

21 SEPTEMBER 2021

TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:30am.

Prayer.

STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now resumes.

I will use this opportunity to convey greetings and my well wishes to the dignitaries of Parliament this morning. Darkness has passed taking with it the hovering calamities and so gratitude to God for we are able to meet by His grace and peace. You are all in good health, a testament to the Lord's compassion upon us to continue our calling as leaders of Samoa.

I acknowledge the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

If I may acknowledge that side of Chambers with the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader and distinguished members of Parliament. I am glad you are all in good health and commend your patience and attendance to continue with our orders of business.

May I recognise the support of the public of Samoa, from the Le Ao o le Malo and his consort, the member of the council of Deputies, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary, the dignitaries of the royal families and the royal sons, the oratory group of Tumua and Pule.

I further acknowledge the Leaders of the various religious denominations throughout Samoa. On behalf of Parliament we extend greetings to you all this morning and we ask that you render your support.

Before we get into today's business, I appeals to the members of this Parliament, that I will not allow a debate on matters which I have ruled on. The dignity of this House is on us members. I realise your anxiety to speak on issues. But let me remind you that we have our Standing Orders in place which guides our debate and to ensure respect and order within the Assembly.

For your information I am feeling a sense of disappointment regarding one of the statements from yesterday. Where the member for Faleata No.3 accused the Speaker of the dismissal of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. It was a remark that came across in a joking manner nevertheless it has affected me and has breached Standing Order 83(2).

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Statement by Mr Speaker

It is a matter which has no relevance to the issues under debate and does reflect inconsideration to me and the ethics which it upholds. If I may briefly state, this was not a decision made in haste and was done with deep consideration. It is also a matter which should not be under debate here and members should not address it for it may mislead the public.

In pursuant to Standing Order 91 I instruct the Clerk to omit the following statement from Hansard. I also advice members, that the matter is prohibited from being raised. I ask that you all observe our Standing Order. The Chair has flaws and only God is perfect. I do rely on your support. To ensure our business is implemented without hindrance I implore you to focus on matters under debate and it will guarantee mutual respect amongst members and that would be a good mark for us with the public and all glory be unto God.

In saying that, let me remind you that we must cooperate. We do not mince words here as our Standing Orders is in place. That is the guideline of our business which ensures stability in the House.

I wish you well in the course of our proceedings today and I am specifically referring to members whom have yet to speak on the Budget.

Statement instructed by the Speaker to be omitted from Hansard made by the member for Faleata No.3: *“(There is just this and if I may remind you, after we reconciled and greeted each other down there at 2:00, and by 4:00 poor Tiatia had been dismissed)”*.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata 3): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I will not allow for any statement to be made at this hour. I have said my bit...and I will not permit another opportunity.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I respect you honourable but as this is brought up, there are reasons. As you have rightly said concerning the events of that day. Let us forget and move forward just like yesterday.

MR SPEAKER: Sit down. I am instructing you to sit down. Take your seat.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: It is fine, if those remarks have been removed. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: The member will take his seat.

During the adjournment of Proceedings yesterday, the member for Vaimauga No.1 was finishing his speech.

This is the opportunity for another member to address the Assembly. I notice one of the senior member on his feet. The distinguished member from Siumu, Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota, you may take the floor.

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA (Siumu): Thank you Mr Speaker. I too concur with you on the prayers and the invocation voiced this morning to glorify God's grace and mercy which has seen us here today in good health. I acknowledge you Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister and Cabinet and distinguish members of the parliament of Samoa, it is wonderful to see you all in good health.

Mr Speaker I rise with respect and thank you for the opportunity. Your salutation is that you are the key to this House. You are also the head of this pillar of the Government.

I do not need to praise this land and court. The salutations of Tiafau is such that the principal court of Malie and Vaitoelau depends on for support. With Tuisamau as the venerable one. This is a court where concepts are framed and conviction of state affairs is resolved. It is the court where grievances of the people of Samoa is sorted. It is also the place where we entreat Gods guidance in relations to peace and freedom. Where your Honourable Mr Speaker presides. The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

Respectfully acknowledging this side of chambers with the Leader of Opposition, the Deputy Leader and members of the Human Rights Protection Party and distinguish members of Parliament.

I convey greetings to the dignitaries of Samoa and recognise the salutations and the principal meeting places of the country throughout. I understand that no intelligence can undo the complexity of our decrees and protocols which has been sorted by our ancestors.

I acknowledge the support of Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo and his consort, the member of the council of deputies and his good wife. The Chief Justice and the Judiciary. I extend the same to the Clerk and the office of the Legislative Assembly.

I must also realise the prayerful support of our people in all its glory. The decree that was said at Taisamasama is that, the dignitaries and salutations of the royal families should be set aside whilst preference should be accorded to the sacred sons of the Holy Scriptures which have shine through in their consecrated leadership overwhelming the bygone traditions.

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So we must uphold and respect the wise senior folks so that the ship of curse subsides whilst the ship of blessings sails on.

Such are the dignitaries of the royal families and the royal sons. The wise opinions of the venerable orators representing Tumua and Pule and the principals meeting places at Lalogafuafua, Malie and Vaitoelau and Maauga and Nuuausala. The support of Faleu and Utuagiagi. If I am to cross over to Salafai towards the six authorities I would respectfully acknowledge the principal courts from Fuifatu, Vaituutuu, Finao, Matia ma Matia Ituau, Faletoi and Vailoa. I recognise the support and attendance of the Chief Executive Officers and Managers of Ministries and Corporations. Companies and the Business community carrying the weight of the nation day and night.

I will also open a window as we cannot forget to omit our brothers in the east and the support of Tutuila and Manua, with the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker and the House of Representatives. The traditional and ceremonial salutations pertaining to them.

Mr Speaker *e ui ina pipii tia ae mamao ala* although we may seem close to each other in residence and abode the distance between us though a fair way. I stand before you and shiver due to the aura of the dignity felt. Nevertheless, today is notable and blessed. Despite the long difficult road of calamity and troubles we came through since the beginning of the year. We praise God for providing us with the stronger sail of victory for the welfare of Samoa and its people.

Let us then return praises and glorify the living God which Samoa is founded upon, the God of nations and every country throughout the world. Whatever happened yesterday, let us forego and forget. But focus on the future let us work together for the prosperity of Samoa.

Mr Speaker I will now briefly address the Financial Estimates 2021/2022. My commendations and appreciations to the Minister of Finance for the task is overwhelming and difficult. Bravo! I note the dramatic drop for 20 types of government services. I believe it does substantiate the manifesto for a general wellbeing for our people. If your honourable believes it is appropriate and that the various avenue sources of financial support are sufficient to procure capital to operate our country, then go ahead and may it bring success for the country.

Mr Speaker our time is of the essence and I do realise that we will get further opportunities once the Budget moves to the consideration stage. I will now address the demands of my constituency and the projects which I promised them if I do make it back in I will attempt to argue them in parliament.

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I also believe that it would be most difficult for the Minister of Works to commit to the various projects which have been requested of you. There is this small matter though I would like to bring to your attention since it is circulating within my constituency, before I discuss other matters. This is to do with the \$1million for constituencies and the pension for seniors, that is it. My constituents are listening and have heard the explanation from government. Just in case they tell in the days to come that I did not do so. But come elections the next time around they will be saying, “well our representative did raise it and never showed again”

I would describe the Minister of Works to be a warrior of Parliament. I congratulate you on your calling. I had dialogue with my constituents and promised them I would strive to see it happen. I appreciate the fact that the access road at my village of Matafaa is complete. The access road for Maninoa as well as the power and water supply is also done.

I will request your honourable for the construction of my community at Saaga. This village is located next to Falealili. It has been a long time since they shared their demand for an access road. The road towards Siumu needs to be tar seal. A great part of this road contains pot holes and is really in a bad state and needs another layer of tar seal. There is also a drainage of about 200 meters long stretching from the school towards Falealili.

On rainy days the water would sweep across the area and people are unable to travel towards Falealili and Aleipata. It needs a cement road. I do have a lot of request but I think what I have shared will do for now there have been loads of demands from members as well.

I want to say to the Minister of Health that we are tired of travelling to Falealili in the middle of the night and under the scorching sun. If the government has proposals to rebuild and upgrade health centres throughout the country, I am glad. My humble request is for this to be done as soon as possible. I convey my commendations and appreciation to the Minister and the Ministry for the actions to keep our country safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. I will though stress the recommendations you have received to ensure our borders are secure as we understand and am concern that the pandemic is close to us considering this other new variant that is said to be more contagious and spreads really fast. So good on you.

During the course of the general elections I realised a lot of parents asking for financial assistance to cover school fees particularly for those attending National University of Samoa. I understand we have a lot of smart students though sad to know they are unable to continue due to poor financial status.

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I ask the Minister to find out whether there is a programme like they have in New Zealand where students apply for student loans to continue their education with the commitment to repay their debts. I wish you well Minister in your role.

Mr Speaker I think that is all I wanted to cover but will now use this moment to address my constituency. After all I cannot neglect the honour and the support of my constituency of Siumu. I do believe that you prayed to the God of nations to forgive my shortcomings and that blessings may surely follow so I may contribute to our political affairs on your behalf.

The salutations of my constituency from Siufaga and Saumolia right through to Faletele. The ceremonial addresses of Sa Asomua and the two families, the talking chief Tuuu and his family. The two orators, the mouth piece of Alataua, Utaileuo and the house of three. I acknowledge the prayerful support of the clergy from the various denominations praying for God's grace and mercy. I recognise the support of the women, unmarried women, untitled men and the youths. I commend you all for your love and support. This is a day of appreciation and celebration for we have succeeded. I raise the flag of victory due to the honour you have placed upon me.

Mr Speaker the man which makes up the four sides of Atua will now conclude. If I may have said something unbecoming I ask of your forgiveness. God bless Mr Speaker. May God's blessings be upon our people, my community of Siumu. May I live with the grace of God. May we have a constructive meeting.

The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands at the conclusion of the speech by the member for Siumu.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member from Siumu for his contribution. You are a senior member of this Assembly. Despite your absence from Parliament in the past, the wisdom of a senior member has shown today. You have shared the demands of your community and the Prime Minister and Cabinet have heard what needs necessary for your constituency.

This is the opportunity for another member. I call upon the member for Vaimauga No.3 Hon Tapunuu Niko Lee Hang.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG (Vaimauga 3): I will firstly accord my gratitude to you Mr Speaker. Before I address the budget, I would like to say that I too concur with the prayers you have offered. May we continue to praise God for His divine mercy, his peace and protection upon this parliament and all the representatives so we may all possess humility, perseverance and not rage.

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The usual understanding is that despite the conflicts between brothers and sisters it eventually resolves in peace and the blessings from God. So thank you for the invocation for if we uphold that spirit of compassion as it states in God's law, that you must love God and the law after that is that you must love your fellow being.

This is my introduction so that God may assist with my preparation so that what I say will be heard with kind acceptance and also with the hope it may be for the glory of God.

The notability of this place carried by the presence of the representatives of the people remains. Such significance hails from the yellow sea at Matasaua where Malietoa and Tuimanua shared kava under paramount circumstances, to the raging sea of Nafanua at Fili and Puletu'u where our nation was prophesised. I will not elaborate on our salutations for I may inadequately fail to do so and will count against me.

Mr Speaker the glory and sense of thankfulness to God cannot be lessen.

If I may recall a tale from my community when Sina the daughter of Faasavalu desires a drink, and had attractions to the octopus the demon of Vaimauga. People would line up at Apaula and water would be passed from one to another to quench Sinas thirst. Hence the name Vainatuutuulima or Vailima.

Today is like that particular day with God's grace and compassion for our wellbeing. We are gathered here today in fine spirits and acknowledging the blessing upon our country supporting us today. Your salutations is overwhelming today in this Parliament.

The House here at Tiafau is the court where grievances of the people are resolved. It is the place where the principal court of Sinave and Ulumatootua turns to for direction. The dignitaries of the royal families and the royal sons, the oratory group of Tumua and Pule.

I acknowledge Le Ao o le Malo and his consort, the member of the council of deputies and his wife. I cannot omit to mention my constituency of Vaimauga No.3 and the traditional salutations pertaining to you. I make special mention of the clergy throughout the constituency I appreciate your prayers.

I must also acknowledge the presiding Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

The leader of the HRPP and distinguished members of this Assembly. I recognise the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries.

I acknowledge the Chief Justice and the President of the Land and Titles Court and the Ministry of Justice.

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Mr Speaker I will firstly extend my appreciation to the Minister of Finance for the main Appropriations 2021/2022. For you have taken preference of families and our citizens. Your country and citizens, culture and Christian values. This is our collective responsibility, praise God. Mr Speaker, my question is and my apologies if it is not sound to you.

My question to the Minister of Finance concerns her statement regarding mission. I do not want to turn back the clock with past events of the 15th September. I believe this to be a dark day for Samoa and its history of Parliament. We witness the events of that day with sadness and misery. It reflected shredded tears.

My question Mr Speaker whether the events of this dark day last week reflected the policies of their manifesto?

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member that it has pass and the Chair has ruled on this. So do have regards for our business agenda. You must also have consideration of the public tuning in and their prayerful support. I beg tolerance of you all but that is now in the past. Let that day be of a lesser importance than the day we reconciled. We have forgiven each other and we must maintain peace moving forward. I like the spirit of Tuuu, let us move forward and do not look back.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi (Leader of Opposition): Mr Speaker I ask that you exercise patience and let us have our say. You should know that it is the rights of members to voice their opinions. So let us say what we need to share. Otherwise we would publicise it outside of this Assembly. That is my suggestion to you.

MR SPEAKER: The Chair has ruled on this. I think along the line of peace and stability as we are the leaders of the country. It may be your emotions but that time has pass. If we look back and think about it would be stressful. My advice is that we are the fathers of the nation and we should forego past events. Let us keep moving ahead with our business. We are currently debating the budget so we may implement our projects.

So that is my recommendation to the member whom is a veteran member.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: This party support the progress of our business orders. But there are areas in which you should exercise vision. We cannot be silent over unacceptable situations. We must voice our recommendation. If we are to remain silence over matters of concern. We are not exercising our oath done before God.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker, I seek an opportunity please.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I am specifically talking to you sir and that you must have tonnes of patience.

MR SPEAKER: I do not feel that way at all. The duty of the Chair is to uphold the dignity and ensuring stability. I feel duty bound to assist to ensure stability throughout our proceedings.

So let us move forward. I have made my ruling and we cannot over ride that. Our order of business today is the budget.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker it is a fact that our statements are said in a general manner.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker, it is why...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: This is the only chance where this can be done.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries will take the floor.

The member will resume his seat. The leader of opposition is in contempt of parliament. The Speaker has given its ruling and I cannot go back on it, we should observe our Standing Orders.

My apologies to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I think we should exercise stability and order. The chair will not deviate from its responsibilities.

I also do stand by my ruling and Standing Orders.

The member will continue.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker, I beg for your indulgence if I may have been out of line.

However, my speech is based on the contents of the budget statement specifically on “mission”. That is why I am questioning it but as I initially said, I do not want to visit the events that occurred. What I was getting at is to set precedence for the future. As I said it was unacceptable. My desire is that our remarks will focus on the mission statement and focus on it. I was merely suggesting but was surely not saying that you faulted. For God forgives every transgression.

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Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance states in her statement violence against women and children to clear out this ugly behaviour. May I ask the Minister of Justice what her view is on the law considering Laauli stating that all female members of HRPP should be taken to.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker, it is a now morning and we have had our prayer.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the Minister.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Give me the opportunity to respond to this issue, since it was Papalii that instigated this march.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, Tapunuu! You are one of the senior members but you are coming across as a child with your remarks. Have regards to the chair as I am being lenient. Forget that matter, it is in the past and direct your remarks on the Budget. You were once the Minister of Finance, so you realise that it is for the welfare of the country. I will not allow any further discussion of the matter.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega 2): Mr Speaker,

MR SPEAKER: Is there any...

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Yes I have a point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Is it a financial matter or

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I interrupt the member taking the floor to say. It is the fault of the Speaker for removing the title Papalii which had provided dignity to him when he speaks. Now he is Tapunuu he has become a minor.

MR SPEAKER: Stop it. I say to the Minister to stop it. Leave our family matters to us. This is what happens when you bring up our... address the budget.

Susuga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: I can apologise all day long to you Mr Speaker. I did share earlier my wish for us to be at peace. Yet your side are constantly getting up to spoil the stability of our proceedings.

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I am asking the Minister of Justice, yet the Minister of Agriculture gets up and is assisted by the Minister of Works.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, a point of order since my name is mentioned. Mr Speaker the member should understand that we are all ears to his statement. It was not the case when you were here on this side. I would say about two sentences before you all get up to raise points of order. Look at how respectful we are, we let you speak right through until the end before we respond. Yet you are frowning at me. The member should also remember that when I was over that side the longest I would speak for is 7 minutes. You guys are fortunate for you can speak for 34 minutes.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, and may I say to the Minister. Tapunuu should understand the view of the Chair. Do continue and focus on the budget. Instead of bringing up other matters...

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: I ask the Chair not to allow any further interruption for it will take up my time I do have fair bit to cover. That is my respectful submission. I did question...

MR SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will take the floor.

Afioga Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa: A point of clarification. I note with disappointment the application of the issue on women. This is the stigma of the journey we have travelled, women being subject to violence, women are so and so, and call on all women of the country to come. You have played politics with our gender. Is that compassion? If the member is quoting what Laauli said? How many statements did the leader of opposition say? Are we raising that? You must be cautious of that. If you declare that you have compassion for women then stop politicizing women. Speak on constructive points which will defend women. Instead of going off...have you forgotten what Tuilaepa said in here? In this Assembly.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the leader of the opposition, let the Prime Minister complete what she has to say.

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Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: It is your nature to praise women and putting women up front, and then you say otherwise and reprimanding women. Mr Speaker if this is discussed then practise impartiality.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I want to ask what these words are.

MR SPEAKER: I gather what the Prime Minister is putting across. I believe I do not need to spell to you that women are the treasure of men. We all grew up in environments where this relationship is nurtured. So, Tapunuu leave women alone but speak on the budget for the prosperity of the country.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker, as I was saying I am talking about the budget speech. There were important issues raised by the Minister of Finance concerning violence against women. So I am talking about something else I am focussing on the future and assistance to alleviate the violence against women. My respect for my colleague Laauli concerning the statement he gave on TV but let us leave that.

My endeavours is to submit recommendations to the Minister of Women to assist with this issue. Because I believe the issue will prevail. You should try to get rid of it that is what I am suggesting whether you like it or not.

I am sad though with the constant interruption from that side yet there is nothing wrong with what I am saying. I apologise if I have erred.

Mr Speaker there is a segment of this very part which I will remove.

To the Minister of Police, Hon Faualo. I want to ask you whether such statement is unlawful. You do not need to give a response but will leave that with you. I do not want trouble.

To the Minister of Finance there are two items of money showing \$250,000 planned for...I will read out what it says here to make things clear.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker a point of order. The member has been in Parliament for a long time. But listening to his remarks it seems that he is on phase 3 of our orders with the detail consideration. It does not sound like a general speech on policies and the likes.

MR SPEAKER: I share the same view and thank you to the Prime Minister. If I may remind the member since he was Minister of Finance for a long time. You do realise, this is the time of our general remarks. There will come a time for the detail consideration of items then you may raise what you are saying. With respect.

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Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker the Prime Minister is correct. I understand but it is covered in the budget speech in general terms. I am not speaking on individual items of the Budget. The other thing is you are allowing us the opportunity which we are not eligible to such opportunities. After my speech I will not raise these matters again. So I am bringing up what is covered in the budget statement.

I am recommending that half a million be spent on this. The investigations of annual reports of Ministries and Corporations together with auditing and consideration of auditors is called Forensic Audit. My understanding is that under such circumstances diseased people are looked into. As to establish the exact cause of death.

I note here the new terms where the financial estimates are thoroughly reviewed, similar to the examining of a deceased person. I note that half a million is appropriated on a consultant, I can say that I am available if you need my service and it is free of charge.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, a point of order. In my view the member was a Minister of Finance for over ten years when they were in government. Yet he does not understand how to read the Budget.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: A point of order, it was just five years I was Minister of Finance for (5) years not ten (10). The member has also been in the house for a long time and so he should know these things. Instead of making these false claims. Stop lying.

Mr Speaker I am merely submitting my recommendations. Stop interrupting. It is making me forget the speech I have prepared. That is my view if you are to spend half a million to pay for a new investigation as such. But I can confirm that audit accounts from Ministries and Corporations are up to date. So what is the reason for paying out this \$250,000 again?

I understand there are people in our country with the expertise on these matters. You have Afioga Leota whom is another top auditor that can assist you if you need consultants at the tune of half a million tala. I am available if you need my assistance. The other thing I must apologise about since you have given your ruling on it...

MR SPEAKER: Is something of progress or from the past?

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: It is a start. With half of it forward and the other from the past.

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MR SPEAKER: We want to hear matters that will ensure progress, we don't accept bringing up the past.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: I think half of it is to do with the past since my constituents have been constantly asking about the million.

My response was to have patience until the Budget is passed then Laauli's dream will be realised. I concur with Laauli stating that he is not responsible for the appropriations in the budget. What I heard from Laauli during their roadshow is that they will prepare 1million for 5 years running for every constituency. So I am grateful for this blessing. The thing is, the conditions because I can testify to Laauli that we do not have land at my constituency. How are we to develop if we do not have land? Will we also get land as well as the million tala?

MR SPEAKER: Since the Minister was mentioned.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Allow me to clarify this. This would be the tenth time I will be explaining this matter. Hon Papaliitele and that is your title which I really respect. This matter is not something that was ill prepared. We will not mislead the country with this matter of the million. It was you that went and spread rumours. Asking. How were we to make this happen? Where will the money come from? Why mislead the people? I am saying today. Papalii! We have been in government for only six weeks. We are trying to resolve the huge mess. So give us time. You have been there as a Minister of Finance. Give us time to sort out the matter. Do not be skeptical. We were educated in different environments.

Despite the fact that you went out and preached that FAST are stupid, they will not last six months. Leave it with us and we will focus on the means to fulfil this matter.

Samoa! Tuning in this is the last time I will make this testament. Since I am the one who made the testimony, the million tala for constituencies' projects will be done. It is up to the opposition what rumours they will dish out tonight. Tonight you will be sharing koko and preaching to our people that it will not eventuate. Mr Speaker, Samoa, it will happen.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you this is now understood.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.5): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Are you interrupting the member or the interruption.

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Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: I am going by what you are saying.

MR SPEAKER: Yes. Are you interrupting the member that interrupted or are you interrupting the member that was speaking?

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: I am interrupting the statement from...

MR SPEAKER: It is unacceptable under our Standing Orders. Resume your seat.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena: Laauli, patience, feel the heat.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Leave our matters for the court. That is our arena, we do not argue here as we are brothers.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of you two but will let Tapunuu continue his remarks, you have a minute remaining.

Afioga Ho TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker I think the minute remaining will...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I wonder whether it's really a minute remaining.

MR SPEAKER: We are doing things with mutual respect. But it seems that something trivial is dragged. Let me remind Tapunuu that he has a minute remaining.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I rise to *move that a few more minutes be added to the member as his time was taken up by the comedy that we just saw.*

Seconded by the Leader of Opposition, member for Anoamaa No.2.

MR SPEAKER: Since a motion has been moved and seconded.

Motion rejected.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies Tapunuu but do continue.

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Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker, I do believe...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker before the member continues. I realise that members of that side of chambers spoke at length uninterrupted. I had thought that the chair would consider that fact and accord the same privilege to members of this side.

MR SPEAKER: As I said, a motion was moved. I am allowing new members the opportunity to speak at length. But with senior members I believe the time given to you is suffice. Tapunuu you may continue.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker. Despite the motion being rejected, you are nodding your head due to our connection to the Papalii title. Thank you for the opportunity to continue my wonderful speech. My statement is one of the recommendations as I realise the vitality of Ministers. The Ministers are all new to Parliament. So these sound suggestions from the veteran members of Parliament, if you do not accept, fine, if you do, praise the Lord. This is the purpose of the opposition, to advise you and it is your discretion whether to accept it. Laauli has made it clear that these circumstance will happen.

My suggestion though is to follow accounting principles in managing these funds. Bearing in mind that accountability and transparency are the golden rules of such matters when preparing financial statements. My suggestion is to let the Ministry of Finance appropriate these funds of a million tala for each constituency. It is merely a suggestion but it is up to you to what you believe is the best way of doing it. Nevertheless, what a wonderful provision, praise the Lord.

Mr Speaker I wish to bring up some of the matters raised by the Minister of Finance in her statement regarding government loans. Whereby she stated that they have inherited the debts of the previous government and she further stated that we had reached the 50% limit compared to the economy. Mr Speaker after doing some research that has dropped to 48% the total government debts compared to the GDP. We are keeping to government fiscal policies statement. For your information, every year the credit limit is 40% compared to the gross domestic product. This what is called a long term plan and it must be achieved within 10 years and is different from the annual fiscal statement.

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Mr Speaker this is a very inconsiderate statement due to the fact that we are regarded as a small nation with a fragile economy and can undoubtedly be affected by natural disasters. We have no supply of natural resources other than the sea shores with its fish supply and the lush green environment we are taking advantage of for our agricultural farming. Retrospectively speaking in 2007 there was a global financial crisis also affecting Samoa and followed by the Tsunami in 2009. From 2012 to 2018 we have constantly been affected by strong winds, cyclones, flooding as well as the dramatic changes of climate change every year in which we need capital reserves to maintain our damaged assets, and complete projects so as to generate and stimulate the economy. Our overseas partners continue to assist us yet we have a role to finance feasible projects if our usual revenue sources cannot meet it. So debts and the usual operations of countries around the world including America and Great Britain whom are also engaged in borrowing to finance their developments and to support their economy once affected. Even regular individuals need to borrow for our personal projects once we are short. When you have a debt the adage stands correct...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member. May I ask whose speech you are reading? Is it yours or the Minister's?

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: This is my research.

MR SPEAKER: So it is your research?

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: I have condensed it into one document as it is important to clear up the issue concerning our debt for the information of parliament.

MR SPEAKER: It is now, I believe it...

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: My speech need not be drafted by anyone else.

Afioga Hon Fiaame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, a motion has been put and you have put it before Parliament. Let not your connection with Papalii Niko prolong his statement when the motion was rejected. Please Mr Speaker, follow the motion that has been agreed to.

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MR SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has spoken and I am of the thought you should really wrap up your statement. Forget about your research, perhaps your suggestion will be of benefit to the Minister of Finance. Then again maybe this is the time of the Minister of Finance to apply her strategies but your research is valued. It is our collective duty to assist each other. So wrap up your remarks your time is finish.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you. Just in case the Prime Minister suspects our close relations which is why you are giving me chances. So my apologies for that if we are accused of such. So I will now conclude I have two paragraphs remaining and I am done. It is also important to note that when we discuss debts it must be stressed the repayment capacity to pay debts under 20% compared to GDP. During the HRPP government, 11% to 12% was maintained along these lines.

