

*02 FEBRUARY 2021**TUESDAY, 02 FEBRUARY 2021**Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:22am.*

Prayer.

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

Greetings in good health, and I commend your attendance to our business for today.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– resumption debate on second reading – Day 10**

MR SPEAKER: When we adjourned yesterday the member for Anoamaa East had completed his remarks.

I respectfully call on another member to address the Assembly. The Hon Laauli has risen from his seat, the respected member for Gagaifomauga No.3, you may proceed with your remarks.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity given to me. I will firstly greet the dignitaries of this Assembly in all its salutations and protocols on this wonderful and blessed morning. I must also convey greetings to the general public of our beloved Samoa. In due course I will address you all directly.

Mr Speaker, I take this moment to make a final speech on behalf of my constituency as we near the closing of this Term.

Firstly, I acknowledge the Living God the Most Sovereign and Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The God of Samoa, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob and the God of Israel.

Today I recall a statement Tagaloalagi made to Lufasiaitu. He said, when your house of venerable chiefs disunites your nine fold heavens shall accordingly disappear into the grounds and your titular head shall become dispersed throughout Samoa. The principal court here at Tiafau where the people grievances are sorted, it is the House where the venerable Chiefs share their unquestionable wisdom.

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I bid respects to the various traditional salutations pertaining to death which holds the venerable chiefs and orators' esteem. Why? Tiafau is overwhelmed with grief and sadness as one of the strongholds of the Assembly of Samoa is called by God. His passing can be compared in traditional terms to the shredding of the heavens, hail the oratory staff being broken, hail the dispersing of the clouds, hail the falling rain, hail the titular heads becoming scattered referring to the Sa Tuala clan, the Taulagi clan and the salutations of the principal court of Maauga the Tuisavailuu oratory group and the House of Aana. It is hard to forget a warm relationship that is cut short by the will of God which has signalled a grief-stricken finale to our term due to our colleagues passing.

It is our prayers that God's comfort will cast over the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela to allow us to remain courageous since Gods sovereignty remains over us. Let us express our condolences to the grieving widow Vaelaa and the children. We extend the same to their families and relatives. Your premonition has happened Vaafusuaga, we may joke around in our meetings, but you will resign after this term. Regardless, we do not have a say in such matters, and we will never forget you brother as we knew each other from school right through to this Parliament and you are amongst the Marist boys that has a big heart. I convey my good wishes for your final journey, and we will meet again some day.

I will firstly acknowledge the dignitaries of Samoa and I will not attempt to go into detail as you are sacred and your salutations is complex and no sharp mind can unravel the intricacy of our traditions which depicts the Families of Royalties, the Families of the incumbent Title Holders, the Families of the Titular Heads, the Families and the successors to the Four Titular Titles and to say the least the families whose labours and service gained the prominent salutations and dignitaries of Government.

Such are the respects of *Aiga ma a latou Tama, o Tama ma o latou Aiga, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. I also convey greetings to the various members of the clergy. Hail Malaeola and Nafoga, Hail Faleu and Utuagiagi, hail the taboos and nobility of Mataniufeagai ma le ata. Hail the people of Samoa from the venerable chiefs right down to newborn children.

I also acknowledge the support of His Excellency Le Ao o Le Malo, Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano and his Consort. I recognise the Member of the Council of Deputies Le Mamea Ropati and his Good lady.

Greetings to the Honorable Speaker and the distinguished members of Parliament, who are the chosen members of Samoa here to render service for our people.

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I convey greetings to the Leader of Government, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I also acknowledge the Chief Justice, the President and the Judiciary.

I recognise the public service with the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises especially the public at large who are the hands and feet of Government.

I must also acknowledge the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a and I do not need to emphasize our relationship since we are one family. In saying that I recognise *Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua, Tama a le Manuatele ma le Faleagafulu o le Motu, Tootoo o le Faleula ma le Laau na Amotasi ma upu ia te oe le Manuatele*. The contract made at sea takes precedence establishing the protocols that remains today between Maleitua and Tuimanu'a. Where it was agreed that Tuimanu would reside on that side of the family with one God to be praised and I will return to Tumua. When initiating their farewell ava, libation was poured for God hence the sea became yellow in colour, it also became red in colour. When Malietoa received his ava the heavens were turned upside down and the sea poured under bring with it the palolo tide and also the westerly wind known as Vaitoelau. Those are our traditional words and customary agreement that remains respectable and treasurable until today.

I convey well wishes to the new administration to the Governor Lemanu Palepoi Siliaga Mauga, the Lieutenant Governor Talauega Eliasaro Vaalele Ale, the President of the Senate, Tuala Manaia Eti Tuiletufuga Fruean and the Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale and also the dignitaries and distinguished members of the two Houses. Our relationship and the covenant of our forbearers we hold close, and never take for granted the support of Tumua and Pule. Our family have always been poor, yet we remain close and always remember the struggles of the Independent State of Samoa.

Our ship is smoothly setting sail towards the final surge and currents of this Parliamentary term. The ship of kings and chiefs with its nobility salutations inclusive of all its representatives.

The rowers are taking their rest as the prevailing wind continues to steer the ship and the fisherman rest after hearing the whispers of our wise ancestors whilst we engage in deliberating the basic foundation of the fundamental oratory degrees of this House of Samoa and its Parliament for the sake of developing the country.

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I am of the view Samoa that I do not comprehend the pain and severity of the love that will divide you the beloved country. [.....]. I would like to take this important opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the support of our people starting with the Spiritual Leaders of the various denominations throughout Samoa. I appreciate your prayers, your silent support and your role of invocation to God seeking blessings for Samoa. You were chosen by Him alone to the arduous task of spreading the gospel. I commend you all for your leadership and support. Your engagement away from your very homes to preach the Good Word is not easy. You are ensuring that Samoa does not lose focus of the olive branch of salvation.

I also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the support of Samoa, to the authority of Alii and Faipule, with the venerable chiefs and orators not forgetting the women groups throughout the various levels. The youths and the untitled men, the strength implementing service. It is your service which enables the Government to instigate its programmes. It is your sweat and struggles, the massive contribution that allows Parliament and the Government to fulfil every development for our country.

The fact is not every fishing expedition that returns is successful. With the input and your participation and involvement in the system we thank you and it is appreciated. Your role makes the cycle of Government and the economy complete. After all you are responsible for ensuring peace and stability and there are no troubles whatsoever. I commend you all for your service to Samoa our role of allocating resources for the common good of your economy it is the fruits of your labour and I thank you.

I must also accord gratitude to every Samoan living abroad and contributing. Wherever you are in the world if you hear my voice this morning, let me say thank you very much. There is a saying that birds do eventually rest after flying but giving advice can never cease or stop us from expressing gratitude for the service and support given to the country and church. I commend you all and appreciate the love you show.

Our business for this Parliamentary term is nearing the end. Traditionally in moments like this a farewell ava is presented, and the last cup is given to the Speaker of the Assembly. In all respect I will use this moment to say, Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi I am lost for words to express the feelings of admiration and gratitude. But your actions will speak volumes and testament to your legacy and service to the country. The world and every Samoan today bear witness to the life of service you have provided over the years.

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On behalf of my constituency, I convey our gratitude and commendations for your life of service to the Parliament. I have learned a lot from your good self, and I did gain valuable lessons to the Speakers office from you. I will not forget your advice when I initially entered Parliament, “Laauli, do not become anxious to speak until you have settled, wait until your feet are firmly grounded inside the House before you say a word”. Thank you for your counsel for it gave me ideas to continue the service. My fervent prayer is that you continue to enjoy a healthy life to serve wherever you may be called in the coming days.

Thank you also to Hon Aeau Peniamina, Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama and Hon Faasootauloa Pati and of course Afioga Mulipola Laki. I extend to you all my commendations for the work we had co-operatively engaged in during the term now ending. Now that you have set sail for home definitely, I will simply say thank you for the camaraderie and whatever shortcomings I may have displayed, your wise judgement will let it pass. Our traditions and the Samoan way of life is such that we will all go to our graves with our family roots attached. I wish you well in your retirement.

I convey my commendation to the Leader of the Government and your team. I am of the view that everything that occurs is understood by the All-Knowing God and also the understanding of our people behind us. With all the success that we have achieved, praises must be returned to God. I congratulate you all for the effort put in and the leadership shown through it. I must say that there is always the possibility of differences evolving between us during the course of our debate and deliberations in politics let us cast it aside. We are approaching the end of this term and God knows also our people do realise the effort we all put in, and of course each of us will reap the rewards of the actions we took for the sake of Samoa.

