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**WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2021**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.23am.*

Prayer.

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

I greet everyone this beautiful morning with clear skies and good health.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

*Clerk read out the list of Parliamentary Committee Reports pursuant to Standing Order 49(2).*

1. P.P. 2020/2021 No. 136, Office of the Ombudsman Annual Report 2019/2020.

**PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEES REPORTS**

*Clerk read out the list of Parliamentary Committee Reports pursuant to Standing Order 52(5).*

1. P.P. 2020/2021 No. 123, Standing Orders Committee Report on P.P. 2019/2020 No. 112, Audit Office Operations Report 2018/2019.
2. P.P. 2020/2021 No. 124, Standing Orders Committee Report on P.P. 2019/2020 No. 113, Audit Office Irregularities Report 2018/2019.

**MR SPEAKER:** During the adjournment of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly yesterday the member for the constituency of Alataua West was speaking, the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee of Parliament.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021  
– resumption debate on second reading – Day 16**

I respectfully call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee to please take the floor and continue your speech. I believe that there are not many things left for you to speak on.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West):** Greetings to you Mr Speaker for this beautiful new day as well as all the members of the Parliament, Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations, and all other services who are present today, especially Samoa who are listening in support.

We have already given praise and thanks to the Almighty for this beautiful day, and also called upon His guidance and presence upon our work today.

We had left off with presenting revenue earnings and grants in the country from our partners for this Parliamentary term. Income attained within the country from 2016/2017 was estimated at \$578 million, in 2018 it was \$625 million, 2019 was \$626 million, 2020 was \$626 million and this year 2020/2021 it is \$593 million. There were also grants received from partners during this Term, which amounted to \$242 million in 2016/2017, in 2018 it was \$256 million, 2019 it was \$223 million, 2020 it was \$179 million and 2020/2021 it was 255 million.

I was stressing, the releasing of these funds or grants given the trust in the policies of Government that have been laid out to guide the implementation of the work, or policies and processes, and all of us must follow the policies starting from us as Leaders, even Government employees and private businesses so that we can maintain trust with foreign countries giving us grants. These grants given comprises the Budget Support, as queried by one member to explain the use of the Budget Support. And the question given was, who to get it from, who is responsible for it, it is important to have a clear understanding on Budget Support that is funding the developments, and what types of direct aid goes directly into the Budget.

Direct aid. I will speak on this first. The direct aid, which is very clear on the pages in Roman numerals 16, 15, starting from 14, 15, and 16 of the Budget 2020/2021, it clearly details our partners, and each project funded with these grants, as well as the Ministries that carry out these projects, which has a total of \$249,575,571.00. This covers the answer to the question, who to get it from and those accountable for managing these funds, which is detailed in those three pages. However, it raises the question, who are handling the operation, what are the conditions of the Budget Support that aids the development. The important factor of Budget Support, it is under the Ministry of Finance, they manage this area, so there is \$126,284,202 of the Budget Support. This is distributed to all the Ministries.

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The details are all in the Receipts and Payments booklet, given to us ahead of time, which clearly identifies each Ministry funds are given too, this includes the Electrical Power Corporation, the Ministry of Education, a proportion is also given to the Samoa Water Authority, as well as several others.

The Ministry of Finance, usually when they come to discuss financial statements, which includes Budget Support, they have forms that states the requirements given by the donors such as, Australia, Asian Development Bank, World Bank and New Zealand. There are requirements that we have to meet in order to be given these funds. The Finance Committee will ask for these records when they come to discuss the Budget, this is where we are aware of all Ministries that funds are allocated to as questioned. Some are asking where developments are being implemented. I believe, all the work being done are for the developments.

An example is the Budget Support that is given to the Ministry of Education, all these activities are related to the development of the country. If there is a portion of the Budget Support given towards expanding the skills of teachers, then that is an investment to the development. Therefore, with the immense knowledge received from developments funded from Budget Support, you are able to use that to teach others or to implement regular services, as well as the development of the country. A humble ask this House to please spare some time to read through the preparation of the Budget Summary. The Ministries especially the Ministry of Finance spend a lot of time preparing these documents, so that the information is clear for your respectable members, especially your response to our constituencies.

Mr Speaker, the Budget does not include other grants as directed from our partners, as reflected in the name, which is called in-kind contributions, that is also detailed on page 18 in Roman numeral until page 20 of the Budget 2020/2021. In-kind contribution as mentioned, there are no funds given, it is not included in the Budget because no money is given to us, and this is due to the donor paying the work directly from their end.

Mr Speaker for this Parliamentary term, funds stated as in-kind or paid directly by donors, we received \$54.6 million in 2016/2017. In 2018 it was \$288 million. By 2019 it was \$115.3 million, 2020 it was \$77 million. As for this year 2020/2021 it is \$135.5 million.

These are some of the major developments that have received direct assistance for this Term, I just want to point out some of these projects worth more than \$5 million that received this assistance. There is the Electrical Power Corporations project on renewable energy. Projects for underwater communication, which is the Tui Cable, funded by the World Bank.

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Undersea cable network, water programs, developments for cleaning of waterways and communities close to the town area, which is approximately \$214 million. The Friendship Park. The construction and expansion of the wharf for safety. The bridge at Vaisigano. The ports development project.

The establishment of the Central Office for observation of climate change or the Pacific Climate Change Centre. Samoa Tourism Growth Partnership. Trainings on counselling programs for the private sectors. Repairing of the roads or the economic and social program funded by Japan. The purchase of the new ferry for travelling between Apia and Tutuila. Scholarship programs, bridge at Maliolio, bridge at Loto i Samasoni. The Police Academy which has been temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. I believe that this project has a lot of benefits in training our Police Force, not only for the security of the country, but especially our contribution in peace keeping missions of the United Nations. Those are some developments that were implemented under the in-kind contributions for this Parliamentary term.

Mr Speaker, I have noticed the needs of this Parliamentary term, are mainly related to roads and water, because these needs are common in all districts, but there are requests such as seawalls, there are constituencies that need it, but there are also mountainous communities that do not need this type of assistance.

The inclusion of the Finance Committee within the Cabinet Development Committee was an opportunity for us to visit and confirm these big developments I mentioned. Even though these developments are paid directly by our partners, the listing of grants and the funds spent is clear as seen in the pages I mentioned of the Budget. It is also an opportunity for the Cabinet Development Committee, for the Finance Committee to witness the current developments on water and roads of this Parliamentary term, especially the Annual Reports that are submitted to Parliament. These projects are easy to measure and identify.

The state of the water for this Parliamentary term....

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I have no intention to interrupt the speech of the dignified member. However, there is an important aspect I would like to add on to, to elaborate more on the importance of grants, especially the work we do to pursue the utilization of these foreign aid.

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The member mentioned the regular meetings of Cabinet that is held once every 2 months, by the CDC or Cabinet Development Committee. These meetings are to monitor the progress of these developments. It includes all Government Ministries.

The TATTE building would be full of Government Heads and their Assistants. It is very full when they meet to deliberate some of the projects that have been selected for discussion. This is a method by Government in order to widen cooperation and understanding of other Ministries in the activities of other Ministries. The meeting starts off with highlighting the economic status of Samoa. This is stated in the speech of the Madam Governor of the Central Bank. The meeting commences for clarification of Ministers of the Cabinet and I, as well as Associate Ministers who are able to engage with us despite several responsibilities as well as duties as district representatives, in monitoring Ministries and reports provided of the process. The Chief Executive Officers can listen carefully to the state of the economy, and the amount of debt for Samoa. Moreover, how strong is the economy in repaying these debts or debt service ratio?

What is the measure of the total income of the country which is called the Gross Domestic Product? This amount is the total sum of the Government and the private organizations. There is an indicator that measures this, at the moment it is more than \$2 billion in revenue for the entire country. This is where those who understand, who are in charge of these Government plans, the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries, come to understand the flow of funds within country on implementation. This also includes individuals' capital, which is carefully observed by the Government and the Heads of Ministries during meetings. As well as the state of income through exportation and importation of products. How big, what is the difference? This is where we are able to find out the surplus and deficit. This means that the increase or reduction of our trade would impact our reserved funds, there should not be any interference with this exchange of imported goods which is very much needed by our people. Together with the ability to pay off debts.

Here on, are the general issues laid forth at the start of the meeting to monitor the rise or fall of the cost of living. These are broad topics that all the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and their Assistants are exposed to. The Government only has one objective, let all of them understand the operations of Government, so there is nothing kept in the dark. Having to understand all this, they are able to recognize other Ministries, as they all contribute, because the end of their work is based on GDP, measuring the total income of the country as evaluated and documented by the Bureau of Statistics Office and the Central Bank.

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There is nothing being concealed, as it has always been published and publicly announced so that the country is aware. In other words, the individuals and companies and banks in the country, this is where the Government is heading, with the highs and the lows, with prosperity and failure.