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member since not only your time is up but you are reading your speech which is prohibited by Standing Orders. So I advise you another senior member of parliament.

I am sympathetic to you and I think there is an opportunity for you to browse the budget statement and perhaps another opportunity will come up for you to voice your recommendations.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: I want to say hello to my constituency and thank them. Do I get an opportunity to do that?

MR SPEAKER: Yes do address your constituency before finishing.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU NIKO LEE HANG: If my constituency of Vaimauga No.3 are listening in well my time is up. Perhaps in due course your representative will finish up his speech. May God's blessings be upon you. I appreciate this honour you have given me to be your voice in the next five years. Praise the Lord. May Gods mercy be upon our constituency. God bless you Mr Speaker may you possess wisdom to fulfil your calling. We all have one source of dependency and that is God. May He be praised. Thank you.

The Assembly gave a round of applause to show their appreciation for the statement of the member for Vaimauga No.3.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. And my commendations to the member. You do have the chiefly traits which you continue to display. So thank you Tapunuu, after all you are a Papalii and you continue to reflect the traits and conduct of our family. It is showing chiefly personality which brings about success in everything we do. Your constituency have also heard your contribution and sharing your knowledge of the God given abilities you have. You have shared your wisdom to your sister the Minister of Finance which we all are sharing our ideas for the welfare of the country. So thank you. This is the opportunity for another member to speak. I call upon the member for Sagaga No.3 Hon Sala Fata Pinati. Another senior member that needs no introduction.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI (Sagaga 3): Greetings to you Mr Speaker this morning. I want to say to the members that I have two legs. I will compare this fact to the situation that I hail from two constituencies. Gagaemauga where Tuala hails from is my rightful identity. It is the law which has changed boundaries of constituencies.

This however will be applied for one day only. This change of constituencies will only apply for one day only and then our village will return to Gagaemauga. We are now labelled as Sagaga No.3 and it is the style of elections. I want to firstly accord my commendations to Hon Tuala for it does make me proud. All of Samoa understands that we now have two representatives here for our constituency of Gagaemauga made up of Samalaeulu, Patamea and Mauga which is currently joined by the village of Saleaula. In 2006 when I held this seat for our constituency we were here with Laauli, Olo, Lealailepule, Moefaaouou and Loau Keneti Sio. This new seat was created here and it was I that requested the division of my constituency, because the fact is it was just impossible for someone in Savaii to hold the seat. Now Tuala occupies it. Tuala we may be in different places with you being Minister while I am here. I congratulate you on your journey.

Mr Speaker I salute you, for your role is not that easy. I also extend my appreciations to the Prime Minister, even if she may speak of our family relations but I am proud that you have become the first female Prime Minister. It makes me very happy. She may say, oh this guy is praising me. My appreciations to Cabinet and the Associate Ministers. To this side of chambers with Afioga Tuilaepa the leader of the Human Rights Protection Party. I also commend the Chief Executive Officers of the various Ministries attending today. Do not be wary. Fiamē and Cabinet will not dismiss you I do believe that they do have good intentions the same as us.

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I rise with all respect to address you the dignitaries of this Assembly elected by our constituencies to voice their wishes and the demands of the people and the many developments. I beg tolerance of you all as I will not elaborate on the honorific salutations of our country as it will remain regardless.

The tabling Budget I will say the government of the day has the sole discretion to do what it pleases. All we can do is to voice our recommendations and as long as there are lots of suggestions things will improve. We will not give you problems which may make you think that everything is good. A good parent provides sound advice for the children. Right now the parents are the Prime Minister and Cabinet as they take the front foot here in this House. Whatever suggestions we provide you should take heed and we certainly do not mince words when we debate here. We make the laws in here for the government heads to implement their works. Whatever services and projects implemented, I believe should not fall on the Minister but the public servants at the helm of Ministries implementing it.

There is the view that the government is not performing, it is pointless to approach the Minister as nothing is happening. So this is what I am telling you, it is the public servant that instigate the work. There are managers that do get up and get the job done on the other hand there are managers that just sit in their offices passing documents of instructions around and consequently the work does not get done. What is the start of all this? Doing things with a happy heart, committing to what you do. I realise that a lot of you are new but when I was over that side I would make a note of all the requests and made sure they were all addressed. The suggestions for the welfare of the country at large. So we should not deceive people.

My advice to all members and it is a fact of why many fall from grace is because of empty promises. There is an European saying of walk the talk. When you make promises and after 5 years nothing is being done then you should accept your fate that it is you who will not be returning to Parliament. This is a House of integrity and you do not come here to mislead your constituency. The different beliefs of FAST and HRPP will not save you from your constituency when you do meet with your respective community or even a sub-village. When constituencies meet they normally ask how you are and when this and that will be done. The member would then respond by saying, my apologies but I am trying to get it done. The fact is the loads of cash does not win elections. It is the service you provide. It is doing the right thing with compassion. That is the path to authority. So what is that path, service.

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So, this morning I say welcome to you all to the Court of Samoa. The fact is with this place. It is not how much wealth you have but the service you implement on a daily basis. I thank God for He is the source of blessings. It is the reason I am here and it has been (4) terms. This is my fifth term and I thought to myself that I would cruise and take it easy this term but seriously I do my work. It is just a jibe in a humorous manner. But my service is for the people and everyone should be equal to you. Do not show impartiality if someone is of a higher status then embrace that person only. You must remember that mothers are mothers and have a great contribution within village communities than fathers. It was the cause of some elections to uphold the argument that fathers were the refuge. People have different strategies, and one would find a new lease in life so it is wise to nurture them with care mothers. It is the relationship of mothers to children, mothers to fathers. Father if you do not do this you will reap the repercussions. You will never get this again.

Mr Speaker I want to raise this point and that is the Ministry of Agriculture, with Afioga Laauli, you are the man. After all, Laauli is a farmer. Areas that need be improve well I do not need to tell as you know it. You have the ability to understand every area around Samoa and what needs to be upgraded. I appreciate the fact that you have the initiative to utilise that piece of land in Auckland for a market for our agricultural products. The other point regards fishing boats, as most of the boats are too expensive. I remember back in the days when FAO were here. There were European nationals from Sweden who came here and constructed these boats. My recommendation is it would be good if you could procure the service of people from Sweden to build our boats and it would ensure the high quantity of seafood for us. That would ensure with loads of it and at a very low price for our people.

On to Tourism...

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech from one of the senior members of the House. But you will continue your remarks and you fatherly advice to the house when we return from our usual recess. I announce that Proceedings be suspended for normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended for its usual recess at 11:00am and continued at 11:42am.

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Motion to Amend Sitting Hours

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resume. I believe the refreshments to energize us was enjoyed by everyone to continue with our business. I call upon the Prime Minister for a motion.

MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I do think that members have regained energy from our refreshments.

Due to the fact the Budget currently under debate must complete by the end of this month, with a few more days remaining. Moreover, there is a schedule statutory two days this week for COVID-19 immunisation.

I rise to move, *to amend our legislation as follow. The provision of the motion approved for the hours to be from 9:30 to 6:00pm continues. The amendment is for our proceedings to continue from 7:00pm until 10:00pm. Meaning we will carry on until the third reading of the Main Estimates currently under debate. There is also the Electoral Amendment Bill.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Motion Approved.

Debate continued on the third reading of Appropriations Bill 2021/2022.

MR SPEAKER: Upon suspension of proceedings the member for Sagaga No.3 was giving his remarks. The member may continue.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Greetings to that side of chambers with your Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and also your good self, Mr Speaker.

Before we had our recess I was on the topic of tourism. When I was Minister of Tourism there was the objective for an area of land at Palauli called Pulemelei. It is an iconic scenic site which the government should seriously consider. It is generally understood that Egypt is famous for its iconic sites. Here in Samoana Pacific we have this I am not certain whether there were beings here in Samoa from other planets. Or whether our ancestors allied other celestial beings. It is why I am recommending an appropriation of funds to maintain it as well as other sites around Samoa. I know for a fact there are other such sites but money is necessary. You should understand the belief that money is to be spent to make more money. So we must keep an open mind as to avenues to procure funding to fulfil this purpose. It is not for us but generations to come. Moreover, to attract people to visit our shores to witness the beauty of Samoa.

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On the issue of roads, may I say to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. There is no one else but this warrior, Olo the man. We have been in battle for so long, actually (4) parliamentary terms. I congratulate you for your service as this is the measure of us, the service we provide for our constituencies. I am just astonished with what you do. You came and ran for Saleaula, left Saleaula and contested Salega and yet you made it back again. You are a movie star, bravo brother.

As I have said we are all one family. We may share different opinions but at the end of the day we are here to serve Samoa. Nothing else but to serve our people. The path to leadership and authority is service, and if I may quote the famous American that was assassinated. Do not ask what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country. You ask yourself how you will contribute to your constituency, or your church, your families and lastly towards the government. Since it is God's will behind our appointment. Do not ever forget the honour bestowed upon us in case you may abuse it. We must always remember that our calling is from God. So we must exercise compassion, patience and integrity. I also believe that one is chosen from within his family circle. As long as you are committed to the welfare of your family and children you will naturally perform good deeds. You will not be able to implement successful service for the country if your home environment is not perfect. I am thankful to the Minister Vasati, I applaud your fighting spirit. As I said God rules.

MR SPEAKER: I remind the member that the matai title is Matamua, after all the constituency are following our proceedings.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Matamua, my apologies I have missed your title. But I do recall the day of your beloved when we came to fulfil our duty as required because of our connection. I will not forget your husband for his civility. Do continue the good work as I have said It is all for God and it is for your community and our people. I want to go back to Laauli, Lualiemalietoa my sympathies the brother. Agriculture is the main medal of everything we strive for. You now have WESTEC under your portfolio and I know there are many projects this entity is aiming for. My recommendation is that you continue any project that was under my watch do please complete it. Those endeavours were for the country, for I believe that if WESTEC succeeds the country will benefit.

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To conclude by saying Tuala and Sala, and the two orators Tevaga ma Vaifale and the community at large, it has been four terms since you have given me your trust by honouring me to be your voice. So I say let us give thanks to God first. As I have said, elections are not won with money but the spirit of God that directs people to act in a way which results with my being here. That is the message and my belief. I want to say to my community at Aleisa that I am touched.

Mr Speaker my relationship with this community is quite unique as it is a new addition to my constituency. The majority of the community are matais from all around the country residing there and engaging in their own farming endeavours. During the course of the campaign there was an element of people refusing to accept the reality. Claiming that they belong to Tuala and Sala, Tevaga and Vaifale we hail from a different community. In saying that I ask that the law be reviewed so as to change this area of the legislation. Let us continue to visit these matters and I think it is important under constructive and good administration. To my family and friends, words cannot express how grateful I am and touched for the honour and support. You had always been there throughout. I am not perfect but as I keep saying God will provide greater things as long as we are true to what we do. For it is our Saviour that said before I leave this place may you live in peace.

The House gave a round of applause to show their appreciation of the speech from the member for Sagaga No.3.

MR SPEAKER: I commend the veteran member from Sagaga No.3 Afioga Sala for his address. I applaud your fatherly recommendation and I would think the Prime Minister and Cabinet do feel a sense of comfort concerning the responsibilities they are to undertake. Your constituency have also witnessed and are listening to your views like your support for some of the changes for Aleisa. Perhaps your suggestions would be of benefit to the government. This is the opportunity for another member to speak on the budget. I call upon the member for Anoamaa No.1, Afioga Alaiasa Moefaaououo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu.

Afioga ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU (Anoamaa No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity upon me to contribute on behalf of my constituency to the budget now under debate. We have also just had refreshments to reenergise everyone to continue with our business.

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You have voiced our invocation to our heavenly Father in which Samoa is founded upon, our beloved country. In saying that, our protocols are in fine order for the prominent forum of our country. You have discharged earlier your wishes and intentions and I support it. I do recall with your appointment, the story about the fine mat of a lady from my village. It is called pipiimaleelele “stuck to the ground”

It is said that she wished to bathe in the prince’s pool. So the name of the fine mat was changed to “tasiaeafe” one in a thousand. Your appointment can be compared as such. You are one in a thousand for Samoa and this House. Representing the Malietoa clan, you have succeed. Praise the Lord.

Some of the members have alluded to the fact that you officially welcome the first missionary John Williams and I agree for it has shed the light of the world upon Samoa. Thank you, our prayers are that your calling is a success. May you find wisdom from God in your role of preceding over this Assembly. I am tempted to touch on the clouds of Tagaloalagi but am wary of the difficult rough path over the mountain tops of Samoa. As there are sharp edge rocks along the way that be compared to the complexity of Samoa with its revered and notable salutations. It can be compared to a fish with a tremendous skeletal frame which fishermen must not react quickly to define. It is the reason that I feel I should cite your sacred and dignified ceremonial addresses otherwise it may count against me if I do not. In saying that I acknowledge the Prime Minister as this is your time and you have become the first female Prime Minister of the Pacific. Praise God and as it has been rightly said, one’s election and calling is from God.

I extend greetings to Cabinet and also Associate Ministers congratulations on your sportsmanship. The elections are now over and you have become the government. I wish you all success with your appointments and may good things happen for the public at large. To our party on this side of chambers, I applaud your patience. There is the common saying that things will eventually get better. Let us carry on our commitment since it is our collective responsibility. Whether you are in government or opposition, once you have a different agenda other than the focus for the common good of the people, I would think then that you are in the wrong place if you have different intentions. Samoa is the main focal point for anyone so whatever we do, and as the old adage goes, when one is engaged in hunting always be cautious of the obstacles that could harm you. So that welfare for our people supporting us is achieved.

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Mr Speaker this my maiden speech as an opposition member. I am not use to being in opposition. I was thinking of approaching Olo for advice on my speech but was directed to Leala but thought to myself, well Leala might possibly ill advise me. Anyhow, I respectfully acknowledge the public tuning in right from the yellow sea of Tuimanua towards Fili and Puletu'u where our government was prophesised.

I respectfully recognised the eastern group and their honorific salutations. In the same token I salute the ceremonial addresses of Tumua and Pule. I acknowledge the clergy for the endless prayers for our success and prosperity. I salute the government of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and the two chambers. Hail Le Ao o le Malo and his consort, the member of the Council of Deputy and his good lady. The Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Honourable Mr Speaker and Parliament. I also convey greetings to the Chief Justice and the Judiciary and the public service. Such are our salutations which remains. In due course I will address my constituency. But at this stage I recall the words from the Bible. When this term is over I shall not forget you. Blessed is the village or country living by Gods word. For His people shall be His subjects. That is the blessing in which we are basking in at this day and age. The gracious hand of our Lord takes charge of our journey and ensure our success and welfare for Samoa. The bible says, only a fool will tell himself there is no God. Yes, let us not become careless with our inheritance our heritage which is our solid foundation. It is the source of prosperity and should not be doubted whether to accept it or not.

The origins of our economy was of a very fragile one as alluded to by some members. Once we uplifted our desires to God, the path provided for us never goes wrong as God perfects everything. This is the area where we will witness the magnificence of God when He eventuates things we can only imagine. So Praise God this morning. The day we reconciled was when we declared to move forward to find success and I believe that was God's will. It is a fact that calm words remove rage. The sweet sound of voice takes away the anger. We all read the bible but it is somehow difficult for us to follow God.

There has been quite a huge volume of speeches from our side concerning certain areas of the budget. These are some points which I have gathered it may be of assistance and so will share it to the Minister. Before doing so I wish to express my appreciations to the Minister for this Budget. What can we do if there was no Budget? I also applaud the Ministry for the huge undertaking with the final product now tabled. You have exercised your discretion and we will await a favourable outcome. If that maybe the case, Praise the Lord. If it yields unfavourable results the member for Anoamaa will surely say a bit about it.

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The only thing contained in the statement that sort of comes across as a threatening remark, alleging that this government have inherited a debt of \$1billion tala. Now if that may be so, then let me say that the golden rule of accounting is that there is the debit side and the credit side. That should be in the contents of the statement since this accusation is ambiguous. It should also say, "we inherited assets of \$2billion tala". That is how it should be. Debts grow because it is spent on developments. We are now enjoying the luxury of fancy buildings, vehicles, offices and so debts for that matter gradually grows whilst developments also improve. But once it is a case of debts increasing, then we say that it is spent on politics. We are witnessing this trend.

Some members talked about the debt service ratio which is currently at 12% and it is my view that 20% is under reserve for our demands which is I can say that we can afford. The ability of our country to meet it is strong. But the billion tala exists because of our developments Mr Speaker we did not slumber when in government as we were committed to developing Samoa to elevate from a Least Develop Country to a higher status. That brings a sense of joy to leaders when a country is no longer recognised as poor. We all know that our GDP is 50% of our debts. The only avenue to come out of it is to borrow more to boost our developments.

The other figures that your group used to get so irritated about is what we call deficit. How does it feel? It feels good? Before that you use to say the government is bankrupt. I had thought that with your first budget there will be no deficit, but it is showing and keep it going I would think that by the end of the five year term everything will be in deficit. But thank you anyhow. The good thing is you have made it there and it is not easy. It is difficult and there were no savings to inherit. The usual rhetoric was "Oh Tuilaepa and his party have taken all the money" But I am quite content for it has been a while and I desire to hear whether this actually happened but...

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker a point of clarification and it is brief.

MR SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat whilst I allow the Minister.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I beg tolerance of the member taking the floor in case you will continue to speak of deficit. But I am going to give your usual response, deficit is a loss not bankruptcy.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister has given his response.

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Afioga ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI SEPULONA MOANANU: It is no wonder my brother refused to make an Opposing speech lest I know about his methods. Anyway thank you. The heated debate of the House over this Budget matter, this document stipulates and authorises government expenditures. This is it. This is also why we meet, again we are convening until 10 whilst the country is asleep, because this is vital, it will guide the national funding distribution.

Never mind revenue earnings as more the income the better whereas expenditures, it is stated herein. Nothing can be done. If millions is being mentioned and it is not stated here, I therefore do not know how a dictatorial decision is being done by one person. Because following this matter, this Legislation will have our approval. We must follow everything stated herein. Otherwise, we must not mislead the country, as they are listening in. Except with the Budget which stipulates funding allocation we utilize, which we must follow. As with the Budget, it is no different with the previous items. Let us look at the operations of the Government, the salary of public servants, and the services of...so that they are all good, they are all important. I do not object anything. Except, do not move away from what is in here. Like I said, I will await the Government and its review of this Budget. A time will come for me to speak again on this topic.

The explanation is short. Except, thank you for prioritizing our children's education. If our children are able to gain knowledge and understanding, they are the future of our country. There were 2 school buildings that were launched in my constituency very recently. The only thing, it is hopeless to have a school building when the interior is no good. There is a huge impact when the environment changes, the surrounding is beautiful in any person's life. Just like us, if we were to build a new house, despite you wanting to lie down you will never want to get out. Such is the situation with our children's education make good use of the opportunity given for improvement.

Thankfully, I see that there is plan to raise slightly the pay of teachers. May God bless your calling. Because that was also the Ministry that Loau was relaxing in, hopefully... and had worked in, Loau is correcting me that we did not relaxed there. Lest the Minister will do the same by relaxing there too. No I wanted the Minister to relax whilst the staff do the work, but may God bless your calling Hon Minister.

The Hon Minister of Health, one important thing. Like I said, our economy is fragile, once diseases strike, all this will become useless. With God's love, you too are a senior member in politics, I trust your calling will be blessed for the good health of the country.

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The Hon Minister of Police, Just reminding you one thing. At this time in the American Government, the movement of the Black Lives Matter or the BLM is getting stronger, the number one agenda for the BLM is to defund law enforcement defund police., Yes lest our Ministry will go through it, lest our country engages in this doing because it was quite strong what our country had gone through like never before. Lest we go through it, because the police is similar with elite people and any Samoan. Such is the advise, may you find wisdom, when the senior men are escorted by police...pardon me. That is the respect we value in Samoa. That is the advise, hold on to prudence, even in the rural areas, the office does not need to come there, the people in the rural have already captured the prisoner that you wanted, given the protection of the country. We must work together to glorify our Lord.

Well what a waste of time. I have thought that a plea was to be given to Olo my brother to assist the requests of my constituency. But every time these boys give me their pleas, Olo was always on his laptop or on his cell phone. Therefore that was a waste of time. For 15 years in Parliament, Olo never received anything good. But until we meet at our district in Salega then I will give you my request list. My constituency is listening in, just a few things to achieve. But may God bless your calling.

Then I will come to my constituency. The recent general elections, it was an election that was very expensive and difficult. Yes. What concerned me was we here are...we have here another amended Legislation. We too are the lawmakers however we also take the lead by breaching the Law. This is why there is problem...because you have touched what not needs to be touched. I wish to congratulate to my constituency for being patient with this event, victory has prevailed. When I got there during that time on a Friday, I was never praised as a member. They said I was not a sworn in member.

I said fine I will take it. Do not follow me as I go alone and if it God's will for me to die, then so be it. Yes. You just sit and relax. But when I got there this Saturday, they were all joyful, praise the Lord now that you will enter the House to give our contribution. God is to be thanked now that all of that is over, we are now receiving the spirit of forgiveness. I have also heard that I have been sworn in long time ago. Mr Speaker there was never a time that we had not talked about these things neither on phone yes. Never. I forgive the inquisitive people who are saying that I have gone over to that side. Nevertheless, I bear the values of this country. The intention is not to move forward and go back, it is not like the water crab that is haste in moving back than forth. Yes. I am not like that. I only go forward, I remain firm to integrity and what needs to be done.

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Ia, le paia o le tatou itumalo aua le Tumua ia Lufilufi, aemaise foi ona fuaiala, aua le afio o le Tuiatua o le Tapaau Faasisina, tafai o le Tuiatua, susu foi le Toaono ma le Saofaiga ma le mamalu i le Tumua. Tainane le afioaga o Aiga, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga Sa Fenunuivao ma le Aiga Sa Alaiasa, le Matua ia Iuli ma Moeono ma le tofi faasolo i le aai o le Tupu ma le tagata o le Tuiatua. These are the honorifics of the constituency. This includes my new additional village in its honorifics *Gafa ma Alosina, o le Too o le Fua ia Molioo ma le mamalu o le Ailaoa* and my village of Faleapuna. We shall embark with our work for this 5 year term. Yes. Let us put our hearts and minds together for the betterment of our constituency. This is the main duty of any member, move forward in the next 50 plus years within their districts, bless Samoa. Surely Samoa will find blessings. The only thing, is to adjourn a little bit our Committee that was proposed for this 1million project, disperse it a little bit until there is a firm decision on this matter as mentioned by by the member of Lauili, a time will come for that to be fulfilled.

May God bless the Hon Prime Minister Afioga Sao Faapito, may you find Divine wisdom. I pray for God's restoration, seeing that you are constantly coughing lest you get sick when you have tons of duties to undertake, may you find good health and spirit.

Bless that entire side altogether with blessings from God. I further wish to thank the church leaders within my district and Samoa entirely, they are the ones who are pleading for our sanctifications. I can never forget our Piula Theological College, as another source for educating our children of the doctrines of God.

Well done to the Principal and all teachers of this College.

Thank you to the Women's Hygiene Group... yet we are still conducting our programs to prevent domestic violence against women. This is still ongoing in the rural areas. The men and all those in the district, may the blessings of God be upon them. May you find strength to serve the members of this constituency.

Whatever you heard from me Mr Speaker, I beg forbearance if I have said anything offensive. Because the gospel is yours whilst the honorifics of Samoa remain intact. Yes. This is not a lie. May the Meeting of Samoa be blessed and the support of the country. God bless, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The members showed appreciation by applauding the Speech of the member for Anoamaa 1.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, great job to the member, who is one of the senior members of the Houe. The member for Anoamaa 1 lovely oratory speech that you just delivered today.

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I trust you are still giving important advise to the Government. I wish to extend thanks to you for giving your support to this side for the development and welfare of the country. I trust you are the same as Olo, you too represented Salega Savaii and now you are representing Anoamaa, that is where good performance is measured through serving the district.

In saying that, bravo. Whatever differences we had during the election, let us put them aside. I trust your contribution before the Hon Minister of Finance especially this government will assist the economy of the country. That being said, thank you for your speech.

Alright, this is the chance to another speaker in the House.

I see the member for Faleata 3, Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi is up. this is your chance to speak. Respectfully.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you for the opportunity, I trust this is a fitting time, while there is good spirit in accordance to the good and neutral speech by my fellow colleague from Lufilufi.

Mr Speaker, *o lea ua faalele manulagi ua faalelefulu aliiseu i malae o tagatia a Samoa. O lea foi a tatala taula a tamasa o aiga ma vevele tupua a ilamutu se i lologo tiasa o alii, aua o lea ua pau le tupua ma le malae o Tiafau nei, o le malae o Samoa. Aua o lele ua ee i vaatapu, nofoia le vaaloe e lau Afioga i le Fofoga Fetalai, tulou lava.*

O lea foi ua faalepa le fua o tautaiarii i sui usufono mamalu o le Palemene, tulou lava.

I further greet His Highness, Afioga Tuiaana and your Masiofo, the Member of the Council of Deputies Afioga Le Mamea Ropati and your Masiofo, the Chief Justice, the President of the Lands and Titles Court and the Judiciary.

The Hon Prime Minister Fiaame Naomi, the Deputy Prime Minister Afioga aTuala Ponifasio, the distinguished members of the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and that side.

The Leader of the Opposition, Susuga Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, Tofa Lauofo Fonotoe the Deputy Leader and members of the Opposition Side.

O le paia lava lea i le afifio o Tama ma Aiga, Aiga ma Tama, le mamalu ia Pule ma Tumua, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

Tainane foi le paia i le afio o le Faleagafulu i le paia ia Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua. Tulou le susu o le Laau na Amotasi, le afifio i Faatui ma le mamalu o le Auvaa o Tootoo ma Upu ia te oe le Manuatele. Tulou lava.

I further meet and greet the members of the clergy the ordained Ministers of God who are praying for harmony and blessings upon Samoa.

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In addition, I greet the Ministry Heads and all public servants, public enterprises and companies whom the Government relies on in your service and economy. I bring a contribution before this House on behalf of the constituency of Faleata No.3 in relation to the Budget before us.

I specially wish to greet the new members of Parliament who have just entered the Samoan Parliament for the first time. We need to be diligent and be brave. I beg your pardon as I did not have time to listen to your maiden speeches. This is the second time this has happened for this Parliamentary Term for father Fasootauloa Tea who's made it back in Parliament. It is pleasing to see these old members back into Parliament. Well done Tea.

