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TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 2020

Parliament met at 9:01am pursuant to Orders of the State of Emergency.

Prayer.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE O LE AO O LE MALO**ORDER OF STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE) ARTICLE 105 OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF
SAMOA**

I, Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II, Le Ao o le Malo of the Independent State of Samoa. After meeting with the Cabinet in accordance to FK 20 Special 13 the following conditions have been met, a serious emergency has occurred, which could endanger the safety and well-being of the public, health and the economy of Samoa. Therefore, I wish to make clear the following: Samoa is now under a state of emergency effective from the 5th April 2020 to 2nd May 2020.

The State of emergency has already been implemented and has come into effect on the 30th March 2020 under the Order of State of Emergency from the Period starting on the 21st of March to the 3rd of April 2020, it will resume until amended or repealed. The order of the state of emergency has already been implemented and has come into effect on the 30th March 2020 under the Order of State of Emergency from the Period commencing on the 21st of March to the 3rd of April 2020, it will resume until amended or repealed.

Given on this day 3rd of April 2020.

Signed: Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II
O LE AO O LE MALO

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF STATE

MEMORANDUM:

Mr Speaker:

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, 1960 (“the Constitution”), the Ao o le Malo endorses the Assembly to deliberate on the following Bill:

1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020

GIVEN under my Hand this day 6th of April 2020.

Signed: Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II
OLE AO O LE MALO

NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament Notice is hereby presented to the Legislative Assembly to review the following Bill:

1. Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020.

GIVEN under this day 6th of April 2020.

Hon TUILAEPa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND TABLING THE ORDER OF
STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE)**

MR SPEAKER: I call with respect the Hon Prime Minister for your Ministerial Speech, and the tabling of the Order of the State of Emergency. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker and the dignitaries of the Legislative Assembly, we are all in it to praise God for planning this wonderful morning for this Parliament to rise and shine in good health and spirit.

I heed the support of Le Ao o le Malo, the Member of the Council of Deputies as well as the Judges, Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries in our presence this morning, as the forum today at Tiafau was called due to emergency circumstances. I also offer greetings to Samoa in support in all its honorary salutations.

I also offer greetings to that side of the governments, our brothers in Tutuila and Manua in the triangle of Executive, the Judiciary and the Two Legislative Houses. Also, the sacredness of its clergies whom are praying day and night for the betterment of our people and the two Governments.

In this regard, I stand cautiously on this forbidden ground for it is sanctified and it shall be as our days are numbered whilst life itself is faced with uncertainties as we may never know what might happen tomorrow and into the future, *e taliu foi ae popoe, aua ua faapopo ni aso ua, o aso folau foi e le tuua, aua tatou te momoe pea ma manu e le fati ae sau mala e atiae*. Therefore I thank you all for your patience and forbearance during this time of uncertainty faced by our country due to the scourge that has engulfed the entire world because of Covid 19. This has not affected Samoa alone but everyone residing overseas and all over the world. Let us seek God and his protection as He holds the will to our lives as mentioned in the psalm of King David who lamented, “The Lord is my shepherd, he said, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me”. These are the words of comfort during these difficult times we are currently facing and possibly more than a million and quarter of people have already been affected by this pandemic disease, and as we proceed with our Parliament Sitting this morning, most likely more than thousands people are dying in different countries of the Globe from this virus. I believe this is one of the historical cases for our Parliament which will be remembered and honored by our Government.

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**Ministerial Statement and Tabling the Order of
State of Emergency (SOE)**

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Articles 105 and 106 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, it requires that the Head of State can declare from time to time a Proclamation of Emergency which will be called State of Emergency Orders as advised by the Government for securing the safety of our people.

It has now been made clear in accordance with the intention of our Government as publicly announced and commenced its effect for this Emergency Order from the 21st March 2021 and will remain in effect for a period of 14 days.

In Cabinet's meeting on Monday 30th March 2020, the amendment of the State's Orders were discussed and approved to have taken effect from the 21st March until 3rd April 2020 which includes the following.

1. National fasting and prayer to be observed by every family in Samoa from Sunday 22 March 2020 until Sunday 29 March 2020 from 6pm-12pm daily;
2. Conditions for International travel, (Ships and Aircraft);
3. Conditions for public gatherings;
4. Cease operation for all buses and public transportation;
5. Markets and Supermarkets to adhere to new business curfew times;
6. Prohibit roadside vendors;
7. All Schools to be temporarily closed;
8. Hospitals (conditions on sick carers);
9. Government working hours;
10. Duties pertaining to Health Workers;
11. Duties pertaining to the Ministry of Police;
12. The Authority granted to CEO's and General Managers during SOE;
13. Penalty notice;
14. Penalties (whoever breaches the orders of the SOE);
15. Advisory Committee in accordance with Article 108 of the Constitution;
16. Parliament has full jurisdiction to continue the execution of their law making roles during the SOE; and
 - (i) Prepare ourselves from the severity and symptoms of this corona virus or Covid 19 so that Parliament Orders and Cabinet can be set aside to ensure sound decisions can still be made for the country.
 - (ii) For effective decision making for the country, the above Orders do no bar any urgent and essential meetings of

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**Ministerial Statement and Tabling the Order of
State of Emergency (SOE)**

(iii) Cabinet and Parliament to take place during the State of
Emergency.

17. Funding of Government during the SOE. The funding of Government's initiatives under this Order, will be funded from appropriate funds provided by our Government

The Government will be funded by the Budget that was approved 2019/2020 together with the Supplementary Budget No.1 (approved in January 2020) and the Supplementary Appropriation No.2 that is being tabled today. A time will come for the Minister of Finance to make his address and consider the Second Supplementary Budget, which will specifically aim towards providing Government response to the effects and prevention of the Deadly Virus that is affecting our country and the whole world, which is the very purpose of our gathering this morning.

Mr Speaker, it is also anticipated that our meeting this morning should not be long for the sake of public safety, especially when it is being viewed by our country, as the Parliament is also taking into account these provisions from the Order to conduct social distancing and to not be seated closely with each other.

In compliance with Article 107 of the Constitution, it states: If the Legislative Assembly is in session at the time an Emergency Order is made, pursuant to provisions of Article 106 of the Constitution, the Order shall forthwith be laid before the Table of the Assembly.

Mr Speaker, I rise with respect, Mr Speaker, I stand with respect, *To table the State of Emergency Order before Parliament this morning by adding another 28 days which will commence on the 5th April 2020 until the 2nd May 2020.* As the country is still facing the devastating effects of this pandemic crisis, and therefore, I wish to commend and thank Samoa for its support especially through your prayers and fasting, not forgetting the collective effort of our village councils, the efforts put forth by frontliners such as medical officials with the support of representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations and our Foreign partnerships who are constantly working to ensure that our country is safe from the devastating disease. Thank you for your work, thanks for your patience and perseverance.

Mr Speaker, this is the motion and Ministerial statement before the dignity of the House, and will also inform the House and our country for any further decisions posed by the Government when we reach the end period of the abovementioned SOE orders.

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Matters of Urgency for all People

Bless this Parliamentary Sitting this new morning. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

MATTERS OF URGENCY FOR ALL PEOPLE

MR SPEAKER: The House has heard the explicit statement of the Hon Prime Minister on matters which is why we have reconvened under the state of urgency today. I will not reiterate the importance of our role as Samoa is listening especially in this difficult time and the serious disease that has plagued the whole world and the proceedings of our country.

On that note, I ask that the speech of the Hon Prime Minister be seconded.

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Motion was approved.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the motion to table the Ministerial Statement of the Prime Minister or the Leader of the House.

I call the honorable Deputy Prime Minister.

**MOTION TO TABLE THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER**

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr Speaker and the dignity of Samoa gathered here, I move the motion, *That the Ministerial Statement by the Hon Prime Minister be tabled as given this morning.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Motion was approved.

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SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2019/2020
– first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker I move the motion, *that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) be read a first time.*

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

Motion was approved and the Bill was read a first time.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2019/2020
– tabled

Hon Sili Epa Tuioti, Minister of Finance tabled the Second Supplementary Estimates 2019/2020 pursuant to Standing Orders.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2019/2020
– motion for second reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance for the motion for the second reading.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 be read a second time.*

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

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister of Finance for your statement.

*7 APRIL 2020***SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES ADDRESS 2019/2020****Mr Speaker and Hon Members of Parliament,**

On behalf of the Government, I would like to table the Second Supplementary Budget for the Financial Year 2019/20 for the consideration of the House.

Mr Speaker,

First and foremost, we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for his blessings upon our nation which has made it possible for us to gather today so we may fulfill our duties whilst our nation remains protected from the pandemic that is currently claiming the lives of many across the globe.

This past December, the First Supplementary Estimates was laid before Parliament in response to the effects of the Measles Epidemic. For the past six months, the Government has effectively actioned and put into place the necessary policies to protect our nation from anymore epidemics to come as well as to try and revert our economy back to pre-epidemic levels.

These are unprecedented times that we live in as we bear witness to a global devastation never seen before since World War II. Not only has the Coronavirus affected the lives and livelihoods of people across the globe but it will undoubtedly also have a detrimental effect on the world's economy.

Mr Speaker,

It was in January of this year, when the world were made aware of the Coronavirus epidemic that was affecting the Wuhan Province of China. Whilst the Chinese Government were working at containing the spread of the virus and trying to find a cure, no other country in the world – not even those with the expertise to create a vaccine, could have imagined that this virus would have such devastating effects on the rest of the world.

