

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Thursday 14 March 2024**. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on **Thursday 14 March 2024**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**Day 7
9:35am**

I. GREETINGS FROM MR. SPEAKER

Mr Speaker greeted all Parliamentarians and Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He acknowledged the Almighty for his guidance and protection upon Samoa. He also extended greetings to all who were present in the Chamber and then sternly reminded the House on procedural matters.

Mr Speaker advised Members to direct their speeches on the annual reports considered and keeping within the confinement of the financial period under review; for instance, Members should not raise matters that occurred in the current financial year (2023/2024) as the Minister and Ministry are not prepared to give an accurate response. He then reminded Members of the opportunity to query or raise an issue on a certain Government policy/agenda during ‘Question Time’ however, Mr Speaker asserted that the Clerk has informed him that there were no questions received by any Member.

Secondly, Mr Speaker reminded members to adhere with the provisions of the Standing Order, specifically with regard to interjections on debates; again, cautioned Members to seek the Chair’s approval before they interject to any Member or Minister as these interruptions must be approved by the Chair. Mr Speaker informed Members that starting from this sitting day penalties – as stipulated in the Standing Orders will be imposed on any Member who speaks or interjects again without the consent from the Chair.

- **Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister acknowledged Mr Speaker and commended him for his patience and understanding in presiding over parliamentary proceedings. He then raised the removal of words from parliamentary records, specifically statements made by the Opposition Leader

implying his involvement in the Blu-wave company; the Hon Minister asserted that if these statements cannot be verified, then he requests the removal of such statements from parliamentary records.

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the removal of these words; motion seconded and approved.

Mr. Speaker – Ruling:

Mr Speaker instructed the Clerk to remove the statements made by the Opposition Leader towards the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

II. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS:

One Government Response was tabled in Parliament.

III. ORDERS OF THE DAY – Consideration of Parliamentary Committee Reports and Government Responses (cont.) Day 3

1. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 58, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No.102, Land Transport Authority, Annual Report for Financial Year 2019/2020.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 23, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 58
2. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 126, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022 No. 54, Land Transport Authority, Annual Report for Financial Year 2020/2021.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 24, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 126
3. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 53, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No.73, Samoa Airport Authority, Annual Report for Financial Year 2019/2020.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 25, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 53
4. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 117, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 128 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 55, Annual Reports of the Samoa Shipping Corporation for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 28, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 117
5. **P.P. 2023/2024 No. 60, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on P.P. 2023/2024 No.14, Samoa Shipping Corporation Annual Report 2021/2022.**
-P.P. 2023/2024, No. 143, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No .60

6. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 125, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022 No. 51, Annual Report of the Samoa Water Authority for Financial Year 2020/2021.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 32, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 125
7. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 123, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022, No. 7 & P.P. 2022/2023 No. 27, Samoa Shipping Services Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 61, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 123
8. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 52, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 6 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 44, Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 96, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 52
9. **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 120, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on the P.P. 2021/2022, No. 4 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 49, Electric Power Corporation Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.**
-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 97, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 120

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Su’a, Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee:**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider all 9 Reports which consist of its findings, recommendations and resolutions by the Committee,
Motion seconded and Approved.

- **Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:**

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Government Responses on the Committee recommendations provided in its Reports as mentioned above,
Motion seconded and Approved.

Mr. Speaker opened the floor for any member who wished to speak on the abovementioned reports and Government Responses.

- i. **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPFA Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi, Opposition Leader & Member for Lepa.**

The Hon Member greeted the House and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. He acknowledged Mr. Speaker for his announcement and noted his support on the importance of the reminder given; he then stated that there are times during heated debates that things get out of control, and the tone used sounds offensive and harsh to other Members. Hon TUILAEPFA highlighted the importance of considering these reports, as it gives them a chance to advise the Government on how to improve the work of Ministries and Corporations.