I also greet the members of this Side who are unable to partake in Parliament today. Well done to your courageousness and your perseverance. Let us give God our purpose. You are not forgotten in your journey.

I also greet the settlers in Vaitele in all your honorifics thank you for choosing Vaitele to be your home, well done to you and your support and honorifics which I will not mention. I further acknowledge the sacred members of the clergy.

The honorable Speaker and that side, bravo. That is love, this is love. The main thing for entering the House of Samoa is for our people to live and enjoy life happily. In my belief, I always speak of this matter. Samoan democracy is different from the rest of the world. It consists of three pillars. It is founded on God and is concealed by its culture. This is now contained in our Constitution. This means that it is based on love and covered with the value of respect.

Nearby countries starting from Fiji, New Zealand no longer have any Christian values, no God in their Parliaments, they no longer start off with a prayer. It is up to the person who to worship. God is now included in our Constitution. Samoa worships only one God, the God of Trinity and her culture which encompasses everything.

Seeing this House, you are the decision makers, and custodians or village care takers. Personally when our culture was included in the Constitution, democracy became complete. Because yesterday can ask today, who was there? Despite our separate walks during our life journey, the Loving Arms of God was always following us and our culture everywhere we went. This is now done peacefully, we are here to seek better ways for tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, whatever events that have passed, we shall continue our discussion, this will remind us that Samoa is another country that will be blessed from this, it has happened before. We do not want to talk about it.

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Your honorable Speaker, we remember and apply, whatever the lessons, what is the use of things that have occurred in Samoa's journey. Because it is vital, tomorrow will ask today. I will not omit my belief that the Constitution of Samoa has been breached. And if that happens, it will be difficult for us to bring it to the right path. We must pray that this may not happen again.

The House of Samoa is the struggle to success by our ancestors. The flag will be flown in front of the House, it is a sign of liberty. Whilst its Constitution will guide us until the end. If we abide by it, peace will be sustained together with our harmonious living.

The debate we undertook is now being stopped. We do not point fingers on who is wrong and who is right. Because a person will only think that he or she is correct alone. And we also think of our own beliefs/values. My belief is now before the country, they will do the judgement. What about the judgement of the Lord, they are not blind to these things. We otherwise think that we must move forward as the country has been waiting far too long now.

Thankfully we are Meeting, it is complete, although some are not in attendance, at least Samoa is now meeting. The prayers of the country have now been received, and our thoughts can never be hidden. But since you have now spoken, let us leave it like this, God is watching everything and so as Samoa.

Then I come to our Budget Statement. I have been with the Opposition Side for 10 years, and I have never rejected any Budget Statement. Whether I was in the Government for 5 years, the previous year. Once I hear something that... in my belief, the necessary recommendation must always be made.

Why? This is what I normally say on the Budget. I appreciate that we are here to distribute and talk about the National Budget which was normally implemented by this Side.

I trust the Minister is aware of it. The State has laid out Policies. Nothing is wrong. It is like an automatic automobile that drives automatically when you hit the engine. Why? There are Policies in place that protects our economy.

During your entrance, there was a 20/40 vision, the State has looked beyond 40 years. Not only is Government reaching the 40 year plan, there is also a 5 years plan called the Samoa Development Strategic, SDS. The National Budget is planned every 5 years. It has already being arranged.

My advice if you follow it, then there should not be a concern. Because if Samoa asks Leala. Was there anything that Samoa was concerned about, and our constituency that our country would go bankrupt. Quick was my response, there is nothing like that. Why? If we look at the economy of Samoa 20 years ago.

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In 2000, Samoa's economy was only \$700million. Then in 2010, it came to \$1.8billion, in 2019 it was 2.2billion. You will then not have to spread that to other people that Samoa's economy is increasing. The figures will speak for itself. This data is from the World Bank. You can easily access the website and there you will find it. That is it and this is not a lie.

The strategic plans. The member for Lufilufi has mentioned the matter regarding deficit, which is that. It took almost the entire day when the topic on deficit was clarified, thanks to Olo. We are now aware that this topic is explicitly elaborated and therefore has verification that it is loss not deficit. Because you know what is funny Mr Speaker. The deficit stated in the previous Budget, following that there was a growth of 1%. That said, after the very recent Budget, there was no deficit and neither loss. Rather there was profit by 1%.

What the Hon Minister had mentioned which seemed severe, rather it is still useful... What you said about you carrying the load of debt which is billions. I beg your pardon, it is stated that the death ratio here is 50%. Mr Speaker the stipulation is only 48 according to records here. The reason for this 48 is because the revenue has been lessened.

Every economies in this world is being affected with reduced in revenue earnings because of the pandemic crisis.

With the increasing debts from 30 years ago. They are paid by the Government given special conditions for us. It is clear in the Budget, that \$72million is now being allocated to pay this debt. We are not even close to what they call the first hole as our debt is only about 20%. The member from Salafai, Fepuleai was very pleasing to hear.

When I said that our debt has now reached the billion mark, the old woman said, that is very small amount. It is true. The debts is measured by how much you can repay. How is the economy of Samoa developed?

That being said, do not worry about these situations and that is the advice to the Minister.

Because the Budget proposed by the HRPP administration, it went over a billion. Delighted is the feeling I have that Samoa has now reached a billion tala Budget.

Nevertheless, it is said that we have reached that mark. I only have very few suggestions on it as there is the finance committee who will review it. Notwithstanding, there will be another time to consider this Budget.

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The explanation I normally give to my constituency when they ask about the million project. I have told them that there is nothing. The million tala project will not happen and there will be no funding distribution. Now they believe it. These implemented projects have longed been done by the previous Government and is being carried on by each constituencies. The members of that side is also aware of this.

I remember the last project that was launched in Satapuala and Faleata. The 2 villages that made the old man Vaili cried. I thank the State that the water and roads have just been fixed. All access roads and everything else requires money. And so all these projects are called development projects for village communities and districts.

Susuga Hon Lauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: I bid patient of the member. I allow the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Lauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Thank you to the speech of the member. There is no intent to interrupt. The constituency of Lealailepule we did not go there and presented and so those constituencies will not get any million tala. The reply is simple. The Minister of Finance is listening here, the Minister of Women just take it easy that way. Whoever is complaining, do not waste your time, we will only take the ones that are supporting us. These people that are saying that this million project will never happen, we did not go to Vailele, do not waste time there they are hearing this. This is my short explanation on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member to resume his speech.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. This is exactly it. So, I extend appreciation to my district, we are not disappointed, but thank this it is quite suitable. I am a million dollar man. If you need money, I will give you some money.

Susuga Hon Lauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Just this small matter. It is now confirmed this morning, that Leala is a middle man. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the notable member for his remarks.

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Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: When we talk about money distribution. Just a reminder to you. Pension is now raised to \$30million per annum. The children scheme was initiated by the HRPP. Including us, our school fees were all paid by our parents. What about now.

I used to object this, according to Hansard, I was one of them that rejected this matter on children being educated for free. The main thing for me was because our own parents went through hardship to pay for our school fees using their own money. That was the upbringing we saw. We went to school without a rubber. I do not object the State's plan but that is the way I see it with this free education. The money allocated for free education was \$18million and is now \$17million plus \$30+million allotted towards our senior group members. That is over \$50million in total allocation by the State every year. Not only with the increase in pension to \$200 per month. You can now take the ferry for free, and so too is the hospital, free medication supplies, you can also eat 6 meals a day for free. Measuring that to my old man who is now 85 years old, for 20 years he is gaining monetary benefit, 25, that is a lot of money. That is the situation and just a reminder.

The Hon Minister, bless your calling. It is not easy. Like I said, the advise is given. Do not worry, develop the country. When I was young and during the HRPP administration I normally hear Tofilau saying, priests. Samoa standing in the queue to get food and no money. For us, we went to school one pair of chandels, and we would clean them to be used for school. That was the life lest you forget. When we go to the shop, you go hungry seeing all these food but there is no money and no savings. The kids have now grown and life is getting difficult, I hope they remember all these things.

The way forward and life in the country was never easy. Lest you forget. This is also the motive for this Political Party saying there is chaos, destruction, no. How can we do that to an administration that was in office for 40 years and its developments?

Then we come to the shocking news about Daylight Savings. Well done Hon Minister. Faumuina, there is a time where we overlap our talks...as many do not know that we have known each other for years. Whenever you have family matters you would always come to me, the same with me. I remember the first time when I came to Parliament, it was my wife and children that were standing strong for me. The only brotherly advise to you, leave aside your facebook as that is making people angry at you. You are now a Minister, so leave that to the kids to do. Just saying.

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As for this matter, if this is the will of the Government, the only advise to you, what you are saying is impossible to happen next month. Lest you are mistaken. It cannot be implemented, the 10-12 months period was the drive we had undertaken. I do not have to say it. Perhaps Onesemo will speak on it. Pardon me I forgot your chief title.

Toelupe I believe that you should consult with Toelupe, that is not an easy thing to do, what you want will never happen. It will not, it will affect all of...Olo too is aware of this, the man who is big in...the one who understands the monitoring system and financial and everything else. Also, major changes like these must all go through a consultation process as implemented by the Government. Particularly the Chamber to bring their view as this issue is not an easy one, and like I said, there are policies in place that must be followed up, it is also difficult to question you people. The same with this 20% from State-owned enterprises, I do not know how this had occurred when they were under consultations with the SOEs. For us, there is only one half thousand million that is needed. Who then will it fall on? It will fall back on the Government. This money is quite huge. Non one does not want this money, we all want it. However we must plan accordingly.

The Hon Minister of Police, well I am sure I have given all the advises, I will not come back to you brother. I know we have about 10 faalavelave this whole year, and whenever we meet we never talk about politics it is not allowed. We will only talk politics when we come here.

There were spreading during one of our meetings saying that, the Hon Minister of Police gave his orders to lock up the Leader of the Opposition Side, our leader. It was the first time to have heard this, I said, that will never happen, not to this father, pardon me. It was just in time and coincident when I met you in Lalovaea during one of our family engagements. You do remember that, we sat next to each other, and it was the only time I had whispered to you, if this was true....

MR SPEAKER: Bear with us whilst we allow the Hon Minister of Police as the country is now receiving your word.

I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Faualo Jeffrey Harry Schuster (Minister of Police and Corrections): Thank you Mr Speaker. Well let my fellow colleague have a break. The legislation of the House honorable Speaker...is an allegation or a verification, because first of all, there was no directive that I did, it is up to the police and their duties given the Law.

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There is no power for the Hon Minister to order Police to charge or arrest anyone, it is only the police that has that power to do it.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well I take it that the respectable members have heard it, and it is necessary... that... allow me to finish. I am in agreement with regards to the public listening in. The country is taking in the clarification of the Minister of Police, no it is not like that, things happen for a reason. When we have the decisions of the executive and the execution of works, I will not mention it. The Minister has clearly clarified his part. I trust this has satisfied your will.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Very well thanks. That is exactly what I wanted to say as nothing happened.

MR SPEAKER: I give the chance to the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataaafa: Point of order. Hearing intently the speech of the member, and his relationship with the Hon Minister of Police. Well I am not sure but it is not good to hear this, this is not about you and your families and we do not make decisions in this House based on conflict of interest. That is solely not good to hear whilst the country is listening in. That is exactly why there are growing problems due to family relationships. No, this is National business, which are based on Laws.

MR SPEAKER: I see that the members have heard the advise from the Prime Minister, but since we have arrived at our recess time.

That being said, I interrupt the current speaker, you will resume when we come back from our break. Our Office is now preparing our afternoon refreshment for us to have a meal together.

I declare the setting aside of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly until 2:00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 1:01pm and resumed at 1:55pm.

Debate over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2021/2022 continued.

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MR SPEAKER: I wish to announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

During the break the member for Faleata No.3 was speaking. On that note, this is the time for you to continue. I also observe that you are concluding your remarks.

I call upon the member for Faleata 3.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I wish to acknowledge the honorable Speaker for the refreshments during our break. We have renewed strength in continuation of our work. Thank you very much.

During our break I trust that the Minister of Police was commenting. We shall not go to that. The main object...

I believe that during our break the Minister of Police. I will not speak any further on that matter. The whole purpose...

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi 3): Mr Speaker, point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Go ahead.

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: I wish to thank you Mr Speaker. I also beg the pardon of the member of Aleipata No.3 because of the delay in giving my thoughts, but because he had raised the launching of the road of this constituency in his statement.

Mr Speaker, perhaps the points mentioned by the member are also important. This was also mentioned in my speech. Although water and roads for some parts have been fixed in our district. Mr Speaker, I think it has taken 7 months since the launching of water, and still it is disconnected. The pump is unfixed. The pipelines remains unfixed. Up until now, it is closed to 4 years since work was developed on their family land. The lease still remains unpaid. Payment for the cutting of trees has not been made since the start of this work. Word on the implementing road work has been problematic for 3 times now because of the rain.

I therefore bring advice, perhaps the Hon Minister is here, if there is a chance we can visit this place. This is the concern, to improve the work of road contractors.

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I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, for the decision to opening this road. Many of the things implemented by the district and the Government, however I observe that the Prime Minister and Cabinet have a decision that only the Minister will attend the road launching, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you so this means that the member is supporting this statement.

I call upon the member for Faleata 3.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I wish to thank my brother, by observation, with my fellow members in Tautua they do bear support. I also thank the senior member of the Tautua the honorable Mr Speaker.

That is how our life works. Do not be angry. Thank you Toeolesulusulu. I will contact Olo to do what you want. Your will shall be done. No it is good that we give it a rest.

The summary of my statement, I did not blame my fellow Minister, I wish him the best. Your statement was verified, no the statement received was false.

Your statement can be found on records. I started my talk like this, our family never talks about politics. Even if we meet a thousand times, we never talk about it, we do what we both want. I never interrupt him and neither does he. That is what I meant.

On the overall, who are you and who are we. When it comes to geneology we are all families. That is the difficult thing about politics in Samoa. Nevertheless, I will not go there anymore. The advice is because this was the only day, like what I said about the beginning of the constitution. That we are founded on christianity and love.

The only thing here is church ministers, particularly church ministers. They came particularly because the Office of the Legislative Assembly contacted me that there will be only 5 invites per person/member. I said to my wife, it will just be you and two kids as the invites per person is limited to 5 people. However, when my pastor came, he was not allowed inside.

Hon Minister, there is no law for church ministers in my belief, we do not stop any church minister. Wherever a pastor goes in Samoa, they are free. Just an advice to the Ministry of Police that the law does not apply on this matter.

Because the pastor is the messenger of peace. That is for you to look into. Because some of the church leaders did come here that day. Whoever the church leader, I ask that the police bear respect, priority and protection upon them.

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Another thing, I wish to acknowledge the continuing service of the Leader of the Opposition who is a person that has served the country for so long. I pray that you continue that.

Notwithstanding, the Hon Minister of Finance, I remember when Palusalua's vehicle was fixed during the time we were here, you do know it too Mr Speaker. The vehicle of the Leader of the Opposition was serviced during that time which was nothing new, but just a reminder to you and that Side. That was normal doing back then, given mutual respect between Parliamentarians, I wish to bring good advice.

The overall perspective for this new beginning Mr Speaker, these things did not happen for no good reason. It is necessary that this has happened during our time so that it will not happen again in the future. We must be praised that this has occurred during our time, it is fitting that this has happened during our time in Parliament which was fitting for us to witness all hardship and challenges, and if we had known we would not have wasted our time.

The story I said, thank you for electing us at this time. We do not question the will of God. Let us seek success, and let this be a lesson for us and our children in the future.

Hon Mr Speaker, bless your calling, I mean it. Since day one and the prayer you said we heard you right from bottom to head. You have prayed for all of us. That is the truth, and during the quorum of 23. I heard it too and have thought, well we were included too. That gave me courage, although the old man was just playing with us but we will still enter the Parliament House.

Thank you now that courage was found through your will and prayers that day. Just this to say, the dignity of Parliament to keep in mind. Thank you, bless your endeavors.

The Hon Prime Minister and the dignity of that Side, The Leader of the Opposition has said it clear, there is the Government, I wish you success. This is the only advice. If you follow the principles, you do understand I do not have to say it. The main aim here is the prosperity for Samoa.

The works implemented, the main roads, communication lines, and everything else, airports they do not need to be read out. Did God remove anything we did, because that is what we came here to do. And so whatever words we have said against each others along our journey, may you find forgiveness in your hearts. That is how we find success. Lest you forget respect because of your desperation. Whatever vulgar words we made against each other, we take it back. But let us walk together for the benefit of Samoa.

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The Hon Leader of the Opposition, Tuilaepa, thank you for your brave heart and your love upon Samoa. If we talk about work, we do not need to mention them, work talks. Whenever we talk about integrity, we do not have to say it. Samoa and God knows it all. What do you say to our Political Party, gratitude for it is growing today. There is no other time it is growing during your time.

The 40 years is finished, let us move forward to the next 40 years. It is a new beginning. Thank you for your bravery. To the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, do not forget Samoa, let us stand together for blessings upon Samoa. Let us not find faults in each others, do not point fingers. The statement by Leala here, he also says it outside or wherever. Whatever I say outside is similar with what you say in here. Whatever I say, this is me and my truthful heart.

To the dignity of my constituency, no, thank you very much for your respect, I was one of the members that did not have any election. Such is the gratitude from me for your goodness and views upon me. I will work to the best of my ability to serve you. Not only for the non traditional village but for the whole of Samoa including the member of Vaele sitting there and all the other members. Whatever you decide, you know where I live. Just a reminder that I will go to bed when the clock strikes 6.00.

To my parents and my old man Aiafi who is in support, thanks for you prayers. Papa, mama have passed on yet you are still praying for me. Particularly your old nana Kesa who is 89, well done. To my relatives and siblings, bravo. Thank you for thinking of us.

Even though I do not get any pay, whenever I go to the bank account there is more money there because of your love. Do not depend on us again. The pay as said by the Speaker we will get it in December. Therefore, you have 3 more months to share your love, send us money still for the Constituency and myself.

I end this statement by acknowledging my wife and children. These are the people, in fact all of us, our spouses and partners and our children. You are the silent victims. They are the ones who have been affected by these things. Not only does it affect us but also our spouses and children. But well done to your courageousness and perseverance. May God bless, thank you for your love and your great support.

I conclude this statement, brother Tiatia, and... mostly I wish to thank you for your service. To Afioga Malielegaoi Mareva and all those who gave their service, may you uphold courage. Thank you for your service and may God bless you. May you endure patience and forgiveness and let us pray and achieve something good for the future.

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To those who have shared love upon our cocoa Samoa saramaders, may it continue, you have heard it, my singing voice is no good yet I still sing on Saturdays, to entertain you and all of us.

God may your blessings, goodness and peace be upon Samoa. May God bless that side to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the dignity of that Side, may God bless the Leader and Deputy Leader and notable members. May more blessings be upon you Mr Speaker and staff.

To Samoa and public servants gathered here today, may blessing be upon you. I am done, soifua.

The members showed appreciation by applauding after the Speech of the member for Faleata 3.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you for your speech member of Faleata No.3. I am now aware, I know now you are one of the senior members of the House, who is acquiring farsighted wisdom.

Now that we are listening attentively, you are no longer singing outside but inside the House, for the sake of the Country.

That said, thank you for your assistance and sharing towards the Government, for the benefit of the entire country moving forward. You have remained neutral and have shared for the interest of the Country. Therefore, thank you for your contribution. We have awaited your support and advise for the wellbeing of the country. Well done thank you.

This is the opportunity to the notable member of Parliament.

I see that the Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio from the constituency of Sagaga No.1 is upstanding.

To the member, this is one senior members of the House. This is your chance.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO (Sagaga 1): Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker, for me to make a statement on the Budget Statement before the House.

Before I make my statement, there is a feeling of appreciation and gratitude. The morning hour of the day is beginning to disappearing as we engage with our works and duties. We have renewed energy from our break.

To that Side of the House and the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The same for this Side from the Leader and this Political Party.

I take this golden opportunity to greet you Mr Speaker. I am also certain that the honorifics have already been mentioned from morning to this part of the day.

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Strength has been rejuvenated. Observing that side, lest a huge explanation is given on this, we will end up making the House rest. We have already received our meal. For your information, a Samoan matai, after taking his meal, the next thing to do is lie down. Take a rest. Nonetheless, works is now in progress.

The traditional set ups of this House, like the *Maota na i Amoa e lauiula ae pou i toa*. Such is the sacredness of this House, the chosen representatives are the ones who make the decisions and judgements of the Country.

I greet and welcome that Side of the House. The presence of the Government Heads amongst us today. Congratulations to good health gained.

I upstand with great respect to make a contribution of this constituency. Mr Speaker, recalling what happened in the past I wish to make a mention of it.

The general elections was carried out on the 4th of April. Now that is is the 9th of September, and yet Parliament is now able to convene. Given the many issues we had faced in the past days, *ua le ogatasi foi le futia ma umele*. The intention is to make things right to uphold full integrity and be able to discuss within this House and make good judgements for the sake of the Government. Great job in your perseverance.

There are many words to say nevertheless I will not turn back no more. I also will not explain anything further, the decision is now given. However, the reason why I stood up, I wish to give gratitude before the Lord, for me to be able to stand before you at this hour.

Truthfully speaking Mr Speaker, looking back, I was one dramatic member. Before the elections, I was one candidate that did not have any election. Following that and in consequence, I ended up going through the elections. This led me to a case in court. The picture I saw, I thank God for his Love and Goodness which enabled me to return here again.

May I speak on behalf of this constituency in all its traditional honorifics. Not only have these cases concluded, I was the last court case with your Mr Speaker. I have further heard a voice saying that we will not enter Parliament as we were not sworn in. Such is the intention here, it seems funny but really it hurts the heart given the support of our constituency. That is the spirit with respect.

Your honorifics have already been stated for some of the members who have made judgements yesterday in all their honorifics which remain forever. Such is the spirit here today.

I will not reiterate what has already been said. Lest it will prolong the explanation. Although the aim here is to contribute in accordance to the Main Estimates 2021/2022. For the listening public who are in support of our work so that everything is done well through collective effort.

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That is the aim of my upstanding. A time will come for me to make mention my constituency given their support.

I have thought, it is passed Apolima, whatever issues we had experienced in the past, purity in heart still exists, it is said, forgive but not forgotten, that is my observation. You have forgiven me but that will be not be forgotten. We do forgive that side but do not forget the things that have occurred. That is my thought.

I am full of respect and have remembered Tuesday where we had our Sitting. And whilst driving here I heard the Speaker saying that in accordance with the event, I was the representative of our constituency. And upon arrival, the police had stopped me from entering, and said.

Pardon me Loau, you cannot attend the Sitting as I have here the warrant that you were not sworn in. Then I raised the decision of the court. I said, watching the police, they said that it was your decision Mr Speaker. That I Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio have retained the Seat of the constituency of Sagaga No.1. It was the decision of the court. The police said, well you can hold on to that court's decision but you are still not allowed to go in.

Then I said, very well, I will abide by your instruction. Then I sat silently on the main road. I did not sit under the breadfruit tree, I took my seat and had a very good view of the lovely Meeting House of the Country, but I was not able to make it there.

These are the things I am sitting here and thinking about.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, I wish to assist the member. If you are to go there, then you will end up making me cry, but do bear in mind to leave aside that matter.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: These are the thoughts we have reached...

MR SPEAKER: You can take a break whilst we allow the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Just mentioning this with respect, to the member speaking. Your view is similar to mine, your depression whilst watching the House on the 15th of September that was the same feeling we had on the 24th of May, we were all locked outside the House. It is the same feeling we felt.

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MR SPEAKER: You too are one of the senior members of the House, the Prime Minister has also clarified clearly this point. Let us forget the past, and get on with the future. We have all felt that. That said, I beg the pardon of the member, move away and continue your talk for the sake of the Country.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Thank you, I will not mention this again. There is a huge difference, but I will not mention it again.

Mr Speaker, many stories have passed, but looking at this Budget which is the most important, there is nothing much in it. Just a few changes to it with the view of that side, it is the normal budget, I have been a member for ten years now and this is basically the same thing for me.

Since I have received rumours, it is best that I reveal, for the sake of my constituency. The story made yesterday, about the million. It is fitting that I make a statement on it on behalf of my listening constituency.

Yesterday before I came to the Sitting. I normally go for a walk first thing in the morning. And funny. During my walk, I met a large march along the way, they were beating drums and tins, d..u..m d..u..m, walking towards me with the voice yelling out loud, million, million. Then I thought to myself, oh this is weird. Upon reaching me, the leader said “eyes right” they all stood still. And there I saw our peanut farmers from our district. They said, Loau, today is the day that we will bury our shovels, pick and rakes, we will no longer be peanut farmers. Why what happened? This is the day that Parliament will discuss the Budget to distribute millions to the districts. I replied, well I was not aware of that matter. However, I advise you, that you leave now.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, point of clarification...

MR SPEAKER: Let the member rest whilst I allow Olo. Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you Mr Speaker for a chance to clarify this, lest you are deceived by the pleasurable voice of the member. Note that Standing Orders of the House is explicit in regards to giving correct expressions.

Therefore, I remind the honorable Speaker, the examples stated in this House are not correct in accordance to the records of the House. Because it seems funny when really, the statement of the member is being sarcastic.

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MR SPEAKER: Well I trust we have the assistance from the Hon Minister. It now talks about searching the truth for the House, I also trust the main focus here is the million tala project. I believe that clarifications given by the State is now clear, before the Minister talks, the entirety is with the Minister. The most important elaboration is that it is clear, no there will not be any distribution but money will be used to work village projects through the Ministry of Finance. See how explicit the explanation given here. The country is listening in.

I call upon the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker, just this bit to say.

The focal and critical thing for the sake of my constituency listening in, you do not need a million. Yes. That is the vital thing. It is said all morning today that this million will not be brought about today as the people are working. That is the message received, I think three or four of you brought it, and now that Loau is saying it too. This is not the intent. This is the first project that the Government will establish for funding to be allocated directly to the underprivileged people or those who own it. The people that owns the Government, first time. It was never implemented 40 years ago. Now, million tala will be allotted to implement the projects of the districts. Loau, that is the objective, you are saying that you will drop your shovels, and will no longer work the peanut farming, wow. That is the feeling here. Do you mean to say that you refuse to press forward the project development we want to do? I do not want to talk about these things as I respect the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Women. When I do go into details, the \$200,000, it is just an establishment. If we were not blocked 4 months ago for us to carry on this project, we would have gone ahead with it and I am not lying. But because you have delayed it with your silly tactics, well this is why this is not implemented. It has only been 6 weeks. Loau if you had accepted 26 straight after elections and the kingmaker Tuala gave us 25, it would have gone through, this million project would have been a go last year.

Unfortunately, how can this be possible when we now have tons of things to deal with given our limited funding? That is the simple explanation, but Leota it is simple, remove Sagaga No.1 from the list and our matter will be solved.

