

19 JANUARY 2021

**TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021**

*The Legislative Assembly met at 9:13am in accordance with the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2020/2021.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce the commencement of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

**NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

*Mr Speaker read out the Notice from the Leader of the House.*

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament, this Notice is now referred to the Legislative Assembly for consideration of the Bill shown hereunder:

1. Electoral Amendment Bill 2021

**GIVEN ON** this day Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January in the year 2021

Hon TUILAEP A Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi  
**LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

**NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

*Mr Speaker read out the Notice of Urgency*

Pursuant to Standing Order 100(2), Notice is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly for consideration of the following Bill under a state of urgency.

1. Electoral Amendment Bill 2021

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**Other Announcements by the Speaker**

**GIVEN ON** this day the 18<sup>th</sup> January in the year 2021

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi

**LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I take this opportunity to greet the dignity of Parliament that we are able to reconvene to continue our work we have been chosen to do.

I offer best wishes for this New Year as well as the support of Samoa especially those who are with us and their continuous work, the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations who are in support of our duties and providing recommendations so that the work of our Parliament can proceed.

Well, let us hope that God will be so kind to help us to facilitate our work and our Assembly this morning.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** For the information of Parliament, I have received the Amendments to the Emergency Orders signed by His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo.

I call upon the Clerk to read out the Amendment of Orders.

*The Clerk read out the Amendment to the Emergency Orders.*

**AMENDED STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS**

Pursuant to Article 105 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, I, Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II, O Le Ao o le Malo after consulting with Cabinet through Special FK21 2, have satisfied conditions as follows; a serious Emergency transmitted in such a way that it will less likely endanger the safety or the economic lifestyle, health and economy of Samoa;

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**Presentation of Papers**

And so I declare Samoa is now in a state of Emergency, and the Emergency Order No.37, dated 6 January 2021 is repealed.

This Order shall commence from the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 until 14 February 2021.

Signed on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021

Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II

**OLE AO OLE MALO**

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

*The Clerk read out to the Assembly the list of Papers pursuant to S.O.49 (2).*

1. P.P.2020/2021 No.63, Annual Report of the National Kidney Foundation of Samoa 2019/2020.
2. P.P.2020/2021 No.64, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour 2019/2020.
3. P.P.2020/2021 No.65, Ministry of Revenue and Customs Annual Report 2019/2020.
4. P.P.2020/2021 No.66, Samoa Tourism Authority Annual Report 2019/2020.
5. P.P.2020/2021 No.67, Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure Annual Report 2019/2020.
6. P.P.2020/2021 No.68, National Provident Fund Annual Report 2019/2020.
7. P.P.2020/2021 No.69, Parliamentary Pension Annual Report 2019/2020.
8. P.P.2020/2021 No.70, Annual Report of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet 2019/2020.
9. P.P.2020/2021 No.71, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture 2019/2020.
10. P.P.2020/2021 No.72, Annual Report of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority 2019/2020.
11. P.P.2020/2021 No.73, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority 2019/2020.

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### **Presentation of Parliamentary Committee Reports**

12. P.P.2020/2021 No.74, Annual Report of the Public Service Commission 2019/2020.
13. P.P.2020/2021 No.75, Public Trust Office Annual Report 2019/2020.
14. P.P.2020/2021 No.76, Public Trust Statement of Corporate Objectives 2021/2021.
15. P.P.2020/2021 No.77, Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa 2019/2020.

### **PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*The Clerk read out the list of Reports of Parliamentary Committees pursuant to S.O.52 (5).*

1. P.P.2020/2021 No.112, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the Miscellaneous Amendment Bill (Provisions of Remuneration on Suspension from Service 2020).
2. P.P.2020/2021 No.113, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2020/2021 No.28, Attorney General's Office Annual Report 2018-June 2019.
3. P.P.2020/2021 No.114, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2020/2021 No.52, Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration Annual Report 2018/2019.
4. P.P.2020/2021 No.115, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the First Supplementary Estimates 2020/2021.
5. P.P.2020/2021 No.117, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P.2020/2021 No.53, Ministry of Health Annual Report 2018/2019.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders, these debates will proceed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

Well, this is an opportunity for members to speak on the financial and economic situation of Samoa and the Government's Fiscal Policy.

I believe members should not speak on each item during general statements. And each item is only available during consideration in detail. It is merely a recommendation from the Chair, in order to guide the speeches of respectable members.

It is now the opportunity for a member to start off this morning as Samoa and our Parliament are observing in support.

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

Well, I remember in my heart, and hope that the member of Lefaga and Faleaseela who is going overseas for treatment is doing well. As that is the member that would always start off our Budget or Supplementary Appropriation speeches, he must be tuning in on internet, but I believe these are opportunities that reminds us of this member who is always prepared for situations like this at any time especially mornings like this.

Well, I call upon the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, I stand with the utmost respect to offer salutations this morning to the attendees of this House as well as the presence of Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House. The support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo and the Member of the Council of Deputies as well as the support of the Chief Justice and the Judiciary, also Samoa in all its honorary salutations.

But I rise this morning to take this opportunity to stimulate this morning as we are gathered here in our House, as this is our last Sitting for this Parliamentary Term, but perhaps the members are hesitant to stand, but no one can complain, because the members are burdened with the Parliamentary term coming to an end and the preparations that need to be made. But we have a few projects that are underway, and the country is still waiting, whether our Sitting will end Wednesday evening tomorrow because it seems that no one wants to speak, but this Cabinet, Mr Speaker, have been eager to stand. This Cabinet is a Cabinet that is always prepared considering the support of Samoa as they listen in to our work, as this is the end of the Parliamentary term.

Well, just something to think about, but if the members are hesitant to stand, we might as well start off our work and then they can follow. I was of the opinion that the opportunity would be respectively given to the new members to stand, even though they have not been officially appointed in the House. I have watched their performance, and so I thought that they would start off this morning, but we will wait, but the spirit in me and the Cabinet, as you can see, we are very much prepared to start, however the problem is, thus we will wait, as the decision is with you. Whatever your decision, we can start off first and then the opportunity can be given to them and for us to conclude. It is no difference with the respect between Malietoa and Tuimanua which was made in the ocean, as Malietoa went first and last. It does not mean that we will keep going, we can also apply our customs, where we can start and also conclude. Well, that is my assistance this morning as I noticed that the House is hesitant to stand.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Hon Prime Minister, keep in mind that there is a saying which states that if a member does not want to speak, it means that he or she is fully satisfied with the matter.

That is noted by the Chair, thank you, but I do not have to emphasize. How can I....when this is the very thing that we have been doing for the last 5 years now ending and still it is being clarified and explained? But the importance of these things is what is seen by the eyes. Yes, things that can be seen. Therefore thank you....but...

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, as I also have another title, I am the Leader of the House, although others do not want to listen, but it is our work that we do together. Another thing I want to suggest, what if we take an early break at 10 for now, perhaps when we return the House will be ready for their speeches. This is the nature of such meetings, when you come in the morning, there is always fear.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Well, the concern is that the country might think that we are only here to rest. That is the case, as we have already rested last night but now we are resting again in the morning....but I give the opportunity to respectable members so that they can...

**Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa (Gagaemauga No.2):** Mr Speaker, let this member be the first to give praise to God for this new morning.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, the member for Gagaemauga No.2 has now emerged as one of the senior members of that side of the House, the Associate Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I ask the Elder member the *tuua* of Saleaula to speak.

**Tofa Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA:** Thank you God for our entry and our exit, you live in mystery, from now until the end of this Parliamentary term.

