

09 FEBRUARY 2021

TUESDAY, 09 FEBRUARY 2021

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:20am.

Prayer.

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

Well done to your persistence and your perseverance, bless your endeavors.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021 –
debate continued on the second reading– Day 15**

MR SPEAKER: During the adjournment of Parliamentary Proceedings yesterday, the member for Lotofaga was finishing her speech. Therefore, this is the opportunity for the electoral constituency of Faasaleleaga No.4 to speak in accordance with our orders of the day.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA (Faasaleleaga No.4): I greet the dignitaries of the House this morning, the presence of the honorable Speaker, the Hon Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and all the members of the House.

I also greet the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations.

Furthermore, I greet the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk of the House, as well as the staff of the Legislative Assembly.

I also take this opportunity to voice acknowledgement to the support of our country from high mountains to low ones, His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. The Chief Justice, President, the Judiciary of the Lands and Titles Court.

I further take this opportunity to greet the religious servants of God who are preaching in the various altars of Samoa, given your spiritual roles and callings, pleading day and night and every day for blessings upon Samoa and her people.

In addition, I take this chance to greet my beloved constituency of Faasaleleaga No.4, *le paia ia te oe Sa Tuala, le paia o le Faalagilagi o oe na masaesae ai le lagi*. I appeal your support upon me so that I am able to voice our contribution, you are used and have observed me as your chosen representative. I guess this is a worthy chance from God for me to make our submission.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021

*09 FEBRUARY 2021***– debate continued on the second reading**

Mr Speaker, on behalf of this constituency I wish to convey our sympathy given God's sacred calling upon Afioga Vaafusuaga Poutoa. He was a father and a brother. Family ties have been cut because God has called him home. On this thought, the mother is a member of this constituency. We pray that you endure courageousness as this is the end result of life. We pray that you maintain a good relationship with God. Sa Tuala and the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela has now received God's sacred calling. The prayer of this constituency, Vaafusuaga, is may your journey be blessed and may you find a place in eternal life.

I further take this opportunity to thank the honorable Speaker, this is a very difficult relationship for us new members, listening to you before we came in, true is the saying, "What we see now is greater than the things we heard."

Mr Speaker, based on personal observation, since arriving to this House, the importance of this Speakership position, is wonderful, it is not easy, it is a position that is put before God. Despite, the House is now aware that your honour has now decided to take a break. Pardon the title Leaupepe, I have received a lot of great lessons from you which I believe is the same feeling with the other members, and the way you carry out your duties as Speaker, you endeavor to make peace, and bear forgiveness. Regardless of the serious level of exchanges we make here, we thank you Leaupepe, you were always calm. Why? You carry in your farsightedness.

Most of the times we perceived that whenever you speak, there is always a message you bring to teach all of us. Standing Orders have been set out, and veneration is the principle observed, you taught us peace and harmony to maintain the orders of the House. Similarly with the affairs of our HRPP Party, I always see that whenever the Leader speaks, you always make an effort to give a speech of response. Not long do you speak, and you would get teary, and matter is being resolved. Those tears are very important to me, as they are tears of amity.

So, Leaupepe, the statement goes like this, we plead God for your break and added days to your life, as God has other roles and duties for you to implement for His works. We pray blessings upon you from God as well as your wife and children, the constituency and its support. This is the word of appreciation from us.

I therefore observe a few members of this House are heading to retirement. We have the senior Hon Aeau as well as the Minister of Women...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member as I allow the Prime Minister.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021**– debate continued on the second reading**

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): I wish not to interject the statement of the Associate Minister Honorable Speaker. I wish to state one main thing, it is close to 20 minutes since the commencement of our Sitting when Standing Orders stipulates that it should be no less than...our quorum should be above 26 in order for our Sitting to progress. A point of clarification. Standing Order says 50 is the total of Parliament, and no Sitting can be done when the quorum is less than half of this number. Henceforth, I am thankful to the current 33 here today, which means that quorum is now met with 7 members. The oath of allegiance we made is not easy, we came here to assess and discuss for the prosperity of our country through our decisions and revenue earnings we make.

It has been a while since our last meeting, and for me, it is very important for the Opposition side to be included plus new members who are opposing us, although I do not see them here, to come and support the speaking members and other raising matters. Bearing honesty in small things is the answer to bearing honesty to greater things.

I am therefore querying whether these people have submitted any excuse especially the Opposing side against the Government and the contrary announcements particularly baseless proclamations they make. This is led by the absent Samoa United in Faith Before God Political Party. I perceive they have set aside our Parliamentary Sitting for electoral campaigns they are attending in Savaii. It is why chances are granted for submitting matters even if today was our last Sitting, at least it would be good for our records, notwithstanding, it is vital for the sake of the listening Samoa, it is here where we are judged about our service and implemented works. It is no different with a public servant that bears dishonesty, starting time is 8 and work ends at 1 whilst still being paid. This is stealing, taking the pay when they are not working.

Mr Speaker, it is why the question was put forth, whether the absent members have submitted any excuse as they are prioritizing personal matters and have abandoned the country's Sitting. Their constituencies are tuning in for any advice they can give to the Government.

That is the question.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. Matter has been clarified by the Hon Prime Minister. I did wait a bit for them as also aware by the Parliament, most of them would come to our Sittings late particularly the mentioned members. However, I have yet to receive a report from the Clerk for my knowledge, as majority have already submitted their excuse.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

The statement is correct, the Senior Afioga Faasootauloa Pati is ill, and so as Tofa Lio Foleni who is engaged with a Finance Committee meeting of the

09 FEBRUARY 2021

EFKS Church. I also have Faumuina Wayne Fong's excuse due to unforeseen circumstances. Nonu Lose is also ill. Aumua Isaia Lameko is also away for unexpected matters, obviously he is the brother-in-law of the late Afioga Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken. Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa has also submitted his excuse stating he is sick. And Hon Laauli Polataivao is also engaged with Political Party activities. So Laauli is away for a Party's engagements.

So I guess these are the only members whose excuses have been submitted and with that, I have thought to read them out before Parliament even though this is new, but it is also good to... as also queried by one of the members yesterday the collaboration of Political Parties due to statements like what the Leader of the Government was saying to comply by our oaths of allegiance and attend Parliamentary Sittings. For the information of the House, whenever there is a Sitting, all matters must be set aside, including Court cases. All must be adjourned when a Parliamentary Sitting is called. That is the clarification for the sake of everyone. Everything is called off, the same with the Court. So regardless of a serious charge laid against a member, whenever Parliament is called, this Case is adjourned. Such is the reminder, Parliament is now aware and so as the constituencies of the members mentioned, the Clerk has received their excuses.

With due respect, this is the response even though the honorable Speaker is feeling disappointed with the lack of loyalty in our Sittings, well, what else can we do, regardless of our oaths, it is all up to the person itself, pardon the dignity of Parliament and its procedures. It is here where the constituency will determine of its member's attentiveness and consideration of our Sittings.

This is our response with respect to the question as it is necessary for the Leader of the Government to question the allegiance of Parliament. So this is the response with respect.

I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, that is why I stood up, I take it that some here have other party obligations. This Party has set aside all its programs and has carried out its oaths for coming here to this House. Meanwhile, many are keen to see the Ministers about personal matters. I too, have so many people wanting to see me, and I have put them all in the afternoon because of our Sitting. If you see our Cabinet, we are all here, Hon Tuitama is in the back whilst the rest of the Cabinet is present, because this is the manifesto of this Party.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

One of the questions by one of the senior members yesterday, whenever a meeting is conducted by this Party, we are always mindful of our Sittings and quorum and the bell must not be heard for members to meet the quorum in order for a Sittings to ensue. This has happened with past Parliaments before the

09 FEBRUARY 2021

HRPP administration. And the Ministers would take the lead in this doing, of being absent from Sittings in those days. However that is no longer the case today given the firm and existing Rules and Policies for this Party so that their positions are heeded. Now that you are witnessing the presence of entire Cabinet, it is vital to take note of matters raised, as the requests of the people cannot wait as time is running. Work is ongoing up to the Office. There is also observation that some members of the public would come directly before this Parliament to get the urgent decision of a Minister or a Government Head in order to implement a job.