So my congratulations to the endeavours implemented by the Government. There were times when we would urge you on and passing on our recommendations and such is the nature of compassion and support after all it is our collective responsibility to engage in the process of the machinery of Government. We are all part of the Government.

To my colleagues in Parliament and our party the Human Rights Protection Party. I often sit and wonder, reflecting on our long-standing bond we have created, and it is just not easy to forget. Despite the fact we parted in tears and sorrow after the verbal exchanges, but the thought of reconciliation and forgiveness always lingers. May I say to our political party that it is just awkward to let go of our warm and cherished relationship over the years. I do not wish to visit the dilemmas we had endured, and I have turned my back on it and I am now looking ahead for constructive ideas.

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Despite my eagerness and I did not resign, and I will not do so yet your will has been actioned. I have accepted and will move forward to find success and my suggestion is that we let politics remain here in Parliament House. We will go to our graves with our family ties attached.

I would like to express my gratitude for your patience, and for the perseverance on the services rendered by respectable Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons, as well as members of all Parliamentary Committees whom we worked together. We were chosen from all the others to serve in this Parliamentary term.

I think back to those of us who were left from our small crew that came together in 2006, there are not many left. The Hon Gatoloaifaana, Hon Minister Sala Pinati, Tofa Olo, Hon Minister Loau, Tofa Lealailepule and Susuga Lufilufi. We are the remaining members from that term. It was not easy rubbing shoulders with the paramount chiefs of the country occupying Parliament then. We had to find our way and gradually gathering thoughts and ideas for the sake of the people following our deliberations. But we should all be comforted by knowing that we are not alone. If you look around this House, the previous occupiers who tread through the difficulties of the formative years. From the first Parliament through to today. The first Ao o le Malo to the Tuiaana, the first Speaker through to Toleafoa, the first Prime Minister to the son of Malietoa. Each of us bears a connection to the ancestors that pioneered our path to today. Such is the reason I speak with reverence and confidence as the question as to how Samoa was formed is not a simple one. You must and we must all look further and deeply into history as to the hardship and the sweat and difficulties endured. It was done through poverty and hardship, it was built out of suffering, it was built out of tears shed and through sorrow which cost lives.

This is why the dignity of Parliament this morning, our calling is not something to be taken for granted. We as members elected for this Term, we must praise God for the path He has created for us.

I will use this opportunity to accord my encouragement to my colleagues here today. I hope you understand that I have decided to forge on and to seek success for this Faithful Political Party, the Family of Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi. I personally wish you all motivation. I do not want you to think that with some of your candidates going up against some of the members of this family. As long as we believe that we are the chosen people by God we should really have nothing to be concerned about. I also extend my well wishes to constituencies where there are no candidates from this family. All the best and I will not disclose the details as to the reasons behind that decision.

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The Hon Minister Lautafi, when there is no one to take the mantle, you are Asiata and my family are listening from Satupaitea. I wish you well in your return, pray to God.

To all the members running without competition from this family we convey our blessings. Tuisamau, we have said our bit to you so let us engage and make our preparations for Samoa's elections with positivity. To our family Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi I convey my appreciation and commendation. I cannot thank you enough for the commitment you have shown throughout our mission. You shall be the flag bearers for Samoa. My recommendation and this is our motto and mission is that humility is the path to victory. Let us exercise patience and forbearance holding steadfastly to our belief that whatever challenges that confronts us we must maintain order. Let us not exercise any counter measure which may bring about problems and drams we do not need. My prayer is that God will show mercy to our cause. Let us never lose touch with our Foundation and that is only God we have faith in during the course of the elections for Samoa. Whatever troubles and ill statements that confronts us I ask you to hold your grounds.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all Samoans here and throughout the diaspora. Let us never forget our country Samoa so we must always carry that flag of respect and civility. I beg tolerance of you but do refrain from using coarse language. Do not make expressions that will incite anarchy and disharmony. That is my plea as the paramount chief of our family, have patience and engage in be prepared to heed kindness and sincerity, and walk in the spirit of humility before God for us to achieve victory.

Mr Speaker I will also use this moment to address my constituency. *O aiga Sa Tupua ma aiga Sa Malietoa ma le Faletohu, le paia aua le Aiga o Mavaega. O le Falelima o Saeseese, lau fetalaiga Pao* and especially the support of all the Church Leaders throughout and their prayers for a successful Parliament. I appreciate the authority of my constituency like I often say during our meetings and gatherings, it is not my will but your discretion. The position which I hold is not mine alone and our community will never be short of eligible candidates. My tenure prepares the path for tomorrow. The absolute authority is in your hands you have the discretion as to when my service to the constituency ends. I have only my life to offer to continue the service, yet the final say is in your hands. Whatever I may have said that was out of line during the tumultuous period of difficulties when I was overwhelmed with hatred and completely covered with dirt during this term, I ask you my constituents to pardon me. I was at peace and yet adversity disturbs the serenity I was soaked in.

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It is your judgement that has me representing you at this stage and to lead the political party you have agreed on and so let us accept that realisation. It is our belief to continue hoisting the flag of the victorious Christ so that Samoa and its Government continues to be blessed.

To my families around Samoa, I congratulate you all for your initiative and patience. To all friends and relatives alike I appreciate the support you give. Thank you for your prayers and well wishes from the Elders right down to the young people and wherever you may be residing I am grateful for the support given for such cause.

As I have said I do not make futile attempts for the country, and certainly will not give the people false hope. God of mercy if there are statements made that You know, there are situations, therefore let your will be done to life. But I will testify truthfully that integrity is implemented to uphold peace so the country may be blessed.

To all my families let us continue to uphold the objective that we do all things for God.

Afioga Sa’o Faapito, Fiamē Naomi Mataafa with all due respect, despite the fact that it has yet to eventuate I appreciate your decision as witnessed and heard by our people that you will be joining us when this term ends. I respectfully make the same plea that you remain calm and forbearance considering everything that has happened lately.

I convey my absolute gratitude to Faumuina nothing I can say can describe the enormity of the difficulties which you endured. Let us keep our focus on God with our hopes. To the member for Salega, Olo you are the high fortitude which enemies and the devil cannot overcome. I congratulate you and we entered Parliament together in its XV Term. It was our personal will that made us choose the different paths we tread. But praise God for His will has been realised that we have joined together for this cause. I commend you for your patience and going at it alone, I salute you for your effort and service to the country. The differences we had in the past I apologise. Let us look to the future for the sake of the country.

Mr Speaker that covers the entirety of the appreciation from my constituency. Thank you for your support and distinguished members of Parliament.

To my wife and children, mom, thank you for everything. I do feel the sense of warmth in my soul and the beating of my heart with your motherly touch and someone with a true love and your role in everything concerning our constituency.

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As for the Supplementary Estimates, Hon Minister of Finance I convey my commendations and appreciations. I am sympathetic towards you as not only you are a new member, but you are engaged with the difficulty of trying to make money allocation. My commendations for your distribution and prudence in allocating our financial resources.

To the Hon Minister of the Electoral office, I have noticed with disappointment the situation that we have passed our Electoral law. Which provides for the publicising of political parties to the people. We went ahead to put up boards and making rounds of delivering to the people for their awareness. The law already enacted in this Legislative Assembly provides that if someone wishes to run to become a member, they can do the following things. Putting up billboards and giving out pamphlets and to publish its agenda of proposals to make itself known to the people of the constituency. However, I have noted with disappointment the situation that is going on. Since having met the people of the country right up to yesterday there is still the confusion with authorities. With the recent passed Bill which has concerned me regarding individual rights and collective rights. It has come into conflict, the right of the person to run in the election is now oppressed having been denied by the authority of chiefs and orators through their censoring of these things within their respective community. I will put it like that Minister of Elections. I have already advised my family to keep the peace.

Maintain the peace, and whatever village or constituency that does not accept this well take it down and keep the peace. We must not counter, humility is the key to victory. We are lost as to which Law to enforce. The fact is the Electoral Law has been passed and it stipulates that these are what a candidate can go ahead and use. I am making this testament that there is another Law is enacted to prevent this other Legislation. One Law enacted to bring support whilst another Law is to defeat the purpose, but I will leave it to you.

Another distressing factor is the fact that it actually stems from this House the banning of our publicity. Some Ministers have taken the lead, where they have gone and met personally with people and village communities advising them to put a stop to this. Hon Minister I am deeply disappointed as it is this House where good things and prosperity for the country originates. It is where welfare and security of the people instigates. If we are to be the catalyst of division between the people, it just makes me sympathetic towards Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, I call on the Minister of Justice and the Electoral Commission.