As the spokesperson for Saleaula I want to express our gratitude to God, thank you to God's ordained staff who are doing their job of praying night and day for the success of Samoa's affairs. As Samoa is not a country acquired, it is a country chosen. "*O Aiga ma Tama o Tama ma o latou Aiga, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*".

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

Samoa, your sanctity and your glory will never be revoked, your customs, as you are accustomed to how you stand and sit, also your way of speaking as Samoa is observing in support.

Thanks to God's holy servants, as the Samoan Parliament is now in the midst of this year's work. The gratitude of Saleaula, as Saleaula is a designated country, Saleaula is the Authority, and it is an inherited constituency of Samoa. I want to express gratitude to Saleaula for your devotion. And Saleaula do not always stand, nor does it rise to the situation of such things very often. The only thing is to convey sincere gratitude.

Thank you to the Leader of the Legislative Assembly, Hon Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and your Cabinet. Thank you to the forthcoming Members of Parliament for the pursuit of the success of Samoa and all honorific salutations.

With gratitude, I want to thank my constituency, thank you Saleaula for your support. I believe, with your presence in Parliament, I stand with care and respect wherever I speak, and I speak at your discretion. I am now a representative of our village, for I have resigned from the seat of Saleaula, as there is nothing wrong with your devotion and your standing in Parliament. What efforts and plans that I have attempted for the development of the district, well, I will not boast, nor will I state them. You are aware of all the good things that have happened. It is not me; it is not the Government, but the living God and his distribution. And so I believe, that no matter how good I am and how good we are at serving the politics of the country, without God, we can do nothing.

When I was elected, some of our community went inland because the coast was affected. What now? Now we have the seawall and most of our villages have returned to the coast, because of the good work that has been done. Now we have a school building, during my time. I am not being arrogant, as it is not my strength, for I do not raise it often, but it is the distribution from God, that we now have a school building and a field to work on.

A lot of good work has been done, as we now also have clean drinking water, and such things, so I speak with respect, I have resigned from the seat for Saleaula, and I have not done anything to harm your devotion Saleaula and all your honorific salutations. That is my contribution as I resign with the utmost respect, to express my gratitude. It was not my strength, as I have reached the age that God said, when you turn 70 you will go back to being a baby. No, I will not return to being a baby, I am still an adult, and I am still serving our constituency, as well as the Government.

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That is why I am happy, even if my sermon takes up the whole day, you can continue to stay seated because they were hesitant to stand and make their statements, for my sermon, it will not be interrupted by anyone else. This is why, I am thankful and proud, thank you for the good work that has been done.

Thank you also to the prospective Party. Whatever efforts are made, let us pray to God, for God is in control of all things. For any work that is implemented, let us turn to God; let us turn to the intercessors. I do not have the strength, and the Government does not have the strength without the *Au Sa Levi* who pray day and night, day and night. Hence why, I am thankful this new morning, thank you for all the good things we have had this season. Whatever God has provided in these days, well, glory should be returned to God, for we believe that it is God who gives us good things.

Thank you for your Cabinet. Not to mention, the things that were good and the things that were bad, but the most important thing is to implement the needs of the constituency. Therefore, Saleaula, whomever you have elected, well, re-elect them. Continue your support as I have resigned, I resigned without blemish, and there is not a single blemish to your devotion Saleaula. It is also believed, I am prosperous, and I will remain lush. You are not hungry you are not thirsty, just be proud of what God has done for us to enjoy and be happy. As stated in the book of Psalms, “He that dwell in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Samoa we search far and wide, let us turn to God, He is the Supreme ruler of our strength and knowledge, thus directing us to what we desire. God is the answer to your desire, all the good things that have been implemented by the Government are from God. That is why I am happy to make this morning a day of gratitude to any Samoan who supports the good things the Government is doing for us. We also believe, whichever Government that will be elected, that is God’s decision, as God rules over everything. Let us not boast about wisdom, or strength, but the wise God guards your exit and your entrance, from now until you leave.

And so thank you Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude to my constituency, thank you also to the Government for the good work. And whatever has been used because you were thinking about God and His will that has made it possible for us to gather happily. I have started with God, and I will rest in the will of God. In Jesus’ Name, bless our Assembly.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you. The Elder member Faasootauloa has started our speeches, and the wonderful speech has been felt by the soul, I hope that you continue to stay healthy. God provides the strength so that we can continue to perform our duties and responsibilities. But thank you for the statement, thank you for starting the speeches. God bless the elder member.



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– debate on second reading**

This is an opportunity for the Parliament. I call upon another member to stand.

**Tofa NAMULAUULU SAME LEOTA (Faasaleleaga No.2):** There was an intention to comment later because it was our Finance and Expenditure Committee that dealt with the matter, but since now that I have this opportunity Mr Speaker. I will make a statement for my constituency.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.2. Thank you for considering the opportunity given in our Assembly. You did not consider yourself as a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee but you have considered the wasted opportunity within our Assembly. You may speak.

**Tofa NAMULAUULU SAME LEOTA:** Mr Speaker, I would like to convey a word to this new morning blessed with the goodness of God, but I am shadowed by the elder of the Alataua. You have already conveyed praises and thanks to our Heavenly Father, which is a must to everything that we do. As the saying goes, we make plans but without Gods presence with us, our activities will be meaningless. Mr Speaker, thank you.

I offer greetings to the Hon Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet, Associate Ministers, as well as this side of the House, to the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons as well as to all the dignitaries of the Parliament of Samoa.

I also want to express salutations to the support of Samoa in all its corners, from the highest mountain peaks to the depths of the valleys. I acknowledge the support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady.

The respects of all Samoa *Aiga ma a latou Tama, le Usoga a Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

I also acknowledge the Chief Justice, the President and the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration.

My heartfelt salutations to the family of *Sa Levi*, the ordained servants of God who are praying day and night for the good of your Parliament, for the prosperity of Samoa.

Least I cannot forget acknowledge the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations who serve Parliament and Samoa in different sectors. I also offer salutations to the Clerk and the staff of the Legislative Assembly.

I believe the sanctities of Tiafau, will not be touched upon and I will not reiterate. The land and respects of the grounds have already been constituted.

The glory of my constituency, and its sacred titles, come a time I will come to acknowledge your devotion, so I ask for your support.

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

Mr Speaker, a summary of remarks of this constituency, is a spirit of gratitude. When we look back at the beginning of this year, and the last 12 months, there have been many challenges. We were faced with many problems, especially the deadly virus that is affecting different parts of the world. What of it? Samoa is still unaffected by it. Why? It is due to good leadership. And so I express congratulations to the Hon Leader and the Government, especially the Special Committee appointed by the Government to safeguard Samoa from these diseases. Their role is not minor, yes, it is not a small matter. I read in the report on the performance of duties, the performance of the duties of those who are in the front line, those who are at the forefront, especially the inspection of ships as well as those at the airport, I take my hat off to them. In fact, the lives of these public servants are being put at risk. But you have executed your services with efficiency and vigilance, because of your love for Samoa. Congratulations and thank you.

Our second acknowledgement, although there are many challenges we are facing but we are still calm in leading Samoa. There is ongoing undertakings from the start of this Term. Such includes our roads, and the construction of our seawall areas. The newly built school buildings, internet the ongoing Meetings as per normal, we go on as life is normal. Daily life is still going and there is nothing to be concerned about, such is the spirit of gratitude. Yes, there are times that things are not the same, in terms of business economic wellbeing, income earning things like that. When we look at the other countries of the world, we are by far doing way better than them. We have the wealthiest countries in the world where they should be able to counter this pandemic disease however it is impossible to do so. It is unbearable as millions of lives have been lost due to this virus. Although we give glory to God for his love upon our country each day.