It has been 4 months now since the virus was made known to the world and since then it has undoubtedly brought great suffering to many countries across the globe. The pandemic has completely changed the environment within which the world now lives in particular in countries who have declared States of Emergency - like Samoa, in a bid to try and control the spread of this deadly virus.

The international organisations tasked with overseeing the compilation of economic statistics for the World have also publicized and revised all their projections to reflect the devastating effects on the global economy. Earlier this year, projections were still optimistic anticipating a 3.3% growth for the global economy for 2020.

*7 APRIL 2020***Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020**

However, this has now been revised down to 2.4% or less depending on how long the spread of the virus continues. The revising down of the global GDP is due primarily to the closing of many industrial companies which has affected international trade; global unemployment has increased; large enterprises have been forced to close particularly large airlines upon which much of the world's development rely on and money markets have been affected thus affecting foreign reserves for many countries.

Mr Speaker,

Economic growth for Samoa in the current fiscal year was projected at 3.7% to be driven largely by regional meetings that were to be hosted locally as well as the anticipated growth in international market demands and the hospitality sector. Unfortunately, the travel bans across the globe have now put a halt to all travelers for fear of the spread of the Coronavirus. For Samoa alone, our Tourism industry has taken a huge hit as the Coronavirus comes immediately at the heels of the detrimental effects of the Measles epidemic. This means that many of the regional meetings and events proposed to be hosted within Samoa is now uncertain. Other effects on the economy include the disruptions to our usual trade markets especially in countries where Samoa's diaspora are common therefore affecting remittances.

Growth projections for Samoa has now been revised and it is anticipated that growth will be negative 2.2% for the current fiscal year. These revised projections are inline with the revisions for the global economy.

Mr Speaker,

The Korona Virus pandemic has been likened by many as a "Social and Economic Tsunami". This is due to the devastating effects of the pandemic that is nondiscriminatory and affects any person therefore affecting Government operations, businesses and companies upon which the livelihoods and services of any nation rely on particularly the manufacturing industries overseas.

The social welfare and prosperous future of any nation therefore relies heavily on the policy actions and decisions to be made by its leaders. It is our belief that the solutions to ensuring the future of this nation lies within our borders and we have at our fingers the necessary tools to ensure smooth sailing for our economy that will secure a quality of life for every citizen.

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Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020

The Government's commitment maintains that the priority will be the safety and security of Samoa from any disaster that could eventuate. It is therefore imperative that the economy must be strong and stable enough to sustain the security of the nation. The Government has therefore decided extend its support to the country during these uncertain times through the provision of a set of policy response actions. Our nation is a small island developing state and has little by way of resources. We also have a small economy that is easily threatened by any ensuing disaster. Therefore, our policy response must be matched against whatever resources are currently available along with the assistance provided by our development partners which are usually tagged to specific programs.

Mr Speaker,

This Second Supplementary Estimates has been put together in urgency to ensure that resources can be mobilized immediately to areas that must be enforced so that protection and prevention can continue for the nation. Furthermore, there is a need to release the assistance to the private sector and citizens as soon as possible so they may cope with the effects of the pandemic.

Mr Speaker,

At this point it is uncertain how long this pandemic will continue to effect the world. It is also uncertain as to when the trade and travel will normalize to effect development in our nation.

The Government's assistance laid before Parliament is an initial policy response to effect change in the next 3 – 6months and targets specific areas of the economy as highlighted below:

- Health Response;
- Enabling the Private Sector;
- Securing the Purchasing Power of Citizens;
- Food Security in the Agricultural Sector;
- Multi-sectoral Response.

The aggregated value of this assistance is \$66.3million tala which is a considerable amount given the implementation within the next 3 – 6 months. This means that there is the possibility of another round of assistance by the Government to be announced in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year 2020/21.

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Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020**Mr Speaker,**

This assistance or Stimulus Package is the result of close collaboration between the Ministries and Corporations of Government, which I will now briefly highlight:

1. \$20.3million has been allocated for the the Health Sector Response which will cover the following:

- Preparedness and Prevention;
- Negative Pressure Rooms;
- Isolation Room;
- Quarantines;
- Testing, Tracing, Reporting and Treatment;
- COVID Medical and Consumables;

2. \$12.5million dedicated to policies targeting the enablement of the Private Sector;

Assistance from the National Provident Fund

- 6month moratorium for the Hospitality Sector;
- 2months rent free at any SNPF property;

Assistance from the Accident Compensation Corporation

- 6month moratorium for the Hospitality Sector;
- 2month moratorium for all other sectors;
- 2months rent free at any ACC property including the Fugalei market;
- SAT\$2million capital injection to assist in financing the Stimulus Package;

Assistance from the Samoa Ports Authority;

- 3months rent free for all businesses operating on all wharves;
- 3months refund on all stevedoring licenses;
- 20% reduction on all wharfage fees for 3months

Assistance from the Samoa Airport Authority

- 3months rent free for all businesses operating within the Faleolo Airport;

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Assistance from the Electric Power Corporation

- 50% reduction in the hotels' Daily Fixed Rate for 3 month);

Assistance from the Land Transport Authority

- Registration fees for taxi's and buses waived for the months of June and September – vehicles will still need to be brought in for inspection;
- All late fees waived for vehicle inspections and registrations;

Government Assistance administered through the Ministry for Customs and Revenue;

- 2 months extension on income tax due dates and all late fees for late filing to be waived;
- Expansion of the Code 121 to include all equipments and inputs required for agricultural and fisheries development regardless of “qualifying project” status.

Government Assistance administered through the Ministry of Finance;

- Government to carry 3months of loan repayments for all small businesses under its Government Guarantee Schemes administered by the Samoa Business Hub;
- Government to provide interest relief for all loans with the Development Bank for 2months;
- Government to provide 3 months rent free for all businesses renting at the DBS Building;
- Government to provide 2months rent free at all Samoa Land Corporation markets at Savalalo, Vaitele and Salelologa

\$1million tala Capital Injection to the Samoa Airways:

- This assistance is provided so that the Samoa Airways can pay its dues to local businesses while the airline is grounded by the Government's travel ban;

3. \$27.5million dedicated to policies targeting the securing of the Purchasing Power of the citizens of Samoa:

Assistance from the National Provident Fund

- Refund to all contributors loan repayments made to personal loans for the whole month of March;

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- Contributors made unemployed in the Hospitality sector by the COVID19 will be able to withdraw 20% of their contributors. This is usually implemented only for retired, migrated or deceased contributors.

Assistance from the Samoa Housing Corporation:

- 3months moratorium on all loan repayments;
- 50% reduction in interest rates on all loans for 6months

Assistance from the Land Transport Authority

- 10% reduction on all registrations for motor vehicles for the rest of the calendar year;

Government assistance administered through the Ministry of Customs and Revenue:

- Duty concession on a specific food essentials identified by the Ministry of Finance;

Government assistance administered through the Ministry of Finance:

- \$300 one-off special pension to be added to the next monthly pension of \$145tala;
- Government to carry 2% of total interest on all loans with every commercial bank for 3months namely NBS, BSP, SCB and ANZ;
- 10sene reduction in the price of electricity, the Ministry of Finance will carry 7sene and the Electric Power Corporation is to carry 3sene for 6months;
- 20sene reduction in water rates for 6months, which will be covered by the Ministry of Finance.

4. Allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture to raise local produce:

\$3.5million has been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is Government's intention that local agricultural and fishing developments will be intensified to support food security.

A portion of this assistance has been allocated for equipments and consumables required by the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa in the commercialization of some of our local value added agricultural processes like breadfruit flour, coconut oil, avocado margarine and others to substitute imports.

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Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020**5. Multi-sectoral Response:**

\$2.5million has also been allocated to assist in the response of other sectors that will be affected by the Coronavirus initiative. These sectors will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance in the identification of key areas where resources will be required and they include:

- FESA EMT/Ministry of Police;
- Education;
- Communication;
- Community Outreach.

In addition to the above specific assistances, there are other areas where the Government is intervening that includes:

- All public servants will remain employed;
- All recruitment and selection of the public service will be fast tracked to ensure that all those seeking employment will be hired as soon as possible;
- All Government projects including developments for roads, airport and water to continue to ensure income generation opportunities for those involved;
- All Government accounts with the private sector to be cleared as soon as possible;
- Government will consider support to small businesses through assistance via the Development Bank within the next 3months;
- Continued free healthcare for senior citizens, maternal health and children below 15years old;
- Activation of the Price Control Board

Mr Speaker,

I am happy to report that the Government has conducted dialogues through the Ministry of Finance with the Central Bank and other commercial banks of the country. The ANZ, BSP, NBS and SCB have completed their internal reviews and have announced their own separate assistance to the nation for the next 3 months. Their terms and conditions vary not only from bank to bank but also from individuals, businesses and their partners alike. It is therefore heartwarming to note that there exists a willingness within the banking community to help our nation through these trialling times.

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Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020

I am confident that the above banks continue to review their relief packages so that more assistance can be extended to their valued clients and should be made available within the next 6 months.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament, on behalf of the Government I would like to thank all the stakeholders and partners of Government who have contributed in any way to try and assist our nation at this time. We also acknowledge our State Owned Enterprises and Corporations who have lent their unwavering support for the stimulus package now before Parliament to assist our citizens. Thank you kindly.