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Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu (Minister of Justice and Courts Administration): Mr Speaker, a point of clarification. The Electoral Office cannot really do much about this situation, since the member is complaining to the Electoral Office and its Law. It was done in good faith and there is no provision such as the enforcement of this Law by the Electoral Office. It is open to the people and their discretion to act on it. With respect.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I make this plea to you. Faaolesa this is the cry of the helpless person. The Law has been enacted for the candidates to carry out. To make aware and to consult. However, what is happening now? The authority of Alii and Faipule is enforcing their communal rights. In saying that I am urging you to look into this and to ascertain where the line should be drawn. I will leave it to you, I also pray to the members that the stability of the country stems from here. If we are calm, then Samoa will also be calm. But if we are taking the lead here then we will eventually experience catastrophe.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, I call upon the Minister of Justice and Electoral Commission.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: I think the matter the member is complaining about concerns the 3 Legislations that have just been passed but these Laws are different. I am certain that the Electoral Act which has already been passed is understood by the member and the House. The 3 recently approved Laws are yet to be enacted. When that happens the Court is available for issues that may arise. The Court makes the final decisions regarding the differences the member is speaking about. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Let me assist in the matter please. Referring to this part of the Law and after it is passed, and the provisions are laid out such as the time when candidates are publicised during the campaign. It is not the type of campaign where money is given out. But the individual member telling folks around the community about himself. It is not really as you stated but I think this is what the member is talking about.

I appease the members to exercise patience as I complete my, perhaps it is that. With that area it has its limitation when the member begins publicising him or herself and when to stop doing so. The other point I wish to assist the member with is, and I commend you, for your remarks is sound to the public following our proceedings. Success comes from humility.

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We depend on the Lord to guide us and Leaders of nations are chosen from the heavens. That goes to the HRPP in charge of Government as well as other political parties such as the distinguished member who is the figure head of the FAST family. If I may remind you though since you have mentioned, and I applaud the Sao Faapito for in due course will be joining your party and that is her right. So let me remind you that the Sao Faapito has already registered herself as an independent member. That is my announcement with respect.

I will first give the opportunity to the Leader of Government. Please Laauli.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: This is a beautiful morning as we gather here again in good health. I commend the member currently taking the floor. However, a point of order and a point of clarification. There are no laws enacted in this House which purposefully aims to create friction. I gather that it does include Legislations which we have yet to consider. All these Laws have one purpose and that is to ensure the administration of our elections is without problems. That is all we are doing.

As for the publicity and campaigning as the member mentions well that is nothing new. How many times have we had court cases because of campaigning even going out to the communities and giving money and food, it is also campaigning? Is that new to us? That is not the practise we are used to. All of a sudden, they are in the rural villages making themselves known. After all it could possibly bring about differences and court petitions at the aftermath of elections and such is the nature of campaigning. Even with the erecting of billboards as publicity. The village administrations are focused on one thing and that is to ensure that the people of the communities and constituencies remain in harmony. Once they notice a novel concept, they become curious and will say why this is so.

So with that in mind the administration of chiefs and orators, they are familiar with upholding stability. You cannot simply turn up and put up your billboard since there are incurring costs. Every board you see around town they cost about \$500 of Government expense. Are you paying that? Since the villages may possibly ask for it. I hear that the Ministry responsible for this area may possibly ask for a charge for such boards when erected on Government land and premises. Mr Speaker I am aware of someone or a group being criticise for nothing due to new practises done forcefully. Our culture and tradition is done through mutual respect. You do not just turn up out of the blue and put up a huge billboard, you must consult with the authority of Alii and Faipule. Why is it that there are boards at some villages and not others?

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Mr Speaker, it is through the vision of Alii and Faipule that harmony is maintained. There are times when one becomes overly anxious and proceeds to do what they want and during the process, they wrongfully blame the wisdom and vision of chiefs and orators in the end.

This is one role of the village council which is to uphold harmony in the village community. One must ask the village council, what is your view on this? And of course, pay something for the village. This does not mean if it is erected in front of your yard then you have the right. No, village practice is such that you do not just exercise your own individual right. The chiefs and orators must apply wisdom and vision to maintain peace. Once that is allowed, we will be seeing some radical behaviour within villages.

Mr Speaker that is the explanation and I appreciate the fact that the member is insisting on maintaining stability. However, you are almost out of line.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member; I call upon the member of Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Thank you for the opportunity. I have been attentive to the elements of the law questioned by the member. The provision is clear and understood within the law and that is every candidate must and should publicise their candidacy. Yet I am hearing the Minister saying that it is not their responsibility to enforce the law. Now I am lost as to why this law was enacted if they cannot enforce it or exercise actions which will enforce the law that was passed inside this House. I believe that is the reason there is no seriousness in the administration of chiefs and orators regarding the situation. Like what the Minister was saying, they do not enforce it, so I am lost as to which Laws are enforced and which ones are not. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Justice and the Electoral Commission once again.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu: Do read the Legislation properly. It is clear in it that these opportunities are available to candidates to campaign, but it does not stipulate that they must campaign. Who will be going around to ensure that members are doing their campaign? There is no such wording in the Law.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, 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: I would like to correct the Minister. See even I too will raise a point of order against my Minister. I wish to correct the Minister regarding the use of the term publicise. Let me say to the Minister that the word publicise is the practice done overseas, targeting millions and millions of people that do not know you. But you do not need to publicise yourself to your village. Mr Speaker that is the fault of the Minister you do not need to publicise yourself unless you have been around town leisurely, and the village does not know you. You will then need to publicise yourself and so you will go around putting up timber on a coconut or on a kava tree so people will see it. Here in Samoa, you do not need to do that as villagers know their own people.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I think I will leave it at that Mr Speaker as I have just given you a glimpse of the situation. Billboards are nothing new. Some have already put up their billboards. We have had Legislations for our elections in the previous Terms. I do applaud the Minister responsible for this Legislation to allow the candidate to take the first step for publicising. Hon Minister it is not cheap, and consultations were carried out with 16 constituencies without any trouble whatsoever. But as soon as the Prime Minister spoke on TV telling people to go and ask questions and to do so aggressively. That is the reason for this happening, Mr Speaker it is him that is causing trouble.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: My announcement to our party was to go and officially meet with them. They are bringing money and food. So do go and eat and accept money offered from them. This group have lots of money. Who would be stupid to stay at home when there is money and food that will be distributed? That is why our Party are making note of everything you are doing. Just in case you forget, for that matter, under the proposed Legislation we are yet to discuss.

Everything is clarified there. Members are aware that at the end of our meetings and after your remarks, you would speak carelessly, and I have been wanting to cut your remarks with your Cabinet. However, there is the mutual respect. So when it is our turn to speak, I appeal that you do not interrupt us. Each Minister must be given 2 days each to clarify everything.

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Mr Speaker the Legislations we are yet to be considered which will focus on clarifying the points that the member is raising. Since he continues to show discontent to the Legislation I will once again clarify it. There were some issues raised during the recent court cases which is not clear regarding one or two judges I guess, although it is well clarified in our debate.

Mr Speaker you do understand that we enact Laws which these judges and lawyers base their interpretations on. To earn them bread and butter. So when Laws are passed here they would interpret the exact context of the Law passed from this House. Judges do not listen to our debate as they are engaged in their work whilst we discuss the Laws and its interpretations. We explain and refer them to the Committee and then people are called to make submissions, however unless a Bill is under a certificate of urgency, then it does not need to go to Committee but is deliberated and passed by Parliament. There are times when a judge becomes unclear or pretends to be unclear, but they should go through a Hansard to gain understanding of our debates and interpretations. There are times when a judge does not want to look at the Hansard which thus leads them to more confusion and consequently makes cloudy judgments. So the essence of Legislations we are about to discuss is to provide clear explanation of all these matters in case there are court cases after our elections relating to campaigns done during the course of the period before the elections. As currently witnessed during the fragile scorching heat of the sun. This will ensure no one will have doubts about billboards and so forth which must be done.

Mr Speaker that is an example I have given.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Everything is clear thank you very much for the clarification. We went to Vaimoso and met with members of the HRPP.

After the Prime Minister speech, these HRPP candidates came over and we had a wonderful dialogue. It was a feeling of bliss as such was the main purpose. The statements made here contradicts the reality of meeting face to face. I said to them feel free to ask questions if there are issues which you do not understand concerning our manifesto. So I gave an account of the complete manifesto and further said that we are criticised of lying and misleading the people.

But do you know the first question they asked? Why have you not commissioned an enquiry into the measles epidemic? Yes. So we did responded to them. Finally, this HRPP member gave a traditional gift...

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order.