Such is the motive I rise with great respect and reason why this Party is organized, because we are well aware and abide by the duties we came here to do, and to see the expectations, the purpose of our Leaders is to come together with the loyal members of HRPP and make decisions in Parliament collectively.

Mr Speaker, I was about to put forth a question on how Political Parties can become effective. What can make them become effective? As for the question by the most senior member, well I am a bit more senior. Therefore, all these years we have been together, there was no insight of ways to collaborate political parties. Money is not necessary to build it. During the HRPP administration, there was no money, but loyalty was there. This is proof.

This is affirmation as to why money is not needed to obtain collaboration, it stems from teamwork to achieve an objective. What is the objective? To make decisions for the country collectively. This is where proof on Political Parties memberships is found. Evidence is revealed by members sitting together and make decisions for the wellbeing of our country. But an unreliable and eschew person is very obvious to discover, one who avoids its duties as a member. That is reason I stood up, because this is a very serious allegation against me. How can political parties collaborate? It starts from a Leader. If this is the current 45 members for the existing Political Party, then 45 must work together for one purpose... One purpose, for future plans to prosper. That is how cooperation is done, and there is no need to seek cooperation through money. We will achieve what the member was saying yesterday. The desire of one thousand Political Parties to receive this money disbursement, after that, they would disperse. It is like Primary Schools, whenever they want to encourage something, they would do so, but since there is an increased number of Primary Schools in the country today, unfortunately, money is being sought.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

That is what I am seeing now, they want to receive money as soon as possible, and that is all that they want, distribute money. And when the general elections is over, there is no more Political Parties.

In the previous Parliament, a land plot of ½ acre was granted by the Government upon the request of the Tautua Party. But what happened later? This ½ acre was returned because there was no headquarters construction. And

09 FEBRUARY 2021

now that they are raising all these issues here again saying that more money should have been received. Mr Speaker, money will not create any cooperation nor integrity. Such is my appreciation as obviously; it is now clear why they are not in attendance because they are carrying out their electoral campaigns.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, the Prime Minister's statement is useful, to guide our future, and to build up our leaders. So that we can stand together and walk the talk. What is the word? It is our oath of allegiance. But the summary of that matter was mentioned in your statement in the start. Whoever bears good governance, God also will bless them with many things and to lead in the future. Because it is stated in the Bible as you mentioned. I read in the Bible about the Leader of the State.

But I ask the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 to take the floor, his senior statement could be useful to you too. Because you are another latecomer to our Sitting but do continue your speech.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Very well thank you Mr Speaker, I will continue. Afioga Faasootauloa, if you are listening in, may God bless you. To my colleague Mulipola, I trust and have thought our fellowship will continue, nonetheless, things happen. It is not known whether we will all pursue together with your journey, nevertheless let us endure patience. This is our way of life.

Then I recall honourable Speaker, I wish to celebrate the love and goodness of our Master today, and the support of our country. We have arrived this morning because of blessings. Such is our appreciation to the country. We have received the support of our families here and afar, our constituencies and Samoa. Despite you listening in, our local residents living overseas are not forgotten because of the belief that you are a full-blooded Samoan.

I wish to extend gratitude to the honourable Leader or the Hon Prime Minister. Also, the Cabinet and distinguished members of this House which is a House I am mostly proud of. It is a long dream by the Government as there comes a day and time for us to sit in this wonderful House. This superb House is a place where farsightedness is found and treasured. It is the House of yesterday, the House of today and the House of tomorrow.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

The proposal of all Government plans is done from here. Such is my greatest appreciation, in relation to the foresight of our Government, to put priority on this House where decisions are done, it is the place for discussions and a place for our prosperity. And before coming here, I had listened to the many fruitful and constructive statements by the late members in the past. So being here as part of this Parliament today has totally made me believe. Making decisions for the sake of our economy is no easy job, the deliberations we make for both

09 FEBRUARY 2021

sides is not easy. Regardless, it is possible now through farsightedness and foresight.

Upon arriving to this House, I felt different, when walking, you walk with reverence, when telling you speak thoughtfully, as the House is full of esteem. It is not a house that belongs to a family or a village neither a district. It is the House of the country. Such is the appreciation to the Leader of the State given his response upon this House of the country. It does not belong to a Political Party nor the HRPP or any other political party, it belongs to the country.

When God called Jeremiah, God chose Jeremiah for 3 main things. God chose him to be Prophet, and to lead the village, and chose him to lead the nation. These were the three vital things which God chose Jeremiah to do. God said to Jeremiah, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you always to protect you and deliver you.” Followed by that he said in the end of the covenant, “See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” This were all parts of the covenant which God equipped Jeremiah within order for him to implement his duties as a leader. We have witnessed this today. Hence, I wish to acknowledge the Leader of the Government who is not afraid, we have seen the true promises which God made for Jeremiah. Because the truth is, God has told Jeremiah, do not be afraid, I will be with you, I will protect you. That being said honourable Speaker, this is also the reason I am not afraid. I go after the Hon Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker, no it is a point of clarification to the current speaker as he is speaking about Jeremiah. How did Jeremiah die? With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: This is a good question, but I advise the current speaker that we will discuss that when we come to the Budget.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, this is the only time left for the constituency to hear me. It is also not known whether you will see me here again or not since it is in this House where the covenant with God originates from.

Regardless I will firstly respond the statement made by the...You will also note that the Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. That is the response.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, the current speaker has spoken about one of the teachings of God upon Jeremiah, I will

09 FEBRUARY 2021

protect you. That is the reason I had asked. With regards to how Jeremiah had died?

MR SPEAKER: There is still thought that...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Your honour, you see this Bible I am holding. The problem is because we have different religions with...Majority is to enliven the service, as this was the only church service that was packed, and it was yours. Because I would always travel with this Bible. The words I make are not mine. It is the word of God, as such, whoever disrupts this word, I pity, the end result is a ballot. Thus, it is also useful to hear and receive theology. Therefore, it is not only about preparing for State's appointments but also the time of God when He calls you home.

Mr Speaker, I appreciate the strategic plans of our Government. It is reason for extending appreciation to the Government for implementing good governance. It is like the words preached by God to Jeremiah, to build up and to plant. We have seen what the Government has planted, the requests put forth before the House on our access roads, we have...it has bear fruit. Government has implemented access roads, we have seen it, there is none. You go to the market, there is food, and no one is living in poverty. The truth is honourable Speaker, there is abundant produce everywhere. Why? Due to blessings planted from within this House, being implemented by this Government through access roads, and the requests submitted. These access roads have made it easier for our people to develop our plantations. So how do we obtain fruit bearing? This is how good governance is achieved, a government that envisions long term plans, the crops planted here bears fruits tomorrow.

The Leader spoke last week about some of the plans that will be laid out. The potholes filled within the township vicinity. These Government plans are fitting and long term and have been advantageous. Plans for the future, as the world is faced with climate change. We have seen floodings, heavy rains and earthquakes, hence climate change is getting real.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

The area in Taufusi is one of risky area when it comes to floodings and heavy rain, particularly when there is a water explosion. Similarly, to Fugalei, water table is getting very high. The truth is with one foot digging underground and water is found.

Such are the plans of the State received, and we salute the Government for these good plans. One thing that makes me proud is the traveling here of our people particularly the observation of our people from abroad. Our capital or the township area. This is a scenery to demonstrate to other countries the smooth running of our economy here. If we travel to other countries, we could easily see the capitals of these countries and the erection of tall buildings. This

09 FEBRUARY 2021

is where we can determine the many changes taken place, it demonstrates to us the improvement of global economies, by its capitals.

