

21 JANUARY 2020

**TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2020**

*The Legislative Assembly met at 9:07am pursuant to Parliamentary Sitting Programme 2019/2020.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully greet the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister as well as the members of Cabinet as well as the honourable members of Parliament. I also extend my heartfelt greetings to the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations on your hard work and services to the Parliament and the Government of Samoa.

I also acknowledge the support of Samoa, from noble chiefs to the youngest, heed us your support for our success.

**NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Pursuant to Standing Orders 76 of Parliament, the Notice is hereby before the Legislative Assembly to consider the following Bill:

1. Electoral Amendment Bill 2020.

**GIVEN** on this day 20<sup>th</sup> January in the year 2020

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

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**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

*The Clerk read out the Papers tabled pursuant to T.T.49 (2).*

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.124, Annual Report of the Central Bank of Samoa July 2018-June 2019.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.125, Annual Report of the National Kidney Foundation of Samoa 2018/2019.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.126, Annual Report of the Samoa Housing Corporation 2019.
4. P.P.2019/2020 No.127, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Insurance Corporation 2019.
5. P.P.2019/2020 No.128, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority 30th June 2019.
6. P.P.2019/2020 No.129, Samoa Law Reform Commission Report on the Review of the Judgment Summonses Act 1965-Final Report 23/19.
7. P.P.2019/2020 No.130, Annual Report of the Parliamentary Pension Scheme 2019.
8. P.P.2019/2020 No. 131, Annual Report of the National Provident Fund 2019.
9. P.P.2019/2020 No. 132, Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour 2019.
10. P.P.2019/2020 No. 133, Annual Report of the Samoa Post 2019.
11. P.P.2019/2020 No. 134, Annual Report of the NUS 2017/2018.
12. P.P.2019/2020 No. 135, Annual Report of the NUS 2018/2019.
13. P.P.2019/2020 No.136, Annual Report of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure 2019.
14. P.P.2019/2020 No.137, Annual Report of the Development Bank of Samoa 2019.
15. P.P.2019/2020 No.138, Annual Report of the Public Service Commission 2018/2019.
16. P.P.2019/2020 No.139, Annual Report Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority 2018/2019.
17. P.P.2019/2020 No.140, Annual Report of the Samoa Airport Authority 2019.
18. P.P.2019/2020 No.141, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority 2018/2019.
19. P.P.2019/2020 No.142, Annual Report of the Ministry for Revenue 2018/2019.

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**PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEES REPORTS**

*The Clerk read out the Papers tabled pursuant to T.T.52 (2).*

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.120, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.17, Annual Report of the Land Transport Authority 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.121, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.18, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority 2017/2018.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.143, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the First Supplementary Estimates 2019/2020.
4. P.P.2019/2020 No.144, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No.1, Annual Report of the Office of the Public Trustee 2017/2018.
5. P.P.2019/2020 No.145, Report of the Standing Orders Committee on P.P.2019/2020 No. 71, Annual Report of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly 2016/2017.
6. P.P.2019/2020 No.146, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.16, Annual Report of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology 2017/2018.

**MOTION BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission, the Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission):** Mr Speaker, this morning is different as it is the first Session of the House this year, and the final year for this Parliamentary term. Before I stand to conduct my duties as the Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission, I stand with the utmost caution in case I make a major mistake.

Mr Speaker, I would like to greet the dignity of the House this morning, as well as the support of Samoa. Greetings to the Chair, the honourable Speaker, now that you have delivered praises to God for his love and kindness upon us this morning, let us glorify the Lord in all things, as he has led us here today in good health to fulfil our first duties this year.

I also greet the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet this morning, greetings, as well as the honourable Deputy Minister. I also acknowledge the presence of the honourable Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and representatives of Parliament gathered here this morning.

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**Electoral Amendment Bill 2020**  
– first reading

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the Government Heads; I acknowledge your hard work and your patience as we begin this year.

Greetings also to the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, thank you for your hard work and the coordination of activities for this year.

Mr Speaker, I stand to move the motion, That the Legislative Assembly approves the Sitting Program for the 2020/2021 presented herewith as approved by the Parliamentary Commission.

<b>Month Day</b>	<b>Month Day</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>
<i>January 21</i>	<i>June 16</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>March 17</i>	<i>August</i> <i>18</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>October</i> <i>6</i>		

Presented herewith with due respect. Thank you.

*Seconded by the member for Lefaga and Faleaseela, the member for Falealili and the member for Safata West.*

*Motion approved.*

**ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2020**  
– first reading.

**Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU (Minister of Justice and Courts Administration):** Mr Speaker I stand to move the motion, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill 2020 will now be read a first time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.*

*Motion approved and the Electoral Amendment Bill 2020 was read a first time.*

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**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.1) 2019/2020  
– debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Orders, the debate will now proceed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020.

This is an opportunity for any member to speak of the financial and economic matters and the State's monetary policies.

I commend and remind the members not to mention each issue each item of the Bill in your statements. Each item will be addressed during the detailed review, after we have the debate on the second reading.

With respect I call on the members to speak on our Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1).

I call on the honourable member for Salega East. It will be good for the member for Salega East to start.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you, though it seems like the cold morning is making it difficult for the House to stand, but thank you Mr Speaker for our opportunity.

I trust our Father in heaven is listening, as you have already offered prayers of thanks to his love and guidance, that has lead us here to perform our duties for this year, thank you.

Mr Speaker, with the utmost respect I stand before the Parliament, it is the field of Samoa, to make a contribution on behalf of my constituency of Salega East. I also acknowledge the support of Samoa in all its honorific salutations.

There is a belief in Salega East that neither our words nor our wisdom can untie the bonds of Taemanutavae. Metaphorically speaking, we may count the pearls of the sea, why? Because the depths of the sea may be deep and dark, but the fish always finds its way home. Ona faapea lea o sa matou tala lau Afioga, ia nuunuu atu ia i le usoga a Tumua ma Pule i le latou fatuaiga tausii.

Before we move on to the event this morning, there is something I want to state. I am in possession of a gift from the Avele class of 1980, to be given to the Minister of Health, for the purpose of assisting in preparations for the repairs of defects caused by the disease which affected our country. Since the old pupils of Avele living in New Zealand, Australia and here are tuning in, I have achieved your desires to present your gift to the Government. Now that the election is near, and if you were to offer another gift, bring something that will oppress the anger of the Leader of the Tautua Samoa that I will be meeting with.

To the Hon Minister of Health, I will hand you this cheque in due time. It is a small donation and monetary gift of \$6,000 from the fundraising of our people overseas and here in the islands.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

**MR SPEAKER:** To the honourable member, it would be better if you say exactly how much assistance the old pupils of Avele gave, for the sake of Samoa gave listening.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** It is uncertain if it is \$6,000 or \$60,000, but I will give it to the Minister. It is \$6,000 your honor with all due respect.

And so I offer some advice, starting with the Minister of Health. We have a lot of white vans, but Foailalo does not have an ambulance. It would be good if those vans were to be distributed to every hospital. They will be upgraded to an ambulance later, but at least they will have a vehicle for emergencies. So when there is another disease outbreak, there are emergency vehicles available. Another thing is the usage of personal vehicles owned by the doctors that go to the rural areas to help each constituency although, these vans would be better if it is in accordance with your desire.

Therefore, we did not voice any opinion in relation to the disease outbreak. Because we were awaiting the report of the State of Emergency in accordance to the constitution. Although, I notice the progress of our orders, there is no such thing, as such, I aim to make a statement on the Budget.

Mr Speaker, this is the main issue of discussion in Parliament, it is the focus for any Government in the World right now. Why? Because of the astonishing situation and severity of the disease that affected us. Mr Speaker, we should not neglect, abandon nor take it lightly. Why? Because Samoa is filled with tears and heartbreak, and the close relationships between parents and their children were destroyed. Furthermore, our economy was affected, and we were living in confusion and even questioned what exactly this problem is all about. Mr Speaker, we can always gain clarity when given clarification. All lessons are learnt when we gain understanding. If our Government failed, find out the reason why. If it is our country that failed find out why. We can easily work together when people understand each other. Because the truth is, our Government cannot do anything without the assistance from the country. This means, we must analyse and clarify the problem, and should prioritize it for preparations in the future. If the measles is spreading to other parts of the world, there is a chance that more diseases that are serious will come to our country. Different diseases have different preventions. Therefore we have are several preparations to do right now, not only for the people but also for our environment, which will jeopardize our economy in the future.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

The truth is Mr Speaker; there are various kinds of diseases that is affecting the whole world today. I can also assure you that if the ebola were to affect us, luckily, it was the measles, but if it was the ebola, we would have been devastated. Thus, we must be fully prepared and be vigilant of these types of situations. Mr Speaker, we do not intend to point fingers on whom to blame for the error. But now we must work hard together to strengthen our policies and implement with honesty, so that we have corporate plans, as this is one area we are looking at for planning purposes for the future in preparation of infectious diseases.

