

*03 FEBRUARY 2021*

**WEDNESDAY, 03 FEBRUARY 2021**

*Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 9:25am, pursuant to Standing Orders 27(1).*

Prayer.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

First, I would like to acknowledge the House, with the attendance of the sanctity of Parliament, the appointed Leaders of the country, whom have all gathered here today. I express salutations and welcome to this new morning. Good morning and congratulations for the journey. There is a high spirit that the Proceedings of the Assembly will be successful this morning.

I also acknowledge the devotion of Samoa for the success of Parliament, as we are working hard and striving for prosperity this year.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021  
– resumption debate on second reading – Day 11**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before the Orders of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday the member for the constituency of Faasaleleaga No.3 was speaking. Therefore, I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.3 to continue your speech.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU (Faasaleleaga No.3):** Thank you Deputy Speaker, we have first given praises and thanks to God for his great love, because God is always faithful in His kindness to this Parliament and the Government, as well as the support of Samoa. Thus, why I would like to express my appreciation to you Deputy Speaker this morning, as we have noticed that you are stepping up to the Chair, I congratulate you for using the position and the duties that you were appointed for.

I would also like to thank God for giving me rest in the darkness last night, as there are many problems of calamity and sufferings that threaten our existence and lives, not only in this Parliament but in Samoa as a whole, to the families who are observing in support and the constituency. Thank you. Thank you to God that His love and kindness is still with Samoa. And no matter the problems or difficulties from diseases, especially climate change as we have witnessed in this period, but God's love too great.

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Therefore, we praise God and appreciate His love, if He made man in the holy image of God, then it is our duty to praise and thank Him because He is a faithful God.

Therefore, this is the essence of thanksgiving this morning, as we have noticed that the Seats of the House of Tiafau have been occupied, for Samoa and its Government, thank you very much. But once again, I commend you Deputy Speaker, congratulations for the work and patience.

I convey greetings to the Hon Prime Minister, the Leader of our Government especially the Cabinet, the sanctity of representatives this morning and the members of the Government, well, greetings to you all. I commend you for the efforts, on your calling and for all of us who were elected by the constituency and villages, for the Government of Samoa and its work.

Therefore, thanksgiving this morning, thank you for the support of the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and this House, as well as Samoa and its devotion. Thank you to God. These are the praises this morning, even though the weather is bad, but thank you for the courage and patience to carry out our duties this week. Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of this new month of February, as the journey of Samoa in this year until March is still going smoothly, such are difficult times but have been a lot of changes. God is in control, if God is the creator of all things, then God is in control of everything, but the essence of gratitude to the Deputy Speaker, because the member for Faasaleleaga No.3 is given another opportunity to resume our speech or our voice for the politics of the Government and the Assembly of Samoa today.

The main theme of this district's speech is the gratitude to the Government and the country. And the point of the speech is, what is good for Upolu is also good for Savaii, and if it is good in Savaii then it is good in Upolu. Also, what is good in Apia and Upolu, is now good in Salelologa and Savaii. This is the focus of the speech.

Yesterday, I began with a speech of thanksgiving for the developments in the town of Salelologa. Thank you for the Government foresight especially the past Leaders and Parliamentary Terms, and now in this current Term the Government is continuing these developments for the town of Salelologa. I have already addressed the National Provident Fund, thank you for this major project that is useful for the island in Salafai, the Government visited last year, and the work is still ongoing. I know that by next month this major work will be completed, as well as other developments, because the expectations for a town, we are trying...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, I stand with the utmost respect this morning, to convey greetings to the sanctity of our House. I also want express gratitude to the member who is speaking, which is the reason for why I am upstanding.

I stand to join the member, who is speaking to convey appreciation to God, and gratitude for the work that has been done, because these are the things that should be done. It is clear, when we complete any development, we would sit down and give thanks to God, we are useless servants, for He is the one who gave us these ideas we are implementing. Samoa is a Christian country.

Mr Speaker, this is the importance of my emergence. When the result of the last general election was announced, there were 47 members of this Party, only 3 are not in attendance, and there is no Opposition. At the meeting of the Political Party, I know that the member and Laauli can recall, I spoke as a Leader of the Party about the importance of the Opposition of the Government, these are Parliamentary procedures we are using in this Parliamentary Government, so having an Opposition is important to oppose the Government. They make recommendations. What was done? We talked and made the decision that we will have an Opposition Party to our Government, there is a limited number of Ministerial positions set by the Constitution, so not all Party members are able to get positions, there are those who want to serve in the position of Ministers and Associate Ministers, and then a decision will be made. We will create an Opposition Party, our own Home-Grown Opposition and it is not a pretend Opposition, as witnessed by Mr Speaker, we will create a sturdy and fierce Opposition Party. Even for me, the members of this Party also stood up and made corrections.

Well, yesterday I corrected one of my Ministers. Because these are the things that makes Parliamentary Assemblies energetic, with the existence of an opposition, but it is possible for our Parliament on the will of Samoa that there will be no Opposition, as we have the wisdom, the foresight of the Leaders of the 47 members of the Political Party and the constituencies, 47 who made this decision, together with the members who are longer in attendance. So what has happened? It is still going well. A few days after the election, a professor of political science came from Australia to conduct our Seminar. So after my speech I introduced this matter, the Government made their own Opposition and then the Professor came and said, this is exactly what he wanted to talk about, but now you have made the solution yourself.

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This has not occurred in any other country, the existence of an Opposition created from members of the same Party that is the Government of the day. And the question is who decided that result of the election? This Party was created from the will of Samoa. It is an opinion that shows the foresight of the *Faa-Samoa*.

Mr Speaker, the thought –provoking ideas that God provides us are great, you are the Leaders. This is my other duty, as the Leader of the House, I record the names of the members, there are more than 30 in this Party, we would come and pray together, give praises to God to help us voice our ideas, the progress of our discussions back and forth, as well as our speeches for today. We pray together in the morning and pray together in the evening before we adjourn.

Mr Speaker what is happening now? The Government is opposing the Government. Where are the opposing politicians? The other just arrived after the prayer. This is the behaviour of this Party, because there is no official Opposition Party in Parliament. But we already have an opposing Side, those who do not want to attend the prayer. Yesterday too, they would leave early before the Assembly adjourned. What is this behaviour? In other words, they do not want to join in on conveying prayers of thanksgiving for the adjournment of our Assembly, as we start our day with God and end also with God. This is my duty as the Leader of the House, to monitor the behaviour that is shown in our House. So what kind of Group is this? The party seems like a canoe that floats without a propeller. Mr Speaker, there is no propeller. I was hesitant, I thought about using another word, but I felt that there was no other word. So what is a canoe without a propeller? It drifts and floats around in the same spot and when a strong wind blows it is dragged around the ocean.

And yet they are going around telling the country, choose us, change the Government. Change it to people who come half-heartedly like this? They do not want to join in our prayers to God to guide us, and they also left early yesterday before our Assembly finished. They do not want to attend our sermons. But what is their name? *Faatuatua I le Atua ua Tasi*. How are they called such a holy name, but their behaviour is different.

Mr Speaker, this is why I am upstanding to thank the member, not only thanking God for guiding the lives of the Leaders of the Country to this House, but you expressed appreciation for the implemented work that God was involved in, for God directs our voyage and all we do is follow. Mr Speaker, this is why I stood up this morning to show my concerns, if the Government were to be changed, but these pagans are going to come and manage the Government.

Mr Speaker, this is my inclusion to the speech by the member.

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**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, with respect, I would like an opportunity.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I implore the member who is standing; please specify the official reason on why you want to speak.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, Samoa is listening to the words that are being said, I beseech you as the country is observing in support, I ask for an opportunity to make a statement. It is not defamation but just an explanation.

Hon Prime Minister...

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

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** We have thanked God for this new morning, as this is a new day and I believe that everything is new. But I feel sad and distressed, as you have risen this morning and made such a statement. Since our request that was made yesterday continues to be disapproved. Tuilaepa, moderate your actions and your words, we are taking on the saltiness of the words and statements that are being made, and it is insulting and disparaging to our Side.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I interrupt the member who is speaking... Your opinion has been noted, and it would be good for the Chair to make a decision on this matter.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Apologies Mr Speaker, I beseech you Hon Tuilaepa. If you hit the other side, then I will turn the other side. I forgive you, as the country is listening. Tuilaepa, I implore you, do not play with peoples feelings, play with the ball, and do not play with the body. That is a very dangerous play.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg the member since the Chair is making a statement and it should be obeyed. I ask the member to sit down.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I wish to further clarify the matter.

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well, I give the opportunity to the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, we are the leaders of the country. We were appointed to conduct our duties. This is my other duty, as the Leader of the House, so I gave my request, a request of compassion. I was talking about the time when I first became a dignitary, in 1981; this is 2021, so it has been 40 years. Not long before the Assembly starts the bell rang, as the number of members has not been achieved. So I am not making any disparaging statements, it is a humble advice for us who were chosen by our districts, for us to come and lay down good guidelines to manage the Government. But what is happening now? The words that have been uttered to change the Government, change the Government. Is this the type of behaviour that they will utilize? Are these manners acceptable? But we are the Leaders of the country. If you know something needs to be done, do it. If you know that there is some that needs to be recommended, make a recommendation. But someone who is afraid to do the right thing and speak the truth, that is not a trait of a Leader. So what is the problem? Since Samoa is listening. Are the words that I have said derogatory? Is it bad advice? Mr Speaker, this is good advice.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** The words, a canoe without a propeller, Tuilaepa, remove these words...