We have also seen the major project in Vaisigano together with those living abroad who have watched it on internet. I wish to extend great appreciation to the Government for implementing these projects. This showcases your works for witnesses to see in relation to the use of public funds. Not only is more public money spent on our requests, the needs of our constituencies, access roads, school buildings, as well as seawall areas. I guess this is one other thing, it seems the budget has lessened, and only a person that complains does not understand why the budget has dropped. Given high public expenditure utilized by the State to implement its development projects, this is how any economy functions. And when it comes time to bear fruits, then we will see our economy improving again, the same with our budget statement.

Mr Speaker, I continue to observe the many works being affected from floodings due to climate change impacts. This includes the bridge at Moamoa and the roads of my village of Lano. They are tuning in.

I appreciate the village of Lano for this long-requested road from previous Parliaments nonetheless I wish to thank the Government for responding. That is one useful thing for voting me here. Lest you think I am mocking around, when not. You continue to see me giving our requests incessantly. As such I implore the Hon Minister of Works, it would be good to go ahead and cut the ribbon for our groundbreaking work before the elections arrives. To assure my sub village that I am not sitting around, I am constantly appealing the Government. So if our village is listening in, convey your thankfulness to the Government, as the Leader has affirmed priority to our village. Because this particular road has affected so many lives. Including the bus incident that was caused by the flood. Similar incident was witnessed at the Maliolio river. I call this House a garden as it is here where we sow and reap. We have longed given our request on the Maliolio bridge and now, this wonderful project has now been observed.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Therefore, I heed great appreciation to the member for the many lives not only in my village but also the country. Many lives have been wasted due to natural disasters and water. Particularly climate change, it is not our will, as any plans and developments of the State, it is God who holds all authority as all creation was done by Him, and if we try to do anything, we always rely on Him, hence is the heart of gratitude.

Another thing Hon Minister of Works, have a look at the bridge I spoke on. It is wonderful, it is very good, and possibly many here from Savaii are in support. This bridge situated between Lano and Asaga has caused buildings and hotels to drift away twice. Reason being is because the Maliolio river is located further inland capturing water drips and dewdrops and whenever there is water explosion, it can affect Lano and Sapapalii.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Tofa also spoke on this matter which is correct. Incidents have occurred in this river twice and water was the problem. Regardless, it has improved now.

When looking towards the inland area Hon Minister, there is the accumulation of white sand due to this issue, so this is the picture, and whichever engineer designed the construction of this road. A concrete beam lies under the bridge from one end to the other.

So the current problem here, because the bridge is situated right next to the beach. Whenever there is low tide, water flows inland and when it returns, the sand remains while the water goes back to the sea. So what is happening now is there is the constant storage of white sand and it engages with this heavy floods, the water begins to overflow. The problem as I said, this resort has floated twice in our village. And the main plea to the Hon Minister, have a look into this matter and find a solution to it. Whereas the roads are well maintained, and nothing is wrong with the bridge.

I appeal that this matter be reconsidered. The Leader has spoken about the round trip in Salafai, and the Prime Minister and Cabinet have witnessed the improved roads in Salelologa and around Savaii. Particularly the roads from Puapua to Samalaeulu. It is a beautiful road around Savaii similar to all the roads in Savaii. I think this road was built in a time round 1980. And given 40 years since, there has never been a pothole nor reseal, so I am saying that the road construction in those days were well built. But I can assure you Hon Minister, it was the first road construction by our Government, there was the code called the primer. When the primer is cemented, it is placed under the road footing. But I guess the process has changed today.

Looking at the impacts of climate change today, truthfully speaking whenever there is rain, we see so much water of about 3 to 4 inches. This seems to be the major concern given the effects of climate change. I therefore ask the Minister to bear in mind this concern.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

I further observe the many project developments that have been implemented. And perhaps many have already spoken about it and therefore, I heed a spirit of appreciation.

I would normally make comments during our Sittings, to the Minister of Works for his consideration given my constant observations of climate change conditions we continue to see today.

With the ongoing constructions of our major infrastructures particularly bridges. It is a matter that is constantly under discussion. Based on personal observation of these major projects they have been well built. However, I appeal the Hon Minister to reconsider them. As most of these major project developments requires special machinery to test all poles and interior structure and standards of large buildings.

I remember our trip with Hon Faumuina Liuga during his time as the Minister of Finance, I think it was back in 2012 when we went on this business trip to

09 FEBRUARY 2021

India. I am not sure if Faumuina recalls it. When we arrived, there was an advertisement by one of the largest textile industries in the country that was under demolition. The building was not affected except its floor. The death toll was over 100+ given the weight of workers in addition to the hefty rolling materials available. It was one of India's largest textiles and clothing exports to other countries. Thus, it was no small industry, however the required weight of the floor to carry the production of rolling fabrics and sewing machines could no longer support the floor because the production line and textile machinery were too heavy.

It is reason for this petition before the Hon Minister. The machines I am referring to is similar to the ones used by pregnant women for scanning and checking. The process for these ultrasound machines is similar. Any experienced person can use it. For instance, a huge steel pole of this large building, can apply a large welding beam to lock up this building. Therefore, this project has the strength to weld the poles and beams including the poles of the house. Because regardless of everything else in the house, the most fundamental thing is the structure. The main pillar of the project are the structural poles which carries the weight of the house. Meaning, if these structural poles are welded, the house design shows the details about the countering power of the storm this weight carries. If the foundation of the house...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Falealili East, Afioga Fuimaono.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Point of clarification to the statement of the member. I am trying to sort out how this ultrasound machine used by pregnant women is used pardon me, is compared to the machine that is used to check the poles. Because for me, I always go with my wife when she goes to have her ultrasound scan, I would go to see, as we have nine children. So my mind is trying to sort out as the process is obvious, because the ultrasound is firstly put on the belly for scanning to examine the baby inside, pardon me. So how is this check done, whether it is done like what the Hon Minister did for the women's screening by putting the ear or how is the process done? Because we are talking about this machine, which is not clear, or whether he is thinking of his own theory but will not be happen. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call... do not lie in Parliament. Yes. Your constitutional time is now finished...

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Allow me to respond honorable Speaker, as Samoa is heeding, and the constituency is tuning in. Whichever member to speak in this House, speak of correct information, speak of truthful events as the constituency is listening in. But allow me to respond to this matter...It is also important; it is good to have you in this House so that you can gain some good lessons from your experienced fellow members. This UT Ultrasound Machine, listen up, is similar to Ultra Machine that is used to scan pregnant women. Whilst this machine is used by the expert to weld together these steel beams which is as huge as a laptop.

MR SPEAKER: The machine of Tuifaasisina?

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Here, you see, it is thick.

MR SPEAKER: Because you have written to Tuifaasisina Misa.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Like many laptops, it is placed on the beam and steel. Then the expert would come with a gel such as the one used for screening pregnant women. The process is similar for these two things. Such is the reason I am saying the two processes are similar, the gel is used for welding, the beam is used to apply the gel similarly to the women's screening, then the screen is used for viewing of the details of the picture given...

Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow (Faasaleleaga No.1 West): Mr Speaker...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Gatoloaifaana. Go ahead Hon Gatoaifaana.

Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow: With respect I sit here with shyness. Can the member move on to another example and leave our role to us to speak on as we know it. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member; I think the interjection is right. Move away as Salausa is shaking his head as he is a doctor.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Yes. Because the member for Falealili is querying this matter, but this is the only machine I can use to make comparison in relation to what I am referring to. So therefore I cannot speak of a new topic as the member for Falealili is keen to know this matter.