MR SPEAKER: I believe this matter is now clarified.
The member may speak.

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Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: There was no bad attempt in the clarification I made. Did you not hear me saying that I met the large band marching on the road?

MR SPEAKER: I allow the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Please Mr Speaker, was there a live recording of your village for us to watch the march?

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: I can show you if... Millions, millions, millions. I can do it, this is not too hard to do. Because when they marched. From my perspective, because I was confused. I said to them, I apologize to your march. And they replied that they were heading towards Loau's house, to voice our opinions on this matter. I replied to them, look here, do not worry, it can be done, it is nothing bad, I will voice your opinion for that is my duty. However, listening to this, it does seem misleading. Laauli, is it possible that this will go through as you say? Show your love and give us a million too.

Yes, because I can affirm that there is nothing in this paper. If there is a supplementary lest we may have a ...why reach out again to supplementary. Yes. Such is the focus. But my constituency is listening in, because all of them will receive 200 plus. They said, Loau we did not vote for you, yes. We apologize for not voting for you, all because of this...

Tofa Hon Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, just enquiring to the member, if it was Papalii Panoa who was leading this...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Yes I even saw an old man that walks like Papalii... So I was... Nevertheless that is it. At least my constituency is hearing me voicing their opinion on their behalf. I have said to them that morning, you know what, go directly and see Laauli in Vaitele, go straight to Maota o Samoa to find the truth in that as I do not have the response for you.

Notwithstanding, just to... the response is very easy for the clarification of the senior men and women. Just a pardoning word, it is not shown in the current Budget. Never know if it will be covered in the next Budget the negotiation of... as for this year, listen up, nothing will be obtained. Yes. Because the Budget is already being tabled. Perhaps it will go that way.

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Nevertheless, this is intent for the sake of the country as it is no secret that the members of that side also gave their speeches on it. Therefore, it is the same spirit, now that Laauli has said it that this money allocation will be granted to implement the requests of the constituencies. Thank you.

Perhaps Mr Speaker, like I said, majority of the things here are normal things we are used to. There are few changes, I wish the Hon Minister the best if new changes come for the betterment in the future. That is alright. Based on our observation, since we are on schedule, it is also necessary that the Budget is approved Hon Minister.

Whereas with you honorable Speaker, most of the time I would sit back and think of what to say to the constituency. Yesterday Olo stood up and talked about technological program mentioning the program for the Ministry of Education which we used to work with. And like I said during the previous year, it is phased out, out of date the...as new technology is coming in. Our internet, our cable is now connected which are all useful for our services in the education sector. This is my personal observation lest the statement of the Hon Minister is being misled. That is the update, this is being phased out as new technology is now coming in.

To my constituency we did not make it here this easy. Our trial was the last one. And even though there was fear with the majority to take anything back to the court. Including what had happened to our Party, there was confusion as to how this matter can go back to Court again. Still, we decided to press through with the Court. So we did give our submissions four times to the court. We agreed that whatever decision they brought, so be it. But when Laauli and I had a talk that morning, he said to me, “You know Loau, it was like a bomb explosion what happened in Parliament when we got news that you were approved. Yes.

I said, well this is the spirit of the Lord. And my brother said to me, do not fear, there will no longer be an appeal. I replied, “Who are we judging, is it you or the Speaker?” At that point, my brother was simpering and...

MR SPEAKER: There is cautiousness as we now have the decision of the Court, you have now been sworn in, and so what else is there to be concerned about? Let us move on as...and forget about the past.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Then my colleague had a good laugh. I have thought that the Speaker had gone about to repeal the process, nevertheless, thank you for thinking of us given this situation.

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MR SPEAKER: I allow the Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, the only thing the Speaker had implored on, was for you to remove the seven that you wanted to swear in because of the sentiment from the Speaker.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Fine that is true given the additional clarification from the Prime Minister. Meaning this is not the end, as that is another matter that was to happen. The thing that schocked me, is your discussion of our case with the Speaker. Nonetheless, it is alright.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Valasi Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele (Minisita mo le Soifua Maloloina): Mr Speaker, point of clarification. I am thoroughly thinking. The member's view is very vital. The only reminder to the member, I thank you the court who was being blamed for everything else. It was an unloving decision. Reflecting back to what happened, and the 24 hours and 7 days you were given, no. The most important thing, the court has gained your trust, the Law was complied by FAST. Bless our Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. This is the nature of things. The Minister's reminder is also good now that we are aware the Court is in favor of all of us. As such, do move away from the court now. Go on...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Thank you. The dignity of the House is listening...

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker, just this bit and not intending to interrupt the...

MR SPEAKER: Bear with us in just a bit...Go ahead Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Lest the member has forgotten, this is his apology that was heard by the Political Party, as Loau did come forth to express his fault. Yes. You have been the salvation. We agreed to that. Loau if it was not for you we would have appealed the case, and that is the truth. The only desire for us is for you to sit there and witness this 5 year term, whereas for the rest of you who have not apologized, well there is a second round for you. But do not mock for you are lucky because of Loau.

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MR SPEAKER: Alright, I guess these matters have passed.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Because we have gone off topic...and I do not know why I am heading that way. How is it that we won and we had to apologize? This is far from right and an inappropriate thing to do. Regardless, let us not recollect the past.

I therefore wish to extend the spirit of appreciation to you for your secret support and prayers. Which took quite some time. Like I said Mr Speaker, the final court case was mine. Given this huge period of time, there was unrest in my mind.

To the ordained ministers of God, the President of the Samoa Methodist Church and those around the world Afioga Faulalo and the President of Women Fellowship for your support. Especially the lands of Fogaa in your honorifics salutations where the sacred ministers of God pray and support us. I am grateful to you for your support your prayers.

To Elder Reverend Fili Sio Matalavea and your faletua, the Elder Director of the EFKS Church whom we fellowship together in Faleula, appreciation to you. I am grateful for your prayers which has made you hear my voice. Elder Tavita Pagaialii and your faletua the President of the Adventist of God Church in Samoa and around the world and those residing in Fogaa, thank you for your entreaty which has made me stand before you at this hour in this Meeting House. To Priest Mauola, thank you for your imploration and your religious ministers in particular, the honorifics of the village of Faleula most especially the constituency.

To my village of Aele and to the Reverend who is serving there, thank you for your prayers and your perseverance. God has answered your prayers in accordance to this calling.

Particularly the sub-village of Nu'u and Tafaigata, the members of the clergy who are residing there, we appreciate your prayers.

Si o tatou nuu i Faleula i ona tulaga faalupe aua le susu o le Toetaufanua ma Alo o le Malietoa, Maopu ma Tapunuu, lau Fetalaiga i le Tagata fou, le mamlau ia te oe le Faletolu. We have come this far, we have succeeded I have returned to carry on our role. We have found success in our stance to representing our constituency.

I notice that this constituency of Sagaga No.1 is new, we have been separated from our brothers on that side. *Aua foi Aiga e Tolu ma lau fetalaiga Luatua ma le Gautaala.* Such is the spirit here, well done to your support and prayers.

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Notwithstanding, all our friends and families who are listening in, thank you for your cooperation. I will focus on working hard this Term. We will wholly support our role and recommendations on what we find necessary to improve that side from the Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet. If our word can be recognized then good, if not, at least our contribution has been made.

In essence it is necessary that we work together for the wellbeing of our country. Whatever explanation we make, to my mother who is 80 years old and her support, thank you for your prayers and immense support upon me and my siblings particularly towards my wife and kids. We did fought the hard way and consequently succeeded the seat of our constituency.

This is the discussion Mr Speaker. May you find strength and understanding in your callings and duties. It is also said that we are related which I refuse to speak about.

Nevertheless, bless the remaining time we have today. Thank you to the Heads of Government Ministries here with us today who are the hands and feet in serving the State, may I live. Soifua and blessings.

The House showed appreciation by applauding after the Speech of the member for Sagaga I.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Loau. The dignity of the House is settled the same with the constituency and the country, there is also the expressing of gratitude and advice to help us in the future. The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet especially the Hon Minister of Finance, we have received your support and other good messages for blessings of the constituency and the country. As such, thank you for your prudence and your oratory speech in support of harmony within the House. That said, thank you for your assistance upon our Budget.

The floor is now open for members to speak. I see the member of Satupaitea is now upstanding, the Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell. Thank you for your contribution on behalf of Savaii. This is your opportunity.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Satupaitea): Firstly, I wish to give my respects to the grounds of Tiafau, the fields of faautugatagi of Samoa, where discussions and decisions of the country are made. I further greet the House of Samoa.

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The honorable Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the dignity of Parliament, and Associate Ministers. Then to this side to the Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader and the respectable members. I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries whom the Government relies to achieve all works.

I greet the support of Samoa, his Highness the Le Ao ole Malo and his good lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and his good lady, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary, the President of the Lands and Titles Court.

Similar to the support of Samoa, *Tama ma o latou Aiga, Aiga ma latou Tama, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

The Governor General and His Good Lady, the Speaker of the two House of Senate in all your honorifics. Furthermore, I greet all the Spiritual Leaders all around the country in their role of praying for blessings upon Samoa. These are the salutations of Samoa from Saua to Analega.

I wish to touch upon the constituency of Satupaitea, *i le Susu o Asiata na falefa i ai Tumua, o oe o le Vaimalae, Susu Tupai o le Vaati o Nafanua, Susu le Aiga Samoeleoi ia Tavui ma Gasu, afio Alo o Lilomaiava ia Faanana ma Tuimaseve, afifio Tapaaufanua o Tonumaipea. Le Aiga Sa Valomua ma le Suafa o le Fauatea, o Tapaaufanua ia o Asiata. Afifio Tapaaganua o le Tonumaipea. Alaalatai oe le mamalu i le Alataua, Tapaulefano Nofo a Pule male Matuafia.*

I further wish to acknowledge the women and men as well as the members of the members of the clergy in my district of Satupaitea. I extend congratulations to my constituency at this hour. Thank you for recognizing Lautafi in your faith and for granting me another chance to enter Parliament and represent you here. Because of your trust towards me, therefore this is my third Parliamentary Term in here.

The only thing, God help me so that I am able to do the works submitted for me to do. I lack the wisdom, eligibility, but prudence from God for me to fulfill the works for the House. Grant me your support and prayers, which I need so that I am able to carry this calling for our constituency for this XVII Parliamentary Term of Samoa.

I greet my ageing mother Anasoa who is unable to make it to the swearing in due to circumstances that have occurred. This is the biggest disappointment for me.

If you are listening in, I greet you mama Foti in Australia. I appreciate your daily prayers and advice upon me for both of you are the pillars in my life as a Parliamentarian.

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Do carry on with your prayers the next 5 years for me. For whatever situation that may arise given the circumstances faced by our Government today, it is new. Why? It is the hearts of the people. Have a look at our small island country and what is happening to it? It is similar to those overseas countries. The rights of the people are being suppressed from traveling and entering this House. It this how it is done?

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Let me finish...

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I am aware this is, I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: It seems like we are confused about this matter, let us leave all aside and move on. There is scrutiny about this constant concern raised before us. Not only is it observed there but it is also observed here.

How many months? They were not able to make it into this Parliament House. Four months, and these members were not able to enter this House? Who was responsible for this?

Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: If this is not true then let us go back and read the records to find out the truth on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Be patient as you will get your turn Opposition Leader.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Just an assistance on this, although we are still getting these raising concerns. Do tolerate patience because you were never out there in the sun.

MR SPEAKER: Patience Leader of the Opposition, allow the member to finish first... I trust that...

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: No that is the meaning of my word, do resume your remarks, you said that we are all satisfied to forget about the past. Let us move forward, despite you are still going on about it.

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In saying that, if you disagree, then let us discuss it again. Four months, after the election and we were not able to enter this House. How is that a righteous thing to do?

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister it is well received. You are our other senior member from Savaii. Well there you have it Salafai, you have voiced our concern and have received the decision of the Chair we are no longer thinking of that matter anymore.

I beg your pardon Hon Lautafi, forget about the past, let us move on, because there will be complexities when we talk about it again. Some of the senior members are also supporting this motive that we shall move forward. Let us disregard the events of the past.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you, I am full of respect upon your honorable Speaker. For your interest, I did come yesterday with the belief to not give any statement on the Budget because I will not mention what went on in my heart. Such was the pain in me, and I therefore do not care about the Budget. It is out of respect despite the views of that Side but they were never outside in the sun. Look at us, our faces have turned different because of the hotness of the sun, nevertheless I will move on because of my respect towards the Chair and the Prime Minister. But you should still allow us time to pour out our views on this matter as they have been inside us far too long.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much...

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Well finally it is done.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, it is your own fault that you were in the sun, we went to the shades of the Court House.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, the member is concluding his remarks, I further believe that...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: There were no police your honour, when it comes to matters like this, it is quite broad. You did come to the tent and there were no police officers to remove nor protect you.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well, I beg your pardon as we are...the member is not saying he has moved on. Let us forget about the past, the member may proceed with his speech at least all that stress is now gone. But do bear forgiveness and let us move forward. You are a churgegoer yourself. You may continue.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: The faith is fainting away with these kinds of situation. Let us leave this aside as it is. For the information, it is simply unforgettable. The objection of the member of Satupaitea in everything else will always be in records. With due respect.

On to the Budget, thank you Hon Minister, I guess this is your first Budget. If there are any lapses, that is alright. Firstly, it was not an easy task to implement especially when this was your first Budget preparation. It is therefore confusing what these budget allocations indicate up until today. Anyhow good job.

The statement of the Minister is just an advise, as mentioned by one of the members, \$1billion, public debt, switch \$1billion. This is equivalent to 5% of GDP. The word that I am unhappy about is “it is unfortunate for the new Government to inherit such a high debt”.

So the member has just said it, that is not a wording regarding this small debt, just a billion. That is a very negative wording. If people overseas are receiving this, they would think that we will go bankrupt soon.

The challenge to us, is that you have now emerged. The wording should have said, “this government is ready to face the challenges left by the old government”. We accept the challenge, there is no intention that with your coming on board and everthing was smoothly running. For your information, this is why there was a delay for me to speak, majority have already talked about it. The effects upon the economies of the world. What about us? Our economy is still going good.

Although we are not generating any revenue due to the closure of borders and the pandemic. At least we are still trying and our economy is still picking up. If people are receiving these kinds of explanations, they might think the economy is deeply bankrupt because of the HRPP. You are therefore giving the blame on us, but do get on with it and fix it. Because the economy was smoothly running before it was handed over to you.

This is just a recommendation for the future. If we start negative, then the attitude will be like that too. But if we start with something positive, we will not go back to this challenge. I trust we will move forward smoothly.

The Budget, for me personally, it seems like a Budget that was made without a long term vision. It is like a document that was made to satisfy the country for only a short period of time, without knowing the sustainability of this budget in the next 12 months.

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Majority of these things, we did desired you to look into it, to guide you on the projects that will be done and those that must not be done. Those are therefore a few things in my personal view, it can... for 12 months. There are also other things that I doubt whether possible to achieve. For it seems that they are only noted down in paper with decisions on them however there is no possible outlook on the economy and its overall effects on it given the recommendation stated herein this Budget.

I hope I am wrong. It seems that these decisions were made hastily until a certain time then they can be reconsidered. That is my personal take on this Budget. Like I said, I hope...

Afioga Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, there is no intention to interrupt, the Cabinet is very attentive. Despite, I still wish to share this talk.

It seems from the talk of the member, that this Government is fabricating. That is not a good statement. If that is your intention for the country, what then do you mean by that? That we are here to falsify the country? It saddens the mind to hear these kind of statements Mr Speaker, these words ought to be removed from the Hansard. It does not matter if you said that the Budget is no good. Rather you intend to mean that this is only to satisfy the country which means that we are lying. We are deceiving the country. I do not tolerate this kind of comment.

MR SPEAKER: I trust this is well clarified. The Prime Minister has elaborated this and I trust this is the norm here, and therefore we must be careful with our words as the public is listening in, lest they take it that the Government is misleading them. We now have the support from this side other than belief to refute the country, such is the reason. I have also observed and received the will of the Prime Minister to omit such words like doubting the Budget whether it will be achieved or not.

Is this fitting Clerk as I see that this can deceive the Budget. I further wish to advise the member, in the Samoan saying, “*O le fuata ma lona lou*”. If God has selected this Government, then we must ensure our faith and trust in Him, for He is also present in this Government, the same with you during your time.

That is the advise, lest you think otherwise, that we are lying. No if God has chosen this Government, it is He who is also present in this Government. That being said, I move to omit these words, but do direct your advice where necessary...for the wellbeing of the country. You too are one of the senior members of the House. With due respect, the member can go ahead.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you very much Mr Speaker,

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker: just this one bit. We are giving our general remarks. It is nothing to be concerned about, there is a time for them to respond. And there was no harm in his statement, and this is the nature of speeches from the Opposition side and a time for them to respond.

MR SPEAKER: Because we now have a ruling, believing it is like that. You too were on this side, and it was like that. We say things to support good efforts. It is not something to accuse something good. That is the concern here. I call upon the member to resume.

Minister of Police, did you want to speak.

Afioga Fepuleai Faasavalu Faimata Sua (Salega 1): Thank you. I am observing these statements. The remarks of the Opposition Leader is vital. We will give our support 500%, I am just listening and receiving it. I am a new member, words and statements made are all observed in accordance to the Budget Statement.

I am listening and wondering how high this percentage has gone to. For it seems that there is belief that all things we implemented must now be done. It seems there is intent that when the percentage is going up it can fall again.

Well do make it 500% please.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, now that is well received.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: This 1000% is submitted as an advice from this Opposition Side. Because you are new inside this House.

MR SPEAKER: Lautafi is now receiving it. Well let us not bear doubt, but go be steadfast and sure with regards to our Budget. Continue with your remarks.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: It is because we are only the onlookers. That is the assistance, to offer feedback. Take a look at it, when you see it is not necessary do not use it. It is not an attack on a person, or integrity, no. We are only giving our opinions while you sort them out.

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Now that you have took over to thoroughly scrutinize these matters, there is no doubt from us on the budget.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to speak.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: There is nothing wrong with the statement by the member. Whether the Minister is called flawed or that our Government is inadequate. But stating that is it a matter of trying to satisfy the Nation. There, it reflects that this Party is doing something wrong, intentionally, simply to be satisfied. That is not it, it is acceptable for you to say we are weak, yes you are wise. It does not matter. The main thing for us is we are ready to decide what is best for the Country, that is all.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker these words are quite severe.

MR SPEAKER: Who are your rebutting against?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Point of Order, because you stated that we declared that we are smart.

MR SPEAKER: You are not permitted to rebut against the current speaker.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: To be clear, there was no such thought, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: This is called interrupting another interruption. No, that is not permitted in our Standing Orders.

Hon Lautafi, you may speak as the essence of the Parliament has been noted. That does not matter, but refrain from doing things that are meaningless. You may speak.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: The words said have been omitted. These were words of the Opposition. No, the remarks made by the Prime Minister are different. There is no desire to say that this Side is smarter. No, we are all equal before the eyes of God. [.....]. But that is the word, to remove these words, and that is not the reason why I am upstanding. My heart is righteous, as it extends from here to God.

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Most of the issues relating to the budget, I will address them when I get another chance of 15 minutes. Now that I think about it, I do not want to address the appropriation bill anymore. But I will talk about it when I get another opportunity of 15 minutes.

And then I come to the Minister of our aircraft. What has happened to our aircraft? When I left Office, it takes about four (4) days for the aircraft to arrive. So four (4) days before it arrives, and all the conditions and arrangements had already been made. But now it is almost four (4) months and yet our plane has not arrived. Poor aircraft, I wonder where in Australia it is being kept.

As for the Hon Minister, I suggest that you remain courageous. There are people to whom you have counselled whose hearts are cowardly. Your heart must remain courageous. This job is your defining moment as a Minister, so bring the aircraft to Samoa.

That being said, the benefits we will receive do not need to be said. Yes, we do have debts; debts that we need to look at, those are challenges and obstacles. Instead of saying, “oh, it will amount to a lot of debt for Samoa.” Samoa cannot advance if that is the case. This is an opportunity for us to make money, as we will not get another aircraft in great condition like that again, as well as the current lease. We might not get an opportunity like that again.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister of Works.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Thank you to the honourable member, since you have stated this matter, in case... it would be better to give you my answer now. Well, in regards to the reason why the aircraft is delayed in its arrival.

It is no secret that I had a discussion with the Minister, concerning the situation with our aircraft. In any case, let me be clear, I was the one who delayed the arrival of the aircraft. There is a reason why I stopped the arrival of the aircraft, because the plane brought from Brisbane was not completely safe, for us to use.

The ship is also in the process, as important maintenance has been underway for a whole month for the aircraft to be used by our Country for its safety.

In addition, we also ordered some spare parts to repair our aircraft. That is the situation in which I myself intended, in the satisfaction of our legislation. In particular, the security conditions of this aircraft that will be used by our country. But that is the case, as long as the conditions of this check are satisfied, then I will definitely accept, and certify the aircraft to arrive in our Country. But for now, you are also aware that if I do not sign, the plane will not be brought.

At the moment, I do not want to see your aircraft at my airport in Faleolo if these conditions are not satisfied. With respect.

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MR SPEAKER: I believe that your will has been answered, as there are intentions for it to be brought in, but after it goes through all legal means and National security measures. But thankfully the advice has now reached the Hon Minister.

The member may conclude now.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you, I now know the person who advises and delayed the arrival of our aircraft. I am amazed at how quickly parts of the plane have deteriorated. But before I left everything was in order. This means that when Olo came into office, he sat down and took steps to make a report to his Ministry so the aircraft cannot be brought to Samoa. Tell that man Hoe to hurry up. Since those guys are also.... but thank you to the Hon Minister, it has been realized. Of course.... safety is paramount. I recall that the plane was brought in from the Netherlands. It took about three (3) days to arrive in Brisbane. So if there are any problems, because that the reason why it first stopped in Brisbane, to conduct a safety check again, unless something was damaged from there. Because a maintenance check was also conducted in the Netherlands before it came. So where it landed between these two countries, they would always be checked.

But even if the safety regulations in Australia and here are not met, well that will be left to your digression. It is best to bring the plane when it is certain. As for the intention behind this attempt, I was worried that we might miss this opportunity. Let us not be afraid like this.

Afioga Valasi Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele: Mr Speaker, Point of Clarification.

I did not intend to interrupt the wonderful speech of the member. The only thing is that we are members from Satupaitea when we lived together, so I am now a member for Vaisigano No.2. Just something to clarify, I still remember the promise made by the Minister when the first aircraft was brought. The Minister said, Samoa, we now have a plane, for the first year we got a plane, the second year we received another plane. The third year we only got the frame of a plane. His statement is still in the records. What has happened? We got nothing, only debts upon debts...not a...I also remember the words from the Hon Leader, since I was sitting from there, while the leader was on this side. The Government does not take lightly, to response to these things, but they said it at that time. That is a clarification Mr Speaker. I can get the tapes which have the records.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a little help on this matter. This plane is a BOEING which is different from the French plane. When the BOEING flies from one airport to another, they are stopped and checked. But it is not the same for the French aircraft.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Please Mr Speaker I wonder who the Hon Leader of the Opposition is interfering with.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: That being said, because this is a statement made in Cabinet while Fiame was also present. I also remember this aircraft which is the aircraft that Fiame and I worked on together. But now she suddenly does not want to understand.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, you and Lautafi are teaming up from your side. It has been noted, this is... This is the opportunity to finish the speech. I call on the Minister in charge of the aircraft to speak.

Tofa Hon Leatinuu Wayne Soialo (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): I clearly see the determination of my brother, who used to work for this Ministry. But leave it to me. We will be arguing about this for a while, but the licence is not the reason. The reason is the money used to buy spare parts. And then it will be brought.

Once we receive some funds, there is a special committee that have already been chosen by the Cabinet to consider this issue in detail. Our Government also had specialists that have previously evaluated our aircraft. Those who work on the money, in addition to the opinions and ideas from this side, and then we will know the outcome of our plane, but it will not be long. Maybe it will be next week after the lockdown, but be brave and have faith in God. Perhaps we will get a satisfactory response. The people who are afraid of such situations are not here, we also have the courage to handle the rising problem.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: I am thankful that our correction is taken well. The deliverance is correctly given...

MR SPEAKER: Lautafi, do you see the courage shown by the Minister. So do not worry. As the Minister emerges, but no it is like that, we still have the courage for our plane.

Therefore, your opinion has been presented. Continue your speech.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: That is the chair I once sat which has the word “courage” inscribed on it. And now he has been tainted by it...but thank you to my fellow Minister. I am content with the statement made by my fellow Minister. Perhaps I will believe Olo next time when the plane arrives. But it is good to hear that we are still working to get our plane into the country, so that we can start the planned flights, so that we can also make money quickly. The longer it stays there, the longer Air New Zealand and Quantas are making money while we just watch.

And then I come to the next issue regarding our market that was dug up in Sogi, since it was under my supervision at that time. It is a job that cost a lot of money, but I have noticed that it has been halted. Well, the determination is because these are plans that we made and now you are in charge of them. But what is the situation for moving forward. As I said, a lot of our Government money has gone in to the burial of this and many other additional costs. Have you also looked at these areas, and if there are any plans for it, because I have heard that the market will be reconstructed on the site which was chosen by New Zealand, to bring in their...at that time. They would provide the funds, and they are also in control of the size of the building as well as the design of the building, while we just sit and watch.

That is the reason why we said no, the funds are given to us and then we will be in charge of the design which is suitable in Samoa. Because the conditions offered by New Zealand, it was mainly targeting boutiques which are mostly used by the wealthy people. What about our people in which this plan was intended for? Well, that was the essence behind it. But if the Government wants to change it, good luck. That is my only feedback, to consider so that it can be implemented quickly and to get back the money that we have spent on paying the contractors.

Allow me to respond, since I have forgotten about Hon Minister and brother Asiata Valasi Tafito. We are here for our constituencies. No those were the discussion at that time, if it were not for the problems that emerged, maybe we would have obtained two planes. As we were starting to earn money, Covid-19 emerged, and the plane that we were using was suddenly returned, leaving us without a plane, and then we went and bought an expensive plane, and that was it, another problem was solved, but this is the only plane which is a MAX-9 with the name already written on it. No, I just want to clarify, since the member thinks that it is a lie or the things done are insolvent. No.

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The essence itself, when the time comes, because the advice of those who are familiar and skilled in these matters regarding aircraft, if there is only one aircraft, it is difficult to make money. If there are two, that is what we were trying to do. However, this could not be achieved due to the problems that arose. Now that we have our plane now, let us hope.