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

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** We are not canoes. How can you insult us? How can you utter these words? We are not canoes without propellers.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the member to sit down, wait for the other member who is currently speaking and then I will give you an opportunity.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Tuilaepa, we beseech you...let it go, please, we are begging you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I implore the member for Gagaifomau No.3, the Chair is making a statement.

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**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker, stand by your duty as an independent. Criticism is still being uttered.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the member to sit down as the Chair is going to make a statement. You do not give orders to the Chair.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Samoa is listening, oh we have been bruised.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I implore the member to take your seat. Aggravation, under our Standing Orders, is disobeying the orders of the Chair. We are still maintaining our relations. It is in the essence of the Chair that the speech of the Leader of the House is a valid advice for the proceedings of our Assembly. The situation has been observed, and the Clerk has been instructed to write down the times, for the entry and arrival of elected members of the House on that Side and this Side.

But I beseech the member for Gagaifomauga No.3; you have stated all the conditions, so be patient and respect the attempts of the Chair, it is my duty to maintain the peace of the Assembly of the country. This is also an opportunity for me to formally announce the consents that have been given to the Chair.

The Hon Tuifaasisina Misa Lisati Palemene is occupied with some family issues in Savaii. It is the same with the Hon Namulauulu Papalii Sami Leota. The Hon Faumuina Wayne Fong is absent due to Legal affairs as requested, so his absence is also acceptable. It is also the same with the Hon Lenatai Tamapua who informed the Chair that he was ill and does not have enough strength to continue his duties.

And as noticed this morning by the sanctity of the Parliament and Samoa who is observing in support, the Hon Speaker does not have the strength to continue his duties and responsibilities, and so I am attempting to manage the condition of our Assembly, so that everything runs smoothly and to adhere to the Standing Orders of the House.

Well, with the observation of the Parliament and Samoa, these are recommendations since we are elected officials of the country, we must carry out our duties. We must arrive on time for the start and at the closing hours of our Assembly each day. That is the essence of giving advice. Therefore, I would like to recommend all the members; it would be good if you heed our responsibilities, for we are being observed.... Since we are also live on television, so the country is watching, we should always be on time for the start of our Assembly.

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The situation concerning the matter that is being discussed, I think that I will make the decision on this issue. The advice has been given as well as the recommendation by the member who is standing. That is the intention, we will end this matter here, and should no longer be brought up.

And with all due respect I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.3...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I beg you Mr Speaker, Nafaitoa, the words that we are canoes without propellers are too severe. I implore you Mr Speaker, remove these words from the records of the House. It is disgraceful and humiliating to the *Sao Faapito* and us, Salega and Faleata and me. I beg you Mr Speaker, how is it that when insulting words are used by other members it is removed, but when they are uttered by the Prime Minister they are not removed?

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, a point of Order.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Use your wisdom Nafaitoa.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It has been noted by the Chair, and a question will be put forth later.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** This is my request. Tuilaepa, trend lightly because the country is listening.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a point of Order.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Play with the ball, do not play with the body.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Laauli sit down as I give an opportunity to the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker Point of Order, I did not say that they were canoes without propellers. I said it is the behaviour, behaviours that are similar to canoes without propellers. This is the behaviour I was talking about, but I did not call you canoes.



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Mr Speaker, this is the situation. These are the manners I was talking about.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The clarification has now been made by the member who uttered the words, so he is also the one that can clarify these things. Therefore.....

Well, I call on Olo to stand, Laauli sit down. Olo may stand.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I beseech you Nafaitoa, the same thing happened yesterday when I made a statement, but it was interpreted by the Prime Minister. Where is the righteousness of these things this morning? I own the words, but he is clarifying it? And now he is speaking and saying...that.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, the reason why I talked about this, the words stated by the member yesterday were clear, 'alas, since Samoa is exhausted due to the Parliament'. You did not say, Samoa is exhausted because of some Parliamentary behaviour. You directly mentioned the Parliament. See the difference in the words that were uttered? Note the words carefully.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** You are twisting my words. You are twisting my words, as the country is listening in support.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I implore you Laauli to sit down. In our Standing Orders, when the Chair speaks the members should be seated. Thank you.

In our Standing Orders, member for Gagaifomauga No.3, it is very clear from my observation. It is not appropriate for a member to instruct the Chair, for it degrades the Chair.

Therefore, I advise the member, to take proper precautions. I have yet to consider the conditions that should be implemented, but the Chair will not retreat when you continue to interrupt while it is giving instructions. Therefore, I implore the member, I speak with the utmost respect, for it is the desire of the Assembly of Samoa, to be tranquil like our praises to God. But if this behaviour continues, which is inappropriate for this Supreme Assembly of Samoa. Then it is necessary for the Chair to apply the Standing Orders. For that reason, I advise all the members again, to obey the instructions of the Chair. I will have today, while you will get tomorrow, so I implore all the members, heed the instructions of the Chair.

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When I conclude an issue, I beseech you all; this will be the conclusion of the issue according to the Standing Orders. It is not my desire, to command, as the Standing Orders dictates our actions as you already know since you also sat at this Chair. That is my request with respect, as the country is listening, thus they are observing. This is the essence, I have already made the decision, so I implore that we continue the work of the House this morning. With all due respect.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** My apologies, I am upstanding Mr Speaker, to ask for your forgiveness. I withdraw my opinion, so let us go ahead with our Assembly this morning.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Laauli, thank you very much, if this is your decision, it is a decision on God, thank you for taking into account the usual practices of this House. The growing wisdom is handling everything with courtesy and respect. I have noticed that Olo is still attempting to stand up. So I call on the member for Salega.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East):** Thank you Mr Speaker, for giving us this opportunity. I would like to thank you for your patience, which is normal, and not long ago we persuaded the Holy Spirit of God to join us in our Assembly. Unfortunately, there are still a few issues; however, in the victorious name of Jesus I drive the devil out of this House. Mr Speaker, the statement made by the Associate Minister was very interesting, regarding the development that is currently underway, in the island of Salafai, our island. But this is why it is very useful, as stated by the Hon Prime Minister, it is important to have an Opposition Party. Mr Speaker, if you recall, I have been an Opposition for 15 years, and I will never neglect my work, because it is a joint work to oppose the Government.

Mr Speaker, what I mean it that, I entered in 2006, and as the years progressed, suddenly there was a disagreement between two of our senior members, which decreased our numbers to 8. And then we were unable to receive the funds that were endorsed by our government, to develop a Political Party, to ensure a strong Opposition, however during that Parliamentary term from 2006 – 2010, we no longer received any funds, because we had less than 8 members, and then they distributed like \$200,000. And then in 2011 going forward. They no longer distributed it like \$100,000 for a Party, but \$100,000 was distributed casually to us. Mr Speaker, in the present Parliamentary Term, there is absolutely nothing to develop the Opposition Party. They are doing things differently...

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I implore the member for Salega.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** It seems the member is talking about something very different, but in this case, whose behaviour? These are the things that we implemented in this House, and to establish an Opposition Party, you needed to achieve the total of 9 members. And then an Opposition Party is recognized in this House. Remember, there are 51 Members of Parliament. So it is not possible to have 5 or 6 Opposition Parties.

Mr Speaker, it is possible to have 6 members of Opposition. As for what has happened, it is good for me to disclose this matter. There was money to help our Opposition to operate our Opposition parties, during the time when Tupua was elected and going forward. And after a few years, the Opposition Party suddenly disbanded, so it was not due to the behaviour of the Government. As for the reason for the disbandment, the Opposition Party had a disagreement, since their Leader went and encouraged the Tumua and Pule and Aiga, to instigate a strike against the Government, this is what you call treason. In particular, the instigation of Tumua and Pule and Aiga, to protest towards... the Aiga Tumua and Puleono in Salafai who are also sitting in this House of the Parliament of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, it is important that I explain this issue. The protest parade started in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. They did not miss a year, as another protest march was established on 200,000+ signatures, which was sent to the Head of State, with the essence to expel this Government, while the Leader of the Opposition and a few members wanted to come and lead the Government. What happened to that? They brought large files of these signatures, to the Government and then a Commission was set up to investigate. Foreign professors were brought in to look into this matter of Opposition Signatures to the Government because it was a serious issue. In particular, the power that is given under the Act, to the Head of State and the power that is given to the Prime Minister were questioned. What was the outcome of that Commission and their Investigation? It was not approved. Only 11 signatures were approved. As for the other 250,000 signatures by those who lived in the country and from abroad. The only names that were written were Sione, Simi, Aukuso, no last names, no addresses, and so it was nonchalantly dismissed by the Inquiry Commission. But the ending of that last protest, the Leader of the Opposition came to Parliament while the member for Faleata East was conveying his speech, and declared his displeasure, in this matter of authoritarianism, as their Leader went and initiated a Protest March without consulting the opinions of the Party.

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What did Tofilau say, “Your Party has decreased from 9 to 8, which is the number of members needed for a Party to be recognized as an Opposition in the House”. The motion was moved to reduce the number of Members from 9 to 8 in Parliament before it is recognized as an official Party. The words of the Prime Minister, “Tupua, you are determined and persistent to lead this country. If you are unable to unify nine members to support you, how are you going to rule the whole country?”