This machine works by applying a gel in order to see the screening on the laptop, people who are examining these major works, they look at the designs of these buildings, how many, whether 200, 300 the weight of the storm can

09 FEBRUARY 2021

counter these steel poles. The screen can also determine the strength of the welding steel. Because you can clearly see this bubble like a...that is why I am saying, it is very similar, the gel, is the same. That is the clarification on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Can we finish this in the back...can we finish the clarification to Fuimaono during our break and allow our Sitting to progress.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: This is a very important matter given the many rising problems. It is not a matter...it is a very critical matter, stated by the Leader of the Government, due to the effects of climate change, to strengthen the many development projects. How is this done? How can you know that a job is strong and complete? This is the only machine which indicates the job is properly done. Right now, it is impossible to look through a welding. So this is the only machine that will determine the problems with steel welding. Screening can also examine the undercuts which is the cause of the water inside. This person went and did welding works directly when the steel beam should have been pre-heated first to make it hot and drain the water from inside. The reason the welding is broken is because of this problem. And from here...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: The member can take a rest.

During Peseta's education of this area in America, there were no such machinery. Yet I am confused as to how he received knowledge of these machines. Although it is also good for us who lack insight of this field. I have gained a few experiences from this area. When querying Peseta about it, he said they are pre-heated including many other things you mentioned, and what was the reason for the water leakage at Yazaki building that you welded. Whether there is...or if it was not for this machine that would not have occurred. So the member's statement is very important, we should get a machine. Well done, Peseta.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the member for Falealili East.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker, because I gave a query in the beginning, and only half of the clarification was given, despite this is enough, the advice by Peseta is not useful. Because it would mean that the container gel would be used for huge poles. When Fonotoe has now spoken that there is also a thing called overheat. And therefore overheat is heating up the storage tanks, which allows the leakage of Yazaki resources welded by Peseta. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker, no we pity the member and his statement about the machine. What concerns the heart, it has been 50 almost 60 years since Samoa became Independent and there is a Ministry that does house inspections, they are the ones who are expert in this field. What Peseta is talking about well perhaps he used to work for it in America, storey buildings of 20, 30, 40. Also note there is certain height for a constructing building, a bult is used instead of a weld to hold the structure of a building. Meaning, Pese, there are plentiful road workers as well as building constructors.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

You should have given your request to the Hon Minister and their Ministry to carry out a house inspection as it seems that... the advice is good, but it will undermine the knowledge of these... To bring assistance to the member, but it will be good to continue this in another...

MR SPEAKER: Very well I allow the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the recent speaker's statement, there is the advice of the Associate Minister to the Minister, I am therefore not an engineer. As such, the Hon Minister advises me, this is enough, these people are getting knowledgeable from my information, and there are also the interested bidders listening in, and so by the time you bid it will be useless as all the bidders are getting smarter.

For that reason, change your talk as the other bidders are getting smarter.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the member as I allow the member to upstand. Associate Minister of Works....

Susuga Seiuli Ueligitone Seiuli (Sagaga le Usoga): Mr Speaker, Peseta has raised an idea that must be applied to fixing these poles and...however the

09 FEBRUARY 2021

question to the Associate Minister of the Prime Minister, why wasn't the machine applied to the fence of our hospital which Peseta welded ended up in a very huge problem? With respect.

MR SPEAKER: You are very bad. I advise the member not to respond to all of them but do give advice to the Prime Minister.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker, I will not respond to it, as none of the boys here understand my discussion. Because even with the drain, they say to use welding. Welding cannot be used on drain iron. Even with what Seiuli was saying about light steel, they cannot be used for this machine. Such is the essence Hon Minister, because we are seeing the effects of climate change, it is different nowadays. There were times we had seen strong storms and now they are building up. Earthquakes are also getting frequent on a monthly basis and so it is good to be prepared, the Ministry is listening in, particularly those who are implementing these major works, they must be vigilant and take heed as this involves the lives of the people. Another matter...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I advise the member, if there is anything that requires clarification, then do it during our break, as we have arrived at our recess hour. Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now set aside for normal recess at 10:35am and resumed at 11:30am.

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

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

Parliament has been invigorated to resume its works.

During break the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 was speaking. With respect the official time of the member is now over but do conclude now for the sake of the constituency so that our works can progress.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: But I thank you Mr Speaker, new strength has been received. Such is our appreciation to the Ministry that Parliament has gained additional energy.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Before moving on from this matter, there is one thing I wish to speak on, as Yazaki was mentioned. For your information, this house was insured, and was built at a windspeed of 120 and was passed by engineers. So that is why it was approved lest another member rises to object, well I have said it, if the inspection was not done properly, this project would not have gone through and Yazaki would not have been used nor insured.

Mr Speaker, I wish to convey a huge congratulations to the Minister of Health for taking consideration of these tasks, especially the various problems and rising diseases in the country, irrespective, it seems the Ministry is carrying alone these difficulties. For that we express our great appreciation to all the doctors and nurses.

I further wish to extend thanks to the Committee who is tasked with these situations, particularly passengers from overseas and the overseeing of borders as these works mentioned by other members are very difficult to implement, and there is nothing we can do if these frontliners are affected.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

It is reason we give appreciation to the Chairperson particularly those who are tasked with this difficult job which is a job that involves death all for the protection of our country.

I wish to specially acknowledge the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. The House is well aware that the Hon Minister is a dear brother to me, he is also a Matafeo. We are the generations of Asaga. If this village is tuning in, the dignity of Sa Matafeo lineage...we came through one stomach one pillow. Despite the challenges faced in here, we are one brother. The main thing is the plea of my village of Asaga. As we prepared for the elections, I had met them to dicuss the things that needed improvement for this Parliament should the will of God grant me another chance. My constituency submitted 2 requests, access roads and school building. Mr Speaker, perhaps it was my village that was the first to have its launching for its access roads because we kept on asking the Hon Minister at that time, the same with the school building of my village.

I wish to extend appreciation to the Hon Minister of Education for these requests that have been made easier. This is one way the Government of America has made it easier for us by way of responding to our request. Because this school building was funded by the American Government. I therefore wish to extend great thanks to the American Government for the various ways for our village to obtain this financial assistance. That being said, we must be courageous, you have heard...

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

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I wish to clearly clarify a minor issue on this matter, these grants, the reason why our Government and foreign Governments carry it out is to get their support for our developments. That is also why their Offices are being set up here, to further strengthen our close ties. The roads at Faasaleleaga area covering the village of the current speaker, the essence for this inner connecting road to Fusi and Patamea is to provide easier access to this innermost area and to develop the land. It would be easier to build a house there, and one day it will also have electricity. This is the important part. So similarly to the roads I mentioned in Lano and Sapapalii, they will both be fixed under the State's program.

The reason I mentioned this is to include it in the program lest it is not implemented before the general elections. Therefore, whatever project that can be implemented before the elections, they can be continued afterwards. So these projects are meant to be done before the elections.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Returning or not back to Parliament is all up to God, who is watching us, no this is not about the elections, they are Government programs that are ongoing until they are completed until the next elections. I therefore wish to acknowledge the member who is here in our Sitting and a Sitting he will speak in. The House has heard the excuse submitted from other members; however we have seen it in the photos taken, these four members attending their political party activities, they have abandoned our Parliamentary Sitting over a Political campaign in Samalaeulu. For that reason, bless your endeavors.

Mr Speaker, this is my assistance, because I have heard something different on a few engagements relating to Political Parties and the involvement of all four who are now posted on social media. So we too are not stupid.