Hon Minister, well, there is one more thing, the situation with the Daylight Savings which has also surprised me. My suggestion to the Government is that Samoa is not the only one affected by this, turn our clocks back, no. It affects the area in which we are living in. We are in a global world. Everything regarding communications, aircrafts and all sorts of services are affected by this one hour change. All of these things have all been programmed. But when it is changed to one day, as the saying goes, everything is confusing. The recommendation, perhaps having discussions with those in the Ministries, maybe we will receive a broader view of this matter. Remember when you go to get your tickets, you would go straight inside, when you get there it would be different as you are now one hour ahead. There are a lot. Just like telephones, as phones would recognize the change so that you do not need to manually change the date on your phone. On the day of the daylight saving you will notice that the date is automatically changed. That is the effects of this change. But I would like to make a suggestion to the Government to re-consider that decision if it should be made, because the effects are not only limited to Samoa.

Well, Mr Speaker, I offer my congratulations, Congratulations Satupaitea. Only six (6) men from Savaii have sat from there. I support you with your speakership appointment.

Ia, le mamalu o lau Afioga i le Fofoga Fetalai, ia e momoli atu lau faamalo, Faamalo a Satupaitea. E ono lava tama Savaii pe a nonofo mai luga i ina. Faamalo i lou tofiga. Ia e lagolago atu uma au i lau Afioga i luga.

Congratulations also to the new Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet. You have been appointed, as well as the Associate Ministers. We still argue and debate in here, but that is why our country brought us here. It is useless calling this the arena of discussions, but others members are afraid to speak, because they are under the impression that they are new, or that they are shy and such. No. Congratulations. Good luck to you. As you handle the work, we will support and offer assistance as the Opposition. And if there has been any offensive language used in this House, as those who were in the previous Parliamentary term would know, the voice of Lautafi is not always like that. The representative of Satupaitea is always calm, but due to the circumstances of the things that emerged. I ask for forgiveness and apologise, overlook a statement made by this member. My district is also listening, as well as my family.

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I would like to offer salutations to all my families in distant lands and here, as everyone has been affected by this situation of our Government. Not only that side, but also on this side, and also enticing sisters, brothers and everybody, all of them were involved. You must stay strong, those who are making derogatory and vulgar comments against you, you should trust in God. Never, do not take heed to those things. Those are the things done by an uneducated person. Then they would go online and hide and make such comments. It is the same as hiding behind the house and throwing rocks on the road since they cannot come and face people directly. God assist the remaining preparations for today.

Thank you as this is another good thing to conclude my... when we got here, this is the first time I got to look at the beautiful Chief Executive Officers of these Ministries, especially the lady who is sitting in the middle. I just... since our backs were faced towards them, but God works in different ways, we have noticed, no wonder why we have a good Government.

Well, that concludes my speech. Have a great evening. Soifua.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding after the speech by the member for Satupaitea.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Congratulations for the speech. Well, thank you, I commend the Hon member for Satupaitea for the speech, who is also one of the elders of the House.

Therefore, I praise you for your contribution, also thank you for your noble wisdom, your opinion and advice that have been conveyed, maybe it has been accepted, in particular, as I am aware that you have been contemplating heavily about the plane, but at least the Hon Minister has responded. So do not worry. What is important is that you have shared your input for the future of our country. Thank you for the advice. It is also good that you can finally see those who are sitting up there. Well, thank you very much. Such is mutual respect, to come to terms with and enjoy and support your work. Therefore, thank you very much.

Well, I see that we are nearing the time for our recess. If another member were to stand then...then there is an idea, we will now go to our recess for the time being, so that another member will have enough strength. After our evening supper we will have renewed energy to continue our speeches. Therefore, I ask a member to be ready for the next time we come back.

I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual recess of 15 minutes please. Thank you.

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Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly we set aside for its normal recess from 3:35pm and will resume at 4:05pm.

Debate of the Legislative Assembly resumed on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022.

MR SPEAKER: I declare the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

Congratulations to the Parliament for your patience, perhaps you have renewed energy to continue our work.

The proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside the member for Satupaitea had concluded his speech. This is an opportunity for another member who wants to speak.

Well, I notice that the member for Gagaifomauga No.1 is preparing.

Afioga Auuapaau Mulipola Aloitafua (Deputy Speaker): Mr Speaker, can I get an opportunity?

MR SPEAKER: Well, I beseech the member for Gagaifomauga to stand by as I call on the Deputy Speaker.

Afioga Auuapaau Mulipola Aloitafua: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. It is believed that the Hon Prime Minister, the Hon Speaker, the Ministers of Cabinet as well as the Hon Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader and the honourable members have finished having supper. Since there was no intention to interfere with the wonderful speech of the member for Satupaitea that concluded before we went for our recess.

Mr Speaker, the House has clearly listened, however, there was a statement made that I personally feel was not comfortable to hear, as also heard by the House, with the closing statement as follows, well, go all out (*fai lou ivi*). This member can interpret this as, do as you please (*fai sou ivi*) which seems to be solely for the Minister of Finance. But I also recall, the member stating that he did not want to comment on the Budget. But I also interpret it as the member stating, go for broke (*fai tou ivi*), that statement does not seem pleasant.

I move Mr Speaker, *That it be removed from Parliamentary records.*

In all decency he should have said, well, Laupua does not reprimand Tamafaiga, we wish the Government good luck. It is a statement that seems to be slanderous towards the Government.

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This is the motion with respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Well, the suggestion has been noted... Is there anyone who seconds the motion moved by the Deputy Speaker?

Seconded by the member for Lefaga and Faleaseela.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: I ask for a chance Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the records for this matter is not noticed. And maybe it was stated by the member due to the nature of the records, because of the fact that it is true that it was not the opinion of the honourable member nor was it the meaning, but it is the wording.

That is the meaning for the records of our Parliament which has led to the motion which has been moved by the Deputy Speaker, and has been seconded.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: Well, it shall be left at that, but you have stated it correctly, the essence in which it was stated was different. But the motion proposed by the honourable member. These phrases are clean, but remove them if our record is accurate. With all due respect.

Motion was approved and the record of the speech by the member for Satupaitea was removed.

MR SPEAKER: Well maybe there is nothing....the most important thing, no, the honourable member also apologised, for the words and phrases used. Perhaps the Deputy Speaker is now aware of this situation, but I still believe that it was not the intention of the member, but these are words that need to be removed from our records. I am aware, it will not affect the state of mind of the member and his sincerity, but since these phrases are the cause for the motion to be moved and has therefore been removed from our documents.

Well with the utmost respect, I call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No.1 to stand, as she is also one of the female elders, Hon Faimalotoa Kika Stowers Ah Kau. You may speak.

Words ordered by Mr Speaker to be removed from the records of the speech for the member for Satupaitea: “[You have been left to do your own work, we will support as the Opposition]”.

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Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS AH KAU (Gagaifomauga 1): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity for this member from Gagaifomauga 1, gratitude to you and your Minister for the brunch that has energized us to resume our work.

But I think that the water of the Lord of the Side will not be disturbed because it is the forgiving water for Tonga and life for Samoa.

I wish not to speak again on past matters, as this was where Tonga was left and life was a success for Samoa. I have received your blessings like the morning from Finao. Such are the blessings achieved by Upolu and Salafai given this success. The question is, why? The success of Samoa has been reached given our Almighty Father. Mr Speaker, I believe that our journey in the past few months has not been easy. But we are grateful to God for His unfailing love and kindness to Samoa, for there have been fewer disasters and more good fortune. We are now making discussions on this day and living in His constant care. God the Father of mercy, this is your authority.

Mr Speaker, I believe that this is my first maiden speech as an Opposition, since entering Parliament 8 years ago. I therefore first pay tribute to you Mr Speaker and the holiness of this House. I formally greet and congratulate your Excellency on your appointment, as this is one of the members from the island of Salafai, the island that can do anything.

I also extend salutations to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, as well as the Associate Ministers. Greetings are also expressed to the Hon Leader and Deputy Leader and the members of the Opposition Party.

I also convey greetings to His Excellency the Head of State and his Good Lady, His Excellency the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady, the Hon Chief Justice, the President, and the men and women of the Judiciary.

I also acknowledge the devotion of the Leaders of the Church, with the esteemed Reverends and their Wives at every altar. I also acknowledge the holy priests and all those ordained as the messengers of the gospel who are praying for the prosperity of our country. And also the support of Samoa from the beginning to the end and all its honorary salutations.

Greetings also to you Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Corporations of our Government. I commend you for your patience and your services.

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Not to be forgotten are our brothers on the East Island. The Hon Governor General and Lieutenant Governor, the Legislative Assembly of both Houses, the Hon President and Hon Members of the Upper House, as well as the presence of Mr Speaker and the House of Representatives, the Hon Chief Justice and the Judiciary, I also acknowledge your Excellency the Secretary for Internal Affairs as well as the District Governors.

The honorary salutations of Tutuila and Manua.

Mr Speaker, before I move on, I would first like to address my constituency listening from far away. I convey salutations to the sanctities of our constituency. And I would like to use this opportunity to offer the utmost gratitude for the support of Gagaifomauga No.1, with all its honorary salutations.

I also extend acknowledgement to the presence of Taito and his children, the Sa Umalau family and orator Tauasa. To the holy servants of God who are residing in Finao, as they hope and pray for the prosperity of our constituency as well as Samoa as a whole. Thank you to the Elder and your wife, the two Priests, Deacon and wife and the devotion of the Carmelite Sisters. Susuga Tausi Matagaluega and your wife as well as the Archbishop and your wife. Thank you for your silent devotion, your prayers and your aspiration, as now the endeavours have succeeded due to your support, thank you very much.

Not to be forgotten is the gratitude to the fathers or brothers, and those who have sought diligence for our district. Congratulations for your noble determination, and your composure and hard work. My advice, we need to stand and work together for the success of our constituency.

My constituency, thank you for your authority and respect, gratitude is conveyed to you for your wisdom in re-electing me to be your representative to express opinions and your prudence in the fonousu of Samoa for your benefit.

To all my families, friends and acquaintances, to all the children here in Samoa and abroad, we express our gratitude, praises for your support and your prayers, so thank you for your vigorous support.

Mr Speaker, before I move away from my constituency since you have made your decision, I would like to apologise to my beloved constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1, as many of you contacted me yesterday evening and night. I also apologise to those who complained this morning, as my phone has been turned off, but you needed me to voice your concerns and your voices regarding issues that have arisen in Samoa, and this is the first time such a thing has happened.

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I apologise, I do not intend to dispute or oppose the instructions of Mr Speaker. And as seen by God for his gaze is piercing, so for all our actions in this world, our feelings, our minds, our hearts and our souls, as well as our beliefs, either right or wrong, we believe that God sees everything. So I apologise to my beloved constituency.

And so Mr Speaker I move to convey the demands of my constituency. The needs of my district are meagre. The hospital, Hon Minister of Health, I express my formal greetings, and I wish you well on your appointment, congratulations especially the hard work that you and your Ministry are facing for the protection of Samoa. I sit with anxiety, for we have now witnessed that the Covid -19 or the deadly virus that has affected the world is near our doorsteps. It has also affected our island of Tutuila, especially the plight of our neighbours in Fiji and its people. Let us pray for all the Samoans in Fiji, those who are permanent residence, those who are there for work and especially the children who are grieving to return, may God protect their weak lives. There will be time when we will meet again in good health and not in death.

This is just a request to the Hon Minister for funds as received from the World Bank in the previous Term for the improvement of district hospitals, especially medical residences. So I appeal for a district hospital in our constituency of Safotu. The only reason why it was delayed was due to the priority given to the protection against Covid-19, in particular the fulfilment of some of the conditions required by the World Bank to be transparent and understood so that the funds go directly into the given project. And so I request that this program should commence, not only for Safotu but also for the hospitals in all of the districts of Savaii, as well as Upolu. For the Hon Minister of Works, congratulations on your appointment. There are only 3 demands that this constituency wants to introduce.

The drinking water for the village. The challenges face by this constituency, the timing of the water supply running in Safotu is inconvenient, as there are times when the water flows through when you turn on the tap....especially in the morning when the children wake up to go to school, or also before they sleep at night, they would fill buckets and pots with water, so that when they wake up there is water available to use. This problem still exists in our constituency.

As you know when we were sitting from that side, you seldom hear a Minister address the demands of a constituency, but thank you to God for he has given us the opportunity to voice the needs of my constituency.

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Hon Minister, the road in Manase, it was during the previous Term when we received funds from the World Bank which amounts to nearly \$10 million earmarked for this project, due to the importance of this road which crosses Manase to Safotu, in case this creek were to fall apart, as the road is very narrow and steep, so if buses were to come from that side, regardless of the time and weather changes, there will be an accident, and that is why we to strived to get funds to improve this part of our country. Please take another look at this.

Thank you for the road at Matavanu, this is the road known as the road above the eye of the flame, for my constituency in the big island of Salafai. The scarping process commenced last year, but a request to the Hon Minister, there are a lot of tourists in our village neighbouring Manase, as you have noticed when you would drive pass, there are many hotels especially beach fales. We often see tourists carrying their backpacks, with water bottles, and even though there is no road they would continue to hike, because they want to see the historical sites. It is a huge source of income because of the large number of tourists in our constituency. Please protect this site.

And the final request to the Hon Prime Minister or the Minister of Environment that is distributing our seawalls. First of all, I wish you the best and congratulations on your appointment, Hon Sao Faapito. It has been constantly observed the damages on the Environment due to rising sea levels as well as natural disasters that are also endangering this constituency, perhaps the Hon Prime Minister may remember that we discussed this request of my constituency when you were a Minister as that time, you told me come and re-submit an appeal addressed to the Chief Executive Officer at that time, and give you the copy.

Well, I would just like to make a request with respect; so far this is not the first time, we had many appointments in the past with some that have passed away.... more than 30 years on standby, waiting and devotion from our constituency as the waves were breaking near the backyard of the shorelines with reverence.

Then I come to make a statement for this constituency on the Budget as it is now tabled in the House, on the Table of Parliament. Mr Speaker, I am pleased that this constituency has the opportunity to contribute to the Appropriation Bill that is now before the House. I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister for this preparation. Congratulations also on your position as appointed by our Government we have for this term.

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Mr Speaker and the honourable members of Parliament, I convey the contribution of this constituency to the analysis of the economy of Samoa through the Budget of the financial year 2021/2022 in the following areas. First of all, the Hon Minister of Health, since this is one of the Ministries where I worked in the previous Term. It is here where I have noted and remembered and understand these situations.

Samoa is one of the countries in the world that continues to protect its people from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 virus, which has infected and killed millions of people around the world. As this epidemic approached the Pacific in March 2020, the Government and the staff responsible for the protection of welfare did not hesitate to restrict immigration of people from overseas into Samoa.

All necessary activities were introduced and implemented through the preparation of an initial stimulus package with a total of \$66.3 million to assist all citizens. For the private sector especially a special provision of \$20.2 million had been earmarked for the protection of the country against the Covid-19 virus.

Mr Speaker, I am saddened to note that in the 2021/2022 Budget, there is no provision for the protection of Samoa from Covid. This means, I am not sure in case it might seem offensive, but we should still express our feelings if our Government is taking this seriously since Covid is coming to an end, and some of the countries feel that this has been done, but there is a belief that the protection of our country should be prioritised.

In fact, these are the times when we are most at risk, as we have seen; I am thankful that it has been announced for vaccinations to take place on Thursday and Friday of this week. As we watch the progress of the countries overseas, we have observed that there are people who have been vaccinated twice get affected. And some have died but there is a higher chance of protection if everyone was vaccinated when the virus enters our country. This is a suggestion so that we do not neglect and continuously prioritise the protection of our country.

It has been observed on some announcements, a plan for the reopening of our borders in the near future. The request of this constituency, please abstain for making that decision, do not open our borders to satisfy the small number of people who want to come in or other tourist businesses that are requesting to enter, to prevent our people from losing their lives, just like the English proverb that is regularly heard, all it takes is one. One person were to get sick, but many can be infected and die.

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Mr Speaker, it is also noted in the Budget, a plan to expand hospital meals for all district hospitals in the country. To the Hon Minister of Health, it is a plan that has been long prepared by the previous Government to provide this service to all those who are hospitalised for serious illnesses. According to the data, all the patients in Tuasivi are receiving meals, but it is a bit slow, but as you have seen in the rural villages and in Savaii, most of the time when you go to see the doctor there are no people being hospitalised. That is why expansion is being delayed for monitoring because if they are being hospitalised within the village, it will be easier to walk and give the patient their meal.

But according to records, most of them spend one night or less in detainment in houses in the rural areas as well as in Savaii and in the district hospitals and then they are relocated or transferred from the rural villages to the Motootua hospital, or they are transferred from the rural areas of Savaii to the Tuasivi hospital. With high expectations as set, to relocate the main hospital to the town centre in Salelologa in the near future, and then implement the project by constructing a special facility for the preparation of meals, furnished with ovens and cooking equipment, as well as well-prepared staff for this occasion.

The population of Savaii continues to grow, and there is a need for the re-establishment of another main hospital for our island of Savaii. There was belief that this Budget will provide for the construction of a large hospital at Salelologa. But it is noticed, our new Government does not have a plan for this purpose of establishing a hospital in Salelologa. In other words, I hope that this important dream for our island of Salafai does not end here.

It was highly expected that there will be many new developments or new initiatives that will be introduced and implemented by the Government that has emerged to support the health of the country, unfortunately, many of the key developments is still following the process set out by the previous Government, which include areas such as hospital cleaning as stated in the speech of the Minister of Finance. Well, when you came into Parliament, the Cabinet had already approved and outsourcing is already underway, to those outside with the essence, because there was the thought, to get the right people to do the right job.

Most of the time there were complaints about how dirty it is because....this issue has already been resolved. We also have \$3 million for the upgrading of district hospitals as well as residents for doctors outside the hospital as I had mentioned earlier. It was also already approved by the Cabinet the purchasing of a CT scanner which was mentioned by some of the members. That matter has been put forward for a while, but it was delayed because of the Tenders Board's process which was readvertised to assure MOF that it is transparent and clearly followed and that we already have money from our ACC.

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Well, these are some of the issue that have been noted, furthermore Hon Minister, the possessions and medicines for every day because a well-built and maintained centre has been prepared, the warehouse to store medicine and equipment. Well, those are some of the things I believe have already been approved but they are now being included in the Budget. Congratulations to the Hon Minister for continuing these works. Well, I see that it has been proposed in the statement of the Main Budget.

Mr Speaker, now I come to the Ministry where I first worked before I moved to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Developments, I convey my congratulations and wishes to the appointment of the Hon Minister.

A lot of statements have been made on the \$51 million which I will not talk about since an order is now in place. And as heard by Samoa, I will not state it in my speech.

Hon Minister, it is noted that there is an allocation of \$11 million in the budget for the Women and Social Affairs sector, and we respectfully ask how this money will be used and how it will be distributed to the 51 constituencies of our country. It is a question of understanding Hon Minister. If the essence is for the implementation of developments and special needs of each district, then I think, with all due respect, poor Samoa, the Government has been implementing these programs for 59 years, which is prioritised by all the constituencies of the country. The roads, electricity, drinking water, school buildings and the priority of children's education, hospitals and treatment of patients as well as the transmission of special patients abroad, pensions for our elderly parents. The payment of school fees for the children of the Government, and the many continuing programs that have benefitted the country, my question please, are these not the needs that are being prioritised by the districts and the people of Samoa that have already been implemented by the previous Government? And a total of \$100 million spent each year but now \$1 million tala has been announced to be given for the 51 constituencies. The saying is true, do not yearn for the fish and forget about the net. Let us not create campaigns that encourage laziness and dependency, but let us focus on programs that benefit our people, for today, tomorrow and every day of their lives.

There is a provision of \$2.1 million tala for the program conducted by the Hygiene Committee. This initiative is not a new program, as first implemented by the government in July last year, through a relief of approximately \$1.3 million, which was provided through the stimulus program phase two to reorganize the Sanitation Committees of each village for the purpose of encouraging developments for women.

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These facilities are also used for vaccination programs for the children and the promotion of hygiene in all communities. Hon Minister, there were high expectations due to the amount of time taken to prepare this Budget, but there are many new policies and major projects that the Government is preparing to implement. But as noted, most of the work is continuing projects from many years ago until now. And it is a feeling, that we should consider and compile the works that will be laid out for the prosperity of our country.

Perhaps Mr Speaker, we are reading differently about the \$250 million of assistance provided to Non-Governmental Organizations under the Budget. IT is the partnership between the Government and the Private Sector or NGO's, it has continued for many years not only to provide direct assistance from the Government, to its partners for annual services, but it is also given to Non-Governmental Organizations (NOGs) and also members of various Government Committees. For example...

MR SPEAKER: Just a word of advice to the honourable member, since our Standing Orders do not permit us to read our speeches, but the 30 minutes for the member is also up.

I ask that you conclude your speech since our Standing Orders... the honourable member has also been...

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS-AH KAU: Mr Speaker I do not object your... but this is the reason for writing down the statement to make it easier to convey the work that we have... for the benefits. And now you have given your suggestion and... my heart and mind are in tears but I still smile, with the serenity of your statement for us to cooperate. I am willing to give 500 percent which is... all the time.

MR SPEAKER: Finish off your speech...

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS-AH KAU: Please, if you are well prepared, it will be worthwhile for our country and our people who are listening. That is why it is being written down properly so that it is clear and understandable but they are not necessarily the words for my speech. I have only written down major points that I want to convey, because as I said in the beginning this is the Ministry that I worked for last year.

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I apologise Mr Speaker but I obey your instructions. However, the private sector also participates in various government committees, for example the Civil Society Support Program Committee, the CSSP. AS well as for the Board of Directors for major Government Programs as they have their say to make decisions for the betterment of the country

My recommendation to the Hon Minister of the Ministry is to reconsider this application, whether it is still relevant. Also, how is it being divided amongst the many existing Private Organizations? And are there any guidelines and criteria for the disbursement of these funds.

Mr Speaker, since I will be finishing off my speech, I then come to the salaries of the Mayors that will be increased and is included in the \$11 million that I have mentioned which is reflected in the works and developments of the district. I am grateful for the wisdom to restructure the salaries of Mayors, but I have a question with respect, whether the increase in the salaries for the mayors can be announced. Also, whether it includes the *sui tamaitai* for the women listening, I am the only one on this side opposing to that side, as a representative of the women of Samoa.

As also asked we have heard that the Pulenuu is mentioned whether it also includes us but thankful women are also included. This is one of the major parts of the country that contributes to the growth of wealth in families, in churches and in communities and everywhere, which are the women. Just like our honorary salutation, the *pae* and iron, advisor and recommendation. Those are my questions, is there an increase for them? And how much is the increase?

It is important to clarify, so that the usage of the \$11 million is clear because it is noted, that millions and millions of demands will be transferred to this program, but there is only \$11 million stated on here. So from my point of view this money will be used up on three of four constituencies, but what about the other 47? The constituencies that are waiting and supporting.

Mr Speaker, I will now conclude, through the Hon Minister of Finance, those are some recommendations given for journey together. The essence of this member is that the situation of our economy is clear and understood. So that no one is neglected or the contribution of a constituency in the politics of the Government is overlooked, especially when discussing the economy.

Mr Speaker and the Honourable Members, I will now conclude the speech of this constituency. But as I have already said, our position is the *pae* and iron, I was impress last Friday morning by the stillness of your voice when you said that we will be working together, we must forgive, and forget.

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Mr Speaker, the eyes of God are open, on the harsh resentment, the bitterness, the pain that we felt. I am angry with our secretary, Afioga Lealailepule, as he took of picture of me while I was sitting down. No matter how painful it is to... even a chair from our house was disallowed, everything was forbidden. Even asking for a water bottle was forbidden. But we were waiting for the vehicle coming from Peseta to bring us water bottles which was stopped by the police. Why is it like this?

It was a heartbreaking situation, with our families weeping from overseas. I asked them, what happen? Why are you weeping? I am prepared to go and be locked up for the whole of Savaii. Do not talk about it again. It is like...

MR SPEAKER: I offer comfort to the honourable member.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS-AH KAU: Mr Speaker when it is expressed, then we will be content and pray for forgiveness. We work together, but it is very difficult, it is unforgettable. It cannot be forgotten, how can we forget? I remember the pastor who was praying, after Wednesday he said that it was a dark day for Samoa. We have laid down the grave of our Christianity upon which we are founded.

MR SPEAKER: I implore the member as this matter has already been resolved.

Afioga Masinalupe Makesi Masinalupe (Lefaga & Faleaseela): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Well, another member is interrupting.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS-AH KAU: Did I do something wrong? As I have expressed my feelings, it is over.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I beseech the honourable members as the Afioga Faimalotoa is concluding here statement... You may speak.

Afioga Masinalupe Makesi Masinalupe: No, it is something that I want to...since the church minister was mentioned. I am also saddened about this, because I believe that our family is not in a good position, since I am preaching in here, while the church minister is kneeling outside. But he is my nephew, so it is worth noting, it is no use to make any further remarks on this matter with respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Well, the essence of the member has been noted. To support the honourable member as the emotions of that day, but it must be discarded as we have already talked about it. Let us discard the things of the past.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS-AH KAU: Well, thank you, my apologies. No, I am not talking about that church minister.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa (Vaimauga 1): Mr Speaker there is something I want to correct, if I can get an opportunity?

MR SPEAKER: Who will are you interfering with Sulamania? Are you interfering with Faimalotoa?

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Of course, point of clarification. The member speaking is interrupting.

MR SPEAKER: No, you are not allowed to interfere with...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: If he felt that it was his nephew who was kneeling, why did he not come outside?

MR SPEAKER: No, I ask the member to be seated. It will cause a lot of...I ask Faimalotoa to conclude your speech. The speech will now be concluded with you, the senior member of our House.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA STOWERS-AH KAU: I will comply with your desire, as I will now conclude my speech. But apologies to the member, no this is not your nephew...it is a church minister who lead the sermon, and he had tears in his eyes and...but this is enough. But when the time comes to lay me in the grave I will not forget.

But praises to you, Mr Speaker, and then to finish off the voice of this delegation. Mr Speaker, thank you for our opportunity. And if there have been any undignified words spoken which was heard by my constituency and Samoa, I ask that you forgive any incompetency of this member from Gagaifomauga No.1.

Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the demands and contribution of this constituency have been conveyed. God bless that side as well as the Leader and this Political Party. God bless the worship and hard work of all Samoans, not only here in Samoa, but all the Samoans living abroad. God bless and goodbye Mr Speaker.

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Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the Speech by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.1.

MR SPEAKER: Congratulations to the honourable member from Gagaifomauga No.1 Hon Faimalotoa, as the House has now heard the speech. Perhaps the feedback has been noted by the House especially your contribution to our Budget, it has also been heard by the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, regarding some of the work that you have given advice on, especially for the prosperity of your district. Congratulations for your patience, and thank you for the contribution. Well, now it is time for another member.

