

DISCLAIMER

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Day 5

PART B

2pm

5. Afioga Hon FAUALO Harry Schuster - Minister of Police and Prisons.

The Hon Minister greeted Parliament and acknowledged Members who spoke on the Ministry under his portfolio then proceeded to address the issues and queries raised.

- Rising Drugs:

The Minister acknowledged members who raised the issue of drugs in Samoa and noted that it is a serious issue. He continued to state that raids were conducted by the Ministry of Police in past years; elaborated that there were 8 raids conducted by the Ministry of Police in 2022, these raids were conducted at suspected locations; about 11.32 grams of meth, 7 marijuana, 23 branches of marijuana and 7 marijuana seeds collected and ceased from these raids. Furthermore, the Minister continued to provide statistics on the raids carried out last year (2023), 13 raids conducted which they obtained 72.10 grams of meth, 1,452 marijuana, 115 branches of marijuana and 1484 marijuana seeds. He then mentioned the single raid conducted this year, 2024 where .04 grams of meth was found with 28 marijuana branches and 140 marijuana seeds. The Hon Minister elaborated that from investigations conducted, they were told that the market price for meth was \$100, now it is sold for \$200.

The Minister elaborated that raids are conducted once a warrant has been signed by a Judge and it is important to highlight that all raids conducted were successful, as there were illegal substances found. In addition, the Minister urged Village Councils to help the Ministry address the rise of drugs in the country by punishing people found guilty with possessing and using drugs. Moreover, the Minister highlighted that the Ministry continues to monitor our shores in terms of vessels coming in and going out of the country which may bring in illegal drugs.

- Car accessories causing public hazard

On the issue relating to vehicles with loudspeakers and disturbing lights, the Hon Minister reassured the members that the Ministry continues to monitor all vehicles to ensure they abide by the rules and do not cause unnecessary hazard to the public. The Hon Minister also explained that these individuals only act-up when the police are not around, but when the police blocks and checkpoints are out, these added accessories on vehicles are well hidden.

- Traffic issues:

The Hon Minister mentioned there were 2 buses who were caught operating with no licenses during the holiday season.

- Office of the Electoral Commission

On the issue of request made by the member for Anoamaa 1 about elections being conducted under Traditional Constituencies like before, the Hon Minister reassured the member that this is being thoroughly considered by Cabinet and a response will be provided in due time.

i. Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

The Minister of Works advised the Minister of Police that it is at his discretion to reinforce road safety rules and regulations to avoid accidents on the road. The Minister noted that there are many vehicles that do not abide with road laws and therefore the Ministry has the authority to fine and charge the owners of these vehicles.

**Afioga Hon FAUALO Harry Schuster - Minister of Police and Prisons
(cont.).**

The Hon Minister continued and mentioned the absence of legal provisions on actions that may be taken by the Ministry when individuals are caught breaking the law, such as a provision that specifies that if an owner is charged twice with the same offence, then he/she is liable for imprisonment with their license held for a certain period of time rather than paying a fine.

ii. Afioga LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata 1.

The Member queried whether the decision to conduct raids is at the discretion of Cabinet or the Court, querying where the authority comes from.

iii. Susuga Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, Leader of the Opposition & Member for Lepa.

The Hon Member mentioned the lack of police officers thus some issues have come about stating that the police are lazy to conduct their work thoroughly thus leading to unsolved criminal cases nowadays.

iv. Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Pierre Laufo, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Member for Anoamaa 2.

The Hon Member commended the Minister for his response and the Ministry for conducting successful raids, and acknowledged the Ministry's service to the country. He further stated that marijuana plants are on the rise in the country instead of meth which was of public concern.

v. Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Purcell, Member for Satupaitea.

The Member commended the Hon Minister for his clarification again acknowledged the numerous raids conducted by the Ministry. He then asserted that it is his opinion that there are limited people who will have access on the items used to produce ice (crystal meth). Then stressed that his concern is the local production of meth in the country thus, he advised the minister of police to be more vigilant in their search for such illegal products.

Hon LAUTAFI accentuated that the production of two illegal drugs are different as marijuana can possibly be regrown whereas ice is hard to be produced given the number of ingredients to produce meth. Furthermore, added that people producing meth are well qualified and have enough resources to produce them and therefore should be considered by the Police. In reference to prohibited lights on vehicles, he urged the ministry to consider this matter and emphasized that they are usually seen at night time after hours of police work and the Member asserted police still have the power to stop these vehicles even after official working hours.

vi. Tofa ALE Vena Ale, Member for Feleata 4.

