

30 JUNE 2015

TUESDAY, 30TH JUNE 2015

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be now resumed. Today is like intense fragrance of wonderful floral aroma on Parliament table. We gather in the best of good health and spirit by God's love and kindness in continuation of today's business. I greet in all of Parliament's honorific salutations, greetings in good health Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet specially the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader. Praise God for recollecting us in resumption of today's tasks. Last night we were able to pass the Budget as per normal practice, it was one of the huge tasks we had discussed.

This House completes the entire country through its representatives in all its significant ranks and it marks Samoa's most paramount meetings. Today, the Manu Samoa team will come into our presence in preparation for an international event that the State and everyone has prepared for, thus a word of blessing and encouragement will be pronounced later on behalf of the country.

Thank you for wearing blue today everyone. That color represents the depth of the ocean and stars in the sky which holds God's covenant and prophesy that He created the heavens and the earth and mankind which is a symbol of God's intellect and freedom through your goodselves this morning.

Whoever has not worn blue today can do when time permits. Whoever does not comply I do not intend to make known, you know better in reflection of your true heart for Samoa and people who uphold pride and dignity. Any event that is prayed for and supported will end up well. Very soon we will see them and proceed accordingly according to today's schedule.

COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE BILL 2015

– third reading

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister in replacement of the Hon Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Palemia): Mr Speaker, in the absence of the Hon Minister, I move, *That the Community Law Centre Bill 2015 be now read a third time.*

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Media Council Bill 2015 –third reading

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Revenue, Minister of Communication & Information Technology.

The motion was approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

**MEDIA COUNCIL BILL 2015
– third reading**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move, *That the Media Council Bill 2015 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion was approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

**GENEVA CONVENTION BILL 2015
– third reading**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move, *That the Geneva Convention Bill 2015 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion was approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

**NATIONAL PROSECUTION OFFICE BILL 2015
- second reading**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move, *That the National Prosecution Office Bill 2015 be now read a second time and I would like to clarify it.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker this Bill correlates with the Constitution Amendment Bill we approved last night. This Bill aims to set up a new Office relating to prosecution cases which separates the Office of the Attorney General. The main purpose of this Bill follows the practice that integrity must be maintained thus reflecting our decisions and behavior.

Since Independence, the Prosecution Office had performed its duties based on the Constitution and the Office of the Attorney General. If by chance a case involves the Attorney General, such is the objective of this Bill. The decision made reflects the Attorney General. Regardless of proper decisions made, the State's power could likely impact these decisions.

Mr Speaker, the overall aim of this Bill is to build a Government body and amend the Constitution appropriately to go in line with the new Office that is currently under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. We have already amended the Constitution last night in accordance to the Bill we just received for a new Prosecution Office which is reason for the amendments in the Constitution.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you Hon Prime Minister for your statement. The House has heard it loud and clear. We now come to deliberation time, I call the dignified member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you for the opportunity this morning, greetings to the dignified House of Samoa specially the listening public. Briefly I do not intend to discuss any further regarding this Bill as clarified by the Hon Prime Minister. Is this new proposal similar to the separation of the Law Commission Office from the Attorney Generals? Because according to the legislation all administration and accounts work will now be transferred under the Board. This will also mean that they will have the appointment of it own staff. This is a good sign but do they have the capacity and full knowledge to implement these duties given that this new establishment is entirely new. Nonetheless, the separation of these two offices is otherwise a good initiative.

I thought that the Tribunal Council we approved previously is engaged with matters such as the termination of a Government head and so forth. Therefore, a Tribunal should be in place to counter matters of this sort. That is all in support of this legislation. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call the member for Falelatai and Samatau.

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to note a word of gratitude this morning specially the notices you gave Mr Speaker for us to wear blue. Those wearing blue has the support for our team whilst those who do not have no support. The blue and black teams will be playing against each other, whilst Africa and other teams are playing here by the looks of today.

Mr Speaker we have had a number of proposed offices and funds to operate, it is a waste. The structure will comprise of the Head and management level and a number of incorporated services. Personally I am proud of two establishments during my time in Parliament, namely the Pubic Enterprises and this one, the Prosecution Office.

This is a good initiative in the promotion of this service engaged by the Attorney General to separate the duties and functions of the Prosecution Office. One main focus is to regulate its own functions under the State. Those are the two main establishments I support. Have a blessed meeting.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU (Gagaemauga No.2): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Gagaemauga No 2.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you for the chance. Last night, I have given enough submissions on the Constitution amendments. Briefly for recommendation, should not the positions of the Attorney Counselor to the State be now fixed rather than Attorney General? Because attorney is fixed to handling prosecution cases, the Samoan word for it is almost there. The statement by the recent member is referring to me. Perhaps the member is unaware of the reason why I am wearing blue. You see this green suit I am wearing; it has Australia, the All Blacks, New Zealand and England in white. This represents my full support for all players who are supporting our team. That is the first thing.

Secondly, I am not wearing one...I do not speak of jersey. I am actually wearing a white short underneath whilst my wife is wearing black in New Zealand. That is my style. I am not sure of the Leader of the Opposition most probably he did not bring any Manu Samoa wear.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps it is not... I give the first chance to the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, praise God for bringing us to this new day according to our Sitting schedule. You have said our prayer for His never-ending guidance. I am awaiting your instruction. The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministers are all wearing black which is not the main thing, this mean that they are supporting the All Blacks. I thank you for supporting our team....

