increase, whereby the Constitution follows. This is the definition of the Constitution, it is not the foundation whereby we use sand and rocks as a base for building houses like back in those days, as there are some of us who have been making bricks and sand for a long time. Yes, that is the difference, if it were left as it is, who knows what would happen to us. Well, that is my rationale way of reasoning that I conveyed to my constituency which gave me the spirit of support for the Act.

Well, these are a few suggestions, I voice all these thoughts, as stated in the speech that was made by one of the members in this Parliament, when an *aleaga* is conducted, all the fish that have been caught is laid out and distributed. Mr Speaker, this is my small contribution, but I implore you for a chance to address my constituency, and then I will conclude my speech. There is something else....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the member to continue your speech.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Our ship is built together, as my fellow members would sometimes make recommendations. But Mr Speaker, if the Lord permitted me to make wings, I would make wings for you Mr Speaker, so that you can fly.

Well, now I come to the honorific salutations of my village of Satitua, yes, if the Hon Faliuila is listening, the election is near, and we have yet to see each other and have a conversation. *Afio mai la alii Faliuila ma lou sa'ota o Teo. Afio mai le Faasisina o Lesa ma Lesa, lea na omai ananafi lau fanau Lesa. Susu mai Aiga e Lua, o Oso ma Seupule, maliu mai oe le Faleatua, ia ma upu ia te Oe Leatitua Faiga.*

I also take this opportunity to convey gratitude and congratulations to the devotion and prayers of the *Susuga* Reverend Mitai and Filia, as well as Vaituu and Palale, Vaisaili Toafa, and also *Susuga* Deacon Ameto and Tina. Especially the Minister of the Methodist church. I apologise to the *Susuga Feagaiga*, as we have only met once so I do not remember your name, but I do know that you are bald. We, I would like to extend my blessing to the Head of the Church as well as your wife. Well, we are the same, both our heads are bald.

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For Mutiatele and Malaela, I convey greetings to our villages, *Afio mai le Paia o Alalamalae, Afio mai Laupola ma le Toalima, Laupola o le Sao Fetalai, ia o le Toalima o Aiga lea o le a ou lauina atua o Mase, o Toa, o Ena, o Anae ma Saomai. Ia Afio mai la lo outou Tama o lo'u Sa'ota, o le Valasi o le Afioga ia Tuisila*, who trains the members of the New Zealand All Blacks. But if Tuisila is listening, call your family members to come and vote for me. *Afio mai Tuisila Vaafauese, o le Tama o le Faasuaga ai i laua Matua o le Solosolo i Savili. Afio mai Tuitogamotoe, o Oe o le Faauluuluga o le Aiga Salevalasi. Ia Afio mai foi Fagasoia o le Alo o le Tuiatua, Afio mai Lesa ma Tauanuu ma Luamanuvae, Afio mai oulua o Alii o le Fono Mainuuoti ma Sitamafuata, ia maliu Siu ma le Afolau ma le mamalu ia te oe Saleaamua.*

There are only 4 church ministers in our village, 3 as the *Susuga* Elder Timoteo Momoemausu and his wife Sa, if you are listening, as I have heard stories that you are switching support to the F.A.S.T Party. But I implore you to be patient. Our current Party is still doing well. I acknowledge the Elder Malo and Ina, the Deacon and his wife. And then I express salutations to the Church Ministers of the Mormon Church, the Bishop Faletoa Poni, and his wife Lelilio.

Greetings also to Saleaumua, *maliu mai Leifi ma Tautoloitua, mamalu mai Le Nofoaluma ma le Nofoapule, maliu mai Enasili, ia ma i latou e ou le nuu. Maliu mai le Tauanaeseese ma le Lautinalaulelei ia te Oe Saleaamua, ia ae faapea foi ma le Tuiatua.*

I offer greetings to *Susuga* Elder Pati Vili and Matalena of the CCCS. The Bishop Soo and Talele, as well as the Church Minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Esera and his wife. And lastly my dear friend, our Deacon Faamanu and Leu. Hopefully the two of you will come a visit his week to meet and have a little prayer.