Mr Speaker, I testify that we were only notified about the measles in March of last year by New Zealand, for seven months, we were living under suspicion, speculations and uncertainty, why? We did not have a global academic plan, or a pandemic emergency response plan to guide the process of our rescue work for our country. I assure you that is why Tonga, Fiji and American Samoa did not have casualties. Why? They had very good pandemic plans in place and so their health policies are well implemented.

Mr Speaker, I will be honest for the future of the House. No life would be lost if we had a pandemic emergency response plan. That is the truth; we also did not have a state of emergency that has threatened our economy. Take a look at the cost...

**MR SPEAKER:** I do not want to interfere with the eloquent speech of the current member, given the situation of the disease that has affected the lives of our country. However, I would like to remind the member that the statement by the Minister has already been tabled, given this whole issue in our last Meeting. And so, I beseech the member, as I do not want to interrupt your speech. But set your issue aside, until it is time for the Ministerial speech by the Prime Minister. In case you are wasting time on this issue, but there are some things that the constituency would.... Our election is not far away. But let me remind you...what the constituency wants to improve.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, as I am getting tired of making requests for this constituency perhaps time will be available for my constituency. Maybe it is because I am in the opposition or something like that. Nevertheless, it is true, as the Maiden Speech of the Hon Prime Minister is not tabled although it is a little thought provoking, thus is reason I am upstanding. Remember the words of the country, even though we are weak and simple but when we raise our concerns, the purpose is to build our Government.

Mr Speaker, also at this time...

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**MR SPEAKER:** The Government is not ignoring your concerns. Rather this is a reminder. There is no corruption in the Government, for we already have policies and conditions in place, which is the opinion of the member.

That is the reminder, although I will leave it to the member, if the matter on disease will take up your whole time, the constituency is listening. Go ahead.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, I would just like to remind our Government. All countries are now preparing for the pneumonia that is spreading in China. My concern is that, they have started to implement their pandemic plans, as three major airports in America have been stopped, with doctors on standby to screen people that are travelling to China. That is why it is good to have plans. American Samoa did the same when they heard the reports from our country about the measles. They managed to implement the port of entries at the wharfs and airports to form up blocks. The disease is monitored with people that have been vaccinated and people who have not been vaccinated.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, we have the Report of our Committee in relation to the State of Emergency Committee, which I have just received. It will probably be discussed at a Cabinet meeting this week and then brought before the Parliament. The financial assistance from the measles is also included in our Budget. Furthermore, in regards to the disease outbreak in China, I have already discussed it in my normal interviews on television, ‘Time with the Prime Minister’. The Ministry of Health has long been offering the various awareness programs of this pandemic disease. This disease can affect the respiratory system.

The case with the lung that could also affect the stomach, our Ministry of Health has already made a move on it, the woman Minister will speak about it later. That is just a reminder. You only knew about it yesterday while our Ministry of Health have known about it a long time and has made normal preparations on it. It is similar to your statement about the measles.



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– second reading debate**

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Keep in mind; when it comes to the measles these are the things that makes Samoa unique. As I mentioned, the Westerners do not understand it so as our people who think like them, whether or not they know the state of our culture, especially the tragedy that occurred in Savaii. In fact, no one ever wanted to vaccinate their children, given the unclear outcome of the trial. But they made preparations.

Perhaps a clarification will be made on this case that it has long overdue regarding our culture and the usage of our traditional medical treatments. If it was left to December of the previous year, unavoidable problems would have come about. Because all the children that died was due to the decision of their mothers who did bring them to get the necessary treatments, instead, they decided to use traditional Samoan remedies. Perhaps everyone in this House was treated using the traditional Samoan remedies, because the vaccine was first introduced in 1963. Therefore, people that were born before 1963, they were treated using the traditional Samoan treatments. Well what can be done if the mother still refuses? In case, we lift the ban and result to more deaths due to refusing to get vaccinations.

Mr Speaker, no matter how much you try to explain something, the issues will always surface and we all understand it too, it does not mean that no one understand the cause of these things. Mr Speaker, I will further speak on it when the time comes for the Cabinet to respond.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Well, thank you to the Hon Prime Minister for the reminder. Mr Speaker, we have a concern, in terms of the implementation of the policies, if you look at the time of the measles, our Government announced the stoppage of people at the airport if they arrive without injections. What happened? Everyone came with their vaccination papers but no one from the Ministry checked them. What if those people are bringing in another disease? That is why I am standing, as I aim to clarify this issue. Also last Saturday, American Samoa prohibited Chinese people from entering their country to prevent the spread of the disease.

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– second reading debate

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the Minister will respond in due time as I do not want to argue, because if a person is persistent in argue its testimony, they will struggle to convince others, especially Olo, I can never omit any suggestions from Olo. No matter what idea we present, Olo is never convinced. That is why it is hard for me to argue with anyone.

I have already said that the Minister in charge will have time to respond. However, let me remind you that we still gave our notices until after the closing month on the 29th, and so our workers even had to go to the rural areas to deliver the injections, but it still did not change the beliefs of other people. They still decided not get any injection. They only agreed to bring their children to be vaccinated but it was too late.

Mr Speaker, that is the freedom of the individual to make his or her decision. So what is....do we send the police to arrest them? That is your own suggestion Olo, for the police to arrest them? Mr Speaker, those are our customs and tradition, people have their own rights to treatments. The only thing is the opportunity for vaccinations, if they are not brought.... The staff went to the rural. I wanted to see you. Many of them came and sat with us, as we discussed the plans that were made in front of the Government House on the 5th and 6th. I did not see you as well as all those who were criticising. In the meantime, set your knowledge to what should be done and let us work together.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, that is exactly what I am trying to explain.

**MR SPEAKER:** My advice... pardon the member, *o le uta a le poto e fetalai*. I just want to remind you that, yes, while approving a debate, but it means that we are going to...And the Government has said that there will be a time for the Minister of Health to respond. Because it cannot... that is your own will. What can we say to you if you are not satisfied with yourself. It is like that animal...Pardon the country listening in as stated by the elders, when words are heavy and stern they say, 'you can take a horse to drink at the river, but if the horse is not thirsty what are you going to do?' Well, please move on to something else...

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, I would like to apologize and I would also recommend you to speak with dignity. Your remarks are also unsatisfactory as my district is listening.

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**MR SPEAKER:** But those are the words of the country. If it satisfies the member then we will use these words, because those wordings make it easier to understand an issue. As the Prime Minister stated, do we send the police to arrest them? No, we compare it to this. Yes.

It is to make it easier for the country and the people to understand. Because you are stating your own will, it is what you want. Well, this is why I offer a suggestion, but I beseech the member to move on to something else.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Well, you have the authority your honour, that is my own opinion, but be patient and listen to my opinion on some issues I will mention in my opinion.

Mr Speaker, that is exactly the spirit in which your member is striving for. As mentioned in the past, this member is not trying to point fingers on who is wrong, and where the problem lies. I am only offering a few suggestions, as we have noticed the leadership of the Government by the Hon Prime Minister, because he is not aware of all the problems.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member as I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the member, is it your desire for us to send the police to arrest those who do not want to vaccinate their children? It is a straightforward question, yes or no.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, why would they go, who stopped the vaccination of children? You, that is why these children died, because you stopped the vaccination of these children for a whole year. That is the response to your question. Mr Speaker that is what I am trying to explain you honour...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I will say it again, children are vaccinated but are still dying, since parents did not want them to get vaccinated. What then is your response to this matter? Can we get an answer.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker it is not the fault of the parents, it was the Government that stopped the vaccination of children. This is the correct answer.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

**MR SPEAKER:** I want to remind the member, you have been in the House for a long time. I am reluctant to advise you, *e le aoaia e le matapia le manaia*. I want to inform the member there is a Standing Order where the Chair can end the members time. If you do not heed my advice to move onto another issue I will terminate your time. This is an opinion thus we are following the provisions set, I am trying to use some of the methods used by the elders back then. This is by using of proverbs and sayings. I appease the member but Government will not accept your statement as it seems you are blaming the Government, we all understand it. Pardon the member...

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. It seems the case is to blame us but how about their duty.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this is the only response I wanted to make. I will not reiterate the issue because of the accusation that they must get vaccinated. We did carry out vaccinations last year, but what happened? At the conclusion of the nation's vaccination program some of the people refused to get vaccinated. Even those who lived close to the hospital did not want to get injected and these families were only discovered on the 5th and 6th day. They were also aware that there were vaccines available and that the officials were heading over to bring the injections to them.

What then are you going you do? The vaccines were taken out to communities, yet there were people who did not want to be vaccinated. They refuse to come forward and report their children. This is the answer on this matter. Even if the vaccines are distributed next year and the year after there will still be people who do not want to get the injection.

