

17 JUNE 2020

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2020

*Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 and the Appropriation 2020/2021 at 6:13pm.*

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

I believe strength has been renewed, during the recess period today, now we have once again gathered here in Chamber to continue with our orders.

Before recess this afternoon, the member of Salega West was making his speech. With respect I call upon the member to take the floor and continue with his speech.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Pardon me Mr Speaker, I humbly ask for an opportunity to speak on a minor matter in regards to our official records, a short clarification on the progress of our work. The Hansard on our session this morning has been distributed, and I note with sadness that this member's speech is incomplete, it is stated that the mic was off. This is the same response after the session this morning from my constituency, Laauli why is it that when you speak you are turned off? Then I contacted those working with IT on the matter.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

However, I humbly ask you Mr Speaker, that our speeches not be withheld from being broadcasted, especially when it is conveyed out to the world. I have now confirmed it here that most of my words spoken are incomplete. This is a humble request with respect.

Another matter Mr Speaker, a request was made by the journalists outside, that only TV1 is allowed while the majority are not allowed inside. The Chair has the superior authority, however a request is to recognize all media entities in Samoa. With respect, God bless our Sitting.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank the member for the speech. The Chair is grateful for the point conveyed, however I apologize on the matter

*17 JUNE 2020*

mentioned in the opinion of the member. If this was the case, it is a common practice of the House, if there are any problems with our recording system, it can be reviewed and corrected after 4 days. If the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 agrees, the Legislative Assembly office will look into this matter.

The matter on...

I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, since it affects all of us, this means it is the same for our speeches, because such recording devices used affect all of us here in Chamber. I take the floor in the case that there might be speculation of different treatment of the speech by the member of Gagaifomauga No.3. This means everyone is affected, we are all using one recording system so when it is off or on, everyone else is as well. If one member's device was affected, it means all of us were affected.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker with respect, the reason for mentioning this is based on what is written in the Hansard, it is only me and my mic that is faulty. Every other member's speech on deliberations with the Hon Prime Minister this morning is noted except for me. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I myself have not seen these things. The only thing I am worried about, is the country who are listening and might think it is done to one person, however we are using one system altogether.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I will not argue the matter but leave it to you, the Chair has spoken to leave the matter to them. I leave this matter to you with respect, and I hope it will never happen again. Thank you.

*17 JUNE 2020*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I believe... thank you for recognizing the Chair. The Chair was informed on the matter pertaining to actions of our recording machine, if 4 mics are all on, then there is a possibility for such a problem, but the Clerk of the House has spoken that they will look into this matter for improvement.

The matter concerning the media, the table cannot change a decision that has already been made. Therefore, we will continue with our orders this evening. I call upon the member for Salega West to speak.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I thank the Lord for his love and kindness that has guided your lives and ours here safely to continue the work we were called upon for Samoa this evening.

Before recess I was trying to convey a few requests to Government Ministries and Corporations, these are thoughtful suggestions.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Hon Minister and the Administration, thank you for the work carried out by the Ministry, we have seen many developments and plans of the Ministry to encourage our people to work the land as well as livestock and other developments. Now that the economic crisis caused by the Covid19 has hit, the response is obvious. It is not obvious, but it has been observed, unlike other countries we see on TV where millions of people are lined up with dishes, eventhough big countries like the United States have bigger economies, we see a lot of hungry people, but Samoa is not like that because we have our lands.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

We would like to express our gratitude for the long term plans to boost the economy in the field of agriculture, so that we do not rely too much on food from abroad but rely on our land that can be cultivated, which provides for the income we depend on every day.

I remember at the very beginning of this Parliament, the former Minister spoke that they would bring in plows to fully mechanize the implementation of agriculture. I believe that now is the time to use this kind of machinery to drive agricultural development.

The question is, have our plows arrived? As such assistance from the Chinese Government has already been announced in Parliament. Whether

*17 JUNE 2020*

we have it or not, it must be put into action, because this is the way development of our farms will be accelerated, not only by the farmers in the rural areas, but also in the urban areas. And this member really believes...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua:** Mr Speaker I thought the members request would be brief, but I apologize that when I came to this Ministry there was no such arrangement to bring in plows, however I do not recall, and if we do have it, the Ministry has no further plans on it at the moment. We will be looking into it later, for saving our time. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The member may continue his speech.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Thank you. If such plans have not been implemented, since it was announced in the House, I will leave it beside you for consideration, perhaps it will be executed another time. The reason why I have mentioned this matter is based on my desire to push agricultural growth right now.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, a point of clarification in regards to the statement made by the member.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** A Point of Clarification is this right?

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Yes, Mr Speaker a clarification.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member may speak.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** On the statement made by the member in regards to plows, I was the one that spoke on it in the House. There were plans that it will be a gift from China. There was a second programme under the Chinese Government to bring in these machines now. It is no secret that more than \$US10 million in aid has been provided. Unfortunately, I have moved away, now there is a different Minister and different plans. However, it was my intention, that there was this Chinese

*17 JUNE 2020*

programme, for mechanization and commercialization, which is currently being implemented.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister since you have mentioned the changes implemented. The opportunity should be given to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua:** Mr Speaker, I would like to point out to you that there is no US\$10 million from China as promised by the Chinese Government. There is an ongoing programme called SKA TAP which has completed phase 4, at \$US4 million. Phase 5 which has already been signed will start at the end of maybe October or November, it is also \$US5million. All terms and conditions are subject to not only the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but also the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is why, there might be a misunderstanding on the situation, and some might think the Minister has thrown away this \$US10 million. This is a clarification. With due respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Perhaps the matter has been clarified by the Hon Minister looking over the Ministry now.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker a small matter, it is not my intention to say that the Minister did not carry out this plan. The project was carried out. This second project is up at Nuu. But that is version 4 of the project that started from the time of Hon Afioga Le Mamea Ropati, vegetable garden mechanization and commercialization.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

That was the program. So you see, if my statement is not trusted, that is the continuation of the project being carried out now. This is also why we have seen tunnel houses that are all over the country. This is the project, with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua:** The respectable member, no, I do not want, the member is no longer the Minister. I take the opportunity to speak

*17 JUNE 2020*

since I am the one overseeing the affairs of this Ministry. No, this project has progressed with 4 phase when I came here it had already started. As for the matter of bringing in excavators to mechanize the system of our farms, there are none. We have a pop cat that can be used for our little vegetable gardens. However, the member is talking about the big excavators that are brought in to dig the ground. This is what we do not have. Mr Speaker and respectable member, this is a clarification incase the country listening in might be confused together with this House. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member the clarification has been made clear by the Hon Minister in charge of the Ministry.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I will not argue this issue. I apologize, Mr Speaker. However, the matter will be left as it is, but I strongly believe that the Chief Executive Officer is listening, the Ministry is also listening to the negotiations, however, it will be left as it is.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Alright, thank you. I call upon the member of Salega East to continue. The matter concerning the machinery you mentioned have been made clear. I recommend that you move on to another matter, your time is nearly finished.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Thank you. Mr Speaker I raised this matter, since this is exactly the time that we need this, and we have to act now, to accelerate agricultural development, however these are the conditions that should be carried out.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

And do not worry, I have noted the records of the speeches made in this House. If it has not been done, I will not blame the Hon Minister, this is just a reminder, since it was voiced within this House. But I will move on to another matter.

Hon Minister, the development of the Israelian banana, is a wonderful plan. Thank you for bringing this type of banana, but there is a problem that I have noticed, it is quickly affected with different diseases, as seen in the leaf blight. The concern to me is, we already have a better banana with good pulp, which is also susceptible to blights, but unlike the Israelite banana I

*17 JUNE 2020*

have noted, it is quickly affected. I recommend this, in case the former banana is discarded, the European banana should be re-established, otherwise we would be in the same situation when the Solomon cocoa was introduced, we had to cut down our Samoan cocoa, however we have seen the problem with the Solomon cocoa, and we are now starting to look for the real Samoan cocoa again.

This is the reason for reiterating this issue, this was something I raised before when the Israeli banana was first introduced, it poses many challenges, but I am thankful for the efforts of our farmers, to keep trying even though pesticides are very expensive for such development, especially in their desire to develop the economy and this new Israeli banana as well. I will leave this matter beside you, let us not forget the first banana, the Cavendish banana that we have been accustomed to growing. If there are no more banana blocks or young banana shoots to distribute, I recommend that we bring back growing the Cavendish banana, which we are used to, with lesser problems unlike the Israeli banana that we have now in our country.

Third, as seen on advertisements on TV, there is a disease affecting pigs, the advertisements are warning people about pork meat. I believe a plan needs to be put in place. There are many other problems as well. This animal has become a pest in the country. Even though it is true that it is useful for faalavelave, but when you look at the economics of feeding a pig, you will have to keep feeding it until it becomes big, and it costs a lot of money, also they destroy and dig up the land which has also resulted to some not cultivating lands behind their homes since they are afraid of pigs. It is also expensive, if people set up pig farms, they would have to go and buy barbed wire which is expensive. But let us see if a disease has been diagnosed in these pigs, if so, why not kill all the pigs in the country? With respect.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister on this matter.

**Tofa Hon Lopaoo Natanielu Mua:** I thank the member for reminding us of the African Swine Flu epidemic which has affected Papua New Guinea and many other countries in Asia and Europe. Well it started in Africa. In case our country is alarmed, the machine that will be used to test our pigs will arrive this Friday, through the assistance of UNO and UNDP, as well as the Ministry of Finance. But the investigation was carried out in February,

*17 JUNE 2020*

the disease is not here yet, therefore these measures and precautions by the Ministry has been put in place with our Border division to retrieve food products made from pork. But for now, we are not very likely to be harmed, as most of the products brought in has been cooked, boiled, and then canned, except for pork charcuterie which is overlooked by the Ministry. That is the only reason the disease is likely to occur, products are banned from being imported from any of the affected countries, except for countries that have not been affected such as New Zealand and Australia, those are allowed. As for other areas and monitoring, they have already been initiated by the Ministry as well as our World Food Organization.

In case the matter is prolonged, the Ministry has to take action in this regard. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Hon Minister has spoken, I also believe the member has been satisfied with the clarification, I thank you for your opinion, but you may continue.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** There is a saying, the hat might be taken off but your head will get wet. Prevention is better than cure, in case we are blamed, like China who is the source of the swine flu. With all due respect.

I would like to thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for their service in improving the livestock industry. Thank you. There is a significance of having cattle and food crops. Not only will we be able to feed our own people, but when there are too many of them, the food supply will be kept in check and less money will be spent on food.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

It is recommended that we continue to develop the livestock economy which is not yet sufficient, we still need a few cattle for our island of Salafai.

The other matter, is the objective of trying to plant the tree that has been in Samoa for a long time before, there is a tree that I forgot, and it has been in Samoa for a long time, which earns a lot of money. Vanilla has been in Samoa for many years, but it has also been snubbed, we can make a lot of money from it, but the problem is, it is not known if this plant is well managed. It should be reviewed, further development should be implemented to encourage more farmers since it is good income. I recall the



*17 JUNE 2020*

Hon Prime Minister saying that when comparing a load of coconuts with a load of vanilla, the amount of money earned from one barrel of vanilla is the same as a load of coconuts. This is why I strongly believe...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, I will give the opportunity to the injection from the Minister of Tourism.

**Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Tourism):** Thank you for the opportunity, I also thank the member for the wonderful speech this evening. The matter concerning vanilla, for your information an agreement has already been signed with a Japanese company, Hokkaido their goal is to implement development for vanilla and orchid. This project is expected to be set up at Mulifanua, about 1000 acres of land have been made available for this development, in fact specialists will be brought in from Japan, and a lab will be set up in Mulifanua, to overlook the production of orchids and vanilla. All in all, when it comes time to harvest, they will also look for an overseas market to export it too. All we have to do is wait for the money that will come in, as the member said, millions of dollars will be earned if this development is a success for Samoa. This is probably one big development that will compete with the tourism industry, in terms of purpose. Perhaps this matter has been clarified as questioned by the respectable member.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Prime Minister. Pardon the member, could you please turn off your mics in case we cannot hear clearly for our records.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this tree is very delicate to plant, especially in trying to monitor it, to grow well. It does not need to grow high up, but it needs to be planted on another tree for support and reproduction. It is a bit difficult. This is the reason why the Trust Estates are going to take the lead. This is also why we need an overseas company that understands it. Vanilla was originally only found in South America, which is used for food products, then the Europeans went there and took some to grow in their country. What happened was, it grew well

*17 JUNE 2020*

but it beared no fruit, then the scientists went back and observed, and found out that there is a small bird like the cardinal honeyeater, that is what it does, it sucks the sweetness of the flower, during this time it touches the hanging part of the flower which results in it to bloom. If this is not done it cannot bear fruit.