Mr Speaker,

As already stated, the total value of the stimulus package before Parliament totals \$66.3million tala. \$18.2million of this will be financed directly by Government Corporations already announce. \$9.8million of these policies are revenues to be foregone by Government due to waivers allowed and duty concessions. The 8 8 \$38.3million remaining is being submitted under this Second Supplementary Budget Estimates in addition to some new development projects.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the Government's assistance will push economic growth from an anticipated -2.2% growth to a -1.6% which will be the first steps towards ensuring socially and economic secure environment for our citizens.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES:

The aggregated total expenditures proposed under this Second Supplementary Budget Estimates is \$47.3million tala of which \$8.9million are direct development projects financed by our donor partners. The remaining \$38.4million additional pertains directly to the Coronavirus Response Plan.

The aggregated additional Revenues proposed total \$48.8million tala. Of this amount \$40.8million are financed by our development partners, \$2million by the ACC's capital injection and \$6million in excess collections on onlending repayments from Corporations being declared. The stated aggregate expenditures and revenues do no include revenues and expenditures that will be reprioritized or reduced.

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Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020

REVENUES

Overview on Additional Revenues:

As previously mentioned, additional revenues for this Supplementary budget is \$48.8million however \$12.5million will be deducted to reflect border taxes, which are anticipated to be greatly affected by the coronavirus. Net Revenues therefore within this Second Supplementary budget is aggregated at \$36.3million tala.

I will now outline the key paramters of revenue items added under the Second Supplementary Estimates as follows:

1. \$40.8million additional Grants received from Development Partners;

World Bank:

- CatDDO – \$14,443,301.90:
This reflects the balance remaining from the original amount that was disbursed for the Measles Epidemic in the First Supplementary in December 2019.
- IPF-COVID19 – \$7,084,762:
This programme is specific to the procurement of goods and services required to combat the COVID19 to ensure poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- Contingency Disaster Facility – \$8,218,324:
This Facility is similar to the World Bank’s CatDDO and was established to assist member countries’ immediate response to natural disasters. However, due to the catastrophic effects of the Coronavirus this has now been opened to include the pandemic and released to assist in preparatory and preventative measures of all member countries including Samoa.

Government of New Zealand:

- Budget Support COVID19 – SAT\$9,080,553:
This assistance is from the Government of New Zealand injected directly into the Budget to assist in any sectoral response to the Coronavirus.

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Government of Japan:

- Measles/Health Equipments – \$1,822,374:
This is a direct assistance from the Government of Japan to assist in the procurement of medical equipment for the hospital.

2. \$8million tala additional revenues for the Government of Samoa:

Ministry of Finance:

- \$6million in excess onlending collected from the current fiscal year on Corporation loans covered by the Ministry of Finance to be declared;
- \$2million tala capital injection from the Accident Compensation Corporation to assist the Coronavirus Response Plan 2019.

Revenue Items to be reduced:

12.5million reduction in border taxes under the Ministry for Customs and Revenues.

- These taxes include:
 - \$3.2million or 5% reduction in Import Duty;
 - \$3.6million or 5% reduction in Imported Excises;
 - \$2.4million or 5% reduction in Domestic Excises;
 - \$3.2million or 2% reduction in imported VAGST;

EXPENDITURES

Overview on Additional Expenditures:

Total additional expenditures under this Second Supplementary Budget stands at \$47.3million however \$2.9million are expenditure reductions and reprioritizations to assist in the Coronavirus Response Plan. Total net expenditures under this Second Supplementary Budget Estimates therefore totals \$44.4million.

1. \$8.9million tala additional grant development projects:

World Bank IPF COVID19 – SAT\$7.1 miliona.

Japanese Government Measles/Health Equipment - SAT\$1.8 miliona.

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Second Supplementary Estimates Address 2019/2020**2. \$38.3million additional under Expenditure Programmes of Government:**

- **\$972,410 will be added under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**

This appropriation is relative to their response programme to for increasing their support to the development of agriculture, livestock and fisheries in the country;

- **\$37.3million will be added under the Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the Coronavirus Stimulus Package or the COVID19 Response Plan**

This appropriation is in direct correlation to the implementation of the policies already stated;

*Overview of Expenditures to be reduced/reprioritized***1. \$321,816 will be reduced and reprioritized from the Ministry of Agriculture's Budget as follows:**

- There are provisions and programs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which have now been cancelled as well as funds remaining from other programs which will now be reshuffled to finance additional expenditures as follows:
 - FAO Subregional Office \$11,835
 - Open Day \$20,902
 - Agriculture Show \$100,067
 - Replanting of Coconuts \$30,081
 - Breadfruit Propagation \$30,000
 - ACP Ministerial Meeting \$28,931

2. \$500,000 to be reduced from under the Budget of the Ministry of Education:

- These funds were provided for the Pacific Festival of Arts which has now been postponed to 2021;

3. \$2million to be reduced from under the Budget of the Office of the Electoral Commissioner's Office:

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- This is part of the provision allocated for the new Electoral Building which has been delayed by usual processes and it is envisaged that actual construction will not require payment until the new fiscal year;
- 4. \$100,000 to be reduced from the Budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**
- These funds were allocated for the hosting of the Pacific Ocean Conference proposed for May 2020 which will now not eventuate;

Budget Deficit:

The overall effects of this Supplementary Budget sees an additional \$8million added onto the original deficit expanding the budget deficit to 1.7% of GDP. This means that the Second Supplementary Budget Estimates has expanded the deficit by 0.5% compared to the 1.2% estimated at the beginning of the current fiscal year.

Despite the detrimental effects anticipated for the economy, I would like to emphasize the significant role that the Government's assistance will play not only in the protection of our nation from the Coronavirus but it will also act as a trigger to help stimulate economic growth through reprioritization of Government spending as well as extending the assistance to the citizens and the private sector through these times of uncertainty.

As previously mentioned, this is only the early response of the Government and there will be a longer term plan to be publicized in the near future. What is certain, Mr. Speaker – it now falls on the Government and its increase spending to ensure the continued growth of the economy within the next 3-6months.

Conclusion:**Mr Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament,**

Due to the challenges currently faced by the world and our country, it is our belief that the policies and programmes laid before Parliament today will undoubtedly ease some of the burdens faced by our people.

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Our country is one that has faced many challenges over the course of the past few years and we are still reeling from the tragedy brought about recently by the Measles epidemic which claimed the lives of our young ones in addition to the devastations of many a natural disaster that has come our way. It is my guarantee that the Government is committed to continuing to work in close collaboration with our development partners to secure the health and social welfare of our nation as well as to sustain economic growth today and in the future years to come.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament,

Samoa is a nation that is founded on God and we must therefore continue to seek His guidance and protection during these trialling times. As we prepare to celebrate Easter and commemorate the passion and resurrection of Christ, we must stand together not only a congregation of our hearts and souls in preparation to receive the Easter Gospel but also to receive blessings of a healthy and socially secure nation.

On behalf of Cabinet and the Government of Samoa, I wish to thank the citizens of our nation for their continued support as well as your prayers for the health and safety of our people during these challenging times while we are faced with this global pandemic.

May you all have a Blessed Easter and may God be with us all.

Soifua ma ia manuia.

Members showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the Address by the Minister of Finance on the Second Supplementary Estimates 2019/2020.

MR SPEAKER: All right thank you to the Hon Minister for his address on the Second Supplementary Estimates 2019/2020. If we develop and work together with our Saviour and Lord, nothing will become impossible. A person who plans and searches by relying everything on God's goodness and mercy, they can be achieved with the support of Samoa. Thank you.

I call the Prime Minister for the motion.

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**MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE PURSUANT TO
STANDING ORDER 133**

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I second the word of thanks by the Hon Minister of Finance tabled. We are not a wealthy nation that has minerals and riches, although the supplementary appropriation which although is not enough, it will help suffice to prevent and counter the Covid-19, and therefore, let us give praise and glory to the Almighty God for the assistance we have received to help counter the problem faced by the country.

Mr Speaker I move the motion, *To set aside Standing Order 133 to allow the Legislative Assembly as a Committee of the Whole Assembly to deliberate the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 under a Certificate of Urgency, together with consideration.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 117, the Legislative Assembly will move on to its position as the Committee of the House as a Whole.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2019/2020
– debate on second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I declare the commencement of proceedings for the Committee of the Whole House.

The House has heard the Motion from the Ministerial Statement of the Hon Prime Minister regarding the Bill under the Certificate of Urgency.

Pursuant to Standing Order 33(2), this will be the order of speakers on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020:

Speakers;

1. Afioga Hon. GATOLOAIFAANA Amataga Alesana Gidlow – Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West;
2. Afioga TAFUA Maluelue Tafua – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo;

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3. Tofa Hon. LAUOFO FONOTE NUAFESILI Pierre Lauofo – Chairperson for Economic Sector Committee;
4. Afioga Hon. FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE Liuga – Deputy Chairperson of Finance and Expenditure Committee;
5. Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau – Chairperson for Finance and Expenditure Committee.

The Speaker whose names have been called will be the only people who will be speaking on this matter. Speakers are asked that they will be allowed no more than 5 minutes to speak. This matter should not take more than 60 minutes pursuant to Standing Order 33(2)(a).

If statements will be completed and there is enough time, then we will give the chance to other Members who wish to speak, to be compliant with our Standing Order.

I ask the Clerk to take note of our time allocation for the statements of speaker as mentioned.