It was confirmed that the vaccination program took 6 weeks, a month and 2 weeks then it was closed however an old man died 2 weeks ago because he did not want to get vaccinated. It was his own choice, I want to ask you, what will you do with this?

You were adamant to provide vaccinations and we did, however this is proof of such false statements. Whether vaccinations are carried out this year or the next if a person does not want to get vaccinated, what will you do? That was all, he just sat here and did not give a recommendation. It took us long... if only you had come to me with a suggestion, why are the police not enforcing nor locking them up? Maybe this is what you were thinking.

Government does not operate that way? A person's individual right should be recognized. It is their choice.

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**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker if that is the opinion of the Hon Prime Minister, then set up a Commission of Inquiry to find out if his words are correct.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member, I advice you. No I cannot let this pass, I have already given you advice. We were all like that, my daughter spent the whole week transporting the people of our village. The work we do matters, it does not wait until we get here then we can speak up loudly, work matters.

I am saying as I too went through this experience, I instructed my children to collect our people for 2 weeks and they responded that they will go tommorrow. When they got there, the people were out in the plantation and were not keen to wait. That is reason for saying this. I did not want to mention this as I too am feeling guilty. Although, do not wait until the matter is in the House for it to be voiced loudly. The question should be, what was the work done?

I appease the member, I give you one more chance if you do not move on to another matter, your speech will be terminated.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you, this is a request from the constituency, I met with them and they stated, ‘Government should set up a Commission of Inquiry for this disease.’ As stated in 1918, there was a Commission of Inquiry. In the United States in 2003, out of 10,000 people were affected, only one person died, a Commission of Inquiry was established for Governments to be transparent with their actions taken in their country.

**MR SPEAKER:** Tofa Olo Fiti, you are right. I was also in the back bench row. The normal procedure, whenever a recommendation is tabled, it is passed on to the next one. But it does not mean when the recommendation is given, the Government will say, oh that is so smart.

That is what has been missing, does it mean we will go with what you want. No, that is not the way to it, as I said, *o le uta a le poto e fetalai*. By the time my time is up, everything I wanted to speak about has been voiced. As for the member continuously arguing a point this is not a manner of someone who has been here for a long time. This is not how the game and work is carried out.

It is as simple as standing up and submit a recommendation and move on, the Government is taking note. Next time take the floor and say this is the recommendation, that would be simple enough. Instead of trying to get the attention of Government to say, well that is so smart of you. As such, your speech is now finished as your time is up.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker it is a pity you have have accepted my statement. It should have been given to the Hon Minister of Health and the Hon Prime Minister fo them to respond to this matter. Mr Speaker if you look at the Bill, I am giving advice on matters that the Government lacks.

According to the Ministry of Health Act, these are the duties of the CEO and the Ministry. The monitoring of diseases that are affecting the country is carried out on a daily basis. This also includes the Health Promotion Foundation Act passed within the House. The monitoring of the effects of diseases in the country. Who then is the Chairperson? The Chairperson is the Prime Minister. Why point fingers to the parents?

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright leave your recommendation here. I ask that you move on to another matter altogether. I have so much respect on these matters. I call upon the Minister of Health. The time of the member for Salega East is concluded, I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers (Minister of Health):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Majority of the questions raised are the same ones asked since the start of the measles outbreak. The Government through the Leader of Government has responded to this matter already.

As for the Ministry who were working at that time, incase another member takes the floor this is the first speech however to save time, Government did not stop the people according to the member's statement.

In this life, it happens, this was reason for the incident that happened in Savaii, vaccinations were withheld due to the investigation that was carried out to find out whether the vaccine was the reason or the negligent staff. All of Samoa and the world heard about this, the court case took a whole year and the decision found that they were guilty. The staff were negligent as you are all aware.

In this life we all have flaws and mistakes. I strongly trust no one in the House is righteous under the sun. This is the reminder, I wanted to stand up a long time ago however I was hesitant since the report is now tabled, we are waiting.....as for an update, the Ministry has completed its strategic plans.

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A lot has been learnt, it is no use anymore since we have set a strategic plan, and all we need to do is to take action and not just talk. Like the measles, there are other diseases, the Ministry will be going out to schools, committees and rural hospitals to work together with the public, thank you. This is a clarification for now, incase there are any more questions but all plans have been laid out from our....

I thank the member just as he states. It was asked who was right and who was wrong, we will be working together. This is the plead of the Ministry, let us work together for a safer and healthy Samoa. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker I give you this cheque but I thank the Hon Minister. I am grateful since there was a mention of plans, I have the plan for the *Pandemic* for November. More than 70 children died, which was urgently done in November. This is what I stated, you also responded that Government did not stop the vaccination of children. Who stopped it? It was halted for 8 months, from July 2018 up to April 2019.

This is the reminder to you Hon Minister and another thing, you have just taken the floor to respond to our recommendations and queries, when it was the Hon Prime Minister himself who gave all the responses during deliberations of this Bill, however...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member your time is finished. I was happy that you stood up and took the lead for you are one of the good speakers in Parliament.

Even though you have been troublesome to the Government so many times, you have been very uncontrollable, but it is good to know that our main role is to create more thoughts, to bring assurance to the Government through our views for them to decide on and implement. Although, that does not mean your aggressiveness will account them to do as you demand, no this is not our culture and tradition. Everything we do is done out of mutual respect.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker I will now conclude, even though I always obey the Chair. Although I feel sad because I still have a long way to with my speech, however I respect the Chair. I hope it is the same with the Chair, but for now, the Hon Prime Minister and Chamber, if I have displayed any unruly manner, I bid your forgiveness. I thank my constituency for their support, bless our Proceedings.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West):**  
Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** The member for Faleata is upstanding.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG (Urban West):**  
First of all I want to give thanks to the Lord Almighty for his love, especially his blessing upon the Chair of the House. I also acknowledge the presence of the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Ministers and Associate Ministers. I also greet this side of Chamber at the start of the first Sitting for this year.

I thank the Hon Ministers for their efforts and working dilligently for the developments of our country, it is not easy. There are many problems and challenges, we have now reached the start of another year, even though we were plagued with diseases and other factors such as severe weather conditions, thankfully, we still have strength and life.

I also advise the House to heed the Chair and his job as he is not fully strong. Be calm with the old man. How patient is this old man, he is the men of men.

Mr Speaker I will begin with a word to the Legislative Office. Everyone has noted the bad weather we are having right now, but we do not have a building to use for recess. Gratefully, we have tents although I believe a building should be constructed for the members of the House. Perhaps it might not be used often but it will be useful to have a stable building to be utilized by the Committees and future members of the Assembly.

If we look at the Parliamentary Committees, when one Committee is busy another will have to retire, why? Because there are not enough rooms for them to use. Especially days like this, I am grateful for the grace of God, it is now moderate, members will not be affected by the wind and bad weather. I am just voicing a recommendation for your consideration incase you run away and no building is constructed.

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture....

**MR SPEAKER:** For your clarification, the work has not been completed.

**Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI:** Mr Speaker, I want to ask the member, where will he escape to...

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



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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Preparations are underway for the building perhaps it will start soon. I thank the member for raising this matter for the clarification of the House, so work on the building will begin soon. Do not worry the building could be completed before God calls you home, He is in control of our lives. If God calls upon the member speaking then he will go first before the Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is the member satisfied with the statement.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG:** Thank you but that is not what I meant, the escape the Hon Prime Minister and Olo are referring to is not what I meant, no you cannot flee. What I meant is, in case the Speaker leaves and the building is still not constructed. Since I hear that you are getting weak when you are, you are still far away from your calling.

The Hon Minister of Education, I want to thank you for the quality of schools. As my village and country are listening in, the school building at Vailoa that was affected by disaster is now complete. I am grateful; I also thank the Ministry Chief of Finance. The school building is now completed; it was rebuilt with the funds from insurance.

Thank you for the support because I strongly believe if school starts this year and it is not completed the heart will be discouraged. I am grateful that funding was quickly granted. I thank Shane and workers for the support, our school building is completed apart from that the school received their gift, thank you. All that is left is your gift Hon Minister then we will move on with our work this year.

■ Hon Minister the request for the school in Vaigaga have already been submitted. The school building is more than forty years old. It is two storeys high but is not stable at this time. I believe the school was affected by four cyclones. I ask that you consider this matter perhaps there will come a time when the Hon Minister will consider our school building. I believe we were all at the opening of the school at Vaiusu, if you look at the position of the building it is on a small plot of land, the village is growing and students are increasing, another two rooms was added. Now there is not enough space for students to play. I will leave this matter to you, as long as we have good understanding of the coastline of my village and inland. I know there is nothing that cannot be done, we only ask for a piece of land owned by Government to move our school. However, thank you for your support on education resources for this constituency.