The problem is this bird cannot be brought out of America, so the scientists had to stay there and study how the bird does this, it is why it is difficult. Once you grow it and it bears flowers you have to go in the morning with a match stick to self-fertilize it, it is similar to an oyster, you will then have to nudge the upper part with the lower part of the flower for it to fertilize, it look like beans. If you look at it, the fruit is very long like beans. You have to get up in the morning once it bears flowers to self- fertilize it. It is difficult to carry out this task unless you are specifically trained. It is the reason why we are taking it slow, since it is not easy. If you were to plant only one that grows all the way to the door, it will take the whole morning trying to fertilize it. It is not easy. What I was told by a person growing it in Fiji was, you can earn money from only half a barrel, which equals to 9 tons of 99 ton trucks. Filled with sacks of coconut, the same as a whole load of coconut, the money earned is the same with this small bean. If you look at it, it looks like the long beans that we eat.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister of the Trust Estates will make a statement in regards to this new development that has started. Maybe it will be another ten years before we can make a lot of money from this, and it will be a means of income for our farmers. We need people that understand how it is cultivated. The reason why we also need these people, is to have a market where they can distribute it and a market to sell it too. There is only one woman that is doing it at the moment, up at Vailima and a man doing it in Savaii.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

However, it has not even reached the phase it should be. Mr Speaker, it is not easy since it is complicated. The important aspect is, if you have a vanilla farm no one can steal it, to make Sunday lunch, like other produce that we have now. We try our best to grow produce but usually it gets stolen. But for this plant it is hard for anyone to steal it because they do not know how to grow it. Mr Speaker, this is a clarification.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have noted that the member of Salega East is smiling, which means he fully agrees with the statement made by the Leader

*17 JUNE 2020*

of Government, this task is not easy as stated. It is best if you take the floor, your time is up.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker I will be brief, since the speech made by the member is very important.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is it a Point of Order or clarification?

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, it is a clarification. Mr Speaker the matter raised by the fellow member of this constituency is important. In 2014, I asked for funding of more than \$200,000 to spend on vanilla development. The Parliamentary Committee also visited Olomanu at Mulifanua, almost 4 to 5 acres have been planted by the Trust Estates. I thought the member was going to ask if there was an extension. When we visited at that time, it had started to bear fruit, there were no small birds present. I thought there was going to be an expansion, to make use of Government funds that was spent on this development. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon the Leader of Government.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this project is already in progress. There is expectation on the partnership with these people, as mentioned by the Hon Minister, I believe the Trust Estates will earn a lot from it, if these people who are specialised in this process come and oversee this farm. They are also directly responsible for marketing these aboard in Japan.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Mr Speaker, it is a bit complicated, that is why it requires people who have skills, in the marketing and processing of vanilla here and exporting it overseas.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Perhaps the matter has been clearly clarified, I call upon the member of Salega West. You may conclude since your time is finished.

17 JUNE 2020

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Mr Speaker I thought I would be given another 15 minutes since we just started for this evening. However, I will follow your lead. I will move away from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Ministry of Health, I want to convey sincere gratitude, to the Lady Minister, especially Cabinet, the Hon Prime Minister, for the decisions made, to mourn...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apologies to the member, I have already announced to the House that your time is up, I thought you would now take this time to convey a word to your constituency and their support.

**Afioga TOOMATA AKI TUIPEA:** Mr Speaker there is one more, which is Health before I take the opportunity to speak to my constituency, with respect.

The Ministry of Health, \$3million has been allocated for the construction and upgrading of district hospitals, especially housing for nurses, men and women who will be permanently assigned to district hospitals. I would like to express my gratitude that the long -awaited request has been granted, for our members, and to provide services for people in rural hospitals. Eventhough there are other matters I want to speak on, I will conclude it here, for I adhere to the instructions of the Chair.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my beloved constituency, Salega No.1, also known as Salega West. The villages of Fagafau, Samata i tai, Samata i uta, Fogatuli and Faiaai. *Le paia lava lea i le afio o Fualau ma le aiga o sa Fualau, afifio Sua, Maia aemaise o Gisa faapea Tilafono ma le Faavaoga. Lau fetalaiga Tuisalega o oe o le fofoga o le itumalo, faamalo. Afio Afualo ma le tofa Uano, faapea le fetalaiga ia Fuaimanu le fofoga o le usoalii.*

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*Afifio alo o Lilomaiava, lau afioga Seve ma Tilamafaga, afio Tuimaugapo ma le aiga sa Tuimaugapo, pola puipui e le falefa o Sasoa ma Samai. Also to my beloved village of Samata i tai, Samata i uta. Afio lau afioga i le sao ma le toafa o alii i tai ma le toa tolu i uta, aemaise foi Saleutogipoe, le limamatua o faleupolu o tofiga. Thank you for the support, to inspire the views of this member of your constituency. I am grateful for the good advice, especially from church Ministers who are praying for the prosperity of the Government of Samoa, and for peace and harmony. I am sure you have seen*

*17 JUNE 2020*

me most of the week in our constituency, it is not that I am trying to impress anyone, it is my usual routine to visit my village and families and converse. There are plans of Committee to travel to Savaii to review the Bills. As you know it has been mentioned on TV. Maybe next week or the week after the Committee will be then visiting our constituency. It is believed that the constituency with understanding has enough wisdom and prudence. Do not be swayed by anyone, the constituency is not overruled by others, there is wisdom and prudence of the council of chiefs and orators. To consult on such matters with foresight and indepth understanding. I wish you all the best, do not be swayed, but be calm and collective. If there is anything that is not clear, ask me. Watch the television for announcements, for this matter to be well understood. Do not be swayed by anyone based on a piece of paper.

May the Lord bless the Chair, and may you continue to have the intellect and foresight, on behalf of the Speaker, for the smooth running of the Parliament of Samoa. May the Lord bless you, with respect, Soifua.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I commend the member of Salega West for his speech. Perhaps you have inquired about matters related to agriculture and fisheries, since you are one of the members who served under this Ministry. Therefore, I commend you for preparations, I know your constituency have heard, everything has been made clear before the visit of the Special Committee. Opportunity is now given to another member.... I call upon the member of Vaimauga.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity given to this constituency. We have arrived at the time of evening devotion within our country, may this service of devotion bring blessings upon our work and take us before the presence of God. Before this constituency conveys an opinion, I would first want to thank the Lord Almighty for the continuation of our evening session this time of the night. This is my sincere word of gratefulness. This constituency of Vaimauga East wants to contribute as well, from Fusi and

*17 JUNE 2020*

the graveyard, respects of *Lalotea le malae o le faautugatagi a Tumua. Niniva ma Punialavaa, Pilioua ma Fatutolo. Po o le afifio o paia i aiga e lua aemaise le nofoatula*. I am forever grateful.

I greet this side of Chamber, the Leader of the country, the Hon Prime Minister also the Leader of the House. I acknowledge as well, the respects of Saofaapito, the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I humbly greet Mr Speaker, in administering our council this evening, well done. I turn to this side of Chamber and welcome respectable members of the Parliament of Samoa. I greet the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries especially those serving this country. The Clerk of the House, I commend you for the efforts and services to our country. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of the, Le Ao O le Malo, Afioga Tuiaana Tuimalealiifano and his Goodlady. Also to the member of Council of Deputies and his Goodlady. I welcome as well the new Chief Justice. I commend you for the work you will be facing, I know your calling is not easy. Greetings to the President, the men and women of the Judiciary as well as the Justice Courts Administration office.

I ask for your support, especially the support of the holy servants of the Lord throughout the country. They are kneeling before the Lord, as well as fasting and praying for the blessings on Samoa. Such are your blessings especially in serving our Lord and His will. Samoa who are praying from their homes, give us your support to contribute to the development of Samoa, especially my constituency, giving their support this time of the evening. Also to our elders who are listening in from overseas, and other parts of the world, this constituency will now convey an opinion. Since this is the last Appropriation of this Parliamentary term.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

First I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance especially the Associate Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry of Finance. It is not easy, when I first came into this House this Parliamentary term. I noted the first Main Estimates, on how it was very limited. Because of what? Because of adoration for our country. Now up to this hour, you still have things in your hands. Thank you for the just decisions and fair distribution of the economy of Samoa. There is a saying that we sow with tears, how about the things that we have now reaped. We have reached this Sitting and it is also

*17 JUNE 2020*

the last Budget for this term. Therefore, I am grateful to the Ministry of Finance for the distribution. Because there is not one Ministry that does not want a bigger budget. The Ministry goes out of its way to distribute and try to reduce it. But I am grateful to the Hon Minister since we still have funds.

Overall I am grateful. This is an outstanding term, considering there are 3 Supplementary Appropriations, the Lord has been very kind. We have now arrived at this time of the epidemic, but Samoa is well protected because of the grace of God. A few suggestions to the Hon Minister, there are many issues that I wanted to convey, however it has already been stated in some of the speeches. Let us look into the matter of benefits being released. I am grateful for the distribution made, however I pray, to oversee those with chronic diseases and mental health. Distribution has been made for some areas, how about those who are crippled in families. Also some people who are blind, they should also be considered. Also those who have chronic diseases and have not reached the age of 65. How about those who are seriously ill within in families, people who have been bedridden, how about giving them a share.

If we look at the Budget a lot of awareness programs are carried out by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, but there is no money distributed to those I talked to. The crippled, blind, those who are disabled, there are also several families looking after those with chronic diseases, I humbly ask to review your distribution. Despite this budget, it will not change, I thought there would be a process by which the requests of each constituency is submitted. Up to now, this constituency has yet to see any work on access roads. We have already made this request in the beginning, hence the Minister of the Land Transport Authority is listening. This is a humble request to the Hon Minister of Finance, to review this matter.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Another aspect, there are a lot of awareness programs whereby we get assistance. It is noted that it is quite difficult. This constituency has made several applications to CSSP and others. But the process is complicated, application was rejected saying the forms are wrong. I also went there and spoke on this matter. The developments implemented for village councils and women committees but are rejected. I will leave this matter beside you for consideration, for such services should be allowed to those who are less fortunate. Because most of the methods bringing in foreign aid is not well

*17 JUNE 2020*

publicized. It seems that it only looks at those who have good income than those who fishes for a living. If you take note of this constituency of Vaimauga, if you want to eat a bottle of urchin, this is where the economy thrives. These are the very people who need help, right? It is not available to everyone, as one of the members stated, make the burden easy, and carry out awareness programs where the public can access. This is a humble request to the Hon Minister of Finance.

The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Afioga Afamasaga Rico Tupai, the advocate of Government. I am grateful for the cables installed and other tech brought into the country. It has been noted how slow it is, also it is expensive, a humble request is it possible to re-issue licenses to other companies to come in, to have access to these cables and other things, this will make service easier for our people. I have heard in some of the speeches made earlier, that some of our companies have been sold. Let us overlook if this is true, because if we were to sell it, then we should get a return on the tax, what we call capital gain on it being resold. This is a humble request, to please look into this matter. Some companies came here to set up telephone businesses but later turned to hotels, this matter should be overlooked. There is a lot of money earned, see whether any taxes have been paid back into the country.

A request of this constituency, oversee if it is possible to advertise for other companies to come in, so that there will be more people. If a bus is full that is good. It seems that not everything brought in is used. I am grateful to you and the Associate Minister that our village of Laulii is thriving. Laulii is located between mountains, for television eventhough it is blurry, but the constituency is thankful because it is now working. Therefore, I am grateful to you both for this progress.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

The Hon Minister of Justice, is a friend and a son of Vaimauga. I thank you together with your Associate Minister on the two Bills that have created much talk in our country. This portrays that it is something good, which will result to a good conclusion. I am grateful for the new Chief Justice, especially the Chief Executive Officer, there are a lot of great changes being implemented in the Courts Administration.

The Hon Minister of Education, thank you Afioga Loau Keneti Sio, for the opening of our new school building at Fagalii, I am grateful especially for



*17 JUNE 2020*

allowing the Mormon Church to donate chairs and desks. Not only for Fagalii but also Letogo. A humble request Hon Minister, our village of Fagalii does not have a sports field. If we look at it now, the airport has been removed. Is it possible to make a request through you, to divide the airport and make a sports field not only for the school but also the village? There is no playing field since most of the land has been taken up by Government. This is a humble request, if you can follow it through, with respect. There have been a lot of outstanding developments that you have accomplished through your administration.

The Hon Minister of Revenue, I want to thank you. I am grateful since this is the main source of revenue for our country. I am obliged with your leadership, however I am saddened to see that your budget has decreased. This Sitting and the start of this year financial input has been included in the new system. I thought if it was included it would increase but it is not. I humbly ask to enforce provisions of compliance. A lot of our funds are within Government Ministries, I am certain there is no need for a reminder. This is the key to opening it, perhaps 90% of the tax collected is from your Ministry.