Mr Speaker, that is the situation, but it is not the way of this Party. We continued to receive financial assistance from our Government, in order to equip them for their work. To ensure there is enough funds and also taking into consideration the number of politicians in the Party. That is what it was based on. So what has happened? The HRPP used its funds well to build its own Party House, its central employment office, with operational vehicles, and funds to go into the construction of the fence to protect the land. There was a time when our treasurer, Laauli said to us, that a fence needs to be constructed. I stopped it, how is it going to be made? Since he was the treasurer for the HRPP, so he looked after the funds. And so, there is only a wire fence, since he had his own workers.... That is the situation, thus why I did not want to construct this fence, because he would have brought his own contractors to build the stone fence.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Point of Order Mr Speaker. I was not the treasurer for the HRPP. I beseech you Mr Speaker... the deception is still continuing...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I implore the member, to wait until the speech is finished before you raise your opinion. The clarification and explanation by the Government has not yet concluded.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** It is the truth; I am speaking the truth. And it was witnessed by the whole Party. Mr Speaker, now there are jobs pending and the payment for the \$8,000 rent a year. But where are the funds that was given to them, there is nothing. It was distributed as soon as it was given. The funds from the Government were put to good use. But what about those who received it, we do not know where it is, or whose pocket it went into.

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Mr Speaker, this is the situation, these funds were given by the Government to endorse the Opposition Parties, in this Parliament. It is the desire of the Government to establish Parties so that it does not depend on business owners. Because there will be a negative impact on the Government if they are too dependent on business owners. I also know that you are asking for financial aid from other church pastors, so what has happened? Now the church ministers are giving you money, so what does this mean? When you emerge as leaders, are you going to listen to this one congregation, see even with the monetary gifts given to the pastors, you have unashamedly asked for it to be used for political purposes. I am baffled, I am baffled by such behaviours.

HRPP has long been at the helm for 41 years and has never done such a thing, why? They have respected the ecclesia and their leaders, but I am shocked at your rudeness in implementing those things. In particular, that insolence is even spreading to other countries of the world.

Such disrespect your honour is way too much. Mr Speaker, it is useful that I rise to explain these things. Olo, you too are one of those people that is very famous with mincing words. Do direct your path.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker... this word please, because it is mentioned that I was the treasurer. Faumuina Liuga is signing in the savings booklet with Tuilaepa and Niko Lee Hang. I was not a treasurer, the only job I did was everything else that has lightened up Petesa. That was my job. You were the treasurer, you were tasked with disbursing money.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Laauli as I allow the chance to the member for Salega, this is now clarified. Go ahead Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Every time I ask Papalii Lee Hang. Why did you leave it to that man who is now the problem of our money savings? He replied, I wanted to take over, but became disgusted with him, he submitted money without any receipts nor financial reports. Mr Speaker, that was it, how can you lie here, when all the Party is looking?

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Tuilaepa, heed your lies. The country is listening in. When did I have touched any money? Do not lie before the listening public... take heed of your lies.

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg forbearance to the current speaker... this matter should now end. Whenever you rise, the Government will go ahead and respond, matters ought to be clarified.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** There is a saying, the truth hurts. Your constant upstandings will reveal the truth I am speaking about.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon me Laauli I will now cut off this topic...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Your honour, you be the judge Samoa... Finish it... cut off the Prime Minister as his words are lies. If we search and submit the evidence from there, to see who the treasurer was for HRPP, it was not me, it was Papalii Niko Lee Hang followed by Faumuina Liuga, these words are wrong, it is a lie.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is well received; thank you sit down.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa):** Mr Speaker, because my name was mentioned.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg forbearance, I have ended this topic. It would be good that I remind our Standing Orders 82(3), interjecting the clarification of another member is not allowed. Pardon me Olo the matter is prolonged by Salega, it would be better if you direct your interjection to the current speaker. Pardon me you are not allowed to interrupt the clear statement by the Leader of the House on this matter.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** My acknowledgement to the Associate could not be done although he is now giving appreciation and Samoa has received it, NPF is now set up in our island. The Opposition Side was useful at that time to remind the Government. Unfortunately, Tuasivi is too far...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member for Salega it is now well taken. If you are directing to the Government's statement...

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**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** No, I am directing towards... as he was speaking about NPF and... Our court will also be relocated to Salelologa. Which was also the recommendation from the Opposition so that everything is accessible there. But I do agree with the Prime Minister, the money granted is being spent wisely whilst the 3 of us with the old man Aeau have been overlooked...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the speaking member I have already clarified it. You are still chit chatting to the other side.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** The financial statement has just been submitted last month. Where the Prime Minister had worked on... 40 years, and no such things were done.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the speaking member, sit down. I have terminated this matter, it is delaying the works of Parliament, as such, pardon the upstanding members. This matter will remain in this House.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, because it is a matter that must be clarified and corrected. The Hon Prime Minister is right, during my time as treasurer, for 10 years I was the treasurer for HRPP. During those years, no financial report was removed. When I had rendered my resignation as treasurer there was more money in our account. Reports were also done. But I am shocked at the statement of the Hon Prime Minister and the new Treasurer, the account was overdrawn. Then I said to them, when the account was passed on to you, there was a huge amount in it. I therefore am not aware what person.... but the voice of...because there was also a time when I was being urged by Laauli, to fix our fence, to renovate our fence. Then I said, we shall submit it to our caucus to discuss it, as it is expensive. So what I am trying to say is, during the time I had given the money to the Leader and the appointed Treasurer, there was a huge amount of money in the account. With due respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Perhaps this matter is now clarified.

**Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** The matter is short. It is clarified...thank you for this new morning, listening to the slight heated exchange in here. Nonetheless, I rise with respect, pardon the honorable Speaker, leave aside the HRPP matters but allow us to have our sitting... we can discuss that later. But submitting those here before Parliament and the country to hear. With respect.

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have already given my decision on this matter, pardon the members who are attempting to stand up.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East):** This is not the matter, please just this minor issue.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I allow the member.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** With great respect I trust the country is tuning in at this part of the day. I also believe, the reason matters are dragged resulting in the discussion of other uncovered matters. It is because we are not following our Standing Orders. Section 82(1)(2)(3), only or unless it is a point of order to a statement of standing member. Members are not allowed to interject the point of order of another member. But you can direct your statement to the current speaker or speak on a point of clarification or point of order. That is reason why matters are prolonged. The appeal, please, our Standing Order, I observe carefully, the permission comes from the Chair. We are observing here, whenever someone stands up to speak, even though permission is not granted, they still continue, but the country is listening, with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I guess this matter is repeated according to our Standing Order, it is reason for my attempts, they are stipulated here, to guide the debate of this House. Anyway, the reason for mentioning your name is for you to carry on. Although the essence here is that nobody is allowed to interrupt the interjection of another member, you speak directly to the main statement of the day.

I call upon the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to close this matter. Because your correction is directed to the current speaker, as for the other speakers, I do not mean to complain, as it took us 3 days to clarify this, we had our seminar on Standing Order, and everyone is now clarified on it. It is why I am helping you with your job, because these members were absent during the clarification of our Standing Order. The one who attended is not here, he was only there for 2 hours and had left. This is what is happening here, those who lack knowledge of our Standing Order keep rising up, and this is the reason for the prolonging.



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Despite the constant corrections, you still aim to upstand. But my correction and clarification were directed to the current speaker. As for complaints from other members, it is reason matter is being discussed extensively, thus reflecting more rising concerns. But you are so right.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you honourable Leader of the House for your statement.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Enough with the pleases Mr Speaker. I bid your forgiveness for the words spoken, let us carry on with our Sitting today.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon the respectable member of Faasaleleaga No.3 to continue your speech.

**Afioga Hon TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Thank you honourable Speaker. Because in the words of the Bible, may we find the peace of God, may we seek His righteousness as these are good things. That being said, if this constituency has made any error, I bid your forgiveness. Although the essence of the statement is gratitude unto God. He is hearing us. Appreciation to the works that was implemented in Salafai or Savaii. Because what is good for Upolu is also good for Savaii. So, developments will progress in Savaii, and gratitude for these good initiatives, in addition, our airport in Maota. For Salelologa uta, there is the long-standing airport there since the time of Tofilau...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the speaking member. I will finish soon. You may go ahead should there be anything...

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Before the Associate Minister of Health moves on. Salelologa was the township area during my former time as Minister of Works which the Hon Prime Minister was talking about.

The total cost of renovating the Salelologa township area is \$600million. But it is better to start slowly, start with the roads and see if possible, to relocate the market from the old area to the new place. Many complaints were made upon this issue, saying that the market will be relocated to the scrubland area, and what now. There is the revelation on the importance of this development and economic benefit for the big island of Salafai. And the situation stands that, one of the mens has the urge to fix the roads for the first 100 acres.

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But I thank the member for this raising matter, the construction of the township area in Salelologa in very crucial.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No 3, you have 1 more minute.

**Afioga Hon TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The Hon Liuga has also offered assistance, thank you Liuga, your statement is correct, the developments for Salafai ought to be discussed. I further thank the Minister of airlines, our Samoa Airways is now operational, and one of the key areas. To make traveling to Savaii easier, since trips to Savaii are now operational. There was also a sitting in the beginning of this year, we had attended, and the shipping service was closed. It was the airport in Maota that we, the members from Salafai had gone to, and we saw the smooth running of traveling there. Thank you for all the good works which has made the operation of aircrafts possible, it has made traveling easier between Savaii and Upolu.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the current speaker as I allow the Leader of the House.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** This new township area was constructed through a very incredible decision. The intention of the Government Leader was also the will of Salelologa village. 2872 acres of land was accepted by Salelologa and the Government Leader is also a chief of Salelologa. 2870+ was allocated to build this township site. I have already explained it, it is vital to look beyond which is reason this town was set up. When plans were laid out there was no external grant, a decision was made that we will build one step at a time. Develop the township area first to build and set up buildings.

So when the Prime Minister had passed away, there were a few issues happening towards the end. This concern would have been better if the Prime Minister was still around and then there was the decision to cease the 400+ acres to build this major Township project. So listening to Faumui's statement, he too was also part of this project. The decision was to fix the roads first. Unlike Apia, houses were firstly built thus resulting in twisted roads. The difference with Apia is that the area is mostly covered with scrubs and for that reason, majority did not settle in Apia except for a few settlements on higher grounds.