Then I come to my village of Utufaalalafa, *Afio mai le Saopapa Afio mai Fanene Fuaialii, Afio mai Ifopo ma Seumalu, ia faapea foi le Matua o Oa. Maliu lau fetalaiga Leteu ma upu ia te Oe Saleaamua.*

And I also acknowledge our village of Samusu. *Afio mai lau Afioga ia Tago ma le Aiga Satago, Vaotogo ma Foutanu maliu mai lau fetalaiga Amoa, o Oe o le Matua, o Oe foi o le Tane o le Itu. Maliu mai le Nofo a Vaega ia te Oe Samusu ia ma upu ia te Oe Faleatua.* I also want to offer greetings to the *Susuga* Manuele Samusu, as well as the Catholic Deacon Solomona. And also *Susuga* Lolesio the son of deacon Tuiloa and his wife. Lolesio, you should be siding with the HRPP, do not follow Sua who is part of the Tautua Party. I also want to express salutations to *Susuga* Talia and Ruta, as well as *Susuga* Nukulaela and Tuasivi. Well, Nuku do not worry, I will visit you and bring a few drinks on the weekend.

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And then I conclude with greetings to Amaile and Tiavea, *Afio maia le Tamaaiga i lau Afioga Mataafa, Susu mai le Matua o Tauiliili, Susu mai Leusoalii, Afio mai Alo Tutusa o Mataafa Tupuola, Afioga ia Fonoti ma Faasuamaleaui, Afio mai Tamapaa ma Leota, Tuimaseve ma faapea ma Luamanuvae*. The presence of the Aualuma of Fonoti, as well as the Deacon Iakopo and his wife.

To conclude it does not diminish the importance of our village of Tiavea. *Afio mai Tuiavii ma Leusoalii, Susu mai Valai ma le Taauso Seiuli, ia Susu mai foi le Maopu ia Sua, Maliu mai le Faleulu Lautinalaulelei Faleupolu, maliu mai le lua Nofo Falelua ia Fiu ma Malaesala, ia maliu mai oe Saleacaumua ma Lefagoalii*.

I express greetings to Andy, Akenese of the Assembly of God, as well as the Chairman Ioane Tupo and his wife, and also the other church ministers whose names I have forgotten, so I apologise. But I give you my best wishes, maybe one day I will visit so that we can all meet.

Mr Speaker, those are some of my good wishes for my constituency. But at this hour, I would like to express my gratitude and praises for your patience Mr Speaker, because we are all the same, but we have different beliefs. The Parties are different, the goals are different, and my belief is different.

But I will conclude with this let us take the good tide, and may serenity flow from the mountains, may the heavens rain blessings upon Samoa, all the best with our upcoming elections, Soifua.

The Parliament showed their happiness by applause after the speech of the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I convey appreciation and congratulations to the member who spoke, it would be better to announce the departure of the Hon Minister of Education, who left his seat, to represent the Government at the funeral of Mr Sua Saini Le Mamea, who was an ambassador for the Manu Samoa, and also served the country. This is the reason why I am announcing it to the Parliament for your information, as the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture is attending the funeral to give testimony for this famous man, who served the country through the Manu Samoa.

In the words of the country, a mature taro satisfies the stomach. This is the senior member's speech that has been heard by Samoa, especially by his constituency of Aleipata Itupa I Lalo. Thank you very much, there is no need to boost the beauty of it. A valuable fine mat does not need to be formally acknowledged.

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Now that you have made your fatherly speech, that is the essence to value the culture through love and respect. The truth affects the heart, it affects feelings, bones and flesh as it is the essence of how things are done. No matter where the Acts sway towards.... but still we embrace it, as the culture is endeared which is why the Independent Government of Samoa respects its culture as stated in the speeches today.

Let us anticipate that God is listening and return praises to the lord because of the wealth of ideas displayed today, for the implementation of duties and callings through the appointed member of the constituency of Aleipata Itupa I Lalo. Thank you very much; I commend you for the preparations. Well, now that...

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

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: There was an important issue that was raised by the member in his speech, regarding the major work that he did with the Committee in reviewing the reports from the Ministries. The road which received assistance was also mentioned, this is another type of assistance from our partners from overseas, but it is not standard. This is known as the Budgetary Support.

There were stories about that road, and it was an issue that was very difficult for our partners to accept as well as other Governments especially the aid given to developing countries. So it is called Budgetary Support, it is a type of aid that is used to fund the Budget. But the stories on this matter, I remember well that it was in the year 2000 in the month of May, there was a rebellion against the Government of Fiji. A rebellion by the army, as the Government was overthrown, and it started from within the Parliament. When the soldiers started locking up the Members who were in Parliament as the other soldiers guarded the doors.