I call the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, please, I do not mean to interrupt your honour, but a point of order. I am not under Itupa i Luga, although I am fine with Itupa i Luga and Itupa i Lalo. With due respect, should you wish so.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. Aleipata is an important place. I call the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West for your speech.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1 West): I first of all convey appreciation to the honorable Speaker for the chance for this constituency to make its submission on the Supplementary Budget given the state of emergency, I refuse to call it a plague faced by the country and the entire world.

Thank you for the offering prayer delivered unto God which Samoa is founded on, for us to gain peace, wisdom and the right decision in guiding Samoa and in assistance to our leaders. I further heed appreciation, the Hon Prime Minister has already delivered the formal addresses for the sake of our people here and abroad including our listening neighbors from American Samoa in which I will not repeat again. You state 5 minutes for each speaker although, I will directly give some thoughts on the Budget that the Hon Minister had spoken about.

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Before any further your honourable Speaker, as the first speaker to speak on the Budget, I remember a Maori custom whenever there is a challenge for ladies to go first, the ladies are first in line to sing a song with a guitar then the men would follow along when there is peace. Such is the experience I feel now, now that a lady has to start, and if we say anything lacking, then a complain can be pointed if that will be the case. Otherwise, the statement of the Hon Minister of Finance is well delivered, we are in all ear as he has covered everything in his address.

I wish to convey sincere gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet in particular for your support. Everyone is giving praise and thanks above for this matter. Although we did not see these events coming our way, regardless, we must prepare to counter them. The grace of God is everlasting in providing us the things for our survival. The statement made by the Hon Minister that Samoa does not have minerals and riches in her land (other than agriculture) we are not a wealthy nation. A Samoan will reach into their pocket and find the same amount of earnings in it and...the grants and foreign assistance we normally relied on is no longer coming our way as we used to in the past. Even our own people overseas they are also affected. Hence I thank the Government for lending the assistance and proposing the means to lessen the burden on our people and to ease the impacts of this pandemic which includes duty fees reduction. During these chaotic times, we live in the age of heroes and heroes that are courageous, wise and educated from God to administer the journey of Samoa so that we will not fail.

For the listening public, no one disagrees with this given statement by the Hon Minister of Finance on behalf of the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and the support of Associate Ministers in relation to this Budget before us. Just a few recommendations.

Before that, I wish to acknowledge the Ministry of Health and the Hon Minister of Health for your great efforts in protecting Samoa in stopping this disease from reaching our shores and environment.

Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the swift response in executing the lockdown which has saved multitudes of lives. If this national shutdown would not have been a go, many lives would have been wasted in Samoa costing us a lot consequently. Such is our word of appreciation.

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I further wish to thank our supporting partners in addition to the acknowledgement of the Hon Minister for the many donations received and noted in the Supplementary Budget. Although many countries in the world have been affected, we are still able to obtain financial support for our small island nation.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I ask the member, his time is finished.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW: Thank you. Let me quickly make these two points. This is not the first time for Samoa to pray. Our will cannot be done, whatever the Leader of the Government says, we do it. If the Leader states for pay cuts starting with this Parliament, we must do it, as we all must work collectively for it. Most of the great and wonderful programs stated by the Minister, the leaders of Samoa cannot remain calm whilst the country is listening.

Although the member for Anoamaa East said it jokingly, perhaps I must give advise and review if time permits, the elections could be postponed in light of remarks made by members in previous proceedings.

Secondly honorable Speaker, statements on the State's aim to reduce dividends, there is no clear statement from the commercial banks regarding any financial assistance in relation to our current capacity status.

In advise, I feel that it is time for those who have longed borrowed and increase entitlements to reap the benefits. No one makes the recommendation but you Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for your decision and our support.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I beg indulgence if the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West has taken more minutes, the aim is the contribution. Bless this Sitting and blessed Easter. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well done on your speech. I call the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo and Luga.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you for your well stated speech. I also pray for your health, you are strong, I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and distinguished members of Parliament and the support of Samoa tuning in. The statement is brief, the speech has three parts, giving thanks, our prayers and the trialed times we are in given our collective effort. These are the areas, praise God that Samoa is blessed.

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Gratefully, the Budget is now before Parliament. The target this morning is the Corona Virus such is our gathering. I heed the spirit of appreciation to the Hon Minister of Finance in relation to the Budget we are hearing. For pensioners, this time I am dancing and singing joyfully around my village for a time to receive the \$300. This is the first part.

Secondly, the business operators, taxi workers and the bus owners should all be here to applaud us when our Sitting is over. Why? Thank the Prime Minister, thank the Cabinet and the Deputy Prime Minister, the plan is outstanding. The State has done excellently well. There is a saying by a wise person, chance favours a prepared mind. This is the current situation with our country. We are all in the preparedness stage. As such, we have more words of blessings than the opposite. We thank God that no one has been affected in the country at this time.

As mentioned by the Hon Minister of Finance, this is a time of Exodus or Easter. What is the spirit? Exodus and Easter means the same thing. The chess pieces is similar to...yes. During Easter, we give sacrificial offering to God. What is this sacrifice we do? I have tried looking up this verse in the book of John, "For God so love the world that He gave his only begotten Son". John 3 verse 16. It is no wonder because I read John 20 this morning. That verse states, "It is the love of God which he gave his only Son." The message to the people if they are listening in, do not love yourself only, love your neighbor, love your village, love your pastor, and love everyone that are poor. Such is the love of the Government to the 65 year olds which will each receive a cheque of \$300.

With that said this morning, I personally think, that Moses order to the Prophets I mean Tuilaepa to the Cabinet is superb. The order is excellent. The only advise, if further orders will be made, distribute them to us members and we will inform our villages and districts. This spirit this morning is filled with gratitude and gladness, it is a morning where we give God glory for Easter is drawing near. The request Mr Speaker... it has not been a minute yet you say it is finished. Do not be like that.

I thank the Hon Minister of Finance for the Second Budget which is remarkable, I think it is \$60million plus, \$66 million total and \$37.3 million is allocated to the virus which the purpose for this Meeting.

I extend appreciation to our partners and the list of countries that was read out by your honour which gave us \$40.8 million. This is a very useful amount of money that is assisting our budget.

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In final, I convey appreciation to the Cabinet, do not leave aside our ongoing works especially our water which is now taking four months yet it is still not finished. Another addition is the reception for our radio and TV in our village, it is not functional and with this state order notices on the virus, we are unsure of where to go. Just an advise to look into this matter Hon Prime Minister for the sake of our district.

Bless this Sitting. Bless Samoa and His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo, Member of the Council of Deputy, *Tumua ma Pule Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti. Faapea foi Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Tootoo o le Faleula ma le Tama a le Manuatele*. Bless this day. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you to the Senior member.

Respectfully, I call Lauofo, the Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West): Thank you honorable Speaker of the House. You have already said our traditional addresses like the covenant of Tulafasa for the sake of our contribution to Manuvao this morning. Well done thank you. The Leader of the Nation has already spoken about this deadly virus faced by the world, thankfully there is no case in Samoa for the time being. Let us plead to God for his continuous protection upon us. Truthfully speaking your honour, I wish to echo sentiments by international Leaders that we are in times of war with an invisible enemy, and this is true according to the many news and reports being publicized and has affected many countries around the world. Covid-19 is an enemy that does not discriminate, regardless of financial status, neighbor, nationality, religion, age, gender.

Look at the Leaders of other countries that have been affected by this virus. Such is the need to enforce the closing of our borders especially our National airport in Faleolo in order to protect our country. This is only way to defeat this virus, by enforcing restrictions whilst the world awaits a vaccine to cure it. It is not easy as we all know.

Thank you Hon Minister for the layout budget of the State and country which has greatly affected the country and our economy. It is important to be proactive and provide sufficient protective gears to appropriately equip our frontliners or health workers so as to effectively fight this battle.

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As the Hon Minister of Finance stated, it is not known how long it will take for this pandemic to exist and it is unaware how long it will take to enforce our restrictions as majority of our people have been laid off from work or have not achieved full working hours, some workplaces have been closed, especially the hotel operations and other business companies not only in Samoa but also around the world.

Therefore, the world is in a very devastating economic downturn period. Hence, this assistance is very critical, and acknowledgement to the State for being proactive in placing a timeframe on the allocated budget, and for asserting that there is contingency if the timeframe aforementioned for the current budget elapses. As such, there is dire need for closing businesses, workers, thankfully the Hon Minister has presented the stimulus package of the State.

I have thoroughly observed the presentation of the Hon Minister, all areas in the country have been covered in terms of this finance distribution. I further acknowledge the reduction of interest rates not only for public enterprises but also in support of our financial institutions or trading banks. Well done. This is one huge assistance by the State which could possibly drop the exchange rate in assistance to our exports as borders are still open for goods and supply vessels. Based on my scrutiny, these are the good advantages.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. The members time is finished.

Tofa LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker as mentioned we do not know how long, but the Hon Minister has spoken there are other plans for the Main Estimates in the future plus other financial assistance if necessary when we get there. As for the situation we are facing now, I strongly believe that we should be cautious and plan wisely, and must have conscious of matters like this to avoid any problems so that the effects of this does not outweigh the effects of the disease we are trying to remedy.

I want to thank our overseas partners, development partners, the World Bank and other countries who have supported us. We must also take into consideration the the more devastating effect and situation of this disease on them than us.