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But the arrival of Europeans and the nearby passageway for the entrance of ships by businesspeople and white people began to settle in the lands of Apia as it was close to town and ships were easy to access it back in the days, sailing boats and electric powered boats and coals were all anchored there.

So that is one of the reasons there are floods within our township area because it is a low-lying area, it is a few feet away from the sea. Mr Speaker, the Government long term vision, with the existing straight roads and the current scenery, the township in Salelologa is more beautiful. Perhaps in the next 100 years, Salelologa will be entered by large cruise ships, and it will be much easier to access. This is also why priority is given to fixing roads before the setting up of wharves are done, as the existing wharf can still cater for the anchorage of vessels.

I state this matter because it is important going forward. It is the reason they go hand in hand with Asau because there is a difference. Asau is very deep. The access is not a problem because the ocean is also wide for huge ships. That is why the entrance to the Asau harbour should be demolished, it cannot be done using a fishing destructive method. The fishing method cannot blow up growing rock to widen and deepen the entrance to attract cruise ships to our seaport area. Savaii has a lot of attractions sites for tourists to discover. Hence there is more potential in the western part of Savaii in terms of easier accessibility. Therefore, when a huge ship is built for the entire Pacific, it will be more fitting to the developments of the Government in the future, because the entrance is deep specifically within and around the harbour area for the mooring of ships and boats when carrying out fix works.

That was the complication our engineers saw during the time of Tupua Tamasese Lealofi IV in the 1970-1972 Parliament during the investigation of the Marine Engineers. These same engineers were specialized in marine related matters, which recommended the Vaiusu port as a future port for Samoa and the Pacific. So now is the time to build a Wharf in Vaiusu, to create more employment, because once it turns into a town area, then this will be the kind of ship that will come to the Pacific, before they are scheduled to travel to other countries.

So looking at the legends of Samoa during the initial arrival of the Europeans into the Pacific, this is the Apia township area, and all cargo vessels that do not go to Fiji and Tonga but is it here in the Apia town where all big ships and vessels would arrive from west and east, especially from Europe and America. Here in Apia, and a minor town in Tutuila where all ships would anchor in the past. And since the depth of the ocean in Tutuila, it is the reason why all the ships would go to whilst Apia is still the main central area.

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Therefore, this can never be removed, as truthfully speaking, Upolu is the central transitting place for traveling from America and New Zealand.

So seeing the flight connection from America to New Zealand and Australia, they fly through us instead of Fiji. Fiji appears to be more on the western end. It is the reason we would hear airplanes passing over our country in some nights from America to New Zealand, because we are the heart of the Pacific. So majority do not understand these matters.

Mr Speaker that is the reason government plans were set out for Savaii and Upolu. Savaii is unique because it holds more landarea. It is also why major development projects falls more in Savaii so as to develop Savaii. Even though there is the slow progress at this stage, however I feel that once we have the development of Salelologa in the next 100 years, there will be plentiful buildings set up in Salelologa, including seaports and the development of Asau.

Mr Speaker, these are the strategic plans of the Government. There is no short-term vision. This is the reason for returning 2.400 acres to Salelologa. That is one matter that I hear it is ceased within the village, because there is leasing of land by other people, when these are customary lands whereby communal rights of villages is involved. Once they come under the Government they are called public lands and when they were returned, there was the Law that came before this Parliament, regarding the returning of the 2,400 acres public lands to Salelologa as customary lands.

These are a few laid out issues, there are also court cases, and people have also sold, when these are customary lands. That is also why some people were desperate to stabilize these lands. The word of the Attorney General, it is impossible as it is very difficult, as these words are stated in the Constitution of the Government of Samoa.

So comes the development of Salelologa in the future there will be plentiful buildings and services available, as there is the existence of major services already in place such as schools in particular. With regards to our Government and these schools, there is the lease of 100 years per annum to \$10 per year only. So it is now allocated to set up the Catholic school for the children of Puleono Salafai including Trades which teaches carpentry, engineering, and car fixing. It will also set up the EFKS school building. So based on personal observation, there is no need to establish anymore schools when the Don Bosco school is still available for students to fill up, which is operated by very experienced teachers.

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So with the long-term plans of the Government, these projects are carried out gradually. The NPF Office is now established. Comes the next Term, there will be the establishment of more Offices in the future, and here in Salelologa, it is no different with Apia, various services and developments must be located here in the town area. When going to Aleipata, and to Apia, access will be much easier. When coming from Falelatai to Apia, you will find it easier to access the hospital. When going to Savaii towards Tuasivi area there is the Police Office and the Hospital, and when traveling from the other side in Salelologa, you will no longer need a vehicle to go there. It will be more expensive. Even public Colleges, all will be set up here in the future.

Mr Speaker, these are no minor matters the HRPP is considering, they are huge plans, which are useful for our children and future generations.

Mr Speaker, that is why I stood up, to clarify these matters as they are vital for both Upolu and Savaii given the many proposed developments laid out, which are still ongoing. The word referred to the nation of Rome, it was not built in one day. It was built gradually until it ruled the entire world. We therefore do not have such strength, so the main thing, do it in stages so that comes 100 years later, the development of Samoa will be greatly improved. Mr Speaker that is the clarification for this major development, since there are many long-term plans laid out by the State, which are currently in progress gradually.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well done thank you honorable Leader of the Government, Salafai is tuning in, and I wish to extend them appreciation for the long-term plans implemented.

I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.3, do conclude your remarks please as your time is finished.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Very well thank you honorable Speaker. I know the statement is well given in relation to the big island of Salafai for these developments. Such is the appreciation for these long-term plans and development projects which are now carried out.

There are a few pleas I wish to voice before our Government, there is the concrete bridge in Lano, and a concrete bridge in Sapapalii in relation to rivers and a possible water explosion. There are however 2 appeals, for another cemented bridge in Saipipi. The flooding incident that happened at the start of this year which affected Apia and Upolu is unforgettable, and water is plentiful in our village of Saipipi due to the waterflow from Tapueleele and Patamea, and it could affect the entire area in Amoa. It is like the saying, "*E a ulu tafeaga ae selefutia Vaisigano.*"

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That is what is happening in Amoa and Faasaleleaga, because of this river and its deep valley inside. So our village of Saipipi is highly impacted from floodings affecting the entire field in the village causing vehicle blockage, and people's inaccessibility due to outpouring water over the seawall area. So what to do next, a machinery was brought to demolish the seawall constructions, pardon me, in order for water to flow into the sea. For that matter, we do appeal for a concrete road for our village of Saipipi and Tapueleele. I know there is the ongoing project in Vaiaata and... This is one important area, and I know that if the road is fixed, they will turn to implement a concrete road, for the sake of a few schools located there.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member, do consider my job as the Chair as I have already made aware, but do conclude now, as you are still speaking of other things when there is another opportunity after here. The Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure is noting down everything else, which is the spirit.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Thank you honorable Speaker, the preparations of this constituency are almost complete. Then I come to the Ministry of Health, which we are...

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East):** Mr Speaker, is there a chance please.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Go ahead member for Anoamaa East.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** No, since we are all aware that this is the last time for members to give their speeches. Therefore can I appeal for additional time, the Speaker has also spoken, there are times when we have interruptions which is the norm. Well. Is it possible for the old man to be given an extended time to finish his speech.

With due respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. We have an appeal, and it seems that...Fine, we have now arrived at our recess hour, as such I grant you the chance to finish now as we near our interval time. But do conclude now member for Faasaleleaga No.3.

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**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications and Information Technology):** Can I get a chance Mr Speaker...

No I upstand to give support to the motion moved by Alaiasa, as I observe that there is still a lot that the member is yet to speak about in relation to his constituency. It is reason for giving this plea again. Thank you.

*Seconded by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion has been seconded. I cannot stop the proceedings of the House as I must put forth the question.

The member has spoken, it is finished, and it is yet to...then it is done. Even though, the motion is again being moved again. Regardless, lest this becomes my mistake.

*The House gave unanimous consent on the motion.*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Since we have arrived at our normal morning recess, the additional 2 minutes for the current member is granted since he has not yet reached his constituency, therefore Proceedings will be suspended for normal 15 minutes break. Thank you.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for normal recess at 10:45am and resumed at 11:35am.*

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

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

The respected members of Parliament have been rejuvenated so that we can resume our works this morning, furthermore new air and new strength is now received from our recess earlier today.

During the suspension of the Proceedings of the House, the member for Faasaleleaga No.3 was speaking. Therefore I allow the member to resume your speech.

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**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** I thank the Speaker of the House, for the chance granted upon me to resume my speech. We have gained new strength from our recess upon the Leader of the Government and the Cabinet, including all the members of the House. Thank you to the Legislative Assembly Office.

I further heed the support of our constituency upon me. There are many matters I have left, but I obey you. If I have the chance, it will not be long now, thank you for the chance.

Then I come to my constituency. Greetings to you and your support especially the villages of Faga, Siufaga in Salimu, greetings also to the Six alii of Faga, Afioga Unasa and your lineage, Afioga Nonumalo and family, Afioga Lefinealii and family, Afioga Toala and the Sa Toala family, *afio o Sooaemalelagi ma lo outou aiga, afio foi Ufagalilo ma lo outou aiga*. These are the honorifics of *the Six Chiefs of Faga* Toaono o alii o Faga. Thank you for your support and prayers.

I also greet the Aiga Taulagi, Afioga Vaafusuaga and Toleafoa, also the Four Speaking Orators, orator Pini and Vaisau, orator Laufiso and Tapuala, who is tasked with giving our oratory speech. Well done.