You are entrusted by the country to collect all taxes. We have a lot of funds, and some which are not being used, this is why the services of the Ministry must be strengthened. In order to have all the details of where funds are spent. Also look at some of these businesses, observe and then enforce the Ministry to go out and inspect. This will ensure that these businesses are monitored and their taxes are brought in. As for the system, it seems to me it is a bit expensive. The system can be easily set aside and the Chinese would carry out their business manually. Nothing is being used on the system, there are no receipts. Advertise to the public, when they do their shopping make sure to get a receipt.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

The services provided through the Ministry of Prisons, I am grateful, I know it is not easy given the tasks that have been allocated to you. In regards to the Ministry of Customs and Revenue but also with Prisons and Corrections. A humble request, is to take care of the well being of employees, to be safeguarded. There should be insurance for them, the police and prison guards, because we never know when some prisoners will attack, if something does happen at least they are already protected. In particular the case of overtime, even the Ministry of Police is not under

*17 JUNE 2020*

labour conditions, whereby they get overtime or work during public holidays, this is different for them which should be reviewed. The services they provide is to safeguard the country. Therefore, the country is safe through the services of police especially the prison officers. Also the Fagalii airport has been transferred under your jurisdiction. I pray to the Hon Minister of Finance, \$5 million will now be transferred from the Ministry to Samoa Airways. But this is the constituency that owns the land the airport is situated. We are not saying that the airport should be removed, hence we are looking after it. Therefore, I humbly ask the Hon Minister of Finance, why not allocate another million to Fagalii. If we look at it they also took away the airport, now this Ministry will be there again to use it, however it is already safeguarded by the village. Is it possible to allocate a million from the \$5 million stated to the village, to ensure that assets of Government are well looked after.

The Hon Minister of Health, this is not to praise you, but I am grateful that you are a Christian. This is the reason why the Lord has blessed you both with your Associate in your work, your calling is not easy. May the Lord continue to bless you both with your allocated duties.

I am happy to see in the Budget that more funds have been allocated to take our people for overseas treatment. I am grateful for funds, but I know it is not enough. However, the majority of our people want to go overseas, and I am glad. A request is to make this service simpler. It is true that there are funds needed for overseas, but the process to transfer people is very difficult. I pray that we make things simple for our country. I pray the Lord bless the Hon Minister, Associate Minister especially the son of Vaimauga who is the entrusted Chief Executive for the Ministry. I convey a word of thanks to the Administration.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Afioga Lopao Natanielu, thank you. The lands of the constituency of Vaimauga have been taken by Westec. The only thing that the Westec came and grew on these lands was, cocoa and coconut. Why? The Westec knew that our land supplied good coconut and cocoa. I am thankful that this development has been revitalized. A request, is it possible to share benefits, which can be given to the village mayor. If there are a 1,000 cocoa or 1,000 coconuts, the mayor can distribute, so that by the end of the next season more coconuts will be

*17 JUNE 2020*

brought in and be planted, since there is not enough to rejuvenate the economy. I pray to the Hon Minister to reconsider this development. Everything else is great since you have taken the role.

It has been noted that approval has been given by the Scientific Research Organisation Samoa, I am grateful that we will get more income. As for the matter of providing support on some developments as mentioned by some of the members, make it simple. It is easy to give out seeds that are brought in, but it is also difficult. We also went to get taro shoots but it was already taken by others, why not give to the right people working on plantations and individuals. The member for Salega earlier stated that we should look at developing our bananas, to encourage people to grow the Cavendish and misiluki banana. This is one expensive produce from our country seen in hotels. I am grateful Hon Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon Minister of Tourism, Afioga Sala Fata Pinati, thank you, I pray that the needs of Savaii be recognized as well. You are aware that we are from Upolu. When we went there for a visit, I had to ask the Chairperson for the name of each village. Our village signs need to be refurbished to let people know the name of each village. At the moment we do not have any overseas tourists but our people are now the tourists. We should know that when we visit with our children, and see the beautiful roads of Savaii. But we will not know which village or constituency we are in.

I humbly ask that these signs be set up. Since the Westec is under your designation, would it be possible to allow people to lease lands for development of Westec.

The Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, I am grateful. Some of the developments implemented in the Ministry include private water schemes. It is known that there are villages in this constituency of Vaimauga that rely on private water schemes, but there are also some using Government water supply based on geographics.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Could the Ministry overlook this issue, in regards to the project carried out on water tanks. Nothing is being used anymore. Only the contractor received their payment, but nothing has been done, we had to bypass it ourselves to make the water go back to the source, we are not satisfied. This matter should be overlooked, if there are any funds left do not give it to contractors, but submit it to the Ministry in charge of this task to the constituency.

The Hon Minister of Land Transport Authority, Afioga Papalii Niko Lee Hang, this is not to praise. You are a Christian, but up to now, this

*17 JUNE 2020*

constituency has no access roads. I have made this request since the beginning of this Parliamentary term, thus it has been exhausting for this constituency.

The village of Laulii, as I previously stated, it faces the sea but behind it are cliffs. There is no seawall and when the tide comes in the sea nearly goes into the families houses. When you turn inland there are only cliffs, we have asked for a road inland to use but nothing has been done. We have long awaited a program to be carried out on the mountain but there is no road since it is hard to excavate. I will leave this matter beside, also for the access roads of Vailele, Letogo and Fagalii, since nothing has been done up until now. We still have time, we have already visited the site, the Hon Minister has also told me it will be done, however nothing has been done. Now my constituency looks at me, as if I am lying, but I have already consulted with the Hon Minister. The Hon Minister is aware of it.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, I know that the majority wants to hear you but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The member is talking about new roads. The only road we visited was the one going to his house. It has now been fixed, as for the access roads, the Ministry and management has already carried out a site visit, to the access roads requested by Laulii.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

But it goes up towards the mountain, it is not possible to construct a road unless special machinery is brought in to dig into the mountain. However another access road has been prepared to go into the village, at the moment we are awaiting funds.

The work are being carried out as recorded, as for access roads for Vailele, we have not been there on a site visit. The only access roads, is the one going into the village and the other to your house, which you requested. As for other developments, leave it to me, maybe I will come by later so we can go

*17 JUNE 2020*

and do a site visit, also to see other additional works that you want to carry out and be noted as well, with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, I call upon the member to continue.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I will not argue with the Hon Minister because he is a religious person. However, a point of order, it is not the road going towards my house that is being fixed. You should know that my house faces the mountain. There is a different road is being fixed, I want to prioritize Mauga Fiafia who voted for you. No access road has been constructed at Letogo, if you go there nothing has been done, my house faces the mountains. Nothing has been done and the road to this members house is still not fixed.

There are times when I go in a taxi and the driver would ask, where is your house from the members house? But I am the one in the taxi. The road is very bad. Then we arrive at small hut, and they would say is this the members house? Then I would respond, yes. Look at how bad the road is to the members house, and I said, no my house is at the back, the road is yet to be fixed. This is the case for our village.

The Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the Hon Saofaapito, as I requested before for this village of Laulii, we need a seawall considering the way to the airport, at the height of the seawall. Kindly consider this constituency of Vaimauga, starting from Moataa, I am not saying it is all of Vaimauga. The seawalls are quite low, hence there is nothing they can turn to. Now I pray for the villages of Moataa and Fagalii, both villages have nothing to turn to. It is a low coastal area with high tide.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Pardon me Hon Minister, but will it be possible to overlook the funds allocated to us. We have already made a request on this matter especially for the village of Laulii. Because if the tide rises the people will turn inland but are met with flooding. They do not know where to go to. Hon Minister with all due respect could you overlook this matter in terms of our environment. The changes to our climate, I know there are funds allocated to compact such problems.

*17 JUNE 2020*

As for the economic situation of our country, I am grateful to the Hon Minister especially the Chief Executive, Ulu Bismark, on the matter of not bringing in our people. However we are trying to open our borders, but I pray to the Hon Prime Minister, keep it closed. Nothing has affected our country.

The case for New Zealand and our people there, New Zealand are not worried. The only thing is to bring home our people since it is not safe. Let us continue to bring them home and quarantine them for 14 days to make sure we will not be affected.

Another request to the Hon Minsiter, on distribution, we all know that no income is coming in through our hotels. Is it possible to allocate those coming in to other hotels that have yet been given the opportunity to take in people. Because there are other conditions, it all depends on how people will be allocated, why not have like two people in each hotel, so that everyone will get the benefits. As I stated, such circumstances faced by our country eventhough we may have struggled, I know that the Lord has given this opportunity for our country to redevelop and stand on its own. As for our revenue, we still earn alot from in our country, together with assistance that is generating our country.

The matter regarding the police force who are responsible for locking of shops, I humbly ask for tolerance on our Supermarkets, they lock up at 7pm, but the stores in rural areas where people go inside to shop. It seems the police have used force in closing them but these are stores owned by individuals. This should not happen, they must look at the business license, to see what kind of business it entails, because there are licenses issued to individuals. They are the ones that are free to open. There are walk in stores that have started closing at the same time in order to follow the law, the police force should only oversee it but not be impolite. They can easily ask, what is the license for your store? It is the license for individual businesses, then they will pass.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Minister of Revenue...

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** I do not want to interrupt the speech by the member, but putting blame on the services of Police for being impolite. This is not right, they are following the duties of the Police

*17 JUNE 2020*

Department pursuant to terms of Covid. Announcements have been made for these small stores, if they want to open then close their doors, close it tightly. Or they can lay bricks to cover it, and open just a counter. If it is a small shop. But there are small shops with alot of goods.

Sole Traders were visited, which were all small stores, with only about 5 boxes and other small goods inside, the opportunity was given to seal the door and open only a window counter. Then they could have a chance. As for the work, it is administered by NEOC under legislation enforced by police, but the services implemented is not being done impolitely.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Mr Speaker perhaps the Hon Minister does not understand, anyone issued a Sole trader license, is an individual. So whether the store is a walk in, but it is a Sole trader then it should be kept open. This is exactly why I said that this is wrong. A sole trader is an individual, look at the license. Now alot of work has to be done by some businesses being shut down and making new window counters, but they are individual businesses. It is not a supermarket. This is what I am trying to convey...

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member, I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister once again to clarify this issue.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker whether it is a sole trader or what, but when it is a walk in, it is noted as a supermarket under NEOC regulations. But I am giving a method to make it easier, any store that is a walk in, is labelled as a supermarket under the law. They carry out the law, but it is not the Ministry of Police that owns it. It is not our legislation, it is NEOCs.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I do not want to argue with the member, because the country are confused, some have remodeled their stores to accomodate the advise of the Minister. To relay bricks, but these are individual stores. Therefore what I meant was, the police are going out to enforce these businesses to close at this time, but this should be reviewed. I do not want to argue, but police should go together

*17 JUNE 2020*

with those implementing it, check the license whether it is a supermarket license or not, to make it easier for our country.

The matter in regards to the Hon Minister...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I just want to remind the member, your speech is outstanding but you have one more minute left.

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** I will remember the Hon Minister and his bald headed Associate, I have noted with our television, I am grateful to the management who were able to hold on to our 2AP. I pray that both of you return in the next term, and I hope it will be possible to set up a TV station for our Government.

Our country is facing alot of problems, but I am grateful for the television which is broadcasted to the internet, however the only things seen on this TV are shows with no one talking, what is the status of this channel, can we use it to establish a Government TV, so that members requests can be voiced through it. We have alot of other requests, since we are considering business here, but we have other needs that should be conveyed...

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I want to ask the member, on the statement he made, if we return then we should continue with our designation. Whether we have already been chosen by the Hon Prime Minister to continue as Ministers in the next Parliamentary term?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apologies to the member, but only a point of order and clarification are allowed for interruptions.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** This is a point of order...

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is it that you are trying to convey? It is not included here, I appease the member to sit down. The member may continue, you have one more minute.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Is it a motion.



*17 JUNE 2020*

**Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am not going to speak because the Minister has to respond, and not the Associate Minister. I thank the Chair for your stance this evening. As I always said, you are very lucky, that there are times when you sit in that Chair. The Lord has lifted you to a high place, God bless you. You have risen to the role of administering the House, Vaimauga has concluded an opinion, hence I have a lot of respect to the Chair.

I want to say a word to the Leader of Government, I commend you for your leadership on our country. Nothing seems to be out of place, because of what? We have leaders who love God. God bless some of the longest serving members especially your advisor, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is one of them.

I apologise to the Ministers of Cabinet, I know when we come here statements made are not filtered. It is not to appraise you. Because the many hits given, results to giving you all more strength.