Mr Speaker, I believe my time is up, but I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe Easter break, blessings be upon this House and Samoa. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I commend the member for his opinion conveyed.

I call upon the Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, respectable member of Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to convey an opinion on the clarification speech made by the Hon Minister of Finance. I commend you for your bravery.

I also want to thank Cabinet for the effort taken over the past three to four months, I believe it has been three months now since the measles outbreak, you have not had a break. I am grateful to Government for the flexibility and foresight which has enabled us to discuss this total estimates in terms that affect our economy. However I am pleased to see the deficit percentage has been raised from 0.5 % to 1.2 %. I appreciate the good judgment. It would be great if it keeps rising because a person's life is important.

Government response to the Covid 19 has a total expenditure of \$20.3million. The support upon the private sector has a total spending of \$4.4million. The only advise to the Hon Minister of Finance and the Cabinet, do check if these people are still working lest money allocation is given and they are still redundant. They are the ones that we depend on because if their economic status is good, they will not beg or cause trouble for them to earn money to support their families.

I also wish to thank the Cabinet for the decision to open a few eateries in front of the stores. These people are setting up these businesses to support their small loans, once their stalls were stopped their repayments to the bank was affected. Thankfully, they have been given a chance, I pray we support the private sector. The assistance given and spent for our people is \$7.7 million, I commend you for the bravery. I thank the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and this Parliament for the support given to this afflicted country. The Hon Prime Minister spoke about the story of David in Psalm 23. 'Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.' The Lord is bias over Samoa, whatever storm or disease that comes our way, he takes them away, why? Because Samoa believes that we are founded in God. The \$3.5million appropriated for Food security, this is an area that we must continue to support for the sake of our farmers and fishermen.

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For multi-sector support, there was \$2.5 million from the First Supplementary so my question is, was this \$2.5 million additional amount allocated to support the Private Sector. That is the bulk of our funds, \$38.3 million under direct grants from our Organisations, of which \$18.2 million is received. I commend the hard work carried out by Government Ministries and Public Enterprises. May the Lord bless you all in your duties. It is not easy but we must work together. The deferred revenue is \$9.8 million. In final remarks Mr Speaker, I will conclude by voicing a few concerns. The \$9.8 million revenue is now deferred in assistance to Samoa.

A suggestion it would be great if we use this opportunity to set up stations for people to work from home. The Government will save a lot from this, and save the tear and wear of Government assets, save electricity, save water and save the tear and wear of existing materials. Whether or not this is the time to look at people who are working in sectors, if their contribution is needed everyday.

Thank you Mr Speaker, I will end it here, I am grateful for the contribution of Palauli le Falefa. I also thank the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Parliament. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Since we have arrived at our usual recess time, the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee will speak when we come back. This will also conclude deliberations on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2).

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended for its usual recess at 10.50am and resumed at 11.27am.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you for your patience and perseverance upon our work. I believe we have found strength to continue with the rest of our Sitting.

Before recess, the member for Palauli le Falefa had concluded his speech, the Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. It is now time for the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, Afioga Aliimalemanu Tuuau, member for Alataua West.

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Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson for Revenue and Expenditure Committee): Mr Speaker I am grateful that we have gained strength with the refreshments provided. However, Alataua West believes the work scheduled for today has been thoroughly deliberated with members chosen to speak on the Budget.

Therefore, we need to understand our situation, and work together, ia o gatasi le futia ma le umele to be of one mind and ensure everything is in line financially, for developments and the people of the country affected by the coronavirus.

In my position as Chairperson of the Finance Committee, I believe I still need to provide a brief overview, of what was presented. If we look at it, it is our Budget since we are on the same side as the Hon Minister of Finance. A total cost for the Ministry of Health is \$20.3 million, private sector is \$12.5 million and benefits for the people is \$27.5 million. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is \$3.5 million, funds allocated for private sector is \$2.5 million as stated by the Hon Minister of Finance. It is noted that the Corporation fund \$18.2 million while the other \$9.8 million is contributed by Government, which adds up to \$28 million, and \$38.3 million is the difference which is presented in the Budget tabled before the House. A summary for the Ministry of Finance, the impact of the coronavirus disease is \$37,370,122 for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is \$972,410 which sums up to \$38,342,532 as stated in the tabling Budget.

The normal practice of the Budget usually emphasizes the needs of the country, like access roads, water and schools. Although this Budget is very different, this is a special Budget, the intention of this budget in the opinion of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, is to persuade people. For people to live independently and not become dependent on things they are used to. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance for the distribution, however I have a recommendation. As one member stated the relief is now clear for businesses that employ a large number of people, who rely on them to make a living day by day. What are the plans and compromise with these businesses in re-employing these people? The situation is that they watch television every day, and have noticed money distribution for countries that have the coronavirus by their Government to assist their people. In a way, it is good but also bad. Because if we hear the amount of funds allocated by some countries it is millions and millions. This brings about the notion of comparing ourselves to those bigger countries. And then they think the assistance given is not enough, we should all remember, this is also a reminder.

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Samoa is a prosperous country, as most of the members have mentioned, and we are constantly reminded that our economy is fragile. And the Budget is also determined by the financial strength of our Government. Overall, at the end of this Budget, the deficit is \$6.8 million or it is now \$68.8 million deficit for this financial year since this second estimate has been added. It is interesting to note that the total expenditure range is still between 35% and 38% of the economy as per our policies for our Budget. It also maintains that although the \$68.8 million deficit is huge, the economy remains below 2% of the deficit.

In summary Mr Speaker I support the Budget and voice my gratitude. Blessings upon the Parliament of Samoa, thank you and Good day.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker....

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker I humbly ask for an opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Apologies as our Standing Orders says, the orders of our work and serious matters deliberated under the state of urgency has caused us to come to this issue. It does not happen often but it has happened before. This is a reminder to the members who want to stand up and speak. I apologize but members have already deliberated the matter concerning the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020.

The Hon Minister of Finance is there anything further you wish to speak on, in response to queries made by members. I will give you the opportunity.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Perhaps there were no issues raised, since the details of the Supplementary Appropriation was clear and in assistance to our country, not only for businesses, but for those who can no longer find work and the pensioners.

It is with gratitude that I thank members who spoke on behalf of this Parliament. I thank you for the support. As stated earlier we do not know how long this disease will last. Also the Ministry of Finance does not sit idly, we observe and prepare. If further changes are needed, another stimulus package will be added in the Main Estimates for next year. The only concern is, there might be criticism by some due to the Minister and Chief Executive and Government officials frequently travelling abroad.

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020
– consideration in detail

It is clear in the context of the Budget the willingness of our stakeholders to help fund our programs and so on. This is the importance of our relationship with our partners especially the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and others like the International Monetary Fund. The importance of communication and consultations, is strategically looking towards the future and the situation with our economic development sustenance, gaining employment opportunities and assisting our country. In fact, this current process with our partners has made it possible for us to get help, it is different from the assistance already given which has funded our stimulus packages, and we are discussing other areas we may need assistance from in the future. That is the significance of the trips taken by the Ministers, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and representatives of Ministries, it is for this, it is good to communicate and talk with our partners. Because when emergencies and things like this arise, it is easy to reach out and help us. I would like to thank Mr Speaker and respectable members of Parliament who spoke, and the support shown on our Budget. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. Motion has been moved for the second reading of the Bill and it has been seconded.

Motion approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 was read a second time.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO 2) 2019/2020
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: The Assembly will now commence with consideration in detail of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020.

Pursuant to Standing Order 135, consideration in detail of the Bill starts with Schedule.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020
– consideration in detail**

FIRST SCHEDULE

APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES	Total Additional Expenditure	\$972,410.

Approved.

FINANCE	Total Additional Expenditure	\$37,370,122.
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Approved.

TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES \$38,342,532.

Approved.

**SECOND SCHEDULE
REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS**

MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	TOTAL REDUCTIONS:
AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES	Total Reduction in Expenditure	\$(321,735).

Approved.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020
– consideration in detail**

Approved.

SCHEDULE.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement

TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020.

Approved.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 progressed without Amendments.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Committee of the Whole House has considered all matters referred to it for consideration and will report back to the Assembly.

Pursuant to Standing Order 126(1), the Committee of the Whole House will be referred to the Legislative Assembly.

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

I announce that the Committee of the Whole House have considered debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 together with consideration in detail, in accordance with motion approved, it has now been approved by the Legislative Assembly.

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PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2020
– first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Corrections please.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister of Prisons and Corrections): Mr Speaker I move a motion *that the Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020 be read a first time.*

Seconded by Minister of Finance and Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2020
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: With respect I call upon the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Corrections.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion *that the Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020 be read a second time and I wish to clarify it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education Sports and Culture, Minister of Health and the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to discuss the merge of the Police Service and Prisons and Corrections services. Perhaps it well known throughout the country the incident that occurred at Tanumalala not long ago.

I apologize to our country listening for this incident especially to those who were affected that evening. The Bill tabled before the House seeks to give effect to the decision of Government to merge the Samoa Police Services and the Prisons and Correction Services under management of the Police Commissioner.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

Mr Speaker this merge, implements a Regulation set out to amend and reform the Prisons and Correction legislation, to give the authority of the Commissioner of Prisons and Corrections to the Commissioner of Police to oversee both the Prisons and Ministry of Police. It also sets out a number of changes in Clauses 1,2,3,4 and 5 of the Prisons Act, to enable the Police Commissioner to carry out the powers that are under the advice of the Minister. Perhaps today will be the day for this merge if this Bill is passed, because the work carried out is done under warrant but once the Bill is passed all the plans set will be executed. Mr Speaker and members of Parliament it has been 8 months since the construction of the Prison at Tanumalala from last year. There are also several Programs planned for the improvement of the Prison.