Additionally, the Hon Member commended the respective Committees for their work in analyzing the reports expressing his full support for all recommendations provided. He further explained that the Constitution provides for the transparency of using Government funds after it has been passed by Parliament. This is why it is important to thoroughly consider reports and operations of Ministries and Corporations. He then briefly outlined some of the projects noted in the reports and commended the Committee for thoroughly analyzing these and ensured their completion. He also acknowledged the relevant Ministry in achieving certain development projects, such as the waterfront project for Vaisigano and road development for the cross-island road from Tanugamanono to Siumu catering for low-level areas that are usually prone to impacts of torrential rain.

The Leader of the opposition also recalled that there was a Tender for road works and other projects and stated that he recalled that the Ah Liki brothers got it. He further queried the progress of these projects. The Member reminded the Government about the importance of contracting qualified people who have been certified to carry out important tasks like fixing roads to ensure their sustainability over the years. He advised the Government to move away from contracting people with general knowledge and skills, lacking the technical and specialized aspects that is needed to effectively implement such projects. Thus, the Hon Member urged the Ministry to consider the importance of constructing good drainage as some are not deep enough for the water to flow hence flowing onto the roads and damaging these government assets. The Opposition Leader briefly mentioned the changes in construction and repairing of roads over the years and urged to consider the recommendations brought forth by the Committee Report especially the need in repairing and improving our roads.

ii. Tofa Hon. LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo, Member for Anoamaa 2

The Member greeted the House and reiterated the importance of discussing Committee Reports then queried the status of drainage systems along the road from Tanugamanono to Siumu as this is important to ensure the sustainability of the road given that there are rivers and streams along this area. He then requested the Minister for the installation of proper drainages deep enough to cater for times of heavy rainfall. He urged the Minister that the drainage systems must be robust. In addition, the Member recommended whether it is an option to install water catchments to use water from rain and streams along this area so they can be used for other purposes like generating renewable energy.

The Hon member then queried the maintenance and clean-up along the roadside as he noticed that several areas have not been cleaned, he asked whether this task is with the Fono-Faavae or the Ministry.

Furthermore, he queried the figures in the Committee Reports for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 noting that funds have dropped from the previous FY to the next. Sought clarification and reasons for the reduction. He also queried the surplus reported in LTA's 2019/2020 report with a deficit in its 2020/2021 Report, but perceived it was the same allocation for both FY's and therefore sought clarification.

The Member noted that there are access roads which have been tarred however, not the access roads in his constituency. In addition, the Member suggested whether it is possible to take some access roads under the authority of the Government to be used as escape route during Natural disasters.

iii. Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West

The Member asserted that she will only speak on three reports then addressed the LTA report; she commended the Committee's deliberations especially the Authority's achievements in both the FYs for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. She also acknowledged the service of the former CEO for LTA noting that the Authority has recorded numerous projects and achievements as reflected by projects. Thus, commended Galumalemana Titi for her efforts and contribution to the Authority. She further commended the development projects implemented in the reporting periods; including the Maliolio bridge, Vaisigano bridge and road works at Vaiaata.

Furthermore, the Member queried the responsible Minister regarding the contracts responsible for mowing and clearing the drainages on government roads, since this has been sourced out to respective constituencies to fund from the 1 million projects, she queried whether the LTA can still monitor this to ensure that they are in compliant with such project.

The Member recommended whether it is possible for the Minister to reconsider the timeframe of 24months for defective liability period for contractors to monitor their performance and operations before the money can be released to the contractor. She believes this is too long, as contractors also need the money to maintain their businesses; she then requested to adjust the timeframe to 12months.

- **Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Minister for MWTI:**

The Hon Minister clarified the matter she mentioned is a Recommendation made by the Committee to the Government it is not something that was decided by the Government.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West (cont.)

These raised concerns regarding the shift of Maritime School away from the National University of Samoa to the Samoa Shipping Corporation, questioning whether qualification will still remain accredited by the NUS. The Member also queried the huge gap difference between the sale price for the Pasefika Express vessel and Samoa Express vessel as it was noted that Pasefika Express was sold for 3,000 while the other was sold for 450,000.

iv. Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga

The Member commended the recommendations proposed by the Committee on LTAs reports especially the mowing of lawns along the roadside and maintenance of drainage contracts which have now been outsourced to respective constituencies. He also expressed support for the effective period/timeframe of monitoring contractors, specifically the Defective Liability Period to 12 months although the Committee has recommended 24 months. The Member also touched on the Airport Authority and recalled the time he travelled to Fiji and admired its airport facilities and therefore proposed for the authority to ensure our facilities are clean and hygienic and proposed the possibility of imposing penalties when the responsible contract provides poor service.