This incident ruined the plans of the Pacific, to sign an agreement here in the Pacific called LOME 1, LOME 2, LOME 3 and LOME 4. Every 5 years since 1975, that was the beginning of the partnership between the Pacific and the Caribbean countries and the wealthy United European countries. So it was called the Agreement in LOME, which was the capital of the Kingdom of Togo in Africa at that time when it was ruled by the Government army. For LOME 1, I travelled together with the Minister Sam Sali to sign this Convention.

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I was the Official for the Government, and we received assistance gradually, after 5 years the agreement was rekindled, and it was called LOME 2. It was from this LOME 2 that we were able to receive funds to begin the improvement of our drinking water system till this day. This is how we were able to build the large water tanks in Ululoloa, and the large water tanks in Vailoa Savaii. This is a means of assistance from the Organization of European Union.

Currently there are more than 30 European Countries, and there are 79 countries in the Pacific, the Caribbean, as well as the Union and Africa. So the importance of this major Convention that was supposed to be signed in Fiji was going to be the first ever major meeting held in the Pacific. We conducted negotiations when I was the President and Representative of the Pacific Nations in 1999 or the spokesperson for the entire Pacific region.

We therefore urged that this Treaty be signed in the Pacific, which will be done in the capital or country of Fiji. Only Fiji has enough hotels, which can accommodate that many people. And there is nothing more to do than to come and sign the agreement and then return to their countries.

But on the 20th May, perhaps there were only 3 months left before the signing, but then the military coup occurred in Fiji which changed the decision, and then it was moved to Africa and it became known as the Cotonou Agreement. That is the capital of Benin in Africa which is Cotonou. This Convention will continue from 2000 to 2020 for 20 years. And another New Convention will be signed which was announced last night at 3 o'clock, so this event will be held for the next 20 years and will be signed in Samoa. It will be conducted sometime from July to December of this year.

Well, now the decision has been made. The decision was made before but now it has been reaffirmed because the Agreement or the Convention has only just been negotiated. But the decision was made in June last year, during the trip that Fiame and I went on, then the Sao Faapito went to attend the meeting in Belgium while I travelled to Ireland for an important world conference for the world's governing body for rugby.

Now that the decision was made last night, the signing will take place in the second half of this year. I have mentioned this because on the 20th of May 2000, revolt broke out in Fiji, and the signing did not happen. The major events that took place in the year 2000, was the military coup of the Government of Fiji, and the rebellion of the Government of Solomon Islands, as the prisoners took over. They fled from the prison and then they took the weapons from the police and moved freely and caused death to many people as they did not have a Government. A lot of people were killed by the prisoners who took control of everything.

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Thus, why a meeting was conducted by the Leaders to offer our assistance, and then this new course of action was proposed, starting from Solomon, so when a disaster occurs, the Pacific Nations are prepared, and the decision will be made to offer assistance to stop these Government reforms instead of waiting for the soldiers from the United Nations.

This is where we sent our police officers, and starting in the year 2000, the soldiers from New Zealand, Fiji and other countries were all sent to help the Solomon Islands. Since the rebels have taken over the Government. And the politics of this Government was engraved in the middle of the roads. Now it has been resolved and the Government of Solomon is back in power, but Samoa contributed the most assistance, because our policemen were part of the security force together with the soldiers from other countries who have their own armies, such as Fiji and Tonga, while we only have our police officers.

But the conference for the preparation of these things, the discussions were made in Australia on the types of assistance to be provided by the Governments. But the matter that we raised, what if the assistance is derived from the funding of the Budget Support. It was strongly rejected, because it was not a standard procedure. This is the easiest way for Governments to misuse their funds. They procure their money to fund the Budget because the grants received will be different and are specific to a major development, such as the development of the Maliolio Bridge or the Vaisigano Bridge. The purpose of the funds is clearly specified, and it is utilized gradually so that it is not misused.

We strongly recommended this issue, to aid us in funding our Budget. It is difficult because they do not have a contribution in the preparation of the Budget. So it is possible for the Government to take control, similar to what is happening in other countries especially in Africa. They acquire it this way, but it is later uncovered that the funds are not being used to implement the work for which it was intended, but they have used it for a different purpose.

The Government has been trying to propose this method for a long time, but it was rejected by many countries. But now, it is like buying an ice cream. It is easy, it has been made easy for our Government to procure it, but what is the reason? It is because their representatives are here, their representatives are in Samoa, and they are observing the proper usage and the implementation of these Budgets and are witnessing the proper use of the funds provided. Now the Budget Support is like something simple. We just have to submit the Budget, and then the question is put forth, is there any assistance? Then Australia would declare that they will give a few million, to support your Budget.