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The Hon Minister of Works Afioga Papalii Niko Lee Hang. I am grateful for the Fiafia Park up at Tafaigata. Even though it will not be part of this constituency with the new electoral boundaries but I believe this is a good development. The road towards the Park are excellent. Hon Minister in case you have forgotten the road to Fiafia Park goes through Falelauniu and Siusega. Fiafia Park is very lucky since it was set up yesterday but now the road is good. I humbly request you consider the roads for Falelauniu and Siusega the Parliamentary term is nearly finished, I might not come back next term but it is best to voice it now.

There was also advice lest it be done soon, and the member be forgotten but now is the time to implement this Hon Minister. My constituency of Falelauniu is tired of avoiding the potholes also there are no streetlights to navigate during the night. This is my humble request.

■ Considering the bad weather conditions, travelling between Savaii and Upolu was cancelled. Is there a particular ship that can be used during bad weather? Many people missed their trip because it was cancelled. It is right that it should be cancelled considering the bad weather.

It would be great if we got a submarine that can travel from Savaii to Upolu and from Upolu to Savaii in one dive. The Hon Minister of Finance in charge of allocating funds is listening, to resolve this issue. I feel sorry for the members from Savaii, when the boat does not come they will not come as well. I believe this is the reason why they come and reside in Faleata because it is hard to come to our Sittings.

Mr Speaker I will not say much to the Hon Minister of Health, I only want to thank those who have travelled from overseas to assist our country. The doctors, nurses and medics who have travelled from all over the world, they are still here now. I am grateful for their assistance with our work. A recommendation we should have more doctors, if their salaries need be raised for an increasing number, do the same for our nurses to resolve these problems.

Perhaps for other Ministers I want to thank you all for the hard work, the Minister for Samoa Land Corporation, I know there are free lands up at Tafaigata, I know my village will be able to move there since the area resided now is too crowded. I am grateful the opportunity has been given to Fiafia Park, I hope those living in Vaigaga, Vaiusu, Vailoa will follow making it spacious. Maybe half an acre each will be great.

I want to thank everyone today and those who are able to present in our Sitting. I pray blessings upon Mr Speaker, and pray for your good health to continue our work this year. With respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you. I call upon the member for Lefaga and Faleaseela.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

**Afioga TOLEAFOA KEN VAAFUSUAGA POUTOA (Lefaga ma Faleaseela):** Mr Speaker I am grateful for the offering prayer voiced this morning, whilst the country and Parliament present this morning. Before I voice an opinion on the Supplementary Budget, Mr Speaker I would first want to greet the Parliament of Samoa, Heads of Ministries and Public Enterprises and all of Samoa supporting this Sitting, in particular the church Ministries in the country. Lest I forget the support of my constituency and spiritual fathers praying for me, I wish you all a Happy New Year and I pray for the safety of Samoa for this year 2020.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to sympathize with my constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela, to the parents and families who have suffered, given their close relationship they had with their dear children, due to measles. Let us keep the faith in God; He holds the power in everything, to eradicate this disease from our country. I want to thank the Hon Minister of Health and the Chief Executive of the Ministry, male and female doctors especially the nurses for their calmness during the time our country was faced with the spread of this disease. Thank you for your hard work in helping the children who were most affected. I applaud you all; the Lord will give you strength to carry out your duties. Special thanks to Samoans and overseas partners, for the speedy response during our time of need. Your help has been a relief to the health workers in the country during this crisis. I applaud also the people of our country as well as the public service who volunteered to offer their assistance, thank you for the patriotic spirit. I further extend acknowledgements to individual businesses and organizations for donations and their affection towards the Government, thank you for your kindness.

Mr Speaker this constituency considers the donations and financial assistance in reducing the measles by giving first priority to the public, through the Ministry of Health, and for all hospitals to be fully equipped. This starts from the hospital in Mootootua, Tuasivi and other medical sub centres in the country. So we may never again experience such incident, we do not want it to happen again. Let us continue to set up committees within villages and constituencies since this program under the Ministry of Health is very important.

Mr Speaker just a recommendation to the Ministry of Health. I believe our hospital is now well-equipped, medical equipment is available to ensure quality service is provided to the country.

A recommendation to look at the beds if they are in good quality. It would be best if we bring in some beds from New Zealand and Australia. This is a humble request to provide high quality services for our people.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

Mr Speaker before I make a comment on the statement on the Minister of Finance's speech on the Supplementary Budget, I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet for the deep and farsseeing knowledge on ways to acquire assistance swiftly to safeguard our people from this disease. The hard work you do is noted day and night. I applaud the courage and fortitude, thank you for your perseverance.

Hon Minister of Finance, this constituency supports the Supplementary Appropriation Bill; recommendations have also been made on grants and assistance when opportunity was allowed.

My beloved constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela, *aua le afifio o le aiga sa Tuala ma le latou tama. Afio le Taulagi ma le matua o sa Tuala, alalatai Tuisavailuu ma le mamalu ia te oe Faleaana.* That is our contribution to the Supplementary Appropriation. I thank you for the prayers and support while your member undertakes its role in the decision making of Parliament. It feels comforting for my wife and I to gain your support over the past years and me. I also thank the support of churches in our constituency. I thank the contribution of the village councils for the foresight and wisdom, in guiding the people of the villages in our constituency in peace and harmony. I also extend thanks to the contribution of women in the development of families. The contribution of village men, thank you for serving our constituency through each villages. Let us work hard to cultivate the land that is rich for the support of communities and families especially the work of the Lord.

With respects to my constituency the year 2020 has begun, for any unprecedented service provided in the previous year I pray we leave it to the Lord, let us hope the Lord gives inspiration to Government for a swift progress on the requests that we have put forward especially our roads.

Mr Speaker, these are a few matters of contribution from this constituency on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2019/2020. Soifua and bless this Sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. Such outstanding speeches are very good to hear. Thank you.

I give an opportunity to another member. I call on the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I humbly greet the Chair and respects of this Parliament and Samoa gathered here today, also to our country listening in to our Proceedings.

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– second reading debate**

I would also like to express an opinion on the First Supplementary Budget. As previous members have earlier stated I also want to take the opportunity to thank the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet especially the Minister of Health for the workload handled together with the Ministry, I know this task was not easy.

I believe such events are useful, because these challenges amplify faith and alleviate the shortcomings of the services provided by the Ministry.

I would like to address the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour. I want to ask the Hon Minister, is there a policy that standardizes equal opportunities for each constituency on those chosen to work abroad. Is there a method implemented to have an equal number of people from each constituency, it is noted that some constituencies have more participants and others have less or none at all. Another matter I would like to ask the Ministry, what are the legislations Government is trying to devise in order to strengthen and implement various services because it seems the services provided are failing.

The meaning of the statement is that there are policies and guidelines in place, but the problem now, it is not followed through the services provided. I say this because I have noted that the Ministry is no longer monitoring the inspection of stores, deliveries and other various things that need be done to reflect their work. Most of the deliveries within rural areas to the small shops are seen to be carried out by several small vehicles. Therefore the question is, are these products good especially for rural areas and those living in Savaii. It is not a secret nowadays that most Chinese shops are thriving while the ones owned by Samoans have decreased. Why is this so? Is there no assistance from the Ministry that can assist our citizens who provide these services in communities to help in their businesses.

This is not to say financial assistance is needed but to encourage them, to promote awareness where appropriate. The prices on products, what is the approach. Or bring in those who can share their knowledge in order to grow their businesses than it is now, our people have set up their own shops in villages but is there a way to assist and encourage them. Some constituencies are lucky because they have taboos that do not allow other shops from the ones owned by residents of the village, therefore shops are owned by Samoans. I hope there is a way to assist our people. The checking of products to see if they are good or expired in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Perhaps this is a possible means where various diseases are entering due to poor monitoring of imports.

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Not only that but at the point of entry, where most imports arrive at Customs whether it is monitored because when a product arrives...the longer the product is kept the quicker it is to expire. Like a carton of canned fish that is circulated during family faalavelave, it is not used when brought since it is given to one family then to another by the time it is opened it will be useless. There should be a way to address these areas for the safety and well being of our country.

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Furthermore a recommendation to the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Customs and Revenue is there a way to link the two Ministries so that all shops can be identified...people who do business especially those in retail sector. I emphasize the villages that are in Savaii rural areas, the only businesses present there are those who own stores. Is there a way where all those stores fail from the Chinese deliveries that come there. But is there a method to tap into getting something to know where the business is going, how many deliveries they do, what type of vehicles are used for deliveries and to ensure there are receipts used for deliveries. I do not know how the Ministry of Revenue know the products purchased and earn money that is given to tax.

This is the same for Customs because this is the point of entry for all goods that arrive and invoices. If possible...it is also important to know how much projected income tax is earned from invoices of all goods that come into Samoa. This is an opinion in regards to the Ministry.