I acknowledge the presence of our elderlies, orator Tuileutu and your family. Tuileutu who was also part of this Parliament, you have been crowned as the Elder Deacon of the Matagaluega of Faasaleleaga, well done. The dignitaries of Faleaana and Salemuliaga, well, we heed your support and prayers. Also the support of priests and reverends and families of the Ecclesias, thank you for prayers and support upon our Government and their duties, we are all well.

Last month we had the launching of the road extending from Sapini, Salimu including many other major projects implemented by the State in Faga. We have been blessed to have achieved all these developments. For that matter, I thank the Leader of the Government and the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for achieving these many important projects, not only the roads, but also the seawall areas up to Tuasivi covering Luua and Salimu. Thank you to the Government for all these good works, we are still observing, these were the very matters that I had raised right from the start. Because for us in Faasaleleaga No.3 we are very much affected from tidal waves, floodings, tsunami, but thankfully, we now have fixed access roads towards the settlements in the coastal area. Thank you very much to the Government for implementing things for the best. As such, that is the spirit.

Then I come to the village of Saasaai, *aua le afio o le Taulagi ma...*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the current speaker, I allow the Leader of the House.



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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, I have no intention of interrupting the speech by the member. I note that it is nearing its conclusion.

Mr Speaker, I take the floor, because there is a very important meetings of the Leaders of the Pacific in 15 minutes. This meeting has not been able to be held face to face but with the use of internet portal and there are serious issues that will be discussed, especially the situation of this deadly disease of Covid-19. We are now moving on to discuss the ways to begin the process of distributing vaccines to share, especially the decision that should be made because there are 232 different types of vaccines. There are different countries where research is being done, and there are many choices that must be made. There are vaccines that need be cooled down to 70 degrees below zero. There is another that is only 2 to 8 degrees cold, so that is the one that is compatible with our warm climate, but these are the decisions. Those are the issues that will be discussed, it will only be a few more minutes and the meeting will begin.

There are serious issues that will be discussed for the progress of our country in the solution of the deadly disease affecting the entire Pacific. It has also been heard that the other 18 Pacific countries of the Forum have begun to be vaccinated, especially those under the supervision of the United States and France. But there is an area where there is still caution, which is now, we are monitoring the effects, as you know, we have vaccines to kill other diseases such as polio, where a lot of our people became crippled. But that is the level of caution that exists, so that these injections are safe. So it is not limited to the process, it is not limited there.

Another difficult situation is after the vaccination, a vaccinated person has to be monitored for side effects. Meaning that after the injection, these precautions continue, precautions to stay apart, the precautions of washing hands before eating and wearing a mask. That condition will continue for some time. Many topics will be discussed.

Therefore I take the floor to ask your permission Mr Speaker, this is the way to ask while everyone is listening, I will leave my seat, if you look at this side, the Cabinet is all here, and it is a Cabinet that recognizes the principles of our Standing Orders.

This is why I stood up, to officially announce and ask for your permission, because it is only the Chair that gives us the approval. Then we will leave our seats and I will be absent to attend to other duties as you have heard, during the time Tofa Lavea Levi was at the 2AP he coined the phrase putting aside other valuable matters for other useful matters.

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Mr Speaker this is my request that I will not be present, but I will continue to pray, that we be part of our deliberations in spirit and not in body. That is a statement with respect, and I humbly say that other useful things will be put aside on behalf of other important matters.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Leader of Government for the statement. Your Excellency wait until after the statement of the Chair.

The House as well as the Parliament, and the holiness of Samoa have heard. The formalities of leaving the Chair when the Parliament is convened. The good leadership of the Government, especially this House, is very important, we are the chosen Leaders of the country. This has been voiced under official standards as accorded in our Standing Orders, in terms of asking permission for approval from the Chair. To leave other important matters and to participate in normal situations like the Pacific Leaders Meeting, which is very important. It is also a chance and opportunity to remind the sanctity of elected members of the country, the situation of leaving the Chair without the permission of the Chair.

I want to convey a recommendation, now that the Leader of the House has voiced formalities, and the Chair has given permission. However, it is also good for me to re-introduce the conditions of your seat without official permission. This has been made known this morning. It is important especially for new members who wish to come into the House, and other new Parties. In the context of Parliamentary work, it should be clear and well understood. Do not stand up and leave the meetings of Parliament, you must seek the authority, you must first ask the permission of the Chair. As I have stated, I am today, but one of you will be tomorrow. In case one stands and leaves, then it will be seen as the Chair being neglected. This is the glory of Samoa and this Parliament. Therefore, Hon Prime Minister and Leader of the House, the Chair officially gives permission for you to leave, and thank you for everything. It is good for all of us to follow, it is unethical to just stand and leave, without consideration, like it is a meeting for children. It is formalities, I wish you the best in your participation in the Pacific Leaders Forum thus for a contribution of Samoa.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, such are the characteristics of the House it seems the actions of others, are being shadowed by others. May the Sitting be successful.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your Excellency I hope you convey foresight whilst the support of our country and the House.

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**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, I ask permission for an opportunity, to wish him all the best in their meeting, I am grateful this morning for the formal request of the Hon Prime Minister. I am grateful that the term is now ending, but he has just now made an official request before the House.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Olo, I would like to remind you of Standing Order 82 (4), since you are trying to ensue conflict, but read our Standing Orders so that our orders run smoothly. The Speaker should not touch on 92 and 91. I would like to remind you that (4) 82 unless you interrupt or whatever, unless the Chair permits. When the Chair clearly addresses the point of order, clarification, and so forth. This is a reminder, so that it does not happen again in the future.

Pardon the member, but I will first give the opportunity to the member of Falealili East.

**Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo:** Thank you for the opportunity. I carefully observed the administration of the House, thank you. I note that you are trying not to apply Standing Orders 91 and 92. As the word of the *faafafine* states, apply it, apply it, with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Chair will not be tempted into situations that may affect the opinions of our Parliament and country. Not only with our Orders but our affiliation and custody. This is why Tofa Olo listen carefully, I am upholding this, since you are my brother. It is a shame since you are now Salega, but if we go to Saleaula, I do not have to tell you all about it.

Therefore let us adhere our Standing Orders, so that we will not be affected. Not only with our Orders, but the Chair cannot ignore mutual respect and practices that should be followed. *E tetele lava pesega ae matua lava i le o'o.* (*Looks threatening but is quite harmless*) Yes, we first thanked the heavens, as it is this morning.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Education if there is anything you would like to say. I can see that another...

**Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Thank you, but no the matter is quite clear. But thank you for the opportunity.

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**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** Mr Speaker, I stand with respect, since it was mentioned that this is the first time that the Hon Prime Minister has asked permission. But if our Parliament were to take note last week, he was involved with the Leaders of Polynesia Meeting, and he also officially asked permission from the Chair, this is a point of order, thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The continuous comments made on how the work of the House is administered, reminds me of what should be reminded to members. Not being present for 2 hours in sessions is the same as not attending a Sitting for the whole day. I have already instructed the Clerk, to note down members, who have not given in official excuse for not attending. Thus this matter is constantly being questioned, an excuse for not attending to the Chair, another member cannot convey an excuse through another. That is the matter, all of you are seniors in the House, and the Chair has to properly guide the situation, and the administration of the work, so that it is not delayed.

I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No.3, I ask that you commence to conclude.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENILIO TAMA GALU:** Mr Speaker, thank you. I note this morning that there are many interruptions, yes, but I am trying, thank you for the opportunity. Another half hour has been added for me, thank you.

I have now arrived at our constituency, the village of Faga, you have seen the work carried out by Government. Blessed are we, blessed are we in this season that there are many developments. This is why we are grateful to the Government and especially our community who have been requesting these works for a long time.

Then to the village of Saasaai, *aua le afio o le Taulagi, Vaafusuaga ma Toleafoa, aemaise foi o lau afioga Tea ma lo outou aiga. O oe lava o le taulagai, afio le susuga i le Maopu ma usoalii, alalatai lau fetalai Segi o le matua fetalai. Faapea le pule a Leuu ma Salemuliaga.*

I commend you for the support, thank you for your prayers for your member. I cannot forget the Holy Servants of God, who are praying for the success of the Parliament and Samoa. I know that there are works that have already been implemented by Government, especially our existing roads, which are the good works implemented by the previous term. This is the only thing left, we are requesting that it be added on inland. According with the damages made by the sea on us, we have already made a request for a seawall. The Government is still carrying out its developments, there are so many, but I thank you all for the support.

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Now to my beloved village of Saipipi the respects *of aiga Taulagi. Lau afioga i le sao Tofa ma lo tatou aiga sa Tofa, susu foi le maopu o le Taulagi, lau susuga Sua, afio le alo o Vaafusuaga, lau afioga Utumapu ma usoalii. Alalatai lau tofa i le tama o le nuu, lau fetalaiga Tutuaitu Samuelu ma le mamalu o le falefitu. Ia faapea foi le alalatai o lau fetalaiga Tataufaiga, ma le mamalu i le faleupolu o tofiga ia Salemuliaga.* Also faletua and tausi, o saoo and the strength of the village, I thank you for the support. I would like to express my gratitude to the religious leaders of our community, thank you for your prayers and support, especially for this Parliamentary term. We are nearing the end of the term, and everything is well. I know that there are projects that started at the beginning of this term. Our roads in Saipipi, which was implemented in 2016, there are other works planned for other roads, but leave it to Government for their distribution.