The member stressed that the Ministry of Police should help and work together with the Village Councils to reinforce village punishments against people who deal with drugs instead of saying that there is no law in place that can effectively ban people who possess drugs to leave their privately owned land.

Afioga Hon FAUALO Harry Schuster - Minister of Police (cont.).

The Hon Minister commended the Opposition Leader for his suggestion to collaborate with the village council with their raids and emphasized that the law has its limitation, given that there are villages with freehold lands and therefore the power of the village council does not apply to freehold land. The Minister stated that they are cautious with these situations, stating that if it deals with matters happening on customary land, then village councils may intervene, however, if drug-related matters occur on freehold land then the police have the legal authority to carry out raids.

The Minister noted the slight difference between banishing people who possess drugs living on customary land, in comparison to those living on their private (freehold) land, the Village Council have less power over matters involving people residing on their private lands.

Hon Minister mentioned the issue of drugs being produced in Samoa and clarified from police investigations that the two main substances in pills used to produce drugs are ephedrine and codeine. He then commended the Leader of Opposition for mentioning the Ministry offering police to assist in services of the UN and assured that they would continue with this. The Minister also mentioned changes to this such as the changes in numbers of police needed from these countries which has increased to 50 and the Commissioner is consulting with UN Officials to reconsider this number as we also need the police for our peace and safety.

6. Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

The Hon Minister greeted the House and Samoa in all her honorific salutations. She also acknowledged CEO's of Government Ministries and agencies along with all the public servants for their efforts in ensuring plans and goals set are achieved for the betterment of Samoa. Further commended the Hon Minister of Finance and his Minister for their commitments and work in preparation of the tabled supplementary. She also acknowledged the efforts of the Finance and Expenditure Committee in preparing the report on the Supplementary Bill, in this regard she expressed full support in preparation of the Supplementary Bill.

The Hon Minister explained further all matters under her portfolio then touched on the 1million District development project, highlighting the importance of the Village Council. Further mentioned the Pathway for the Development of Samoa and its provision that guides the Ministry's operations daily, especially with all its different facets such as, the 1million Initiative and the selection of Sui o Nuu and Tamaitai which have been raised numerous by members.

The Hon Minister acknowledged Mr. Speaker for allowing the ministry to conduct its seminar to further emphasize on the operation of the 1 million project at the Maota Tofilau last week and emphasized that all issues reported will provide a clear path for the effective implementation of the plan in the future.

The Hon Minister highlighted that the success of the 1million project depends on the Chairperson of each Fono Faavae, as there are numerous challenges faced during the implementation phase of the project, thus it is pertinent that the Member/Chairperson oversees all matters and works together with the Committee and constituency to resolve any disputes and internal matters.

Furthermore, the Minister stressed the importance of the 1 million project in utilizing strengths and different capabilities of constituents to enhance national development through any form of

development such as; agriculture, schools, improving historical and tourist sites and all other developments that is of utmost importance to each constituency.

She encouraged Village Councils and Members to look at the benefits of the project rather than the challenges, highlighting numerous benefits such as the production of more local goods and assisting with the payment of school fees for the children of the constituency.

The Hon Minister continued to state that 10.2million has been transferred to the Ministry to assist with health developments. She then mentioned that the delay in releasing funds to respective Constituencies is due to the lengthy period involved with clearing financial statements from the auditors to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West.

The Member asked the Hon Minister to address issues raised by Members as this speech was already given at the seminar held last week to provide an update and relevant information for Members.

Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (cont.).

The Hon Minister explained that her intentions to repeat her speech from the seminar is to ensure everyone is clear on the benefits received from the 1 million development fund.

i. Susuga Hon TUILAEPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Lepa.

The Member noted that although there was a seminar on the 1million project it is important that the Minister continues to clarify on the benefits of the project so that each constituency is well informed and aware on all requirements of the project. The member also advised the Committee to release the remaining funds for each constituency to continue with developments before the FY ends.

Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (cont.).

The Hon Minister clarified that the delay in releasing funds is due to the prolonged swearing in of the 2021 Government, then asserted that the Ministry continues to hasten the release of funds provided requirements are met by respective constituencies and their ‘fono faavae’. Hon MULIPOLA, also mentioned that the Ministry intends to compile a report on the utilization of the 1million development fund, once seminars conducted in Savaii are concluded, then explained that currently only 16 constituencies have submitted their reports on their projects. Then clarified

that the Minister of Finance has assured the release of the remaining funds for respective constituencies.

ii. Afioga AIONO Tile Gafa, Member for Aana Alofi 2.