Mr Speaker, this is the help to the member.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture Hon Loau Solamalemalo Kenetio Sio.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker... Thank you for the opportunity as acknowledgement was also given by the member to the Minister of Education mentioning our conflict of interest. The member is correct, regardless, the Ministerial role is not about being biased or about conflict of interest. The essence is to share the setting up of school buildings such as the assistance provided from our Ministry. The Hon Prime Minister has spoken with regards to the financial assistance donated from our foreign partners which has also... Last thing is people relating to me, thank you to the member for this important matter.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call on the member, the Hon Namulauulu Papalii Sami Leota.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you Mr Speaker. No, because this matter is important and should be further clarified, since there have been many speeches this morning talking about the implementation of the welding work of the Hon Member. Since the situation of insurance was also stated. The implementation of insurance work, as long as it has been approved. But the building used by Yazaki and all the houses that were implemented by the company where I am currently working at. They cannot be issued an insurance cover until the survey is carried out. For the surveys that have yet to be conducted, people are brought from overseas to conduct them. Just to confirm this part.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

According to the report that has been submitted, the Yazaki building is structurally sound, but I did not know that the Hon Member was the one who welded it. With all due respect.

But for the fence that Seiuli mentioned has yet to be surveyed, as only the Yazaki building was surveyed. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I implore the member; we have made it to Falealili but now we are talking about this again in Tuamasaga. But I beseech the member as that time for that matter has passed and our work will not move backwards, it has already been clarified, so we are all aware, it is not possible.... it is also the duty of the insurance company come and to check whether these things are still in good condition, in case they are eager as Sami Leota holds a position in the insurance company.

But since this is the issue, thank you very much, the Government will also share through the request of the Member. Well done, that is the situations of... your constituency is also blessed as... Who else is more qualified as you have worked hard to find work and to improve the constituency, so you will also benefit from it. You will bask in the glory of your good work.

But I call on the member to stand and conclude your speech.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Thank you for the opportunity. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister. This member is overjoyed, because of the requests that were made by some of the villages of my constituency.

Well, then I come to the Hon Minister of Finance. The Hon Minister, as you have heard in my first speech of this Parliamentary when you were appointed. This member did not doubt your appointment to be the Minister of Finance. I believe that you have worked in this Ministry for a long time. Regardless of the Budget, whether it is small, medium or large, this member has the belief that it

09 FEBRUARY 2021

is enough for the country to live on. So I would like to thank the Hon Minister. I would also like to convey my gratitude to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry and the staff. In the preparation of these Budgets from the beginning of this Parliamentary Term, and now we have reached its end. Although looking at the prosperity of the country and its happiness, with the quality of your proportioning and your distribution. Because in spite of all these things, there are many members who will argue, but if there is not enough funds, it is not possible. It has been noticed that almost all the members have completed the work that was needed for their constituencies, due to the good allocation and distribution of our country's funds. Therefore, I would like to express the essence of happiness and gratitude, as this constituency strongly supports the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Mr Speaker, I would like to address my beloved constituency of Faasaleleaga No.4 in all its honorific salutations.

Now that our village in Lano is listening to the work that our Government has planned, you have witnessed, as the Leader of our Government has spoken. This means that the work that is needed by our village has been prepared. Mr Speaker, the road is not only important for vehicles. As I have stated in the past, when the river overflows, the children of the village are unable to go to school. It is the same for sermons on Sundays, as once this river overflows it cannot be crossed. That being said I would like to express the essence of gratitude, because it is not limited to these situations, but also the sanctity of the country, traveling from the East to the West. Just like the situation in the village of Samalaeulu, the bridge that has been built by our Government, which is the same thing that occurred in my village.

Therefore, our village in Lano, thank you for your observation, the Cabinet has made its decision, for a wooden bridge or concrete road to be built. Schools have also been planned for the children, so this is the essence of gratitude. As I have said, the first thing that every village should look at is the school building. The school is where leaders are produced to lead the Government in the future. Therefore I am grateful to our village for the support.

I also want to acknowledge my village of Asaga in all its honorific salutations. Especially the men and women and the strength of our village, thank you for your devotion. Asaga, this member will never forget your support, as you have made it possible for me to be elected for 2 Parliamentary Terms now. And so I thought to myself, who is this person? Just like I said, I never doubted our village, for when I come to our village, I am an Asaga. This means that I highly value the needs of our village. Whatever our village wants, I always try to make the request to our Government. I ask the Government for its implementation, and now you can witness it, not only is the access road that was implemented by our Government wonderful, but now it has been noticed that our community has shifted inland. This is due to the good work that has been done by our

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Government. Another wonderful sight in our village is when you watch the commercials that come on TV, we can see the lake in our village, it is very beautiful, and so I convey my gratitude and congratulations. Therefore, the devotion of our village, it is not long before this Parliament is over, and then we will meet again. And I will personally express my gratitude for your courtesy. Therefore, be patient as God will provide a lamb to sacrifice.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

My beloved village of Puapua, perhaps you are listening to the voice of your servant, yes, I am your servant. Although we have not seen each other a lot, but the most important thing is the implementation of the needs of our village. And whatever the work that has been requested, as it has been noted that there is an abundance of requests from many constituencies. Considering that the distribution by the Government is determined by its income and revenue. But do not worry, since it would be good if we implement it ourselves. As we have our own lands and resources to carry out our work. But your respect and your honors cannot be forgotten, I will never forget.

And so I say to my village, in all its honorary salutations. I commend you for your support, as I always thought that our village had other intentions to choose another person to run in the election. However, our village continues to give me the opportunity to occupy the Seat and to run for Seat of our constituency. It means that this is the highest honors given to me, and it is an honor that cannot be obtained easily. Mr Speaker, there are many intelligent people in this village, and majority of the people of this village were former Ministers of Parliament of New Zealand. There is also an elder who was also a leader, the Hon Tootooalii, the Afioga Tofilau. He was also the Head of the Government of American Samoa. There are many people, important people who grew up in my village. There were also many of them who thought about running for this Seat.

But I am very grateful to my village for always considering me. Mr Speaker, since my village is listening, most of the plans of this village is implemented by the women. The fetalaiga Tiaua, as well as Madam Sealiimalietoa. These women manage everything in this village, the decisions to be made, and the statements made, are all done by these women. This is why it is easy to make decisions in our village. The chiefs and all the people observe, even the nobles while they put their faith in the women, they have the authority.... these two women guide this whole village. Perhaps this is one of the blessings that God has given to my village.

This village also has its traditional stories, as the village is listening, my village has its legends, and most of the residents do not know about it. A woman

09 FEBRUARY 2021

from Fiji came to my village, and she brought a gift, which was a fish. This is the blessing that we have, thus why I stated that it was a blessing from God for our village. Yes, but there was only one thing that this elderly Fijian woman wanted, and it was a beautiful girl in the past. In those days the village gave into the request, and this is the reward. AS this is the reward for a generous village, to respond to necessities. Now we have the gift from this woman, every time of every year, there were years when it was missing. But this gift continues to return on the shores of our village, the fish.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Since this House is listening, this fish has a face similar to a woman with red lips. Our village has a song, and Gatoloai knows it well, because she lives in Puapua. It all seems... because in those days, our village has a different type of fish...

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member since your time is up.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: This is the essence....

MR SPEAKER: It would be good to stand up once in a while since I... Is there something the member of Falelatai and Samatau wants to correct?

Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai and Samatau): Well, I am still supporting the speech of my fellow politician, and I would like to make a request as well. I have observed the management of the Assembly by the Hon Speaker, as soon as the members address their constituencies, you would give the opportunity for the member to do so. My request Mr Speaker, if there is no time for those who have been interrupted, maybe give 2 minutes for the member to finish the speech.

This is a motion with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the member is concluding his speech. But remember, I pointed it out, this is what is called beseech in our culture. As I beseeched the member yesterday, yet he is still going, and today I have beseeched him for almost an hour, but the member is not listening.