There are times that this constituency have observed, it is not the work that produces results. The only thing are the constituencies listening, the member came here to speak and is still doing so, however others just start to speak but the time is up.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Leader of our country. There is a lot happening in our country, I am grateful that he is staying composed. I pray the Lord bless him with many more years, to have patience especially to have faith. Pardon me, but for every family that has a good mother, or a good family behind it is a good advisor, the mothers. I am grateful to our women, we feel safe with the advise of the Saofaapito. We pray, may it be fruitful for this side as well, and hope the Lord guide us with our evening session, I feel that I can keep on talking but I must abide by orders. I pray the Lord bless our Father, the Speaker of the House who is showing support from home, also come a time when we adjourn, I hope blessings be upon all of Samoa.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

My constituency, thank you for the support, your member is well and healthy with the prayers voiced. May the Lord bless us, my return or not coming back into Parliament is before the Lord, I know he has already made a list. I only pray that we do the best that we can for the present. And whatever the Lord has given, on my strength I will serve with my whole

*17 JUNE 2020*

being. Blessings upon our session this evening, to that side of Chamber in the name of Jesus.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I commend the member for the speech. Perhaps if the House has taken notes this evening, the speeches you have conveyed within this Parliament from the beginning of this term have been outstanding. We are nearing the end of this term as well. Moreover the tone of delivering your speech has changed. Why? The knowledge within you has progressed, your wisdom is comprehensive. You have put God first. Therefore the blessings you have conveyed to the Speaker and the Chair, I am grateful. You have conveyed blessings to the Father of our country, may the blessings be returned to the Lord and may you be guided with wisdom on your duties in this Parliamentary term.

The opportunity is now given to another member to speak. I call upon the member of Safata East.

**Tofa NONU LOSE NIUMATA (Safata East):** I want to convey greetings and thanks to the Chair, I also acknowledge the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. Humble greetings to Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committee and respectable members. I also acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations. Moreover greetings to my constituency of Safata East.

Mr Speaker, the Main Estimates stated by the Hon Minister of Finance was prepared whilst Samoa and the world faces this pandemic.

Mr Speaker, in 2019, Samoa's economy grew by 3.5%. In 2020 the economy dropped at 3.3% because of the pandemic. However the economy growth for 2021 is expected to drop by 2.3% because of the pandemic. In bigger countries, the economy has dropped by 5% because of the pandemic. If the economy of overseas partners drop, there will be less foreign aid brought into the country.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Mr Speaker, our economy was very good in 2019. There was no pandemic. There was an increase in revenue, also increase on expenses spent on developments. In 2021, the economy of Samoa will be hit by the pandemic. There is a drop in revenue of 47.1 million. There will be a reduction in revenue from duty and taxes. Therefore expenditure will increase by \$42.7

*17 JUNE 2020*

million. In comparison of income and expenditure, a \$1 from income is equal to \$1.14 of expenditure.

Hon Minister of Finance, I commend you for the Budget. Resources are limited, but there is so much demand. Improve staff salaries, improve development, improve performance, improve debt, improve tourism. You stated as a fact, it will definitely take some time to find a solution.

Hon Minister of Finance, if Covid is cured but another disease arises, what are we to do? Hon Minister I support your budget, together with the recommendation with respect, (1), Government should increase the rate of DHC.

Hon Minister, the Government have no other funds unless revenue is increased. (2), Government should look at the number of members. Majority want additional members. This is the same for this constituency. (3), Government should oversee the number of Ministers. And (4), Government should consider Advisory Committees.

Mr Speaker, the last issue is under the Budget, the 2019 annual report of the Polynesian Airlines, the debt is \$24.1 million and it is growing. A solution needs to be considered for this debt.

The Ministry of Works, I offer congratulations to the Afioga Papalii Niko Lee Hang, and I pray that you look into the access roads of Safata East. There is 1 road in Tafitoala and 2 in Fusi. For the road at Tafitoala, 30% of it is impassable for vehicles. And there is an expression in our village of Fusi, if the road is not paved, I will not be able to run in the election.

For the Ministry of Education, I offer congratulations to the Hon Minister, Afioga Loau Keneti Sio. I humbly request that you look into the school building at Fusi, it is worn out. A lot of money has been spent on repairing the building, the floor is cracked and there are leaks in the ceiling. The windows are also broken. What do you think? What if by March a new building is completed.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. God bless the Sitting of the Parliament.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Compliments for the statement and preparations. Although it was short but it was comprehensive for the public as well as your constituency. Therefore, compliments for your patience and hard work, as that is the situation being handled by our Committee. I call upon the member for Sataua.

*17 JUNE 2020*

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA (Vaisigano No.2):** Thank you Deputy Speaker for the opportunity, maybe because you think of us as brothers. You have stated the member from Sataua. Utu, do not forget our relations.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member may speak, I have made a correction to Vaisigano No.2.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** I offer greetings to the Deputy Speaker, Mr Speaker and the Parliament of Samoa. I also offer salutations to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge respectable Chairpersons as well as the members on this side of the House.

I also acknowledge the Clerk of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, at this hour I also greet the Hon Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice, Heads of Ministries and Corporations of the Government, and all those who are in attendance.

I formally acknowledge the support of the Le Ao o le Malo of the Independent State of Samoa and his Good lady, also the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good lady. I also acknowledge the support of the Government of Samoa, with their endurance during hard times, as well as the listeners of the Eastern Island. The support of the Holy servants of God, who are yearning for the success of Samoa as well as the sanction of the Legislative Assembly for the benefit of our people. Moreover, the support received from my constituency of Vaisigano No.2, and the villages of Papa and Vaivaimuli and Fagasa.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks, but I want to thank you for the Budget 2020/2021 that is before us. This member supports the Main Estimates, as well as the Appropriation No.3 2019/2020.

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

But first and foremost, I offer commendation and gratitude to the Government for their plans and implementation of its developments for the health, wellbeing and economy of our people. And also thank you for the developments implemented for my constituency.

*17 JUNE 2020*

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Health for the support and it has been noted by this member, it seems that both of you are well acquainted with the performance of your duties, and perhaps at the end of this year, you two would graduate with your doctorates degree. But thank you also to the Director and the Ministry for your hard work, because our Government has suffered greatly from this disease, and you are working sincerely for the well-being of our people. Therefore, I offer gratitude to the Hon Minister and the Ministry for making it possible for our resident doctors to be available in the rural hospitals such as the hospital in Sataua. It is a desire that we have long prayed for, as we continued to pester the previous Minister with it, and it was all in the efforts to ensure that this issue was solved because it is difficult due to the long distance of the hospitals in the rural areas like Sataua. And since now that this situation has arisen, it is a very good situation. We are also thankful that shelters or flats for doctors and nurses will be built within the hospital site. And it will also make it easier for the doctors and nurses to perform their duties.

Appreciation is also due regarding the situation with the nurses, as there will not be a shortage of nurses in the rural hospitals. I testify as it was similar to the hospital in Sataua, because there was a situation regarding the shortage of doctors as well as nurses. But thank you for these conditions. The belief with our female nurses, it is observed that there is sufficient and proper education for them to carry out their duties, which is a good thing to observe as well.

Another thing I am grateful for is in regards to medicine, as this is probably another big problem for the hospitals in the rural areas, because of the difficulties traveling back and forth, taking Sataua into account, it will be difficult traveling from Faasaleleaga. After having your check up in the rural hospitals, they would say that the medicine is not available at their clinics. There are many problems between the doctors and the nurses, because the patient is unhappy about this situation. But I am grateful to note that this matter is now being prioritised.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Also, I want to offer gratitude for another very important matter, and it has been observed with our ambulance in Sataua, it seems we are attempting to get this vehicle to be used every day to make it easier to implement such matters. Because based on this, there is also a plan that was supposed to be

*17 JUNE 2020*

for Savaii itself for a hospital... maybe after the development of the one in Tuasivi, to make it easier for the implementation of the work. There is no other hospital if we take into account the location, similar to Sataua, if our ambulance were to be stationed close by, during an incident it will be easier for the patient to be transported by the nearby ambulance. That is the situation we are planning to review.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the Hon Minister for his approval of the request submitted to the Director. There were a few dentists who came from the United States through a request sent to the Director, in order for the dentists to conduct their work at the hospital in Sataua. There has not been a single patient that was not satisfied with the good treatment they received from this assistance. And I also offer gratitude to the nurses at the hospital in Sataua, because they were the ones that assisted these two dentists with their work.

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the support of the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministry, with the developments and assistance that was provided for some of my districts for better education for our children, and there have been a great deal of support from the Government and its partners in offering aid for our primary schools in Papa and Sataua. Such assistance also includes support from other organizations through various aids. But as it was requested to the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive Officers, please examine this matter, we are in need of teachers for our schools in Papa because there are not enough teachers at the moment. But I also take this opportunity to thank the services of the former principle of our school in Papa whom by God has been relieved of his duties. Some of our teachers are very old and they send in requests for them to continue teaching. That is the situation faced by these schools, whereas one teacher teaches three classes, and one teaches two. As that is our request to the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive Officers, because the Ministry have already made a number of plans for the education of the children, but it has become very difficult for the teachers. Well, there is a belief, many demands have been made to the Minister and the Ministry, but they do not neglect this constituency. Thank you for those good works.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Mr Speaker, and then I offer gratitude to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, with the support of your Ministry. There have been many developments implemented in our constituency in terms of crops, as well as the developments and marine reserves that contain oysters which is still

*17 JUNE 2020*

beneficial for our communities. But my appeal to the Hon Minister, we are still need of a few more taro shoots pardon the - for our village of Sataua. On the other hand, it is true that there are not that many fishing boats at the moment, but thank you for the efforts of attaining fishing poles, because we still need to maintain our poles in the reefs or in the deep sea. As I have said, it is certain that there is no problem with in this situation, but I beseech the Hon Minister to consider, if it is possible to conduct a project to build a few more fishing canals. There are many fishermen that are in need of these boats

Our constituency also has fair number of fishermen but only a few families are faced with this dilemma. But perhaps you could look into a solution to this issue.

On the other hand, a statement was made at one of our sittings on the real concern that we have in the matter of cars, motor vehicles, as this is case with the implementation of our farms. It was also noticeable as one of the members made a statement on the facilitation of agriculture, as it seems the members desires are in regards to the tractors which were promised. We did not talk about excavators instead we were talking about tractors. But when we look at it, our farms, let us leave the tractor for later, but when you travel anywhere on the island, there will always be a small vehicle parked near the plantation, the small vans, as it is difficult due to the situation that the environment can be damaged by vehicles. But for the implementation of our plantations, vehicles are needed. Similar to my village, there are many villages that are scattered, and it makes it difficult. As of now, pardon the sanctity of the House, they walk back and forth from inland to the shore and vice versa. If there is no desire to use this opportunity to bring in classic cars, or older vehicles, it is possible to create an act to limit the year of a vehicle so that we can import pickups or small trucks to use in our plantations. Looking at it closely, we want to bring in tractors and excavators, but they are not useful to us. But this is what we should prioritise but it is difficult due to this situation of environmental degradation. By observing other countries, we are trying to decrease the size of the vehicle to a small truck or a pickup to conduct our plantation work, as that is my plea to the Hon Minister for your opinion.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

And then I offer gratitude to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, as well as the Associate Minister and the Chief Executive Officers and the Ministry, as your Ministry has undertaken many projects through the Water Authority and the land Transport Authority as well as the

*17 JUNE 2020*

Electric Power Corporation with the abundance of benefits from the developments that have been implemented in our constituency. It is a pleasure to note the generosity of the Government through the Hon Minister, which has brought these benefits.

We are also thankful for the well-established water pump supply system, as well as the construction and pavement of the Fagasa road, but I pray and remind you again that there are still a few roads at Papa and Sataua as requested before, including the road which leads to the water pump at Sataua, as it is noted that the Water Authority has plans in place for the installation of a permanent water tank or reservoir inland at the site where the water is supplied from through the water pump. We also have a plan to distribute our water to households that are far inland because they are far away from the main roads.

On the other hand, we are grateful for the street lights that have been implemented for our constituency, but we request for more traffic lights, we still have a request that we convened about as seen with the work in Savaii, because this service is very much needed. Many of these villages near the main road do not have problems, but for these small villages that are further away, they are in dire need of assistance for traffic at night.

And so, Mr Speaker, congratulations on the dedicated work done by the Minister of Finance, the Associate Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry, and I would also like to voice my gratitude to every Ministry and Organization. The work done by the Ministry of Customs and Revenue, with the assistance of those with who implemented the requirements of the Main Budget 2020/2021. Mr Speaker, the effects of the disease can be seen and this catastrophe has affected the country and its economy. This Main Budget identifies the second phase of Government relief. And we are grateful for the assistance provided by the Government and its partners for the business community, employees and the public.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

But there are only two small issues I want to comment on, and some of these issues have been stated by some members. But it is the same program in terms of the farming of cocoa and coconut and taro, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. This indicates that there is an



*17 JUNE 2020*

opportunity to cultivate the land in partnership with the Government. Please....

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beseech the member, you have 2 minutes left.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker...