Another good thing born out of this virus is the change in the custom in implementing our culture. Yes, light burden has hugely been made for the families, majority of the families have gone back to work the lands both inland and out in the coast, this is the acknowledgement. I see the many positive cases occurring. Let us not see what issues are arising. Let time come for Samoa to go back to where it used to be in the past. Our country is still maintaining its developments. There was story about one or two cases in the country. What happened to that, we were so worried and imagine if the virus was going to spread in Samoa at that time. Such is reason why it is not light for this constituency the situation that Samoa is in. We are still safe in the love and goodness, together with prayers from the church ministers in the country.

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Mr Speaker, perhaps this is the huge challenge we are facing today, as mentioned by the Leader of the Government. The issues regarding climate change is not small. Government is currently carrying out improvement works for these areas. We have witnessed this in the previous weeks. With little rain received could result in floodings. These are the negative impacts in the country. Similarly to our constituency of Sapapalii to Fusi, Fatausi, Fogapoa and Tuasivi. I had prayed about it and gave a request in the start of the year, in relation to the situation with our seawall areas.

Before I became a member, I had thought, this is the only matter members would speak about, seawall areas and school buildings. If God blesses I would talk about a different matter. For what? I have seen the reason. Yes there was a time I had visited my family in Sapapalii, and the movement of high waves came right through our kitchen pardon the Samoan listeners. The appeal, we have already met with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Land Transport Authority. We have already submitted our request for them to see whom to give priority to. Another subvillage of Mataga in Fusi, the waves would rush into the shoreline areas. Such is the request Hon Minister, if help can be offered before the end of this Term thank you. You can complete it when we come back in the next Parliament.

**MR SPEAKER:** Do you see the Minister bowing down again to record what you are saying.

**Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA:** Thank you, this is the exact reason I wanted to go first. So that our constituency is on top of the list of the Hon Minister. Thank you Papalii.

**MR SPEAKER:** Magnificent you may resume your speech.

**Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA:** I convey appreciation to our Government, for the connecting road to Fusi Safotulafai and Patamea. This road is very beautiful, although it was affected with floodings recently, but I wish to thank the Contractors who are engaged with this work. I had visited this area last week and improvement works have been done there. I appeal to the Hon Minister and the Government, the model implemented in Aleipata area is excellent. The road to Tiavi connecting to Aleipata I tai. The truth is the population is increasing in the village.

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I also request road humps from the main road to the inland area in Patamea. The road of Eevee is now done, although there is also need for road fix for Fatausi, Fogapoa and Tuasivi and areas in Amoa. Because the cry and voice we hear, I wish there was linking road towards the innerland areas for the people to access and settle as it is no longer safe in the seaside areas.

Another concern Hon Minister, I trust the Ministry has finished with the implementation of its plans. This is the road that should be identified swiftly for safety to remove our patients from Tuasivi hospital whenever there is a tsunami which goes through Fogapoa and Tuasivi. The plea, prioritize that area as we move forward.

With regards to the concrete road, appreciation for the completion of the Maliolio road. There are 3 roads towards this part of our constituency, even if there is water explosion or even a small one, it will cause a blockade on this road. The roads include Sapapalii, Lano and Maliolio. I wish to thank our Government, for the implementing road in Maliolio, not only does it benefit the people in the Itu a Tane area, but also everyone accessing this road. And so there are 2 remaining roads left and we have already given our request to the Ministry of Works. The road in Sapapalii and the road of Lano. When I am asked which road to fix first, the answer is, it will be Sapapalii. Why? Because we have already have an interconnecting road from Patamea in Fusi Safotulafai and so the traffic will flow smoothly here because of this. Mr Speaker this is just an advice.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member I call upon the Leader of the Government.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I appreciate the member for the reminder. Last month the Special Committee for Development conducted a meeting and they consulted the two roads to be constructed all at the same time. They are unaware when to implement it, although it is included in Cabinet's decision given its great importance, the other road is inaccessible and must therefore be fixed together. It would also be no good to the eye of the constituency that priority be given to one road when both roads are close to each other.

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With regards to the Faasaleleaga road connected to this shortcut road, it is called quick road as it was the walkway for the majority of the Asau settlers from the direct road in Fusi to the intersection in Vaiaata, and the direct road from Patamea to Maliolio. The old and quick road which was normally used by travellers from Asau, does not connect the coastal side area. Therefore it will make traveling faster, as not only it is an accessible road for residents in Salafai but also for settlers in Upolu when traveling there for family matters.

Mr Speaker, that is the clarification on this matter.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done, this matter is now clarified. You may speak Minister of Works and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you also to the Prime Minister for the clarification. Perhaps it would be better that I respond now and give another response in a later time. The new roads which the member is requesting about extends towards the backside area to the new road at times of bad weather. This request is now being noted as it is new. With regards to the concrete road that the member is referring to, these 2 areas is being surveyed. Now that the Prime Minister had stated that if implemented, they must be done together, given the financial assistance that was submitted to implement this project from the World Bank. This project is now underway and if God willing that I come back again, and whether I will be taking another calling. At least I am recording it up here. With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** There is a saying, *o lea ua taoto le ata o Tauleleia ae taatia le ata o Maluafiti* like the oratory speech of Samoanagalo a boy from Savaii. I allow the member to resume his statement.

**Tofa NAMULAUULU SAMI LEOTA:** Thank you honourable Speaker. There were quite a few issues I wanted to discuss, although the response from the Prime Minister and the Minister is more than enough and therefore I think this speech is enough for me.

I will now voice my acknowledgements. I appreciate you Mr Speaker and your calling. Well done to your service like the *tautai ia laua Matua ma le Fale na to ese*. Great job thank you.

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Your Hon Prime Minister, well done to you and your calling. The words of the country, a fisherman is known at times of cyclones and the destructions of the coast. Bravo to your perseverance and dedication and love for Samoa. To the Cabinet Ministers, well done to your works and services. Well job in assisting the Leader in guiding Samoa during this Term. The normal saying goes like this, Action speaks louder. Samoa is not in dark in the work it implements. Great job thank you.

To the dignity of the House, thank you for your perseverance. I offer you blessings for the upcoming general elections. I wish to acknowledge the public servants of the State and your invaluable services and your persistence. Thank you for bearing integrity and determination in your services, may God reward your dedicated services.

To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff, well done to your services and commitment in serving the respectable members of Parliament. The short time I was in Parliament, I have observed intently and thoroughly, your work was not easy to do, great job to your service.

Mr Speaker, before I come to my constituency, I firstly wish to acknowledge the ordained ministers. I wish to express gratitude to the spiritual Father, the Elder Ioane Viliamu and your faletua, Rev Auatama and faletua, Pastor Unoi and your faletua as well as all the members of the clergy and your faletua. Thank you for your prayers and your diligence. Truthfully speaking the body has received revered flow due to the power of your prayers. No word can describe nor turn the color of your hard works. Job well done thank you.

To my village of Sapapalii in all your honorary salutations.

Lest I forget my village of Tapueleele which is part of Salevalasi, the orator Fuga and the dignity of Safotulafai. In addition the support of the men and women in the village.