v. Afioga LENATAI Victor Tamapua, Member for Vaimauga 2

The Member greeted the House and acknowledged the Committee for their work on the reports as well as the Government for their responses. He asserted the importance of having proper drainages, however it also affects the space for main roads. The Member reminded the Minister of a request by the village of Vaivase Uta for assistance from the LTA regarding their work currently in progress; that is the constructing of drainage along the road and footpaths on top of these drainage as walk-way for pedestrians. The member also requested assistance from the Ministry to ensure that this work is completed soon to avoid challenges faced by pedestrians every morning. Afioga LENATAI also touched on the lawn mower contractors and recalled in the past where his vehicle was also damaged from one of these contractors, thus he urged the Minister to establish policies for these contractors to abide by ensuring the safety of people on the road.

In addition, the Member reminded the Authority to encourage heavy trucks to install proper signs and lights so it will be easier for the public to notice them on the road. Moreover, the member recommended whether it is possible to legalize heavy trucks to use only the outer lane on the road specifically for the road stretching from Malifa to avoid accidents and confusion on the road for all drivers. Lastly, the member requested the Authority to conduct awareness programs informing drivers on how to respond on the road when ambulances are rushing through traffic to avoid unnecessary accidents and to ensure the safety of everyone.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition**

The Opposition Leader requested to Mr. Speaker whether he can speak again on the Samoa Airport Authority report as he did not talk about it, because there were 3 reports being considered at once, but he thought each report will be considered separately.

- **Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Minister of MWTI:**

The Hon Minister clarified that the Orders of the day are provided in the Order Paper and therefore the Leader of the Opposition should be aware of the reports under consideration and urged the Speaker to continue with proceedings without going backwards.

MR. SPEAKER

Mr Speaker reminded the Leader of the Opposition that this was the agreement made by the Commission, to categorize the reports and responses in sectors for convenience; and asserted that if he opens this door to the Opposition leader proceedings will go backward and it will drag our sitting.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition**

The Opposition Leader noted the importance of deliberating on the Committee Reports so members can offer advice to Government to improve their operations.

Proceedings were set aside at 10:50am and resumed at 11:26am

Mr. Speaker:

He acknowledged the Member for requesting for another chance to speak but believes this will prolong proceedings; however, he may raise such concerns/views when the Government responds.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.**

The Member acknowledged all Members who spoke on the Committee reports. He then attempted to respond to issues raised by Members and clarified that the amount of achievements and work LTA managed to complete for the 19/20 period the Chairperson noted that this is a result of upgrading road works and projects before the 2021 General Elections. In terms of the Authority's fund reduction in 20/21 compared to the previous FY the Chairperson noted that this is a result of the COVID pandemic, however assured Members that as noted in the report there were several Government Grants that assisted the Authority during this time. In terms of the issue raised by the member for Alataua West, the Chairperson queried where the member got her findings as the Committee considered the report for 1 day 4 hours.

- **Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena, Member for Faasaleleaga 5**

The member clarified to the Member for Alataua West that their committee sat for 4 hours per day considering each Ministry and Corporation for an hour each. Hence, the 1hr recorded for the LTA committee report.

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

The Hon Member suggested crosschecking its figures in its report, specifically in relation to a table in page 5 of the Report whether the figures are right and whether there is a need to amend the figures to provide accurate information for official records of Parliament.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.**

The Chairperson clarified on the 5th page of the report which stipulates the expenditure of the Ministry during the FY 2019/2020.

- **Afioga Hon. FIAME Naomi Mataafa: Leader of the House**

The Hon Prime Minister asserted to ensure the meaning of terms used in the report are correct for instance, the report noted that there was a loss for both Financial Years but the clarification highlighted that there was a profit which does not make sense.