Mr Speaker, these are the procedures implemented so the staff and the Cabinet understand, together with meetings carried out every two months, discussing key topics. After the presentation of the Governor, I the Chairperson would request the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for a presentation, in order to make Government understand, of the most threatening natural disaster faced by the country for Government Heads to understand, the state of weather conditions, and the global warming situation. This process was not done in the past years.

Now that everything is clarified, it concludes with a word of encouragement by the Chairperson to the Government Heads for their work. An additional recommendation from myself and the Cabinet, please make sure, take into account the complaints given by those who do not understand and answer, responded to by you. Do not wait, when you see a notice that is incorrect, respond to it, you have the knowledge and the wisdom about the issues being raised. There is also... there are times when we see some being interviewed. Keep in mind Mr Speaker, Chief Executive Officers are not angels, they are also humans. If the newspaper tends to twist this information, the outcome is not of writing the actual facts, but writing it including their own opinions, it is not the case the Chief Executive spoke about, but it is opinionated. They have added in their interpretation to alter and interpret it wrongly, so many of them out there are wrong because they have given... but who interprets it? Mr Speaker it is interpreted by reporters that have no training and do not understand. Then this mistake is noted overseas, misleading many others.

This is also why we advise, to give out this information using Government and Parliament newspapers, the Savali and Parliament Paper. In order for people to know the truth. This is the problem with some newspapers, they play the role of the Opposition. That means, they are opposing the Government. However, these are important topics discussed in meetings, to know expenditure, profit and loss, and the general situation of the global effects on the environment, and what we are doing as our contribution to unite the actions of the world that we are trying to solve. Solve the problem that is now facing the world, and the usual standard provided by Government. The cause of changes in the climate is apparent, as the cause of all these changes, cyclones and others... fires, wildfires that have destroyed thousands and thousands of acres of land, trees and the environment, immensely affecting the air that we breathe, and it seems that the oxygen that we live on has decreased.

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While there is a lot of carbon circulating in the world. The burnt trees release carbon that was locked in the trunk. All tree trunks store carbon therefore when it burns, it releases the carbon into the atmosphere and makes the air that we breathe toxic and affects our health.

That is exactly why we should turn to the other side, the protection of the sea, so that the ocean is not affected from our actions, as well as the fishes and other sea creatures. Another measure undertaken by the fishes is absorbing carbon. This is why these two things go together. When we go to solve the problem of the environment, we do not only see the solution, but also the protection of the environment and our forests. As well as protecting our oceans. This is why the Ministry that protects the environment is very adamant, in this matter of people littering, because the end result is it flows to the sea, as well as excessive spraying of grass with herbicides. These chemicals are used to kill the grass sinks into the ground and the liquidity flows into the ocean. These are matters discussed by this Committee and is concluded with a prayer and blessing to all staff. In order for everyone, all Government Ministries, Chief Executives and their Assistants to remember. They are advisors of the Government, bestowing upon them a great deal of work while the Ministers are at the top seat giving out instructions and guidance, as well as recommendation. That is of the supplement of knowledge through acquired duties and the Minister's general perspective. The aspect of people's lives in our villages is also important, when these two things are married, then we are able to get good plans. We try to please our country, but not everyone can be satisfied. There is always a desire every time. There are changes Mr Speaker, as we move forward, changes will always come from abroad. There are positive changes and negative ones, this is the Governments responsibility, and the Parliament to implement Laws, to measure these changes so it correlates with the amendment of the Law. The country is growing, the population is growing, and development is needed to find employment for our children. These are developments that the Government are trying to establish, whilst others are trying to depose. So what then, where will our children rely on?

Mr Speaker, this is the process of the meeting, these ideas were created back in 1975, it was a discussion with the International Monetary Fund, and they are also experts who came to assist us to rebuild our economy that was in a state of bankruptcy. That is the reason why these guidelines were established. However, it was not followed during those times because the Governments had different opinions at that time. When the HRPP emerged, I was an affiliate that worked through the Ministry of Finance. As to why I understand clearly, even with changes on budget format that started out in 1975 and continued on with former arrangements of our Budget.

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Before, there were only 2 arrangements, it was the capital and the maintenance. That was all, then it was changed completely in 1975, with addition on development.

Another big change was done on 1986, at that time I was the Minister of Finance. A complete reorganization of the budget format, so that it properly reflects the developments that are being implemented.

Mr Speaker, what I am talking about are from a long time ago, but they are very useful, and we will continue to implement them. Now I sit here and observe the progress of the Government's plans. It was constructed way back in 1975. It progressed from then until now. Mr Speaker, it was not until 1981, 1979 to 1981, we noticed a drop in the economy. There was a remarkable drop of the economy. Why? There was an uncertainty in the leadership of the Government, to properly manage their funds. What was done back then, it was more like pleasing the people, than raising funds for the Government. In 1977 the Law was repealed, that means these are laws obtained from the German period, then the New Zealand administration towards 1962 until 1977. This repealed some groups to no longer pay taxes, the pastors, their contribution to the development of Government was stopped. Now the Minister responsible for these duties, is trying to gather these funds, because the economy is growing, and all of them are needed in the development of Samoa. What about treatment, what about education for our children, what about improving our roads?

Mr Speaker that is the spirit of the Minister and the Ministry of Revenue. Any Government in this world, even the Kingdom of Israel, these things are very important. The Israel Government, they have 2 taxes, tax given to Caesar of the Roman Empire, and taxes given to maintain and improve the temple, those are the two taxes. With that, the Lord declared when questioned, give Caesar's things to Caesar, give Caesar's tax to Caesar, and give the Lord his things. Mr Speaker, the series of events that took place between 1979 and 1981, made it impossible to stop what happened. The funds I mentioned had dropped, these two important accounts. It is monitored by the Minister and the Ministry of Finance, in any Government. These are funds for development, these are the countries funds as we speak, and other funds from partnerships, through trade. It is the reason why we continue to pursue trade. These are funds salvaged for maneuvering the smooth running of our trade. If there is problem here, then we start to see the effects of products shortage, no cigarettes. How many weeks do you have to go looking for a carton of tin fish to take to your store?

Many people from this generation 1979 to 1981 understood this, which ended with a Government Protest. It affected all the services. This happened during the time I was working at the Ministry of Finance.



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I started thinking, this is not the future for me in the Government, as it was time to look into something else. The protest carried on, which was almost every day.

The request of the Public Servants to the Government, was an increase in their salaries, which has not been raised in a long time. But how can we increase it? There is no money. Government is avoiding the idea of raising taxes and tariffs. So where were these funds from? The banks financed it, funds kept coming, and finally the banks ran out of money. We also had loans that was called National Development Loan given to individuals. So, it started from there, it was no longer done when the Human Rights Protection Party came into office, since HRPP organized what needed to be done.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to recall this period, there were employees from my village, and I just got back from overseas. It had been a month since I arrived. As I came back and went to work as I had served in the Ministry of Finance, I was startled when a few people from my village that had worked for the Public Works, came by at 10 am. They came into the office, the office of the Ministry of Finance, with dirty clothes. I asked, where are you going? “We are roaming”. Why? “We are still working, but we just came to sign in and leave, as we do not have anything to do, there is nothing to do.” Even with timber, stores have stopped supplying it, since the Government cannot be trusted. Well, what do we have to pay them? It had been months and years with no payments to this pile of debts. The Government has no money, so I provided the Budget, and had it discussed in the House. When the oil ships come, hold all foreign exchange gained, but hand it over to settle payment for this cargo. Shops were empty, the only frozen goods we were able to get were chicken bones or the chicken back that was brought in. These were the garbage that could be brought in from overseas, and a few cows of the Trust Estate, which was sold, only affluent people had access to such things.

Mr Speaker, what our country went through was remarkable. I say this all the time. This was a que of cars who came to refill at a gas station of the society of motorists, I was there. There was a long que of cars, however one rich man in line lit up a cigarette. As he puffed, the workers saw the smoke of the cigarette, and immediately stopped pumping. They queued up to the old man requesting for a just a puff. The cigarette was passed out from here, one puff then the other and the other and other right until it reached the workers at the back.

Mr Speaker, these are the stories that were popular at that time. And the parents of those who are now 30, 40 and 50 years of age now understand them completely, as they walked with their children to the town area. All these things have been forgotten, Mr Speaker, when this was taking placing, it took 3 months to solve in 1981.

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Then a Commission was set up, and it was this Commission that selected the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana who was the Prime Minister to be Chairperson of the Opposition.