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: You will remember that the inquiry into the measles resulted in a Parliamentary report that has been tabled here for some time now which explains everything. The report is this thick, so it seems Laauli did not read it. The question mentioned was triggered by Laauli.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker the good news is this member went ahead and prepared us a ‘sua’, a traditional act of love and respect. What a wonderful fellowship we had. In return we offered the same act of respect through traveling expenses and a traditional sua. So you decide which Law breached the exercising of mutual respect which we are also discussing, to disregard the Law and use mutual respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker it is not necessary to recount all that, the publicity has already taken place. So what is there to talk about?

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: The last words from this member were, “Laauli I regret it.” I said, if the HRPP has any compassion they would do a similar roadshow.

But I appreciate this gentleman joining us and I know he is seriously contemplating this right now. I am of the view that they will all be withdrawing their candidacy and allow the candidate for FAST to come through.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order, you will remember that Mulitalo resided in Vaimoso. These are the same types of publicity that were raised in court. I am rather cautious of such as the Judges of the court will look into the details and say. What are these new concepts they have done? Mr Speaker they should at least give notice, give notice. Any new form of campaign becomes a point of great interest in court.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I will leave it at that.

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MR SPEAKER: Yes do move on to a different matter.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: What we are doing is similar to the dedication ceremonies done for new roads being done.

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

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: It is a give and take process. Utilising Government property to promote these things.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: What I am telling you today is about something extraordinary and completely new. It is vastly different from the opening of a new road which are programmes that go back to 1962 when roads were constructed. But with any new form of campaign it is completely shocking.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I think I will move on. You be the judge Samoa. As for the constituencies we are yet to get to, wait for us we are coming.

The Hon Minister of Labour...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker it is best that we exchange thoughts. Since this is another member that is so low for one minute and drastically high the next minute. It seems this is done in broad daylight which shows his total negligence of the law concerning campaign.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: The advice of my spiritual father was, Laauli victory shall be achieved through humility. His final words to me where our mission should be done out of mutual respect. You will be victorious through humility seeking authority. Let them charge at you.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, from Leader to Leader. I will say that this is the time when words are sweet. You started your speech adhering to the church Minister's advice, but you have concluded on a sour note.

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Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: That is your own judgement, but the members will testify and so too as the people.

The Hon Lautafi, please reconsider this daylight savings time as a lot of parents have complained about their children having to get up very early for school particularly in Salafai where the roads are quite a distance. Please reconsider this once again due to the effects on children especially girls that have to walk a fair distance in the early hours and the incidents that have occurred. I will leave it with you, but a lot of families have made this suggestion.

To the Minister of Broadcasting another area observed is the use of Government employees and Government channels to promote Political Party affairs to make their announcements. Even Government employees in Savali and 2AP, they are starting to follow it. Who are we that you are rejecting, which Government are we part of? This is our government, our property, our media...

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the Savali newspaper is still available. TV3 and TV1 had complained about the journalists who were coming over to me. Mr Speaker you will remember that it was 2011 in March when a group of reporters from 2AP approached me days before the elections. They wanted to have a conversation with me as they did not have any news. Some of the issues they raised were questions concerning the elections of 2011. I had no idea this was to continue. But after 2 weeks 2AP reporters came over again to ask about developments. Mind you this was the time when Laauli was with us, and he likes to listen to these matters regarding measures for extending Government developments. So they came because of projects but it resulted in people taking an interest to listening to 2AP as I was clarifying all their questions. The Ministers were all here and I became tired of telling at my Ministers to go over and discuss these matters when they have the chance, and I also gave similar suggestions to CEOs that when the media approaches them, they should respond. There are other media outlets although when a Ministry gives an explanation, they would insult the clarification from that Ministry.

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The Chief Executive of the Ministry are not angels. What eventuates will be a feeling of hostility and when media reporters turn up again, they refuse to entertain their questions. So I am tired of telling them to answer to the media when asked. So consequently, I have been cornered by them. Because I am always in my office every day. My office closes on some days after 7, and when I do get home lots of people are waiting for me and I always give them a chance. TV1 came and claimed they wanted the same opportunity. I said to them, “Why don’t you record my interview with 2AP and publish that?” They said that because they were a Television station, they wanted the information directly from me. Soon afterwards TV3 came and then overseas media. Saying there is a gentleman that would like to interview me. I said well that is not simple, as I must also browse through the matters you give me. I replied that they go to 2AP to obtain my statements as it provides similar matters they want to query. But they insist on presenting their own questions to me directly.

Mr Speaker there was a time when I reprimanded 2AP and Savali. “Why do you not go over? Were you invited? They said, they were invited and that they would be accepted if we do come. The 2AP told me that they did went and were harshly told off by Laauli. When we walked in, they looked at us and when they saw the guy in the wheelchair, they despised us and vented loads of harsh words. Now these people are not angels. Who does that? Well, you are responsible for your own actions Laauli. You should be comfortable to accept people when they come to you. That is the reason they come to me and yet I am being blamed. Mr Speaker my answer is that I did not cause this. I mean I did not start this. The reason I responded is due to the allegations laid against the Government which is done and received by people overseas and then they are relayed to me. If I do not address these issues, then what? The Government will be blamed making it seem that the allegations are true.

Mr Speaker I am the one responding not the source of the allegations. What are they saying? That I am making defamatory remarks about you. Laauli I am not disparaging you. I am responding to the issues which you are disseminating overseas by which the people overseas are relaying to the media resulting in them asking me. What do I do? I must respond and clear the Government from these serious allegations laid against the Government.

Mr Speaker that is all I am doing. I am not dominating people or instructing them to interview the Government alone. The opportunity is open. The Government was charged during the leadership of Tootoalii stemming from a statement made by Tootoalii inside this House. “Tupua, you should approach me first to seek my approval of what you do since you are one of the people that likes to discredit people, causing an agitating Government”.

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Tupua heard that these are the words recorded in the Hansard and the Prime Minister was sued by the Leader of the Opposition. When the Government was charged, Tofilau had passed. So I had to answer to the outrage of the Leader of Opposition at that time. The question was put to me to which I replied, “There is an element that is not clear, since inside Hansard, it was an announcement made by Tofilau to the media, Tupua chuckled and said something which got us laughing at the time” What does that mean? It means the response of Tofilau with laughter means it was a joke. But the Parliament does not do such a thing, you are free to go to 2AP.

So that matter was heard in court. It hit me during my time as Prime Minister after Tofilau whom had passed at the time. It led to the Court’s summoning of Tofilau when Tofilau was already laid to rest 6 months later. The response I gave, there are words missing from the Hansard, the words are, “And then they laughed” that statement was said in jokingly manner inside the House and Tofilau chuckled about it with the rest of the members, but it was not printed in the Parliamentary records, there is no such words, “and the Assembly broke into laughter”. If those words were contained in Hansard, it would have explained that it was a statement made out of amusement to break the ice in the Assembly. I was then asked, is there such a practice in Parliament? My response was no, there is no such thing. The morning I became Prime Minister I called in all the journalists from Savali and 2AP and I informed them, that anyone from Opposition that wishes to make a media presentation, you should accept. You are professionals so you know what and what not to do as that is your role. You have the discretion to publicise what people want.

Mr Speaker the outcome of that court case was the Government were not involved in such practice. I advise Laauli to get a copy of that judgement from the court so that you will know the truth, but do not listen to rumours. Listening to the rumours from Faumuina and that man Olo will only lead you astray. Mr Speaker this is the statement.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you. The light is now getting clearer. The exchange of Leaders continues and should be understood. No one should interrupt. Between Leaders. When the Prime Minister speaks that is between us.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, it is now clear. Faumuina has made it very clear as Fiame is yet to officially join your party and become a member of FAST. As Faumuina stated, the role goes by age. So he is the Leader when he is not there Olo becomes Leader and you Laauli are the youngest of you three.

So unless they are not available you shall then become Leader. But since I see that all three of you are Leaders, that is how I address you as the Leader, but now that I know, the other two, do not disrespect your Leader Laauli.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, what is missing in Parliament is this, ‘and Parliament broke into laughter.’

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of you Olo. Yes as I was about to say, and Parliament broke into laughter and its proceedings was set aside for recess.

All that will be noted; however recess will be an opportune time to decide who the true Leader is.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for usual recess at 10:40am and resumed at 11:34am

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

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now resume.

I do believe that members have all been rejuvenated to continue with our business. Upon suspension of proceedings the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 was addressing Parliament.

I call on the member to continue and I advise that your time is up, it is your interrupting time is now being used. I call on the member.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you for the respect. Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, but I will allow the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I gather that the members time is almost up. At the same time, I have noticed that the speech of the member is quite extraordinary today.