What now? It will not be long...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: That is the essence, just like what I said, this is the blessing that God gave our village. Furthermore, in this village, when the main road was just starting to be implemented, this village donated this land and the mountain to bury the road free of charge; it was given for free to the Government. My village can testify, it was placed under the Government free of charge so that these roads can be implemented, as it is the same for *Itu o Tane*. But what is happening now? We have been trying hard to

09 FEBRUARY 2021

use this mountain, but it seems to grow. So since it is growing, it means that the village has been blessed by God because of its gift.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

This is the essence Mr Speaker, to my village, your respect is prominent, yes. As I have already stated, when this Parliamentary Term is over, then I will return to perform the service, in the few days remaining. Just like I said, do not worry, whatever work and activity that were planned for this season, I will arrive soon, and we will work together and implement these developments for our village.

Before I conclude my speech, to the Hon Prime Minister or the Hon Minister, from the bottom of my heart and the high spirits of this member, I would like to convey my congratulations and gratitude to the Hon Minister. If I recall for the past 2 Parliamentary Terms, you have always chosen the representative of this constituency to serve you and the Ministry. It is believed that there are times when my services are not unsatisfactory. But the most important thing for me is the lengthy time that I worked with the Hon Prime Minister, as I try to capture some important traits, to increase my services in the Government. It has been an honour to observe the bravery of the Hon Prime Minister in carrying out your work, not only in the Government but also in our Ministry.

It is with the highest spirits and the essence of gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, for the honours given to me. This is also your prominent respect to my constituency. We do not know the appointments made by God, whether you will choose me again or not. Bless you and the other members of this House, the confirmed members, but for the rest of us we hope to God. Therefore, Hon Prime Minister, the Son of Malietoa Tuilaepa, the shortcomings of this member, this is also the failure of my constituency, with a service that is unsatisfactory, please forgive your servant, but put before God the plans of our Government, for the distribution is up to God.

I would also like to express my congratulations and gratitude to the Chief Executive Officers of your Ministry, the Hon Agafili and your sister Peseta Noumea. Congratulations for the hard work, as well as our entire Ministry, as you worked in cooperation with the Hon Prime Minister. The Honourable male and female Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries of our Government, I commend you for your hard work and your support. As the Leader said when you were sworn in with the renewal of the work, God is always relying on you. The Government depends on you. The prayer of this member may God bless you all in the implementation of your duties and endeavours. It is not known in the future whether you will be sitting in these Seats, while we support from the

09 FEBRUARY 2021

back. We pray that you continue to be courageous, offer your entirety and especially the performance of duties and work to serve our Country.

Mr Speaker, this is the final statement from this constituency, to convey my congratulations and gratitude. Thank you very much, bless the Assembly of Samoa. Soifua.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

The Parliament showed appreciation after the speech of the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 by applauding.

MR SPEAKER: I congratulate and thank the member for the speech, the constituency is listening, and that is how it is. The constituency is hoping for good fortunes, for the chosen members so that their endeavours are successful. The members that were chosen to come and work for the politics of the Government. Thank you and congratulations to the member for the speech.

This is the opportunity for the member for Palauli West. I call on the Hon Member for Palauli West, Afoa Amituanai.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI (Palauli West): Thank you, let us give thanks to Jehovah our Almighty God, our Father who lives in heaven, because of His grace and His mercy for Samoa and the world, as we have arrived safely at this time and day. Give Praises and Glory to Him. Because He owns all the Power and glory for eternity. I would like to thank you Mr Speaker, for this golden opportunity to express my gratitude to my beloved constituency of Palauli West or Palauli No.1. This is also the case with the advice and recommendations of Palauli West to our Government. For the improvement of our economy for the good of our beloved country of Samoa, and our people, starting from the highest mountains to the lowest hills. And our beloved children who are living in Samoa and in other parts of the world.

First of I would like to offer salutations to His Excellency the Head of State and your Good Lady, as well as the Hon Member of the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady. I also convey greetings to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet as well as the Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge the Hon Chief Justice, the President of the Lands and Titles Court and the men and women of the Judiciary.

I convey greetings to the Hon Speaker and all the honourable members of Parliament. Salutations are also expressed to the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Corporations of the Government. I also want to acknowledge the ordained workers of God in every altar in Samoa, especially my constituency of Palauli West No.1.

I offer greetings and compassion to the sanctity of Samoa in all its honorific salutations and to those who are listening from home and from various parts of the world.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

I convey salutations and send best wishes to our brothers in Tutuila and Manua. The Governor of American Samoa, as well as the Government of Tutuila and Manua. The authority of Directors, the Chief Justice and the Office of the Judiciary.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

In further, the Hon Speaker and the President and the Honourable Members of the Two Houses, as well as the Legislative Assembly of American Samoa, in all its honorific salutations.

I also take this opportunity to greet my beloved constituency of Palauli West. Starting from my beloved village of Taga with all its honorific salutations.

I also express greetings and compassion to the church minister, Rev Simalu Kovati Tuilaepa EFKS. The Archbishop Elekana, Mormon, father Musika of the Baptist Church, and the sanctity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I also offer salutations to my villages of Salailua and Siutu with all its honorific salutations.

Greetings also to my village of Siutu in all its honorific salutations.

I would also like to express greetings to Rev Talosaga Hitila of the EFKS in Siutu, Rev Mose Malaga of the EFKS in Salailua, Rev Tavita Polamau of the Methodist Church, Father Tamaolefale Uaita of the Baptist Church in Salailua.

I shake hands and offer endearment to my village of Foailalo with all its honorific salutations. I also greet the Rev Selau Selau of the Methodist Church, and Rev Pulemau of the EFKS.

I also greet and offer endearment to my village of Foailuga with all its honorific salutations. As I acknowledge and convey love to the altars and the Church Ministers Rev Iosia of the Methodist Church, the Archbishop Vaeluaga and Uai of the Mormon Church, Susuga Latoga of the Assembly of God, and the sanctity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I would also like to acknowledge my village of Satuiatua with all its honorific salutations. I offer greetings and endearment to the Rev Setu Pitone of the Methodist Church as we will meet when the Assembly finishes.

Those are the sanctities and honours of my constituency, as well as the clergy of Palauli West No.1 who pray every day and night for the prosperity of the constituency and Samoa as a whole. Congratulations, thank you for the devotion.

First, I would like to express my full support on the 3 Acts. We conducted a meeting here in Tumua, with my constituency, and they advised me, Afoa, be brave. We wish you the best in the remaining days of your Sitting. You must voice the circumstances of your constituency on this issue and then we will declare that you will return in the next election. This is the statement by Faletuai Toeafe, the spokesperson for the constituency who was present in the House at the time.

The member performed the responsibilities in conveying and voicing the wisdom and foresight of Palauli West No.1 in the Parliamentary Assembly of

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Samoa, without fear of the Prime Minister and the HRPP Party, as my constituency was concerned about last year in 2020.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

I declared to my constituency that Afoa, their representative from Palauli West, is brave and does not fear anyone, except the Almighty God, who founded Samoa, and my opinions are not limited to the opinions of the HRPP, or the Prime Minister, as my opinions and decisions are independent of the wishes of the constituency, and the facts that Samoa has....

It is no secret that you have made known on the television your strong support of these 3 Acts, after your consultations with the Parliamentary Committee that is dealing with this matter. As you are aware, your request has been approved, and this section of the Act has been removed and limited the *Sa'o* to 5, in the Act that has just been passed. We have already checked the other issues that you raised, in our meeting on lands, after your consultations with the Parliamentary Committee.

The Prime Minister has been waiting for a lawyer to bring an issue regarding the lands that are affected by the Act, but no one came. And thus why, I voted to support these 3 Acts, because it affected our constituencies. That is the belief of the constituency of Palauli West.

There is only one issue for the near future, which is the return of the Judicial Review Section to the Supreme Court where it was before, if it resolves the concern and perception that having 4 pillars of the Government will weaken the Courts, as there is only 3 Pillars of Democracy. The important thing is that this Act has been initiated, and further amendments are still available in the future to improve the Act if the country needs it.