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I stand to move the motion, *To give the member an additional 5 minutes please.*

*Seconded by the member for Salega West*

*The House gave its unanimous assent to the motion.*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member may speak.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you also to Toomata, thank you for the 15 minutes that I have been given. In this case, Mr Speaker, if there is such a situation then take a look at the price of the lease. Well, if it is Government leased lands, but also where these lands are located, because these times the resources are limited, but there is still an intention and desire to work. As for the situation, if it is only a partnership without...it is good, but if it is a lease, I pray that it is suitable with the situation we are in. There is a lot of interest in implementing these things, the coconut trees and the coconuts and taro but there is also an idea because these crops, in the case of these three crops, with the exception of the taro, because an acre or 2 acres of land is not enough for these crops. That is the issue I wanted to give my opinion on as we continue to look at this situation if leasing lands can help with the efforts of our farms.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

The other matter, in regards to the retraining program for people who work in the tourism industry, but they cannot work due to the virus. But this matter should be looked into to see if these opportunities should be given to other people that want this knowledge, because it is not just the group of people

*17 JUNE 2020*

that works with tourists, as there are other people that need this type of assistance. It is also noted that these trainings are implemented for 2 or 4 weeks time, but please look into this situation.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member as you have 1 minute left before you conclude your speech please.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. It is possible to make a statement regarding this Budget, after listening and reading it, the intentions of the Hon Minister of Finance have been made clear in terms of the reduction of 5% of Government revenue for this financial year due to the reduction in the government taxes because of problems with the trading being affected by this virus. But the Hon Minister has also considered other measures to alleviate these concerns such as the increase of 9% of grants from our usual partners due to the impact of this disease. It is noteworthy that our partners are willing to assist in the development of the...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beseech the member to finish up your statement as your time is up.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Lastly, Mr Speaker, in regards to the summary of the Ministries appropriations in this Main Estimate which contains activities that are being planned. The situation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries program under SAFFRON and funded by the World Bank and the IFAD. Please look at the eligibility for our general community in order to receive these blessings. Another issue...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beseech the member to conclude your speech, as the Minister is listening to these issues. I implore the member.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Just one more. The other matter is the work that is being arranged...

*17 JUNE 2020*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The decision has been given, apologises to the member, conclude your speech.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Mr Speaker, it is finished. It is now in this sense that the Commission is...and lastly, the Public Service Commission oversees and evaluates the scholarships which are funded with \$27.6 million from Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I entreat the member as we have Standing Orders to govern the work of the House. I request that you direct your speech to your constituency. Conclude your statement as it is nearly time for dinner.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Continue to evaluate these scholarship opportunities, it should also include careers. Because those are the terms needed for the implementation of our major developments.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It would be good to remind the member, that you will have another opportunity to speak on each of the issues that are left. But it is better if you obey the table and the Chair, then our Sitting this evening with be a success. Conclude your speech.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** It is difficult for us to argue, as I am a member and you are Mr Speaker.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malilegaoui:** Mr Speaker, perhaps the member does not understand this Act. When the honorable Speaker talks, you sit down.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Out of respect and reverence for the audience, I would like to remind the dignitaries. Although you are eager but it is the work of the Chair. It cannot be done negligently, as we must follow the time fixated under the Standing Orders of the House.

*17 JUNE 2020*

Thus why I suggested like that, if the table and Chair showed any weaknesses, I beseech the honourable members to be understanding of the situation. When you have a statement you would like to make concerning your constituency, it is with respect and reverence to your constituency that is listening. But we need to rest for our usual recess. The honourable member may rise.

**Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA:** Mr Speaker, No, we will not argue on such matters, as I have already said in the statement, it is up to you which side you chose, but thank you for your guidance. Still, the opinion that you have shown, it is noted that you still possess wisdom. There is no hesitant to express opinions, no, these are the attitude of men. It is playful banter, but there are times when our duties are valued. But I will conclude the speech. This member supports the 2020/2021 Budget, as well as the Appropriation No.3 2019/2020. And I offer congratulations to the Ministry of Finance for their completing work, and also those who supported the efforts of Main Estimate. Good luck to the Sitting of the Parliament of Samoa.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I offer compliments and gratitude to the honourable member for Vaisigano No.2 for the preparations. As heard by the country and the constituency, that is the spirit. Our respectful relations should be the top priority in this House. Anyway, well done and thank you for the preparations. It is now time for our usual recess. I respectfully announce that our dinner is being prepared at the Tofilau Building across the road in the spirit of sheltering our members of Parliament, as well as the Chief Executive Officers with respect.

I announce that the business of Parliament has been adjourned for its usual 15 minute recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned for normal recess at 8:18pm and will resume at 9:10 pm.*

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*Debates resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021.*

*17 JUNE 2020*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed, as there is a belief that this House has consummated with the dinner this evening, and all of you have gained strength, from the Lord to continue the rest of our work this evening. Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside, as the member for Vaisigano No.2 had completed his speech. Well, continue our work, this is also a good opportunity for another member that wants to speak. I call upon the member for Falealili West.

**Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity today. I offer salutations to the Hon Prime Minister, honourable members of Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committees, as well as the members of the Samoan Parliament. I would also like to extend my greetings to the holy servants of God, at every altar in Samoa. They reside in every village to spread the water of life. I also offer salutations to the Village Council, sanitation committees and the women, who are the strength of the village, as well as students, and the youngest children of the villages of Samoa. Today, it is a day for our speeches concerning the Main Estimates 2020/2021 and Supplementary Budget No.3 2019/2020.

I also acknowledge the private sector in all parts of Samoa. As well as the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations of the Government, and the staff in all fields of work. Also the farmers, the fishermen, as well as those who are working at the plantations, thank you for your patience at this hour of the night. Thank God for his protection over our country as we face the Covid-19. I believe it is not easy, nor cheap.

Mr Speaker, before I express an opinion, I would like to speak about my constituency of Falealili in your honorific salutations, as we make a statement concerning the Budget this year, and the developments of our Government. And so, I will start my statement with the Minister of Agriculture.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

First of all, I want to compliment and thank the Hon Minister, especially the Associate Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Because of these situations, notice, our cocoa cultivation project has now been extended. For the revitalization

*17 JUNE 2020*

of cocoa in our country and our cocoa has already been distributed. The only thing that is missing from our cocoa, it is the bonus or stimulus package, to always encourage people to plant cocoa. In addition is our coconut trees, and that is how we distribute the planting of coconut trees.

Mr Speaker, another issue that I wanted to make a statement on is in regards to the fishing poles. It is noted, with the previous Sitting, I made a speech concerning the fishing poles that were supposed to be located on the shores of Poutasi. As it is one of the villages in the constituency of Falealili to have a large number of fishing boats. Hence why, we had requested for fishing poles at that time. The only fishing pole that is close to this constituency of Falealili is the fishing pole that is located on the shores of Siumu. Thus, I make an appeal to the Hon Minister to re-examine this matter. I also offer congratulations and gratitude for those who are attempting to market our frozen taro, frozen scraped taro that is being sold to Australia, and the marketing of taro to America. In addition to our fishes, that is being imported for the American market. Recently we had distributed our taro tops, purchased from some farmers which also included farmers from our constituency.

I request for a portion of the \$4 million that has been allocated under the Government budget, to improve this road that leads to one of the largest farms at Matautu Falealili. The total number of taro tops that was brought by our Government last week was 30,000. I pray to the Hon Minister, to use some of the money to improve the road, so that we can transport our taro to our markets. Furthermore, the matter concerning the program for reducing the number of coconut beetles.

I express the utmost gratitude...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beseech the member that is currently speaking, as I give the opportunity to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to reply.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua:** I just want to remind the honourable member, these roads are the responsibilities of the Hon Minister of Works. It is true there are some such funds, but the distribution is being handled by

*17 JUNE 2020*

the Minister of Finance but we should not change it like that. But the request should go directly to the Hon Minister who is in charge of the Ministry.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you as it has been heard by the member. I call upon the member to continue your speech.

**Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO:** Thank you for the opportunity, as that is my request, because up until this day, when conversing with the Minister of Works, another appeal is given after more than a year.

With the program of reducing the population of the coconut beetles, I offer praises and thanks to the Government for providing the chainsaw. It has been used by the villages of my constituency, in order to reduce the number of coconut beetles. We pray that there will be more chainsaws, depending on the number of programs being conducted by the village council. Furthermore, as it has been noted that there is a cold-storage box, like the refrigerator in Siumu. There is quite a bit of distance between us from Falealili in Poutasi and Siumu, is there no other plans to set up a temporary refrigerator at Poutasi, so that it can be used our fishing boats. Also I requested if we could get assistance with the floating wharf. The purpose of this development is to anchor fishing boats, and also supple them, rather than coming to Apia as it is a bit too far especially with the situation with the petrol. I would like to express our gratitude for the program being implemented. Some members had mentioned the Israeli banana, well I believe that this development is quite expensive but the country will attempt to implement it. If it does not happen, then we will go back to growing our usual overseas bananas, which will be nurtured for the country's food supply.

To the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, I would like to thank the Hon Minister, the Chief Executive Officers and the Ministry. First of all, I want to give thanks for hiring part-time staff. The purpose of this program is to gain knowledge and skills for the part-time jobs, such as farming, butchery and carpentry. In the areas of construction and carpentry, we already have an apprenticeship program.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

It was one of the joint programs of the Ministry of Labour and the Government of Japan in the past. Because it was one of the countries that

*17 JUNE 2020*

took the initiative to strengthen trades and apprentices after the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. Thus why, I express appreciation for the continuation of this program.

I would like to thank honourable Toosavili, the honourable Tuatagaloa and Alaimoana for the establishment and continuation of this program. It helps our Government especially with our children being sent for work abroad. It is very important, as it has contributed to the development of families and countries, as well as our country. Another advantage of this program is that there is a substitution in employment of a person. Thus I convey a spirit of gratitude.

I would like to thank honourable Toosavili, the honourable Tuatagaloa and Alaimoana for the establishment and continuation of this program. It helps our Government especially with our children being sent for work abroad. It is very important, as it has contributed to the development of families and countries, as well as our country. Another advantage of this program is that there is a substitution in employment of a person. Thus I convey a spirit of gratitude.

The appeal for this trading program, it has been noted that due to the orders for covid, we have re-established and re-appointed our Product Committee. I believe that this is one of the most important Committees, in my opinion. Because even though there is a Consumer and Competition Act where they compete with the prices of goods, but some of them are retailers, not only are their products more expensive, but there is not price tag to limit the high prices of goods. So the commission was effective with the re-establishment of our Expenditure Committee. And the Government is requested for the future, to enact an Act to reinstate the Expenditure Committee. The Labour and Employment Relations Act, and what are the plans of the Hon Minister and the Ministry, and also the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Act 2004 and the Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013. There are important provisions in these Acts, which relates to the benefits received by pregnant women. The examples of the Labour and Employment Act 2013, there are provisions, that if you are eligible for maternity leave, you must first work for 12 months before you are eligible.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

As for the Public Service Act 2004, if you work today and you get pregnant tomorrow, then you are entitled to the customary 12 weeks, but now it is 14



*17 JUNE 2020*

week of full pay, as for the private sector the minimum rate available is 4 weeks full pay and 2 weeks of leave without pay or 6 weeks tool with pay. I just want to mention this situation to save our Government funds, and to create a single Act to oversee the public sector in the future. That is my recommendation to the Hon Minister.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apologies to the member, as I call upon the Hon Minister who is responsible for this issue.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour):** Thank you to the honourable member, for the opinions that were expressed. The Labours Relations Act or L.E.R.A, as of this moment a review is being conducted, looking at all of the issues that you have raised. Perhaps after the review, as we have currently hired a consultant and then an Act will be put in place to address the issues you have raised.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon the member for Falealili West to continue your statement.

**Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO:** Thank you to the Hon Minister for the response. And so I want to comment on the assistance given to the SBEC, or our Business Hub. I believe that the model being used by the Development Bank is good, and this is how that model works. For the first phase, it is \$2,500, the second phase is \$5,000, and the third phase is \$7,500. When it is tallied up in 10 years, \$15,000 will be loaned from the development bank, but SBEC is very important, because many of these people have no assets to use to secure their loans. We requested that they adopt the current model being used which is now being piloted at the development bank in Savaii. Which was being used by the people, it is guaranteed by SBEC or Business Hub as it has been renamed. 80% but the person seeks 20% of their loan within 10 years.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

For the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, to the Hon Minister, the Associate Minister, Chief Executive Officer and the staff.

*17 JUNE 2020*

This is one issue that I know I have been talking about for many years. I want to thank the Hon Minister and Digicel. Because yesterday, it was confirmed that there will be a communications pole set up at Satalo in Falealili, in order to solve this problem, as I had already mentioned in the previous year. When you travel from Samoa to Dubai for a Government Conference, you can use the Digicel sim card as it will work fine. But if you travel from Apia to Falealili West it will not work.

I believe, my constant requests have resulted in the implementation of this development, so that the service is accessible for the public.

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, the Hon Minister and Associate Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and staff, praises and gratitude. Thank you for the program being conducted on the television, this program should have been done ages ago. Because the commission was useful as they were able to conduct the program, because we have been using the 2AP radio station, to conduct our programs. But thankfully we are able to use televisions now, to conduct televised lessons. The only portion requested is this one government grant. It is being distributed to each school, for the improvement of school buildings, if it is not possible to make a few changes. If it would be possible to purchase televisions to be used in classrooms for our programs in primary schools, as well as our colleges, that is the request to the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** To save time for the member...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apologies to the member for Falealili, as opportunity is granted to...