In saying that I am of the view and subject to your discretion of course. Allow the member to voice his complete preparation. The minutes that were omitted and unintentionally so was due to an issue which needs to be clarified. However, the speech of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 has been enlightening and a joy to hear. This is a request to the Chair.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since the Hon Prime Minister is advising the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 Hon Laauli to complete his preparations. I am of the view that I should accept the suggestion. The member is listening, and I will advise that only constructive ideas should be presented which should take up your remaining time.

I call upon the member, Hon Laauli.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you. I need not praise the gesture of nobility shown. Thank you to the Leader of Government and I will repeat the words of the orator, thank you for the compassion, thank you for your generosity and of course your respect honorable Mr Speaker.

I understand that refreshments had been enjoyed and boost us energy to continue with my statement on behalf of my constituency. This is the feeling I have hence my suggestions earlier to the Leader of the Government to make good use up the remaining time we have left.

The Hon Minister of Police and Prisons, I will repeat my recommendation concerning the Liquor Board. Police records state that there are over 3,000 serious accidents from technology, murder, violence against women and children and car accidents caused by alcohol. I will put this to you once again, as there are far too many reports from the Police which directs to the consumption of vodka which I had earlier given some advice on.

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Products are once again seen on shelves with different labels. It is dangerous and poisonous for the country, and I wish to raise it again. This product is like a game, with a simple mixture before placing them on shelves. However, it does bring a huge effect on our people's health. It is recorded at Samoa Victim Support that there are 3,500 cases of domestic violence and violence against women. Please Hon Minister do look into this issue.

I applaud the effort implemented around the rural area of the raids on illegal substances, I am grateful to the Police and am pleased that no one was hurt. But do look out for meth around town as stated by the Prime Minister as this is a very harmful drug. Yet no one has been apprehended for the making of this drug. I put forth this matter before you Hon Minister to look into it seriously.

Considering the main matter before us well that is my view. To the Minister of Finance as I mentioned earlier, our financial policies guide the Ministry of Finance and your allocation of resources is rather important particularly this service right now. Mr Speaker with all due respect may I say that our session is now going on to 3 weeks. I do not really want to be seen as opposing the unanimous decision of Parliament. But if you are to add up the cost of expenses incurred for this session. Hon Minister of Finance do look into this aspect. This is unnecessary burden on top of what we already have with the pandemic and the scarcity of resources.

Our Main Financial estimates was \$116million and that is all we have to fund everything. If you calculate the expenses incurred, it would not be less than \$10,000 to \$15,000 the cost incurred on us when you include everything from the wages of the public servants. I will put it to you for your consideration. As I have said before and referring to policies and you do have the wisdom, but it is just that at this particular time we are criticised for our roadshow and giving out money. We have explained the nature of our culture and the Samoan way of doing things. When visitors arrive the matais greet them through an ava ceremony which cannot be avoided. When a response is also made, it must be done over a feast. I will first of all acknowledge the dignitaries of the Falefia and Falesalafai but if I may ask the Hon Minister of Finance whether there has been a change in Government policy concerning monetary gifts in funerals and I refer to the recent passing of Fiu Loimata.

I was on social media and came across the Government offering of \$10,000 for this funeral. The policy which I am familiar with is when a member of Parliament dies a monetary gift of \$3,000 is to be given and \$5,000 for a Minister however, \$10,000 was given.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member as I call upon the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker this arrangement has been around for quite some time now. It was done during the regime of Tofilau right to this day. Sometimes there is the strong urge of compassion towards the family and that cannot be denied. Such is the nature of being flexible with your decision making. The objective is to provide this type of monetary gift for every member of Parliament that deceases and I must say that it is difficult not to do this. You have just spoken about our traditions and culture. These aspects have been around for a long time, and it was instigated during our time. This is the act of respect given to a grieving family and includes the honour guard by the Police. It rarely happens when a member of Parliament passes away whereby, the police perform the honour by presenting the flag. It is the respect accorded to those who deserves it. So when you die, it shall be done to you.

Mr Speaker, it is a government norm. With overseas countries it is only the flag but with us we also implement our traditions due to our compassion for the family since they also present traditional gifts to the people that attend. We were all there it would be rude to return the traditional gift given to you. I was happy you all accepted the traditional gifts given.

Mr Speaker that is the explanation since when we do attend such formalities it is not just trees that are there, people are present to host the Government when we officiate the service done around the grave site. Mr Speaker these are nothing new.

This is the response.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you and I really have no desire to initiate an argument. The reason I asked this was because during Tofa Pa'u Sefo Pau's funeral, \$5,000 was given. The same applies to members that have retired and have passed, a gift of \$3,000 was officially declared in policy. Thus is my querying of the \$10,000 given.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker that is how you measure things. What is the usual adage? *O le tofa fetalai ma le tofa fetuunai, o le tofa lena a le poto, a o le uta a le vale, e taofiofi mamau.* Wisdom requires a flexible mind, but the trait of the fool is being stubborn. Mr Speaker it is sad that the member brings this up in the Assembly, the respect which we had accorded to a brother who was here and has made a contribution back in the day with his father.

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I had thought these matters would not be criticised. It is a gesture of respect accorded to those who once served here in this House. Which has prompt me to question the wisdom you possess. Mr Speaker, I did not expect Laauli and FAST to criticise the Government attending the funeral of a member that served here. This is the kind of situation whereby our government can only perform such traditional gesture. Mr Speaker it also includes Church Leaders whom the Government officially recognised. It covers the recognition of people by the Government based on honorary distinctions or great achievements they have done for the country. I did not anticipate Laauli would go there. Well until you are here then you can do as you have stated. This Government are adhering to the policies already established by our forebears.

Mr Speaker this is assistance towards the member.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I do not have such inclination...

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker I wish to make an additional comment over the Government clarification...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of Laauli but I will allow the Minister of Education.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: In light of the statement given before the Assembly. I want to contribute since I have become the spokesperson of Government under these circumstances. It seems that Laauli is alarmed by the situation since this is the first funeral he has attended and is consequently surprised with the 10 figures. But the policy has been altered for quite some time now raising this number to \$10,000.

The member recently passed is not the first case as there were 3 or 4 other late members' funerals that have had this monetary gift application. So it is not new.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you, the additional remark is clear.

MR SPEAKER: I am of the view Laauli that you should move on to another matter. It is difficult as the constituencies and families of the late members are tuning in and are hearing us discussing this matter. It makes one mortified.

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When it comes to matters like this the voice of the lady from Paia becomes awfully quiet as the saying goes. The gesture we have implemented becomes worthless if we are to rediscuss it. I appease the member to move away...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I have apologised to the Falefia and Falesalafai. I am not criticising the gift from Government as it must be done. I am otherwise questioning Government policies since I was in charge of Pa'u Sefo Pa'us funeral whereby the Government gifted \$5,000. What has surfaced is different. I will say no more.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: A point of order against the matter being pursued by the member. I feel that he should not have raised this issue here since it is a gesture of respect accorded to a late Member of Parliament with other paramount chiefs from other constituencies. The monetary gift we have given is very minimal compared to what the families prepare as their loved one's final gesture on his behalf. It is simply not enough but the Government cannot meet it. What we can do is simply give our gesture of respect to recognise the service provided by this person for the Government. We also do this for the Church Leaders and people that the Government have already officially recognized.

Mr Speaker this is normal process by the Government. To pay respect to those who deserve it. I did not anticipate I would waste a lot of my time on this issue. I know that the aim of your complaint is to create a friction which is ruining your speech that is nearing completion.

You actually began your speech by firstly calling God to grant you humility and a sense of forgiveness. That is now totally useless since you have cursed the Governments gesture of respect. Yet you were there, and I know your motive.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Hon Prime Minister your trouble making is becoming serious.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I am not causing trouble but responding to you.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Do not twist words. I beg of you.

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of Laauli but I will allow...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I do not understand what he is driving at, but that is how it is, and it was done for his father. Why did you not stop it? If you were not satisfied with the gesture, you should have got up with your oratory staff and speak. I do not accept the gesture of respect shown for my father who was in Cabinet for a long time and his son now following in his footsteps. Mr Speaker that is my final assistance. It seems that the gesture of respect has become trivial and such matter should not be discussed by anyone. That is the prerogative of Cabinet and me. Now he is claiming that I am causing trouble. Who raised this? He did it and that is trouble making.

Mr Speaker, I forgive him. What is the interpretation of constituencies which you have recently visited? What will they notice, these are the villages where you went with you troubles and take the glorious name of God. Mr Speaker, your actions and words you speak are measured by your personality.