I have noted that the Deputy Leader from Anoamaa No.2 is preparing, Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo. Well, honourable member.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa 2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe the crown of the gospel lies in the utopia at this hour of the evening because of the words of the bonds of devotion through sacrifice made the previous morning, as well as the honorary salutations of the country, it is believed that it has been laid through your wonderful speech in the morning and in the past.

The honorific salutations have already been stated and will not mention them again. Although I will still convey salutations as this is the first Assembly for this Parliamentary Term, the 17th Parliamentary Term to the Hon Speaker of the House. Greetings are also extended to the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the presence of the Associate Ministers.

Well, then I turn to this side of the House, the presence of the Leader and the honourable members. As I have noticed Mr Speaker. From the previous Term, I am the only member left in this front line, Olo and Leatinuu can testify...but all of our members were on that side. So it is fitting that I say, welcome. This side is also wonderful. As stated by the member for Satupaitea, it is nice to see the Hon Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries, who are sitting on that side of our House.

Well, the ordained servants of God and priests, congratulations for your continuous work for the welfare of the nation through your roles from God. I also offer salutations to His Excellency the Head of State and your Good Lady, as well as the Afioga Member of the Council of Deputies and your Good lady.

The support of Samoa, I commend you on this journey. We express our gratitude and note our thanks in accordance with the First Appropriation Bill of this Term 2021/2022. Mr Speaker, there are a lot of things I wanted to talk about but I will only state issues that are of importance.

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The issues that have been prioritised in the Main Estimate, is the well-being of the people of the country. It is a very important matter. But I do believe that the well-being of the country is closely linked to a good and strong economy. Raising the standard of living is also dependent on a good economic situation, to be raised to a feasible standard and beneficial for the community.

Over the past 2 or 3 years or so, as some of the members have spoken about the signs to indicate how well the economy is doing today. In regards to the Government debt, some have already stated that less than 50% of our capital or 48% or so, is the official public debt. The funds that are below 20% of our income or debt servicing. The good condition of our foreign reserves, as more than \$500 million is used to generate and cover for exported goods coming into our country for up to 8 months. These are some of the indicators shown in these booklets from the Budget, the statement of the Government's financial plans, as well as the following sections in these other booklets on the Budget as laid on the Assembly Table. I have noticed, thanks to the plan, I will start from the section that is brought under the Ministry of Finance.

Thankfully there will be assistance for those who have special needs, as this is very much needed, especially as it will provide a lot of help to families in caring for these people. Well, may it also improve and increase the standards of their prescriptions from the hospital. I commend you for considering good things. But as a member, I would like to understand the meaning of the word special needs, so that it is clear and precise what kind of special needs are needed and eligible under this type of assistance, and how much funding is needed, either they are paid monthly or weekly or whatever. To clear clarify this new program, for the awareness of the House and the country listening, as they also have brothers, or sisters or parents who have special needs.

Thank you also for the allocation of funds for the construction of housing for the weak families. There is a program that has continued from previous financial years that was given to ADRA, it is an organization under the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lalovaea. The program has been in place since then up to last year, with the construction of shelters for the community in the event of a natural disaster such as hurricanes and other natural disasters that arise. It has been noted that the funding for this assistance has been increased, but it seems to me that this assistance is moving towards housing for poor families. Is my observation correct?

The assistance that is also given in terms of assembling the annual reports of organizations and Ministries, I believe that there is no issue in this regard. I testify as I was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee in the previous Term, the contents of most of these Annual Reports are up to date.

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Some of the members raised and mentioned in their speeches the Full Forensic Accounting Assessment program that was launched by the Government, since my mind continues to question, perhaps in due time the Hon Minister will explain the reason why this program is needed. Because it seems that they are looking for lost money, which is what it looks like to me, but in due time these areas will be clarified to make clear on the situation which these funds will be used for. I also understand, most of the documents of our Corporations are being audited by private auditors in the private sector. But if this program is aimed only at the Ministries, I believe, all these components can be found in the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Health, it is noted that there is funding for the improvement of district hospitals. The Anoamaa district hospital, it was agreed upon by the Government to relocate it not too far, at Saoluafata, as the land available in Saoluafata is sizable for the relocation. If you look at the hospital at Anoamaa, the land is quite narrow. But there are also other narrow roads that go inland which is far from the main road. But reconsider this, as this development was postponed due to the emergence of Covid-19. But I would only like to mention it to you Hon Minister, to take another look at it again please. There are many services and contracts required by our hospital, like security services. It seemed that hospitals used to have its own securities, but now it is being contracted from outside. Cleaning of the hospital, lawn mowing.

I have a question Hon Minister, on how these contracts are being done, because there was a company that stated that their services were abruptly terminated, or are we still going by the process of tenders, or the bidding from companies or whether there is another new system being used by our Ministry and Government.

Thank you for the program that I have seen, the plans for repatriation, perhaps it is to attract doctors, the children of Samoa, qualified doctors working overseas to return to Samoa to serve the country. The men and women doctors, I also see that it includes the nurses.

It is a good plan because we are need of our doctors. Superior and better doctors because in this day and age there is an increasing level of new skills and research being done for various diseases that affect our country and the world. Maybe this will help reduce the money, as I can see that \$8 million is given for overseas hospital bills, which means that these are the patients that are being sent overseas.

Our two days holiday as stated by one of the members, the member that spoke recently, the Covid-19, we had two days holiday to conduct our vaccinations, for this week, for Thursday and Friday, thank you for this wonderful plan, because this is what is needed.

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But what I wanted to ask about, regarding our medications, the same medication which I heard was about to expire, or the situation we are in, or this is the reason why we have these days off to conduct vaccinations to the country. This is the concern as voiced by some of the members of the House, as Covid-19 is approaching and is now in Tutuila. Fiji is also in a predicament. Fiji is trying to address the issue and disease, but the situation is very difficult.

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I see that there are no provisions for the eradication of our coconut beetles in this financial year, but I can testify that there are plenty of coconut beetles in my constituency. Take another look in to matter. In my opinion, this program should continue, as I can still see that there are still a lot of coconut beetles, especially here in our district. The agricultural exhibit is one of the exhibits that our country enjoys watching every year. Now I noticed the funds issued for this purpose, but the question is how many days, whether the Savaii exhibit is also different from the Upolu exhibit, or when is it planned for this scheme to be carried out. It is for the awareness of the farmers of this constituency so that they can prepare for it.

The export authority as given to the Ministry of Agriculture, perhaps this is not a new issue Mr Speaker. For years, there have been a lot of speculations within Government Ministries as to the plan of action, whether it will be set up and where it will be set up, and which Ministry should be responsible for overseeing export authority. There have been debates and suggestions in recent years that it should be under the Ministry of Commerce, or our Ministry of Trading. However, it has been observed that it is now with the Ministry of Agriculture, probably because it is a plan that is specifically for the agricultural products of the country. It is a scheme to provide further assistance. As for these plans, keep in mind that we had boards in those days, there was the PMD and the Copra Board, and there were many other boards for these purposes back in those days for exporting crops.

However, there were recommendations recently, that it would be better to give it to private sector, give it to the private sector to be responsible for the conditions to make it easier and remove it from the Government. Well, as you all know we have land or an outlet in Auckland, I think it is in Otahuhu, under the auspices of STEC, it is a good plan and good conditions have also transpired with the crops that are being exported to Auckland for sale. We also have a pack house in Nuu. Thank you very much. All these areas are connected, but I also noted Hon Minister, that it is included in the program or the project of SAFPROM the marketing of produce. But take a look these areas, because these are the areas which I am talking about. But let us look for an even better solution.

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For our SROS, for many years you have attempted many different products, but the question itself is whether we have any new products being planned to be produced. The services of SROS, I would like to ask the Hon Minister, in regards to the usage of SROS for the testing of imported narcotics and illegal chemicals that enter our country. There many other illicit drugs as noted to be broadcast on TV and radio, which have been found at our customs or border. These are the areas that we must guard against. In regards to the border, there have been prolonged discussions about our x-rays for the containers as it is said to be arriving soon, or what is the situation with our x-ray or scan to scan these large containers. Because there is no doubt that this is where some of the illegal products are being smuggled into our country.

Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, as I continue I notice that there are funds for the continuation or the establishment of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission. If it is adequate with the point of view of the Hon Minister since we also have plans underway to have one price control board or a committee that sets the price of goods. If the Hon Minister has reached a firm decision in that matter for continuation, because it seems that it is not possible for these two things to continue together. As for our Commission, it is very important, but it is important to consider that the competition commission is not easy, as the members of the commissions have to have a great deal of professional experience, the qualifications required are not simple, the Codex Committee, which oversees the safety of imported goods as well as the labels and conditions of the imported goods, there are many other new imported products which does not contain any English language, so it is unclear what exactly is in those products. But examine it, because I can see that we have funds to operate the Commissions and Committees as they are with the standard. Because they are the ones who have to set the product standards.

It is similar with the products made in Samoa, like the eggs made in Samoa, they have their standard, while other products, as to why I am asking you Hon Minister.

Well, for our RSE program, if there is an opportunity to expand for more certain types of careers or roles to be included in this program because it seems that it mostly consists of people who pick fruits. Well, there was also a group of carpenters, who were also taken to New Zealand, and there were also people in the hospitality industry and hotel business and restaurants who were taken to Australia. But if it is possible to expand and allow for other types of work and careers, that would be great. It is also the desire to have job opportunities to work and for our people to travel abroad. Because it is no secret that in this day and age, there is a need for employment opportunities for many of our people especially in Apia today.

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The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, as mentioned by some of the members, the funds allocated for the Ministry of Education has decreased in the financial year that will begin under this Budget. In the previous Budget it was \$18 million and now it is less than \$17 million, but it is also stated in the speech of the Hon Minister of Finance, that the salaries of the teachers will be increased.

Well, the member wants to know what adjustments that will be made in this regard as the budget for the Ministry is reduced in this financial year. It has also been heard that there are plans not only for the Government school teachers, but the Church school teachers are also getting paid as well. This is what I wanted to respectfully question if these funds will also include the salaries for all the Church school teachers as well, and if it also includes the private schools, because we also have private schools in the country, if our Government have plans regarding this issue.

In regards to the funds allocated for sports. This is one of the important areas to the country where some members have stated that sports is very important, especially sports on the professional level, as they can receive money when they get the opportunity to travel and play overseas. It is understood that our Government is receiving assistance from the SIFA Office as well as other agencies that provide funds, and it is being distributed not only for our sports teams that are traveling overseas, but also for the development of various sports in Samoa. But thank you, as this is what is needed, the full development of these various sectors in our country.

The question for our hospitality sector. There are major conferences coming up, the CHOKA forum and the ACPEU forum with the IEPA, what are the preparations for these conventions, as these conferences are very important, in particular the ACPEU conference which plans to sign an agreement using the name of Samoa. These are the circumstances that I wanted to question, whether there are any other changes, and whether there is an alternative due to the Covid-19 virus or are the preparations still well underway for these events as it is noted that there are provisions for these conferences in the Budget.

For the Government scholarships, it is noted that it has been transferred to the PSC. Perhaps this is a good idea, as delegating it to the Ministry to provide us with scholarships that can help children with disadvantaged backgrounds to continue to have access to education. But as one member said, there is also an opportunity to get help for other students who did not get scholarships especially our NUS because as you know, the school fees are a bit expensive at our National University, but take a look into this matter.

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I am of the view that the money set aside for legal aid is not enough, for the Ministry of Justice. Because it is noted, that the crime rate is increasing. But these types of cases must be coordinated and accompanied by programs to rehabilitate offenders.

But what this member has noticed, the number of offenders and many other offenses are increasing. The same goes for car accidents as there have been plenty of car accidents, perhaps not a single day goes by without a car crash, as well as the loss of life. But take a look at this matter, as we need to increase the amount of our legal aid so that more lawyers are available to represent the perpetrators

There is also a new program that has been observed, the community law centre, it is not new in the sense that it has only just been noticed, as it has been discussed for a long time, but now I see that there is funding for this plan. My member would like to know how this will be conducted, and where the office will be located, and the situation with the staff of this office. What exactly are their roles and services, whether it is for the people, or are they going to get paid?

For this sector... there are funds allocated by the Ministry of Justice for the measuring of the boundaries of customary lands. I would to ask the Hon Minister the situation of this program, whether it is something that is being conducted by the Land and Titles Court or the conditions in which these funds will be used, because it states that it is for measuring the boundaries of customary lands. However, if it is due to lawsuits in the Land and Titles Court, or are these funds for the people who made appeals to measure the boundaries of their land. Because there were similar provisions and purposes in the legislation, to facilitate and assist the men and women judges, in measuring the boundaries. So there is no need for us to go back to using the coconut trees and mango trees to indicate the boundaries. But the boundaries should be carefully measured and pinned, and then it will make the boundaries clear so that there would not be any conflict in the future.

There is also an issue that has arisen which I was shocked to see. The separation of the Judiciary, that is the only word here, I do not understand what it really means, or the aim behind it. Either it is the separation of the Criminal Courts from the Lands and Titles Court, or the separation of the Criminal Courts from the Civil Courts. What kind of separation will the Judiciary be using? This is the part that I wanted to ask about to understand that situation.

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Our Ministry of Customs and Revenue. I have not heard or seen the outcome of our TIMS, or what conditions our TIMS is in. Either it has been forgotten or whatever situation it is in, or will it continue or it will be re-considered again.

There has been a reduction of \$2 million from the Community Service Obligation (CSO) for the Water Authorities and EPC. Then, when the \$2 million each is added up, it will amount to \$4 million. Then it is placed under the LTA and adding the \$4 million that is under the LTA. Hon Olo, this means that \$50 million will be allocated for these developments. Perhaps these are development like roads and such.

There is only one thing I wanted to talk about. The \$2 million portion will now be removed from the CSO of the EPC, but it was also mentioned that the cost of electricity will decrease. Since there will be no more Daylight Saving. Because that is the exact reason for the Daylight Saving, so that we can save petrol and electricity. This means that, in December, the EPC will come to ask for additional funds to operate the EPC. This is something that I ask the Hon Minister to look into. That is my opinion.

For our Legislative Assembly, thank you very much. Your separation is also being stated in here. Separate, to separate the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The Judiciary has been separated, and the Office of the Legislative Assembly has been separated, I do not know if there are any other things that will be detached. But I would like to know what they are...please Hon Minister on basis of the separation got the Office of the Legislative Assembly. As there are provisions for the separation of the Office of the Legislative.

There was a program that I saw, or a project. Under the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the Constitution will be considered or a Constitutional Review. If the entire Constitution is going to be reviewed. As this member believes that the work which will be implemented in not easy, nor is it small. It is a major work and it not easy as well. I have a belief, because it is not presented as an Amendment of the Constitution. It is stated as the revision of the whole Constitution, Constitutional Review.

This work is crucial and it is very important. Especially, when conducting consultations with the public. For the Constitution is the Supreme Law of a country. It means that at the end or the result of this work. A national referendum is needed, in my opinion.

This is the case as I said, because there are many things that I have noticed in our constitution, especially in the previous months. There are quite a few things that need to be looked at carefully. But remember, the records of the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention in 1960 clearly show the views of our fathers and our forefathers who were also a part of this Convention.

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It is not the Act or the Constitution; this is the Constitution that is firmly established as it is. The next generation will emerge and say, that they will look at it when it is their time to see if it is relevant. And make other amendments or assessments, and other areas that are necessary.

The Hon Minister of the Attorney General's Office, I have seen that money is set aside to bring in a doctor for us, to investigate the cause of death, or a Pathologist. The question is whether it is a permanent Pathologist or whether this doctor is only here for period of time. But I also want to ask whether there are any corpses in the hospital for which this Pathologist is needed to be brought in to perform his work on. These are the areas that I wanted to ask about, please take a look at it.

The Hon Minister of Police and Prisons. Our Government has long approved the establishment of a Police Post, or a Police Station in the village of Saluafata in my constituency. The location is near the sports field for the college and the primary school. However, due to Covid-19 these plans have been postponed. But as you already know. Starting from Apia going towards the East side, you will only find another Police Post at Lalomanu. This is especially the season with the increasing number of motor vehicles that travel on the roads. And there have been a lot of accidents recently. Maybe that is exactly where we should set up a Police Station, for guarding our roads and conducting other duties for them.

Mr Speaker, I will not talk about the \$51 million that my constituency has criticized me for. Since all the other members have already touched on it. The only thing is that, I do not want to talk about it much anymore. The circumstances of this issue are now clear.

MR SPEAKER: Whether you mention it or not, it has already been explained.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: The only thing that is clear is that there is no \$51 million. Because my constituency also witnessed the road show which was conducted by this Political Party. That is the reason why my constituency is asking me, in regards to this money. But thankfully this is now in the waiting phase.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Point of Order Mr Speaker, it is a small matter.

MR SPEAKER: I grant the chance since it is the Chairperson.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: I thought about making a statement earlier today, since these exact words were also mentioned by Loau. What are the numbers written in there? That is where part of this money is stated. It does not amount to 51, because there are reasons. Policies are being developed to operate the \$51 million project. I have already stated this earlier today, if we had arrived on time, then we would have implemented these changes immediately, because there would be enough time to make the policies. We cannot bring in \$51 million without conditions. But there is already \$11 million available, \$200,000 for each constituency, to kick off the policies for the implementation of the project. So it is in there, but do not try to deceive the Nation. Stating that is it not there? There is \$11 million, to kick off the program.

That is the announcement lest another candidate stands up and states that it is not true. It is true, with the \$11 million already stated there. That is the correction. Since I am sympathetic towards Loau who brought up this issue. So I will now mention the other provisions for this \$51 million. The FAST member who was a candidate in the election, he is also the chairman of the committee for this \$51 million. For the committee's information, that is the explanation. With enough participation and planning, the coconut leaves fall directly on the person that brought up the \$51 million for their constituency. With all due respect.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: Since my name has been mentioned. Please. Mr Speaker, if you consider what I said carefully, since my constituency is listening in. So it does not mean that I am the one who is not happy, I am happy with such a wonderful thing. But for the people to understand there is nothing in the Appropriation Bill. But I am happy, who would not...I am very happy with the scheme, I rejoice and praise the Lord, if it will...

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Point of Clarification. Loau, how much money is stated there?

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: There is nothing.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: There is \$11 million. Stop making up lies. That is a total of \$51 million, as \$200,000 is given for each constituency to start off the project. Since the country is listening, in case Samoa might think there is nothing. There will be \$200,000 for each of the 51 constituencies; oh I mean 50 as Lealailepule is not included.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, whether or not anything will be distributed but the country is satisfied.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that these circumstances have been explained Hon Deputy Leader. They are all in the Budget, and perhaps there will be a time...

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: There may be a time. But the number stated is 51. No other number is mentioned, because the number 51 was brought up in terms of promotion, within my constituency as well. The reason for mentioning it is to ensure that my constituency does not ask about it again. Now it is clear, but I will now move away from it. But that is exactly what I wanted to talk about, the terms for the usage of the money. But now the Hon Minister of Agriculture is quick to respond. But I wanted to ask regarding these conditions....

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member, as I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Probably because the members of this House were not there at the time of the incident. Perhaps it was only Hon Tuilaepa. The story on how the University was established with \$5. Yes, it costs \$5 but a major University was created. Our University was set up with \$5, so what is it that you are so worried about. What has happened has happened.

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. So why not start with this \$5 then.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Alright, your constituency will start with \$5.

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: There is no problem with that. I do not worry about it, because it has now been noted in the statement by the Hon Minister of Agriculture. Your candidate who was the chairperson for this competed against me in the election. However, the only thing is the conditions.

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Because this would mean that there are conditions for the grant or release of these funds. Perhaps there may be programs conducted within the constituencies. Please carefully consider who will be in charge of the matter, take into account carefully lest it is given to only the FAST members, while excluding the members of the Opposition. But look at the completion of the developments as a whole.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Mr Speaker, can I get an opportunity please...

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: It is agriculture and developments.

Susuga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: I ask for an opportunity please. We will not take into account the lengthy argument by the member as a means for us to ignore the constituencies. Whether the candidate is in support of or against, we are respectful as the country is in devotion. We are only bantering in here. Because it is difficult because Samoa owns these things. These are not our money; it is the country's money. It has been returned to them. Whether Fonotoe and Loau are against it, it does not matter, as it will be implemented for Sagaga and Anoamaa.

MR SPEAKER: So what is next, as the Government has expressed its opinion.

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker, I will return to the matter that I started with and I will also conclude my speech.

But thank you, as I was able to make a comment on it, in regards to the standard of living as the focal point, is a priority and a preference in the Main Budget. Thank you as this is what our Country needs. Just like I said at the beginning of my introduction. Prosperity should be linked with the standard of living as a result of the quality and strength of the National economy.

So whatever initiative you may take, we should always look at the economy of the country. We should consider its condition so that it is improved and adequate, so that the people of the Country remains in good health. That is why it is needed... especially our developments, for a prosperous economy with many developments. These major developments will also provide employment opportunities for our people. Because that is what is needed, money, and also assistance for small businesses.

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Because in this case, it is no secret as it has been noted. Many of our major developments have been halted. Like the flea market which was also mentioned by Hon Lautafi. Whether there is an explanation for this situation. Our airport at Tiavea has also been stopped. Our five-story building is halted. Our wharf at Vaiusu has been stopped. Our Daylight has also been discontinued and so on. But these were intended to provide some employment opportunities for our people in need.

Mr Speaker, it...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the member to be patient.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I would like to thank the Hon Deputy Leader of the Opposition for stating the developments that have been discontinued. Yes, the hand brake was pulled on all of these developments. Since it is true that they are useful, but from the point of view of our Government, there are other things which should be prioritised. There are a lot of priorities if I were to read them all out. In particular, the country is actively involved in the developments, with the national security and the national economy. But these are the things that follow suit. For you information, our development like the small airport in the rural areas. The handbrake has been pulled for it to be discontinued for the time being.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I ask the Hon Deputy Leader to finish off your speech.

Afioga Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker. My fellow member Loau had stated his gratitude to God as he was happy that his trial was a success. And as heard by the House, this was not easy.

You should also be aware of this Mr Speaker, because you are also a lawyer, and you are also familiar with the court conditions and such things, it is not easy. And so he has succeeded in his attempt. But I succeeded before him, because when the trials began, and as they were in progress. When I looked at Loau, oh man, he kept losing and losing. He failed three times and I was going to be next. And then my fellow member said to me, be brave, make an effort. So I made an effort. I was the first to succeed, and my fellow member follow suit. When I was victorious. Oh, Mr Speaker, when I arrived at Petesa, I felt like a world champion. It was epic, and the feeling was ecstatic.

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So I encouraged my brother, when it was time for his trial, I said to him, do not surrender. Do not worry, as you should be aware that the world heavyweight has 4 belts not just one. I now have one, but you must go and get the other belt. Now that my brother is victorious, I applaud him as these things are not easy. But for moving forward, the reason for what I said, because I have noted that there is an amendment to the electoral act, perhaps it will be annexed after the Budget.

This is one thing that needs to be looked at; I am now making my public address on the Budget. It should be examined, for ways to discontinue these processes so that it is not used anymore. Consideration should also be given to allowing funds to be given to a candidate to be used for their election preparations. About \$30,000 or so. It is appropriate so that we would not have any more petitions, after the elections. These conditions should be unrestricted to make it easier and to ensure that it does not...and to remove the corrupt practice list. With that, it does not detain the candidate for a period of five (5) years. But an opportunity should be given to... but they should make a report, and they must submit their report to the Office of the Electoral Commission, to the Commissioner, to declare the funds that have been used in preparations for the election.

And then I would like to conclude by saying thank you to my constituency, I am grateful for your decision for me to return to represent our Constituency in this Parliament. Congratulations and thank you. Your resolution is accepted with the utmost gratitude. It is your approval that has allowed me to be the representative for our district for the next five years. When I look back, it was the X111 Parliamentary term when you chose me, and now we are in the XV11th Parliamentary term. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you very much. I entered Parliament in its X111 term, yes, as I am also one of the first members to be sworn in this new House. It is a great feeling. And so I want to thank you for the opportunity for us to be sworn in. The new House is very dignified and beautiful.

This was the project initiated by Hon Laauli when he became the Chair. Now we have been sworn in, I am grateful, for the events that took place on Friday. I am gratified that my name was written as one of the first members to be sworn in this House.

Mr Speaker, may the Lord show kindness upon your health, and bless you, with duties of the Chair in administering the Proceedings of the House for the next five years. May the Lord be kind to your health, body and most importantly your spirit.

I hope the same for the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and to that side of Chamber. I wish you all the best with future duties.

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The same goes for this side of Chamber, may the Lord bless the health of the Hon Leader of Opposition, may he have strength and insight to lead this side, and all respectable members. As it is usual practice, I have noted if the Opposition is strong, the Government will do better.

This is a clarification, may the Lord be merciful for the rest of our meeting today, and I live in the love of God. Soifua.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding when the member of Anoamaa 2 concluded his speech.

MR SPEAKER: I commend the Deputy Leader of Opposition for his lengthy speech. We have also listened carefully, and you have shared many important things as well. Perhaps the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet have heard, you have also shared what is needed in our Budget. Therefore, I thank you. I believe the contribution of the constituency has been conveyed especially the country as a whole.

As for the gratitude in regards to the swearing in, praise the Lord. What is most important is that you all swore an oath to God and not the House.

I am grateful that we are all here that is the important aspect. This is also the reason why everyone was given a Bible, because you swore an oath to God.

Since we are nearing our recess time, and we only have the Leader of Opposition left, I believe when we come back at 7:00 the opportunity will be given for the speech of the Leader and continue our work.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for our usual recess and will resume again at 7:00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended at 5:51 pm and resumed at 6:58 pm.

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022.

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

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I applaud Parliament for your patience, I know that we are all tired, but I would like to thank you for your perseverance. Samoa continues to listen in to matters of Parliament and our Sitting, but I appreciate that members are being resilient with our work. I believe strength has been renewed to continue on with our orders.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set side after the member of Anoamaa No.2 and Deputy Leader had concluded his remarks. This is the opportunity for the member of Lepa, and Leader of Opposition.

I call upon the Hon Leader of Opposition.

Susuga Hon TUILAIPA FATIALOFA AUELUA SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Apologies to the Chair I can see you are tired, but I am more awake with the cold air of the House. I stand with respect at this time of the evening, members of this Party have all spoken and contributed to the important matter considered in the House this evening, the Main Estimates for this new financial year.

Before I say anything, I am a little mortified to speak, because if we talk about the Budget and give a speech, I wonder who wrote the speech, because it might have been forgotten by the speech writer, if we consider the past years, it is about me and Hon Fiamē Mataafa.

If the Government then is criticized, this means that Hon Fiamē and I are criticized, because of the state of the economy, are decisions that were made in the progress of Samoa from the past up until now.

Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, I will give a brief look at our country and its economy, it is a peaceful and stable country. It was an elite country, a country that was at the forefront of Government politics. And when the Leaders of the Pacific, including New Zealand and Australia meet, they pay tribute to Samoa because of its seniority in the circle of Governments in the Pacific. Similarly, when we meet with small island nations, or countries in Europe and Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific because Samoa was in existence in early 1975, when the ACP was first established, this reflects Samoa's level of achievement in preparing all matters to be submitted to Government meetings to the extent that the public service gave direct advice and prepare ideas to be presented at conferences and even at the United Nations General Assembly. It also seeks the vision of our Government in terms of decision making and the efforts of Government to uphold Samoa's high standards, to base their plans to assist developing countries. This is the same with meetings of Ministers of Finance of the world, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IMF.

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It seems that Samoa has always received the highest level of respect and sought the views of Samoa on many issues that require participation of foreign Government in the development of small islands.

This is the reason why the SIDS conference was convened here in 2014, Fiji also wanted to take the opportunity, now once we are going to host the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States forum. Consultations have concluded, now we are awaiting the signing of the agreement. Similarly, Samoa's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting of 54 countries, it has already been decided as we met at the meeting held in London.

This is a short account on the recognition of this Government of Samoa and its leaders. This is also why there is a huge amount of assistance given, not only from the International Monetary Funds, but also from other Government partners, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Canada and also from America.

These are the standards that I wish to speak upon. In the beginning when Samoa first gained independence, we were placed under the list of least developing countries, with less than US\$100 per household per year. There are quite a few countries included under this category of low income countries or poor countries. However, with the economic growth based on GDP, the Gross Domestic Product, which is the measure that determines the combined income of all people in the country as it continues to grow. It is now a little over \$10,000 per person, income per capital per year.

It is precisely why we could not be listed under the poorest countries in world, the national income was more than \$2 billion a year, divided by the population and then makes per capita income or the measure of individual income. Because it is the only standard by which each country is measured. We reached that point in 2010. We thought we would move away from this state. We did not like it at the time because we were worried that once Samoa moved up, we might lose the benefits, such as grants. Not only for grants but funds borrowed in a pure manner, repayable over a maximum of 30 years. Up to 10 years, there is no interest. Most of these projects or developments, take 2 to 3 years to prepare, this is done by Government staff who have understanding in preparing all matters required by these International Organizations. Once it is prepared and approved, this project will take up to 3 to 4 years to complete. Once completed the project will move to repay the loan, especially if it takes a long time to start repayments. This means that the project will start moving to repay the loan before it is time to start repaying the loan progressively over many years.

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This is what we were entitled to, then in 2014, we graduated with the rise in level of the economic growth in January 2014. It is was the same year Samoa hosted the United Nations conference. This is one matter I made known to other Governments present, this is the result of the funds that we were given, which has increased the economy of Samoa, which we are using now. When we were faced with incidents such as cyclones, tsunami and so, we were already prepared and had undertaken a number of developments to be able to easily resolve major problems faced by Samoa.

I mention this Mr Speaker, because it is the aspect of stability or peace of a country, it is also more attractive to tourists and those who have money to invest to spend here in Samoa and provide employment for our children. That is the most important aspect for the stability of our Government.

Mr Speaker, I have mentioned these aspects because they are important to us as leaders of Samoa. In appointing us to perform our duties and as servants of Samoa, this cannot be forgotten. Our activities are all monitored by our overseas partners who have their offices here, they document it and send it overseas where it is disseminated to the world, the status our Government is in and now. It is important for this Party to play its part, to try and do what will bring peace to the country on the situation that has happened. Because of our own political affairs. But the important aspect in the observation from overseas, there are no accidents. In the past months, they have not seen any conflict in this country. These things are very important, especially word that goes out, that Samoa is another country that has a strong cultural background, not only is it governed by matai, to maintain peace in the villages, but also rely on the holy servants of God, who preach the word of God, for His children to live in harmony. This is where I want to start with my remarks, it is important to me and this Party, I believe the same goes for that side, let us follow our Constitution. There are times when we disagree, but keep in mind, when the trust the nation has given us is in vain, the result will be our future generations facing the consequences. This is why, all of us, we cannot blame one another, we all have a role to play in trying to do our part, to keep our country safe.

These are events that have already taken place and I would like to say, as the Speaker stated, this inspires us as we move into the future. Let it be a guide to generate new ideas. There is a saying with which we are familiar, what has happened will happen again.

In this regard, we are concerned that in the future a new administration or a HRPP Government will emerge then some will say, let us follow suit, it is not good. Mr Speaker, we have the responsibility and we also pray that we should not forget that God is present here with us.

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I strongly believe if the Government of Samoa is founded in God, then He is also present here, He supports our ideas, we should always remember the benevolence of our Lord. This country is a prosperous country.

The dignity of our country and the dignity of our Parliament is in our hands. A humble request to the Hon Minister of Police, to be in constant consultation with the Chief of Police, to beware of excessive use of police force. That day we noticed, it was very inappropriate for the police running towards us to be carrying those long shields. Even at the time we met, to acquire chairs or water, we heard someone said, let them be, they will soon give up and leave. These are not the customs of our country.

A recommendation to the Hon Minister, the statement you made this morning is important to me. The police force has the authority. I am worried that the power of the Minister might be exercised, but I trust you, since you are a lawyer. You were also a Judge, and you know me well. We have worked together at the Rugby Union, there were also a lot of requests that you made to me, and I supported you. The important aspect here, is not to neglect our talents, to practice righteousness. Because you understand very well, not only to practice righteousness but strive to live in righteousness. The events that occurred Mr Speaker, will now be expelled elsewhere, but let this be a guide for us for it not to happen again in future.

Then I come to the matter regarding the performance of the work, which I cannot forget. I was watching and listening to the speech given by Sao Faapito. For us to emphasize in our campaigns, the means of Good Governance. I believe that Hon Fiame Mataafa understands these things, because that is what guided Cabinet. And a Good Government is guided by three things. 1. Decisions should be clear and ambiguous. 2. Guidelines should be clear for performing all actions to achieve the objectives. 3. In the event of major decisions, take the opportunity to consult with the public.

Those are the three important aspects of the law of Good Governance, Transparency, Accountability and Consultation. When all three of those things are implemented by a Government, the decisions that are made will not be criticized. This is my advice on decision making that was publicized by Government, to follow the principles of Good Governance.

The important aspect is implementation, and a good Government is dependent on just decisions. If a person is affected by a decision, what is important is to give it to a group, or Committee or to those who make recommendations and have no involvement. There should be independence, and advice should be given by those who do not have any affiliations, to achieve statutory oaths.

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Not only to do it with righteousness, but to live with righteousness so that people will see that it is being exercised. This is also the case with bidding, because I can see there are big funds stated in the Budget, to remove suspicion, like the part of communications for schools. To remove doubt, make the bidding public. This will remove any suspicion of what might be underneath, this is one suggestion also including consultants that we will discuss in detail as committee.

This is an important matter, I want to briefly touch on, but I still remember this considering it is now late in the evening. The attempt to avoid further speculation, however Mr Speaker, this is the only way to give our assistance. Voice it to Government because this is something dangerous. It is dangerous for leaders to be surrounded by people who come up with ideas that always agree with what the Leaders want.

The people who give the most accurate ideas are those who have concerns. This is not compatible with that and so forth. The most dangerous thing to do is to surround yourself with yes men and women. They will never, never, never give you the correct advice that should guide you to reach conclusions and decisions that are honest and will give you respect by the people who will be interested in what the Government is doing.

Mr Speaker the important aspect of this Budget, I note the priority of the Appropriation. We are talking about the question of Social Development. Fonotoe stated, that Economic Development and Social Development must be given an equal priority. This means equal opportunity should be given to both. Why? Because social development is dependent on economic development to generate funds that encourage social development.

An example, if we talk of the social wellbeing of a person, in English standard, we are talking about education, second we talk about health and sports. These are the three factors that economic planners often consider. In sports, how can it be improved when there are not enough sports facilities for it to improve? Like sports field and facilities. The relationship between the two, is very necessary and practical methods are needed to be able to carry out this part of social development. These two areas are identical. If you lean too much on one side and ignore the other, there will be no means of success.

This is the case, in short the significance conveyed in the address should bring about balance. Economic and Social Development should be balanced. Mr Speaker the important aspect, I would like to point out to members of the House, especially new members of the House, the embodiment of the Budget of this thick booklet, is seen in page Roman 1. The whole outline of funds is stated on this page, followed by allocations to Ministries. It can be summarized.

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In summary, the overall Budget, for the year in terms of expenditure, is \$982 million. Estimated revenue, \$876 million. So surplus is deficit, some say it is deficit, this means there is more deficit than revenue. There is \$106 million surplus, less \$2 million, if we look at page XVI, this is important because the \$2 million is stated there. There is only one loan given, that is from the Organization for countries where oil is found.

We met in 1997, and took out our first loan. The aim of this loan was to build fuel tanks in 1997. This was a result of what occurred in 1984. It killed our economy at the start of 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984. There was a shortage of fuel then one was tendered, as an example Mobil won the tender, together with ideas that we should build our own fuel storage tanks, in order to make fuel cheaper.

We met with OPEC and a loan of US\$5 million was given in 1997, which we used to build the big tanks that we have now, but now another loan is allotted, the fuel tanks are not enough, why? There are a lot of vessels coming into the country also fishing boats, there is a huge demand for fuel from overseas, so more tanks are needed. There is one more loan of \$2 million then it is over.

If we look underneath, there is a loan of \$6.4 million, it was done in 2020, 2021, that money was from China, to complete our airport. These loans are given as multiple transactions meaning it was partly given. The loan was completed late, since after building the terminal we had to wait for construction of the passenger passageway which could not be built until the foundation base for aircrafts was constructed as funded by the World Bank.

There are times when consultations are carried out, before funds are been given and be released gradually. It has been 7 years since we have not taken out a new loan, since we were using it step by step, remember the hospital, construction took years but it was funded with one loan.

They have mentioned this, since these consultations with overseas banks are quite complex, sometimes it takes 2 to 3 years for talks before we acquire a loan. After that, we move on to start other projects and it is why we have to be cautious, because we do not earn much money. This is also why we should be careful, in handling our expenses from our own tax money, because once the donors are notified of a problem, assistance will be ceased. I was asked by Afioga Sao Faapito in the last meeting, what is the certainty of these loans from overseas? My answer, when I was sitting there, with foreign aid there is no certainty, because once the plans we set fails, and are not in line with principles of Good Governance, we will be cut off because something has happened. What happened was Government wanted to do...

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: Take a break Leader of Opposition, while the Hon Prime Minister takes the floor. Take a break.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: I note that the Leader of Opposition has spoken for more than 30 minutes. I move a motion, *that the time of the Leader of Opposition be extended. The clarification conveyed is important, especially to assist us. I ask for another 15 minutes.*

This is the motion.

MR SPEAKER: Motion has been moved.

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

The House gave its unanimous consent to the motion.

MR SPEAKER: You may continue with your speech.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA AUELUA SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: I speak in this regard is because of my recommendation to Cabinet on our major projects that the public service have been working on. There is the \$100 million flood control project for Apia and Vaisigano, that is the first. Second, is additional water supply that is needed in Apia. Third, the condition of acquiring other means of electricity.

There are a few people who are against it, who support your party, you will gain more points in the implementation of this project, especially these big developments because all the money that comes in, goes to the pockets of business owners, especially the contractors who are supporters of FAST. The reason why I speak on this, is to state the importance of the work carried out, be lenient, do not stop it for the future benefit of our country. Even if it was done by HRPP, do not make it a reason to stop it. The idiom of HRPP, if there was something beneficial implemented by the previous Government, we continue to do it, why? It will benefit the country, that side as well as ourselves.

This is why we urge you, and give our advice, that you should consider these projects, especially those that are funded from grants. Those are the funds we cannot obtain again. There are so many other countries waiting their turn, but if we are excluded, the opportunity will be taken by other countries. If we go there ten years later it will not be given anymore, but this will greatly assist our country.

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Mr Speaker eventhough the motion was not approved, it is our desire to assist Government in its duties, especially our workforce, people who are well versed with performing duties, together with the matter of consultants, this should be reviewed.

I read the speech, and saw that Government is planning for Forensic Auditors who are needed, what is the name again? Forensic auditor. I recall there was a Budget tabled, I believe it was 7 to 8 years ago. It had the same incentive, for our forensic auditors to take courses. I also recall that we have more than 20 Qualified Forensic Auditors, within our Government. Auditors from New Zealand and Australia were not qualified, since it was a program done directly from America. A recommendation, look into this matter incase we might waste our funds, but we know, there are other means that can assist the Hon Minister of Finance in distribution of our limited funds.

Mr Speaker, these are some of the areas I wanted to speak on this evening, especially since we will be considering the Budget in detail, I believe another opportunity will be given then, to further contribute. But I commend our Assembly this evening, we all want to sail smoothly in this Parliamentary term. Soifua and God bless.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the Leader of the Opposition's Speech.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you Hon Leader of Opposition for the remarks, who has been at the helm for many years. I believe your word of advice have been heard by all of the House. In particular the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet listening in, especially the significance of your years of service. It is also important that you have become the Leader of Opposition, given the good advice you have conveyed, for the future improvement of our country.

I commend and thank you for your insight, your address has been made clear especially your support on our Budget's preparations, the objective is for the benefit and development of our country. I believe that all speeches made towards the Budget have concluded, now I will pass it on to the Leader of Government, for their responses on matters raised by members.

I call upon the Hon Prime Minister and Leader of Government.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I stand before at this hour, and I know it has been a long day for the House. I commend everyone for the patience, as we progress to consider our Budget.

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I am grateful that all speeches from members have concluded, starting from last week with the members of this side of Chamber. The important aspect is that all members of that side have all spoken as well.

Thank you for the comments expressed on the Budget, especially the opinions conveyed in regards to the Budget tabled before the House, together with recommendations that are vital.

Mr Speaker, in accordance with the order of business, we have concluded debates with members speeches, now we will move to Cabinet, I will start then will pass it on until all Ministers have responded. Then we will move on to the consideration in detail of the Budget as per usual practices.

There are not many issues raised by the members regarding the Ministeries that are under my supervision.

Before I respond to some of the matters raised. Mr Speaker, I have thought it would be important to give a brief clarification, on the preparation of our Budget, as well as the unique nature and progress of this Parliamentary term. Perhaps I do not have to reiterate it further.

Mr Speaker and dignity of Parliament, on the entry of our new Government. This is one of the first matters that Cabinet looked at, the preparations of what we are discussing, because there was uncertainty of how public funds were used on a regular basis.

We also wanted to understand the condition that the Government continued to operate on from 1 July to the time when we took over Government administration.

Perhaps it is important the remarks made, that new trends and developments has taken place in our Parliament. We wanted to understand the process of how funds were operated. Perhaps it was stated in the speech conveyed by the former Leader of Government. We announced some of the provisions, when we came, in particular our meeting with the Ministry of Finance as well as the Attorney General and the Office of the Auditor General. As such, a list of plans have been put in place, to continue the use of finances to run Government.

Mr Speaker, we were of the view that when the new Government enters, we will look at the conditions at which Government funds can be used, we thought of Section 95 of the Constitution. Section 95 contains the provision. If it is not possible to proceed with a Budget in a timely manner in Parliament, there is a provision to continue with 25% of the previous Budget.

There was an idea that when we enter Government we would be using Section 95 to foresee the use of funds. However it was still under the management of the caretaker Government. It was then clarified to the new Government that the provision used was Section 105 of the Constitution.

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This part provides for state of emergency. We continued to look into it to understand and see what should be done. To summarize, when the recommendation was given by the Attorney General, it stated that 95 was not appropriate, because a Budget has to be tabled before Parliament. Unfortunately we could not do that.

Mr Speaker a decision was then made, despite the fact that there was a shift in the process of using funds. Measures put in place were made clear to ensure, that amount was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. It was then approved by the Audit Office and given to His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo for his approval. It is hoped that at a time when Parliament convenes, those plans will be laid out for the public to know about the process.

I believe this process is ending soon, then we will progress with usual measures, for the Budget of the year in progress.

Perhaps it will be possible to table a report on operations of Government over the past three months. From July, August and September.

Mr Speaker, perhaps it is important that I summarize the situation so that it is made clear and recorded in official Parliament proceedings, on steps taken for preparations.

There have been a lot of talks within our offices and officials especially on the duty of the advisor for Government.

The recommendation that was given, the Attorney General recommended that Section 95 is not appropriate. However a recommendation on Section 105 was not clear, the only record is that the Auditor General considered it as the best situation to best manage finances for the three months, from July, August and September.

I believe the only amendment recommended by the Minister of Finance because of this provision in progress, was that Government finances were based on a Budget of 12 months. At a total cost of \$800 million.

The Minister of Finance recommended that a system should be put in place, to set a limit on spending for this period. Perhaps the Hon Minister will explain this further when it is her time to speak. This means a cap should be put in place, so that the money does not exceed the set amount. Looking at it on a conceptual scale, it is measured to three months, if funds allocated has been set aside for 12 months. Reorganizing the Budget to its usual outline was important and was priority, especially since the House has reconvened.

Now our work can progress, to get Governments finances back to normal, and assist all of us. Not only in administration but also in the eyes of members of the House, but it is also important for the staff and their role, to carry out the work of Government.

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Mr Speaker I now move on to address some of the matters raised, towards some of the Ministries under my supervision.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, as heard in previous terms, requests made are mainly to do with seawalls. There was also discussion on the importance of conserving our mangroves. We are also working on replanting our forests so that we can protect our environment especially our ozone layer.

Members of the House, you may recall that this was the Ministry that was under my designation in the previous term. The truth is, seawall development in the previous terms, relied on some major projects or grants. Because without the funds, we would end up using our own money. I recall at the end of the previous term. The Leader of Government at that time responded to members, on seawalls. He instructed the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Works to acquire our own funding, to respond to the requests made by members.

With the entry of our new Government, perhaps it has already been announced by some Ministers, our new Government is only six weeks old. And there is no specific arrangement in place, for seawalls. And I think this is an area that this Ministry should prepare, with the assistance of the Ministry of Finance, to seek funds to implement these objectives.

There are two actions to take in response to climate change. To reduce environmental damage, mitigation. And to take action to respond to changes or adaptations. Our seawalls are included under these actions, to construct seawalls, to respond to the rise in sea level and other problems.

Mr Speaker, the construction of seawalls, is in line with other major construction developments. Access roads, main roads, bridges and other usual major works. The Cabinet and Government are looking at it in a transparent way because requests will keep coming. Some might think, where are all these requests voiced being stored. Also how are these requests countered? In order to pursue what the Leader of Opposition stated, to be transparent on requests voiced, the performance of Government to these requests.

The conservation of mangroves, the important aspect is the environment. There is a saying made towards mangroves, mangroves build new lands. Perhaps this is a response to climate change, to conserve our mangroves to stabilize land, especially the shoreline.

Our forests, we have lots of acres of forests all around the country. The truth is our forests have matured, it has reached a point where we have decide on what should be done to it. Because the reason why trees are planted, is to provide a natural resource for the country. I believe this is one area this Government will assess.

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On the other hand, replanting of trees, there is the concept of planting million trees. It is very important and it must be continued.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Tourism. This development of the country, is included under the private sector, and we all know how much it is affected. Because of the closure of borders it has reduced and not had any tourists coming into the country. It is been greatly affected. There was some assistance distributed by the previous Government, but our new Government also has plans. In terms of assistance in this sector as well. Especially those who own beach fale. Because there are different types.

Those who have beach fale, and large hotels, should be prepared and ready at any time when it will be possible to open up our borders. Some trainings are still ongoing. Not only those who are still working in this sector, are retrained with other skills, but are able to find employment in other fields to assist our people with their income.

Our people are starting to get used to staying in our hotels. Especially during public holidays, it is noted that there are discounts, which allow families to go on vacation and rest in these places. Perhaps this is one way in which Samoa can generate assistance for these businesses, and to generate their economy.

Mr Speaker, some asked about international conferences. By which Samoa is expected to host, as stated by the Leader of Opposition. There is the meeting with EU and ACP. This is one program that assists us a lot. And to be able to host here in Samoa notes, 1. The continued possibility of the EUs assistance programs, for the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the rest of the Pacific. It is also important for Samoa to play an important role in attracting more and more partners through meetings from other countries.

As well as Commonwealth meetings, we have plans and the Government has put forward a bid to host which we hosted.

Because of the instability and vulnerability that is still existent in the world. Due to the Covid-19 disease it has been hard to reach a decision, on how to conduct these meetings, and when will we be able to implement it.

I am aware that the Commonwealth council have also failed to hold regular meetings, and there are other meetings before the next that was supposed to be held in Samoa. It could not be done. It is not clear whether the meeting will be postponed. This is the EU ACP Summit, it is not one that is done anywhere, this is the start of renewing the program, and it is important. If this meeting does happen, like what is seen in the world, most meetings are now done using the internet. We also do not know if that is appropriate for our meetings, but we are still awaiting discussions as it is still undecided.

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Mr Speaker, the other question made towards the Attorney General office, because of our forensic pathologists, there are bodies of the deceased at the hospital that need autopsy. Perhaps some may remember that there was another big operation carried out with the assistance from Chinese pathologists, there was a lot of examinations implemented at that time, but now there are 3 bodies of the deceased that are awaiting autopsies. The current situation, we have a pathologist, but he has not yet reached the level of forensics pathologist, we are considering. 1. If some can come, from New Zealand and Australia which are close. 2. Whether there is a system that can be legally accepted, because the laws imposed on performing this work is strong, if it is possible for our pathologist to do the examination, but be supervised by a Forensic pathologist online with e-health facilities.

This is what we are trying to pursue for now. Because we have a doctor, however requirements have not been met, maybe this is also an opportunity Hon Minister of Health, to take this doctor overseas for further studies, to acquire a higher degree then we will have a doctor, to preform our autopsies.

Mr Speaker, I want to conclude with the wonderful speech by the Leader of Opposition. I get the reason why you are reluctant also with the Budget that we prepared together. There is no reason for you to feel embarrassed. As stated in the opening address of this meeting. Our work is passed from side to the other, it was implemented by that side now it is back to us. Our duties, are carried out for the good of the country.

Everything that the Leader of Opposition spoke on, are important. And I want to thank you for sharing the knowledge considering the many years you were at the helm. Also you now have the vital role, to uphold the duty of any Government.

The matter mentioned in relation to our Budget, I heard that there should be balance between social and economic development. Perhaps I am right, Mr Speaker, some of the members of that side of Chamber have spoken on it as well. There is a perspective, that the Budget is inclined towards social development, paying less attention to economic development, or economy.

I have stopped a comment made by one of the members saying, that wealth is health. The message is, if our economy is good everything will be good. If we measure the state our wealth is in now and the message it portrays. Our wealth is not good. Otherwise we then ask, is it only wealth that can solve what is happening. Are there no other measures.

This is the same statement given to gender equality on the significance of women. There is a saying, that a country is known for the wellbeing of its economy is well known for its women. This is the other measure.

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We measure it differently, on the status of the wellbeing of our people. We have our GDP, we talked about \$100 per capita and gradual economic growth. We have now reached \$10,000 per person. If we talk about that measure, it is very interesting. There is a big difference between \$100 and \$10,000. But there are also other measures we are faced with, what is that?

One out of every 5 people live in poverty. These are the adjustments, I know we are now facing, faced by Government. Where is the exact measure? What is the solution? But what action should we take.

Mr Speaker I believe the statement is correct, the theory conveyed by that side is accurate. If we use the million stated in the House as an example. This measure was made to give money back to the country, so that they can develop their own source of income. If a lot of people are able to develop the economy, not only for them, but when it is combined together it will raise economic standards. Therefore what will this impact? Because no matter what we read, that the economy is getting better and housing is better, and our children are going to school together with all good things happening. But if we are ignorant of a portion of the population who do not have these benefits. Is this not a challenge for us as members of the country?

I believe our discussions are very important. And this Government, I believe if we do something wrong, we will admit our wrong, and try to do what is right. If there is good advice given why should we not make use of it? Mr Speaker that is our objective, to start of our responses in regards to concerns voiced by members of the country, on the deliberation of our Budget 2021/2022. God bless.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the Prime Minister's Address.

MR SPEAKER: Congratulations Hon Prime Minister on your address. You have taken the lead on behalf of Government. You have also responded to the address given by the Leader of Opposition. You have also expressed your views on the intention of the current Government, to be in the forefront of the country's prosperity. I commend you. The Leader of Government has also expressed your intentions. Thus the House and our country have heard you well. The theme given by Government is commendable, especially for the prosperity of the country. But we cannot put aside good advice. As recommended by the Leader of Opposition and that side of Chamber. Thank you again.

I will now give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister to respond to some of the matters raised.

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Afioga Hon TUALA TEVAGA IOSEFO PONIFASIO (Deputy Prime Minister): My sincere thanks Mr Speaker of Samoa. Perhaps at this hour, there are a few questions that have been conveyed in relation to taking the floor. There is not a lot, however Mr Speaker I first wish to address the support of Samoa. Especially to voice a word of thanks this time of the day. Because this member is new in the House.

Mr Speaker, I stand before the dignity of the House. I pay respects to the House of Tiafau, hence the Parliament of Samoa have gathered here. Such is the dignity of the House that the prominent seat is occupied, by the Hon Prime Minister. Afioga Sao Faapito, Fiame Naomi Mataafa Faumuina Mulinu II. I acknowledge the dignity of Ministers of Cabinet, as well as Associate Ministers of Government.

Greetings to Mr Speaker as well as the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk of the House.

Greetings to the Leader of Opposition, Susuga Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi. Also the Deputy Leader of the Human Rights Protection Party, Afioga Fonotoe Lauofo, and to all respectable members of the Parliament of Samoa.

I greet also the Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations who are present in the House.

I acknowledge as well the three pillars of Government, His Excellency Le Ao o Le Malo, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and your Goodlady. The Member of Council of Deputies, Afioga Le Mamea Tapulesatele Tuiletufuga Ropati Mualia and his Good lady.

I also acknowledge the Judiciary of Samoa. The Chief Justice, Senior Judges, men and women of the Supreme Court, also the men and women of the District Court. Greetings to the President of the Land and Titles Court, and the men and women judges of the Land and Titles Court of Samoa.

I acknowledge the support of Samoa, to Tama ma Aiga, o Aiga ma latou Tama, Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

Least I cannot forget the Government of Tutuila and Manua, Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua.

Tulouna foi le Motusa i le afio o le Laau na Amotasi, Faatuiolemotu, Tootoo o le Faleula ma Tama a le Manuatele.

I cannot forget the profound support of the Holy servants of God, the Leaders of Churches who stand and take refuge at every altar, praying day and night every day. To call upon Samoa blessings today and for the future.