The drinking water and piped water for the villages of Salailua and Siutu. When the mayors of Salailua and Siutu made an appeal for assistance for the improvement of the piped waters and drinking waters for Salailua, whereas the representative stepped up and seek help from the Minister of Works, the Chief Executive Officer of the Water, the Samoa Water Authority, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Developments and other Organizations. There is no more financial assistance received from these other agencies, except for the Government's assistance through the Water Authorities to rebuild large water storage tanks, and to improve the pipes so that all the people can received continuous clean water, it will never run out, whether it is rainy or sunny, the water will never run out. The cost of such things is more than \$1,000,000, and this assistance cannot be implemented, unless it is unanimously agreed upon by our village, with the wisdom of the village council of Salailua and Siutu, and then it is left to your discretion, for a suitable time in the future.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Our Government is willing to help through the Water Services, the Hon Seugamaalii and the team, to carry out these expensive projects when you feel like it. Thank you to the Minister of Works and the LTA for completing the roads and drains at Palauli West District School in Salailua in 2019.

You have also heard the speech by the Government Representative, Le Tofa Luatamaga Leka Tuivanu on the day of the opening of the road in Satuiatua last month, as he stated that this development has been on standby for 30 years but now it has come to fruition. It has been fulfilled under the care of this member, Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui even though not many people voted for me. Even though I was never seen by the women who complained that day, but the most important thing is the implementation of quality work for our village of Satuiatua. So I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister of Works, the Hon Papaliitele and the LTA, the Hon Galumalemana and our Government for this expensive and important development.

I believe work will soon start for our access road in my beloved village of Foailalo as well as the road to the Blowhole, the world famous tourist attraction in Taga as per the plans of the Government, to conclude its project before the end of this term. Because my constituency of Palauli West have agreed that I will be back, after the next elections, then we will finish the access roads left in Taga, Siutu and Foailuga.

I thank my constituency, for the support and prayers given to your member. The performances for the Independence, Salailua and Taga. My beloved village of Taga was blessed, the respects of *Salevalasi, le mamalu i le Falefa ma Faigata, faapea lau tautalaga Faiumu ma le Salemuliaga*, at the Governments invitation to perform at the 2017 Independence, since we met and performed at Petesa as well.

I commend you for the singing, thank you also for accepting the invitation, with the beautiful dances and songs. My villages of Salailua and Siutu were fortunate again, *Afio o Aiga, Alalatai Tuato ma Tolovaa, ma Salemuliaga faapea foi le Afio o Salaulu ma Suafa, Alalatai le Fetalaiga ia Faatoafe ma le Lua Faigata*, at the invitation of Government to perform at the 2018 Independence. We met again at Petesa and here in Tiafau. Glory be to God, thank you for the good response, and the beautiful dancing and singing.

I will now move on to important matters as well as suggestions and recommendations to Government. First is the Covid-19 pandemic and the deadly vaccine, vaccine poison. I would like to remind Parliament of my speech conveyed in Parliament in June 2020. In regards to this horrifying disease Covid-19, which has scared the world and Samoa...

09 FEBRUARY 2021

– debate continued on the second reading

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

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister, while the member takes a break.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I advice the member, to move away from the matter related to Covid. The country has already heard the situation we are in and it is very clear to Samoa. It should not be mentioned again.

It is also known that the Committee keeps announcing the situation in Samoa, and there is hope that the vaccines will arrive soon. In order to save the time from speaking on the matter, the time of joking about the disease is over, but I advice the member, to move away from this matter as the country is well understood.

MR SPEAKER: Well, that is also the advice of the Chair, move away from this matter, the member should not elaborate on it any further. I call upon the member.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you for the advice, but this is a very important matter. It is true that the plan of our Government has been made but I know that there are some important issues that I...

MR SPEAKER: I advice you, are you hearing me say I advice you? Move away from this matter.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Alright I will move on to another matter, but as I said, this topic is also very important. But...

MR SPEAKER: Move onto another matter. Do not make the Speaker angry.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: You see, the majority of my speech is referred to this matter. I will leave it for another time, I want to thank the Hon Minister of Education for insisting that all our children go back to school as normal, if not our schools would still have been closed, and they will well in the future.

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

09 FEBRUARY 2021

I commend the Hon Minister of Education for the foresight, Loau you are surely the best, Manu Samoa administer. As you can all see I have quite a long speech prepared...

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I appease member while I call upon the member for Anoamaa Susuga Lufilufi, Sa Fenunuivao.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: I will let the member of Palauli take a break to find his speech, but he stated earlier that he is not afraid of anyone and that he is brave. If you come into Parliament, as a member we should humble ourselves, set aside our bravery and other qualities, because when we come to the House of Samoa, we work together for a good cause.

We work together because there are Leaders who have been appointed and everything like that, who we listen to and obey to lead Government. This organisation is like the Political Party of the Human Rights Protection Party. It has values which must be followed by the members, if some members who are preparing to compete listen to this, they would think this is the way our Parliament practices are carried out. All the best Palauli with your speech with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you, this is accurate that it is misinterpreted by some members especially the public. There is no such spirit in the Parliament that one member intimidates another member.

Even with politics, if members look into it that is how it is done. The Hon Prime Minister is not even scaring you. The member can do whatever and say what is wants in his speech. The reason why the Prime Minister took the floor was to advice the member to not mention the matter again, as you have stated you spoke on it in June of last year. At that time we mainly were discussing Covid matters.

So that is what I have recorded here, and I want to note that we should not go back and speak on your opinion. This is why is there another member...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker...

09 FEBRUARY 2021

MR SPEAKER: I believe it is like that to try and undermine another member. However our duty is to collaborate together for the benefit of the country. It is like that, but I call upon the member to continue.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Since Mr Speaker is moving away from the matter...

MR SPEAKER: It seems the matter is being prolonged I ask the member to conclude. Pardon Leala as well as the member of Falealili the Chair has made its decision on the member.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker I stand in regards to words used pursuant to our Standing Orders with respect.

MR SPEAKER: The Standing Orders stands but it is the decision of the Speaker how it is interpreted on mutual terms. I call on the member of Palauli West.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I stated that, since I wanted to remind everyone of what happened in the past. As for now we are in 2021, these are the matters I wanted to speak upon and it reflects those things that was mentioned in the past, which is why I brought it up...

MR SPEAKER: There is the Ministry of Health office, and others who are standing in the front in matter of Covid. I apologize but we have already chosen those who will be on guard for this cause but I ask that you move on to other requests of the constituency. This is a view on the matter I know that you are determined, also if you look at it, I did not ask you to sit down because you are reading your speech.

So you see what I did not want to say? You are not allowed to read a speech. Do you want to hear what I am saying? Those are some things, we have to uphold our mutual respect. This is why I am hesitant to give an opportunity to another member incase this is mentioned. But be mindful of what is spoken, talk about other good aspects of the constituency who are listening, we have noticed that they want to choose you again, you are lucky. Blessed is the constituency if you come back, to forgive a word of the Chair, because there are times when we use direct language if the member does not understand.

I call upon the member to convey a word to the constituency.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to point out that all the things I am trying to say, I am sorry if there

09 FEBRUARY 2021

is a language issue, but that is the language we are using as if to say so in this case.

But there is no goal that the comments made are immoral. However what I am saying now are all facts, these are true and I believe it is significant for our Government and people.

This is why I thought I would address it first before I move on to my constituency, and assist on matters that I mentioned before. These are not made up, also I am aware that only facts are stated here in Parliament. I have stated the truth in my speeches, also I have some advice and suggestions to give to our Government.

As far as I know, this is the time because it will be my last time in the Parliament, to give support to our Government. If it is not done, then it is on the Government, at least recommendations and suggestions have been given. They are not instructions or anything like that, but suggestions, because now is the only time for members to speak like this, not only in our Parliament, our country but to the world.