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): This is why trouble happens due to wrong statements given in the House. This is because we have those that observe and those that make statements. When you look at it...true is the normal saying by the Prime Minister reference to the Bible, “You have eyes but do not see”. This royal blue is like the colors worn by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. The distinguishment between royal blue, navy blue and blue is something you lack knowledge of. As for you that green really stands out which means you act like an African. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I believe this should not be arguable...I call the member.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Heart is vital. May you have a blue heart. The main thing is what comes out of your heart before you wear black. Importantly we must achieve success during our time. This is the first I have appreciated a legislation. The State has finally accepted our advice for good decision. Despite the previous exchanges we had, we only had one wish, set a Tribunal Council to discuss this thoroughly as part of its function. I appreciate this new establishmen Hon Prime Minister as recommended in the past.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: This file is very thick and the speeches of the Opposition Leader are all in here. None of it has your statement nor any from your side. This is why I like you because everytime something good happens, you thank us for doing everything that we recommend you to do. That is why I rise constantly to correct these statements. I am surprised at your eye-opening lies.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: No better lie is closer to the Prime Minister. I pity the Constitution initiated by our forefathers due to the many Amendments received. According to the undertones...the foundation has been overturned. The Bill should be in line with the Constitution? That is reason for my upstanding.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of order.

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Leader of the Opposition.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I mentioned this twice last night and once today. The only prosecution is the Attorney General which must go in line with the amendment to the constitution. I suspect that you wholly support the bill yet you do not want to amend the Constitution for this to go through. Note the scripture in the Bible, “whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it is a sin”. The Constitution was set up in 1962, and it allows amendments for generations to come. Good and appropriate change is possible according to time and season. Any Government Constitution remains unamended forever. It changes over time. The normal practice by Medes and Persia, any proposed law is unalterable to the end. That is reason for the saying, “these are not the laws of Medes and Persia which remains unaltered to the end”. Where now is Medes and Persia? It no longer exists. No state lasts on unchanged laws forever given time.

This is similar to the support you had for the two urban seat boundaries which you objected according to the Constitution amendment. You always seem startled at the beginning of something. Once the start is open the amendment to the Constitution is easier enough as you mentioned in the beginning.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker, the matter has gone way too far. The Urban Seat is now affected and statements that I rejected, no, I did not object because I gave my vote to support it. Nonetheless....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the urban seat is related to the Electoral Amendment. Note the constitution is the most paramount law. What does this mean? Does the heart reject this doing?

Mr Speaker, this is similar to what we are discussing here. No Constitution remains unchanged forever. Look at America, perhaps they have had over 500 Constitutional amendments.

Mr Speaker, that is the correction to the Constitution. No Constitution remains unaltered. The Constitution has sections that require both change and no change.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition.

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, the only thing I can say, amend the Constitution in order to remove the duties engaged by the Attorney General such as the question, is this not enough for the legislation to go through, I do not object the removal of these appointments otherwise that is up to you.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, that is impossible, the Constitution must be amended.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I give the chance to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I wish to assist the matter voiced by the Prime Minister, this legislation should have a separation of its duties. The duty transferred to the Director of Prosecution should no longer be performed by the Attorney General. These functions cannot be excuted by both the Director of Prosecution and the Attorney General.

That is reason for the amendment to separate these two functions in the Constitution for transparency purposes.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker this is the problem with napping and all of a sudden rise with the wrong thought. This is the exact point I am trying to make, amend the Constitution by separating the functions of the Attorney General from the Director of Prosecution, this is impossible without an amendment to the Constitution.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: This is the appointment of the Attorney General under the Constitution. Thus is the need for the Constitution amendment to go through to transfer these functions to the new Office.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: The reason you are not hearing me properly is because you have earphones on. That is what I was trying to deliever, never mind your will shall be done.

MR SPEAKER: I believe the expression by the Leader of the Opposition is now clear. The motive behind your view is to avoid amending the Constitution too much. According to Government response, these new changes must go in line with the Constitution. You also stated that the State will decide for what's appropriate, that is the response. Hence your view and reminder is vital.

I call the member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (Vaimauga West): First and foremost, I wish to extend appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister and the Office of the Attorney General regarding this amendment. In particular, sincere gratitude to the Attorney General, we solicitors heed the paramount power you uphold. We know it by this new change, no Office would want to let go of this power by the Attorney General to another Ministry. I agree with the Hon Prime Minister, power is vested under the prosecutorial duties of the Attorney General who is the legal advisor to the State. In simple example, a case between two solicitors where one becomes unsuccessful and approaches the Prosecution Office to change the law because we have....

True is the Hon Prime Minister, the removal of the Attorney General's prosecutorial duties is appropriate. In the past, Samoa had less offences tasked by the police involving the prosecutorial processes for all courts involving the Supreme Court and the District Court.

All prosecutorial tasks and processes were engaged by the Ministry of Police which was later transferred to the Office of the Attorney General in the 1970s after we had law graduates like Tuiloma Neuroni Slade, Aeau Semi Epati and the current Chief Justice Patu Tiavasu'e. This is a good change. By record, the Supreme Court crimes and offences against the law has reached to at least 2,500 per annum. The district court amounts over 5,000 hearings per year. The faamasinoga fesoasoani has over 3,000 cases per annum.

75% are criminal matters. 25% involve general disputes against the Law. For this matter, appropriate change for prosecutorial cases must be enforced under the Prosecution Office. Although it is appropriate, it also reflects the maintainence of integrity, the Attorney General's role is also critical as advisor to the State. By observation over the last 30 years, a number of United Nations agreements plus Government agreements have been witnessed. Special knowledge on these matters is a big requirement for the Attorney General than wasting effort on the remaining 70% by which the only option available is either go to Tafaigata or not. We must look at Commonwealth Agreements to assist our local economy. Samoa is very small and true is the saying, when an American receives the American dollar, the key factor to note is improvement moving forward, we have a number of lawyers working for the Office of the Attorney General who are well equipped with trade and its policies and requirements to promoting Samoan primary products to international markets. Without dominant recommendation by these lawyers and push for knowledge expansion for international makert supplies, it is hopeless to plant crops.