Another aspect we want to thank Government, for our school in Saipipi, which is now being constructed. It has now been 3 weeks since the new school building started, and I thank the Government of Japan, JICA, because this Government is helping with many school building projects in the villages. This is thanks to the Government, through its partnership with other countries and these organizations that is why we get assistance, which is why I am grateful. I also want to thank our village of Saipipi, I believe I have stood to answer your wishes, but thank you for the honor, for the family Sa Tofa. I have accepted your calling as it was, but let us leave it unto God, for whatever the decision made in the elections next month. God alone knows everything, have faith in God. As long as your servant is used again, praise be to God.

Now to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry where the Hon Minister and our people were appointed. Because she started with the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, but now it is ending here, thank you. They were chosen into the Ministry without knowing anything. However it is God who helped, who assisted with weakness in mind, and now they have been equipped with knowledge, to carry out the work.

The Ministry of Health office, I do not have to reiterate, this is one Ministry that has many tasks that assist the country. As stated in the phrase we constantly see on television and hear on the radio. Your health is your wealth. This can also be reversed; your health is dependent on your wealth. Such guidelines are very inspiring.

The dignity of Parliament and Samoa, this is what the Ministry is trying to promote, to make health a priority. There are many patients, but the advice of doctors and this Ministry is to prioritize your good health. Let us obey the advice of the doctors, as soon as they give advice, let us also feel humble enough to obey their advice for our good health.

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Because that is the benchmark, your wealth is your health. You can get everything, money and all things through wealth, but if your health is not good, it has no meaning. This is the emphasis of this Ministry to Samoa and the situation it is in. Therefore this is the spirit to let you all know of the guidelines, let us be strong.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Hon Madam Minister, Afioga Faimalotoa Kika Stowers. Thank you for the work, thank you also for calling of your weak brother, to work with you, under the Ministry of Health. Thank you for the advice and encouragement. I have stood up and walked, thus such is the attitude of a leader. As the saying goes, walk the talk, talk and walk. Such words are important, if it is to lead, you have to stand up and walk, check and observe, those are the qualities of a good leader, that is a leader who is just and do well in their duties. Talk the walk, walk the talk, therefore thank you for the hard work implemented in the Ministry.

I also want to thank the Chief Executive of the Ministry, Afioga Leausa Samau Toleafoa. I know you are doctor but thank you for the various duties done for this big Ministry. Yes, you have done a lot, thank you for your patience, and courage in our work, I commend you.

I also want to thank the Assistant Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health, especially our doctors. Attending to various services during night and day, day and night, there are so many services but thank you all for the courage. Moreover I want to thank the Chief Executive and our Ministry....

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member, I ask that you conclude, since the additional time given for your speech has ended.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Those who are quarantined, this is one major job, our people who arrive are taken to hotels to be quarantined, this is one big job of the Ministry, therefore thank you. I am grateful to the Ministry of Health, for the outstanding work, there are times when we see errors, not only with...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are interrupting again; the speech is concluding. I note that the member of Faasaleleaga No.3 is nearly finished. Well, you may proceed.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** I wish to understand the statement conveyed by the member speaking. Not long ago, I moved a motion for additional time for his speech.

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However since he is now speaking about health, I feel this is an important aspect, health is your wealth, is this right respectable member. I though alright, it seems the message is broadly given. Because if we look at it now especially as we approach the elections. There are some healthy people who are going around to disturb our wealth. This is why, I ask the member to be more direct with his statement, it is too general. But if we look at it, it is derived from those who are healthy such standards nowadays. With respect, this is what I want to understand.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The statement by the member, is a word of thanks for the work implemented, thus we have seen it on TV, and also heard it on radio. The work of the Ministry of Health is still being continued. This means if it is mentioned in general by the member, this is common term, repetition. This is not a problem, but I appease the member, your time is up therefore I respectfully ask you conclude your speech.

**Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU:** Thank you Mr Speaker, this is the spirit, to put health first. It also gives you happiness and strength, which is your wealth. I will now try and conclude my speech.

Gratitude to the Ministry of Health. I am grateful now that each district hospital has a doctor. Here in Upolu, each health center now has a doctor. It is easier for our people to go to the district hospitals than coming all the way to Motootua. This is the same for Savaii, each hospital has a doctor, and I usually visit these hospitals in Savaii, from Satupaitea, to Foailalo, Sataua, Safotu, Vaipouli, including other services. Mr Speaker this is the only hospital in Vaipouli. Thank you very much for our district hospital, it has a lot of benefits. This hospital is monitored by the doctor who is in Safotu. On Mondays and Wednesdays the doctor comes and checks on patients. But thank you for this hospital, during the time of the measles outbreak. This is where some children were quarantined, this is the significance of this hospital. Because it is located inland, at the time Vaipouli College was situated, it was important. Therefore no matter what kind of diseases there are causing chaos in the world, our hospital in Vaipouli is very important.

I am also grateful for other district hospitals in Savaii, thank you to the authority of Alii and Faipule. When I visited, they are maintaining peace, especially the safety of the workers. Therefore I want to thank the council of Alii and Faipule, Puleono for looking over our hospitals. It is our district hospitals, but we are reliant on the authority. You guard and maintain the safety, especially in assisting with some errands.

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This is why your Excellency especially the dignity of this Parliament this is gratitude for the work that is being done, for district hospitals, the Tuasivi hospital, which is the main hospital where all the work is dependent. There are 4 to 5 doctors working there, Tuasivi is the main area where work in Salafai is established. This is the spirit, but there are other matters, however I am obedient to the Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

Lastly, I want to thank our senior members who will be retiring. Thank you for the contribution you have given, I do not need to explain, congratulations on your duties, blessed are you. You are now going to retire with victory hence still serving Parliament. Therefore thank you to these gentlemen, thank you for your patience, and your bravery. Perhaps there are other duties the Lord has prepared for you all.

Lastly, our constituency, thank you for the support, also thank you for everything. Thank you Mr Speaker, God bless you and this Parliament, also all the best with today and the House of Samoa.

*Parliament expressed their happiness with applause after the speech of the member for Faasaleleaga No 3.*

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):**  
Mr Speaker...

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

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua:** Thank you for the opportunity, I am a little hesitant, but it is difficult now that Lualemana's motion is laid before us, and the Bills clarified are quite clear. However, apologies your Honor [.....].

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Chair does not have a response. Nevertheless, for the understanding of members, if you have not finished there are other opportunities for each item when it comes to order but thank you for the speech. Hon Minister, there is no need to justify it, it is alright.

The Aiga Taulagi has heard, the support of the constituency, I commend you for the remarks and preparations. The speech conveyed has covered everything in detail. Thank you for this term. Parliament is now open for another member who wishes to speak.

The Chair has been noted by Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers, female member of the constituency of Gagaifomauga No 3.



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Apologies Faaulusau but I will give the opportunity...

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi’a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiaia Sepulona Moananu:** Mr Speaker, I feel different on the matter voiced by the Hon Minister. But considering my position as the whip I take the floor with respect. It seems my statement made earlier on members excuse has prompted the actions seen in the House which reflects our work is not considered respectful. Therefore I recommend the House, to uphold the dignity of our work. Such excuses will no longer be accepted, I commend the Chair for his bravery. Thank you for your patience. May the Proceedings of our council be successful with respect. But when HRPP holds a meeting, a fine will be imposed for the Minister.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you member of Anoamaa East for your assistance, whom is the whip. The opinion conveyed is important, it is a reason why the Chair was hesitant, because it is inappropriate. There is a big difference between Standing Orders and what has emerged. However the student does not teach the teacher. I was afraid to bring it up, the old man that sits in the Chair is a man of tradition, I can speak on other aspects. The spirit is to uphold the dignity and formality of the House. I am trying to uphold the respects of our members. The House has also heard the formalities of asking permission. No, it is stated in Standing Orders, to leave the House and session. It does not state anything else; it is important that these aspects are clear. I thought everything was made clear. The matter on leaving the House, for other matters, including the country as a whole, this means they will no longer attend the Council. As for the situation regarding other aspects I will not speak on it further. Therefore conclude this matter here, for the sake of the country listening in.

Pardon the member but I have concluded this matter.

**Tofa Hon Lopao Natanielu Mua:** Mr Speaker, alright thank you. I apologize but that was the Order that you clarified.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. We will now progress with our orders.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, apologies, since the excuse made by the Hon Minister has been recorded. Such things should not be recorded in the House, the respectable House of the country. The Chair is right, the tree is known by its fruit. And the statement made in this House should not be voiced lightly, this is quite unpleasant.

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**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Move a motion to remove these words.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** I move a motion, *To remove these words.*

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** I second the motion Mr Speaker, these words are thoughtless.

*Seconded by the member of Gagaifomauga No 3.*

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Under Standing Orders motion has been seconded therefore a question is put forth.

*Motion approved.*

[Words ordered by the Speaker to be removed from the records of the speech of the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries - “*Ua fia tuua lou nofoa, ou te fia agai atu i tua, pe maua se faatagaga.*”]

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My decision has been made, and I do not want to mention it anymore. Apologies to the House, there is no need to think about it. I call upon another member so that we can continue our work.

I call upon the female member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend you for your patience in administering our Sitting.

Before I move on, I would like to formally greet your Excellency occupying the Chair of David this morning, as well as the Hon Prime Minister, but I believe Afioga Tuitama is present and since the Prime Minister is absent, he is now the Deputy Prime Minister, therefore he will be addressed as the Prime Minister in my speech. I greet the Hon Prime Minister and the respects of Cabinet, Associate Ministers as well as respectable members of the House.

I acknowledge as well the support of Samoa and His Excellency O le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, to the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady, to the chosen Holy Servants of God throughout every denomination. I also acknowledge all of Samoa and its honorific salutations.

Whether I will speak upon it or not, the glory and honor of Samoa will never be lost, from the past to now and into eternity.