I will now turn to our Prison services. I have noticed the constant rise in spending due to the Minister's efforts to upgrade the compound and accommodation for the prisoners that have decided to take their leave and spend time for a period. I applaud the Minister for having regards to those living at this place. My advice to the Associate Minister who has clerical position to use it here...if this place is properly set up to develop the spiritual side of prisoners to minimize people from being locked up, who knows, the prison could end up being converted into a hotel.

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I will now speak on the Ministry of Police, which is under the watch of the Hon Prime Minister. These are the recommendations put forth that despite how we go about protecting our children from the effects of the world environment in this life, the objective is to find avenues to protect our children. I speak specifically of drugs. As a mother, I trust, the endeavours by the Ministry to track down those involved is inadequate, particularly the people producing meth within Samoa. Regardless of the teachings upon our children by the State and the Minister of Education, and the Clergy in their role to save the souls of children. If there is no proper monitoring to effectively get rid of this drug problem targeting the produces/initiators of this drug in the country, well we do not know. Our efforts will be in vain. That is my plea Hon Prime Minister, if this could be initiated and whatever means, whether to involve the entire country by your good self and the Commissioner so we can work together to find every culprit, so they may be remove totally from the country as it is affecting our youths particularly the young ones growing up.

Well those are the humble thoughts of this member, but I thank you Mr Speaker. I applaud your patience and may I say that you are in good health your honour. My commendations on your leadership. I bid the same to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, I salute you on your perseverance after all, you all are at the receiving end of the accolades and criticisms all at the same.

May I say to the Government Heads, that whatever our thoughts and desires are for the development of our country, you are the force of implementation, which are in your hands. My commendations and appreciations for your services and may you continue to enhance, encourage and further improve your roles. May the Lord bless this House. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Congratulations. I admire your constituency for having a member who speaks clearly on every issue. Your support is noted. I call on another member. It would be good for constituencies with two members like Falealili to have one speaker now and the other one tonight.

I call upon the member for Safata West.

**Afioga LEANA RONNIE POSINI (Safata West):** Mr Speaker I firstly greet the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers and distinguished members of this House. I will now direct my remarks to the Supplementary Budget before Parliament.

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I congratulate the Minister and the Ministry for this Supplementary Budget and this constituency supports it.

I will start with the areas, which needs maintenance at my constituency. Mr Speaker the law that redraws electoral boundaries has been passed. Everyone knows that Salamumu is now part of our constituency. Therefore, I will begin with our new additional village of Salamumu and areas, which needs immediate attention for improvement.

I will start by voicing my greetings to our community. I must also commend you for your support upon the Legislation which has redrawn the Act that we are now working on, as it is the Government's intention to speed up developments, since Saleaula is in Savaii whilst Salamumu is in Upolu. Now that Salamumu is relinquished, it is the State's desire to prioritise the developments of these villages as they are geographically located next to each other.

On that note I request the Hon Minister of Works and also the Prime Minister that our community of Salamumu and I appreciate the fact that the road has been done and tar sealed half way towards the settlement area at the coast.

Now I have often visited this site and there are two motels along there. I have spoken with the Minister of Tourism about it. A lot of tourist are interested in these accommodations, as it is located near the coast however; it is the state of the road that is turning people away. Not only that but our village of Salamumu which has two Methodist church, with one located at the residential area at the coast. Majority of the community reside along this road towards the coast. This Church has a large congregation and is well established, but the road is in very poor state, affecting the vehicles of our community towards the coast.

In saying that I request the Hon Minister and I trust my village of Salamumu is listening, this issue will fulfil the testimony from the Government to speed up the developments since Salamumu geographically connects with Safata. It is my request to the Hon Minister to have consideration for this road towards the coast.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is one of the longest roads existing, I have travelled along this road towards the coast and it is quite a stretch before reaching the end of the tar sealed road. My car went on for ages until I became out of breath. However, you are correct, the road needs upgrading. The only thing is that the bulk of the area towards the coast is bushy and I did not see any signs of crops cultivation.



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My suggestion is that it would be nice to grow coconuts to assist with the livelihood of the community. Since it should not be just tourist from abroad as there is a vast area of bush land on both sides of the road.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the member for Safata West. Well, the Minister of Works may take the floor

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Thank you Mr Speaker, if I may add on to the statement of the Hon Prime Minister to confirm the road at Salamumu. It is a long road stretch and the Prime Minister is right, the land is all covered with vegetation and no crop. However, it is vital for beach resorts at the coast, as mentioned by the member.

There are also other beach resorts in Lefaga, part of a newly opened hotel and another one at Matareva I think. All applications are in my office but there is a plan, the problem is the extensive length of the roads and which single road towards the coast can be done to connect the cross roads to easily access the beach and the three tourism sites that has this request on roads improvement. Plans are in preparation given the problematic roads. However, the road towards Salamumu is sandy and beneath the sand is solid rock. The only work we are doing to maintain it is filling the potholes with sand as the road is good as it is very solid.

The only problem with the road is the number of potholes there, but do leave it with us. I thought I would quickly respond before another member speaks on these roads towards tourism site. That is my response covering the roads at Salafai. There is another request I received that is on hold until works is prepared for it to improving our tourism sector. With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well said, I call on the member. You are in luck as you are now on the leave it to us' list.

**Afioga LEANA RONNIE POSINI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I will no longer go there. My appreciations to the Prime Minister and the Minister. To Salamumu, go and tidy up the roadside towards the coast and start planting coconuts.

To my village of Saanapu, I gather from the most recent measles outbreak, which devastated our country, that our health centre was inadequate in terms of capacity. Since there is a plan for a health centre for my constituency at Saanapu.

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A suggestion to your honour, if you would reconsider the plan and redraw the design of the health centre to make it bigger. My take on it is that it seems that the designs of all the health centre are the same and we all understand the possibility of this disease could struck us any time soon. That is my plea.

I have already submitted a seawall request for the coastal areas of Saanapu and Sataoa, which was done a while ago. I recall the Minister of Environment or the Deputy Prime Minister who spoke of tree planting to stop erosion. That job is ongoing however; the rise in sea level has completely covered the coastal area. The tide would sweep seawater right to the land causing erosion process that has almost cut off the other end of Saanapu and Sataoa due to those seawalls. A request has been made to you for a seawall area yet I am yet to receive a response on this land erosion in our villages.

Mr Speaker, I went and did a personal survey of my village of Saanapu from West to East to acquire the length. The width of the village is 6 kilometres, with just one access road towards the inland area. Hence, the 3 kilometres on both sides is not covered here and I feel that the Ministry of Agriculture is by far one of the villages that is contributing a lot with our taro export. If a single road can have 3 kilometres, is there a possibility of extending this road so that every family can access it. The reason why I am making this request is due to the agricultural produce going overseas. I would think the Minister has records, as this is one village that is very strong in our taro export. I will say no more about Sataoa, I do appreciate the access road which you intend to construct.

Even our village of Lotofaga, there is a road connection from Lotofaga to Tiavi, if you would consider it. This specific road can minimise travelling straight from Tiavi, instead, it can take a direct route from Safata to Tiavi, which is quicker, have a look into it.

It is the same situation with the village of Vaiee and their access road, could you please look into this access road. I will now come to...

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the statement of the member, which is very good in terms of the demands of the constituency. Although since we have reached our usual recess hour, you may continue when we return from our refreshments.

Before the Orders of the Legislative Assembly is set aside, I would like to inform Parliament that the Tofilau Eti Alesana building has been prepared for lunch. The Prime Minister will remain for lunch here at the Chamber's lounge as per usual, whilst everyone else can proceed to the Tofilau Eti Alesana building. There is also transport available for those who do not have the strength to get there.

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**Motion to amend Sitting Hours**

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for 15 minute's recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its usual recess at 10.47 and resumed at 11.47am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Before the member for Safata continues, I call upon the Leader of the House for a motion.

**MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker due to the high number of Legislations tabled before Parliament, they must all be completed and given approval this week. I rise with respect to move the motion, *To amend the Sitting hours of this Assembly and its Proceedings from 9.00am until 1.00pm, then adjourn and resume starting at 6.00pm until 11.00pm.* The Assembly will be informed of further changes as we proceed with our sitting this week. That is the motion for the approval of the House.

*Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.*

*Motion was approved.*

*Debate resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 2019/2020).*

**MR SPEAKER:** I respectfully call upon the member for Safata West to continue his remarks.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Mr Speaker, I believe that refreshments for our nourishment to continue our Parliamentary sitting was delightful. I shall now continue on general issues.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

I would firstly convey my appreciations to the Minister of Health in light of the outbreak that affected our country. I believe that the Ministry worked tirelessly. I extend my gratitude to the doctors and nurses for the role undertaken to contain the disease in our country.