That is the short view Mr Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call the member for Aana Alofi No.3.

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National Prosecution Office Bill 2015
– second reading

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I make additional gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Office of the Attorney General for the tabling legislation. The only advise to the Committee who will review this legislation, firstly, the amendment to the Constitution. Surely the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer should be a judge to the Supreme Court. I believe this post requires judges for the District Court or those under the Office of the Attorney General.

Secondly, consider a time limit. And thirdly, as approved by the Minister, we should incorporate responsible persons for this new Organisation through the Prime Minister or the Minister appointed by the Prime Minister. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, perhaps those are the only few matters that were raised requiring response. On to staff capacity, well that depends on the management and the Director. If the staff is perfect for the job, then capacity is not an issue. Otherwise, this is only the start, capacity can only come later.

On to tribunal in relation to the legislation, we have a Committee who is tasked with reviewing pay scale for all public servants. I think this Tribunal was set up in 2001 and it focused specifically on remuneration for public servants. Before that, the Public Service Commission was tasked with reviewing pay scale excluding the Parliament, Legislative, Judiciary and Police.

That was the intention of the State back then which should no longer be the case today, it should involve one body to oversee remuneration which poses a big gap for Parliament in particular. Perhaps, Parliament was one of the least paid entities in the past. And due to the norm/practice by the Leader of the Opposition, whenever the State declared an increment, the Opposition lamented, "Poor country!" That was reason for no more pay rise whereby other entities were fortunate enough to be rewarded and none for Parliament.

That was reason why some Government bodies received increments while others not. Therefore the State aims to set a uniformity system for pay scale to avoid the movement of public servants around. Another Tribunal was also set up in 2001 to remedy the case between SASNOC and the Soccer Association which almost reached the Court. The objective of setting this Tribunal was to solve problems in workplaces. One of the issues that the Soccer Association faced was that no Annual General Meetings were carried out then. Reason was because they did not want to be removed from their positions. Those were the reasons behind the SASNOC drama in 2001 that consisted of 53 organisations and findings had it that none were officially registered, no account reports in compliance to policies and regulations hence termination by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

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Broadcasting Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

On to Ministerial appointment for each Ministry, that is the duty of the Prime Minister. These matters are not new Mr Speaker according to the State's policies and principles. Those are the only raising matters reference to responses given.

Motion approved and the Prosecution Office Bill 2015 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders this Bill will be referred to the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee for consideration and report back to Parliament in a future sitting.

BROADCASTING AMENDMENT BILL 2015
– second reading

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise with great respect this morning, I move, *That the Broadcasting Amendment Bill 2015 be now read a second time and I wish to elaborate on it.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Revenue and the Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Thank you. The main objective of this legislation is to amend the Broadcasting Act 2010. The Broadcasting Amendment Bill 2015 ("Bill") aims to improve the framework for administration of the broadcasting sector. This is reflected in the Bill by recognising that not all provisions connected to the telecommunications sector apply to broadcasting, given the difference in services provided or characteristics for each sector. The following are the main amendments proposed for the Broadcasting Act 2010. To clarify the extent of services that qualifies as broadcasting rather than the telecommunication services in general; clearly merging the responsibilities of the Regulator under the Telecommunications Act and the Act.

To sort out this section, Clause 2 states, remove ex ante reference that are not relevant to the broadcasting sector.

Thirdly, Removing Part III of the Act which establishes a separate Broadcasting Tribunal and replacing with the Tribunal under the Telecommunications Act 2005. The Broadcasting Act has its Tribunal, Judiciary Tribunal plus another Tribunal under the Broadcasting Principal Act which caters for people's grievances based on the Board's instructions if dissatisfied.

The current amendment removes this Tribunal with the Telecommunications Tribunal because it is the same thing.

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– second reading

Fourthly, extension of objectives under the Act. This Principal Act is quite narrow thus requires extension to align with the existing living standards in terms of radio, Television.

Lastly, clearly merging the responsibilities of the Regulator under the Telecommunications Act and the Act. These are the amendments set out in this Bill.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you Hon Minister. I believe this critical legislation has been entirely heard by the House this morning. The Ministry has sufficiently clarified this Bill during our de-briefing.

I see no one wants to comment. As per normal procedure, I will still allow opportunity. I call the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Hon Minister for this legislation and the incorporation of these Committees. Firstly, I wish to query Part 5 on Director's appointment. Is there existing amendment to which this amendment took place?

Essentially Section 16 states repeal to clause 2, universal policy access. I am querying why this was omitted from the legislation. This is the comment I made yesterday on the removal of funding percentage from major companies. This fund is utilized to extend broadcasting services towards the rural areas. Personally this service should have reached the Aleipata area. This portion of the funds is vital in urging major businesses to give their share of the profit earned to assist the State and the Ministry to expand this service.

This is the question as to why this significant part of the bill is being omitted. Universal access is an international thing for Samoa to be in line with the rest of the world and its services which our State lacks funding on. Therefore if this is omitted, then businesses will not be obligated to fund anymore of these services. As noted from yesterday, if \$1million is equivalent to 2% gross profit, we are looking at \$50million to \$60million profit per annum which is a very substantial amount. Therefore these additional funds should be raised to 5% to assist the work of the Ministry that is no longer funded by the State as it has been privatized to earn profit. It should place its own requirements and conditions in order to generate revenue to improve and expand the services of the State. Respectfully.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I see this is the only member who wishes to comment. I call the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Thank you for the opportunity. The universal access mentioned by the member is correct. As I said the Television and radio broadcasting services have been removed. In the meantime, such broadcasting services are free of charge.