So, what was the solution that was created by the Tootooalii? He amended the Acts, the Customs and Tax Acts. In order to gain money to accommodate the percentage that has increased, to satisfy the Government employees. In other words, the Opposition of the HRPP are here, but they have to advise the Government on what to do. And this made it possible to obtain funds, with the intentions of the Government at that time. There was a dispute 6 months before the election, and all the blame was put on Tofilau, saying he is the reason for raising the duties and taxes. So, what happened? Now it is the first time that they are paired, the Government and the Opposition. What will the people do? These things cannot be forgotten. Thus, why the speech of the member is important to me, because this is exactly what changed the country's opinion, and brought the HRPP into power. This is the exact reason, due to the economic crisis. The people are fed up and one of the shopkeepers in our village approached me and spoke. Could you use your power within the Ministry of Finance, to find a box of herring for me, because I have been looking for one for a week? At that time when the ship arrives, you do not know where they get the money from due to disputes. People also died over these disputes as they were trampled over. Mr Speaker, this is the extensive situation.

When the election was held in 1982, it permitted the HRPP to enter the Parliament. But it was the most unstable year for the Government. The Government changed four-times in a single year. In 1982 the HRPP was victorious because the people were fed up. Then the Government was replaced and Vaai took charge from April, May, June, July, August and September, for 5 months but the Hon Vaai was removed as result of a Court case, whereby accusations were placed upon the Hon Vaai. But we also had our suspicions, that those who were in power are also involved. This resulted in 3 Prime Ministers and the 3 changes in Government. There were 2 days left of December in the year 1982, and the HRPP took over again, then the Tootooalii was appointed as the Prime Minister, because the Hon Vaai was unable to participate due to the decision of the Court. On this note, the Hon Tofilau then reappointed the entire members of Cabinet that was previously selected by Vaai. But there was only one vacant position, this vacancy position was due to Vaai being removed, and then I was chosen to fill this position. The Tootooalii then appointed me with the task to fix our economy.

In 1983, the following year in the month of February, the Parliamentary Assembly convened and brought the first budget.

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It was the first ever Budget of the HRPP, and after the budget at the beginning of the year, we travelled to Wellington, it was me, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development.

We went to Wellington to greet all the High Commissioners and Ambassadors of all the Governments present in Wellington. To convey good news and to ask for their generosity and the opportunity to restore their faith in our Government again, since there was no more faith. For them to open their doors again, including the Government of New Zealand. There was a time when Tofilau conversed with Muldoon asking for assistance since the Government has changed. Muldoon replied that he still remembers and there will be no change. “Tofilau, we will not give our funds to pay for you cigarettes”. This had inspired the Tootooalii to prioritise praying even more, “Samoa let us pray, so that the belief of this Nation and other major Countries are restored in Samoa.” I was in Wellington for quite some time, as we met with all the representatives of all the Governments, to convince them that the new Government has changed its course of action, and long-term plans have been established for the recovery of the economy. A representative of the IMF was also present, Mr Bundet whom I included in my letter, he is someone who lived in Samoa for quite a while, and he is a person well-educated on the rebuilding of a Government that has completely collapsed miserably. After our meetings with Ambassadors and High Commissioners, we then travelled straight to the Philippines for the Asian Development Bank Forum. I was in attendance together with Tofilau, and at that time Tofilau was still holding the title of Minister of Finance, I was the Associate Minister. It also included other Ministries or 3 other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Development which was under my supervision, as well as the Civil Aviation Economic Development. It was in 1983 when we attended, due to the problem that happened in our government, we submitted a request to the Executive. If it is agreed upon, we ask for a way to make it possible for the children of Samoa to partake, so that they can obtain work in Administrations offices, to observe the work and to observe their policies. To develop Governments that is scarce in intellectuals and has a shortage of funds.

That appeal was submitted in 1983, and it was also submitted to the IMF and the World Bank. This is how we started and proposed this policy, which is to give us the opportunity to allow our children to work in the Management Offices of the ADB and the IMF and the World Bank. In the year 1973, before I became a Minister, as I was still in the Ministry of Finance, I had the opportunity to attend trainings on loans and developments at the World Bank.

I was there for 4 months, together with my wife whom I had just married, so it was our honeymoon.

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We were there for 4 months, ending in Korea. All the trainings that were done at this time were on the monitoring of the loans of a country, and the setting of measures to evaluate the strength of a country, especially the importance of the Debt Service Capacity of a country. Therefore, I am talking about the year 1973, before I was a Minister.

When I became a Minister, my understanding of all these negotiations had been broadened, especially the forums we had while working as public servants, we met with high officials of the World Bank, the ADB as well as the brief time I worked in Brussels. They discussed various matters, in other words, I was selected by Tofilau because I had an understanding of these various matters.

After the Forum at the ADB in April, we then travelled with Government Officials to these meetings, but it was held in Geneva, and we had the usual round table discussions. When I arrived in New York, the New Zealand High Commissioner was already there, and this was at the time when we did not have a representative. Therefore, the Ambassador of New Zealand had taken on the responsibility to represent Samoa. Thus, when I arrived at the airport, they were waiting for me. And we conducted a Forum forthwith; I recall that it was a long time ago. Our Forums progressed for 3 weeks, and there was only one matter, to ask for their faith, to re-establish our credibility and their confidence in the leadership of our country, which is now under the guidance of the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana as well as the members in support. It was quite long, as we were there for weeks. It was followed by the Forum held in Belgium, as it was the Forum for Minister of the ACB which I was responsible for, then we returned to Samoa in the month of June, and we left again in the month of April.

The reason I am mentioning this is because these are the major works that was conducted by this Political Party. Now that I am standing here, and I am the only one remaining from our past Cabinet. I am the only one left in the Parliament, but the other two people whom I worked are still alive. Jack Neztler and the orator Taua Latu Lome, the three of us, Oh and the Hon Le Mamea whom I forgot about, we worked together for 3 years from 1982 to 1985, and the years that remained. But most of the time we were implementing these developments, the developments of the University and the Central Bank. These two major projects were laid out at that time, due to the determination of the Cabinet, to ensure there are enough educated children in Samoa, and to lay out opportunities to work in these major Organizations of the world. So that those people from abroad do not come and try to fool us.

Now there is member of these Organizations here in Samoa, a Samoan member.

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Mr Speaker, we have enough children of Samoa that possess the skills to challenge these people from overseas. So that when they make statements, our people are able to fully comprehend them.

It is for that reason why development programs have been laid out. Why? Because it was suggested by these people. I remember the time when I attended this program in 1973, and I believe I was the first.

We were having festivities one evening and the director of the Economic Development Institute at that time said to me while laughing because he was drunk, “You are the only person who should not have been here.” I replied, why? Our conversation was long. “You have arrived with a few months left before a decision is made to accept Samoa as a member of the World Bank, but Samoa is already part of the IMF? As the conversation progressed it deviated suddenly, because they noticed that I was quite young. In other words, you will be useful to your Government for a long time. Well, then we laughed since these were conversations under the influence. But I was stunned for the first time, as I almost missed this opportunity. And as soon as I returned, the Hon Pule who was under my supervision at the Ministry of Finance attended, and gradually others followed suit. So, to this day, there are quite a lot of our people working within our country that have returned from these opportunities and have obtained enough knowledge to prepare our long-term plans, which have been recognized by the major banks of the world. There have never been any flawed plans. Any unsuitable plans such as free gifts, even a child who does not go to school, once they start talking, they will immediately ask for free gifts.

Mr Speaker, this is the importance of the issue that has been put forth, as I have presented the history, by reiterating the circumstances which made it possible for the HRPP to enter Parliament. And it is still remembered by many, since most of the people are now 60 to 70 years old, they are the ones who still remember, walking on the roads, protesting, and being hungry. But what were the proclamations made at that time? I made a suggestion to the Minister before I left, as he was not aware that I was going to leave the Government to run in the election. My advice was, “It would be better if this matter were to be discussed by myself and my office, since we know the solution.” The problem is that it should have been considered by the Ministry of Finance, but it is being dealt with by the wrong Ministry.

The Minister replied, “Tuilaepa, the Cabinet has already made a decision, for a Samoan, when they are hungry, they will crawl on their knees and slither on their stomach. That is the trait of a person who is hungry, they slither on their stomach.” I was saddened by the statement made by the Minister, since he was a lawyer who was well-off. Then I said whether you accept it or not, but I have already given my advice.

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I took the member who sits beside you as a witness, the Hon Afoa Kolone Vaai. Then I resigned 2 days later to run in the election, but he remained and got promoted as the Secretary of Finance by the time I became the Minister.

Mr Speaker, every good thing has a legacy, and every bad thing has a legacy. As for the beliefs of the Historians, that record events throughout our lifetimes, so that we can recall the past and our journey.

If you understand the journey that you have been through in the past, your journey in the future will be clearer. How come? Because there are many lessons from the hardships that happened in the past, which are also lessons for the future. Mr Speaker, these words are very important to be used as guidelines for those who believe that leading a government is easy. Mr Speaker, it is not easy. But it is important to us who have struggled from the beginning, because the outcome of a dysfunctional government, will also affect our children. Thus, if the statements we make here are vigorous, it is because we sometimes reflect on the past, so that the things that happened in the past do not happen again, as it will affect our children. We do not want our children to crawl on their knees and slither on their stomach struggling for a better life. The people who have witnessed what I am talking about are still alive today. That is why I cannot talk about problems, as I am speaking as a Historian.