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I convey greetings with utmost respect. Mr Speaker, I wish to touch upon my constituency of Gagaemauga No.1. Le matua ia oe Saleaula, aua le afifio o alii e lua, Tautaiolefue ma Tauiliili, afifio Maopu Fepuleai ma Toiaivao, afifio foi le Aiga Sa Peseta ma le Usoalii, alaatai lou mamalu Saleaula, your wisdom and art, you are the Founding master, angry and loving.

The village of Lealatele where there is Samalaeulu, Patamea and Mauga, also the village of Tama Suafa. Tulouna Lealatele aua le afifio o Aiga Sa Tuala, afio le Faalagilagi ia Tuala, lau Afioga i le Saoalii o le tootoo o le filemu ma le Aiga Sa Tuala ma lou falesefulu. Afio le Saofetalai lau Afioga Sala ma le Aiga a Sa Sala, ma le falevalu. Alaatai lo la toalua, le mamalu ia Tevaga ma Vaifale ma upu ia oe Salemuliaga.

Afio le Soomalo ia Lauano ma le Aiga Sa Lauano, le toafia o alii, le suafa Ae, Toleafoa ma Salima, le mamalu o le toafa i le nofo a ituaiga ma le mamalu i le Faleaana.

These are the respects of Lealatele which ushered in one of Samoa's mornings, the morning of Christianity in which Tupua was exalted at Malaeola and Nafoga and where Samoa recognized the symbol of the cross in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost.

I am filled with gratitude today, and I want to sing praises to the Lord. The Psalmist David said, "I lift my eyes to the mountains from where does help come, my help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Mr Speaker, this is the purpose on which I stand at this hour, I would like to express praise and thanks to God who owns all things, He is one with His will which we now marvel in the beauty of His love. There is also a saying, "those who humble themselves and believe in Him, shall obtain peace and the score of victory." Samoa hold on to your faith, humble our hearts to find peace, and will be able to score victory. I believe, that whatever tribulations encountered in seeking Government, our resolve will be found in transforming wisdom and prudence according to our traditions with which we are accustomed, together with the spirit of God. Samoa you are blessed that you have a hero, may you always find peace in God. However, thank you Samoa for your devotion, as Samoa dealt with ails of politics. Thank you for your wisdom and foresight in choosing the Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi Party to lead Government at this time. Despite the many challenges faced by the establishment of the Government, we are rested at Fagalele in the love and mercy of God. Thank you. The country is still at peace. Without the goodness of God our journey would not have reached this point.

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The succession of the Hon Prime Minister and her Cabinet and Government, they are well prepared as leaders of Samoa for our prosperous future. Give us your faith, let us work together, and let us have the spirit of cooperation and fellowship. His spirit, the spirit of God was stated in his last words before He ascended into heaven, “Love one another.”

I also want to thank the ordained servants of God, thank you for your prayers, advice and the proclamation of the will of God as the guide to spiritual life of the nation.

My constituency of Gagaemauga No.1, I would like to thank you for choosing me to be your representative in the Parliament of Samoa, let us contribute to the politics of the nation and seek development for our constituency especially the church and every family. Thank you for accepting my invitation at the time our country headed into elections. Who am I that you have thought of? What will it be if I had cried to you, if no one had accepted me?

I want to give a special thanks to all the church Ministers in my constituency, the Lord has answered your prayers, and our decision has been at peace. How? A Government has been founded.

MR SPEAKER: At least a word of thanks have been expressed. Especially towards the ordained servants of God. I apologize to the Deputy Prime Minister for the interruption, since we have arrived at our recess, we should rejuvenate and then continue with your address when we return from recess.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for a 15 minute recess. Thank you.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for recess at 8:35pm and resumed at 9:05 pm.

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022.

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

Proceedings were set aside for recess while the Deputy Prime Minister was giving his address, to respond to matters raised by members of the House.

Therefore I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister for the continuation of his response.

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Afioga Hon TUALA TEVAGA IOSEFO PONIFASIO: Mr Speaker, before recess I was thanking my constituency. I believe there is no need to prolong a word considering our time. I have much respect since it has been a long day. Mr Speaker, I want to thank my constituency for their unanimous decision. The decision to entrust your member to the Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi Party. We are now in league with some of the heroes of our country, we have reached our goal, glory to God because it is His will for us.

My constituency, thank you for your patience. We will meet very soon to prepare our constituency, for development and programs that will benefit us. I already know our needs, and I will not talk about it at this hour, therefore do not worry, because we are sitting in the seat of the initiator, this will give us the opportunity to make suggestions to Cabinet regarding our needs.

Mr Speaker I have one more to thank. I cannot forget our families in Samoa. There are many villages in Samoa where we have families who gave support, while I was running in the elections.

I also want to thank my families overseas, especially my brothers and sisters in New Zealand, friends and colleagues for the support. Your constant prayers and counsel also the encouragement you gave me, if not for that our hopes would not have been realized. This is your authority.

Well, my wife and children, I have to say a word, me standing here would not have been possible. We have been partners working together. Thank you for your response to pain and hardship, every day, every time, and the strong support. We have been trying for three terms. And I still remember one of the Prime Ministers remarks in an interview with the media. It said we were almost late. This is the idea. Perhaps if I had not won a seat in this Parliament, it would have been my last try. But I thank God for His love for our family.

Mr Speaker, this may be an opportunity for me to stop and answer some of the queries raised regarding the Ministry under my designation, the Ministry of Customs and Revenue. These are some of the questions voiced, and the answer will not be long. The first one is the matter referred to the green lane, the yellow, blue and red lane. Perhaps it will not take long to try and explain this matter. But I just want to say, at the moment the Chief Executive and the Ministry are preparing an analysis of the situation of green lanes and the like, but there are programs that have been implemented and recorded, that states the significance of these lines. The green lane is the sign that all the records are complete, and there is no doubt in terms of packaging or personal effects given.

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This resulted in the acceleration of releasing it without investigation. As for the other colors, like red, there is a reason for it and uses. This does mean it is not investigated, because if there are signs of suspicion. It is not an easy matter for me to speak on, because there must also be special knowledge in carrying out this role, such as methods.

An opinion conveyed by one of the members was to get rid of the green lane, I apologize, but it is best to leave it to us, because green has its benefits. It has already been registered in the system called ASYCUDA or a computer program that is used to speed up the clearing of goods as well as shipments. Do not worry, these lanes are well maintained and monitored for the safety of your products especially business owners as well as the level of fairness the Ministry strives to uphold.

The matter regarding pastors' taxes, it has been noted for consideration of Government and the Ministry is working together with the Attorney General's office on a recommendation to submit to Government for review of the Act. We are preparing provisions to implement the necessary changes, for a thorough preparation of Government on amendments that are necessary.

The matter regarding our X-ray container scanner. As heard from the statement made by Tofa Faimalotoa Stowers, it is true, the first tender has already been advertised, it has concluded, and was cancelled since bidders did not meet the standard or specific part of technical experts of our machine. So it was re-tendered, this time it has now been tabled in Cabinet for a decision. Cabinet is also looking into the matter because of some concerns, there are two things in question at the moment, because tender stated, it is a truck, the container is moved there and the truck will go around it. The other type of scanner that is available, is one that is fixed, meaning it cannot move unless the truck with the container goes under it. This is the situation the Cabinet is looking into now, for a decision. It is hoped that this relief will soon be available in order to facilitate the work of the Ministry and expedite the duties assigned.

One of the questions was made towards our TIMS or the Tax Invoice Monitoring System. Negotiations are currently underway as well as consultations with the Chief Executive and the Ministry, which is a priority at this time. We are also receiving proposals or submissions from the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders who wish to contribute to the TIMS process. In my perspective, there are areas where TIMS is beneficial, thus there are also some concerns. As for now we carefully looking into it so that the program is not misused but has a bearing on the future of Samoa.

I would like to conclude with the \$51 million mentioned. Mr Speaker, my response is immediate. As heard in the address and the allocation of the Budget, revenue is being collected well.

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Mr Speaker, it is hoped that there will be a surplus in our collection this year as well as next year. For the information of our Parliament and especially the listeners of Samoa, there is still a lot of money left, money that is not being collected. Let me just say, it's not small, it is quite large. If the Ministry works to raise that money, we are confident that we will not have to worry about the \$ 51 million. This is just an illustration, I cannot say the amount, but it will be the priority of this Ministry, to collect debts as well as late payment duties.

This is a clarification in relation to queries. It is the aspiration of the staff and the Ministry to properly program the work of the Ministry, in order to move forward with adequate and efficient revenue collection, as well as to encourage staff capacity building within the Ministry, to provide efficient services and increase revenue.

Mr Speaker, even though we want to speak more today. I believe the opportunity should be given to you since there is a lot of work that needs to be carried out in the program in the time left. Our prayer, may the Lord guide you with your leadership of the House of Parliament. May your sword of justice be sharp, together with your vision especially in guiding the passage of the XVII Parliament by which you have been administered as the Chair of Samoa.

May the Lord show mercy on Samoa, blessings to our country, also the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Government, blessings be upon the Parliament of Samoa. Soifua.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the response by the Minister of Customs and Revenue.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, I commend the Deputy Prime Minister, especially on the clarification given on some of the queries made towards the Ministry of Customs and Revenue, and preparations taken by the Ministry in search of funds for the Appropriation tabled before the House. Thank you. Your constituency has heard together with your word of thanks to the ordained servants of God. I am confident that our House is now listening carefully to the progress of the work of the Ministry into the future.

I believe it is now time for the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, this is your opportunity to speak.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to voice the views of this Ministry to which I have been appointed by our Government. First I want to praise God who owns the power and might, God the Father, God the Son and God of the Holy Spirit. Oh my soul gives thanks unto the Lord, Oh my soul, do not forget one of His gifts.

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Greetings to the House in Tiafau, it is said that this is the place our forefathers fought for Samoa and its future. Greetings to the dignity of the House who have gathered here today. The sun has set and the evening has come, therefore I believe it is best not to prolong a word on other matters. Thus I am grateful for the work of our God, He who owns the Will, strength and all of Samoa.

I pay tribute to all of Samoa, such are the respects of Aiga ma latou Tama, Tama ma o latou Aiga, le usoga ia Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti. I also acknowledge Godly respects, God who brought light into Saa, with the declaration of Malietoa, *“Ua uma ao ma iu o Malo, omai e ave le mutia lea e toto ae faatalitali i lagi se ao o lou Malo.”*

Those are our mornings Mr Speaker including all other mornings of Samoa. Samoa is now enlighten, let us give praise unto Him, He whom we will find the beginning and end.

Greetings to the dignity of Government to His Excellency Le Ao O le Malo, Tuiaana and your Good lady. Greetings to the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady. Greetings to the Judiciary, the Chief Justice and the office of the Supreme Court of Samoa, also to the President of the Land and Titles Court.

Greetings Mr Speaker in your high Chair, who the Parliament of Samoa listens and obey.

To the Sao Faapito, the Hon Prime Minister who was chosen by Samoa. Afioga Saofetalai, the Hon Deputy Prime Minister and members of Cabinet, and to our family Faatuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi. The new Government of Samoa.

Greetings also to the Hon Leader of Opposition, Susuga Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Neioti Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, you have been standing at the helm, and serving Samoa for a long time in the past years.

The Deputy Leader, you are the forefather of Tuiatua, especially the dignity of Kings and Nobles, high chiefs and orators, faletua and tausi, saoa ma tamaitai you are the bonds of our ancestral Samoa. Greetings to the sanctity of Samoa to the Heads of Government Ministries and Organisations and the private sector. You are the chosen few selected to serve Samoa and our Government. The respects of all Samoa listening and showing support to the Parliament of Samoa.

The support of all Samoans residing in different parts of the world praying and serving our country and families. I believe this evening, a word of welcome has already been conveyed, especially with some of the speeches already voiced at this time in the House. However, I cannot move forward with a word, hence Samoa is showing support.

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I stand before you all with utmost respect, to express my deepest gratitude to that side of the House to the Hon Leader Susuga Tuilaepea Sailele Malielegaoi, son of Malietoa, there are many days, but this day speaks for itself. We have sat here and listened intently to the speeches made together with recommendations in the House, to guide our work and insignificance. I want to say that there is truth and lie, also rocks rot but not words. There are many stars in the sky but we already know the morning star. There are many trees in the forest, but we know the important one. The ocean is deep, but the fish know their way.

Thank you for your courtesy, because we cannot walk forward, noted over the past years we have seen your life service to Samoa. Therefore I cannot go forward without acknowledgement, to thank you for everything the service and various works, words cannot describe it enough. The spirit of the heart and soul, my respect for you remains, you have been leading Samoa for many years, especially in overseeing the economy of the country continuing to build a prosperous future for today and tomorrow.

I feel Mr Speaker that mans time and Gods time is different. After the elections of Samoa we were adrift the tide of competition. Each one of us did their part, in trying to do our best to sought victory. Mr Speaker we also saw that there was division. The words and stories, ethics and usual form of respect.

Mr Speaker this morning may the Glory, Blessings and thanks be unto God. I believe whatever we encountered on this path, we should thank God, and praise His love and goodness, we have reached a peaceful conclusion, and find peace of mind, and guide Samoa into the future. Mr Speaker there is the question, who has authority? Who has the will? There is only one, it is God who has the will and the power. God guided our journey through tribulations faced by our forefathers. We cannot forget, Mr Speaker if we look in this House, we see the first Ao O Le Malo, the first Prime Minister, the first Speaker and the first Parliament of Samoa, there is no spite in the House.

Mr Speaker, I believe this is how a decision was emphasized on this term. This is a remarkable term, and this is noted with the speeches that we have heard in the words delivered through wisdom and discretion of the House, why? Because we all felt what it feels to be human. However Mr Speaker with respect we were not forsaken in the prayers of our country, especcally the ordained servants of God and its salutations.

Therefore we express our gratitude to the sanctity of Samoa and support, these traditions are what protects the country, as for the authority given to this term, in letting us lead Government, Praise the Lord. It is not our strength or our wisdom, but it is the will of God.

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This is why dignity of the House we have already discussed the matter, we do not have to find who is Government. There is no difference of that side and this side. Our objective this term, is to work together.

The new Government has one heart and soul, for the prosperity of Samoa. No one will dispute it, since the sweat of the country is poison. And what we sow, is what we reap, but our frevent prayer is, we have already had words. Let us maintain peace and set aside our differences. The time of arguments have pass, because what is happening here is made known to Samoans all over the world, if the House is calm, then Samoa is as well. We are like mirrors, viewing the younger generation who will be sitting in this House in future. We will not be here forever. The younger generation will also come here to carry out our duties, but they cannot do so if this XVII Parliament fails to succeed.

But praise be to God who continues to teach us life in all that He has prepared. I would like to thank the Hon Prime Minister for trusting me to be appointed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to take on the role of the country's economy. This is the Ministry that is thought to be the heart of the country. It is where the development of Samoa lies for its lands, and also sea. Titles are part of lands and it is authority. This is where the origins of development of the country derives.

My understanding is when our country was developed in 1960, the first Budget funded by Government of Samoa was 70% of the lands produce. There was nothing else. 70% to 80% of economic development in Samoa, Samoa, was from land, and there was no other measure we relied on, there was no gold, silver, oil or minerals or any other means of support.

It is the identity of your birthright because there is no Samoan that does not have a land to rely on. But the revival brought forward by this Government, to let us go back to where we once started. To foresee what we believe in. There is equal sustainable development in the country. Whether you are smart or not, or you are prestigious. Farmers and fishermen are all the same in the view of the country. It is a milestone made by our parents, imparted to us, from 1970 to 1980, they gave us things that we own now. The 1 sene that we used to have has the picture of the coconut. The 2 sene was the cocoa. The 5 sene was the picture of a pineapple. The 10 sene has the picture of the taro, 20 sene was the breadfruit tree. And the 50 sene had the picture of the banana.

Mr Speaker this is a reminder to the House. This is our real economy, agricultural produce. And fisheries, this was given to us by God for us to survive.

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I want to thank the former Minister of Cabinet that occupied this seat, after I resigned in 2017. When I went to answer the charges made against me. The verdict had not been decided but I resigned, because of my respect of the status of the son of Malietoa. I did not want to sit here anymore, and waste time. I went to find justice. I thank the Lord that I have come back, and I was chosen again by the Sao Faapito to sit here.

I thank Hon Lopaoa Mua, I thank you for the hardwork and the efforts in continuing the work. That was carried on from that time until now. For whatever good work done, Praise the Lord, as for any incompetence, let us move forward.

The majority of the members have spoken on various matters which I have noted down. The importance of the issue of direct assistance to all farmers of Samoa. We have also heard the matter that have been debated in the House yesterday and today. On where the million that was promised to the country is allocated.

A humble request to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, prioritize our farmers, put emphasize on farms for farmers and fishing for fishermen within villages and constituencies.

Because these are the people that really need assistance. The father, mother and children. The village, and the church, who are the hands and feet? It starts with the family. The people of the country. Our culture and our Christian values is a shared responsibility. Give aid directly to the hands of farmers. Because I have already tried to explain this matter.

Policies will be put in place on how this fund is used. All villages and constituencies will be eligible to it. Then decide which area should be prioritized. I want to thank Hon Faimalotoa Stowers, since you were once the Minister of the Ministry now led by Afioga Leota Laki. You implemented this project for villages, as well as village councils. This is the significance of continuing this project. There should be the village council to discuss this project. If asked who are involved. There are church Ministers, elders, high chiefs, the youth, mothers and fathers to discuss what should be done. These are the principles that have been laid down.

As set by the Hon Minister of Finance and Afioga Leota who is in charge of the Ministry. It is my responsibility with the Ministry to go and buy the produce the farmers will be producing.

In those days, I grew up on family's farm. And the farm, was where I grew up. Farming made me smart and where I worked. Coconuts, cocoa, bananas, yams, taamu and all other things. If a farmer wants to have \$10,000 now, they will have it. Why? We saw it.

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What did the Germans do in Samoa? They established the WESTEC, there were cows, pigs, chicken, taro, banana, breadfruit, cocoa and others was exported overseas and it was number one. The cocoa was exported to Britain and other countries. But what happened? We were careless, and up to this moment the Estate is still struggling. It was in so much debt, but it does not take our belief that this is where we should focus for agriculture. Because this is where wealth of the country lies, as I mentioned.

I am grateful, however Afioga Sala Pinati is not present on the work done on the building purchased in New Zealand. That is the meaning of our work, some start while others continue and end it.

As we discussed the building will be where our Export Authority will be established. The Government will lead, to assist our exporters. Someone had mentioned that Government will be taking control of everyone. No that is not the case. The people there will be assisting Government, a Government to Government level approach. There is a difference when an exporter goes alone, because they will be caught in many red tapes, like biosecurity and quarantine around the world. But when Samoan products are exported, in good relations with international treaties, the door will be open. This is the reason why this Government has thought of re-establishing this Export Authority. And some of our products, for the knowledge of SROS which is work initiated by the former Government. We produced breadfruit flour, coconut oil, avocado oil, and other things. All of these are included here, which was also established by that side. This is the commercial arm.

The implementation of this in a commercialized manner, the Government believes that we should do it based on what we discussed. To create new products, from agricultural produce. To make flour from our breadfruit. A lot of other things have already been arranged, there is also the fact that the SROS service has been upgraded to conduct other investigations, to examine drugs in the country. To examine other things like medicine, to examine plants of Samoa, or leaves that will produce a source of medication and other things for Samoa. Those are some tests being carried out now. Another area of research being set up is DNA test. The test of your DNA because there is a lot of conflict in finding blood relatives or suli at court. No one will be able to lie anymore, because I know that there are some people who still argue. Even though they have no relation but still they fight. But if you get a test, this matter will be cleared. It is also very important aspect going into the future.

Our water, and other major developments should be implemented for future benefit of Government assets.

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Our taro, statements given are right, there is a shortage of taro. Because of going into it without clarification. Farmers are not communicating, each person just plants what they want. If it is harvested, it is harvested together, if it is too young, it is the same elsewhere, they do not make an agreement, so that they can adapt to the market structure. When overseas markets ask again, there is nothing. Like now, the Ministry has set up a database to register all Samoan farmers. Taro, banana, yams, cocoa, and coconuts everything should be known by the Ministry including the contribution of the constituency.

An example Vaimauga 1, what is the contribution from Vaimauga 1 this month? How many taro can they supply? How much breadfruit can they supply? How about cocoa? Coconut? This is where the Ministry will be able to distribute the needs conveyed from the market.

Talk to the farmers and discuss where to find markets. So that we will be able to meet the orders, and ensure that there will be no more shortage. As we all know today, we do not have any taro. There is no taro, because of that the farmer will hunt their own livestock. But if this is the case for this project, the million project. All farmers from constituencies will register, and reports are submitted on what they can do. This is your contribution, to the country this month, to better understand the contributions of each constituency and then put it together. Then we get our contribution, and find future markets.

This is the same with our exporters, at the moment the exporters work individually. After packing taro here, they go and fight over New Zealand markets. Because they are initiating the motive a man for themselves. One will go and cut the price, and another will drop the price. What happens, it greatly affects our farmers. But if the Government does it, it will regulate the price at which the exporter goes to buy a person's taro, and regulates the exporter that goes and sells their own taro overseas. We do not need to fight with each other, we go there to compete with other countries. But you are arguing about the taro from Fiji, Tonga and Niue. We cannot go there and fight amongst ourselves.

The matter regarding our taro, Samoa tasi, Samoa lua and talo vave. These are the taro that is expected to be number one at the moment. But there is still imperfection. The Ministry of Agriculture is working hard to do more research. So that we can still get the texture of the taro we used to have so that it will sell. Some have said that the quality of the Fijian taro remains.

Due to the support of Government to the farmers and exporters. This the whole point of the work that need be done now. The matter of the rhinoceros beetle, it is true that it is out of control. At the moment Covid 19 there is an ongoing stimulus package to give out free coconut trees and cocoa. This is expected to be beneficial as long term crops. We use one coconut tree for 15 years.

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Also after 10 plus years we will still be using one cocoa, but we should move onto the next phase implemented by Government, commercialization and mechanization. Our farmers do not have the same energy, and we can see the young people going overseas under the seasonal workers scheme, to find money, they do not want to work the land and do hard labour. We also have a program implemented by the Chinese, I thank the Chinese Government for this project, I left it was phase 3 but now it is in phase 5. Machines, fertilizers and other things are used to make it possible to grow vegetables for the country, so we will be able to get fresh vegetables to make food.

As for the expansion, the project that I did during my time as Minister in 2016 will be brought back, we will request bringing in of machines, as promised earlier. These machines will assist our farmers to develop our villages and constituencies. If we look at it now, it is very difficult. Samoa has never been proud before, we have seen it is necessary. For example if it is 10 acres, the ten acres should be well spaced, the machine and people can then divide it into 2 acre blocks, lay down pipelines using inter-commercial method so that it can be used for a life time, and the soil can be turned over and over by the farmer in the same block.

This is the layout that we are hoping to accomplish, also to upgrade our farming system from the past to a method that will ensure the development of the economy in the country.

There is a program that is ongoing carried out by SACEP now under SAFPROM. Data was obtained from the Ministry and it stated a lot of people from Upolu and Savaii have registered, and I am grateful also I thank the continuous support of the World Bank and IFAD. This project is worth US\$ 23 million, all farmers have to register to prepare it. And this is just the right time to do it to lessen the burden, so that we will be able to plant and earn money. The bottom line is, our farmers will not have to come to the market anymore, because there are more taro it will end up selling 40 taro for \$10. Then what will happen? No one will want to be a farmer anymore.

It is the duty of our Government to keep looking at ways to make the work easier for those who most need help, the farmers. Also the fishermen. I believe this is one part of the Ministry that is very important. And I believe another star should not block another. I am prepared to take this request to the Prime Minister and Cabinet that the Ministry of Fisheries should be independent, in order for this body of our Government to emerge, for fishermen to stand out. You have seen some of the fishing boats, and a lot of other plans that have been put in place for a fish factory, which was long planned from when I was the former Minister. The objective is to ensure that we have many fishing boats and alias in the country.

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The matter of WESTEC, I am certain that the House is aware of the efforts undertaken by WESTEC. I am still praying to our Government, as long as we give a small amount, nothing will be fruitful, so I pray, if we have enough funds, we will be able to get good results...

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker, an opportunity please...

MR SPEAKER: The Hon Minister can take a break, I call upon the Deputy Leader.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: I take the floor without intention to interrupt the wonderful speech by the Hon Minister. I have noted that it is 10 o'clock our finishing time, and some are sleepy. However since the Minister have just moved away from the important program SAFPROM, thus you also mentioned export authority. I have noted that there is a part of SAFPROM assisting with marketing our goods overseas, so I was led to question in this case whether the project is sufficient enough to import and export our product overseas rather than setting up a export authority. This is the matter I asked about since we now have this project.

Susuga Hon Lauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi: Well, leave the matter with me. I know this is an important recommendation. Yes, this should be collaborative. Yes, there will be no new sector since there are sectors already in the Ministry of Agriculture. It is just a matter of changing the name and giving it functions relevant to the issue considered.

Mr Speaker in case I move on, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the wonderful speech by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Since we have arrived at our finishing time pursuant to the motion approved. I pray the love of God guide us here tomorrow so that you may continue your clarification and our work.

The Chair believes that we should take a rest this evening and find strength for tomorrow, and continue with the work we were chosen by the country to do, in accordance to the gracious will of our Father. I commend you all for your patience, and perseverance, we have reached the end of today's work with the love of our God. I believe the same is true of the support of our country.

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The Chair wishes to extend thanks and congratulations, to the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers. Also to this side of Chamber, the Hon Leader of Opposition and respectable members of Parliament.

Congratulations to all members who spoke today especially the Leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition, the House of Samoa have heard, and I believe this is a significant contribution to the process of our work, especially recommendations conveyed to Government. I commend you all for the preparations.

I also want to thank the support of His Excellency Le Ao o Le Malo and his Good lady, the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady, the Chief Justice and Judiciary also to the Heads of Churches on Samoa and ordained servants preaching the gospel.

The support of our country and its customary respects, *o Aiga ma Tama, Tama ma Aiga, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. Thank you Samoa for your support, your Parliament has successfully concluded today, thanks to the power of your prayers and devotion. Forgive us for any malice and foul language of Parliament.

I also apologize to respectable members of Parliament, if the language used by the Chair in conducting our session today has been out of line, forgive me, and let us pray to the Lord for his love to safely guide us to tomorrow, so that we can continue with our orders. I also want to thank the continuous work by the Police, Fire Emergency, the 2AP, the Ministry of Health and the Red Cross in serving Parliament. May God bless everyone. May God bless Samoa throughout this evening, especially in guiding Parliament home tonight.

Before we adjourn, I call upon the Deputy Speaker to conclude our Proceedings with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 10:08 pm until 9:00 am on Wednesday, 22 September 2021.