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Broadcasting Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

If this is the case whilst payment is still made to impose and maintain universal access, it is inappropriate. Thus universal access is permanently operated under telecommunication services that funds these services provided extensively to areas in Falealili, Aleipata and Savaii. If this service still has not reached this part of the country that means universal access still exists.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you for the clarification. But mind you, radio and Television are not free. Although people have free access to it in the rural side however, it is still charged, and Television service does not fully cover the entire rural area.

With the license in existence for TV1 through its generating income earned in the town area service, there is no need for service extension to the country side, that is the State's part to play by seeking funds through profit earnings to achieve this event.

Because over the past Parliamentary terms, this issue has been constantly addressed by members on limited service received in Aleipata and the rural area Fagaloa also does not have access to this service yet the member of Fagaloa is still sitting around without raising it. I believe this is not a major concern for these people to provide full coverage and access for the entire rural side as they are not getting any money out of it, otherwise this is the part of the State in terms of infrastructural development, they should fund it. Because once this is enhanced they will use it. That is the assistance from my end.

MR SPEAKER: Your view is not well taken.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa (Alataua West): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I give the chance to the respectable member.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa: To save the time of the Minister, the statement of the member for Faleata West is correct. In belief if this Company could not obtain this license, then find another Company to execute this service access to provide full Television access across the entire country. Respectfully.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Thank you. This is the exact purpose for operating universal access that is now practiced. If universal access continues to exist, this means that the Television and Radio Companies will be affected twice or thrice. That is the existing practice, license is granted to a Television Company that satisfies requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. One such requirement is a site visit to Aleipata area.

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The State has the right to remove your license if service has not reached Fagaloa or wherever. But the question is, if removed, what about our families that are listening in and those intending to view Television or listen to the radio?

The Regulator has the right to remove the license according to the legislation. If a Television Company fails to comply with the first and second instruction, the license is removed immediately. How else can this service reach our families and relatives in the rural side? That is exactly why this process was avoided. Otherwise terms and conditions still exist under the legislation. Universal access continues to exist because of the revenue collected by the telecommunication companies. So to be in line with this service that is the process according to the law.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I do not intend to go against the Hon Minister's remark. What's happening now is that the constituencies are now hearing statements on unavailable broadcasting services and personally, this is not the State's priority nor the Companies holding licenses. If the State's power is being removed in this regard, this will become a major concern. This means that access coverage will repeatedly be raised by new Members in future parliamentary sessions. That is reason why these services were privatized and outsourced to the private sector in order to fund, build and expand these infrastructural services. The omission of power from the State is yet to go so that private companies could collect revenue if impossible to install posts to bring forth access. Intentionally, we ask to keep this part (of the legislation) for our protection as we move forward.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I grant the last chance to the member.

Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatualesa: That is rightfully the intention we do not fight against the Government. The Hon Minister is correct, there are

several villages in town and the rural area that requires this service extension. This district has watched the backside of the Television for over a decade now. Respectfully.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Well nobody in the constituency is dying from it, everybody is still alive. Television connection requires fixed wire for effective and speedy access. Poor creativity should not obliterate the entire state. For the information of the House, no money was ever removed from the operation of universal access since the initiation of this legislation. Why? The Ministry has had deep consideration of this regard in the past. If universal access is stopped, surely other countries and villages will be wiped out from this service because companies will withhold payments to sustain this connection for their use. This is why we should watch out.

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Regardless the answer is simple, once the Regulator Office receives your letter twice or thrice, they automatically remove the license for that particular Television Company. If this was the practice at the start of TV Samoa by TV Samoa would no longer existed.

That is rightfully the purpose for balancing up this doing. To maintain this connection, funds were therefore sought from huge enterpreneurships like the Telecommunication Services Companies. All these services comes under universal access except for radio and television, which is good, if they can hear us, well that is the part we play in order to protect you. We do the protection yet your service should have reached the outter parts of the country by now.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I had an interview with a Television Company from Fiji regarding the similar point raised by the Minister and they wanted my opinion. This urged me to allow international Television Companies to expand broadcasting services across the country. This happened over a decade and our village did not receive TV1 as well which broadcasted sports. The main event everyone went after were the Manu Samoa rugby games held internationally. I am well versed of this urge from the rural constituents however funding constraint is the main issue even to the extent with Chinese shops possessing fixed television. These Chinese shops now hold citizenship and have grown significantly here compared to us, we are weak. We are weak both in terms of funding and mentally.

Therefore we must bear patience. The State takes great consideration over business operators that hold 10% of the total population. The State might as well prioritize 90% of the country that are utilizing this service. Therefore, in sorting out goods, what then must the State do? Should they protect the business people or serve 90% of the people's demand. This is what the State is trying to balance out. This is what happened to Adam and Eve and the stupid mistake they did in the beginning. This is why everything has gone out of balance. If it weren't for that, everyone would've had access to Television broadcasts. That is the case, we aim to cover 90% in total however we also take heed of businesses. I am particularly speaking to the whining member who is constantly complaining about not receiving these services, if difficult then do as they wish, but then again, it is hard to satisfy everyone, others will also turn around and mock us and demand the same. It is very difficult to offset everything and meet everyone's demands. For this I still blame Eve for all this.

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MR SPEAKER: I take it that the view is well expressed given the Government's response. Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, I believe you support the same. I call the respectable member.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): No Mr Speaker, respectfully I thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister for the well versed explanation which I don't intend to comment on lest I receive further statements. The only thing I am up for is to refer the Minister to....