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Mr Speaker, it is becoming a common occurrence, which is why I stated that it has its narratives, it has its historical stories, for it was not easy to obtain. But the reason why it was acquired, because they have faith that the funds provided is being used properly, especially by the children of the country, as the right hands of the Government are dependent on it, for the adequate performance of each Ministry, to the Chief Executive Officers and the management of their Ministries, and the Ministers who are the overseers, and they are questioned about the matter, providing their knowledge as employees, put together with the expertise of the Minister who understands the needs of the people in the rural areas. The Minister is a representative that is familiar with the operation of these developments in the rural areas. Once it is misused, it will be discontinued and returned.

Governments are well-aware of the proper usage of the people's taxes and the taxes that finances our developments. The important thing is to value the contribution of the Government employees, as they should not be sitting idly in the Ministry. They should travel to the rural areas, and if they possess a chiefly title, visit the rural areas and observe the Ava ceremony, the oratory speeches, things like that, and to assimilate the knowledge that is shared by the chiefs and orators, to guide the village to effectively implement the plans of our Government.

These are the aspects on the importance of the appointed Representatives of the Government, and to also consider, when you attend a meeting with the village, conduct an Ava ceremony. There was a time when I was a representative for the Prime Minister, another member came to me and asked if we could visit his village. At that time, I was free. And then we went. But when we got there, we were formally greeted by the village. So when we visited, there was an official that was with us. As soon as they pulled the mat which had the kava on it, I noticed the official had run away. But it is very easy; once it is pulled closer you slap the mat, and then you announce the kava.

There was another Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education, who attended a similar function. He was a person who held a prominent Chiefly Title. When the mat that had the kava on was being pulled, no one slapped the mat, so the untitled man placed the mat in front of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. This meant that he should announce the kava. He looked at the kava, then looked at his teacup and saw a dead fly in his teacup. He sat up straight and with a loud voice and said, *ua iputi pe lago le tatou taeao*.

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Mr Speaker, these qualities are very important. As all of you are listening, when your villages have meetings, go and attend the meetings to practice your speechmaking for the ava ceremony *folafola ava*. So that when you conduct your inspections and something similar were to occur, you will be able to handle it.

Mr Speaker, this is the clarification of our Budget this morning.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I commend the Hon Leader of the House for his remarks, we are nearing the end of our work, but I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Communications.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai: Thank you for the opportunity, I respectfully stand to address an issue that was raised by the member in his speech.

I was thinking of forwarding my response next week, but I sympathize with the money spent by the Member on his speech. But remember that there are some of us who are in the same situation. This statement is made regarding the conditions of our communications at this time, in fact there is no need to proclaim that Samoa is the cheapest in the Pacific in terms of the cost of communications we have now.

But upon hearing the statements made by the respectable member, it seems that you use your credit as soon as you buy it. There are conditions utilized by telephone companies that once you buy credit you should use it to get a bundle. The Samoan definition of this is that it combines your gigabytes, your minutes and your texts. The most it will cost is \$11, but you can use it for a whole week. Especially for those who use touch screen phones or smart phones. Since it is fast.... but what has happened is that the cost of using the telephone has decreased, but the problem now is that the connection is very fast. It is similar to the main road, as the Government is now trying to build road bumps on the main road because the cars are travelling too fast due to the width of the road. Therefore, the channels used for communications has widen, increasing the speed of communications and making it faster to use, as it seems that.... but my suggestion, that we should all take a look at the.... especially with the audience of the country regarding the bundle. This is a cheap package deal for us, as you will be able to use your \$11 for a whole week or even 14 days accordingly. And if the elderly is having a difficult time doing this on their phones.

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I also pray that the children will assist you as they are familiar with it, especially when you are sleeping at night, and there are apps that are still operational in the background of your Smart Phone which is using your data as you sleep. There is a button on top of the phone where the mobile data is, you just need to turn that button off. Once it is turned off, as you sleep at night with your \$2.01 cents, when you wake up in the morning you will still have your \$2.01 cents. But thank you. I would like to thank the member, since this is not the first time that you have conveyed your gratitude to the Ministry of Communications especially for the TV and telephones for our people in the rural areas. Tafua, I want to thank you for the consideration of such services.