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Now to the highlights or important events that took place in this Term since we started our journey. These are the important milestones for myself, the Christianisation of our Constitution, and the expansion of the Land and Titles Court, with its implementation in the Constitution. This has reflected the importance and recognition of the Authority of Alii and Faipule. These are the most important highlights to me as a member in this Term.

It is true that there were many Bills, but these are the measures that I found significant. Therefore I will not speak upon it, but I mentioned it for our records. There are other important matters seen this Term, the remarks previously made are true. This is Parliamentary term is different.

Mr Speaker, the first thing that makes this term different is that there are 5 women in the House of Samoa. And this is a first, for the number of women in Parliament to reach five. This is another feature that makes this term very different, because there are only 5 but also all are beautiful. This is where I wish to convey a statement.

It is not a secret the seat that I am occupying is for women representatives. It is for the completion of the 10% as provided under the Act, to complete the 10% for women representation in Parliament. Mr Speaker if we look at the progress of the Parliament of Samoa since its independence, there has never been a time when so many women were elected in the General Elections.

Although there is not much difference between men and women in the number of votes in Samoa, the voters opinion is mainly skewed towards men. I believe it is because of our tradition and culture. It seems that the priority is given to men. Now, based on the population of Samoa in 2016, it was 195,000 and it is growing. And in that amount, 59% of the population are voters, 59% of the 195,000. Of this 59%, 48% is the number of female voters, and 52% are male voters. There is not much difference between the voters compared to women.

However, the choice is heavily reliant on men. The purpose of the statement is, no matter how skilled and qualified a women is, it is quite difficult to succeed in coming into the House. This is where a request is conveyed, Mr Speaker, so it can be noted. I already know that there is an Act that states 10% women representation in the House, but how about if it was increased to 15%? Or else 7 women representatives in Parliament.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi'a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, is the member upstanding on a point of order or a point of clarification.

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**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi’a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** It is a point of order.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi’a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu:** I take note of the speech of the member, on the situation of gender equality. This is one issue that is mainly seen around the world at this time. If this is a statement made by a man, there will be a lot of accusations that will be made against the man. This is why I am asking Mr Speaker, because it seems there is prejudice in my understanding to not vote for men, on the statement being conveyed.

This is the issue seen in the world, it is also why there is conflict in big countries. As for our country and our democracy, it is calm, it is still peaceful. This is my opinion on this, it is the same thing but it is changing. If the member were to look at the Heads of Government Ministries, the majority is still men. However with such statement made considering we are nearing elections, I want to advise the member, that she should be objective of her statement this morning. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, there are similar situations in the Court, if such statement is made, the judge would say, can you rephrase your question?

The meaning of the statement is that the Chair has a similar feeling. The feedback is important in its own right as a whole, but it is adjusted accordingly in the context in which feedback is given.

Therefore, the member you may proceed.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker...

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 as I give the opportunity to the member of Palauli le Falefa.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the presentation by the member, thus she stated one of the achievements of this Parliamentary term. This is the Christian position in the Constitution, the teachings of the Bible, this is not the case.

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The Bible is very clear, this is the overseas context which we are trying to follow. It is not compatible with our culture and our Christian faith with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It seems that the matter have differed and it seems the judge has given up trying to sort it out, but the spirit is, pardon the member, be direct with your opinion, because the speech is well stated.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker, when I look at the members who stood to interrupt, it seems they are mourning over the wrong funeral. As for the matter mentioned by the member of Anoamaa, there is no intention of slander in my statement. The information given, are factual information. It is not a statement to be taken seriously but lightly.

The seat I am sitting in, is the seat for women, but because of the support of my constituency I have been able to get this seat. Therefore a comment should be made about the contribution of this group. Therefore I have gathered some information, to emphasize a statement voiced here, but the respectable member should not worry.

The statement made in regards to the matter, well it is true. This is the spirit of the statement, because it is important to me. It is important to put the phrase in the Constitution, that Samoa is founded in God, because that is the only thing that was there. But its Christianization is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, that is where an explanation was conveyed.

I humbly ask members to please not stand up. The Hon Prime Minister is not standing up, but that is a humble request. Whatever issue...

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Mr Speaker...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now the member is taking the floor since you have mentioned the Ministry, I call upon the Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I take the floor to express my full support for the speech of the member. Since that is the responsibility of this Ministry, it is to recognize the rights of women in Samoa, you may continue with your wonderful speech.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It seems the Hon Minister has given you the opportunity but not the Chair, therefore proceed.

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**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** It is unfortunate that you are not coming back next term, because I will definitely come back, and follow through with your statement. The bottom line is, what if it is increased to 15% or the presence of 7 women in Parliament. If it is not appropriate to change the current Act of 10%, is there any other way to add another 2 women to make it 7 in the House. Well that is a humble request.

One of the matters I have seen during my time as a member in the House in this period of life is the Ministry of Police. I believe it was also mentioned in previous speeches, regarding the security of Samoa, especially with the drug situation. This is also the situation whereby, the Authority of Alii and Faipule is very important, to support the work of the Ministry of Police and Prisons.

Not long ago I saw on TV, in the village of Faleatiu, it was seen on television that the residents were assisting police with their work, in trying to setup taboos, for the road people go to where there are many drugs. It is good work, it is a good endeavor for Alii and Faipule in the village and constituencies to devise a plan, to find those who are implementing this crime. The reason why I have mentioned this matter, at the moment, we are constantly seeing this problem. I strongly believe, perhaps in the next 5 to 10 years, it will be a silent killer to our youth, the possession of narcotics and ice. But this time...

**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** Mr Speaker, an opportunity please.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apologies to the female member of Gagaifomauga No.3, but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Communication.

**Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** Thank you, I did not want to interrupt the wonderful speech of the member. I take the floor since there was a mention of our village Faleatiu with the good work done to assist our police force. Unfortunately, there was another statement, saying the road that leads to where there are many drugs. Mr Speaker this is the reason for taking the floor, there are no such things there. I testify that majority of the time police carry out inspections and suspect the area, but there has been nothing found there.

This reflects the good leadership of Alii and Faipule. It seems that there are no such things in our country. As for our constituency, the member has stated, the importance of the work of Alii and Faipule in assisting police, and that is how everything is calm and most of these laws in our country have been repealed, this does not mean it is only in my constituency.

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The statement by the member about women is important, because it reminds us of Samoa's position in the Pacific in terms of having more women and recognition in the House. Samoa is the first country in the Pacific to make this law to add women and their seats, so if you do not have 10% of the votes after elections, then measures are taken to elect another woman with a majority of votes, as mentioned by Afioga Faaulusau, it is the reason she is now seated in Parliament.

I thank the member for raising such important matters, also thank you for the support.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, this is the duty of members elected from one constituency to another. It is to protect the dignity of their constituency. The Hon Minister has responded, which is right, therefore I advise the member speaking, to avoid mentioning the name of villages, but only to mention it in a formal and respectful manner.

This is a recommendation of the Chair, I call upon the member speaking..

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister of Police and Prisons):** Mr Speaker an opportunity please..

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Alright, is it a point of clarification or a point of order...

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** Mr Speaker, it is a point of clarification.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, I call upon the Hon Minister...

**Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt:** I would like to thank the member in accordance with the delivery of thanks to the Ministry. The only matter is, the previous raid carried out was not to look for drugs. It was a search for the prisoner Chong Nee who we cannot seem to find. We received information that he was living in the mountains within the constituency, which led to the raid.

As for illegal drugs, the Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Customs still have a lot of work to look through packages it is brought in. This is one way cocaine and other drugs can be brought in, especially marijuana. It also comes from within, but the Ministry needs the support of the public.

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If anyone knows where these drugs are produced in the country, I ask that you please call the Police department and then they can come and find it. It is not possible for the Ministry of Police alone to protect the country against illegal drugs, it needs the support of the public. To inform us if there are people in the villages that are using or producing ice in their homes. Because it can be done with the pills available in Samoa, with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, this is a word of advice, it is a situation to avoid the mention of names of villages and so forth. However the foresight is with the members in voicing their opinions, it is also gratitude to the support of Alii and Faipule.

I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you also to the Hon Minister for clarifying the matter of illegal drugs. Apologies Hon Minister of Communications, with the mention of one of the villages in your constituency. You should be happy about it because of the honor given to one of your villages, because of the good work that is being done. But if the wording of the statement is wrong in any way, such are mistakes in speeches made in the House which ends in disagreements, I apologize again to the Hon Minister.

I am also grateful for the statement conveyed by the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons. But the reason why the Minister of Communication took the floor, was the mention of the name of his constituency. Thus the Hon Prime Minister is present to respond to anything I need. This is a prayer to the Hon Minister, it is to monitor, but that is also my observation.

I believe that ice is being made here it is the reason why it is found...

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker, just an assistance to the member...

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

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Since it was mentioned that there are lot of drugs inland, but to assist in the matter, maybe there is more at the centre than inland. This is my assistance.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the member to continue her speech. This is just elderly advice.



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**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** Thank you, this concludes this matter, now a word to the Ministry of Education, to the Minister of Education, the Chief Executive and the Ministry. Thank you for the work implemented. It has been observed that the level of education of the children of Samoa has increased. But this member notes, that there are some Political Parties that have stated in their objectives, to pay teachers in church schools. This is a matter that I mentioned at the start of this Parliamentary term.

The reason why I mention it now, is convey a word of thanks to the Hon Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education, it will now be done. They are starting to prepare, thank you for accepting a request, because I believe, they are starting to prepare in order to meet the conditions or rates to pay teachers of church schools. Thank you, that is why I have mentioned this matter.