The member queried why his constituency is being black-listed to receive the 1million fund, yet there are other constituencies who have not fully complied with the requirements of the 1million Project. Thus, advised the Minister for Women to reconsider his constituency's application.

iii. Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1.

The Member commended the Minister for her response and acknowledged the newly appointed CEO and wished her all the best with her new role. He then reminded the Minister of his request whether it is possible to include the salaries of the 3 Committee Staff for the Fono Faavae to be funded by the payroll of the Ministry, and whether Government Auditors can be used to audit each Fono Faavae financial statement to save time and money.

iv. Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe, Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela.

The Member commended the Minister for her response and for clarifying all issues relating to the 1million project and noted that this will benefit his constituency.

Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (cont.).

The Hon Minister urged Members to provide their reports as she mentioned that only 16 constituencies have submitted update reports to the Ministry.

v. Tofa ALE Vena Ale, Member for Faleata 4.

The member queried why the rest of the 1million funds cannot be released together instead of giving them out proportionately.

Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (cont.).

The Minister clarified that the salaries for Fono Faavae committee staff cannot be included under the payroll of the Ministry of Women as it is Government's plan to decentralize this task to constituencies to ensure members of respective constituencies are utilized in this project to further upskill them.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1

The member clarified that he only made the recommendation for his constituency's Fono Faavae staff, because of the delay in releasing all funds to pay these staff as well as, to avoid using the 1million fund for salaries rather than for planned development projects for the constituency.

Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi - Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries – interruption on a point of clarification.

The Hon Minister stood to clarify that \$200,000 from the 1million fund is allocated to provide for committee staff for each constituency, and this also assists these constituents with their livelihood.

Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (cont.).

The Minister further advised all members that the ministry is always available to clarify on any matter regarding the 1million project. On the issue of overlapping roles between Sui o Nuu and Sui Tamaitai and the Fono Faavae; the Minister clarified that the Ministry is currently working on identifying the roles and responsibilities of Sui o Nuu and Sui o Tamaitai as well as, the Fono Faavae so they do not overlap each other and cause conflict in villages and constituencies.

vi. Afioga AUUAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Member for Aiga i le Tai.

The member reminded the Minister about his request to address the issue relating to the Sui o Nuu and Sui o Tamaitai for his constituency and requested for additional representatives to cater for their constituency, he further sought a meeting with the Minister to further discuss the matter.

Susuga Hon. MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo - Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (cont.).

The Minister informed all members that she is available next week for all Members and their fono faavae committees to discuss the status of their developments and funds. Then concluded her response by acknowledging Miss Global Samoa, Haylani Kurupu for representing our nation in the global stage and returning successfully as 1st runner-up. She then acknowledged the support and prayers from her constituency and the efforts of her Ministry.

7. Afioga Hon. LEOTA Laki Lamositele - Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

The Hon Minister greeted the House, and Samoa tuning in to parliament proceedings. He also acknowledged his constituency in all its honorific salutations. The Minister noted that there were no specific issues raised towards the MCIL. However, he will touch on some points which

relates to his ministry for further clarification and information. He highlighted that the Ministry's operations are progressing well and that the Foreign Investment Act 2000 is currently undergoing a review, together with the Labour and Employment Relations Amendment Act 2023.

In terms of the seasonal work scheme, the Minister noted that processes to fully transfer this project under the MOF is almost complete. The Ministry enacted the competition and consumer legislation when it was assented by the Head of State. In terms of the high cost of living, this is potentially caused from COVID which also impacts trade between countries. The consequences of covid increased the price for most goods and services that we cannot provide locally therefore, this price is out of our control as they are set globally. Additionally, the war in overseas countries also continues to impact the high cost of living especially with the price of petrol. Then emphasized that the high cost of living is felt around the world, not just Samoa.

The Hon Minister noted that the 1million project has assisted with the development projects of each constituency as well as assisted families with farming and other projects in which contributes to their daily lives. The Minister further stated that the 1million project is one of Government's methods to assist with the increasing cost of living.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1.

The member touched on price control and acknowledged the Minister for reimplementing this as it will help control the high rise of cost of living. In addition, the member reminded the Minister about the reserve list guideline to ensure the foreigners are not conducting businesses locally.