I also want to apologise to those who are still alive and are listening as I mention these past situations. But these circumstances should be brought up because when mentioning the stories of the country, we do not talk about things that are hidden, as we should use direct language and tell the truth about what is happening. That is my gift for our children at this time and there are two. And you are also speaking on the secret inspirations of the Holy Spirit, to work for others. How come? Since God gave us an example. What is the example? When His son was born, he was born in a manger. These places are dreadful, but this displays the essence of God for us to have a humble heart. And nearing the end of His work He got on his knees and washed His Disciples feet, they are the ones who will be given the gospel, the Leaders of the Churches. To wash again.

What is the meaning of these things? It is for us to live in love and with humility. Do not yearn to lead but yearn to serve. You should not desire to be first, but desire to go last. And do not lust for riches. Remember, your Saviour was born in a dreadful and humble place.

Well, this is my assistance to further clarify the issues of this morning.

**MR SPEAKER:** Congratulations. The Parliament as well as the country listening are satisfied with the Point of Clarification. The speech of the Hon Prime Minister has stated the situation faced by the country in the past years.

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Well, let it be an enlightenment for Samoa listening in for its election in the future. Well, that is how it is. They are selected with just but also to select them with compassion for the country. But that is our work, we come to this Parliament to represent each constituency that we chose with just and we work together to bring prosperity to Samoa and its support.

Because no one believes that we will return to the ways that we grew up on and our way of living in the past. But the speech of the Hon Prime Minister is very important to raise awareness of our objectives to guide the future progress of the politics of the Government. Since it is put forth for this situation to be witnessed, to observe when it succeeds. The distant past is too far off, but the past present, we have witnessed some of the major aspects of the Prime Minister's speech, which is useful for the Chairperson of the Finance Committee of Parliament, and it is useful for all of us. Because it has been passed down by our ancestors from the time of Tofilau, well, those are the words used by the elder during our time, "Samoa, come together and let us give offerings." So where is the offering? It has already emerged. Well, it is no longer hard to find cigarettes, as we are getting sick due to the abundance of cigarettes and the plethora of food such as chickens, since in those days we were only able to eat chicken back.

Well, there is a belief that we will set aside the speech of the Leader, until we return from our usual recess and then.... the honorable Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee will continue her speech, the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

I announce the Work of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned for its usual recess. Thank you.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 10:35am and will reconvene at 11:32am.*

*Debates continued with Government Responses on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.*

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

Before recess the Hon Leader of the Government had concluded his speech. And I respectfully call on the honorable Chairperson of the Finance....

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Well, I beseech the honorable Chairperson as I give the opportunity to the Minister, the Hon Afamasaga Toeolesulusulu...

**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications and Information Technology):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Thank you also for the lunch that was prepared for the honorable Speaker and the Members of the House. But I respectfully stand to convey thanks to the Hon Prime Minister for the wonderful speech, and my constituency has been calling and texting about the importance of looking back so that we can appreciate the present, as the English word used by the elders from the rural area, to appreciate, as at this time with the state of our wealth and the importance of history Mr Speaker.

However, I am saddened this morning, due to the many issues regarding our history, as cited in the speech by the Hon Prime Minister and the honourable Chairperson. These are issues raised by the respectable Members who are absent. Because most of the issues were raised by the Hon Fiame, as well as issues raised by the Hon Laauli. But they are not in attendance so that they can understand these issues completely, since this is another important issue which was cited in the speech of the honourable Chairperson, the matter that they are announcing to the public regarding the increase in minimum wage. Whereby they are proclaiming that if they take over, they will increase it by \$1. Well, I went and conversed with one of the businessmen, a gentleman whose services were well-known in the country, and he has employed more than 200 workers. So, we talked about this matter. Then I asked him, what would be the situation with the 200 of your employees at this point in your business if there is a \$1 raise, so from the current \$3 to \$4? He replied, based on his 200 employees per hour, this would mean that his expenses will increase by 200. Calculated at 40 hours a week, he will have to earn \$8,000 extra money.

If we calculate 52 weeks of the year, it will mean that he has to obtain \$416,000 of additional money needed to achieve this increase by \$1. This means that the company needs almost half a million in additional funds. And then I asked, how do you solve this? He said, there is only one solution for this, and it is to lay-off one hundred employees, while the other one hundred will still be employed. Because if I were to raise the price of goods in order to achieve this, well, I do not know if any more people will come to buy from my supermarket again.

Well, that is what I mean Mr Speaker, because we heard yesterday about the low literacy rate. And now we have seen that there is also numerically illiterate.



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In other words, we have a huge problem with our addition, since the elders in the rural areas are better at addition, as they were quick to calculate, and they questioned how these things will be paid.

But as I stand with the utmost respect, I am saddened, as it seems like they do not acknowledge you Mr Speaker and the sanctity of this Assembly of Samoa. Now it has been 3 days straight, plus Friday and Thursday of last week.

I do not understand whether the honorable Speaker and the Parliament should consider countermeasures for this situation. This is the reason for my upstanding with respect. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I call on...since the whip of the...or the honourable member for Anoamaa East is upstanding.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** As the constituency is listening and they might misunderstand the words of the honourable Speaker. A whip is like the position of office that organizes a group, or the Parliament to assist the work of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. I call on the member.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** Thank you for the praises Mr Speaker, as the Parliamentary Term is ending but this is the first time you have mentioned this. Mr Speaker, thank you very much. There is no end in my excitement because of the speeches that have been conveyed this morning in the House. And I would like to move the motion to table this statement in the House.

The Bible also has a story in the Book of Paul to the Corinthians, saying that we are the scent of God for those who are saved and those who are damned. Yes, as the smell of life brings life to people. The smell of death brings death to people. Therefore, this morning, I feel so alive while listening to the consideration of these matters, since we each have our own historical stories of that period. From I worked in the Government the years of 1980, 1981, 1978. For 6 months I worked in the Government at the Prime Minister's Office before I looked for work in the Private Sector. This was due to the Private Sector had higher salaries than the Government. That is one thing that has changed in this era, as people are again looking for work in the Government. How come? Well, the Government now has a policy which raises the salaries for Government employees.

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Yes. When discussing these things, those who are 30 or 20 plus years old will not understand, but these are the lessons for our children as stated by the Hon Prime Minister, the reason why we are implementing these things is because we do not want our children to go through these things again.

Mr Speaker, this is the only matter I wanted to further clarify, the difference is the desire of the people to work and serve the Government. There were other proclamations yesterday by our HRPP supporters from overseas, as they are listening this is the essence of the member, conduct your duties steadily.

Do not worry about our Political Party, but do not let these things be the reason that will cause chaos in our country, because we have many family members who are happily living in overseas countries.

Well, this is my statement with respect. Bless the continuation of the speech of the Chairperson. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I call on the honourable Member for Palauli le Falefa, Hon Faumuina Tiatia Liuga.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa):** Thank you Mr Speaker. No, as the recent honourable Member has stated, this is one the tasks I did while I was at the United Nations, to collect data on the scales of each employer. I know that out of the majority of the countries, this is the only country where the Government is one of the comparators to construct the salary of the United Nations employees of Samoa. That is proof that the level of salaries of Government employees is high and good. With all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Well, I call on the Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, there are a few issues that have been raised that still need to be addressed. Starting with the *uipi*, it comes from the English word whip, in political situations. It is a person appointed to organize the honourable members. For example, if the number of member is not enough, he is....for the HRPP Party itself, because there is also a whip for those who oppose the Government. So, the whip's job is to go outside and look for members smoking outside, whereby he scolds the members to come into the House, making it seem like the members are his children. Thus, is reason, they are frowned upon at times, but that is how it is. When the members make phone calls outside, they will eventually head home to continue their phone calls, but what are they doing instead of attending the Assembly?

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Well, the other Side cannot do anything, if the whip of the other Side objects and provides an excuse for the members, stating they are sick, when they are not sick at all, but instead they are just having fun. Well, that is the only way to make this point clear. It is very important to organize the work of politicians.

But the important aspect that has been raised again, the matter that I mentioned before for further clarification, as these are the important Acts in terms of the operation and management of the Government, as well as the operation and management of Organizations. It does not matter what Organization, whether it is the Sports Organizations or Religious Organizations.

There are 2 guidelines to be followed by all Organizations including the Government, as I have stated. To ensure everything is made clear and that there is no biasness. This is the reason why we conduct tenders, as an example. The only reason matters are taken to Court, is that there is a conflict of interest or, there is an issue that questions the fairness of the Judge, then he or she should resign can no longer conduct Court Cases. That is also the reason why Reports are prepared by the Ministries and Organizations, which are then given to the Parliament, in order for the Parliament to be aware of the work being done, and this is how the errors of the Ministries, or the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministry are discovered. That is why the word transparency is very important, so that everything is understood, and the reports are clear, so that there is nothing to hide.