Unfortunately we could not predict what happened. But it is the spirit and the emergence of this change that perhaps is necessary at this period to merge the two Ministries that were separated in 2015, after this division, work for the Prison started.

Now at Tanumalala everything has already been constructed for the function. The expectation of building these facilities is for the protection of prisoners and also police. However what occurred differed from what was planned.

The first time I took over the duties of Minister of Prisons, I visited the prison at Tafaigata around 10 to 11 in the evening. I wanted to look at the rooms. It was an unpleasant site to see. More than 50 people were locked in the holding room. The only rooms with 20 to 25 people are those under remand as there are three rooms there. As for the main, that is the amount seen. The prisoners have to sleep with their feet bended. After this visit that evening, I started asking the Government that we need to build a new prison. Majority of the work has been completed for the prison and is now in use, there are areas that need improvement for police to be able to take shifts to fulfill their duties. It has been noted in the Bill the changes implemented together with the authority of the Commissioner under the advice of the Minister. Whatever the decisions made, the Minister must always be informed especially on matters of looking after the prison.

This is a clarification Mr Speaker and members of Parliament. The objective of the Bill is to merge the Police Service and the Prison and Correction services. Thank you for the opportunity.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. Members of the House have already heard the motion moved in the Ministerial Statement of the Hon Prime Minister on deliberations of the Bill under a state of urgency.

The Bill will progress as follows:-

1. Tofa Nafotoa Talaimanu Ketu, Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional offices Committee.
2. Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers, member of Gagaifomaua No.3.
3. Tofa Ili Setefano, member of Aana Alofi No.2.
4. Afioga Sulamanaia Fetiaia Tuiliili Tuivasa, member of Vaimauga East.
5. Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo, member of Falealili East.

This will be the order of members speaking on the Bill. For clarification these will be the only members speaking on the Bill. Members are only given 5 minutes to speak. Discussion of this Bill should not be more than 60 minutes pursuant to Standing Order 33(2) (a).

If a speech is concluded but there is still time left, then we can reassess. I advise the Clerk to take note of the five minutes for each member. I call upon the Deputy Speaker for his address, to start deliberations on the Bill.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Deputy Speaker, Gagaemauga No.3): For any change implemented Mr Speaker, there are always many questions asked, it takes courage to make the right decision. This decision of making changes are based on good reason. This member believes, which is also an adage carried by HRPP, the Party that stands at the helm of this Parliamentary term. Have courage to make positive changes, for safety and security. For peace and blessings upon the people of Samoa.

Mr Speaker I believe some of the requests of this constituency Gagaemauga No.3 will be set aside since the time given is limited. Therefore I want to convey sincere thanks to the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Corrections. For the courage to amend the Legislation tabled before the House today.

I have noted in the Bill tabled that there are 14 Amendments from the Principle Act 2013. Therefore Mr Speaker this constituency wants to voice its support on the Bill and Amendments. The merge of the Police Service and the Prisons and Corrections under the management of the Police Commissioner. It is very significant.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

This portrays the police service in general. Not only in investigating issues but bringing it before court, this duty is done until the time the person carries out their punishment and reforms. This is the reason for this constituency taking the floor, the circle of the moon is now complete. This is where it becomes complete.

Therefore, the reason for the incident mentioned by the Hon Minister was based on the lack of understanding on how it started. Because taking a person to serve their sentence based on the decision of the court is not an easy task, it is not. However the implementation of these Amendments sets everything in place.

The Ministry of Police and Executive, looking after the Prison is a norm for them. This service has long been under the Ministry. There were issues that occurred, although, this is more important to the Ministry of Police is Prisons and Correction than anything else. Why? As I mentioned, Government is well aware. It is also noted by the Leader of the Ministry of Police the mindset of these people. They are the reason why the Court makes decisions on the offenses these people commit in order find reformation upon their lives. Why? To make a change, that after serving their sentence they will be easily accepted back to the community.

This is why I want to say thank you for this change. As I stated in the beginning any change needs someone with a brave heart. Why? Because there will be criticism. As for the Amendments tabled Mr Speaker, I greatly show my support. Why? This is one member that has worked for 35 years within prisons, therefore I understand the severity of these issues and conditions very well.

At the time political prisoners were imprisoned, I had to take them, why? To protect them for the safety of the public. The prison is divided into two parts. It is Prisons and Corrections, rehabilitation phase is where people go through before being released. This is the purpose however it has been jumbled together that some prisoners cannot become brave enough to change. This is reason for the few rising issues.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker a point of order. I will not speak on the habilitation or whatever you were talking about. This is the rightful member that caused the dissolution of prison at that time. But now he is trying to put it back together, at least he now knows what should be improved.

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– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, there is no reason for you to take the floor.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Mr Speaker this is the only member who never obeys. Anyone who wants to speak in the House can only be allowed with the permission of the Chair. This is the only member who seems not. It is alright as one person said, ‘I am watching you.’

Part 5 of the Bill..

MR SPEAKER: The member may conclude.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: I will now conclude. The appointment of a Deputy Commissioner is stated herein, I highly support this view. At the moment there is also a Deputy Commissioner of Police, therefore it should be equal. The only position that they have at the moment are ACs, Assistant Commissioners. The Bill states that there are currently 3 Assistant Commissioners. How is this done? I am concerned that the Commissioner might transfer staff which is appropriate in order for operations to run smoothly.

I will leave this matter together with any other matters that needs to be reviewed Hon Minister, the main thing is it would be good to insert them all in. The matter concerning salaries. Police officers start with a salary of \$11,500 but prison officers start with \$14,500. I humbly ask that this matter be reviewed, is it not the time to make it equal. The Bill is great, it is still withholding peoples jobs. This is what I am worried about especially the member who just took the floor, his main concern is the people, but the Bill has outlined this and perhaps he did not look into it, but Government has already taken proper measures.

I will leave this matter together with any other matters that needs to be reviewed Hon Minister, the main thing, it would be good to insert them all in. The matter concerning salaries. Police officers start with a salary of \$11,500 while prison officers start with \$14,500. I humbly ask that this matter be reviewed, is it not the time to conduct a balance here. The Bill is great as it is keeping the workers from leaving. This is what I am worried about especially the member who just took the floor, his main concern is the people, but the Bill has outlined this and perhaps he did not look into it, but Government has already taken proper measures.

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– second reading

Hon Minister, this is so to hold back the workers. Unless they can put back to the service through trainings. Training at Tafaigata takes 3 weeks, as for police, training takes 4 months which is 17 weeks.

Lastly, officers of prison or Prison Guards need to be well qualified especially for the work at Tanumalala. This is the reason why such incidents have occurred. Blessings and a happy Easter Samoa. Stay safe. God Bless this Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I thank my fellow member for the speech. I now call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Afioga Faaulusau Stowers.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving this member an opportunity to voice an opinion on the Bill tabled. I will be brief.

First I want to thank the Hon Minister, the Commissioner and the Ministry in relation to the incident that took place.

Secondly, I want to thank the public for the offered assistance to the Ministry of Police in finding these prisoners.

Thirdly, I want to thank Toleafoa Ken Vaafusuaga and the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela for the assistance given to the Ministry of Police in catching these defying criminals.

A few recommendations. First one, police services should be improved. The core of this service is to protect the safety of our country. No matter the mind of weather these services should still be carried out diligently. The security and well being of the country lies in the safety of the environment they live in. There should be an improvement on capacity building on how the work is carried out, this starts with the Hon Minister, from overseeing services at the prison and traffic, everything should be at his disposal together with the employees of the Ministry.

If they are transferred from one place to another they should be well prepared. The reason I mentioned this Hon Minister is, he should take karate classes, to train how to karate for his own safety. We never know what might happen, because he earlier stated that he visited the prison around 10pm. If he had been there and the prisoners had escaped, his life would have been threatened. Although if something had happened but he was well trained in karate, his life would be saved.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

The second recommendation, increase the salary for police officers, since more duties have been added especially for the safety of Samoa.

The third recommendation, to recognize the land where this prison is set up on, especially the village of Lefaga and Faleaseela, because if incidents like this happen again, at least the village is be able to assist police.

Those are the recommendations but since I still have a few minutes. I am grateful for the COVID 19. I am grateful because it seems people have realized that the world is christianized since this pandemic took over. I am grateful to Government for prioritizing the State of Emergency for the first 2 weeks of fasting and prayers, it is where Samoa is anchored. I commend Government for the prudence.

Lastly I wish to thank the Chair, I am grateful that I am now standing on high ground and far away from Olo Fiti Vaai. With respect, Mr Speaker may you have a pleasant Easter together with the House, Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I now call upon Tofa Ili Setefano Tafili, member for Aana Alofi No.2. The matter that was mentioned by the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 the constituency where the prison is located is only a part of Lefaga and Faleaseela, and the village of Fasitoo-uta for clarification since the constituency is listening.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS: Thank you for the correction.

MR SPEAKER: There is also a part of Nofaalii. I call upon the member of Aana No.2.

Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. As you mentioned, part of our constituency is where the prison is located and perhaps, it is why I have been given the chance to speak on the Bill in relation to this Amendment implemented, to merge the Police Services and the Prisons and Correction Services.

Before I comment on the legislation, I want to say that our Assembly this morning is somehow unusual. For the duties of Lopepe takes on variations as that adage go. Our deliberations changing from Parliamentary stage to Committee stage. Being a new member this arrangement is somehow exciting.

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– second reading

At this point I wish to convey my appreciations to the Leader of our government and Cabinet with their handling of the challenges life confronts us with at this day and age. There has been a lot of uncertainties with the epidemic currently sweeping the world but I applaud our Leader and Cabinet for remaining calm in their adaptability to protect our small nation with a fragile economy.

Moreover, I must extend my gratitude to everyone in the frontline implementing this process. You are working day and night without protest for the protection of Samoa.

I also convey my appreciations to the Minister of Finance for his appropriations of our funds in these difficult times. Every area around Samoa has been covered with the Government's allocation of funds. If our people are listening in, let me say that every locality has received its share and the Leader of the Government and Cabinet still have the opportunity to tell everyone this.

At this stage, I respectfully rise to comment on the tabling Legislation before us. The objectives are clear from the Ministers clarifications of the reasons regarding these amendments of the Bill, which is to merge the Ministry of Police with Prisons and Corrections.

The question that keeps surfacing is whether this will resolve the problem of prisoners escaping. If it does that is wonderful. Let me remind you that when Prisons and Corrections were formerly under the Ministry of Police, this issue eventuated. Nevertheless, let us hope that the new arrangement will bring about some welcoming change with the Commissioner and Management.

My big concern on behalf of my constituency is the risk on the lives of the staff. Nevertheless, looking at the legislation and its amendments it seems that the staff are safe under the law in all areas apart from a few alterations such as the requirement to undergo specialise trainings for those in charge of the prison. However, the amendment in general is supported by this constituency.

That is my contribution; I wish everyone here a happy Easter and also the country tuning in.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I congratulate the member for his contribution. I respectfully call upon the member for Vaimauga East, Afioga Sulamanaia.

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– second reading

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga Sasae): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Before I present my views on behalf of my constituency on the Bill now before Parliament. I must express my appreciations for this day is unlike any other. We have had so many sittings within this house but today is somehow exceptional. Why is this so? Well, because we are together again as a family, we the leaders of our country are in dialogue through good health.

Despite of the global deadly epidemic we must be grateful to the Lord for bringing us together again in good health and none of us is affected by this epidemic.

My appreciations to the leader of the country, and I don't mean to praise you but I am grateful for your courage and patience, in everything one must depend on God. Whom shelters us and our people's journey. I also applaud the Minister and your side of chambers, in the same token I extend the same to this side. I stand before you today with so much pride for the respect accorded to the member for Vaimauga East or Tuisamau.

Mr Speaker I appreciate the wonderful events during your time. Do not change this location, It is beautiful and it places this constituency in a significant position. I appreciate this golden opportunity allowed to the member for Vaimauga to speak. Why? This is a very rare occasion I am grateful for your respect allowing me to speak I will not take this gesture lightly.

What can I say about the fathers of this nation, let us appreciate the fact that we have a father figure that depends on God, may you live long. Most of the time I see you on TV trying to inform our people may you be blessed and covert with the holy spirit and the blood of the sacrificial lamb.

The old man Jonah when chosen by God to travel to the city of Sineveh is it? No Nineveh is the same as Sineva. I am mistaken with a girl's name but its Nineveh. So God said to him to go to Nineveh to tell them they have sinned, but Jonah fled without fulfilling Gods demand. What about this Parliament and its leaders, we do not flee.

Let us be thankful for despite how often we divert from the Lords ways he continues to show us mercy, because we have declared in this House that Samoa is founded on God, the Son the Holy Spirit and the word is out that people no longer congregate, and what do we have this morning. This is significant as the world is looking at us and why? Because we have declared to our people and the whole world that our country depends on God.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

I urge the Prime Minister to ban flights into our country and extend it for another 6 months. May your honourable and Cabinet be blessed and also this Side of Cambers.

I am really delighted with this Prisons Bill, and the prompt actions of the Prime Minister. It is the reason I am so proud of a leader that is fearful of the Lord. Once a problem arises, it is resolved.

My recommendation is, with countries abroad when incidents like these occur; the first line of actions is the Minister being sacked. Why? For not doing its duty. What do we make of this term and this government? We should be grateful to the leader for according them trust. We have heard that the Commissioner of Prisons is no more Why is that? Do something about the Minister.

Mr Speaker, my other concern is to do with the Commissioner of Police, someone we have placed our trust in. Look at the LTA sector where the traffic unit were brought over and placed under the Police, what happened to that arrangement? What a pity, considering well over ½ million dollars was paid out to the staff of LTA. The reason being is this Parliament told them to come over and work under the police....(.....) he did his own thing and trained the police. What became of it? My concern Mr Speaker is the possibility of people being laid off. Or simply a group of people that could not be

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

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, but the Government will give its response.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: We do have a rule to protect people that cannot be here in this Assembly to defend themselves. I think the member is way too off with his remarks. But the changes that were addressed by the Minister are very simple. They are not difficult changes and the reason why we do this is because this is the trend the world is taking, the United Nations, civil countries.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

The way most Governments have been operating had been administered through force. The reason they were separated was not of a wicked one. It was a sound one, which is benefiting other countries, but with us we still have a long way to go.

Hence, my taking the floor as the member is way off the topic instead of focussing on the issue. Mr Speaker this is something which this party put weight on and is our rule to protect those who do not have a voice to defend themselves in our debate. This debate is broadcast around the country. For it may affect those mentioned but that is not the desire and purpose. Mr Speaker, that is my advice when we are in difficult times and this very week is the Holy week. So every speech should be of that nature instead of focussing our remarks on matters which causes conflicts.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, my apologies to the member but let me say this as I have missed my chance to do so because you have been going a bit too fast. It is strictly prohibited by Standing Orders for members to make a statement towards anyone of the country. Particularly the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries whom are serving day and night and yet they cannot take part in our debate.

The member's remarks are his own views. What a waste of a good speech to be marred by your making that statement. When your address weighed more on that note as like the other member it caused it to be off.

Pardon the member, but your statement which mentioned the Commissioner will be omitted from the Hansard.

[Statement by the Member for Vaimauga East that the Speaker ordered to be omitted from the Hansard: "*Ae fai foi ia le fiapoto o le Komesina ia.*"]

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, with what has been said this morning, well I will take back what I said if that may be the case but that is my personal view stemming from this merging that is happening again. I appreciate the fact that there will be a deputy commissioner for the prison but I have heard that it will be re-advertised.

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– second reading

My concern is that the staff currently there at the moment should continue their employment. I am concern of the possibility of people being made redundant when we are in the middle of this epidemic.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, the members time is up, conclude your remarks now.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker I will now conclude my remarks. I guess those were my views on issues which I wanted to share. May the good Lord show mercy upon the leader of the government and Cabinet, and also the Associate Ministers and every member on that side of chambers and our side. I wish the same upon the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and our country tuning in. May Samoa be blessed for tomorrow, in the name of Jesus Amen.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Thank you. I call upon the member for Falealili East to be the final speaker of their group of five before the government responds.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO (Falealili East): I would think that the sea bird is aware of the cruel sea and the roaring waves. We are all aware of the epidemic sweeping the world. Hence my foreword. What is certain is the fact that every member of the clergy and every countryman of Samoa are all praying for protection from the epidemic. It is certain that God has answered our prayers. For the Prime Minister and Cabinet have responded with their plan for us now in place. In saying so I convey my gratitude to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, I am of the belief that if we continue in this manner the epidemic will not reach us. But this disease has brought about a wonderful image of our people going back to the sea, and we are seeing folks carrying weaving baskets with machetes heading inland. Because what is certain is that ships will no longer be operating and Samoa will be relying again on its land and the shores for our livelihood.

I do support the provisions of the Legislations presented. In my view of the law though it seems substantial but the changes are rather minimal. It seems that it is going back to what it used to be. After all changes come about due to change from time to time and the reasons for such change.

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– second reading

The only changes that I am certain of and am grateful for this change is the fact that people in employment are not affected. The benefits for those in contractual employment and public servants seems that it will continue until the end of their terms of employment.

The other point that was raised by members regards in-house training. If they are to merge there should be a group specialised trained but should not be for the purpose of deciding whether they should stay on or to let them go. But they must be well trained in their responsibilities.

My view of the change in the legislation it seems that what concerned me is the appointment of assistant commissioners under the advice of the Police Commissioner to Cabinet, whether this should be done in the usual process as applied to ACEO, so that it is done in the same manner since they have now merged. The only good thing is that it is all subject under the Minister of Police and Prisons.

The area that must be reminded to the Commissioner and everyone working here is the fundamental guideline under the Prison Law, which starts off with statement in *(a) to ensure that the prison is administered in accordance with Samoan customs and traditions*. That is a must and should not be remove. If the current structure is solid and an employee is the cause, then that person should be responsible. The problem is that the decision has been made in the drafting of the law, but I do support the legislation now before us and also the fact that the employees currently there will remain. The fact is there is a need for more equipment's to carry out their roles. If the instigators of the recent breakout had intentions of malice a lot of lives would have been affected particularly those on duty that night as they had nothing to resort to. But it is provided under the law that they can resort to guns, not the ones with ammunitions but guns with stinging substance for the eyes and guns which weakens a person for a few minutes or Taser guns. It is all under the law now I know that if the folks guarding the gate had this sort of equipment no prisoner would have been able to leave the compound. I know these are some of the matters.