I wish to take this golden opportunity to thank you for your decision upon me to be your representative and to make aware the works implemented by our former member for our constituency. This is a continuous calling. I feel giddiness from the tidal waves regardless I am comfortable because of your silent prayers. Even though I feel anxiety I also feel at ease due to your powerful prayers. Bravo. Nonetheless, the journey of this Parliamentary Term XVI is nearing the end. In accordance to policies, this calling will now be handed back to the hands of the constituency. This is your respect which I had worn and reason my voice was heard inside the House of Tiafau, thank you. This position will now be upon the foresight and wisdom of the village orators for their decision. The only appeal from me is that we put our hope in God.

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This is my small plead, *aua ne i galo Afia i si ona vao*. I wish to commit all my life for the constituency. This feeling is retained in the heart for the sake of resuming some of the developments that have commenced, however they could not be completed because of time shortage.

I beg the pardon of my constituency if I have erred you in any way given my service, it is the best I can do. If I had mistaken you in any word, Sapapalii and Safotulafai, the words of the country, “*E leai se faiva e aunoa ma se maumau, e poto foi le tautai ae se lava lana atu i ama.*” There are times when we do make mistakes. I bid that you find forgiveness from God and may sins be forgiven, including any minor service from me.

Mr Speaker, that is the explanation and contribution. May we bear forgiveness. May we tolerate forgiveness in all that we do from God. And may He bless us today. Soifua and blessings. Thank you.

*The House showed appreciation by applauding their hands after the speech of the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. The speech need no clarification such as the saying, “*Lele ua tu vaga i figota ae olioli livaliva le itumalo i le faafofoga tapuai mai.*” Notwithstanding, the blessings pleaded by the Government so that our developments can be pushed through. You have also addressed the salutations of the constituency and not a hair is fallen.

That said, I heed appreciation to the senior chief orator Namulauulu for orator Fuaitau. On that note, may you find blessings and may blessings be upon us at the end of this Parliamentary term. May I now call upon the member to resume this chance within Parliament.

I call upon the member of Siumu. I wish you the best in your statement Asomua and Aiga.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI (Siumu):** Thank you for this golden opportunity. Mutually for us, praises have been delivered to our Most High God for his mercy and goodness upon us.

I take this opportunity to firstly greet your honorable Speaker and the House in this last Parliamentary Sitting XVI.

I further greet the Hon Prime Minister and the Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

I also greet the Chairpersons and the dignified members of Parliament gathered here today.

I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises who are here with us today.

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I further greet the Le Ao o le Malo and your good lady, member of the council of Deputy and your good lady.

Greetings also to the three Branches of the Government of Samoa. I further extend the same acknowledgement to the various Church Leaders of the Christian Denominations in Samoa who are tuning and the listening Samoa the chief orators, women and the working people of various constituencies.

The traditional honorifics of Samoa.

Lest I forget the big island state of Tutuila and Manua, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the two House of Representatives for the Eastern island state.

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to greet my constituency who are listening in to our Sitting at this hour, the elderlies to the youngest. The honorific salutation, *O le paia lava lea ia Sa Asomua ma Aiga e Lua, Tuuu ma lo outou Aiga Sa Tuuu, le falelua o Tulafale ia Mano ma Faoagali, Lio o oe o le Fofoga o le Alataua, Utaileuo ma le faletolu. O paia na o si o tatou itumalo mai Siufaga seia paia Faletele.*

Mr Speaker, I now wish to talk about the First Budget Statement presented before the House. Since this is the last chance for members, I will therefore be the first to speak on the works and programs implemented by the State for this constituency and the overview for this 5 year term that is about to complete.

I firstly wish to give an explanation on climate change. This is one issue or natural disaster that is faced by the countries of the world that can impact the economy entirely due to climate change. Such is what we witnessed with the heavy rain from December to January and the huge destruction of our belongings.

The only recommendation before the Ministry, take deep consideration of the strategic plans of any Ministry and the creating of road designs and things like that, climate change should be inclusive as this is an inevitable concern, it will be an incessant issue and will increase in the future. The Government should also prioritize a Budget for climate change given its severe impacts.

Then we come to the pandemic spreading across the globe, the deadly disease. I wish to extend great thanks to our frontliners at all times, the airport mentioned by the recent member, the ports and all traveling borders, well done to all the Ministries of the Government who have contributed to this Department. Thank you to the Chairperson of the Committee for your work night and day. Thank you for your consideration upon our people.

Then we come to the measles outbreak that killed some of our people in the previous year. I wish to thank the Ministry of Health for remedying this outbreak quickly. Although this disease affected so many families, nevertheless, I appreciate the swift cure for this epidemic in the past.



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Looking at the education side, I appreciate the changes we have so far, not only with the improvement of students results which is a huge change that have been implemented. The same big changes seen at the University of Papaigalagala. I heed great appreciation. The only thing I request before you, I think our sevens team is going down. Have a look at our sports development please.

On the agricultural side, thank now that we have a ramp in our constituency, also we have floating buoys out in the coast. Such is the great appreciation. I also wish to thank you for the various projects that will be implemented sometime this month which I trust will be very helpful for the farmers, not only the livestock farmers, but also the general farmers. We convey great acknowledgement on these matters.

With regards to Lands Transport, I wish to thank the Hon Minister, I perceive that some of the projects will be implemented in the constituency, such as the road at the Coconut Beach Resort and the circling road in Siumu towards the Mormon temple. I also see that there will be a bridge at the river where the normal blockage is at whenever there is a flooding. Great appreciation for this regard.

Perhaps as I mentioned in my speech one of the constant issues arising right now with regards to no routine maintenance or road tar. Because it seems we focus more on fixing roads and things like that. Your honour, have a look into setting out a proper procedure for our road fix. A tarsea road last about 3 years time before maintenance work is done again. The weather here is mostly rainy. Therefore if the contractors are able to implement this routine maintenance the roads can be protected.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, allow the member to ponder about another statement to make...

**MR SPEAKER:** I allow the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** No I wish to respond to the works mentioned by the member, particularly the project where the water leakage is occurring near the school building. Now that the tender is progressed with this major work honorable Speake for the awareness of the House, the Cross Island Road from Tanugamanono to Siumu and this project will be advertised. This project will have the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. It is quite a huge project, which will extend and enhance the water drainage from Tanugamanono to the four corners in Siumu. This huge project is proposed to commence sometime this year.

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For the sake of members, this is extra improvement work that will benefit your constituency together with the projects which you are discussing. It is now noted and we will come to it in accordance to our program. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I allow the member, your constituency has so many requests.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Thank you Hon Minister. Because the Minister has stated that he will explain the work implemented at the Cross Island Road.

I extend great gratitude. It is stated under the Supplementary Budget that there will be a new road fix sometime this year. I extend appreciation to your honour for this matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I remind the member, do not be smart to beg and be stupid to say thank you. Bear in mind that begging goes together with thank you. I call upon the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker just this bit to clarify as it was mentioned in the member's statement in regards to road improvement. Perhaps the member is thinking that we have programs for road maintenance. It does not mean that this work has stopped, they are still ongoing and this is the policy since the time Hon Faumuina Liuga was Minister of Works where roadworks is shared amongst the road construction companies through advertisements.

There was a Cabinet meeting which got everyone in a discussion in regards to some issues involved, particularly with the construction companies that lack the knowledge of using machinery to properly fix and break the road. Such is the purpose as the country is still observing us doing maintenance work, but a process to be in place as observations on the progress such as Savaii where I experienced, the roads of Savaii are way better than Upolu. The essence of my scrutiny, roads will need to be fixed entirely, and this is why it is vital to assess the roads properly together with the construction workers that are implementing them. In our view of Savaii and the work carried out in Savaii, it seems the road contractors in Savaii have become more efficient, their road construction skills have significantly improved. This is noted in the maintenance of the roads, as for Upolu, there is a downside for Upolu because of the heavy rain here. Not only this, but this is observed with other roads apart from Savaii, the majority of Savaii is rocky because of the lava, as for here the soil is multifaceted.