And the second part is accountability, for the methods being used are made clear and efficient, as clearly stated by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, since the statement he/she made is broad.

This is reason for my upstanding, is to add on to this matter put forth. For the purpose of clarity, is to avoid anything unaccountable and ambiguous with the ongoing duties or duties already done. If information provides clarity for an organization by people, then work will simply be known as transparent. It will simply reflect the employees that are honest. It will also show the employees who are dishonest and the kind of decisions that can be done to them. The decision for a person who is dishonest, its position is raised, and contract is resumed or even an honest person who applied is known as someone who is very qualified and very experienced. It is reason why there is the change in positions. Most of the Ministry Heads we have today, there is the slight difference, it is similar to the thinness of the decision made by the Chief of the Ministry with regards to this new change made. So not only is the Chief, but also the Second Head, Third Head, Fourth Head. There is a committee that consults and makes arrangement before it is passed to the Cabinet for their decision.

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Because this concern is very important, as this information can be misleading once it goes public, that Tuilaepa creates all positions. I do not create any positions. There is a panel, and a Committee that does it. How many times do I have to explain myself that these positions are advertised, people apply, and a Committee is in place to do the interviews, before their decision is submitted to the Cabinet. Even if the recommendation submitted is 99% correct. Regardless the Cabinet has more knowledge of the best recommendation to take. Note that there are 13 Ministers of Cabinet including the Prime Minister to only 3 members of the panel.

So the 13 Ministers sitting in Cabinet, they have taken the Head role for a long time whether they are the Ministry Head or Senior Officer or a Head of a Company who are well aware of these experience and selection and appointment processes. Well I have now explained it officially because those are the statements they are making. Saying that it is all done by Tuilaepa. No living human being can do this. It would be useless to have a Cabinet, and the Ministry Heads. That is the kind of insult that is being done now by this group.

This is reason for going back, to explain the working process done by the Cabinet, and the many policies in place. The most disappointing thing for me, is for someone who was part of this Cabinet, and they must say what corrupt practice have I done. As there is no explanation given. So what corrupt actions have I done and instructed the Cabinet to do?

Mr Speaker, despite the troubling attempts by a person, they will never be achieved. Because we all know about this type of person, which ends up hanging on the tree set by Haman. Mr Speaker, the statement is directed towards the Main Budget, and the Appropriation Budget, when you also had spoken of that book. You see how thick the book is put forth by this Main Budget, which is currently being progressed, different from the Appropriation Budget submitted to Parliament. It is considered in detail, by the end of general discussions and clarifications of the Cabinet. So what is submitted in this Main Budget as spoken recently by the Chairperson? The financial support from overseas has all been clarified clearly clarified.

The Roman page xiii states the consideration of our foreign aid. It is all explained and divided under xviii and xix. Also note that, we use numbers different from the roman numerals and Arabic numerals. During the Roman ruling of the world, everyone was using the Roman numerals, which was long especially when it got to thousand, and the many xs and one and the many vs. Even though it is confusing, but such is the importance of what has happened. During the rise of the Arab people who attacked the world in those days. Together with the Muslim belief in the year 600 ever since the ascension of God in heaven. The Muslim faith recognizes the Old Testament.

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They hold the bible in the left hand and the sword in the right hand. And if you do not accept it then the sword will be used on you. That was reason for the rapid attack in Europe, which overruled the entire Europe up to Israel. In the year close to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century, and the rise of the world in those days, Great Britain, Germany, Spain and Portugal.

That was the world in those days, which involved all Christian Religions. That time, there was only one Christian Church, it was the United Church. And the Church was not destroyed, there was only one Church. Which made the soldiers go and expel the Arabs from Israel which he called the Crusades.

This was the exact time, a person who was related to the king of Great Britain came with reports, and by the time the other king returned, his Kingdom was overthrown by his brother. Those were the events of the past. But the gift of the Arab nation to the world, were the Arabic numerals we are now using today.

Mr Speaker, so here in Roman xviii and xix, brings clearly the assistance of foreign countries and its use. What is being spread out today? Foreign aid is not known and where they have gone to. But it is stated in the Budget. Those are the statements given today. By someone who was in Cabinet and had looked into these matters. Whenever the Budget is discussed inside Parliament I often say, look at this page. This page provides the details of this grant for this Ministry and this Ministry.

Mr Speaker, then I come to pages 26 and 27. xxvi and xxvii, considers the debts borrowings, and nothing is hidden. They are borrowing of the country, for this bank and for this Nation. This is transparency and accountability. They are implemented in the words he made, which are transparently given in this Budget. Then coming on to page 29, which is our debt service ratio. They are divided into 2, our foreign reserves, which affects our foreign reserve array. This is reason for this division for the information of the people, and the importance of this money to pay our foreign debts. Because it can affect our foreign reserves. Our borrowings is also set aside separately, so there is our savings account and foreign reserves which makes up our two accounts. Which are given transparently so that nothing is mistaken.

Then I come to page (i) which begins the consideration of the Budget. If it takes 3 to 4 weeks for this Budget being submitted to you, including those that are absent. However, what is happening now? By the time of our deliberations, misguided information will mislead them. Where is the grant from overseas? It is all stipulated in here, transparently. It is shocking to see those who used to sit in Cabinet.

I can say that he understands, I can also say if it was seen here inside Parliament the false signing of his name. The worse lie can also be done outside of the House with the question,

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“Where is the \$11million you have constantly talked about? It is hidden. When it is right inside this Budget, under the World Bank. It was also mentioned in the speech of the Prime Minister. However, what is the word said here, the World Bank is different from what we are saying on the IDA. But the IDA is also the World Bank. Mr Speaker, not only did she had the budget this whole time, with all the information, but is still not understood. I am not sure whether she does not understand or does not want to understand. It still lingers in my mind the report from one of the writers, after joking around, then one person said, I beg your pardon, have pity on me, the lies are not enough before the country.

Mr Speaker, it is easy to say but the words spoken are all recorded, right before this Parliament, and they are facts that comes from in here. That is also the reason why I cannot avoid, because whenever I receive something problematic, then the Cabinet will have to respond and provide evidence. Due to what? You have seen it, there was evidence from another matter, which gave way to finding further illegal crimes, and the unpaid duty for that very matter. Which is why there is joy in people who are sending out these false information as they cannot say so in here as only factual information comes from here. Because as soon as we hear something erroneous, the Cabinet will have to upstand and get proof as only matters of confirmation are put forth by this House, whereas all false statements are done outside this House. Mr Speaker, such is the importance of the Chairperson’s statement. The Chairperson is thoroughly listening, details that provides transparency in all matters. The Chairperson is the Chair of this Parliamentary committee, he is the watchdog, the eyes and ears pardon me, of this Parliament, to clearly determine the works that are implemented by the Cabinet and the employees of the Government.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. It was mentioned, the tabling of the statement of the Hon Prime Minister. It is a statement of clarification not a Ministerial Statement, which highlights some of the matters raised by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. As such, this clarification have been given so many times.

There is the thought, I beg your pardon Hon Prime Minister. Do note the statement by Tofilau, pardon me and the language, and the laying of our forefathers and ancestors who will always be remembered. A person who wishes to understand and a person who is angry at you. Despite the knowledge that the colour of the cow is red, but he is still saying it is black. Despite the saying that the cow is brown, but he still says it is black. That is the nature of life we are living. And the person that is taken to the well for a drink but does not want to.

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What can we do about it, they do not want to understand, pardon the language, it is the word to clarify the works that we do on our own. Although we are still receiving complaints about the works that are clarified by Parliament. Let us also forgive them and what they have done. Whoever is complaining about our job, let us continue to work for the sake of our country. Our God is judging us, and through judgement, is His will, and the judgement of the country.

Such is the feeling but do resume your statement honourable Chairperson.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU:** Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the Leader of the Government. As that is the entire account of the statement I gave yesterday. And the journey of this Parliament 40 years ago, now that I have generalised it entirely. I had only given the Budget, whilst that is the rest of the history from Alataua West. I convey gratitude as we went to our break too early when I was feeling very disappointed when thinking back of the 1981 strike. Because during this time, we had a child. And both my husband and I took part in this public service strike in Apia. As a result of this, there was only \$4 per week. That was the feeling we had when we reflect back to this time. But the important thing this morning, it is said, that if you had understood the way you had walked, the road will be smooth for you in the future. Starting with the statement by the Leader of the Government, as I now speak of the works implemented during this Parliamentary Term. With water related issues, there have been 51 major projects on the supply of water to some of the villages, and the installation of large water storage as well as water pipelines. The total amount spent was \$71,912,000 funded by our Government.