Thank you Hon Minister for the amendment in Section 3 of the legislation, and the addition to b, which means encourage and preserve the culture diversity. This is very crucial. On top of that under the Principle Act is, (i) protect the interest of audiences on commercial uses of broadcasting services. If this is the cause of the delay to our...because our district is listening in. I will not make a statement until the end of time, even comes the second coming of the Messiah I will not make anymore statement. I will only give support. Perhaps by next week, our Television will be connected hoping the Private Sector is hearing this, this must be done.

MR SPEAKER: I believe all submissions have been well received. The Hon Minister has also given a clear statement. Do you have anything else to say Hon Minister before the question is put?

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: I wish to respond in assistance to this section. As noted by the Prime Minister if only we can find the Adam who caused all this unbalance from the beginning. Thank you to the member who noted respect & custom (tu & aga) for the language used when making public notices, involving public submissions of those listening in.

Thank you for this vital point which has its amendment incorporated in the Amendment Bill. I take this time while they are listening....

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, let the notable member state the final matter.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Hon Minister of Communication. This happened last month. There was a public notice on Television displaying water cut for 28 households. Such is the plea with due respect to the Water Authority. Should this public notice be aired again, please notify the households through a letter to the village mayor but do not broadcast it on Television again because we do not receive it with respect thank you.

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU: Thank you. Although this is not part of the legislation nonetheless, at least the member has expressed his view.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

The last recommendation given this opportunity for our broadcasting services on Television, radio please, fix the service further out in the ruralside, we have response in the legislation however we are worried with using this response incase we are affected in relation to the Prime Minister's statement. Hence you must take note of these comments for improvement.

Mr Speaker, that is the conclusion to my statement.

MR SPEAKER: Well done Hon Minister, patience must be heeded in the House, let us have faith with the Ministry and the Minister for this activities to go through as God's days is abundant.

Motion approved and the Broadcasting Amendment Bill 2015 was now read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the Bill will now be referred to the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee for their review and report back to the Legislative Assembly in a future sitting.

VILLAGE FONOA AMENDMENT BILL 2015
– second reading

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: Mr Speaker and the dignified House, respectfully I move, *That the Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015 be now read a second time and I wish to elaborate it.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: Mr Speaker and the dignified House, before I proceed this morning, I greet everyone in the name of our Almighty Father, we have gathered in great health and spirit this fine morning through God's love and guidance.

With great respect Mr Speaker, this Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015 seeks to amend the Village Fono Act 1990 (Act). The objective of the Bill is to strengthen our culture to ensure stability in Samoa by strengthening the role of the Village Fono and to ensure that the exercise of the powers of the Village Fono are in accordance with the Constitution. Regardless, we have observed the great works of the alii and faipule within the village communities in collaboration with the Sui o Nuu ma Sui Tamaitai most especially the Ministries and the Government.

The bill seeks to ensure that everyone adheres to the decisions and authority of the alii ma faipule in the villages. It also seeks provision of specific powers to Village Fono to make their own faiga faavae and iugafono to be consistent with the faavae of the villages and the Samoan culture and custom. This is aims to maintain good governance, respect and integrity in the villages.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

This does not avoid the Ministries and their awareness programs in the villages. In addition, the ongoing works of the alii ma faipule is vital in keeping and protecting the villages.

These iugafono or faiga faavae must be registered at the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in order for them to be recognized at the Court and to protect villages when disputes involving these decisions are brought before the Court such as banning someone in the village for no good reason.

Under the constitution, it is inappropriate to banish a person from a village without appropriate reasons such as going against the authority of the alii and faipule or taking drugs, hold unregistered weapons like guns etc.

In terms of good governance it encourages the maintainance for good health and wellbeing within the village communities.

I have here a report from the National University of Samoa regarding the thoughts on women not being able to sit in village councils and receive matai title. I will not rush in making a decision on it. The NUS is listening in, leave this to me, I will not rush a decision to be included in amendments for 2015. Rome was not built in one day and the topic is sensitive.

May God assist us and our decision making essence to this Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015 we have today.

Have a blessed meeting and may we find strength from God's grace.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. We have received the Hon Minister's clear clarification on this very critical legislation – the same with the well given presentation by the head of the Ministry during our normal De-briefing session. As per normal practice, this is the chance for anyone to speak.

I give the first chance to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker in addition to this amendment, the decisions in the villages is reflected in the Laws of the Government which is very vitally important.

Recalling the past when the Village Fono Act was discussed it drew a lot of debate. There were a lot of objection especially from law firms. Their objection was based on the belief that the Samoan culture does not require any legal papers and therefore it must be left the way it is. The government at the time did not accept this because they believe that such traditions and power exercised by the matai council will create differences. Such differences have led to some villages being taken to Court since their decisions contravene the Constitution. Have villages have taken their authority 'literally' when freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Constitution. Most do not understand this and do not know that religion is covered (under the Constitution). This means that it is just a guide but it does not have any constitutional power vested in it.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

I have read a report from the university and there are a lot of mistakes and foolish things in it. There is only one village council and that is the one governed by matai. There is no such thing as a nu'u o taulelea and women. I don't know where all this nonsense comes from. There is only one village council.

Consultation must be maintained and exercised in villages. There are times when I consulted my village to see the status on the women's committee and their development programmes. This is good consultations with them and towards the end the taulelea are called to hear the final word from the matai on what to do.

As for punishments from villages, there is a common practice where decisions from Alii ma Faipule are made without giving an accused person the right to respond. A practice is crucial especially if the matter ends up in Court. Such is given in the legislation, chance must be granted to query the accused person. If we can also have witnesses, this is all part of the process for the protection of the Court's decision. The general approach I hear, even when the first people on earth made a mistake, they were given judgement. That was the initial judgement that has led the entire world. God asked Adam and Eve why they did what was inappropriate. After they made their statement, a decision was made, which is why life now is imbalance. This was the judgement between the earth and heaven.