Moreover, I acknowledge all Government Heads and all the public servants for your tirelessly service upon the country. On that, I applaud the Hon Minister. I sympathize with the families of my constituency who lost loved ones from this disease.

I want to voice my appreciations to the Hon Minister of Education, Loau in your tenure as Minister. There have been many changes in the education sector since you took over. I extend a big thank you to you.

The main thing, I see that school will start soon particularly our University please. The point I want to make concerns school fees for students. I think there is Rule that after 5 weeks, the students are asked to pay their school fees otherwise, they will be expelled. Whether the unpaid fee is \$200 or \$300, the students will still be sent home. If a student will take 2 to 3 weeks to find the money for the fees, they would be missing so much schoolwork.

This is one reason why students fail due to this large amount of time they are missing. My suggestion to the Hon Minister especially parents as not all families earn the same amount, particularly parents that are struggling to make ends meet. There are 14 weeks in a semester in the University. If the fees are unaffordable, if the fee is \$1,400 per semester, why not do payments of say \$200 every fortnight so that by the 7<sup>th</sup> week, the whole amount is settled. This would help keep our sons and daughters in school particularly the parents that cannot afford to cover the fees.

Taatia ia matua e gafatia e totoi uma lava, ae o se mea foi lea, o se faiga e faaitiitia ai le aveeseina ai o tamaiti mai totonu o latou faleaoga, e tele ai le aafia ai o latou polokalame, e oo ifo i taimi o suega ua aafia ai.

Leave aside the parents that can afford to pay the full amount, but it is an arrangement to reduce the removal of students from the classroom affecting their school programmes greatly and their exams. I speak specifically of the fees that are a bit too much as this is the pertained amount in the University level. This is the request Hon Minister of Education.

I note from the Supplementary Estimates that there are funds reserved for our University to assist with scholarships. My request to the Minister is that, it would be good not to pay the full amount but slash it to half so as to ensure that many sons and daughters will be covered by this benefit from our Government towards the University.

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I am particularly focussing on the high fees at our University since they are structured by the University. That is my plea to the Hon Minister.

Hon Minister of Works, I have noticed the traffic lights in Lepea where it took me three occasions to stop and found that despite no cars coming from Vaitoloa area, the green light were still activating. It is one of the reasons why there is roadblock in the Lepea main roads due to the green lights, while the traffic from Vaitoloa is minimal.

There was a time I almost got into an accident at the fourway road. Whilst heading from Maluafou towards Tufuiopa, the green lights and arrow were all on and while driving towards Apia, there was a car travelling from Maluafou towards Leone whilst the green light from that end was also on. What I mean to say is the likely cause of traffic accidents given issues like this. If the responsible team for traffic lights maintenance could look into this matter, as I feel that this is another cause of roadblocks.

I appreciate the road at Loto Samasoni with the concrete bridge. I plead the Hon Minister that it would be nice if that road connects to the road at Maagao and Lelata and into Leone. I also see that there is a road going towards Faatoia, which is quite short, it would be good if that road continues towards Faatoia.

**MR SPEAKER:** The member has 2 minutes remaining

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

**MR SPEAKER:** The Minister of Works will take the floor.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker, I want to respond now to the raising issues by the member on traffic lights becoming defective. That is the case with some lights where you would be at the lights for quite some time. Many of the traffic lights like the ones in the new road at Loto Samasoni, I have noticed that some cars run into the red lights for being impatient but I ask the LTA to check these lights again.

There are some lights with timers programming controls, which activates time according to a specific number of vehicles on the road, turning the light into green automatically. Nevertheless, I will remind the team that deals with traffic lights and visit the LTA to find out whether their timing traffic control system is still accurate.

The connecting road at Faatoia raised by the member is currently on the way. A survey about this connecting road was carried out as suggested by the Hon Prime Minister, this project should be implemented.

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Preparations for this road is underway through the LTA. I thank you for the reminder. With all due respect.

**Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Minister of Education.

**Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio:** I rise with respect and certainly do not intend to interrupt the wonderful speech of the member. Nevertheless, since he has brought up the University, I thought I would take the floor to avoid other members raising this very issue. The topic of students' fees at the University has often been a topic of debate in this House. It is true that there are parents who can afford to pay the fees and others who cannot, but students are still able to attend classes. Despite this, we also have a programme indicated in the additional expenditure allocated for scholarships, moreover there are conditions in place by the University for these students. With students that fall short financially but achieve pass marks to enter University, there are opportunities to attend. They need to fill out forms and submit to the Committee and they should get what the member is getting at.

I guess those were the matters raised by the member. The recommendations are quite good and changes are now in place by the administration as aware, a former chancellor of the University has been dismissed and change is now in place. Perhaps we will in due course have an audience with the new VC so we may offer our suggestions, and to see what his plans are in light of the issue raised by the member, with due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you, I call on the member and you have two minute's remaining.

**Afioga LEAANA RONNIE POSINI:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I appreciate the comments from the Minister. Thank you for your response. Continuing with my remarks, I have noticed the road towards the airport, a lot of accidents have occurred. I know that cars racing each other is the reason for speeding. What is your view Minister? Is it not time to install speed cameras? A concept to slow down cars and minimise the number of lives taken due to speedy vehicles. Is it not time to have speed cameras to catch speedy cars.

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The other issue is the marking of our roads. The median mark and equally important are the markings outside the roadway. It is where pedestrians will realise that they should not cross this line, particularly during the night. These are signs for commuters.

My next point of address is the prison sentence and the likes. There are other sentences like serving time at your own home, home detention. What I am trying to say is that there are people who get carried away due to uncontrollable anger. If they are sentenced to house arrest they will not deviate from it, and the importance is spending time with their children and parents, which they will not run away from.

Secondly, I believe 20% of prisoners at Tanumalala may be eligible to this kind of sentencing and it will save our Correction and Prison money. Since there are countries who have practiced this doing, I am merely putting it out there for the consideration of Government.

Drugs are poisonous like marijuana and looking at the police in action and the high safety risks upon their lives under these circumstances. I advise the Government to raise the decree of sentence. The lives of the police force are in jeopardy. Looking at the footage of them raiding through the forest and such, the State must take consideration. Mothers and women representatives also represent the State at these various parts of the communities. Is there not an opportunity for them to hold their own meetings. The chiefs hold their own meetings and although they are different, they should conduct their own meetings and gather. Because they only get together during church service.

There are people that attend church in different areas. There are also gatherings for these people during their regular meetings to meet and find out about other people in other sub-villages. This is so to alleviate the case of burglary and things like that, and so that everyone is aware of all people living within their community.

Hon Minister of Agriculture, I believe in the marketing of our crops overseas. Our constituency and the common subject of nonu. It seems that they are tired of approaching me about this matter, which is getting ripe and going to waste. Therefore, my request Minister is to look out for a nonu company, and I know that these companies are trying to make their tanks bigger for the storage of nonu.

I like the programme you instigated for the starfish.. I have noticed in our reef the abundance of alamea/starfish causing damage to our reef. I convey my gratitude to you Mr Speaker; those are my recommendations to the Government. I want to show my appreciations to my constituency for their support, which is the source of my thoughts and strength. Bless this Meeting.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to the member. It seems that the member for Falealili desires to speak.

The floor is yours.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO (Falealili East):** The member for Falealili respects the orders of the Chair. I feel that this is the opportunity to share our contribution the Supplementary Appropriation before us.

I do believe that the tides of troubles have passed, sadness and grief has been overwhelming throughout the journey of the kings representing the royal families and oratory groups. The high seas and the sea storms have all passed. We are gathered here today in good health when ailments and malady are gone. Although the spirit of God overwhelms the Assembly of Samoa, the rightful place of kings and chiefs. The taboos and mana of the lands prominent chiefs of this House fills this place. This principal place of Tiafau, the court where grievances, wisdom and vision is sorted for the prosperity of Samoa in the years to come.

Although our journey in the past year was marred by trouble, Christians do not become alarmed, as these occurrences were prophesised in the Holy Book. The Lord has spody can imagine life without water. But the sad truth is, there are already many people in Samoa who are living this way. Thirty six years old Sialei Tiso from Lotofaga said they are waiting for their water to be set up. In the meantime, they are fetching water from neighbours and storing it in small bottle and containers. “I’m not going to lie about the reason why we don’t have water,” she tells the Village Voice team. “It’s all because we didn’t have enough money to pay for our water bills and that goes for the rest of the families that are in this area.

“So when the Water Committee of our village came to do their inspections, they cut most of the families’ water because all of us couldn’t afford to pay it. “But we pleaded about this matter, so that’s why we’re waiting because we’re going to set up a project where we use bamboo for the water to flow through.” Sialei stays together with her mother, her husband and their four children. “That’s our little family and none of us works. “This is the life we have; we only have those small jobs here in the village when a chief wants something to be done but those kinds of jobs only happen for maybe a day. “And we always take it because we need the money sometimes.” But that’s not an issue for us; right now it’s not having water of our own. “We’re have been getting water from our neighbours ever since December when our water was being cut off.”