MR SPEAKER: The member's time is up.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUELU TEO: As well as the area that a fellow member raised, which is rehabilitation. The prison should have this sort of programme to rehabilitate the life of the prisoner. The truth is these people have been labelled by the community as a group that will never be any good again. But that is the reason behind these programmes to convert them to becoming good people. That must be emphasised.

May I say to the Commissioner may your duties be a success I appreciate the good deeds done. I also applaud the management of the Prisons and the Commissioner that has just resigned. I believe that the occurrences will bring about good change to teach us and to improve this service. If it were not for the events that happened, we would not have known the areas that needed improvement.

Given the fact that we are also praying, the leader of our denomination has asked the whole world to engage in fasting on the 14th to pray for guidance from the epidemic that is spreading throughout the world. Our Lord said in his sermon, “I am the Lord bounded if you do what I tell you to, but if you do not do as I say, there is no declaration.” To conclude the contribution of this constituency, thank you Mr Speaker, may we all have a happy Easter and let us pray silently at home to keep the epidemic away from us.

That is the contribution of my constituency tuning in, do not be concern for there are still a great number of them especially the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela where there is still a high number of farmers. May the responsibilities of the Commissioner and Police be a success and everyone working at the Prison, may my voice continue to be heard with the grace of God. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you to the member for Falealili East.

I now call upon the Minister of Police, Prison and Corrections to respond to matters raised by members.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, and I also acknowledge every member that spoke on the legislation. The recommendations which you have submitted will guide myself and the Commissioner and everyone working at the police and prison services as we look to the future.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

Some of the members have declared that it is the solution, but only God knows everything. Whatever changes we implement and can be done if the management believes it can be achieved. I guess all the wonderful suggestions raised today have been noted by the Commissioner and myself. With the state of salaries, I think currently the rates of Tafaigata is higher than here. There are 140 staff at Tafaigata with 600 to 700 police officers. But I will consult with the Commissioner whom is listening for it must be on the same par.

The other recommendations I believe and gratefully, the member for Vaimauga is not the Prime Minister for otherwise he would sack all the Ministers. However, as far as fulfilling the role is concerned, the member for Vaa o Fonoti has a big heart to implement the duties. That is why on the night of the incident I was there at 3am with the Commissioner. We did intend to reach out to all the nearby communities at Tanumalala in the near future to assist with our job if somehow the problem escalates. In saying that I convey my gratitude to Lefaga for their assistance on the night towards the two Commissioner and staff working that night which enable us to apprehend those who broke out. But I am appreciative to the nearby communities for the assistance and in due course in future we will be approaching them for their continuous assistance in our role as they will be of great help to the role of the police.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Motion was approved and the Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020 was read a second time.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2020
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: The Assembly will now proceed to consider the Prison and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020 in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Orders the detail consideration will begin with clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Section 2 amended.

Approved.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

CLAUSE 3: Section 4 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Section 5 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Section 6 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Section 7 and 8 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Section 13 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Section 17 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 9: Section 18 amended.

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Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020
– second reading

Approved.

CLAUSE 10: Section 43 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: Section 45 repeal.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Section 58 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Section 62 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 14: Consequential amendment.

Approved.

CLAUSE AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Prison and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2019/2020
– third reading**

Approved.

The Prison and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020 progressed without Amendments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2019/2020
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Finance will take the floor.

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriations Bill (No.2) 2019/2020 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Revenue, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

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

**PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2020
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Police, Prisons and Corrections.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move the motion, *That the Prisons and Corrections Amendment Bill 2020 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Health, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

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

*7 APRIL 2020***Prime Minister Statement and Motion for Adjournment**

MR SPEAKER: I congratulate and commend you all for your patience. I respectfully call upon the Leader of the Government for your statement.

**PRIME MINISTER STATEMENT AND
MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, we have now come to the end of our deliberations on matters we had proposed to consider today, which is the reason for this sudden sitting which is not in the schedules of our sittings approved by this House. The abrupt calling of this special sitting is for two reasons, to provide support at this particular time when our country is faced with preparations against the epidemic Covid-19. The second part is to fulfil our plans based about the State of Emergency Order and the merge of these two Ministries by which we are able to fulfil the amendments of the Legislation to be able to implement this wonderful initiative.

I commend you for conducting our deliberations and I extend the same to members for accepting the call for this sudden sitting. It does reflect your honouring of your sworn duties. I have seen parliamentary meetings of other countries being called for this very purpose to respond to Covid-19 and I notice the low number of attendance because members were afraid. But today I am delighted to see the full turn out of members which shows your desire as representatives to cooperate in our goals to moving us forward in response to this epidemic. The truth of the matter is as of now there has been no indication of an end to this epidemic. We are also speculating the possibility of a vaccine which could contain this virus. The plans we are undertaking is for this current period. The government does have a programme in place for the sitting coming up for we will be meeting very soon to approve the Main Estimates to run the country in the upcoming financial year, which will be called at the end of May for the Parliamentary sitting during the month of June. Whatever other problems that may arise will be addressed by the Government and Parliament in the remaining months of this financial year. But I do commend you for the decisions we have made today.

7 APRIL 2020

Prime Minister Statement and Motion for Adjournment

I must also extend my commendations to the country at large in all its honorific salutations for your support and your prayers with the clergy around every community, particularly their role during this week when we commemorate the death and resurrection of our Saviour during this holy week. Cabinet will be meeting today to consider other possible measures but what is foremost is the protecting of our lives. We are seeing the reality around the world and even the church leaders and government are emphasising the fact of staying home to protect themselves from carrying the disease. Prayers are now open to be done from your homes using the internet to reach out. Where satellite services are now common with the Minister preaching via the internet and its congregation praying and participating from their homes. This will certainly not diminish our faith but it is the message from the clergy that their flocks pray from home to protect themselves from the epidemic. If you want to live long practise your faith to God from your own home.

Mr Speaker those are my words of gratitude, and I appreciate the support from the country at large. With the clergy and the dignitaries of alii and faipule. They are responsible for keeping the peace around every single village community. With Easter next week may we all have a happy Easter together with Churches.

Lau Afioga i le Fofoga Fetalai, o le faafetai lena, faafetai tele lava i le tapuaiga a Samoa, aemaise le nofo tatalo a le aufaigaluega paia, e faapea foi le mamalu o alii ma faipule, o i latou ia o lo o feagai ma le tausiga ma le puipuiga o le filemu i totonu o tatou afioaga taitasi. A o lea o le a tatou agai atu i lenei vaiaso o le Eseta, ia manuia tele lava le Eseta i lo tatou atunuu atoa ma Ekalesia.

Mr Speaker I am of the view that since we still have other matters in which the resolution of this Assembly is required particularly with the amendments of the Electoral Legislation, I move the motion, *that we adjourn Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly until the 28th of this month.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Commerce, Business and Labour.

Motion Approved.

7 APRIL 2020

Prime Minister Statement and Motion for Adjournment

MR SPEAKER: The speech from the Leader of the Government is heard by the country at large. It can be compared to a cool breeze felt, according to our legends the bird at Utufiu is delighted and eager to take flight out of elation. Just as Feepo the blind old man who clapped hysterically when his son Leatiogie won in battle, such is the saying in sports events. *Ua se togi le seuga lagatila ua faapulou i le tualima*, I applaud you for your success. Our meeting has ended satisfactorily and we will not second guess the fact that our people are praying and supporting our endeavours. From Le Ao o Le Malo, the member of the Council of Deputies, the clergy and the public at large. For we have managed to squeeze in our meeting these vital matters prompted by the epidemic the world is facing particularly our country.

Thank you and my commendations I do not need to praise you but allow me on your behalf, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, since Parliament sittings has intervals but Cabinet is always meeting. The same goes to the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises working day and night for your role is not an easy one. As the member for Anoamaa West, Lauofo was alluded to, the disease has no boundaries and does not make distinctions between adults and children. It also does not distinct the well-to-do and the low class, the affluent and the not so well off, the wise and the unwise, the rich and the poor, but you have worked tirelessly day and night to find a cure or remedy.

We notice with America a powerful nation which countries resort to for assistance due to their power and wealth. We feel that they have been negligent in their preparations in times like this. We do not point a finger and say who is to blame. But from our view well we do not need to praise or declare your expertise and knowledge. But I commend you for your compassion to the country. Who should take precedence and lead it is you the leader of the country because if there may be problems well who would be blamed. It would be you and Cabinet. In saying that it is my prayer that your wellbeing is maintained and also for the unshakeable support of Cabinet. Not to mention the role of the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises whom are all contributing to the cause looking for answers to this problem but we all depend on God.

This is our belief, the clergy are praying for our protection day and night so that we are safe. Throughout the Pacific there are now cases but Samoa is spared, Why? That is the grace of God. That is our statement in response to the Prime Minister. But I believe your statement is sufficient for Samoa at large.

7 APRIL 2020

Prime Minister Statement and Motion for Adjournment

I have merely added to your speech as the voice of members to acknowledge the role and duties of Cabinet and you sir. and the CEOs.

Before we adjourn I will conclude our meeting with a prayer

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned at 1;00pm until Tuesday the 28th April 2020 at 9.00am.