Afioga Hon. LEOTA Laki Lamositele - Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour (cont.).

The Minister further highlighted the First Harvest/uluai seleselega initiative is another way to address the high cost of living by encouraging people to cultivate local crops as substitutes for imported products. The Hon Minister also highlighted on the RSE Scheme which also assists with the problem of high cost of living. Furthermore, the Samoa Business Hub is another initiative which assists with families to start up small businesses. He continued to mention the salary increase for all the Ministries, cost of living adjustments that the government did which also assists with families to deal with the high cost of living. The Minister mentioned the main goal of this Ministry, is to enhance level of businesses and to acquire suitable prices for products. The Minister commended the efforts of MCIL and acknowledged all the staff.

Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tile, Member for Falelatai & Samatau.

The Member acknowledged the response by the Minister and commended the clarification on the assistance implemented by the government due to the high cost of living but he also proposed to remove the duty fee and VAGST on common goods and essentials used by our people.

Hon Prime Minister – Point of Clarification (interruption).

The Hon Prime Minister stood to clarify that issues on tax/duty is the responsibility of the Minister of Customs and Revenue which she will clarify later.

Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai, Member for Vaa o Fonoti.

The Member noted that assistance from Australia, New Zealand and US have helped local businesses grow; however, other people find it hard to apply for funds to help assist with their businesses as they are more concerned with the repayment of huge amounts; however, business people take up the opportunity as a means to expand their businesses.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 3:47pm
and resumed at 4:20pm

Mr. Speaker – Point of Order:

Mr Speaker informed the member for Vaa o Fonoti that his question put forth will be considered as an advise to the Minister of MCIL as no member is allowed to raise any new queries or topics when the Government responses.

8. Tofa Hon. MATAMUA Seumanu Vasati Sili Pulufana - Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

The Minister greeted Mr. Speaker, PM & Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and all members present in Chamber. He acknowledged the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, HOS, COD, the judiciary, and clergies from all congregations. He greeted everyone tuning in and acknowledged her constituency in all her honorific salutations.

The Hon Minister clarified the query by member for Aiga ile Tai regarding Sections 43 - 44 of the Land and Titles Act 2020 which enabled individuals to challenge to decisions made by the Land and Titles Court (these include challenges made before March 2021) however it is yet to be enforced. She mentioned that the Cabinet and Attorney General is conducting consultations in communities on the review of sections 43 and 44 of the Act to address any issues which may arise from it if implemented.

Furthermore, the Minister continued to state that most queries by the public reflects repealing this part of the Act as it contradicts with other parts of the Act which the Ministry are now working on amending and will be brought to Parliament in due time.

She also acknowledged the request by member for Sagaga 2 regarding the upgrade needed for computers used by the MJCA staff, she confirmed that this request is noted. The Hon Minister

acknowledges the Member for Sagaga No.2 for being considerate towards the employees in order for their services to be perfected in servicing the public at large.

9. Afioga Hon. SEUULA Ioane - Minister of Education & Culture.

The Minister greeted the House, acknowledged Samoa and his constituency in all its honorific salutations. He commended the Ministry of Education for all its effort in servicing Samoa through the provision of quality education for all despite the challenges brought by Covid19. He acknowledged all comments and advised by members towards the Ministry of Education highlighting that these will be used to develop the Ministry.

The Minister stated that the Education Sector aims to ensure the students are well educated to provide for their families, villages, country, church and their future. Unfortunately, there are still challenges faced by the Ministry, these include:

1. Not enough teachers for each school in constituencies; noted that this is a global problem
2. Not enough students to necessitate the establishment of a school as the minimum number of students needed for a school to be set up is 50 plus.
3. Having overflow of students in a school
4. The advancement of technology that has raised red flags in schools for students. It is a new matter that has caused much predicament for the education sector.
5. Faculty of Education (FOE) is not a favourable career path for students thus, the shortage of teachers.

The Minister assured the House that despite all these challenges, they are constantly working on solutions to address these issues. He then addressed the issue with the school at Ulutogia and clarified that there is not enough students to keep this school opened; Given that there are only 30 students enrolled in this school it will be closed down. The Ministry then advised the village council to persuade all children from the village attending schools in Apia to attend the schools at Ulutogia so they could reach the minimum number of students required. He then proposed to merge the schools in this constituency to ensure the required number is met so that students continue to go to schools that are convenient for them. The Hon Minister explained that the Ministry is trying to find ways that could solve the problems faced by some of the schools with many students but then there are schools which have their own policies and ways of doing things.