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This means that road improvement problems will continue to occur, but now it is clear, we now have a lot of experience on climate change today, and road contractors should use the funds given to buy equipment, so that they have enough machinery to do the work. The truth is we have an advanced knowledge, but there are still companies that do not have good equipment, and that is why it is worth noting that companies who do not have good equipment, fail in doing the work, contracts are still being carried out as usual, and more contractors are encouraged.

But like the road going inland to Fusi, Vaiaata, Patamea, I have noticed that there are 4 companies that are doing the work, and it speeds up their work. Mr Speaker this aspect is important, because you also need the equipment and expertise in these companies to bid. It is an issue that probably has not occurred once but often where Cabinet has called on all of them to come and meet with us. I am certain some of the members sitting on that side who were in Cabinet recalls this, it was an effort of our Government, to develop skills and improve road works. There is also delay and dishonesty.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. The statement by the member has been clearly clarified by the Hon Prime Minister.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** I am grateful that the matter is now understood. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister for the work being done in the town area, on drainage and the rebuilding of roads that have been witnessed in the past floods that have caused a lot of damage to the drainage system. Perhaps this will solve many aspects of the problem. But also remember that our township is in a low lying area, such as when the tide rises, it rains and the water will start flooding. This is the major issue in the town area.

Now the Electric Power Corporation, thank you, I am grateful to you in leading this sector, it has been noted that the cost of electricity has not increased at the moment. I noticed renewable energy, and it is likely that the electricity generated here will make a significant contribution to the cost of electricity going forward. The Government has a target that by 2025 we will all be using this type of electricity, from renewable energy. We express our deepest gratitude in this regard.

Our water, I am grateful that our constituency is drinking clean water, water that has already been treated. Thank you, perhaps all of Samoa have been covered with clean water supply. The only thing is during the time of heavy rain and flooding, we have witnessed mudslides because of the water.

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I was hoping if the Hon Minister could look into setting up a reservoir to store this water, when such incidents happen we will be able to have clean water than waiting until the rain and flooding is clear.

Mr Speaker, now a statement on our economy.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Perhaps this is a good time to respond on this matter regarding water. It is the resolve of Government to ensure that all of the country have access to clean water for health safety. This is also an effort of the Water Authority to try to complete private water schemes. The aim of villages that have private water schemes, they receive water supply from the lands within the village. The only concern as mentioned by the member once there is heavy rain, all the water is contaminated. As for the water that is supplied by the Water Authority, it is clean every time, and it has also been treated with chemicals for health safety.

Such is the desire of these villages that have private water catchments, they do not pay, but for the protection of our health, we must prioritize it. I know that is the desire in communities, because they have water but it is not all the time, when the weather gets bad with heavy rain, the water becomes dirty, then the Samoa Water Authority will have to find a trucks to supply clean water. This is an area that is being prepared by the Samoa Water Authority so that all villages will have access to clean water supply provided by the Authority, but stop private water schemes because of the problems created due to bad weather.

These are the plans that I want to clarify to the member because the Government is trying to implement this through the Samoa Water Authority to provide clean water throughout the country. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the member has heard the clarification. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, access to clean water is important. Not many villages are happy to manage their own water supply, which also has the assistance of our Government. But there is an important aspect, because the water is not overlooked properly. There is an old habit that even though we know that the pipeline is faulty but water is still wasted. Yes. This is the same in maintaining clean water.

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I will never forget our conversation about 3 years ago with another community, they had clean water, but they still wanted to keep the old water supply running. Then one of the elder chiefs of the village said, even if our water is dirty we will still drink it. Even if we get sick we will still drink it because it is for free.

Mr Speaker, such opinions are not appropriate. A lot of illnesses result from it, and those at the top are the ones making the decisions, this will change how water is managed for good health. We have a lot of diseases that have occurred because of water. But there is a small factor why water is expensive, not looking after the water and keeping it running, the toilets are clean, pardon me, but still water is running. But if the water is managed well and used, it is not expensive. The reason why it is expensive, is a small fee is not paid, then it is accumulated making it expensive. As for not caring about dirty water due to not paying the bill is the bigger problem faced, even in the various villages that controlled their own water, these practices have occurred. Eventually they have now turned to Government. Because once the pipelines are renewed, it will not be cheap, the community cannot afford to do those things.

Mr Speaker, the importance of this matter, is it being raised within the House. While the villages are listening in, especially those who manage their own water schemes, there is no good leadership seen in many cases. It is true that it is elected by Committee, but some of these Committees are very dishonest. When the money is sort after, they do not know where it is spent. And even they know the water is bad, they still let it leak. Mr Speaker, we are all used to such things. And it is important that it be raised in the House, as these villages are listening, it is not good to allow water to be managed by the communities themselves, that is what happens, it becomes dirty.

**MR SPEAKER:** The advice and views expressed by the Hon Minister and Minister may be useful to all of us. Get rid of the opinion even if it is saline at least it is free. How can you put free water over sickness, yes, we should try and preach that we understand this situation. But keep in mind to the members if your constituency is affected, try and do that for them.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended for its normal recess at 10:45am and resumed at 11:45am.*

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

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**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that orders of the Legislative Assembly have resumed, I believe the members of Parliament have gained strength to continue on with our work.

Before recess the member of Siumu was taking the floor. With respect I call upon the respectable to continue his speech.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Thank you for the first opportunity given. Perhaps strength has been renewed for some of the members with the refreshments provided by the Legislative office, and also for Chief Executives Officers of Government Ministries. I will continue with my comments, I do not know if I should start my speech again with the 30 minutes given or not.

**MR SPEAKER:** I do not have to advice on our Standing Orders, I call upon the member.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, this constituency will continue its speech. I now come to the matter concerning the economy of our country. It is evident over the years that the economy has continued to improve. When it drops it decreases a little, when it increases it goes up a little.

All is well, looking at the Supplementary Budget, there is nothing to disturb the sanctity and dignity of our country, thus it is being managed well. I want to thank the Ministry of Revenue, you are the ones that are looking for the majority of the money being spent on various Government projects. I have noticed that every year there is excess profit than the amount that the Ministry has to receive. We express our deepest gratitude in this regard. Perhaps this will continue on in the future.

The Ministry of Finance, I want to thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for their allocation of Government funds. The bigger countries in the world, are dependent on various areas for their economy, but for us we do not have such resources. We are dependent on revenue and profits of the Ministry.

I also want to thank the Corporations of Government, who have greatly contributed to the economy of Government. I want to thank these Corporations for the profits earned. We also thank the men and women who are working overseas as seasonal workers. This is one area that has greatly contributed to the economy and assisted families, villages and constituencies. They have made a significant contribution to the economy of our country, we would like to thank you thus the Hon Minister is not present.

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I am grateful for the insight, the only recommendation is to try other countries such as Canada and United States where there are other work opportunities, to give our youth who do not have jobs opportunities.

The Ministry of Police and Prisons, I am grateful for the initiative that the two Ministries have been united again. It has been years since the two have been separate but now they have been reunited, I express my gratitude. I recommend that the Ministry look into the issue of drugs, which is on the rise in our country. I humbly ask the Ministry look into it. I heard not long ago that drugs were found recently. Why not set up a special division, to specialize in these type of drug offenses. And please overlook our police force to try and get some exercise to let them run because the police officers have gotten bigger.