I also mention the Ministry, please I heard that there are funds allocated for a sports field of my village Aopo, I believe it is with you but I hope it will be delivered in the future. I pray that it be done, because there are many children now playing sports in our constituency, also the field we have now is in need of improvement. This is heard in the speeches of some members.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, a point of clarification. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call upon the member of Salega.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** I thank the member for mentioning this matter saying that there is a Political Party who have initiated an objective of paying salaries for pre-school and church school teachers. This is a good thing, but the only thing I want to remind members is that I also listened to other speeches by our Government, in 2011 and before that, but nothing has been accomplished.

As for this FAST Political Party, Samoa this is the truth. I know you are tired of asking and nothing is done. With respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon the member speaking, there was no mention of your Party's name. The only statement made was there is a Political Party. There was no mention of the Political Party of the member that interrupted.

Therefore I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 to continue.

**Afioga Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** Mr Speaker I ask for an opportunity. I stand with respect.

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

**Afioga Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai:** I stand with respect since there was mention of previous speeches, I pray with respect, since we all came together in this term, there were no such statements made. Even to this day, the Government continues to respond to such queries regarding teachers and schools in the future. But since the country is listening, it is stated that it was mentioned in 2001, 2010 I think we should not use such information, as it would mislead the country.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you...

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Mr Speaker, a point of order, because that time was 2006...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I appease the member, it looks like the both of you are talking about this, but ignore the speech. There are Standing Orders where an interruption cannot be made to another interruption.

**Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai:** Well that was the time when you were preparing to enter politics. I am talking about that time with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I appease the member have some consideration for the Chair, well such are our practices...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Mr Speaker can I have an opportunity please? I have a different matter.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you...

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Yes it is out of respect, I do not want to interrupt as one of the members of this constituency takes the floor.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes because it is your sister that is currently speaking, you may proceed.

**Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea:** Apologies but I am mindful of our records. We are dependent on the Chair since we are now talking about salutations of the Prime Minister.

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It may seem harmless now as we joke, but the records of the House will remain. In case there might come a day when it is questioned, whether there are new positions, but the Leader of Government is upstanding on other matters, but this is my concern. Faaulusau, in case it is noted that you have implemented something new, with the mention of the Minister and Prime Minister, there will come a time. This is a humble request, it is not something to gain favor Hon Minister, but these records will last forever. But you can still state your concerns, hence the Hon Prime Minister is not present, but the Cabinet is here to respond to our queries. This is a recommendation to the member to ensure that your speech is conveyed in a proper manner.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for the recommendation, this is also why the Chair was trying to convey a word to the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. But the recommendation is good.

**Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio:** Mr Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The members who spoke are also listening. I will now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Education.

**Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio:** Thank you, I do not want to interrupt the wonderful speech of the member. However it is noted, that some of the issues being raised are not worth hearing which has already pass. The member should speak directly upon the salaries of church school teachers as noted. It is true that plans are underway and are being laid out by Government in this regard. And what measure taken by Government to pay. It has not just started, but it is already in the middle, the preparations are not easy.

But for the clarification of the House, they are being paid at the moment under the grant titled OGG, One Government Grant. Teachers are paid, 60% of that money is used to pay teachers of Churches and Private schools. This means that they are paid with respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification, I call upon the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 to continue.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker, i just want to touch on the matter mentioned by the Hon Minister of Women, there is no spirit of initiating anything, remember that every member is like me, when we speak we mention Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and so forth.

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Whether the Hon Prime Minister is present or not, I believe that the Cabinet will be the Prime Minister's representatives in the House when he is absent. Just like Your Honor, whether the Speaker comes or not, you will still be addressed as Mr Speaker.

Now a word to the office of the Electoral Commissioner. I noticed that the period of registration for voters have been extended. It was sad to see the overcrowding and the harm on the members of the public where they gathered for the last day of registration. We all are aware that our country is like that, they all wait until the last minute before they do anything.

But I believe that there are ways and methods that can be used to solve this problem. Therefore I want to voice a statement to the Bureau of Statistics. They are the ones that collect information on the number of the population, those who are alive, voters in all different groups, the Electoral Commission can use this data collected so they can see how many people are left who are not registered, then use this data given by the Bureau of Statistics. We should look at a way to resolve this problem, because I believe it will happen again, but there are ways where information can be shared within the Ministry, the relevant Ministries...

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of the Electoral Commission.

**Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu (Minister of Justice and Courts Administration):** Mr Speaker, I take note of the opinion of the member, however the Electoral Office and the Bureau of Statistics are currently working together for a system that will enable them to use data from Statistics.

Also another matter in regards to what we saw during registrations where there were crowds, it should not be in this situation. The reason why it resulted to that situation is, the Electoral Office have been advertising for a whole year for them to come and transfer, to register, however our people left it to the last minute. This is the reason why such incident occurred that we witnessed. With utmost respect.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I believe the matter has been clarified, I call upon the member speaking to continue.

**Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY STOWERS:** Thank you Hon Minister. Well I am just voicing some concerns so that this issue can be solved, because this information can be used to know the different parts of the country where is necessary for the staff to go. That is the purpose of stating this matter.

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These are the only important aspects that I wanted to comment upon, because of the significance to this member. But I will now speak upon the smooth progress of the economy our country today, especially in this period where diseases exist. It started with the measles until now, it has been more than a year since there were restrictions in the country. But what position are we in now? It seems like nothing is happening. The lifestyle in Samoa is still the same everything is going well, nothing is affected. However if we look at overseas countries, when they were affected with the pandemic, the damage encountered was huge, especially to the economy. But these are the visible signs of the good stability of Samoa's economy, the preparations implemented by those at the helm. Thank you. The Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry, and the respects of Cabinet and the Hon Prime Minister, I commend you all for your efforts. There is absolutely nothing happening here in Samoa, absolutely nothing. I believe it is only the tourism sector that is affected, as for the country we are living well, nothing is short in supply. But most of the overseas countries, are short on this and that, it is unfortunate. It seems like nothing is happening in our country. Commendation on the services, as well as your patriotism and love for Samoa.

Another area I wish to convey my gratitude, where we can see the improvement of performance in the services that our Ministries and Government Organizations, their services have upgraded, there has been many changes in the services performed by the Ministries and Organizations. There are many developments that have arisen, and they are innumerable.

As for the work carried out by Parliament, the developments and work of the Ministries and Organizations are submitted into the House every year. The result of their work and developments being implemented are tabled in the House. Parliamentary Committees review these Annual Reports.

When I first arrived in the House, there was a delay in the submission of Reports. But how about now that the term is ending? All Annual Reports of Ministries and Organizations are up to date. This is one important aspect. This is very beneficial for long term planning in the future, but is also useful for the Ministry itself, whether it has achieved its objectives that were set, or whether it has achieved the budget that was planned, furthermore it is useful for the planning of the Government Appropriation each year. Also the report of the Ministry of Finance it is always late, but now it has been submitted on time. After the auditing and being signed by the Auditor, everything is up to date, and it will make it easier for those who plan the use of funds in our country, it is easy to determine what is needed. That is also the power of the Government, Ministries and Organizations that carry out this service. I commend the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries, and the respects of the staff and organizations.

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I commend you for your services and hard work. I leave this Parliamentary term, but I am very satisfied with your service, your service through your Report and the work that you implement. Thank you for your love for Samoa, thank you for your patriotism.

Now a word of thanks to our Parliament. Thank you Mr Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk and the Legislative office. I applaud you for the services, we have become dependent on you because of how we are treated, thank you for your patience. I commend the office for the patience, because there are times when members of Parliament are defiant. But thank you again for the patience.

The Hon Prime Minister and the respects of Cabinet, I do not have to state it. All the issues and good things are given there, since you are the ones leading our Government, you are the ones who are planning and managing the economy of Samoa, and that wealth and its quality will bring happiness to our people, and make our people live happy and peacefully also love one another. Thank you for your services, I commend you all in accepting the calling that God has placed upon you all.

To the Chief Justice and the Judiciary, thank you for the work carried out, I know that matters considered there challenges your lives and your responsibilities and duties undertaken. Thank you for the foresight in order to find a solution to some of the cases that are put before the Court.

I also want to thank the President and the Class of Judges of the Land and Titles Court. Your calling is quite important, it is the legacy of families, villages and constituencies, and you are the ones that consider matters once it is in court. I wish you all the best in fulfilling the duties you were called upon by God. I commend you all for the efforts, thank you for the services.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I interrupt the speech of the respectable member; Parliament has heard also the constituency of Gagaifomauga No. 3 and all of Samoa. However since Parliament has reached the normal time to complete its workday by day, therefore, the speech of the member will be suspended and prepare for tomorrow when we will reconvene and continue with our work.

I believe the speeches and remarks made in the House has been heard by the country especially the constituencies. The Leader of Government and Cabinet have heard the recommendations and requests of the constituencies, the Chair conveys its gratitude. I commend you all for the preparations, each constituency have heard members that spoke today, let us now have faith and support our Government in leading our country. The heavens have also heard all your needs, He Himself fulfills all things.

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The person only plans but does not have the power to fulfill anything, only God, God is wealth, power and strength, He fulfills all things and the needs of our country.

Apologies to the House, especially to Samoa who are listening. If the Chair have overstepped a boundary, clarity is there, house it in the house of God where your discretion and faith protect the work of the Speaker.

Before we leave, I pray God bless us all. When we adjourn, let the Lord be first and last in everything which will guide us safely to our families giving us support with His love and His kindness.

Before we adjourn orders of the House for today, I respectfully call upon the Pastor and member of Anoamaa East to conclude our Meeting with a prayer. With respect.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:03pm until Thursday February 4, 2021, at 9:00am.*