• **Afioga MANULELEUA Paletasala T Tovale, Member for Faleata 1.**

emphasized that he raised the issue where some districts have a small population hence the limited number of children. However, in his constituency, there are only two primary schools, in Lepea and Vaimoso but there are many children in his constituency. Therefore, the Member continued to request to the Minister for another school to cater for the children of his constituency. He asserted that although there are other schools within his Constituency, they are private schools, and the fees are too expensive for the average income earner

- **Afioga FUAAVA Sulumalo Amataga, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.**

The member mentioned that this was the matter he raised regarding primary schools in his constituency. Which was the core reason why they divided the school into Ulutogia and Vailoa. Whereas Ulutogia should be responsible for teaching years 1 to 4, while Vailoa catering for years 5 to 8.

Afioga Hon. SEUULA Ioane - Minister of Education and Culture (cont.).

The Minister acknowledged the Member for Aleipata for raising an issue and proposing the solution on the issue faced by the village in his constituency. He further clarified that this was one of the ways that the Ministry considered as a resolution for these issues. The Minister agrees with the Member for Faleata 1 and assured him that the Board is considering establishing a new school to cater for Faleata Constituency but also other areas nearby. The Ministry is also planning to develop the school at Tafaigata (St Paul) as it consists of three educational levels (Pre-school, Primary and College) to address this issue.

The Minister also mentioned that the most appropriate number of students in a Primary is 700; however, at this time, Primary schools have exceeded this number, and it is a challenge that the Ministry is trying to address.

Technology:

The Hon Minister emphasized that during Covid19, donors have assisted in providing equipment's and trainings were conducted for the teachers on how to operate them but emphasized that the training is considered complete once the students are also trained on how to use them. Further highlighted that the Hon Prime Minister believes that the knowledge to use technology does not remain with the teachers but with the students as well.

In reference to Wi-Fi, he accentuated that the Minister for MCIT would be responsible for the provider of technologies for schools as well as the service providers that were mentioned in the previous parliament sitting. The Minister then asserted that he recalls assistance provided by UNICEF such as the distribution of tablets for schools in need of these but the only issue at the time was that some schools had no Wi-Fi or internet connection. Therefore, the Japan aid provided funds to finance a service provider which is Vodafone.

Shortage of Teachers:

The Minister noted that the Ministry collaborated with the PSC to address the shortage of teachers by approving the establishment of a Diploma in Education to encourage students to take this career path. He further asserted that the PSC has considered introducing a postgraduate degree to further improve those interested in their academic skills.

The Minister then conveyed his apologies to the Member for Vaisigano 1 regarding his query but accentuated that it has not been addressed to the Ministry. In this regard, he emphasized to Members that there are channels of communication in place to go through before an issue is referred to the Ministry for a resolution.

- **Afioga LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata 1.**

The Member for Safata 1 commended the Minister for his clarification regarding ways to address the shortage of teacher's issue. He also acknowledged the Minister for outlining other ways to teach students instead of relying heavily on technological devices given its risks especially having access on the internet. He further suggested for schools to find an alternative for internet as the connection is usually poor and slow.

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti Malolo, Member for Vaisigano 1.**

The Member for Vaisigano raised an issue reported by the Principal for the Auala Primary School within his Constituency regarding the impacts of internet offered by the aforementioned service providers.

Afioga Hon. SEUULA Ioane - Minister of Education and Culture (cont.).

The Hon Minister outline the good impacts of internet to assist teachers with their work and emphasized that we have enough grants from donors to improve any issues regarding internet connection for schools.

10. Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

The Hon Minister greeted all members present in Chamber and acknowledged heads of Government Ministries and Corporations present in the House including the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. He also acknowledged the Head of State, Council of Deputy, his constituency, and Samoa in all its respective honorific salutations. The Minister also commended all members that put forth their advise for the improvement of the Ministry and conveyed his appreciation as the members suggestions helps them look at ways to enhance and ensure good connectivity and technology communication is provided for the country.

Samoa National Broadband Highway (SNBH): Internet Connection in Schools

He emphasized the importance of digital transformation which is good for local businesses and education purposes as it focuses on the improvement of learnings in schools. The Minister also stressed the importance of technology in schools for both students and teachers. He accentuated that the improvement of technology in schools requires collective effort from different facets of society and ministries to ensure good connections.