**MR SPEAKER:** Respectable member, I know when a speech is insightful the Speaker will not interrupt.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Police.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister of Police and Prisons):** I was not going to interrupt the speech by the member. But since he has accused the police force of being unfit. Perhaps at this time Mr Speaker, there are a lot of exercises being done, especially the trainings. And the way the staff is recruited has also changed. There are 17 weeks of exercise and training then you can be a police officer if you pass. The matter concerning narcotics, the Ministry is still working on the investigation as well as the co-operation with the Ministry of Customs and Revenue, in the search for drugs from overseas, because there are numerous ways to smuggle these drugs into the country. Well I am grateful that we found the shipment that came in last year. We are trying to look for the person that owns it, because it is being brought in under a different name. But I am grateful we found it, thus the Ministry of Police is working on it.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the interruption. The only other request I want to make, I mentioned this before to bring in more sniffer dogs for the Ministry, these dogs have great importance in finding drugs, and people travelling into the country. I heard some said it is expensive, I humbly ask that we bring in more of these dogs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This member wants to thank the Ministry for the opportunities given to our children to get scholarships overseas. This is a great contribution in overseas pursuit. Similarly, the relation between foreign organisations, such as the United Nations and others. I want to thank you all for such efforts.

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There are also many occasions where several declarations are signed, therefore I want to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their part in this field.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member have 5 more minutes.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Mr Speaker, thank you. I will try and make it quick. Mr Speaker, I now come to the Ministry in charge of Estates, this is one sector that has greatly contributed to our economy, in looking after the lands of Samoa. There is a lot of private Government land that is well maintained. It is evident that there are also constituencies that are in trouble and trying to gain control of lands, but I would like to thank the Ministry for your significant contribution, in taking good care of Government lands.

Our Samoa Airways, I am grateful to hear that we will now have a new aircraft. This will be a relief to the people of our country, travelling between Samoa and overseas. Thank you for the initiative, although there are staff that have been let go due to this pandemic, but I want to thank everyone of the Samoa Airways team.

The Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration, this member wishes to thank you for the 3 Bills that have vexed the country, which has been passed. I am thankful that these Bills were tabled. This member is confident about it and I also supported the Bills passage because it will benefit the country. Another aspect that we should be looking into is the Bill, what are the benefits it has on this time period by which it was passed.

Mr Speaker, I now come to the Office of the Legislative Assembly. I am grateful for the work that you have done over the past 5 years to take care of all the members of the House. Not only to the House, but also during Committee sittings and many other meetings. I am thankful for the many seminars and conferences held, which has broaden my understanding, thank you for the great work done at the beginning of this 5 years. This member want to testify that these trainings have been useful. It has enhanced my understanding, on political affairs and public relations.

Mr Speaker, I want to take this time to convey gratitude, I have concluded with parts that I wanted to speak upon. But I take this golden opportunity to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, I am grateful for our companionship for the past 5 years, for the advice and counsel given to us new members. This constituency wants to convey its sincere gratitude.



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I also want to thank the Chief Executive Officers and various Government Ministries, the Attorney General and the Chief Executives of Public Enterprises. Congratulations for the hard work, I commend you all for your efforts. There were times when you were called upon by the Committees, I thank you for the contribution. Thank you for the warnings and advice given to duties of the House, it has been possible to make many decisions and all aspects of the Sitting of this Parliament. I express my deepest gratitude.

I also want to thank the Associate Ministers, thank you for your support, given to our Ministers. It is not easy to give your advice to the Ministers, I am grateful if the suggestions and advice you conveyed are considered.

I also want to thank the Chairpersons and members of the different Parliamentary Committees on this side. Thank you for your contribution and as a witness various Committees have greatly contributed to the proceedings of Parliament. They have contributed through recommendations and warnings given, which has enabled the smooth progress of orders of our Government.

**MR SPEAKER:** The time of the member has concluded.

**Afioga FAALOGO IOSEFA SOPI:** Mr Speaker before I conclude, a former request made by this constituency, I want to voice before the Hon Prime Minister, is access roads. There are 4 access roads of my constituency that need attention and this is the only request we want to convey at this hour.

I am grateful for the stimulus package which was given to the people of the country, the businesses and those affected by this pandemic that is affecting the world.

I am grateful for the insight of Cabinet and the Hon Minister, for initiating this stimulus package. This is a great relief and contribution to the economy and to all parts of the country and the work processes.

I want to thank the Chair Mr Speaker, for the past 5 years. This member has noted that eventhough you are not well but the work of the Legislative Assembly is going well, and I thank you for administering the Parliament of our country.

Lastly I want to thank my constituency, thank you for your support and advice. I thank the Church Leaders, Susuga Se'a on the Western side, and to the respectable Pastor Ulavale on th Eastern side. I am grateful for your words of advice, and prayers which has blessed this members duty over the past 5 years. I want to thank my constituency, thank you for choosing me, which has enabled me to take up this position as your member before the House. Thank you for the authority given to me.

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I also want to thank my family, my extended family, Aiga Sa Faalogo, thank you for the decision made, which has led to electing me, to be a member. I also want to thank my families here in Samoa and other countries, my mother in New Zealand Solotala, thank you. I also thank my mother in Lalovaea Faasiu, thank you for your counsel to your son.

Lastly I want to thank the mother of my children, thank you for your support everytime the Parliament sits, in preparing my attire and feeding me, I am very grateful.

Before I conclude a statement, for members who are preparing for the upcoming elections, I wish you all the best. There is a saying spoken in this country, ‘Rome was not built in a day.’ The sun will rise again, try again in the next Parliamentary term. These are the last requests of this member, blessings upon the Sitting of Samoa, Mr Speaker thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member of Siumu has concluded. Now the floor is open for another member who wishes to speak. I call upon the member of Urban West, Afioga Faumuina Wayne but not Faumuina Liuga.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West):** Thank you Mr Speaker, yes one is old and the other is young. Now the older Faumuina is upstanding. But thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given at this hour, to convey a weakness of this constituency. Nevertheless this member, member of the Parliament of Samoa.

First I want to thank the Chair, in the administration of the House this Parliamentary term up to this hour. Thank you for everything, for your love, also at other times that you did not love us. But I believe we have arrived to this day, and I am also able to be here at this hour at the conclusion of this term.

I want to voice a special thanks to the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister, for taking over our Government for the past 5 years. At the time when we were in the Human Rights Protection Party, I believe I had different ideas, as well as the members opinions. But most importantly we are still working with your Excellency the Leader of Government, to make sure that everything is in place for the sake of our Government.

I want to convey a special thanks to my constituency, Urban West. The situation faced by the Urban West constituency is outstanding, since this is the first time this seat has been implemented in Parliament, whereby I was elected to come into Parliament. This is also the first Parliamentary term that it has been removed. However I strongly believe that these changes, is to ensure the development of our Government.

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I want to convey my heartfelt thanks, *Susu le Tofa i le Faiga, ia Nuu ma Leatinuu, Susu mai foi Siliga ma Umusa i Siliga ma si o matou nuu i Vailoa. Ia Susu le Seiuli o le Alo o le Malietoa, faapea le Falefia o Alii ia ma le mamalu o le Aiga Sa Ulugia.* The ones who are protecting the constituency. Especially the majority of Lautinalaulelei for this new constituency of Faleata 2. This includes Tulaele, Talimatau, Vailoa, Vaiusu, Elise Fou, Falelauniu, Siusega, Tanumapua, Tapatapao and Laloanea.