Mr Speaker this is reason for taking the floor again.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I am of the view that we should never discuss the elements of traditional gifts. The adage pertains to Faleata is that Losi will be eating the food given with pain. I simply cannot say anything about it. The wisdom of a chief should be flexible for there are days when we get money and days when we become poor. The other thing is the matter you are raising relates to you and it does make one embarrass Laauli. My brotherly advice is that you change the subject.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker thank you. My concern is that we are making these claims, yet the people are listening, but I will change the subject.

I did raise this due to policies and Government laws, but I will leave it at that. I apologise to the Falefia and Falesalafai in case you misinterpret my stance although I am sincere and have no ill feelings.

Hon Minister of Communication, I did mention this earlier concerning the opportunity to make publications of our campaign and everything we are debating. We tried every avenue, but it seems that the staff are greatly affected by the write ups and particularly the questions which they ask the Leader of Government. This is the root of the trouble, and you are witnessing my being branded to be causing trouble with vile comments. The people have heard that we have never said a word that discredits the Leader of the Government. We are addressing him as the Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister.

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai: I rise again for it seems that the issue sort of became silent for a while and now the member strikes again at this Ministry. A point of order to the people that does the reporting and staff members that implements the interviews of these programmes. They carry out their roles applying their own ideas and the research which they have done. It is not just one subject as they go out and do their research which they base their interviews on. It is similar to the publicity done by this Group on TV2 which they are dominating. Where they ask their own questions, and they are not simple questions but real constructive ones.

I have said before that an opportunity is available on 2AP and the Government television. But there is a charge that must be paid to run the programme. The Prime Ministers programme with 2AP is not charged but it does accumulate a lot of money for the Government through 2AP. It would be very easy to sell the programme where we find people and businesses which would agree to have their business advertised during this slot. This programme has become very popular, and we have realised this during the many years it has been running. It is very easy to get people to agree to have their business advertised during this time slot due to the constructive issues discussed during programme. This is why we have tried to put together a programme to sell your articles. The problem is, not one business is interested nor keen to support it.

That is the difficulty on our part. But if you want to have a programme there are terms of conditions and the cost charge by 2AP to run your topics. With the questions towards the Prime Minister well the reporters are not restricted to ask in order to do their reports. People are allowed to ask whatever questions they want. It is just like how the country are perceiving your group. This is further clarification on the matter.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I rise to clarify the matter by the Hon Minister. His announcement that there is no charge for the Prime Ministers programme. The reason for that is because I am not the one asking for the interview. I do not want them to come it is them approaching me. Unless I want them to publicise my statements, I would then need to pay a charge.

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It is the same if I ask TV1 to come and record my programme I would then have to pay for it, the Government will cover that charge. But the problem is there are no programmes which I want to do. It is them that are persuading me to do this. When they come to persuade me, why would the Government pay for it, there is no reason why we should pay, it is their wish. It does not mean they want to do the program, but the Government pays no that is not how it is done. That is business and what you desire you pay for it. But if they come to me, the Government has no money.

You see how wonderful the tactics I am applying in order to save money for the Government. How fortunate your group are for having lots of money. You want to have a programme so pay for it. As for me I do not like doing these things as I have a lot of constructive work to do. The people are waiting for their projects to be done but it is interrupted by these guys wanting to do their programmes. But the problem is I always give them a chance. Mr Speaker that is the actual fact in case I am being interviewed at no charge. No it should not be the case they should pay for it as it is them wanting to interview me. If I wanted to do this the Government would pay for it. But that is the thing I do not want to do any interviews and be paid by Government. If they do it, they will have to pay their own bills.

Susuga Hon LAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, our role is to support and give you recommendations to assist with our purpose. To the Minister of Communication, I understand that your expertise in technological matters is paramount, and I fully respect that. The main thing I aim to put forth is equal opportunities for all. It is our 2AP and TV, it belongs to all of us. But when we carry out our political affairs HRPP gives the go ahead to speak whilst the rest are left with nothing.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of Laauli, I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Sailele Malielegaoui: There are equal opportunities available to them. So equal opportunity is such that when you want it you have to pay for it. That is how it works, if I want the same the Government pays for it since I am the Prime Minister. That is also the reason they approach me since I am the Prime Minister. If it is a HRPP programme, HRPP pays for it. This is the truth, but the problem is what is happening, are things that they want. What they do want are the journalist of Government programs. Mr Speaker those are the facts.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I will no longer pursue this argument. I am of the view...

MR SPEAKER: Patience Laauli, as the Chair makes an announcement.

These are simple matters and I say it because it is merely a difference in beliefs. It is a measure of delivering your intentions at this particular time. It may be simple, but the Government will not let it go without an explanation concerning the queries and claims against the Government. With the restrictions on your group as you have stated. Well, I beg your indulgence but do conclude your remarks with the matter you are on.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I will say no more what I was trying to get across concerns these programmes. You are aware that the name I am being publicised throughout the world is Ro, Re and this guy. What are you called? Mr Speaker we are swallowing the poison of these words being made. It is his programmes that is causing catastrophes. Who is he Mr Speaker to allow these opportunities to vent out blasphemy, which is what I am saying.

MR SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will raise his point of order.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order. Olo is quite right, the statement that should follow is “and then we all laughed”.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: And they laughed, you have been caught, that is the actual line in its entirety.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, no I did ask Tofilau the other day, the Leader of our Party at the time. The Leader of the Opposition questioned this, what are you doing Tofilau? Tofilau responded that it was political strategy. That is my answer. Just in case you are wondering but I do observe strategy to strategy. If you do not follow those things, then why are you the leader? If you are a leader, you should have political strategy. But I think Faumuina is correct, that he is leader since he is older, then Olo would be next as for you, you are the youngest.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you, you may conclude.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: The only political strategy which I hold onto and believe in is honest political strategy. But with other types of dirty strategies, like murder strategy and all others, it is what they are familiar with. Therefore, I want to say, leader...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister, then the two of them laughed.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this is something we can joke about. Let me say that all your interviews with radios overseas which you think is indiscreet. Once your interviews are done, these people overseas report them all back here. The serious issues which you share overseas are the basis of those people's questions that bombards me seeking the truth. I must put them in line, and it does surprise you since you thought that it was only people overseas that knew about it, but I know about them all. The reason I have come to understand it is the fact that the media are quite smart themselves. They record your interviews and base their questions on those contents which they ask me. If you did not have these programmes criticising the Government, there would be no thought-provoking ideas for the media. We do not even have discussions on those issues. So it is like a boomerang which is a traditional tool of the Australian Aborigines which you throw and spins back to you. It reminds me of a senior announcer at 2AP back in the day who usually says, you must be cautious of these things for they will come back.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: This concludes my thoughts.

MR SPEAKER: The time of the member is up.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. Such are our objective as the public are listening. There was never a time when I spoke ill of your name on social media. Not even one day or one second. That I have spoken ill of your name out of respect for you Hon Prime Minister. I do swallow the bitterness and bear the plight. I continue to be covered with a sheet of thorns and dust. Why? Defending our mutual relations after all you are the chosen Leader, I too put my hand up for you.

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My apologies to the old guy but let us laugh about it, we will say that to end our spat. My suggestion is Tuilaepa, let us look forward to the election with content. Let us walk forth happily as Lufilufi claimed yesterday. Samoa has the discretion over its decision. With all our attempts and endeavour Hon Prime Minister the heavens realise the feeling and conviction that we are filled with courtesy.

As for being a leader, I was born as a leader, yes. All my life I do not serve with the desire to become matai. You all understand what we came through. All of you are the reason why this is a one-party state.

What is the reason for the demise of the other parties? Olo struggled to strengthen Tautua, but it never succeeded. Why? That was the mission they were engaged in. That is why. Do not forget and I have apologised to my colleagues. As for those who will be running against you, pray to God...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker a point of order as this was the time when I was with Tautua.

MR SPEAKER: And his brother takes the floor.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: You are correct, that was the time when I was with Tautua but I am somewhere else now. The Leader of this party is also correct. At the time it was just dirty strategies done by this guy which got us all in trouble. That is my point of order, with this new machinery it is only transparent and clean stuff being done by Laauli. I take my hat off to Laauli yet it was caused by these guys who are laughing. With respect.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Olo I am sorry, but you are correct. You are the only survivor out of the lot that were in Tautua. The other guys left all finding comfort elsewhere. You survived alone. The selection of a Leader for Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi family shall be revealed from God. On the very first day our political party was formed I said to God. You shall put together the group of people for this purpose. It was said that, oh there probably be only two or three, it would perhaps be just Olo and Faumuina. What now? Mr Speaker, this is our crew as the paramount chiefs and orators of the country are tuning in. They are the representatives proposed to reinstate the country. As for the Hon Prime Minister, pray to God as to who would be your counterpart when we return from the elections.