The Minister also noted that there are on-going trainings for the Fono Faavae officers to assist them with their work in terms of internet usage and connection.

He then urged schools to use Fiber broadband instead of VSAT (which most schools are using) as fiber is more effective and faster.

- **LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata 1.**

The member raised the issue with faulty satellites, stating that these satellites were installed at a very costly price of \$12,000, but have not been operational; thus sought clarification from the Minister.

Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister of Communication and Information Technology. (cont.)

The Hon Minister responded that there are 120 satellites in total that may be installed for whoever needs help with their connectivity; these satellites were turned off during the school holidays, and have now been turned on again since the new school year has begun.

- **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1**

The Member acknowledged the clarifications by the Minister and further queried the utilization of the 2 million allocated for network development.

Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister of Communication and Information Technology. (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified the 2 million appropriation which was mentioned by the Member for Vaimauga 1 and responded that this amount is not only for the installation but also includes the procurement and maintenance of these satellites.

- **Internet risks**

The Hon Minister spoke on the issue of harmful sites that students can access on school compound and clarified that the Ministry is looking at ways to effectively filter these sites to ensure the children's learning is not impacted from the negative effects of these sites. He then pleaded to Members that the protection of our children from accessing illegal websites requires a collective effort from families, teachers, students and peers. He then acknowledged the tireless efforts of the Ministry to provide effective services for our people.

11. Afioga Hon. TOELESULUSULU Cedric Schuster: MNRE, STEC, SLC

The Minister greeted the House and addressed Samoa in all its honorific salutations. He commended all members who provided recommendations and advice on the operations of the Ministry as well as those who provided critical feedback and concerns on his ministerial portfolio. The Hon Minister continued to highlight the 3 major issues raised by Members:

1. **Collecting of rubbish during the festive season:**

although the Ministry is the responsible authority tasked with the monitoring of contracted businesses for the collection of rubbish; The Hon Minister highlighted that the Ministry has

resolved to include as one of the terms/requirements of the contract that contractors are to collect rubbish during public holidays to avoid this issue from recurring

2. Request for Seawalls:

The Hon Minister explained that there is an inspection committee, to inspect requests with regards to seawalls in constituencies; and the prioritization is on seawalls to ensure the protection of government assets.

3. Samoa Land Corporation – issues affecting customary and freehold lands

There are plans in place to ensure the monitoring process of lands are clarified. The Minister added on to the response given by the Hon PM to establish a single body that would handle the administration, registration and monitoring of land prices and lease through land policies, land reconciliation and a land use master plan. He then responded to the member for Salega 1 who raised an issue within their constituency to discuss this matter with the responsible family; as the lands mentioned at Siuvao and Fagafau are customary and freehold lands.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Member for Salega 1**

The Member noted that there are lands of about 2x100 acres behind his constituency which is registered under the Samoa Land Corporation, then explained that these lands were measured in 2007, and requested whether the Corporation can allow his constituency to cultivate these lands.

- **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1**

The member requested a reduction in price to acquire land for his constituency that is under the Government from 35k to a lower price. The Member further reminded the Minister of his constant request to decrease the cost of lands from \$35,000 to a lower price so that his constituents can afford to cultivate these lands. He then requested for a seawall at the village of Lauili, to protect the coastline of Lauili.

- **Tofa Hon LEATINUU Wayne Soialo, Minister of MPE**

The minister noted that all land related issues have been transferred to the portfolio of the Minister of Natural, Resources and Environment; therefore, the appropriate Minister will respond on the issue regarding the acquisition of land. He also highlighted that the delay in releasing constituency's land from the Government is due to the difficulties between different Land Committees in each constituency handling SLC matters.

- **Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Member for Satupaitea**

The Member queried the \$15million grant from the Government of New Zealand if there could be a detailed allocation of this for clarity, as his constituency needs some of this assistance for their seawalls as the waves are breaking right on the roads of the Satupaitea.

Afioga Hon. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster: MNRE, STEC, SLC (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified that the land at the border of Siuvao and Fagafau is customary land and the land at the border of Fagafau and Faiaai is freehold land. The only government land

around this area is at the border of Siuvao and Falelima which is under STEC and is now used for reservation and forestry plantation. The Minister also corrected the Member that the acre of land was not measured in 2007 it was measured in 1964 & 1965.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Member for Salega 1**

The Member refuted the explanation provided by the Minister and insisted that there are no acres at his constituency, but he has the evidence of the map for the land.