Mr Speaker this legislation is very important in terms of decisionmaking and the farsighted wisdom of the alii and faipule because once it reaches the court, it involves everyones human rights set out in the Constitution of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, that is addition essence to the decisions of alii and faipule that the State relies on in governing our village communities prioritizing good governance.

Mr Speaker, that is addition to this Legislation.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. Pardon the upstanding members I firstly give the chance to the senior member sitting upfront.

I call Papalii your opportunity is granted.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I do not wish to make any speech, I only want to touch upon the Prime Minister's speech.

MR SPEAKER: I give the chance to Lealailepule. We shall proceed with the normal procedure. Do not worry your chance will be given.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: When you say do not worry, then I am worried.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker, you are in charge of the Proceedings of the House. I am unsure whether the clock is correct or dead. That is the....that is reason with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Do not worry, we have rescheduled our program according to our guests that we await. Pardon the members this will not take long. We shall resume until our Team arrives and before we have our normal recess.

I call the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker. I extend appreciation to the Minister for clarification of the bill. The same with the supporting statement by the Prime Minister, I guess this is the collective objective by everyone as leaders to take into account our village communities specifically the Village fono. By observation this legislation is very important. The essence of this Bill is to strengthen the powers of the Village Fono in regards to the huge 14 parts incorporated in the Bill for the alii and faipule to hold specific powers to strengthen the villages in their future developments and welfare.

I support the 14 clauses in the legislation. Power is vested in it. Although it is not in detail nonetheless, power is there. Respectfully I rise in regards to registrations of village resolutions. Note the reason why the Prime Minister said is the only country in the world that treasures resolutions in the minds of the matais. Yes.

I meant to say that registration is once again under the Ministry of Women. As such the resolutions and recommendations will now come under an entity. This is because in the past, all this were incorporated under the Office of the Lands and Titles which today is no longer the case. The main intention is to maintain the dignity of these resolutions over documented records....

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker one of the objectives of this legislation is registration of village decisions. The purpose for registration process is to safeguard the integrity of the decisions of the village councils. Without this otherwise, the matai can argue that no such decision was made in the past. It is advantageous to keep a registration of this information for the sake of villages and for future reference purposes most especially when a hearing is called.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Mr Speaker, once this legislation is passed, it will hold greater power that stipulates registration of decisions. It states that changes are allowed. For instance, 20 pigs is recorded for punishment and later on some members of the village would file a complaint that penalty is too heavy. They will end up withdrawing this registered record from the Ministry of Women. Therefore, power is already vested in this legislation.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is a common practice where decisions are made without giving the accused person the right to respond. Punishment is only paid once not more than once. So records should not be different.

MR SPEAKER: The matter is well given, matters are ironed out during the time punishment is paid. I allow the member to speak.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Very well. I believe that such should not be registered in an Office because these are our traditions and treasures. We heed these things as everyone will then have access to it and even the head of the Ministry of Women will have a peak into it....

MR SPEAKER: Your view is well taken member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, I call the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker, I am shocked that the old man is a lawyer and former Assistant Commissioner yet he's ignorant of the legislation. A punishment of 20 pigs does not matter if you can manage only 10 pigs, because in my village, the matais can declare \$2000 punishment and the accused only manages to bring \$500 only, in response one word, at least they replied, the main thing is to set a curfew and ensure that they learn from their mistakes. Similarly in the Samoan saying, "*o le aso ma le filiga, o le aso ma le mataigatila, e au i le tauola e au i le fagota*", no representative lives forever. If we are to go by what you are saying, that is such weak thoughts you have. How can these not be recorded? With the new technology we should record the decisions under the Ministry of Women that jurisdicts Community and Social Development affairs.

This involves the Internal Affairs which oversees the authority of alii ma faipule, this is reason I beg the pardon of the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, lay aside your will and do what the State is saying, until you take over then your will shall be done, otherwise you are dragging on the matter yet your thoughts are very weak, respectfully.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Well please upstanding....he is now concluding before I recognize the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, I call the member to conclude your view is now clear.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you. I intend to make that people may access these resolutions and decisions because the Ministry now has the chance to oversee all villages resolutions and decisions rather I did not say the law has been discarded.

The public will always have access to this information by the Ministry. That is the attempt on this, hold on to these treasures permanently.

Secondly, the Hon Prime Minister has commented on this, the convicted now has the opportunity which is very nice....

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker, point of order. Statement by the member on the constitution being left unrecognized is incorrect, it does not necessarily change the proposed legislation, as long as it is in line with the Constitution nor does it require any amendments to the constitution, it does not mean that the decisions of the alii and faipule are not considered. The legislation should not contradict the constitution. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I think the point is well taken. I call the member to resume his speech.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Well because it is given in the legislation, that is why I said it. If you want, I can read it out.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker with respect, the member's statement is incorrect the main aim of this legislation is to go in line with the Constitution, the authority of alii and faipule, it does say that the constitution is unrecognizable. With respect it should...as I said the old man is a lawyer....between the lines.

MR SPEAKER: I think the Government intention of the legislation is well received.

I give the chance to the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification, the legislation is now defined appropriately, hear us out, the legislation is set out, we are just pointing out our views to improve the legislation, yet we cannot change it. Pardon me I grant the respectable member.

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Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker point of order. I take it that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to correct the State in all its doing. Yet again, he is also ignorant and doubtful of the legislation and its translation. Respectfully

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, pitifully we have the Government response we have received your recommendations yet now is the time for Government to give what's appropriate.