I am grateful for the position this constituency has been placed. If we think of the current position of Government, I am grateful for the new arrangement implemented, because the majority of the members reside in this constituency, especially those who are running in the constituency, now a new seat has been established. Eventhough, you may not be able to get a seat in Parliament, I strongly believe, that you have faith, for the member who is upstanding, to be part of Government in the coming years.

I also want to thank the Hon Minister, for the work carried out for this term. There are those who are awarded and govern well, and follow the laws of Government. Especially those who are still trying to do the work for the development of our constituencies and country.

Special thanks to the Hon Minister of Works, Afioga Papalii Niko Lee Hang, for his hard work on the developments implemented in the constituency. Work on the roads, different types of roads, especially the road up at Falelauniu which is still a work in progress as of now. Mr Speaker, I am trying to find if there are other areas that need development but it seems that is the only one. I would like to thank the Hon Minister for the work continued.

Hon Minister of Finance, I do not have to reiterate, the allocation of our funds, eventhough we are unfortunate but I am certain that all constituencies will get benefits from Government. Despite the differences I believe we will put everything before God thus other Governments in the future for matters regarding duties.

I also thank Government for some of the developments taken away from this constituency, like the school building of our village of Vaigaga which has been withdrawn, I believe we should look to the future. I hope there will come a time when the Government will be able to continue the work of our village.

I am grateful as well for developments that have been ceased, because of other Government plans also this constituency does not support it, like a wharf in Vaiusu. I strongly believe the wisdom is there in allocation. Also there is the insight to layout these developments. Therefore I want to say thank you eventhough it was not implemented, I believe it will not happen.

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The Hon Minister of Education, the school building of our village of Vailoa is very beautiful, this is the only school that benefitted from the previous Parliamentary term, since it was destroyed by the fire. I believe it was built by Government through insurnace benefits, therefore I am grateful for it.

There are other developments, and many other needs of the constituency needed now, however we will wait for another Government, perhaps it will give assistance to this constituency in future. Our constituency is also part of the road project implemented by Government all the way to Malua, that goes through the villages, it is good planning. It is good for us who reside within that area, but there are other roads behind it, which I beleive should be considered going forward, but let us leave it to another Government, and those who will come, perhaps this constituency will be able to find a savior on some works. But I believe these are the only two developments that were carried out in this district.

Mr Speaker I am not trying to counter you nor attempting to disparage the Government. When I have ideas to share I am happy to for the purpose of progress to benefit the constituency. I must then convey special appreciations to the Court and the presiding Judges. If it were not for their ruling I would not be standing before you right now. I would have been gone in the previous month. It is a relief to have the Courts of Law to turn to when experiencing troubles at times. So thank you very much. I will be brief. My constituency know me, as well as the distinguish church Ministers throughout our community. I will not mention your names and you do understand that we often meet on most days. My desire is that you pray for my endeavours for this New Year particularly with the upcoming general elections.

As for a statement, on the Appropriation tabled before the House, there is nothing much to say, I only want to say to the Minister of Finance, you have the wisdom and understanding to allocate.

We do not have any thoughts to convey, because you are in charge, but the only thing is for God to assist the Minister of Finance so he can allocate fairly for the whole country. Whatever plans the Government has in the works, let us distribute equally, consider all the constituencies of our country, and do not favour other constituencies over others.

My constituency of Faleata No.2, we are preparing for the general elections for this year. We are a newly created constituency but we are familiar with it, after all we were also new in the previous term and once again for the upcoming term. We have not lost to a new concept. As my constituents are listening in with the various leaders of the clergy, I ask that you give your prayerful support to our cause with the elections.

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Mr Speaker, I believe that you are resigning, well may God continue to give you strength and life and we will pray for you. When I do get the chance I will drop in, it is difficult since you the father figure for the members. This is the same with the Hon Prime Minister, if I need assistance on anything, I will stop by for a visit. The only thing is to show compassion towards us and others alike to ensure that we live in peace. I acknowledge the Chairperson of the Committee I was a part of the Infrastructure Committee chaired by with Afioga Tafua. I do applaud you for your leadership as it was a complex role. It might be difficult at times to see, but the objective is to support the work of Government. I want to say to Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu to pardon me for any shortcomings I may have displayed. I say the same to all distinguish members. You are all important to your constituents just as I am to mine. We work together, whether we disagree on a matter, well you have your belief and I have mine as well.

I convey my well wishes to all of you for the upcoming elections may the voters display compassion in the process. I make special mention of the Associate Ministers whom are mostly branded for not having any work to do. As far as I am concerned you have given a lot of assistance to the Ministers. I hope that supporting spirit continues. Perhaps you will be rewarded in the upcoming elections and the other group will become backbenchers whilst you take the leading role.

This is the same for my colleague from Faleata No.3, I admire you for you are clear to the finishing line. Do remember myself and Afioga Salausa when you get to your kingdom. Although I do believe that there will be others challenging you Tofa Leala. The fact is we must exercise cooperation, despite having different views on matters, our focus is attaining prosperity for Samoa.

Let me say this to the Committee that was led by Afioga Gatoloai, I commend you for your efforts. We are not all in favour of the plans however you have been selected by the Government to commission this task to the best of your abilities. We do not doubt the service you have done. Although we may differ in opinions the country will make up their minds on what is at stake. I pray that there will be no disorder going into future for the sake of Samoa.

Then I come to the Legislative Assembly office, to the Clerk even though you have not shown me compassion at times, I still love you. Thank you I have received my full salary with half of it deducted by tax but that is fine. I am only glad that I have got it and it will support me going forward. To all Government Ministries, your work is not easy, serving the Government in terms of projects, I believe it is not easy, therefore it is still must to provide advice to ensure progress in our Government. Whomever becomes the Government do not be afraid to give the most constructive recommendation.

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Some people become affected when taking in too much advice but I feel that is where confidence will spring from and will be able to eventuate plans. I convey gratitude to the Samoa for the support throughout these past 5 years. The task of Government is not easy, especially for members. We are certainly not right most of the time. There are moments when we experience adversities and when a member uses common sense to achieve success for the Government. In case I have missed to acknowledge anyone, I know that you are all listening, I hope for a successful election especially the plans of Government, and Samoa who are giving their support from around the world. We can never forget the continued assistance for our country, the remittances that benefits everyone particularly the Government.

Lastly I want to wish all members, the best of luck. Hon Prime Minister, good luck. Mr Speaker I wish you well in the days ahead and may you have a good rest. Thank you.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I commend the member for his remarks. It has been sound to the ears, I believe God has heard as well as the country particularly Parliament. That is the spirit of an elder statesman whom does not incite trouble but does focus on his convictions and the wisdom from God.

Thank you. As the adage applies here with Losi consuming food being injured at the same time, but I do recall the words of Solomon that is do not respond and do not seek trouble but have a forgiving heart. That is the spirit. Therefore I applaud the speech in light of the First Supplementary Estimates. It is our prayer that when we do take our rest at a time when Parliament is dissolved, we will support you all in the upcoming elections, to choose courageous representatives in acquiring the welfare for Samoa and Government.

That is a brief response in light of the wonderful remarks from the member. The opportunity is now given to another member.

I call on the Minister of Works, Susuga Papalii.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you for the opportunity. I did not want to interrupt the wonderful remarks of my fellow member as he is the representative of the Urban Seat in the west and I the East.

My taking the floor at this time is due to the member mentioning the wharf at Vaiusu. I have come to realise that Afioga Faumuina has been very vocal on his opposing stance against this development even today he has stated that he does not welcome the wharf.

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Let me say this briefly for his information, the wharf at Matautu is too congested, there is not enough space. If you look at the containers there are 10 containers piled up, there is not enough space. There are periods when 3 to 4 container ships arrive here at our port but cannot unload at the same time because the wharf is too small.