Speaker's Ruling:

Mr. Speaker ruled to address this matter directly with the Minister to find a solution.

Afioga Hon. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster: MNRE, STEC, SLC (cont.)

The Minister clearly stated that the seawalls project will commence once funds are received. He then confirmed to the Member for Satupaitea that there is currently ongoing works for a seawall in his constituency.

12. Afioga Hon. LAUMATIAMANU Ringo Purcell, Minister of Sports and Recreation

The Minister greeted his fellow Parliamentarians who were present in Chamber, then expressed gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for entrusting him with the Recreation and Sports Ministry. He then extended greetings to his constituency and acknowledged them for their constant support and prayers.

He commended the Ministry of Finance in preparing the Supplementary Bill and the Finance and Expenditure Committee for their report on the Bill. He highlighted that currently, the MOF, PSC and MEC are progressing with final works to ensure the full establishment of the Ministry of Sports and Recreation to ensure Government's intentions to further develop sports in Samoa. He further noted that Government believes that the separation is necessary to ensure national developments for sports is prioritized to raise our local players portfolio and in return garner revenue for the country.

The Hon Minister mentioned the establishment of a High-Performance Unit that includes sports people, athletes, and sports officials to improve their skills and performances. The Hon Minister also mentioned the importance of recognition of outstanding efforts by our sports people thus setting up awards nights to recognize these talents. He also mentioned that the Ministry will review the involvement of overseas players and officials as raised by several Members. Furthermore, the Minister highlighted that another main reason for establishing the Ministry of Sports and Recreation is to fully capture the potential of our local players so they can have more chance in representing our country during overseas competitions, such as Olympics and Pacific Games. He asserted that the Ministry does not want to stop overseas based Samoans from representing our country in sporting events, however it is important that as a nation we foster and encourage the selection to prioritize our local talents.

13. Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister acknowledged Samoa as whole in all its honorific salutations, clergies in all denominations in Samoa. He then acknowledged the employees in his Ministry, also the Members who raised issues regarding his Ministry. Hon Minister conveyed thanks to the Associate Minister of his Minister for his support and assistance. Then addressed specific issues raised by Members on his portfolio:

- First Harvest initiative

The Hon Minister noted that there should be 51 First Harvest programs rolled out for 51 Constituencies; he touched on the importance of this initiative for our country as a way to address the high cost of living as it is a global issue that is out of our control. He stressed the importance of local production and cultivation of our agricultural products instead of relying on imported products as this can counter the increasing cost of living. Further stating that the Ministry looks at initiatives that will assist families with curbing the expensive cost of living. He reminded Members that the ‘Talomua Program’ is simple, the constituency only needs to inform the Ministry of the dates they wish to implement their ‘first-harvest’ program.

- Wild boar traps

Hon Minister stated that traps for wild boars and other animals is in progress, noting that the Ministry plans to distribute 500 thousand taro crops for planting in each constituency, however the major concern is wild boars ruining these crops, thus the importance of addressing this issue. The Hon Minister highlighted that there are 20 existing traps from Australia Aid and FAO. He asserted that families can withstand the effects of the cost of living if they practice subsistence farming; that is living off the land if families have their own plantations and crops to rely on.

- Government Grant

The Hon Minister mentioned assistance for private organizations such as Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI) where financial assistance of \$263,000 was provided; he accentuated that currently the remaining funds are \$131,000. The Ministry stated that the Ministry is awaiting reports from the Association on the utilization of funds. Furthermore, the Samoa Women Association of Growers was also provided with funds of \$107,000 and also awaiting reports. In addition, the Ministry also provided funding for:

SROS \$124,000

METI \$73,000

Savaii Association of Farmers \$63,000

Livestock Farmers Association \$42,000

Tilapia Farmers Association \$49,000

The Minister also mentioned that the Ministry is also seeking assistance from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and World Bank through SAFPRM to conduct numerous agricultural and fisheries projects.

- Challenges encountered by the Ministry:
 - The Hon Minister mentioned the challenges encountered by the Ministry, such as the lack of manpower as many have sought work overseas through the RSE schemes, yet the ministry currently requires people to grow the land and fish the seas, yet not enough labour force.
 - Another challenge was the lack of docking space at the wharfs for fishing boats, thus the need for another wharf for containers and other commercial boats/ships.
 - The Ministry continues to receive complaints on the increase of fish sold at the market, stating that the cost has gone up to \$100, then pleaded to Members and the public to bear with the fishermen as they are also trying to earn from their catch.