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“It would be helpful if we could get a water tank while we wait because knowing situations like these, they always take time.” I do believe that they are now angels in Heaven and it something we should not be sad about.

I rise to share my views with all due respect to the honourable Speaker, the Leader of the House whom is also the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and members elected for this Assembly. I cannot the service of the Government Chiefs whom are the force behind Samoa’s economy. I must also acknowledge the support of the clergy through prayer and the public at large for their support upon this Assembly.

I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance for the concise and thorough review of the Budget. Mr Speaker I will now direct my remarks to the Ministers of Cabinet regarding certain things. This constituency have little else to say on the Supplementary Appropriation tabled. I see that there is a surplus every year the same with this year. Is it time we should not have a deficit, the budget for this final year for our projects. Although, you have the capacity to appropriate with farsightedness for the prosperity of the country.

I begin with my right, from the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology, the Hon Afamasaga. I heed permission to survey our side, as telecommunication is not clear enough. The Bluesky cellphone for other parts of the constituency especially our televisions. Our TV is now digital, it would be good to have a survey...the constituents in the rural areas also want to watch the televisions and communicate using the cell phones.

The Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration, well done, perhaps there is not much matters on your part, thank you to those retired judges, it is imprecise whether that matter is now. In addition, whether they have finished without any conviction. Based on personal belief, if verification of their duties do not align their sworn in oaths, then they must be charged. Because their decisions have affected the heritage and assets of families that cannot be regained. That is the advice to the Hon Minister, up until now; undeniably, this family is also quering an update on this very matter.

Hon Minister of Education, thank you for the good works. Well done to your persistence, although the only query is there a new arrangement in place, whenever it comes to pay day, the teachers would go half day and come to Apia to get their pay. Alternatively, perhaps this is the Education sector’s arrangement alone. Most of the time, I would pick up the teachers along the way after ten oclock in the morning.

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The question is, I ask them where they are going, and they say its payday today. If you are unaware, well I am addressing you this issue now. Whenever we come to payday, this is the holiday for teachers and Principals. There is also concern with students being expelled from school due to smoking and drinking. There was an inspection carried out by the Ministry to schools. Pardon the House, how are students expelled from smoking, when even the principals and teachers are throwing cigarette butts near the classrooms. It would be good to enforce these school inspections in order to maintain health care for all students. Thank you Hon Minister of Finance, this constituency happily approves the supplementary appropriation before us.

Then I come to my fellow Minister, the Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt, a lot of appropriation has been spent on the Prison when prisoners are still escaping, although well done. One of the recommendations I submitted to your Ministry is the distant location of this prison site for workers. Majority of good people have resigned due to this concern.

Looking at the Budget, I appreciate more appropriation to build a resting house for these workers. A kitchen should also be set up to properly make food and things like that. They should create a sportsground for playing, things like basketball field, volleyball area for prisoners to use.

The Hon Minister of Health, reflecting back, there was no Samoan who did not want to lend a hand during the time we had the measles. Perhaps there was no percentage for who to blame given the less number of complainants. As I said in the start, this is a sign from the Bible that the end times is near. Therefore, the blame should not be on the State neither us. The only thing to do is to prepare your souls, as soon as the calling comes, go with joy.

I heed appreciation to the doctors in particular the nurses through the Hon lady Minister. In truth, we are in tears for the nurses as the job they undertake is not an easy one. Nevertheless, they have worked diligently with enduring love. Whoever dislikes the doctors and the Ministry of Health, whoever dislikes the Minister, and the members, as soon as this this natural disaster or epidemic struck us, they all gave the support as one, relied on God, why? One heart, one Samoan spirit by lending a hand for one another. We can never point fingers and seek God's help at the same time. For whatever expertise our doctors hold, there is only one doctor of doctors to seek help from; it is the Most High God in heaven. Thank you Hon Minister.

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Hon Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, well done. Thank you for the finished 4000 coconut planting at my constituency, we have 1,000 more to go. Until the cocoa is strong enough then the distribution will come to you. We are again encouraging the constituency to replant the coconut trees which could not be grown properly. If you have a look at the selling coconuts at the market and other places, they are getting thinner. Why? The coconut trees could not grow. The farmers would understand what I am talking about as majority do not get it as a lot of these coconut trees have taken years to grow and must be regrown again. The delivery of the nonu supplies has been lowered as there are no more deliveries made, instead, the coconut trees and cocoa have now been replanted. The nonu will again be replanted when the right time comes. Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure, my dear friend, I know that majority have raised the roads upgrading with you, I am thankful that your distribution is still being maintained. Well, if this constituency is not included in your list, do add me in to that list whilst it is all up to you.

The road in Utulaelae...has been surveyed, this road does not reach 100 meters to the village. Some of the plans have already been implemented for some of my villages, however that is the request. The road passing the Salani Surf Resort, the tar of about 30 meters is stopped right at that tourism site.

Then my village of Salani said, how is this tar of 30 meters done leaving out our village? Well my village is hearing this, our request is now submitted before the State and the Hon Minister, to bear love, this road situates further down the school that goes round the village, it is greatly damaged and is in dire need of assistance.

Then I come to the connecting road to Lotofaga, the off road to Salani to Kosena where the Seventh Day Adventist School used to be. That road has started repairment again particularly for rough weather conditions. I plead the constituency to please, all settlers along the inland road that are without water supply. We have consulted the CEO, the report received is that water does not run well there, e le ae le vai, we then submitted our request. 2 differet surveys were conducted there. The first one found that water does not run well there, and the other big guys said that water can run all the way to Lotofaga reaching the inner area. I am now confused which is correct. It is best if your honor can visit this area yourself to see which finding is true. Because the ofe bamboo lying in the main road is very speedy. That is the report, more than 28 households are settling in this area, there is no pipeline installation there.

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I too had put forth a request for a bamboo installation towards Lotofaga, our lands are there, whether possible to install a bamboo pipeline of there to supply water for the sake of villagers living there, but on the inner part of the village, there is a water spring available there. What say you, your honor, would it be possible to attain massive water tanks storage to pump water in for water distribution there. This is the assistance and joy upon the village for finally receiving water. If you can visit this concern your honor, you will find a 96 year old woman who has never consumed any tapwater but fetched water from the well until today. With due respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Honorable Speaker, before the wonderful speech of the member is concluded, I ask which exact village does not have proper water flow?

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO:** It is Salani at the three way road, the settlers along the inner area, it is there where this service is unavailable. With due respect.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Very well your honor, I will conduct an inspection and visit the 100 year old lady to see whether this testimony is true.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO:** The 96 year old is not a made up story, the old woman is still there. Our village of Salesatele has very few people living there after the Tsunami disaster. All have been relocated inland up to the access road and have stayed there permanently in secured houses whereas the roads there is hugely poor. Is it possible for the Climate Change to release some funds on purposes like this given the relocation of families inland due to natural disasters. When we come to natural disasters, the tar road is very long at the end of the village, whilst there is another in roads inside that is accessible by cars, however, see if fitting as this area is highly problematic. With all due respect. Lest my time is up without reaching the Minister of Women, Community and Development. Agreeing with one of the members, and a request has already been given to your honor, see if you can, there are some villages that are huge and some are called sub-villages.

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These sub-villages consist of one pulenuu and one sui tamaitai or woman representative. Is it necessary to have a sui tamaitai and pulenuu for these sub-villages because given our custom, respect is upheld. Although villages have their own permanent honorifics that they serve. This goes for villages like Utulaelae and Sapoe, whether possible to separate them, each to have a pulenuu and sui tamaitai to ease their works. With all due respect.

Hon Minister of Labour, just a plead, if leased lands are available for farming and things like that, there are some submitted requests set out on that. Is it alright to limit landspace for people to develop say 50 acres or 100 acres and make available other land areas for the general public.

The last point Hon Deputy Prime Minister. Less than 30 meters of seawall area right at the off road in Salesatele. That is the only area where the tidal waves are seen rushing in that could destroy the new development there you are aware of your honor.

The Hon Prime Minister or the Minister of Police, well done thank you. We have the light prison sentence here, it is possible to make further awareness of this program and Legislation in order to release these culprits to be with the ministers and others who are able to provide the service to lessen the consumption of food supply and to save other costs.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your time is up.

**Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO:** I am done Mr Speaker. To my constituency, you have heard that I am still voicing our needs for you since the beginning, and we will be soon there. Thankfully a lot has been achieved as we requested. I extend great thanks to the support of my constituency. I can never read out nor alter puea i iu your traditional honorifics and respects. *A o le ta tetele o le ta itumalo i le Aalaalagafa ma le lua nofo a Tulafale ma le Tauagaeseese ia Falealili*, thank you for your prayers and support.