I call the member to conclude.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you, I shall move on.

Another section of the Bill is setting up buildings like church and shops.

For instance, a person with a huge land space may lease part of it to a Chinese businessman in expectation to supporting the family in exchange of land. Because it can happen in the future. Why not remove shops and leave church or hall and things like that in here.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon Minister.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker I wish to clarify this further for everyone's information.

Mr Speaker, right now we have an Evacuation Centre Program for community purposes such as building a shelter to house people during natural disasters like cyclones.

You speak of ownership and a shop built on his freehold land which should have the support of the village. Why? If the shop is stoned, in the Samoan way, the village must protect the shop owner and its development in this law. Programs involving huge family activities like zumba etc. The authority's approval must be sought first before these activities are a go. The reason for your matai title is for community purposes to protect the shop, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance members I will...member for Faasaleleaga No.2, I ask that you now conclude as we have several members in line.

Pardon me, I give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi (Aana Alofi No. 1): Mr Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Hon Minister I plea a longer chance for you to clarify further all matters which is vital for everyone if possible thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 to conclude your statement before other members have the chance.

30 JUNE 2015

Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Mr Speaker, I now get the view of the Hon Minister, only shops on freehold land which whilst customary land is still free, therefore customary land is not affected according to the Bill, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. Member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 did you want a turn, pardon the members I grant the chance to this side, I call the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 did you want to speak?

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No. 4): Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Minister for the well put speech on village land, it seems there is still confusion over different powers and authority especially with a *nuu le mavae* non-traditional village where the high chief has extended his authority towards other matais in the village. It's happening in the village. The matai has built on the land and developed it and when the high chief is not happy with him he banishes him from the village and takes the land back.

This is very important and should be highlighted in the legislation whether the high chief can take the land back under the law.

That is all Mr Speaker I wish to gain insight on this Hon Minister, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. You shall have your turn before the Minister gives his response.

Member for Faleata East, followed by the member for Gagaemauga No.2, member for Faleata West to be concluded by the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele. I call upon the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Minister for the legislation. Several parts of the Bill are vital and in support of other sections. I wish to respond to a recent comment by one of the members regarding Section 9 of the legislation on building on village land when customary land is given below. I need to be clear because there is no definition in here whether it is a village land, family land, hence if the bill say that if a store or hall is built it must be community purpose upon the approval of the village. Such procedures also require the involvement of the PUMA Office in terms of land assessment.

I am also unsure whether village land covers freehold land. It is clear that village cannot extend any punishment towards a person living on freehold land. If the accused is being called by the village and refuses, they can go through a conciliation process. This process is quite lengthy; I suggest that the alii and faipule should still extend its authority over these people.

Although freehold land is purchased but the authority of alii and faipule still exists.

30 JUNE 2015

Other Announcement by Mr Speaker

Secondly, the 15 sections in the bill could fit dropouts to attend school. The last and most important issue is violence on women. This concern should be made specific as part of the faiga faavae for the alii and faipule to stop this doing.

Furthermore, I agree with some parts accorded by the Prime Minister on the NUS Report. Pardon the villages listening in, some disagree to have women matai whereas some do. This is because the selection process is done by the aiga not the village and the family nominates the matai. If women are not chosen by the family, then that is one issue to consider. Personally if women are encouraged to become Parliament members (in the future) this is one objective that must be implemented under the faiga faavae. As such for any village matai, the role of women in the village is very crucial

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me I call the Hon Minister

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: Mr Speaker and the dignified Parliament, I see that our guests have arrived the sons of the country who will be representing the national flag of the country. Soon we will present a gift, thus I rise with respect, thank you for the opportunity.

On to the issue on women, the National University of Samoa is listening, it is not in the law but I will address it in a genuine manner. As for the permanent parts of the bill, I see that you are already like the Leader of the Opposition who seem to have ears but do not listen and eyes but do not see. I can say that all these regulations, by laws and policies involve protection. That is reason for registration incase issues may arise in the future....

This is reason for keeping village decisions for the protection of the people to live in harmony and peace. That is reason for this correction. With respect, thank you.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt our discussion today. With respect, I ask the dignified members of Parliament to put your hands together and welcome the national team of the country, the Manu Samoa.

E lagona ai ua sausaufialele le manu nai Utufiu, e pei o le upu i le tolotolosa o aiga Sa Tupua ma Aiga Sa Malietoa ma Aiga o Mavaega, le paia foi i le Faletolu, Aiga ma Saeseese. Na faapea ai le gagana a le Tuifiti, "O manu o Samoa e laiti ae lotoa." Ua liligo ai nei le tai o Alo ae noanoa le tai o Tigilau, ua loloma foi le tai o Tumua, ae faafotupule le tai o le Tuiatua. Respectfully, on behalf of the Samoan Parliament, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the chosen representatives of Samoa attending the Paramount Meeting in the fields of *faautugatagi* as decision-makers of the country.

30 JUNE 2015

Other Announcement by Mr Speaker

Acknowledging the honorific salutations of the country, *i le paia o Aiga ma latou Tama, o Tama ma o latou Aiga, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Papa, Aiga na Tafaifa, tainane Aiga nai le Itealemalama.*

Appreciation goes out to the Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the Council of Deputy and his Good lady, Chief Justice and the Court, we have reached the end of our session.

Thank you also Samoa for your great support.

We pleaded God's mercy for Parliament to deliver a word of motivation for our national representatives known entirely across the globe.