Road works for this Parliament, I have observed with great gratitude the Hon Minister of Works, and the fixed road works for all constituencies funded by the Government and our foreign partners. The total number of improved road works for this Term is 87. And the total amount spent was \$90,205,914. Mr Speaker, the development of our country is no easy job. Voicing our thoughts and advice is easy, but finding money is not easy in order to do the job. It is necessary to have courageous and true loving people, in order to prepare the future for more generations to come.

Mr Speaker, those are the information and other major projects, in addition to the many Acts, most particularly the 3 recent Acts that were under consultation and approved as faced by the Minister of Justice and Court Administration and staff most especially the Special Committee of Parliament. Mr Speaker that is the contribution of this Parliament in the spirit of weaving together a prosperous and stable future for Samoa. Then I remember the scriptures of our Lord, and his exhortation upon His nation. Which said, “Remember these things Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant.

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I have made you, you are my servant, Israel, I will not forget you. So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Mr Speaker, that is the view of this constituency, also the Finance Committee and this message from the Bible in the book of Isaiah 41.

I wish to convey gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, well done to you and your perseverance and your patriotism to the country. I now conclude by making a mention of the public servants who are executing all these works.

Most of all the response from the Finance Committee, and the presence of the Cabinet Ministers, all who are taking the lead in all these undertakings. Even though there are different Committees of Parliament who are reviewing your annual Reports. But when we come to the Appropriation Budget or the Actuals. This is the chance for all Government Ministries to meet with the Ministry of Finance. It was felt at the beginning of the works for the Finance Committee the parental scold, strict, given the high achievements and targets that were scheduled for you to achieve. The challenge for you was to continuously raise the standard of executing our works, most particularly in compliance with policies already in place under the Public Finance Management Act 2001. Like what you have heard in a statement made earlier.

Financial aid received from our overseas partners for the developing of our country. Depends on our adherence to the policies. Like what the Leader had said, everything must be transparent and so as its execution, thank you very much. There was the witnessing of a swift response of a submitting annual Report as voiced in the word of gratitude by the lady member of Gagaifomauga No.3. The best thing is the complete preparation of financial report which included the use of actuals collected from the various services. They have already been audited by the Chief Auditor. I wish to specially acknowledge the Controller and Chief Auditor and the staff. Also the assistance of the Private Audit Firm, who was engaged with this huge task. So all Auditors Reports are now up to date with regards to the use of public funds. The faith and recognition of financial reports, relies on the reports of the auditors. Such is the vitality of the works of the Controller and Chief Auditor and their office. It is impossible to read out all the achievements you have attained, it was witnessed by the Finance Committee most particularly in compliance with the policies. The most far-fetching thing about the Finance Committee at the end of this Parliament, is adequate knowledge on financial matters and its operations. Not only this but the proper preparation of works that must be implemented every year. To be in line with the funding allocation so all works are interconnected with the strategic plans of the Government in place from one period to another.



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Such is the importance of counselling service by the Governor of the Central Bank so that they are consistent with your works, and the monitoring of our economy. Through and sufficient consultations with the Ministry of Finance. Although some of the times you would joke around but it come down to assurance in the clarity of the works implemented, for that, we are grateful for all the good efforts. Thank you to the Hon Minister of Finance, since the start of this Parliamentary Term there was observation on some of the raising matters about the Controller and Chief Auditor in the past years which needed improvement.

Such as compiling the records of the Customs office to the system of the Government through the Ministry of Finance. Particularly in relation to compiling public assets which was no easy job to do, it was very complex. But I appreciate the fact that his job has now been implemented. Also thank you to the collaboration of the office of the Controller and the Chief Auditor and the Ministry of Revenue and Customs. These raising matters have now been executed.

I specifically speak of our island of Savaii, because I often go around it. A big congratulations to the development related to house buildings. Majority of the assistance from the Housing Corporation is in support of the average and low-income earning families. So that they are able to live in stable homes. This does not cover those with good income earnings. Another development funded by the Asian Development particularly programs that have been implemented pertaining to mothers in order to push their share to developing the economy. In review of annual Report of the Asian Development Bank and the good status of loan repayments for borrowers in Savaii. These borrowings are approved to develop families and businesses in order to help the economy of the country. Such is the great appreciation because if the loan repayment is going well then the flow of capital will also be good for more new developments.

The hotels. Thank you to the Samoa Tourism Authority. Despite the situation of our economy seen today, but new addition tourism developments have been observed in Savaii. Most particularly the increasing employment opportunities for our people by putting up specials so that the promotion of our tourism operations is continued.

Most especially during Christmas period, it was observed that during the putting up of Christmas lights, the same was also done for Asau up to Salelologa. I am forever grateful for that foresight to put up our Christmas lights during this time of the pandemic disease. Although some would complain about money waste, nevertheless, if we are waiting for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the baby of Christmas. Why then do we leave aside this good deed?

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Such is the heart of gratefulness; such is the essence of this event, and we hope to continue it. There is belief that comes the next time the lights of Savaii would become more wonderful to see.

As such it is important that gratitude must be submitted to the one who deserves it. Whilst I am still on Government Ministries, there is small matter I wish to speak on Mr Speaker. I wish to thank the scholarship opportunities for the free education of our children in various Institutes. The plea here, why not allocate it to districts depending on a student's passing mark and eligibility requirements under this scholarship scheme. Similarly, the scholarships offered at the NUS.

This University has been around for over 20 years since its establishment and majority of the teachers were able to have the chance to broaden their knowledge, capacity building for teachers, and therefore, is it fitting for us to think to seek funding assistance in order to upgrade the NUS and allocate a portion to develop capacity building for the workers of the NUS so as to raise their services.

The main focus, is to be able to respond to changes with the growing population. Opportunities will still be granted to children to go abroad and pursue specialised courses that are not available here. Perhaps some will say, after you have gained education then you say to leave our children in Samoa. No, the main idea is to gain opportunities for the general public given our growing population. For example, Bachelor of Science Course, I trust the chance is not just for the doctors to take these courses. Opportunity is also extended to other students. We all know it too, it is only the students with high marks that can take scholarships abroad. But we must also make available the opportunities here, because we are unaware whether these scholarship opportunities from NZ and Australia will last. But that is just an advice.

So Mr Speaker, despite the desperation, Alataua West will conclude now. I will speak with a heart of thankfulness and with pleasure. Thank you honorable Speaker for managing our Sitting, for your endurance, and wisdom in guiding our House. The gifts are from God which has blessed you. I do not mean to boast, as you have been chosen by the King of Muagututia to preside in Tapulaaia, the Respects of Satuala. The plea, may the goodness of God be upon your retirement from politics, and also upon your wife and family.

Hon Minister Tuitama, the honorable Faasootauloa and the Hon Aeau, I wish you blessings upon your retirement. To that Side of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Ministers of Cabinet, also the Associate Ministers, your job is not easy. As there were challenges and trials along the way regardless it was God who became solid rock, whom we put our hope in, who helped us, which made it possible.

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Well done thank you to all the good works, congratulations to your service, and your perseverance. May the goodness and hope of God be upon you.

Turning to this Side, to the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons and members of Parliamentary Committees, thank you for your patience upon our works, as that is the will of this House for you to fulfill the duties provisioned by this House. May the goodness of our Lord upon these plans.

I heed appreciation to the Heads of the Ministries and Corporations of the Government, well done to your services to the Government of Samoa. Thank you also to the members of the Committee of Finance and your support. “Many hands makes light work.”

Then I wish to acknowledge the sacred support of Samoa, from parents to children, and His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo and His Consort, the sacred and ceremonial addresses of Samoa. Furthermore I wish to acknowledge the chosen and prayerful support of the sanctified ministers of God and their imploring for blessings upon Samoa and the proceedings of Parliament.

Finally, I wish to speak of the constituency that is dear to the heart. Our gratitude to the prayerful support which has brought victory to thy servant. Because during the times of anxiety, we had managed to gain bravery and warmth through your pleadings. To our village of Falelima, and the sacred heads or the reverends and their wives, Reverend Faapea Elia and faletua Tuiolemotu of the Methodist Church, Reverend Archbishop Petivia Tuimaseve and faletua Sini of the Latter Day Saints church. Reverend Peni Fepuleai and faletua Ioana of the Nazarene Church, the Retired Elder Reverend Tupu Folasa and faletua Malo. *O le paia lava lea aua le Afifio o Tapaau ma Nofo a Faalupea, Alaalatai lau Fetalaiga Folasa o le Fofoga o Papa, Alaalatai oulua Tamafaiga ma le Mamalu i le Alataua*, thank you for your prayers and support. The heart is comfort given your prayers and support.

To our village of Tufutafoe and the Reverends and your wives in the 5 villages, Afio Gisa o le Tama o le Malo, o le Tama lava a Usoalii, Afifio le Paia o Leusoalii, Alaalatai lau Fetalaiga Momoemausu, le Lautinalaulelei ma le mamalu i le Alataua. Thank you for your entreatments and support which I receive because of your support and prayers.