To the ordained clergy, may blessings be upon you from above, may your word be sacred and may no crime occur from our youth such as what we have today.

May God grant you strength honorable Speaker, the ruler and controller of the House, may you find strength. And may more days be added unto you from God.

Bless the Prime Minister and this House, may I live. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done Afioga i le Gafatasi. Our work is now with anyone else who wishes to take the floor. I see the member for Vaisigano is about to upstand.

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Thank you. I see the notable member for Vaisigano No.2, Tapulesatele is upstanding.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONI METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker. The belief we hold, God's love remains, this Parliament has heard the explanation from this constituency.

I greet the honorable Speaker. I further greet the dignity of that side, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers and Associate Ministers. To this side, I acknowledge the presence of the male and female members. Furthermore, I greet the Office of the Legislative Assembly, CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations and everyone gathered today.

I further greet Samoa from high mountains to the lowest. I am grateful for another new year for our country, observing the love of God for lessening the measles epidemic that had affected our country, his sacred calling upon the many children especially the elders. We have survived it due to His tremendous love, another year has arrived and that disaster is gradually fading as we move forward in this new month.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the chance, I attempt to make some brief comments on this First Supplementary Appropriation Budget 2019/2020. I have said that I support this First Budget Statement.

Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement on the first part of this First Supplementary Budget with regards to supplementary appropriations. Stated in Number 2 under the Ministry of Finance. There is a statement on the tax of 2cents per liter on petrol, diesel and karosene.

The plans of the State in accordance to the First Supplementary Budget, this event has begun this year. I support it, just a comment as I am not so sure whether this 2 cents tax is from the petrol station or whether it points to receiving the petrol, diesel and kerosene.

There is thought as clarified in this statement, the aim is to assist the road improvement, drainage systems and so forth. If this is the situation with the tax imposed on petrol, kerosene, why not look at the diesel too? Whether there is any addition suitable, as many of these cars and machines that uses the diesel, they are destroying our roads because they are large vehicles such as buses and lorries.

That is the view, as it is unsure whether this 2cents comes from the gas station or is it the receipt of these three things. If with regards to earning revenue, see if possible to look into diesel as well?

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**Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance):** Mr Speaker, it is best to clarify this statement given the question. The Budget states, there is hope that by the start of January, when we have the approval of the Supplementary Budget, the 2cents will be added to the cost of the diesel, petrol and kerosene. Whatever price we add the 2cents on, the aim is to support our road improvement. That is the brief response. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member for Vaisigano.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you honorable Speaker, and the Hon Minister of Finance on the intended aim, the 2cents on these three elements is stated here, it also should look at diesel, that is why a lot of taxis, buses and lorries uses diesels. Whether possible to incorporate vehicles that uses diesels as these are the main cars that are affecting our roads. That is the situation your honor.

**Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti:** Mr Speaker, for further clarification, the point on the beginning, right now, 2cents is added to petrol, kerosene and diesel. When it comes to the preparation of the Main Estimates 2020/2021, if more appropriation is required, to further improve the roads.

This means whether to look into the diesel that is majorly used by vehicles, and whether to add another 2 cents or 3 cents, for the time being, as aware, a lot of huge vehicles used in the country like buses and so forth, most of them use the diesel.

Well, it is a concern lest the raise is too high, then it will affect the cost of traveling fares. In the meantime, the State has thought that 2cents is enough, until a review for another addition is necessary in the future. With due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright, the State does not have any further response. I call the member.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you honorable Speaker and Hon Minister. At least you get my intention.

Mr Speaker, with regards to the reduction in expenditure, number 2(1) records the Ministry of Justice. Just a question, I wish to know the new Office that will be set up in Savaii. The appropriation is clearly stipulated for this office here. There is appropriated funds of \$92,000 in the Main Estimate 2021 proposed for the first phase of this project.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Is it the individual items you referring about?

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** That is it your honor...it is best to say it whilst chance is given.

**MR SPEAKER:** Because your village is where that child is from that takes the win all in one time but is liable to Standing Orders. There is more chance for each item when we have the general economy of the country...and issues of your constituency as your roads were launched recently, see if there is anything else as your water is also improved, thank you.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Your will shall be done, the attempt is to gain insight. It is good to have the talks of the elders, what is it that you want? The given response cannot be returned. That is reason for asking.

**Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Chairperson of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee):** Mr Speaker let me answer that as we sit next to each other. The \$92,000 in the Committee of Finance's Report is proposed to start preparation of a new Court in Salelologa, this fund is anticipated for digging and blessing of the land that will undertake this project. That is the brief response with respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well your wills have been fulfilled, the member of Savaii is pardoning another member from Savaii. Conclude your speech now as your time is up.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Mr Speaker the question I meant to give is very short, I wanted to know whether this will affect the job of the Police Office and the location for the lawbreakers here in the Faasaleleaga area in Salelologa. The reason for posing the question is to clarify the motive behind this question. That is what we need to be aware of.

We will leave other things aside, rather I will conclude now. I plead the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education, the situation with our scholarships now that we have the allocated appropriation of a quarter million. Do keep in mind the vocational training professions. Despite everything else, this is the most needed people we must have. I am not wrong, such is the plead.

Mr Speaker these are the brief submissions on these issues, with a few recommendations, there is still chance for it or is there none your honor?



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**MR SPEAKER:** Thanks, you will get more chance, each two chances will earn you 10 minutes each, putting in another matter in those 2 chances.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** That is fine, I will conclude with my 10 minutes. I will be brief. The plead for the safety of roads, the police are moving to performing their job, that is the appeal with the implementation of their part. There is belief, if the police is going back to enforcing this area, then it should indicate better and perfect. There is also thought that if the policeforce is well trained, it will be vital. I second that it is necessary to take significance of their jobs by understanding the laws and their performances as well as integrity. Mr Speaker, it has been realized that there are so many drivers nowadays. There was a time the Prime Minister had talked about it and it does pose a great threat upon the general public.

Have a look into it, to seek perfection and knowlede in doing this job. Not only with the private vehicles as well as taxi operators. This is also the intention for large vehicles and machines.

Mr Speaker, I thank the State for the minimum wage. I have talked with many of the business entrepreneurs, and it shows this is true, it is all for everyone's benefit. Not only with the business operators but also the public servants. Hon Minister of Works, I will say it anyway. There have been roadsigns for speedy vehicles in place. Most of my observations, most of the speedometer in vehicles are in kilometres and not miles. I was not aware that upon returning from Savaii in the daytime and traveling here at night, the miles is above the kilometres. If we go by kilometres and meters, this is good together with the implementation of our signsboards. There is also the issue with some vehicles being away from the activation or sensor point. You must ensure that your vehicle is close to the sensor mark so your lights will activate to show your arrow consequently because the reason why the arrow does not work is that the sensor cannot detect you neither your weight. That is the talk on this matter.

Mr Speaker, I conclude this explanation, on behalf of my constituency of Sataua and Fagasa, I wish to extend our great gratitude and appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister. I also convey our great thanks to the Hon Minister of Works and your Ministry for all the good works implemented in my district. Although I have not mentioned the Hon Minister of Education, the time is gone for that area. Thank you Hon Minister of Finance for the wise distribution upon the good works we have managed to achieve and launch.

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The saline water in Sataua especially Fagasa has managed to supply so many people in the district towards the Eastern area and further to the village of the Minister of Agriculture. Our village is very satisfied with this development and the State's intention that has managed to fulfill all this work. We do not have any wealth but we pray for God's blessings upon the State and the future. Our prayer and support remains, thank you very much for everything.

I will conclude now, I ask and remind the Hon Prime Minister, given the issue faced by some families on a road leading towards the water in my village as also witnessed by the Cabinet on the day they were there.

There is trust, that you hold wisdom and foresight through the great riches from God upon the Hon Minister in achieving this matter. Since majority are using this road together with the State's assets situated there, there is dire need that this area be upgraded.

**MR SPEAKER:** I remind the member, if you disobey my orders, you will resume your statement whilst Parliament will go to a break given our finished time, your speech will continue with the camera crew behind you.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** This member... the first Supplementary Appropriation...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalenana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, all issues raised have all been recorded down.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have heard it...if it not done, you will say it too much. Anyhow, the Prime Minister has affirmed that he has noted everything down; your tar in Fagasa Savaii has been well noted, well done. Rome was not built in one day. We do not know what other roads we will have this year, one of them will now be used. Pardon the member, since we start again at 6.00 tonight, let us seek strength. Your time is finished member for Vaimauga No.2.

Very well, your constituency is supporting you and this Parliament especially the representatives so that we can voice the opinions of our constituencies.

Since we have reached our recess time. Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside at 1.00 and resume at 6.00pm.

21 JANUARY 2020

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020  
– second reading debate**

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 12:55pm and resumed at 6.00pm.*