So that is the purpose of the preparations for the wharf at Vaiusu and I know that the village will reap a tremendous amount of benefits and also the constituency once this project is realised.

That is the endeavour that I want to enlighten the member about concerning the Government's long term plans for this wharf, and if a new Government comes in well the HRPP have at least laid the ground work and if it is not pursued the constituency will not be able to enjoy the numerous benefits. That is all I wanted to share as the Government have begun the process already through surveys for the wharf. I believe it is a very positive project for the constituency and Samoa in general.

That is my response to the remarks of mixed views from the member who says that he has compassion but later does not. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call upon Tofa Lealailepule, the other urban seat representative.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker thank you. I too did not want to interrupt as we have been advised today not to do so. It is the case with the final days of a term when members are left uninterrupted, after all constituencies are listening in. When it is my turn I will do the same giving my reasons. This House comprehends that the village of Vaigaga is still under my leadership and the same applies to Vaiusu as my term is not yet complete.

It was also in my term when this matter was proposed. You all understand that Vaiusu has two representatives running in the elections under the flagship of the Government and they too support this proposal. I do appreciate the member sharing his stance and we must all realise that at this stage every member will say anything they wish as we all desire to win. When my turn comes I too will divulge my reason for supporting this vital development to be implemented in my constituency. With respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I call upon the Prime Minister. Pardon the member as 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 I rise to make an additional statement to the remarks by the Minister of Works. He has explicitly spoken about the Government's long term plans and it could possibly eventuate in the next parliamentary term whether we all make it back or not. It was for this very purpose the research done by Professor Rodkivi back in 1970 towards 1972. To find a suitable location for a wharf in the future. The findings from that report is about 4 inches thick and it concluded that the wharf for the future should be established at Vaiusu.

The wharf at Matautu has a huge effect from the ocean swells and for half of the year large waves cause undercurrents forcing ships to slam against the wharf. It is the reason the wharf regularly receives maintenance work due to the strong force applied by the ships slamming onto the wharf. Huge passenger liners and other large ships avoid our port for this reason. Forum Samoa was grounded 8 years ago before being pulled out to sea. It is why this Government is always active looking ahead to the future as the current wharf is just overcrowded. The steps taken now is only temporary to hold off the problem in the short term but it cannot resolve the major concern which will remain forever and that is the strong current from out at sea.

So the research has been done and with the consultations completed as well as the financial source sorted. The only thing holding back the decisions on this project is COVID denying people from overseas coming here. Research has been done on this site at Vaiusu and it is the safest location for ships in future. Everything has been outlined and all is left is finalising the financing.

The President of China was planned to visit here last year but that was cancelled due to the pandemic. So all the long term plans are in the pipeline and there will be a lot of ships docking here in Samoa when this does open. With employment there will be many openings available and businesses opening up to utilise the potential of the wharf.

I have mentioned all this Mr Speaker as under the Constitution the vision of our forefathers are quite remarkable. Where they claimed that the foreshores all around Samoa, from the beaches to the rising sea tide is land under the Government. Anywhere in Samoa is land under the Government. Why? That is the vision of the leaders of Samoa when it comes to protecting the coast and so as not to hinder the Government from implementing macro developments that may be obstructed by a different force. That is the importance of this area. Why? The average person only thinks of the present. If it were not for the Constitution, even the beaches around Samoa would all have huge holes in it because of sand mining which would have consequently affected the roads. Even today countries like New Zealand are exasperated about it.



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One small step and you are stopped by claims that it is Maori owned. The vision that was exercised is admirable yet a lot of people are objecting to it. Most of them are against the sketches of the plans, I have seen it and there is nothing that will affect the environment including the mangroves.

Mr Speaker there are a lot of people who do not understand, but once this eventuates the area of Vaitele going right up to Tafaigata could become a huge part of the town area and including Vaiusu, Vaitele and Vaigaga. Those who do not understand will never realise this vision which has already been set. The work is not cheap, it is very expensive. This process is a gradual one with phase 1 to be followed by phase 2 and 12 ships can anchor there all at once. With our current wharf only 2 ships can dock at once. What I am saying is this is not a simple project. I will say no more about this but with massive projects it will not be understood by someone who is short sighted, but can only be understood by people with long term perspective to benefit the country in the next 100, 200, 300 years in future, because the port is stable, it is also permanent in its location, and it is not affected by the conditions I mentioned earlier.

Mr Speaker that is my clarification and I am certain that once this happens our people overseas will be wanting to return home. Since we need employees and there is also the great possibility of more businesses opening up. There will be huge ocean liners coming to our port also fishing boats coming to fish here, and endorsing Samoa as a fishing hub for these fishing boats who fish at other zones returning here to process their catch before being exported elsewhere.

That is in fact happening now with several businesses showing interest to operate here. These are employment opportunities for our children.

Mr Speaker I thought I would elaborate on that for the information of members on this very significant goal and it is a massive development. I pray we have a constructive meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. The clarification from the Prime Minister is understood.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** Mr Speaker I will say no more about this as the Prime Minister has spoken about it.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the member.

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**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** My constituents are following the debate and if they do support the wharf well there will be members that will make it back in. If they do not support the wharf, there is the deep ocean which they will fall into after the election. That is my assistance. I pray we have a constructive meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of you, let me say this. Your remarks were good until you started throwing ambiguous terms. Standing Orders prohibits the use of ambiguous words. I was hesitant to immediately stop you as the Speaker may be criticised for doing so.

Now let me say this, sit down! I have never instructed the removal of a member from the Chamber. Sit down.

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** But you did have me removed before, but now I am back.

**MR SPEAKER:** That is different from the law, but this is the removal through the power of Mr Speaker. When I can instruct you to leave you will not be attending Parliament anymore until it is dissolved. Yes, we can do that.

The final statement and explanation of a subject is the Government. You raised the matter on the wharf which is understood. This is not the only Parliamentary term which that wharf has been raised. I think it was 2 or 3 terms ago when it was discussed. It is not something that can be done at once and a substantial amount of money is needed for it. The rationale behind the intention of the Government is necessary for the public. The opinion of the member will not hinder Government policy. The Constitution does stipulate where the sea level reaches that is what the Government has control over. I am reluctant to highlight those issues as the Prime Minister and Cabinet are present since that is their prerogative. What is happening though is you holding up the progress of our session by harping on your personal view. The clarification from Government is done and the matter is understood.

So I beg tolerance of the member since you seem set to argue with me but it should not be that way. Let us not argue. It is best to end this term without a quarrel. You may continue, I believe you are done since you have already voice a vote of thanks and you have covered every area. I just want to remind you...

**Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong:** I apologise Mr Speaker. I do not intend to pick an argument and I have understood.

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I just want to respond to the statement about shortness. It is true I am short but my vision and opinion are not. The good thing is the Prime Minister has elaborated but I only wish that he would tell us where the money will come from which would enlighten us all. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is there another member wishing to speak, we have enough time.

I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I do have a lot of sympathy for this Assembly. Since this is our first day and is almost 1pm. What do you think? To members wanting to speak, we have the whole day tomorrow.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you for the advice. That is how we are. This is the forum of community leaders where recommendation is sometimes raised and we consider it and build on it for tomorrow.

I am of the view that we will adjourn early although we are only 15 minutes away from normal recess.

Before we adjourn I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.3 Afioga Tofa Foleni to conclude our meeting with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 12:47pm until 9:00am on Tuesday, 20 January 2021.*