To my village of Neiafu, and the Reverends and your wives, Susuga Rev Maifea Asiata and faletua Fualole of the Methodist Church in Neiafu Tai, Susuga Rev Faafetai and faletua Saele of the Methodist Church in Letalie, greetings. Also I greet the Reverend Tiseqa Mariner and faletua Sivale, of the Methodist Church in Matagilelei. Rev Archbishop Uilisona and faletua Lagimaina of the Latter Day Saints church, and the retired Elder Reverend Siimamao Siimamao.

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*O le paia lava lea aua le Afio o le Tama na faasau o le Alataua, o le Tapaau Tasi, lau Afio o le Tonumaipea o le Alataua, Afifio le Aiga Samoeleoi, o le Aiga na Faitatau, o le Aiga na au i Ao, o le Aiga na au i Papa, Susu le Aifaaoga lau Afio Aliimalemanu ma le Toafa o Suafa ia Pei, Safiu, Lafaitete ma Aunei, Alaalatai laua Tama Igoa, Taatitimanaia ma Tuaiaufai. Alaalatai le mamalu ia te oe le Faleauga ma nofo a Pule, ma Upu ia te Oe le Alataua.*

Thank you for your prayers and support. I felt a instance of upheaval, however I am blessed with your prayers and support. Such is my love you too Alataua West, the sun rises, the earth dries up, but I remember you my constituency in my heart. Because it is on your lands that nutured me as a person. I was able to live and grow, and bask in your ocean, I am a girl of the land.

The seed that was planted has not bear fruit, on the scared lands of Alataua however this Parliamentary term has come to an end, you appointed me to come here to represent your views in the House of Samoa. I am certain that you are aware of a weakness and desire, and the services conveyed in this Parliamentary term. This is a cause for a humble request to the respects of our constituency, there is a desire and willingness to serve again, to do your will, and I still have strength from blessings and assistance of our Heavenly Father.

Words of the country, the navigator is wise, but can be also be wrong. Whatever action, or a word that has been seen or heard that has been unpleasant in carrying out my duties, I apologize, forgive a mistake of your humble servant. Also whatever developments that have not been able to be adhere to this Term, there are many days and the sun will rise again in the love shared by our God, so there is nothing for us to worry about. But that is also a desire, to carry out the work that was intended for the benefit of our constituency as well as the country as a whole. This is my wish if it is suitable with your will

The constant prayer, is that the eyes of our God not be turned away from your holiness and glory, and that His Name may be glorified and crowned with Praise in your callings in life. Also may I find strength to serve my beloved constituency.

Mr Speaker, I want to voice a word of thanks to my family, friends and those dear to me, not only within my constituency, but all over Samoa and abroad. I thank my husband and children. I feel in my heart the warmth of your prayers. Thank you for your heart of family, thank you for your support. I will not forget to thank the retired Elder Rev Susuga Tavita Anesone and wife Lupe, also retired Elder Rev Tavita Roma and his wife Tailua. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Mr Speaker and this House, also to Samoa listening in support, whatever word or behavior that has been seen impertinent, I humbly apologize.

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The support of Samoa, from those who have the positions of God, and His assigned staff, to the young people, may God be kind, and protect the journey of Samoa. What new calamities are coming, let us find a way to overcome it and let Samoa sail calm waters.

Lastly I want to express gratitude to the Offices that serve the Parliament, especially the Clerk and the Legislative Office this Parliament depends on. The Leader of Government, and respectable members of the Human Rights Protection Party, HRPP. To the respectable Leaders of the Opposition, or Political Parties who are coming forward, to seek governance because they want to serve the country, a humble request, take it easy. Whatever the differences of opinions and beliefs, let us not forget, Samoa is calm and peaceful with us leaders.

We are the ones who solve the anxiety of the country in serious issues or accidents that arise. All the best with the country's General Elections.

This is a word of Alataua West with respect. Blessings upon Mr Speaker and all respectable member of this House, also to Samoa and my beloved constituency, who are giving their support, soifua.

*Parliament showed appreciation by applauding after the speech of the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and member of Alataua West.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I commend you for the speech, you have clarified the matter directly to what is discussed. You have thoroughly explained the matter for Samoa listening in, for clarity and understanding on the matter related to our finances.

As you were appointed Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee of Parliament who checks and balances the tabling of the Budget into Parliament, and be reported back to the Legislative Assembly of Parliament, the word said in Atua, congratulations to the victor. Thank you, the matters discussed is understood by the Parliament, especially the Government listening, the Hon Prime Minister that keeps standing to respond, to clarify other matters which you have mentioned and so forth.

Thus the Chief Executive Officers are listening they whom you met from time to time, to clarify and explain the things that the Committee is investigating so that the countrys finances and wealth can be protected and managed justly. Thank you again.

Well, God himself has the blessing to bless you, espeically the Committee. A word to your constituency, the district is very blessed. As Alataua West listens in support, such is it.

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If we come upon the fence at Fualuga it is said that we should stop thus respect to alii o aiga. Thank you, once there is a disturbance in the air, then we will set to evaluate. As the sailor said, find someone that is worthy. As well as a prominent figure for the betterment of the constituency.

This is why I thought, you standing here on behalf of the constituency is immense. Blessed is the constituency I hope they are listening, so that they can be proud, this is your first time in Parliament but you are the only member, a newcomer that has been appointed as Chairperson of the Finance Committee in my 30 years here. This is something new which is not common. However, the decision itself is the calling that is from God.

Our prayer, I do not mean to praise or look like I am boasting you. Because those are the real things happening in Parliament.

Most of the time, it is the Hon Elders Pule Lameko, Afioga Faumuina Liuga who is Chairperson of the Finance Committee also Afioga Lauofo is listening and can testify it as truth. Blessed is your constituency that they appointed you as their member. This is our word, the work of Parliament is complete, now the Government will respond on matters raised for each Minister, this is why the Chair thinks there is enough time, as I give the opportunity to the Hon Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker as well as honorable members of the Legislative Assembly. I stand on behalf of our side to express the spirit of gratitude. Now that we have heard your speeches, we have been listening because it is the Cabinet where the words of the members of this House are directed. We also stood up and gave clarifications to some of the matters raised, for further understanding, thus we have come to the issues that should be explained especially for the sake the Samoan listeners.

We take the floor after the speeches, to add that there is a possibility that our answers are not related to the thoughts that were raised. This is the reason for taking the floor, with the objective that you all will understand our answers whilst the iron is still hot. It is necessary to keep it rolling because it will be hard to turn it once it cools down.

Mr Speaker, this is why we took the floor it may seem that we were interrupting, but that was not the purpose. You were the ones that led, you spoke first, now we will conclude. We will now respond, to some of your queries. The response of Cabinet will be very thorough, in terms of the issues you mentioned, as well as explained in detail the work they are doing, why?

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It is easy for us to speak with you all, but the problem that is happening is, it is difficult to understand, especially for Alii and Faipule, who are giving support to our duties, as well as holy servants, who are praying for the success of our work to serve our country.

This is also why if you are listening, it has been a bit long, let it be long because there were important matters, as we progress with our work, we have noticed, even a small group, see to have a clear understanding of the implementation of the work of Government, how about the Ministers, as well as the performance implemented by the public servants of Government.

The Cabinet lays down the decisions, but the public servants, are the ones who advise and implement. There are many times that the advice comes from below, it comes to the council.

Then the decision of the Cabinet is made, which is called the FK or the Cabinet Decision, but it comes under the PK, Cabinet Document, where the Minister talks with his Chief Executive. This states the intention that should be overlooked by Cabinet to make its decision. This is from the top which is the Cabinet Decision, FK. The decisions from below, and the one from the top, means another letter F, *faatino* to perform. Therefore there are F, F, F.

There is an Executive who has a strong belief that they do not agree with the decision given by Cabinet, then the other F is assessed, *faamavae*, resign. So there are 4 Fs, in the implementation of the work. But there are time when the F does not come from below, as the decision is expected to come from the top. I will give an example, the cooperation of the Chief Executives of Ministries and Cabinet, they are their Head in politics.

There is a time when advice is given from below, like this advice, the Policy has long been in progress, if there is a matter that seems to involve the Executive, he or she is temporarily suspended, while an investigation is carried out. There are other Executives who have been suspended for more than a year, on the basis of his human rights, under the Law that existed at that time, he will still be paid his current high salary, and take the car. If they reside in Government housing, they can stay there.

It took a while, then another new Executive came, he gave advice, that it is not appropriate that it should be revised, because there were incidents where there was a lot of court hearings, but not enough judges. If the Court is late, if it takes 2 years to wait, for those 2 years you will have to pay this fee of \$100,000 a year, use a Government car, and waste diesel, and the pay, which is still being given, but they still have not have the court case, it is not the Government's fault, it is the practice of the Court

Now another Head has come and said, something must be done about it.