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That is our request and clarification and we do not mince words, but respect must be accorded to where it should go. The adage pertaining to this constituency is that whoever comes after should ask who came before. That is the fundamental basis. The prayer to God Mr Speaker is that we are united, whatever the Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi family will unanimously agree on shall be final. But my time is my time. At the moment I am the sa'o of the family, until Parliament dissolves, we shall meet and decide who shall become sa'o. The person shall be the counterpart of the Prime Minister.

Samoa and your prayerful support I will now conclude my remarks. This angler will now sail home to my constituency and supporters. When we go our separate ways, God is the light of our soul. He is the Holy Grail and is the provider of blessings for us all in our calling.

To my sister Faaulusau, my final words are to you. Thank you for this term we are in, and we should be proud of our time since there are two of us representing our constituency. I extend to you my well wishes and we should not let politics create friction. Since we are connected by blood and in saying that I wish you well with your aspirations. I appreciate your role providing service for our constituency I salute your accomplishments. As we now have the bridge at Aopo completed so praise God. It is our collective effort.

To the public at large, if I may have displayed shortcomings I ask of your understanding and forgiveness. Mr Speaker, I wish you well and my prayers is that you enjoy good health. I was fortunate to have had your company that taught me the chiefly and oratory ways.

Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and distinguished members and the support of my constituency here and abroad. Let us pray to God to grant us peace during the course of our election so the country remains in stability. That is also my fervent prayers to Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi. We do hope that we will experience a successful and liberated elections. Samoa let us make our selection with God. Soifua and blessings.

Parliament showed appreciation with applause at the conclusion of the speech by the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: I rise to commend the speech of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

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I had no intention of interrupting and had thought that I would wait until the speech ends before speaking on a matter that must be addressed. Yet the Minister interrupted on a very important issue which leaves us with this very issue raised at the beginning. I do not take this lightly and should not let it pass since it reflects the Parliament of Samoa. The member said at the beginning of his speech, “if it were not for Parliament, you would not have toiled” In other words the country of Samoa has toiled because of the Parliament of Samoa. This is a pillar which our ancestors dreamed of. Why? Within the walls of Parliament encompasses the authority of the whole of Samoa. *Aiga ma a latou Tama, faapea foi Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. The members of this Assembly are the mouthpiece of every constituency representing the paramount chiefs and orators throughout Samoa. They are to consider legislations in order to enhance the developments in all areas.

Children’s education as they are the treasures of parents, the treatment of the sick and the allocation of financial resources so that it is sufficient for every constituency. Moreover, the protection and security of our communities from criminals.

That is the main objective and focal point of the purpose in which the Parliament of Samoa was established. To elect members from constituencies representing chiefs and orators to deliberate the serious issues for the welfare of the country.

Since constituencies have bestowed honour to their representatives to voice opinions which will benefit communities. What does this mean? If it were not for the Parliament of Samoa, you would not have sullied. Sullied from doing what? Frustrated from what? So does it mean that he has been sullied because of the decisions made by this Parliament of Samoa?

Mr Speaker this statement is very serious. It does show minimal regard to the paramount chiefs and orators of this Parliament. The comment is rather inconsiderate and uncalled for towards the members of this Parliament. We have here the representatives of communities blessed by their electors and consecrated by their church Ministers to make decisions for the Government of Samoa. What kind of comment is this? If it were not for Parliament you would not have sullied. Does it mean that if it were not for Parliament the country would not be cursed? Because of the members presiding here and the Laws they have enacted to develop and protect the country.

Mr Speaker the comment is quite extraordinary and insensitive. It shows a lack of respect for the responsibilities of members within Parliament. It is a total disregard to the wisdom that had them elected by their constituencies and every statement made here by members represent their communities.

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In other words, our statements and everything we do here are all horrible and it has besmirched constituencies. Mr Speaker these words should be removed, deleted from the records of Parliament, it is a disgrace to all the districts of Samoa, and it is shameful for this Parliamentary term which has done many good things.

Mr Speaker, these are my thoughts, but I will leave these comments until later.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The comment should be removed from Hansard it is not suitable for the honor of this Parliament and the honor of the dignitaries that elected them.

Mr Speaker, it is not appropriate, and the decision of God to appoint all of them hence these are callings from God in our Christian belief. That is why I take the floor, to remove such words from in official records as it is inconsiderate.

MR SPEAKER: I call on...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker before you make a ruling I beg tolerance...

MR SPEAKER: The member of Gagaifomauga No.3...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I only require a minute to voice my stance but I know it will be removed. Whatever the Prime Minister says goes. I need a minute as the word I stated is different.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order. After one error another follows.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: What I am trying to say is different. I made the statement and so it is I that interprets it.

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

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member I call upon the Prime Minister...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The statement that once the Prime Minister speaks it shall then be removed. You were once Speaker Laauli and a decision is not made by one person alone. Matters are brought before the Assembly. You were Speaker and your inciting provocation is too much.

Mr Speaker this must be corrected, that I do not make the decisions in this Assembly.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I will allow...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: My apologies Tuilaepa...

MR SPEAKER: Laauli voice what is your interpretation of this... since I am of the view that our Standing Orders does not permit ambiguous statements. It is not acceptable in official recordings of Parliament.

You once occupied this Chair, and the role is to ensure members statements are in order since our statements during this term will be read by those that come after us. The feeling is such since there is a difference in your beliefs and opinions.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes, I beg tolerance of you but before you make your ruling Toleafoa I urge you.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, give me one moment to say this...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I am merely wanting to interpret what I said. "If it were not for Parliament, Samoa would not have toiled through sweat and its resources which we are being handed to allocate" that is what I meant. Who owns the resources which Parliament is allocating through this Budget? It is the sweat of the people, which is what I meant Toleafoa.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Samoa toiled through service and labour they are engaged in for the allocation by Parliament.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I will then...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: That is what I meant yet my words are being twisted to mean something else...

MR SPEAKER: If I may assist...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: My apologies.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Leaupepe it is sincere and it is I that made the statement and it is I that should interpret it.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: This is the style of the old man, getting up and twisting something to east and west misinterpreting what I said to be incorrect. The objective is that Samoa have toiled, through service for the country. That is what it means.

MR SPEAKER: Let me assist, well I note that the member...

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Thank you Mr Speaker, out of respect I did not interrupt the member. But I did make note of what was said, “If it were not for this Parliament, they would not have toiled” Laauli has provided the complete text of his statement. But I rise Mr Speaker to move a motion, *to remove the words that I have just read out.*

I mean to second it since it was moved by the Prime Minister, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. It works like that. There are those that rave and others that take note. That is the actual reality in my view.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker my apologies.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I apologise for what I may have said but God and country will judge the essence and reason behind what I said. It is the service of the people and the sweat from their labour which we are distributing. That is the context of toiled which I was referring to with all due respect, blessed day.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. If it were not for you Samoa, Parliament would not have toiled. That should be the actual context.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: You have the discretion since you possess wisdom.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: It was my statement. It is I that interprets it with respect.

MR SPEAKER: You are correct...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: And so we laughed, I have to go as I have matters to attend to with respect.

MR SPEAKER: We shall meet again...

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

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: We have a saying that goes, *“There are people that rave and others that make sense of it”* This statement is understood as they are lyrics to a song.

In other words, the lyric to that song is used as a metaphor to describe one entering Parliament. Meaning this Parliament has toiled or shall I say the whole country have struggled because of this Parliament. The comment is understood by every member here. This is criticism targeting all of us.

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Your personal view cannot simply be applied to interpret something. What about the Samoan saying? As you vent your thoughts, the public observes your every word. When we do meet with our constituents. They will say, how can you sit by and not correct the false claims made? It is the duty of every member of this Parliament to make right what is wrong.

This is also the method this Party started in the year 1983. The best time to straighten bent steel is while it is hot. You cannot leave it to another time.

Mr Speaker this is another reason for taking the floor.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, this concludes this matter.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Laauli...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Well Tuilaepa, you win.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Will leave it that, let the public judge our claims. God be the judge.

Thank you Mr Speaker for my opportunity. May we have a constructive meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I note that you are leaving and that is alright if that is your desire. But do understand that the Speaker interprets your statements.

I had made note of it. Now I do not take the Prime Ministers side whilst ignoring you. In saying that I beg tolerance of you Laauli and perhaps your conscious is correct, but your words came out different. That is the Chairs personal view.