But I would like to add on to the issue stated by the Hon Prime Minister, as we have all heard, Samoa received good news at 3 in the morning, because during these conferences our hotels will be full, and our country will be filled with foreigners if the borders are reopened. But what I am trying to explain, well, I am astonished by the Hon Prime Minister because this Meeting started at 12:00 in the morning and ended at 4:00am, and yet he is still awake for our Assembly. I commend the Hon Leader, good luck with the rest of this afternoon. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, I call upon Afioga Tafua.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker, no, I would like to convey my gratitude to you for the opportunity to thank the Minister, thank you very much. Well, perhaps I was dreaming that I pressed the button and a person cried from inside the telephone. But now I fully understand, thank you very much. So that is what you mean by the bundle, aye. Well, I thought the bundle would expire on Christmas Eve. Anyway, thank you for the explanation.

On this note Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to express a brief appreciation to my family, as they struggled excessively, and as soon as they acquired money and materials needed for the election, I was lucky enough to get this opportunity, so my timing was perfect. Well, my dear constituency and my family, there is no need to offer gratitude, you already know what to do, thank you. Thank you for everything. Thank you to my sister in Liverpool, as it seems that they have a lot of money. Be sure to send money for the election in case you forget. Thank you also to my brothers and sisters, all my families, especially my district. Well, we will talk on another day, but thank you for your support, thank you for everything, may God give you strength. Soifua.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, no, it is just a small issue, the reason for my interruption was that the member had already concluded his speech, but now he is speaking for the second time. It is just a reminder.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker, could I get a few minutes please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, it was only a brief gratitude, perhaps he forgot about his families overseas, but it does not matter. I call upon the member for Falealili East.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Thank you, as the member has just finished his announcement. Reference to the clarification of our bundles, I would like to ask the Hon Minister if it is possible to reconsider it. These packages that is available for you to choose a bundle to use, since they are already divided into minutes, data to use, and data that goes to various other apps, but if you only want the data to use for Netflix or another apps, there is a problem, after you select the bundle, you are not aware that the bundle has already been divided, and then you would only use a small portion, but waste the rest of the bundle because once the expiry date is over, all the data will be discarded. But the portions that will be used by the members should be clearly defined. It is only a suggestion, but it is up to you Hon Minister, but they should be a bit cheaper. The statements made are true that we are cheaper, but I am telling you now, it is expensive. Yes, with all due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The opinion is important. It would be good to remind the Hon Minister that you should respond when it is your time to respond, because it was not mentioned by the member. Now the ideas are accumulating, well, just like the saying goes, the winds rise at the bilge of canoes, but the Hon Minister should prepare well for the time when you stand to give a response, because this is important, it is important.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker, I just want to help the member because the Minister does not have to answer to such members. There are two options, the bundle and the bundy. In case the fellow member is using the bundy, but there is also something called a bundle. Thank you.

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Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I implore the member to sit down. Well, state what you want to talk about...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: No, the matter mentioned by the Associate Minister, there is no such thing on the telephone programs. But if there is an additional feature like that, I am sympathetic in case it will be mentioned again. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since we have come to conclusion of our work for today, there is the essence of the Chair to express its gratitude. In fact, it has been noticed and observed that today is a very unique day. Perhaps that is the perspective and the observation of the country, maintaining the honour and maintaining the peace, as this is gold. This is something that the Chair cannot overlook, and so I have to acknowledge and express my gratitude that the proceedings of our Assembly today were successful. Well, this is the essence, the level of compassion and respect was considerable as stated by one of the senior members of the House. It should be continued. For our remaining Assemblies, this is the highest essence.

Congratulations and gratitude to the appointed members who were upstanding today, praises for the preparations and the speeches. It has been heard by the country especially your constituencies, and the Parliament of Samoa. God bless.

That is all, the sanctity of Parliament and the observation of Samoa, well, like the saying goes, even with the greatest of desire there can never be no fishing free of error, as the Chair can also make mistakes. And the desire to adhere to our Standing Orders, as such, has become something unpleasant to your hearing. Well, let your will be sheltered in the house of God, let us move forward for the benefit of our country. Bless the Parliament on your journey and trip back to your families who are supporting, may God's kindness be with you.

The devotion of Samoa especially the ordained staff of God, may your sermons be influential, may your devotion be influential for the benefit of our country and its development.

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Well, this is our statement, before we adjourn our Assembly for today, I respectfully call on the woman member of the district of Gagaifomauga No.3, as your speech today was wonderful, to conclude our Assembly with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:00pm until Friday 05th February at 9:00am.