**Afioga Hon Loau Sola Keneti Sio:** It can be purchased.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have heard from the statement made by the Minister.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

**Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO:** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity, thank you also to the Hon Minister, no, in regards to the one

*17 JUNE 2020*

government grant that I mentioned is to open up opportunities to purchase T.V. Because if it is submitted to your Ministry, it is not included in the criteria to purchase such assets for our schools for the programs that is currently underway. But I pray that our grant criteria can be lenient to allow for the purchase of TVs for the use in our schools.

For the Ministry of Health, I offer praises and gratitude to the Hon Minister, for allocating permanent doctors to the hospital in Poutasi. It has now been 3 months since the doctor arrived, and it has been of great benefit not only for our constituency of Falealili, but also for the districts of Siumu Safata as well as Lepa and Lotofaga and Aleipata.

I also want to thank the road construction company, as they did the plastering of the road that goes into the hospital. Because as mentioned, the road used to enter into the hospital was damaged when the tar broke. I offer gratitude to the Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Transport, as well as the staff, for the implementation of this project. It has now been cemented and repaired, as the public will no longer suffer with their cars when travelling.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, with the Hon Minister, I would like to express appreciation for the good work that is being implemented by the Ministry. The work at Togitogina with cleaning up our gardens there, I convey a spirit of gratitude. The only appeal is for a program for the sustainable management of watersheds, inland of Saleilua, and the village of Sapunaoa, as these are the villages that have reservoirs set up by the water authority. A water catchment scheme is needed in these two villages.

Thank you to the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Corrections Services and the Ministry for the good work with the consolidation of the Ministry. The only request I want to make is to re-examine the starting salary of police officers. If compared to the starting salary of those that work in the prison services. There is a big difference in the entry points but it is not based on the training you go through to become a police officer, as the weeks for training are quite long, but the salary is less than the entry point of a person that works at the prison inland. Please look into this matter.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

I would like to thank the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and the Hon Minister for the work conducted by your Ministry

*17 JUNE 2020*

in each village. An appeal to the Hon Minister, this program by your Ministry and our Government, is regarding the honorary salutations of villages and communities. I request if it is possible to extend the year in which this program ends.

At present, the villages in our constituency have had quite a number of court cases. Due to these books of honorific salutations, the Ministry wanted to end it in July of this year. That is my appeal to the Hon Minister. I also request that we use our printing press. In order to publish the guidelines that is used by the village council in village forums. If you look at the Ministry's website, this is one of the Ministries that have their own website. It is a nice website to scroll through. The only thing it does not have is the Laws that regulate the Ministry. Similar to the Village Act 1990, there is no copy of the Act online, which can be used by the members of the village council that can use computers and access it. Also for the amendment bill for 2017, with the inclusion of our 3 principles, good governance, accountability and transparency which also does not have a copy online. Just a request to the Hon Minister and your Ministry, to appoint a specialist to...his job is to provide information, as well as uploading the Act on the website for the public.

And then I come to offer thanks to the Ministry which I am most grateful to, the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Transport. Hon Minister, perhaps I am one of the people that have been a nuisance for your office, as I would always come to make a request concerning our access roads. The roads that lead to each village, because the villages of my constituency start from Togitogiga, Saleilua, Poutasi, Vaovai, Matautu, Tafatafa, Malaemalu, Satalo and Sapunaoa, there are 8 villages. But I am grateful, as the proposal for the construction of the road leading to the school in Saleilua, also lead to the taring of some parts of this access road. This school building was situated at the coast of Poutasi. Now it has been moved by the elders inland so that it will no longer be affected by strong winds and tsunamis. I pray to the Hon Minister that you will not comment on this matter again, because I believe that my requests concerning the roads that go inland in each village is understood, as well as the access roads. I propose that trainings should be conducted for captains of fishing vessels. In accordance with the provisions of the existing Maritime Labour Convention Act.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

For the Ministry of Works, we request the delivery of water and electricity inland to the work road which is being occupied by those who have moved

*17 JUNE 2020*

away from the coast, under the Division of our CSO or Community Service Obligations, which has provided \$4million for these two matters.

Mr Speaker, that concludes my statement, may this assembly be endowed and bless the Hon Prime Minister, I express gratitude to the Government for activities planned, as this year comes to an end. I would also like to thank Mr Speaker, bless your constituency, and bless Samoa.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well done, thank you to the member for Falealili for the speech. Thank you for the preparations as your speech has been clearly heard by Samoa especially with the gratitude and advice to the Government. It has been noted that the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West, Hon Gatoloai is ready.

**Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1 West):** Greetings and thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity for the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West, to offer some suggestions on the Budget before us.

But I would first offer salutations to you Mr Speaker, praises for your patience and perseverance at this late hour of the evening. In addition to the presence of the Leader of the Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and the Female Ministers, as well as the Associate Ministers. And on this side of the House, where the Chairpersons of the Committees of Parliament resides and the Deputy Chairpersons as well as the honourable members of the Parliament of Samoa from each constituency. Also present are the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and Corporations of our Government. I applaud your work in serving our country. To the Clerk and the staff who are the hands and feet of our Parliament, thank you for performing your duties and responsibilities.

Mr Speaker, I would like to offer greetings to the support of Samoa, the presence of His Excellency the Head of State and his good lade, as well as the member of the Council of Deputies and his good lady. The Hon Chief Justice and your wife, and I take this opportunity to give congratulations on acquire the position.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

May God continue to bless you with qualifications regarding equity and integrity of the position, as it is not easy to become a Judge in this world

*17 JUNE 2020*

with so many problems and different behaviours that complicate the work. But continue to embrace God and trust in God to help us with our shortcomings.

I also extend greetings to the presence of the President of the Lands and Titles Court as well as the men and women judges of our various Courts.

Mr Speaker, the sanctity of Samoa will not be stated as I believe members of our Parliament have already made proclamations on it. Well, these honorifics cannot be grasped in the speech by the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West. But I would like to thank the holy servants, who pray for the betterment of Samoa, and with the grace of God may he continue to assist in the fulfilment of the roles and responsibilities of our Leaders for the prosperity of Samoa and its developments.

I would like to offer salutations to my constituency, my districts of Iva and Salelavalu and Lalomalava. Thank you for the support. I believe that I would not have been able to succeed without your support. And I express my gratitude to the presence of the nobles and kings, families and chiefs, and advisors of our district, as well as the suggestions given by the wives of the pastors and chiefs, the younger generations, and the holy servants of God, who are sheltered in our constituency, to provide spiritual support for our district. The support is much appreciated.

I make my statement as a representative of my constituency in this Parliamentary Term, but also on the Budget that is before this House for 2020/2021, and the Supplementary Budget 2019/2020.

Mr Speaker, it is a belief that the member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West cannot move away from this Budget. Because it is a fellow member for Faasaleleaga No.1 East who is charge of this Budget, as he had work really hard on it, and it is fully approved by this member and this constituency. Commendation to the Hon Minister, as well as the support of the Associate Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and the entire Ministry.

I also offer compliments to all the Ministries for their assistance in raising funds to be allocated to the needs of all Samoans especially during these times when our economy is in a difficult situation due to the disease. Thank God that it is only our economy that is being affected and not the sanctity and lives of all Samoans. That is the gratitude and support to our Budget this year 2020/2021.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

Just a few suggestions, but firstly I offer gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, and the Cabinet. Thank you also to the Committee for their efforts to ensure the safety and protection of Samoa from the Covid 19 virus.

It is also not easy to respond to the needs of our country as they want to permit everything so we can continue life as usual. But it is your vision and perseverance that has kept Samoa safe. Because we have received news, some countries have loosen the restrictions that were set up by their Government, and we have now confirmed and apprehend, the disease is starting to spread again in these big countries like, America and India. And we have also received news about our neighbouring country of New Zealand, which is also suffering, out of the desire to return to the usual way of living, but the covid-19 was looming nearby. Therefore, praises for your patience. And I approve of these terms, to uplift some restrictions within our country, but for foreign travels, I strongly support the closure of foreign travels until you and the members of the Cabinet as well as the Council have deemed it possible to uplift these restrictions.

I also want to thank the Hon Prime Minister as well as the Minister of Work and our Cabinet. I offer gratitude from the island of Salafai, because our bridge at Maliolio has now been completed. We had travelled on it, and we are thankful since it has made traveling in Savaii easier. About a week ago when it rained heavily, there were also flash floods and such disasters, but Maliolio was not harmed. There were no traffic restrictions from Itu Asau to Faasaleleaga, and vice versa.

Therefore, I would like to express thanks for the good work done for Salafai and I feel that it is almost time for the implementation of other developments for Salafai in Faasaleleaga, the bridge between Sapapalii and Lalomalava, for travels to the hospital and covering Itu o Tane. We will wait patiently for this development.

I would also like to express appreciation to the Hon Minister of Works, for the implementation of the working roads. It is true that there is one more working road and other requests that were submitted, but this is enough. And if there is any remainder left, please respond to the other requests that have been purposed for a long time. At the very least the roads should be improved, so that cars can travel to the development which requires vehicles to conduct work.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

I would also like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance for your hard work, in raising the pension for the elderly. Some of the honourable members have already spoken. But I speak for myself because I have now experienced such privileges and wonders to give so much gratitude. Thank you for the distribution despite the limited resources available, but you are still able to provide this great assistance.

It is believe that this assistance has transpired within families, because the pension for the parents is what the whole family depends on each month. They are also waiting to benefit from the pension of their elderly parents, but now there has been a few additional funds and \$100, if only \$100 had been added for the next 6 months. But this is satisfactory, thank you very much.

A few suggestions and requests, first of all, I would like to make a request concerning pension documents especially for the island of Salafai, I know that as of now travelling is prohibited to Upolu and back to Salafai. But I believe that not a single elder in Salafai would casually board a boat to come to Upolu. As there are certain family functions that make them travel, but an appeal is still given, if it is not time now to allow them to use their travel cards.

In a research I conducted, it was only eight retirees a day. Depending on the number of trips, 4 arrivals and 4 departures, you almost have 1 pension per trip, thus using this travel card. If it is added then it will seem like a lot. If you look at each outline, it will lighten the appeal and the burden. And a good petition will also be given because I feel that as of now...perhaps the NPF is paying for the pensioners' travels to the Shipping. But what do you think, if it cannot be taken as Community Service obligation to show that we recognize the men and women who have served our country in various ways.

Even in the home that service is an obligation, to take care of the village community. It is also a way to show appreciation for their services while they were still strong.

Because...and I humbly request, as I have heard it twice and it seems like it is said, that it would be better to cancel, and remove all the travel documents from the elders, because either its Savaii or Upolu this opportunity is still available. Also abolish the conditions which they receive free medication.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**



*17 JUNE 2020*

But you see, the journeys that I have stated, it is not done for their pleasure or to waste their time. It is carried out for the families, in attempts to keep the family together even if they remain in Savaii but they will still visit their families in Upolu. There are reasons why the elderly travel.

I feel that it is a matter that should be analysed and well monitored. And to carefully examine the use of these documents, so that it should not be misused... because I have heard that it has been used by youth groups to travel, I am not sure if this is true. But if that is the case, then a complaint should be filed about the quality of the way they monitor this issue, to only allow those who are eligible for it, and not spread it to other people who should not benefit from it.

That is the same for the medication. If the medication for the elders is properly monitored, then it would not be overused by the whole family to get free medication, because the medication for the elderly is special. Either it is diabetes or high blood pressure with the exception of panadol. Sometimes the medicine is used freely by the whole family but there should be limitations. There must be a restraint so that this benefit provided by the generosity of our Government is not wasted, especially for us who are getting older.

Well, another request is in regards to travelling. On one occasion I uttered this... but unfortunately it was also a suggestion and advice from our island. I sat and have been listening to the members from Savaii that spoke before me, and no one had ever made an appeal concerning travels on Sunday. I apologise if it seems that Gatoloai is too reluctant to violate Sabbath, the day we use to worship the Lord. It is when we cleanse our hearts and souls from the labours and struggles of the problems of the past 6 days.

But in the spirit of the request, I am speaking about the times when we had petrol boats, as I was not present during the times when the boats travelled from Savaii to Upolu. But I was there when we had petrol boats. During those times, markets were all closed on Sunday. Not a single shop was open, everything was closed, but there were still opportunities for those in Savaii travel because of their situation with work and students as well. Not only that, but it is also the case for emergencies, but there is still an opportunity to conduct these assistants. And that is the reason for the request, just to be presented to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, but also to the Committee who are planning our strategies for Covid, as to your opinions on the request from Savaii.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

Mr Speaker, those are a few suggestions that I would like to give to help with our Appropriation Budget this evening. Good luck with conducting our Sitting, and bless our Sitting.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The wonderful speech by the honourable member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West has been heard clearly, so thank you for the preparations, well done. It has been heard by your constituency as well as the House, with the petitions that have already been presented to the House. As witnessed by the Cabinet, and the Hon Ministers with the showcase of suggestions that you have done this evening. But this is a good opportunity for another member that wants to speak.