- **Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Vaai: Minister of LTA, SAA, SSC, SWA, SSS,EPC and MWTI**

The Hon Minister advised Members to stray from seeking clarification on the figures noted in the LTA committee reports. He stressed that the bulk of funds spent by the Authority during the 19/20 FY is a result of election campaigns.

- **Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of MAF**

The Hon Minister reminded the Speaker of his announcement this morning where members should seek his approval to speak before they stand to make their opinions; however, it seems the Deputy leader of Opposition does not wait for his approval but just interrupts and voices his opinions when he wants and it was probably because he was not present when the announcement was made and therefore he urged members to adhere to the Speaker's announcement.

- **Mr. Speaker**

Mr. Speaker reminded the Members of his announcement this morning regarding seeking first the approval from the Speaker.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.**

The Chairperson highlighted that the figures meant the Authority experienced a deficit as a result of the 2021 elections.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition**

The Hon Member asserted that the Leader of the House has already clarified that the issue raised by members regarding the figures in the LTA Committee report is a result of terms used. He clarified that there are standard terms for Government Ministries and Corporations in terms of their finances spent and gained. He reiterated that the Government is not a business and therefore, finances are never at a loss as they are spent for national developments no matter how

much it is. He further advised members to be mindful of the terms that they use to avoid confusion on Government money spent and revenue collected highlighting that whatever money the Government spends is never wasted.

- **Mr. Speaker**

Advised the Chairperson to refrain from discussing this matter but move forward on other matters that needs to be discussed.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.**

Regarding the School of Maritime, the Chairperson assured the Member for Alataua West that the credentials from this school will still be recognized and accredited as the only change is the school shifting under a different Authority.

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

As a member of the Committee that considered the Annual Report for the Samoa Shipping Corporation, he stood to further clarify why the Maritime school will be placed under the Corporation for better hands-on learning (practical) separated from the National University of Samoa and placed under the Corporation.

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

The Member further clarified to the Member for Alataua West that the hours provided in the Committee's Report but it does not include the hours which they conducted site visits. In regards to the request by the Member for Vaimauga 2 to install traffic lights at the intersection at Matautu, the Member requested not to consider this as it may cause traffic congestion in this area.

- **Afioga LENATAI Victor Tamapua, Member for Vaimauga 2**

The member acknowledged the response from the Member, however he reminded that his request was to conduct a feasibility study at the Moataa intersection to determine whether it is appropriate to install traffic lights, rather to immediately install traffic lights.

- **Tofa OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai: Minister of LTA, SAA, SSC, SWA, SSS, EPC and MWTI**

The Minister stated that the Ministry of Finance have laid out plans to seek out other means of gaining funds to continue with these essential works and projects. In terms of drainages mentioned by some members, specifically with the drainage at Vaimea he clarified that he has taken all their recommendations and requests into account. However, the reason why some drainages cannot be constructed for some areas is because of families rejecting the Government's request to use part of their land for water-drainage. He noted that the Government has no reserved land for such projects. In addition, the different types of water drainage are based on the area. For instance, water drainage on flat roads is much wider compared to water drainage for

up-hill roads which are constructed more deeply. The Hon Minister clarified that designs of these drainage works are included in the plans of the Ministry, but they have to follow the designs brought to them by the ADB and World Development Bank.

- **Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga:**

The Member raised concerns with the interconnection of streams inland in certain villages of his constituency, and requested for possible measures to be implemented by the Ministry to lead this flow directly to the ocean rather than piling inland and causing flooding in certain areas.

- **Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai: Minister of LTA, SAA, SSC, SWA, SSS,EPC and MWTI**

The Hon Minister took note of the request made by the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga and assured him that a site visit will be conducted after proceedings. Furthermore, he informed the House that policies will be settled for regulating lawn-mowing contracts in July. He continued to mention the Authority's plans to decentralize the mowing of lawns to each respective constituencies but without payment. He reiterated that this would help the Government save funds, and it will encourage each constituency to maintain the beautification of their own constituencies and it will also be their contribution to national development. Regarding access roads, the Minister reminded members that the maintenance of these roads have been transferred under each constituency to fund from the 1million district development project. Thus, stressed the importance of each constituency maintaining these access roads so they are more accessible.