The Hon Minister advised all farmers and fishers to work hard on their agricultural developments and catches to ensure Samoa is well prepared to cater for the CHOGM. He asserted that the world is coming to our shores, and we must be ready. He then encouraged the marketing and display of products and crops along the side of the road to decorate and showcase our fresh crops.

In regards to preparation for CHOGM, the Hon Minister requested to the Members for Vaimauga 1,2 and 3 and the Members for Faleata 1,2,3, and 4 that there will be a collective Harvest show for all of their constituencies to showcase locally grown crops to everyone coming for the conference. He highlighted that this will reflect how our country is coping with the high cost of living. In doing so, we can also ensure ample supply for the CHOGM.

- Chemical used at Quarantine

The Hon Minister clarified the issue raised by the Opposition Leader regarding the shortage of the chemical used by the Quarantine for products taken overseas. He clarified that the product will arrive next week, on 25 February for quarantine use. He then informed the House that the Quarantine unit has changed its name to Biosecurity.

- **Tofa Hon. LAUOFO Fonotoe Laufo, Member for Anoamaa 2**

The Member further queried the initiatives by the Ministry to utilize the wild boars that will be caught from the traps by the Ministry.

- **Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tile, Member for Falelatai ma Samatau**

The member raised the issue with the Export Authority which is quite concerning for him as his constituency relies heavily on exporting goods overseas, however from the Minister's response, he is more focused on selling our agricultural crops.

Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister continued to clarify the status of the Export Authority and stated that it is almost ready, and that the Ministry continues to prioritize the establishment of the Authority.

He then asserted to the Member for Falelatai & Samatau to worry not as the Ministry continues to explore other avenues to export our local crops overseas, but not disregarding its main priority to ensure local food security.

The Minister noted that the wild boars caught in the traps will be given to the constituencies but not to the Ministry. Therefore, it is always the constituency that benefits from this. The Hon Minister further clarified that the village of Paleology was pleased to receive the wild boars that were caught by these traps. He confirmed that he has received requests for traps from respective constituencies and will be distributed accordingly.

- **Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Selafi Purcell, Member for Satupaitea**

The Member commended the Hon Minister for his clarification and requested that the two traps at Satupaitea can be mounted for a lengthy period of time.

- **Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe, Deputy Opposition Leader and member for Anoamaa 2**

The Hon Member queried the status for the poultry farms through its partnership with the American Samoa Government.

Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister responded that there is no issue with Samoa's meat and poultry farms however in regards to the eggs exported to our neighboring island, American Samoa; the Agriculture Department in American Samoa conducted their inspections on certified businesses and poultry farms, and have decided to allow Samoa to export our eggs, however for free range eggs, this is for local consumption.

Mr Speaker – Point of Order:

Mr Speaker advised the Member for Anoamaa 2 to change his statement regarding the Minister of Agriculture speech.

- **Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe, Deputy Opposition Leader and member for Anoamaa 2**

The Member queried clarifications regarding the meat slaughterhouse which was funded by the SACEP Project as he noticed that the people are complaining regarding the quality of the meat that is disproved by American Samoa.

Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister requested to remove the word “gaugausa” as mentioned by the Member for Anoamaa 2 regarding his response. He then concluded his response by mentioning the importance of abiding with the ‘rule of law’ to ensure just and honest practices and decisions are upheld. He mentioned the appeal before the Court regarding Parliament’s decision to suspend 2 Members from the House and expressed his disappointment with the numerous hateful and disrespectful remarks made towards him.

He then addressed his Ministry and acknowledged them on all their efforts in serving Samoa.

Mr. Speaker – SPEAKER’S RULING

Mr Speaker instructed the removal of the word “gaogaosa” spoken by the member for Anoamaa 2.

- **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1**

The Member acknowledged the pros of receiving assistance for the Talomua request then asserted that the matter mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture affects the decision of the court and most especially the members of the opposition who are included in this matter. He then acknowledged the Minister of Agriculture for the opportunity to have his constituency included in the Talomua Initiative that will showcase our local crops during the CHOGM.

Mr. SPEAKER – Point of Order:

Mr. Speaker again reminded Members to refrain from mentioning matters before the Court as it is against Standing Orders of Parliament.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 6:46pm
and resumed at 7:20pm