Therefore, and it has been moved by the Prime Minister and seconded by a senior member to remove your statement and so will put the question to approve the removal of the statement from Hansard.

Motion approved.

[Words ordered by the Speaker to be removed from the record of the member's speech for Gagaifomauga No.3 – “A na le seanoa oe, a na le seanoa le Palemene lenei, e te le lailoa Samoa.”]

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MR SPEAKER: This would be beneficial in the years to come. Do not become anxious and too eager as it consequently tears the fishing net so to speak. So although you may get fish, but the fishing net is torn. Anyhow thank you for your remarks Laauli, Samoa is following our debate and so let us place our faith in God.

With our role well everyone has their own opinion but only God is justice which guides our path to the future and the engagement in the coming months for the government and public.

The floor is open for another member. Well I have been notified that the member of Faasaleleaga No.3 wishes to take the floor. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No3, Tofa Foleni.

Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU (Faasaleleaga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I will firstly acknowledge the grace of God for this new day with our deliberations. We are now in the second day of this second month. The providence of God is great. Thank you, God, for your love and for guiding Samoa this year so far, despite problems, diseases and troubles throughout the world Samoa remains stable. In saying that God, we praise you. My soul may I praise Thee and let us not forget the blessings from God. In the morning praise Thee, and in the evening pray and praise His faithfulness. Thank you.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the invocation voiced by you on our behalf seeking Gods providence upon us in our deliberations. May our praises be sound to God.

I convey greetings Mr Speaker with your role of presiding over the Assembly of Samoa. I acknowledge the dignitaries of this Assembly here at Tiafau, the court where the people grievances are sorted. This is the court where wisdom and vision is considered and the home of the authority of chiefs and orators. In respect to its honorific salutations.

I will start by conveying my well wishes to you Mr Speaker, Afioga Toleafoa Leaupepe Faafisi. I appreciate your leadership and role of presiding over our Sittings during this term. I note your stable state of wellbeing, physical strength and in spirit. Why? It is a testament to your calling to preside over Samoa's Parliament.

I also recognise the office of the Legislative Assembly with the Clerk and his Deputy and the whole staff for the wonderful work they do, I thank you for your service. I have witnessed during this term your perseverance and had toiled throughout the days and nights. So my commendations to your office and it is not just the service for Parliament but the preparation of food and refreshments.

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I recall the start of this term at Tuanaimato and the loads of responsibilities. We should be grateful to the Lord for we are able to conclude the term back here. That is evident of God's grace which provides us with opportunity. So commendations to the staff of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

I turn to this side and also convey my gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister the Leader of Government Susuga Tuilaepa Malielegaoi. I commend you for your patience and courage. For there have been countless problems under your leadership. I appreciate the good work you have done, and I applaud you for being afraid in the Lord. After all you were called by God to lead Samoa. It is confirmed through the past terms that you remain in good health. I applaud Cabinet for the many projects and your support of the Prime Minister. The projects are running smoothly due to your sense of cooperation. Congratulations and thank you for having the courage and patience during difficult situations. There have been a lot of challenges, yet I have witnessed the presence of Gods spirit within our Parliament.

I must also relay my commendations to that side of Chambers and recognise the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and members for your role. It is our collective responsibility to enact laws. Thank you for the work, especially the many seminars thank you.

If I may say to the Associate Ministers, we were selected by the Ministers themselves and I congratulate you for your supportive role to Cabinet. Least I forget the Sergeant at Arms and police officers for the service they provide to ensure the security and safety of everyone. I applaud your courage and integrity during the course of implementing your roles.

I express appreciation to the Chief Executive Officers and Associates throughout Government Ministries and Private Enterprises. I thank you for the support you provide since you are the backbone of the Government. We are approaching the end of the term, yet we have not had any problems. I realised there were times when obstacles surfaced but you came through it. Your lives were at risk at times during the course of your duties. So I applaud your perseverance and vigilance.

Allow me also to convey my appreciation to the support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo and his consort, thank you for the work you do. I also extend the same token to the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. For their support given in governmental matters which benefits the country.

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I also acknowledge the support from the various religious denominations throughout the country. Thank you for your prayers. This is one of the sources of blessings for Parliament is your invocation day and night. If we are a nation founded on God, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit there is no other source which we look up to other than our fervent prayers and fasting.

Samoa, and your support. Such are the respects of *Tama ma Aiga, o Aiga ma Tama, Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*, thank you. I do believe that the success of our role is largely to do with your prayers and support. Thank you again.

I cannot forget to mention the support of our brothers in Tutuila and Manua and their Government, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor as are the respects of *Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu Saelua, Tootoo o le Faleula, Tama a le Manuatele*.

I acknowledge my constituency and all the traditional salutations representing them. Thank you for your prayers for your representative and also for the welfare of Samoa and its Parliament.

The theme of my speech is the sense of gratitude and commendation. There is a saying familiar to this Parliament and that is, what is good for Upolu is good for Savaii. What is good for Savaii is good for Upolu. This is a very crucial saying and causes me to express appreciation to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and also the Chief Executive Officers for implementing the various projects throughout the country. Being from Savaii we have witness the numerous changes around Upolu and the township of Apia. With the infrastructure including roads the water supply and the essential needs. Thank you for the macro projects. The dedication ceremonies for these projects are gradually continuing and I know the government objective is to publicise their achievements. The apostle did say that “the faith grows due to labour” When there is no work done the faith withers. So hence my gratitude to the Government for all the good work done and there have been many here in Upolu. Let me speak of Savaii. I know that if you go to Savaii you will witness the many changes there. I can say that Savaii is the same as Upolu for what is good for Upolu is good for Savaii. The first thing are our roads all round Savaii from Saleleloga towards Palauli going to Salega to Asau and the Itu o Tane through Faasaleleaga it is simply beautiful.

In the past the state of roads was poor but as we head into the future and particularly with this Government, I can testify that roads are in excellent condition. So I thank you since roads is foremost in the minds of people. Why? Well with some families owning 3 to 4 vehicles. So the roads are now convenient to use particularly when the switch was made to change the side of the road to travel on in 2009.

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We are now witnessing the increase in the number of vehicles in Savaii and Upolu. The reason for the increase in the number of vehicles is the fine state of roads all around and even going inland to plantations, so thank you for the great work.

I also appreciate the road going towards Fusi Safotulafai and heading inland to Patamea and also heading towards the prison at Vaiaata. This very road connects to the bridge done some years ago at Maliolio it is wonderful and is a sturdy project. Although the road is near completion the works are continuing.

The other factor which allows me to speak of this road is the fact that the Mormon College at Tapueleele is located within this vicinity. A lot of students from around Savaii attend this college at Vaiola. That is the vitality of this road and also the prison is located at Vaiaata. I know that work continues to upgrade the prison with housing and premises for the purpose of providing rehabilitation for the youths at Vaiaata.

I am particularly thankful for the prison at Vaiaata due to the projects being done there. With plantations, bananas growing as well as vegetable gardens including cabbages, pumpkins and so on. This prison is like an agricultural school due to the abundance in supply of crops and vegetables due to the topsoil at this location. So in saying that I thank the Minister of Police and also the management of Polices and Prison for their development programmes for Vaiaata. The other factor that is important is that a lot of crops such as taro and so forth are being supplied to Tanumalala. Feeding the population at the Tanumalala Prison. The title rehabilitation is evolving just fine. Meaning their lives are rehabilitation and that includes their conduct and also the effective management of this prison.

For your information there is hardly any incidents occurring at Vaiaata. There is hardly and problems like prisoners escaping. The management is steady, and the surety measures are effective. It was only back in the day. But with the previous 5 years to the present things are good and so thank you to the Commissioner of Police and the force and thank you for the wonderful services.

I would now speak of Salelologa this township is still very much at the stage of development. However, there have been quite a lot of improvements done already at Salelologa. The current project in the works is the upgrade of the NPF premises north of the new market. I think it is about 3 or 4 stories high. So gratitude to the Minister of Finance for this development but also the Ministry. I have heard that other Government agencies and Ministries will have its offices within this very building. To make travelling convenient. Particularly with services like senior pensions and also public servants with money for their needs. Thank you for this and I know it would most probably be next month when this project would be dedicated.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I interrupt the member's speech, the wonderful senior like remarks. Since we have come to our usual adjournment hour, and at the end of business for the day.

Therefore, I believe, with the grace of God hopefully we will conclude your speech tomorrow. There is also a suggestion since you are upstanding, if you could kindly conclude our session with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:57pm until Wednesday, 03rd February 2021 at 9:00am.