I apologize Mr Speaker if I there has been such a situation.

MR SPEAKER: No the advice is commendable, but I appease the member to move away from the matter related to Covid. Because all your past speeches was mainly about Covid. It is very disputive and it wounds the heart.

Yes, this is why I thought, these are your words that were said here, and those words are being misinterpreted outside of Parliament. Who is scaring who, is it the Prime Minister scaring members, I am free, why? Are we only free when we leave? No, we are all free and we are still free. We are all free. Yes, but speak directly on matters which means well.

But do not speak ambiguously. That is a notion.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you, this is the situation in which I mentioned our Leader the Hon Prime Minister, i declare to these people, our Prime Minister is good. I am also in the Opposition of our Party. I also confirm the words of the Prime Minister, that there is an Opposition of the HRPP in our Government. It seems that is one role I am playing in our Party, being an opposition.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

I want to tell the world, the Hon Prime Minister is right. There is an Opposition of HRPP. There is no need for an Opposition since that Party has not come yet. Thus the Opposition appointed by the Prime Minister, still insists on what

09 FEBRUARY 2021

should be done. Mr Speaker that is the spirit, I am not speaking as a member but as an Opposition towards the HRPP in challenging Government.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I ask that you conclude your speech.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Because this is also an issue of the Opposition, which includes diseases, there may be some value in my last research, which was carried out in the last 6 months a later time. I will set aside matters of the past, as for now, there are other new things, that could assist Government with this disease.

This means, if the opinion of the member is not conveyed, I suspect that this would be the solution to this disease, which would benefit Government and people, if I do not reveal these views now, it means that I am not doing my duty. Not only as a member but as the Opposition, these are factors that should be considered. However if this is the will of the Chair, I will convey recommendations on a few things that I mentioned earlier.

MR SPEAKER: We are discussing the Appropriation. The Supplementary Appropriation (No.1), these are aspects of the overall state of the economy and the financial policies of Government. It seems your whole speech is only about Covid right? As it is, now there are policies of Government, based on it. But it does not mean that you will state it so that the Government knows about it, there are already policies in place to compact this matter.

It is not done with a single mind. Decisions are made by experts. Yes, even the doctors as well, but now the auditor on medical services is giving advice, that is one aspect. I appease the member, but if this is your will saying that you studied and did research on it, then I ask that you conclude. Write something else then I will give you another opportunity to speak again tomorrow.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you, there are many issues, but this is one important issue to prioritise, but there are other issues that are all related to the Budget and recommendations for the good of our economy. But for now...

MR SPEAKER: Alright let us hear it.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Shall I state it? How about other matters? Should I just leave it for tomorrow?

MR SPEAKER: We will discuss those matters later.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Alright, I will start with other matters then?

MR SPEAKER: Yes, we will discuss it later. Thank you.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: The Samoa Hotel Tourism Industry. It is not a secret to the whole of Samoa and the world the impact faced by our Tourism Industry, including hotels, motels, beach fale, rental cars, rentals properties, small farmers who sell their crops to hotels, restaurants, handicrafts, coconut sellers, vaisalo, supoesi, taro and breadfruit, luau, faiai fee, boiled taro and banana in coconut cream, cocoa sellers, and the small businesses that sell their goods like tie-dye cloths, the entertainers that perform at hotels and fire dancers. Oh Samoa...

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Samoa Tourism Authority): Mr Speaker an opportunity please...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, as I call upon the Hon Minister of Tourism.

Thank you, the presentation by the member is quite interesting. There is a song by Vanila that used to be sung in those days about food, perhaps Afoa has forgotten. The wording of the song is like this, hey, yes, then the man would respond, Sir look, there is chicken soup and octopus' soup, fish soup and faiai fee. Pigeon soup and vi salad. Those are all the things. Therefore I want to say "Afoa, leave it to me to explain to the country the food then you can say your speech tomorrow, but I will write down all the verses of the song, and then we can sing it together."

As for the matter itself, my speech has already been prepared to focus on the things that you want to talk about, perhaps it will take 2 to 3 days to talk about these matters but do sing along for the country and the House who are listening. I commend you for the efforts, you are nearly doing well.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon Afioga Afoa, the member of Palauli West.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Sala. I am trying to support you Hon Minister and the Tourism Industry and try to come up with a solution to revive the industry, as you know it is very bad. A lot of hotels are not active because you know, the hotel and such developments, it was the dream of the Prime Minister to establish our hotels. It is a dream, a baby of the Hon Prime Minister, it is a major development that has become a pillar of a major industry in the economy of Samoa before we and the world

09 FEBRUARY 2021

were affected by Covid, am I allowed to say that word? The money received from this industry was \$850 million. So the reason why I stated these Sala, it is a multiplier effect, hotels are affected including those who sell produce and goods. It is why I mentioned this, it is not to boast, it is to mention that these people are affected, especially those involved in the hotel industry. This does not mean it is only hotel owners, but it affects all services and the industry those in support like rental car owners and so forth.

At the moment, if we do not open our borders soon, there will be a disaster, our industry is in bad shape. If we observe the situation, no one, regardless of the knowledge and wisdom of the person, whether a businessman or a doctorate can, once the source of the income is closed, not getting \$1 will lead to nothing, and it then results to bankruptcy. In business, a few businessmen and few people have no ability to do anything to earn money. It is as if that is the spirit, Mr Speaker that led me to mention these things to help our Finance Division and Parliament to find a solution to resolve this problem. This is the reason. Because I remember the...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, all these aspects have already been laid out. This is why I suggest to the member, to move away from this matter, Government plans have already been set. Even with those who visit, we cannot open our borders in general, we are in a situation of the contagion of the variant that we often hear about. Mr Speaker, he is just wasting his time, but move on to other matters.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well I believe you have heard, since you are giving your advice, but at the moment there are no planes, even ships entering, it is only cargo ships. Now you are saying that again but is that not what is happening? We are all reading this is the same newspaper. A recommendation the Government is well aware and are looking at ways to change that situation and get help and move to another direction. Yes. But will you be ready by tomorrow? Or is this enough time.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on the second reading**

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: I am prepared any time, today, tomorrow Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I was thinking of concluding your time since our time has been wasted on your speech. Yes. But if you can tomorrow, I will give you another opportunity. I note that most of the speech you prepared has been stopped. Even though the Government has proposed a motion in this regard, unfortunately we will go back to what we talked about at the start of last year. But that is the spirit, the work of the Parliament is to move forward.

09 FEBRUARY 2021

Therefore I apologize to the member regarding the constituency listening in, incase my comments are seen as too much, but that is our usual practice, and you should understand that we tried. I appease the member, but we must consider mutual respect, I can easily end your speech because of our Standing Orders. If a member repeatedly mentions something that has already been said in the past, then there will be disturbance in the Parliament. This term is written there, disturbance. This means it is the duty of the Chair to stop the speech. Yes. Do you see? But I will not stop you from speaking.

I will give you another opportunity to prepare properly for tomorrow. Pardon the member, but please move away from this, and convey a word to the constituency. This is the situation, but I apologize because once we apply Standing Orders, you will be breaching our Standing Orders. What is the Standing Order? Reading all of your speech. Now do you see it?

I appease the member, I pray you forgive the Chairs sentiments, but these are the words to uphold the sanctity of the Parliament and our work but prepare for tomorrow. Pray to God, do not count on yourself to get ideas, no. It is God that gives speeches, it is He who gives us ideas and thoughts to say for the constituency listening.

Well, before we adjourn, since we have arrived at the end of our work of the day, therefore before we do I call upon the member of Siumu, Afioga Faalogo to conclude our Proceedings with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:58pm until Wednesday, February 10 at 9:00am.