To the Team Management in all your high statuses, days are plentiful yet today marks one that is of great significance. Your arrival is a stepping stone for Parliament today. We pray God for His blessings upon you and may it end well. In belief, you have received full skills and knowledge both spiritually, mentally and physically. Like the song lyrics, Samoa is a precious country like the tavae", *e mamae le tavae I ona fulu*". That is the message of hope and faith from your Parliament today, may victory come your way. Today helps build tomorrow as Samoa lacks the minerals and resources unlike the developed world. In the country's saying, "*E gau lava le sila i le fai*", meaning anything is possible if you put your heart into it.

That is our message for you today, keep God in mind and do not forget the support of your country. Everyone must heed this message. *E tu manu ae le tu logologo i le aso lenei*, One word and everyone listens, '*e pala foi maa ae le pala tala*, words lasts whilst rocks decay. What you sow is what you reap.

Your victory is Samoa's victory thus in every respect it all falls back to you. We wish the management and team well wishes and the best of luck.

Samoa is a country of significant divisions, *e talatau Tonga ae talatofi Samoa* which means, Tongan stories are those of wars (tradition) whereas those of Samoa are about divisions. Manu Samoa, do not take talatau but talatofi, that is your crown and necklace as representatives of the country, hold it tight and may you gain victory for Samoa.

Our spiritual words, "May God be with you. It is not by force nor by strength but by the Spirit of God. For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and say to you, Do not fear; I will help you." In final, *ia pouliuli outou tino, a ia malamalama outou ala*. That is our word and support, may you find success.

Let us sing the song of bravery together for our team before we have our tea break.

Members of Parliament sang a Hymn after the Welcoming Remark by the Speaker of the House.

30 JUNE 2015

Other Announcement by Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Leader of the Team for his remarks today.

["Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota made a statement on behalf of the Manu Samoa team as response to the Welcoming Speech by the Speaker of the House."]

MR SPEAKER: Be upstanding members of Parliament to show our respect, say two big wishes for us today.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now suspended at 11:36am until 12:13pm

Debate over the second reading of the Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015 now resumed.

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

With respect we have achieved the laid out targets from yesterday. Gratefully, we have reached the end of today's session, thank you everyone.

Sincere appreciation to everyone for your attention and achieving today's tasks. Praise God for the collective effort by all for the wellbeing of the nation.

Such is the word of acknowledgement as we pray for the success of our Manu Samoa team.

As of now, we have reached the order for our lapsed Bills that have now been referred to the Committees for their part thus we have achieved a huge task for this entire month.

Thank you for your well efforts and commitment through your views and comments today, which comes down to this, the sharing has sufficiently provided an improvement to this legislation. The Government has also responded well hence I will now put the Question to pass the second reading of this Bill before we adjourn. While everyone's in a good mood I suggest that we proceed.

Thank you Hon Minister I agree that the legislation has received favorable improvement otherwise I grant you the chance.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA: I extend deepest appreciation in receipt of your ruling essence to welcoming our Manu Samoa team. The Speaker of the House has said a few words on our behalf, hence may those words drop and grow in good soil and may the team and management gain strength and rely solely on God by lifting the country on top hills and mountains such as the saying.

30 JUNE 2015

**Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015
- second reading**

Be courageous and train well for the remaining days. May you find good health and may success come your way next week in God's merciful love.

With respect, as per normal practice, we wish to state our conclusion. I extend appreciation to everyone for their submissions and views on this legislation by which most of them needed clarification. Some of the views lacked understanding of the Amendment Bill in regards to the State's objective. I only wish to give a reminder reference to the Leader of the Opposition Side, "ignorance of the law is no excuse" you cannot hide from lack of understanding yet you have the member for Vaimauga West, Lefau Harry Schuster and the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 to assist you and that Side for better growth. That is the statement to the Leader of the Opposition, "ignorance of the law is no excuse".

With respect.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker this is why we have disorder in the House due to statements like this, speak according to the legislation. The reason why we express our views is because we understand the legislation whereas for you, you lack understanding of it.

Therefore Mr Speaker, I forgive you because you want this sitting to end soon.

MR SPEAKER: I now take it....pardon the member for Gagaemauga No.2....

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker I obey your ruling I am surprised when this legislation is passed with a lot of errors that I want to raise, regardless, let us proceed as it is.

MR SPEAKER: There is chance during consideration for each clause.

Motion was approved and the Village Fono Amendment Bill 2015 was now read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Bill will now be referred to the Government Administration Committee for their review and report back to the Legislative Assembly in a future sitting.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker your decision has been reached when you should've advised us. I have ten page speech here to assist this Bill.

MR SPEAKER: I get your view member for Faleata West, you just came when I consented other members that we should progress.

30 JUNE 2015

Adjournment

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I pity the Minister nevertheless, I shall lay aside my view. Because as the Prime Minister mentioned, Adam and Eve were merciful however for us, once we had lawyers, we had the blast.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: I relay sincere appreciation to the House as we arrive at the end of our session today. We have ended early by an hour.

Thank you everyone, I appreciate your patience and the sittings this entire month by which we have achieved so much.

I pray for God's guidance upon everyone and the various duties and responsibilities you are engaged with, may God grant His blessings upon you and may you find replenished health before we meet back here in accordance to sitting schedule.

Thank you my beloved Samoa for your support as your Parliament comes to the end of its meeting. May you continue to find prosperity by serving the country through your daily routine. The same with the Church leaders, we appreciate your prayers. Let us continue our prayers to God and May His Word be sanctified through your service for the country. Sincerest appreciation to the Three Pillars of the State, to the honorable Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice, well done on your efforts. Thank you also to the Heads of the Ministries for your patience. Before we conclude, I ask the Lay Preacher the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and senior member of this side to end us with a prayer before we adjourn.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now adjourned at 1.00pm until 9.00am Tuesday, 11th August 2015.