As already stated by the honourable Speaker in the morning, if it can be debated, that is the spirit. In case the Chair, makes a decision, but each constituency wants to hear the statements made by the honourable members they have chosen. I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga.

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to make a brief contribution for my constituency. I had thought that I would speak tomorrow, but it does not matter.

Mr Speaker, I am of the view that authority pervades the House at Manuatele. That very House where the decrees of the sacred Island was define. I am keen to address you, resembling the anxiety of the bird from the top of Utufiu to fly. The call for Leuluaialii's ava is arriving safely. The ava of Tauiliili when called is brothers congregating in good terms. As we cling to God's infinite love for us. Even though we make mistakes in life, God will never forsake us.

Mr Speaker, I would first like to address the Malae I Tiafau, the Malae o le Faautugatagi of the nation. I also pay tribute to the House, in the presence of the honourable Speaker, because you are the one who directs the decisions of the nation through this House. I also acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and also the attendance of the Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge that side of the House, with the presence of the Chairpersons of Government Committees, as well as the honourable members.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

Recognition also to the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries as well as Corporations of chiefs, because your generosity can never be forgotten, for you are the hands and feet of the Government for the development of our country for a prosperous tomorrow. I also acknowledge the support of Samoa listening, from the great mountains to the small hills.

I also offer salutations to my constituency of Aleipata Itupa I Luga and all its honorific salutations.

My villages of Vailoa and Ulutaotogia and all its honorific salutations. These are the sacred oaths of the constituency that I am representing for the politics of the country. I ask for support as I attempt to make a small contribution, because our constituency is not too demanding, as we are aware of the Governments resources.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and the Chief Executive Officer and the staff of the Ministry. I praise the preparations, especially for this Budget to conclude these five years of this Parliamentary Term.

I have a small request to the Hon Minister of Finance to take a closer look at the pensions for the elderly. It seems that it would more suitable if it is amounted to \$200. And stop the traveling passesd and free medication, because it appears these benefits are favourable for those who are sickly. But for other elderly who are not sickly, they only receive \$160. But I hope the Minister looks into this issue, but for the structure of the Budget, I would like to express my gratitude. Thank you for your hard work, as the Budget is to be used to continue the good work to serve our country.

Then I come to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I offer the utmost thanks to you for the Tiavea Airport. There are also plans by our Government to expand this airport. It is thanks to God for the blessing this village has received. Now the airport has been prepared, thank you. There may be some time in the future before this development is completed, well I offer praises for the service.

Continuing with the Minister of Works, it is no secret the plea made by this member. Now the Parliamentary term is coming to an end, as I continue to request, I plea, almost apologising. I ask for a few roads for my villages of Lalomanu, Vailoa and Ulutaotogia, as well as some street lights as many of our lights do not work.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

The Hon Minister of Health, thank you very much, not only you but those who stood at the helm in the past. Thank you for the specialists, as it is a pleasure to see these overseas doctors. Because there it is believed that the specialists migrated for Apia, but there has been a lot of assistance for our district, which include Lotofaga, Lepa, and Aleipata Itupa I Lalo ma Luga. And so I offer a big thank you. Also, I ask for an accommodation for the doctor, perhaps the Ministry already has a plan, but I offer gratitude and congratulations for this service.

The Hon Prime Minister or the Chairperson of the Committee for Covid 19, well, compliments for the fact that a few restrictions have been lifted. The only suggestion of this constituency is to closely examine the relationship between us and New Zealand so that we do not hastily open the borders which could cause an outbreak, and then all the effort we spent time on to protect our country from the virus would be wasted.

Thus why, I make a request that it we should wait until the end of this year, but we should gradually retrieve our countrymen that have been congested overseas, as it is better if they are returned here and then the Ministry of Health can continue to implement safety measures.

Then I come to the Minister of Police and Prison, thank you to the Hon Commissioner, we have seen with pleasure a lot of changes with the services, with the many drug farms that have been detained. Good work. The only thing I want to ask the Hon Minister, regarding the blockade that is being done at night on the weekends. To closely analyse the situation regarding the minimal percentage of alcohol surpassed before they can be impounded. Because as of now, even if you had only consumed 3 small bottles of alcohol but they will still be taken into police custody. Please look into this matter.

And secondly, inform the police officers, there is thing known as respect, to show sympathy as they are old men who were having a good time, but they are taken straight into custody, please look carefully examine this issue.

Another matter is...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apologies to the member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga, but I give the opportunity to the Minister of Ministry that you mentioned.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker, there are no blockades in Aleipata, the blockades are only near the Apia town area to decrease the cases of drinking and driving. Perhaps it is pointed out in the Act, which is being enforced by the police officers that 2 bottles amount to 40mg. The Act states that the alcohol content should not exceed 40mg...to protect the safety of the public. But let's stop drinking alcohol and getting drunk, but the blockades are useful so that the taxi drivers can take the drunkards home and also this will earn money for that development of our country.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker Point of Clarification.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the member to speak.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Thank you to the honourable member but perhaps this is the second time the police have caught the member while under the influence of alcohol. I advise the Ministry, if the member is caught again take him into custody.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member to continue his statement.

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** Well, this is what causes a commotion, when the member for Salega accuses those who are trying. However, let us meet outside afterwards.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well, I thought it was something to be clarified but no...well you may speak.

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** Mr Speaker, I continue on the matter with the Minister of Police because he is also taking care of the business license. I have a question please, because there are businesses that are situated on lands that are under the supervision of the Trustees Office. I ask that you look into this, because from my observation this land has yet to be divided, and yet there are already businesses built on these lands. Could you carefully examine if it is possible to halt these businesses until the lands have been divided.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

This is my suggestion to the Hon Minister, to closely look into this issue as these lands are under the Trustees Office.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beseech the member as the Minister is upstanding to respond.

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker, I have already met with the Chief Executive Officer for the Trustees Office, there is nothing within our Ministry that can inform us the businesses being established on the lands that are within the estate of the people in the Trustees Office. So a lease was given to us so that we could identify these lands, and then businesses will be halted until after these estates are sold off, but I have already met with Chief Executive Office.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well, I call on the member to speak. How is it, has it been clarified?

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** Thank you to the Hon Minister it is now understood.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Remember that the statement made by the Government is a clear statement that should be accepted, yes, because the Government scrutinize these issues, but for us, we just.... But continue with your speech, the member can continue with his speech.

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** Well, this elder's speech will not take long because the elder is not a resident of Apia, as I am still residing in the rural area, in that case.... It is correct that there are no blockades in Aleipata, but there are times when we have to travel to Apia, and even though the alcohol measurements are 33, they will still be taken into custody until Saturday morning. Therefore, the question was posed because the Minister had said, the limit is 40%, but when I asked my friend that was in custody, and he said that he measured at 33%. Thus why, I had asked the question, to carefully looking into this and to also include being respectful, because they are old men...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well it has been heard by the Minister and the staff.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

**Afioga AMITUANAI FAGAIVALU KENRICK SAMU:** During the outbreak, there was a Tutuila-based announcement saying that benefits were available to those who contributed to the NPF. Well thank you. There was a belief that there would be two benefits for us the members. Well, I rushed there that morning, but when I went, I was sent back saying that we are not eligible. Well, how can the heads of the districts and this House not be eligible? However, it will be left to the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

Another important matter is in regards to the Minister of Finance, to closely consider the loans for farmers from the Development Bank. I have noticed that, the debt system being used is still the same as the old system, but they are not big loans, it is mostly \$3000 and it takes a whole month to pay back, but the Authorities should look for another way that would be suitable for those from the rural areas, because the loans are being used for farming, to make a fence, to make a chicken coop, and its time consuming but it is not that much money, but the Chief Executive Officer should look into this because we have been doing this for a long time now.

Mr Speaker, these are the only requests as I have already said, no, I thought that I will start tomorrow, but its ok at least I am done. But my only appeal, to the Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet, no matter the difficulties, let the tide be calm, always rely on God for his assistance. Whatever the problem, he himself does good things to help our country.

God bless you Mr Speaker, also the attendance of this side of the House to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, let the mysterious power of God always be available to assist, whatever the plans are for this Parliamentary term or whoever will return, and those who will not be returning.

Bless this side of the House to the honourable Chairpersons of the various Committees as well as the honourable members. Also, God bless the Chief Executive Officers of the Government Ministries and Corporations, you cannot be forgotten as you are the nobles who work hard for the benefit of our country, now, until eternity, forever and ever, Amen. Bless this Assembly.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for the statement by the Hon member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga. We have listened to the important issues that you have raised for moving forward, and the Hon Minister responsible for this matter is also listening.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

And soon the response will be given regarding the appeals by the constituency. This is an opportunity for another member. We still have enough time to make a speech for the constituencies listening as well as the House. Well, the member for Aana Alofi No.2 is prepared.

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I stand with the utmost respect at this hour of the day. I also believe that it has been a long day for the Assembly of Samoa. But I believe that it is alright, because these are our duties and responsibilities for which we were chosen to be in this Parliament to do.

I would firstly like to acknowledge the House of Samoa, it is said that the House is a political sanctuary for Samoan politics. I also acknowledge that side of the House, with the presence of the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I also acknowledge the attendance of the Chairperson of each Committee and the honourable members of the Parliament of Samoa. And all the individuals present here at the House of Samoa this evening.

I also offer greetings to the attendance of the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries who are with us this evening for our Assembly. Not to be forgotten is the honorable Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as well as the staff for the preparation of this House.

I acknowledge the support of the Hon Chief Justice, the three branches of Government of Democracies as well as the Judiciary. Thankfully you were appointed to stand at the helm of the Judiciary. Trust God to steer your journey, but also, do not forget the respect you gained from being appointed.

We hope that we will speak at the assembly as Samoa pays homage to the Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, as well as the member of the Council of Deputy and your wife. The sacredness of Samoa listening, and the assemblage of the Aiga Sa Levi that are residing in the villages and who are always on their knees day and night praying for the welfare of Samoa as well as our cultural crafts. Thank you for the prayers and the support.

Well, Samoa in all its honorific salutations, although it is late in the evening, but I believe that we are still receiving support and prayers for our work in reporting the successes of Samoa. But at this hour, for my constituency of Aana Alofi No.2, your member will attempt to convey the views of our constituency on the Main Budget 2020/2021, as well as the Third Supplementary Budget 2019/2020.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**



*17 JUNE 2020*

The statement will not be long as I am certain that it will still be tabled, and all its components are clear due to the efforts of the Hon Minister as well as each Ministry that have been working on our Budget as presented. Although the negative impacts on the economy has limited the distribution of funds, but you make an effort to ensure that each Ministry receives a fair share. It is not a desire but it is a necessity, and that is the situation of your distribution as it is now. Now it has been decided, thank you, now it has been made clear as the Budget has been presented, and each Ministry has received good shares due to the distribution funds as allocated.

There is only one issue that this constituency would like to address, as it cannot hold back its gratitude for the increase of the pensions for the elderly. Thank you for the contribution, as with some of the suggestions that were given, maybe by next year if it is less than \$200 then add another \$20, as it is satisfactory and good depending on your distribution.

Another matter we would like to address, thank you to the Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation for the solace we received, for this is a necessity needed by all the people of Samoa, not only for the town areas, but also for the rural areas. Unfortunately, some families are cannot afford it, as they are unable to because they are underprivileged. However, it is noteworthy that other components have been added for special water and electricity services. Thank you very much. Thank you for the kindness and distribution. This constituency of Aana Alofi No.2 support the Main Estimates 2020/2021, as well as the Third Supplementary Budget 2019/2020.

These are the feelings of this constituency conveyed regarding the Budget that has been sitting on the Table of Parliament this week. As of this hour, I will process, with the prayer of gratitude and prayer of wishes, starting with the Minister for Communications. Thank you for your work, as we now have Digital TV. Perhaps it has yet to cover most of Samoa, but it is wonderful as children do not have time to do homework with the clear and quality television shows, and also increases the electricity bill. This means that while some parts are going out and it is covered by other parts. The only downside is that the screen freezes some times. I ask the Hon Minister to look into the reason for this. But I also take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Hon...

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, I do not want to interrupt the member...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is there something... you may speak, if it is a point of order or point of...

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** No, it is a point of order. I heard that the member said his television screen freezes, but he should use his television more often because maybe that is the reason why it freezes.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is the statement that should have been made by the Minister to the member, but you want to correct it?  
I call upon the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** Mr Speaker, there is a point of order I wish to make with the statement made by the member as now that the other members are listening as well as their constituencies that have received this television service and they also have issues with pixelated screens. The reason, it is necessary to rearrange the antenna that is outside, or place the antenna on higher platform, or probe through the channels to find a more suitable broadcasting service pole, I can assure you, that it will make the screen clear. The screen freezing is due to the weak signal received from the broadcasting pole. The antenna should be elevated high up or 8 metres for it to be clear. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call on the honourable member to speak.

**Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI:** Thank you to the Hon Minister for the clarification. Maybe when this problem arises again then I will go and adjust my antenna if it will fix this issue, but thank you very much. I offer gratitude to the Hon Faamausili Andrew Ah Liki and those who carried out the installation of many of the poles. We believe that it is a hard and arduous task, there were many difficulties, but this work was still implemented well. Thank you for your hard work, and also the improvement of all those areas.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

Mr Speaker, the Act that is circulating to the public, I offer praises to the Judiciary Office through the Minister of Justice, because looking at this Act, it will smoothen the proceedings and speed up the Court Cases, especially for the Lands and Titles Court, where our country's heritage is protected and preserved. That being said, perhaps sometime soon the Act will completely circulate the island of Salafai, and then these group of people will be aware of the changes that the Land and Titles Courts is trying to implement.

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, the spirit is amazed at the enthusiasm of the teachers and principals that was witnessed during the lockdown, as they continued to conduct their work as teachers. The teachings were carried out without violating the Act, and the teachers are well prepared for the implementation of lessons, because the students are being taught one at a time and the teachers have prepared for each student, but thank you. Thankfully the teaching staffs are not sitting idly but they continue to educate the children at a time when Samoa is faced with jobs layoffs and closed schools as we have now.

My only request to the Hon Minister is to take another look at the area of Early Childhood Education, as some of the schools are wavering due to the lack of funds to pay for a few teachers. Take a look at this matter because this is the beginning of a child's education, Elementary School.

The Minister of Health, thank you for your work. With the Hon Minister's appointment to the position, you have been plagued by many problems since then, but together with the Ministry your drive has not wavered as Samoa is faced with adversity, good work. We only pray that our hospital in Leulumoega be monitored, as we are need of a transport vehicle for patients in emergencies. Look into this matter.

Then we come to the Minister of Works. Perhaps this is another Minister that has received an abundance of requests, but thank you to the Minister for the implementation of the work each day. Good work to the Land Transport Authority, the S-Ford tar that was delivered has almost reached Malua. It is wonderful, even though it will cause vehicles to speed up more, but the Government was able to insert humps to slow down speeding vehicles, although we have police officers, but it does not mean they will always be in the area to keep an eye on speeding cars and mindless drivers. Good work.

*17 JUNE 2020*

Thankfully, the crisis in my village of Vaialua in Nofaalii has been resolved, as we have been faced with this problem of low power consumption for a long time. Yesterday I drove passed there, and the Electric Power Corporation is working to pull new lines and install transformers for these parts of our village as they had requested to the Corporation.

Well it is superb, just a few things like three or four street lights to be placed on the poles that will be installed because this part of the village is very dark, but an appeal will be submitted to the Electric Power Corporation. While we are still on this matter, there is a suburb in my village of Leulumoega Uta that does not have a power line, but there are almost 20 households living in that area, with stable and good housing already built there but it does not have electricity. An appeal has already been given to the Electric Power Corporation to look into this matter, as electricity is useful especially for students in doing their homework.

In regards to working roads, I heard from the statement made by the Hon Minister that there is 1 kilometre of road that needs to be tarred, and 2 kilometres of the roads is to be rooted out and repaired. Hon Minister, for your information, my road that was inaugurated last year, only 1 kilometre was tarred and not 2 kilometre as you have mentioned. To the Hon Minister it is just a reminder and not a command.

Thank you for granting the requests of my villages of Leulumoega and Nofaalii. Although it has only just begun, but for those that anticipated and prayed, the plans are now underway, I ask that you pray to God for long lasting life and strength, and then this part of the work will be accomplished as requested by our community.

Perhaps this will be all, yes, to the Hon Minister of Agriculture. The advertisements of assistance that were offered to farmers, as our constituency still do not understand. I do not know who will initiate these things; either it is the Ministry or the authority of the village councils, or the Government Representative in each village. Please take a look into this issue, because the elders in the rural areas are sitting and questioning if the Government has any work for the farmers. But examine this matter.

*17 JUNE 2020*

The other matter that I stated in regards to the Villages that cultivate cocoa, and I would routinely go there to get myself plants to grow but it was 4 weeks ago, when I visited again it was all cleared. I am uncertain as I asked them and they said it will be 3 months before cocoa plants are available again. I ask the Hon Minister to look into this matter so that this problem can be solved.

The Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, we also feel that. Whatever long term plans of the Hon Minister and the Government, take into consideration an aircraft for our country to help our people travel. It is good for Samoa to have its own aircraft to transport its people.

To the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, our community of Fasitoo in Vaialua has been severely affected by the rising sea level and climate change. Assess if there is a portion of the budget set aside for this issue to assist with this problem faced by my community.

That is an attempt, a plea by this member from Aana with the abundance of work that needs to be improved, as you possess control over the resources. You also have the authority and permit to carry out these requests.

At this hour, would like to thank the Leader of the Country and the Cabinet for administrating the sanctuary of Samoa for this year. In spite of hardships, but we are tranquil in the love and mercy of God.

Congratulations and thank you to the honorable Chairperson, as well as the Committee that is protecting the security of Samoa, as Samoa is faced with many problems especially with the disease that is now transpiring. The only request by the member is that there is no need to rush. It is better to take it slow and be sure, let us continue with the 14 days, because the truth is, our countries awareness plan has become a guide for many other neighbouring countries. Yes, that is also how Samoa stayed safe, from the problems that are occurring now. Praises for the efforts, praises for being vigilant in the execution of the work.

The matter that I want to make a statement on, I will just present before you. I support the closure of the Supermarket on Sunday but reopens at 3 pm. And the truth is, some families do not go to church but instead go shopping.

*17 JUNE 2020*

Not only do the people not go to church because of shopping, but it will also pressure the producers to skip church and instead go sell their products at this Supermarket. But it is a Sunday, it is a day when families gather and offer praises to God. So this member supports the continuation of these measures.

To my constituency, I have not forgotten about you. With the support of my constituency to Nofolii and Leulumoega, thank you to the pastors for the prayers. Because of your prayers, this member has gained strength, not only for the body and the mind, but also the spirit.

My village of Nofolii, for your support in all your traditional honorifics.

My village of Leulumoega in all its honorary salutations. Thank you for your support, it has relaxed your member as he stands on the mountain, because of your encouragement and inspiration.

Mr Speaker that is our statement, blessings to the Assembly of Samoa, thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, praises for your speech, as the honourable member is also a member of the Financial Committee of the Parliament. Now that it has been heard by your constituency, their appeals are still being submitted, in the near future, the Cabinet will sort out their distribution to the best of their abilities. So I offer congratulations and gratitude for the preparations.

We still have enough time, for another member that wants to speak. The member for Gagaemauga has risen.

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Vaimauga West No.1):** It is Vaimauga West No.1.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Correction, member for Vaimauga West No.1.

**Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA:** Praises evermore to the Father in heaven for his love and mercy, from this morning until this hour, in the middle of the night, as we are witnessing now, he will not forsake us, especially with his infinite love.

Mr Speaker, I offer salutations to the sanctity of this House, the presence of the Hon Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

I also acknowledge the Honourable Speaker, and all the members of the Parliament of Samoa. I also address the attendance of the Clerk, and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the presence of the Chief Executive Officers and Senior Officials of the Ministries and Corporations of our Government, salutations and good health at this hour of the night.

I would like to thank the Honourable Speaker for this opportunity, which has been given to this member, to offer a contribution from our constituency.

Firstly, I would like to pay respects to my beloved constituency of Vaimauga West No.1 in all its honorific salutations. These are the parables of Vaimauga West No.1 with the highest privilege to the pastors and the servants of God that spread the Gospel, as well as the kings and queens, orators and nobles, head elders and scholars, wives and young men and even the youth groups. Thank you for the prayers, thank you for the support.

Mr Speaker, I offer the praises and the utmost gratitude to the Hon Minister, Associate Minister, the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry of Finance, for the completion of this burdensome work. Thank you for the hard work.

Mr Speaker, it is very clear, and this member fully supports the Main Estimate 2020/2021. And I also support the Supplementary Budget No.3 2019/2020. And no comment will be made on this matter. But I would like to make requests regarding the needs and things that need to be improved for my district.

To the Minister of Finance, I would express gratitude from the many families within my constituency especially the Corporations and businesses, which have benefited from the Vaisigano catchment project. Thank you also to the Hon Minister for accepting the request for funds under the Green Climate Fund, to improve the road, and the improvement of the drainage for our village in Vaipuna. Thank you very much but I humbly request, we are in need of assistance, on the East side of Apia Park, this part of the area is quite subsided, and during heavy rains or light drizzles, it becomes flooded, and it has made it difficult to travel, and some of our relatives live on this part of the village.

Well, problems have risen in this area, perhaps the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment will also offer assistance. The supposed water deposit in Apia Park, but pipes are now used to drain the water and directed towards the location of the mangroves.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

*17 JUNE 2020*

Well, there are also some families that live in this area, but there is a suggestion, as it may be detrimental to their health. Not only for people who live there, but also the fishes and other marine life that live in the mangroves. Thus why, I request as it need immediate assistance. Last week people from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment visited, and we are still waiting on the comments in their report, with great courtesy.

Well, to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I express gratitude for the work that has been implemented in our country, especially with the responses to some of the requests by our constituency. Thank you also for the 2 chainsaws that have been provided for our village of Moataa under the coconut beetle program. Thank you very much. I also pray to the Hon Minister and thank you for allowing the Fisheries Division to visit the Moataa mangroves, as we had requested and they conducted their research, and there is a high possibility of creating a crab reserve, as well as a tilapia farm that the village can rely on. So I pray that the Hon Minister be gracious, as our Parliamentary term is coming to an end, but these are requests made a few years ago.

To the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I believe that you have received some appeals especially the requests made by my village of Vaivase Uta for the Settlement Road and the Upper Lieu Road we have now, there is a lot of inconvenience, so assistance is needed to make transportation easier especially in times of emergencies. In particular, the Vaivase Tai road, which was rushed due to the Pacific Games, and as of now there are problems with the road at Vaivase Tai in front of the house of the Deacon of the Catholic Church in Vaivase Tai, hopefully our Office can look into this issue.

I would also like to express a similar issue as mentioned by the member for Vaimauga East in regards to the location of the of the seawall which included Moataa, there is a small matter that needs to be corrected in case the Hon Minister is misled because we have a request concerning our own seawall. As stated by the member, there is a seawall but it is small. Currently, there is no seawall at Moataa. And a seawall is needed. When the tide rises, it reaches the main road, but for your information, this road is used by all our people who are living on the eastern part of our country. Hence why, I requested as the main road in Moataa needs a seawall.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**



*17 JUNE 2020*

As we all know, Vaiala has its own seawall as well as Fagalii, and when the sea level rises it is absorbed by the mangroves in Moataa causing high water levels within the mangroves and it will affect the families that are living in these areas. Thus, I pray to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for assistance.

But I would like to thank the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for their hard work in this Parliamentary term, praises for the perseverance, and the hard work.

Mr Speaker, before I conclude my statement, I would also like to take this opportunity to greet and congratulate one of the sons of this constituency, man of the *Fuaiupolu*. As an elder of our constituency once said, one of our great warriors has retired from the Legislature, but now another warrior for our *Fuaiupolu* has appeared. To the Chief Justice, Hon Satiu Simativa Perese, thank you for your tenacity, praises for the reverence for our families, villages and Congregations. *Alo ia manuia ou faiva*.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I pray that you have strength to lead our Assembly, and may the grace of God be with the Leader of the Country and the Ministers. Good luck with the remaining proceedings. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Vaimauga has now listened to your statement, and it has also been heard by the Government, so await the distribution for the progress and prosperity of the constituency. I believe that we have now reached the conclusion of our work this evening, with the time allotted in accordance with the motion moved by the Hon Prime Minister. Then there is a belief, to let my humble voice convey praises and gratitude this evening to the supreme sanctity of the House in all its honorific salutations. Thank you for the statements, as the country has witnessed that you are still conducting the duties that God has bestowed upon you for the betterment of the nation in every way. May speeches be perceived, and may you receive wisdom for the Government for its development.

I am also honoured to convey congratulations and thanks to the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the Associate Minister in that regard as well as the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your prudence, and thank you for the comments today.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &  
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

***17 JUNE 2020***

There have been a lot of suggestions and opinions shown, which makes today's work successful *ua tetele a i pesega ae ua matua a i le oo*. Thus, I would like to thank you for your support of the work of the Chair, it is not easy, but it is work that needs the cooperation of all the honourable members of Parliament so that the proceeding of the Assembly of Samoa is successful.

I will conclude our work with a prayer.

***Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 11:00pm until 9:00am Thursday, 18 June 2020.***