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One month is enough, once that month is over the trial should be held, then they can come back and continue, for the smooth progress of the work. If they come back but are terminated, this means, the Government is only going to be broke for one month.

Mr Speaker this advice is very interesting but it comes from below. As for the advice regarding cars, it was not from below but from up top, there are cars that will be brought that will change the road. There is a change in time. There is a situation of the change of the border to change the day. There are recommendations on tarsealing access roads, this is suggestion from the top. One recommendation comes from below while the other is from the top, while the Cabinet makes the other recommendation. People are listening because there is another Executive of Government that went and spread the rumor that Government is interfering in things they should not be.

Mr Speaker, this Cabinet does not wait for a recommendation from below why? Because Cabinet are all well educated. If below is late then the word comes from above.

Mr Speaker, that is the situation, therefore, I have not finished my speech, my subject has not been presented. The order is the usual, when the Government gives its response, I first take the floor to say some introductory words, just briefly.

Now my brief speech is still not over, then we will proceed. Usually it starts from that side, at the corner as you can see, the Minister is the most handsome and young man that is sat at the corner. But the elders would sit close to me because sometimes they find hard to hear. Now I will start on my side, the gear for our car will be changed. We will start with the older members sitting beside me.

Why will we start with the oldest? Well his time is ending and he will be retiring. Such is the matter, and respect is given to him first, then we will continue until we reach the youngest, and then I will conclude, on other matters that have been overlooked by Ministers. I will be picking up the missing pieces. Then our work will be completed, perhaps it will take up this whole month. We have given respect to you all, now your respect will be given in return, we will now proceed with our work which should be done. Because it is here where the policies are implemented. For us we are happy when you interrupt, because interrupting allows us to know matters that are not acceptable by all then we discuss it further, which is the same case for you when you want to further clarify an issue to support our work.

That is the situation, this will be last speech for the Hon Afioga Tuitama in the House, therefore opportunity should be given to him for clarification, the service of this man is also known in this House.



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When Tuitama stands up, you start to sleep, you would sleep and wake up, sleep and wake up, but he will still be speaking. Such is the character of Tuitama. Hon Tuitama, this is your last speech, if it takes a whole week, it is fine. Mr Speaker that is the importance of the introduction. The introduction starts off our work.

As for myself and the duties that are given to me, in the arrangement of Cabinet, I can say, I am responsible for some of the Ministries like the Foreign, Affairs and Trade, the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet which includes Immigration, the Board of Directors and the Public Service Commission. Now other Ministries added are Environment as well as the Fire Emergency Services and others. The implementation of the work, the Minister meets with his Ministry, if something arises that is needed by the Minister, the Chief Executive is called and is asked for advice. It does not even have to be arranged.

My door is open all the time, anytime my Chief Executive needs to talk with me, everyone else is put on hold, because I need this advice.

The same goes for Ministers, that is my suggestion, keep your doors open. To find appointments, to meet people outside, as for my advice I strongly recommend to open it everytime. Once something happens that you do not want, ask your Chief Executive Officer to come, your advisor, this is your number one advisor. Also whatever the time the advisor wants to visit, notify the secretary to stop anyone that comes, and let them in. Because the Ministers and I need the advice. My advice to Ministers as well is whether you like it or you do not like it, listen. Why? Because the advice that you do not like, within it is love. That is your protection, that is also the protection of the entire Cabinet, that is also the protection of the entire Government. Why? Unfortunately, Mr Speaker many times, you are attacked on personal matters. We live in a world, that is easily attacked by the devil. That is why the suggestion of the Chief Executive is important. The moment the Minister does not listen to the Chief Executive, that is the exact moment the Minister starts acting fraudulent from not listening, because the Chief Executive sits with the laws. All the Laws implemented for behavior. Not only their behavior, but also observe the behavior of the Minister. The Minister is also a person not an angel, who is always faced with pressure, faced with pressure from families, as well as the community. I want to take out my NPF. It is impossible, because there are guidelines. The Minister and myself the Prime Minister cannot do anything. It is absolutely impossible to take out a NPF in an unreasonable way. When the Chief Executive says it is not possible, then it is not possible.

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When you go back to the Minister and to me, and you are given a letter as requested, when you go there the answer is not possible, because the Director General or the Manager will see that the Ministers letter knowingly would say, it is impossible.

But the importance of our discussion, are the examples given, the examples of good governance. Do not bring love to do something that is not compatible with the Law. There is a speech by the Pastor who gave a sermon, addressed to Judges, “Be righteous.” Then he said, the will of God, once you sit on your chair in Court, then you should remember, do not base your decisions on your compassion, it will lead to wrong decisions. But where should it be based? Based on justice. Where does justice come from? It comes from discernment where the Holy Spirit resides.

Mr Speaker, this is an important aspect, and even the Judge. The Judge himself, shows compassion for the person that they love, since they have a hidden relationship, therefore the Court case is unjust. Because of what? the decision was made first and then he went back to look for evidence.

That is why there is a delay in making a decision, in trying to find evidence to make it look like the decision is right. But it is not a secret in the eyes of the Attorney Generals office. Why? Because the Attorney General, their role is to monitor the Government. Even myself in monitoring the Courts, whether Court proceedings are carried out right. This is why, under the Law, the Attorney General can be directly appointed as a Judge or as the Chief Justice, because of the high position they are given in protecting the Laws of this country so that there is justice

This is also why, no matter how many of these arguments are made, there is only one Office the Government listens to under the Constitution, the Lawyers of the Constitution and Government of Samoa. Who? The Attorney General, which is under my supervision. I have talked about this often. The Office of the Attorney General, is under the Prime Minister. The Ministry of Police used to be under the Prime Minister, but I have allocated it elsewhere. If the Prime Minister does something wrong or there is a violation, the Attorney General will prosecute. As I mentioned, the Government of Israel is in a frenzy up to now because of the man leading, because there was a matter which was mentioned on the world news that he was charged with some issues that are inappropriate. A similar thing happened to the Prime Minister of Canada in the past 2 years.

Mr Speaker that is living testimony of the speeches that I have repeated time and time again in this House, even one of our Prime Ministers he preached his appointments because of Court, because of the Law. But who does these things?

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The Ministry of Police and the Attorney General's Office which is under the Prime Ministers control. Even the Prime Ministers and Heads of other Governments, have also been charged with the Law but implemented by the Office of the Attorney General.

Mr Speaker, this is why I stood up to the continuous accusations which is being made by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 and dragging me, saying I am involved, but I am not involved in such things. But when it comes to a person who is known to make false statements, even here, the utmost thing is that the country is watching and listening, they are looking at the television saying something untrue, writing the name, which is not correct, is a false name in front of the oath. The oath that is made on the Bible, the Holy Bible. If the person that swears on the Bible lies, what are other things behind it? What else is hidden behind? To hold back, the boundary of where a person should be held back has been crossed in how to act righteously.

Mr Speaker, I have not yet finished my speech, but I can see that it is 1:00 already but I have not concluded. But I will try and finish it tomorrow.

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

**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** Mr Speaker, I will be brief with a matter.

I stand with respect; the Hon Prime Minister has voiced his decision on the order of Cabinet. Our corner remembers the dangerous captain of the All Blacks who was Richie McCaw when it was time for his farewell. Maybe because the Prime Minister was Chairperson of the Rugby Union, we all saw the thousands and thousands of people who watched the game, all the players stood at the back but the captain entered first. That is the respect that was given to the team especially the Government of New Zealand.

Therefore I believe this is the respect given by the Prime Minister to Hon Afioga Tuitama. Well, Hon Afioga Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama, I wish you all the best with your speech and in leading the response of Cabinet. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well thank you. It is the position of the Prime Minister, because it is up to him which side of Cabinet will start first. It seems another Aana is praising another. Well that makes sense. This is the last time for the senior member. Yes. This is our last time with Tofa Hon Faasootauloa and Afioga Hon Tuitama, as the country listens in. Please be reminded to show us compassion when you all return in the next Parliamentary term, show us love who will not be coming back.

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This is why, the matter is now clear and understood as conveyed by the Hon Prime Minister. The Chair does not have to say anything further, because it was not a lie done elsewhere, but in front of the Chair. Yes. All 50 members are witnesses. Yes. It was done elsewhere it was done right here, as Chief Executives of Government Ministries witnessed especially Samoa and the constituency that was present. I refuse to speak on this matter again, I do not have to bring it forth.

But these actions are important for members to consider, on the carelessness seen because these are not the attitudes that should be seen in those who want to become leaders of the country.

Well, since we have arrived at our time of adjournment for today, thank you. I apologize as well to respectable members if there has been a boundary overstepped by the Chair, may God forgive the words of the Chair.

Before we adjourn, I call upon the member of Aana Alofi No.2 Afioga Ili Setefano to conclude our Sitting with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1:08pm until 9:00am Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.*