In terms of the Pasekifa Express issue which a member queried the 3k spent on it, the Minister noted that this Boat was from Tokelau, and the Government did not spend any money on acquiring it. However, the \$3,000 was spent on administration fees for the transferal of ownership from Tokelau to Samoa. The Minister clarified that there were plans to sink the ship however a Business owner from Savaii offered to buy the vessel as there are parts in it that he needed which is why it was sold for \$3,000. For the Pasefika Express, it was sold for \$450,000 because it was in a Tender List and that was the highest bid amount.

On the issue of the defect period from 24 months to 12 months as mentioned by the Member for Alataua West, the Minister noted that the Government is negotiating this timeframe and will provide a confirmed answer soon. The Minister also noted concerns on the roads of Vaivase Uta, as mentioned by the Member of Vaimauga 2, that these roads need to be repaired and assured the Member that the Ministry is reviewing this.

Regarding the request to install traffic lights at the intersection road at Matautu, the Minister stated that he noted that traffic lights have been the major cause of traffic congestion yet for the area of Matautu it has noted traffic flows smoothly due to the roundabout, therefore the Ministry will consider the use of roundabouts to address traffic congestion. However, if there is a dire need for lights, then the Minister will consider this.

In regards to questions raised by a member about the usage of the Tiavea land that was intended for the Airport, the Minister noted that this land will be used for Solar development. Thus, an

EOI has been sent out for any interested business that wants to develop this land. The Hon Minister also commended the Committee for their work on the reports, he further stated that he is responsible for proofing and making sure that the reports are well prepared. He then reminded the Members that reports are important, context, accuracy and everything.

- **Afioga LENATAI Victor Tamapua, Member for Vaimauga 2:**

Reminded the minister about his request to use the outer lane of the road from Malifa for heavy trucks only.

- **Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga:**

The Member reminded the Hon Minister about his request to the Minister to consider tree branches hanging off on the road especially the Mafa area for safety issues.

The Member considered to trim the tree branches for the bus transportation access at the cliff area for the safety of the public.

- **Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai: Minister of LTA, SAA, SSC, SWA, SSS, EPC and MWTI**

The Hon Minister assured the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga that he has noted the Member's request. He also reassured the Member for Vaimauga 2 that his request for using the outer lane for heavy trucks will also be taken into account and that he supports this.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition**

The Hon Member stated that he believes it is important to utilize the airport in Maota (Savaii) especially in emergency situations and during government agendas in Savaii, therefore it is important to continue maintaining this airport.

- **Afioga Hon. FIAME Naomi Mataafa – Prime Minister:**

The Leader of the House reminded the leader of the Opposition to refrain from talking about planes as this is not in the report, rather focus on talking about the airport directly to the Minister for SAA.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition**

The Opposition Leader urged the Hon Prime Minister to reconsider the rationale of constructing the Maota airport to cater for special circumstances.

- **Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai: Minister of LTA, SAA, SSC, SWA, SSS, EPC and MWTI**

The Member reassured the Opposition Leader that he has taken all advice into account. Furthermore, encouraged Members not to worry about the safety of airports as he mentioned as they have all been taken into account and asserted that currently the Maota Airport is not included in scheduled flights for Samoa Airway, rather flights to Savaii, the Minister noted that the airport in Fagalii provides charter flights.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Chairperson of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the following reports; Motion seconded by Members for Vaisigano 1 and Aana Alofi 1 and Vaimauga 1, Safata 1;
Motion Approved.

- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 58, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No.102, Land Transport Authority, Annual Report for Financial Year 2019/2020.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 126, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022 No. 54, Land Transport Authority, Annual Report for Financial Year 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 53, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No.73, Samoa Airport Authority, Annual Report for Financial Year 2019/2020.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 117, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 128 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 55, Annual Reports of the Samoa Shipping Corporation for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 60, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on P.P. 2023/2024 No.14, Samoa Shipping Corporation Annual Report 2021/2022.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 125, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022 No. 51, Annual Report of the Samoa Water Authority for Financial Year 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 123, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022, No. 7 & P.P. 2022/2023 No. 27, Samoa Shipping Services Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 52, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 6 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 44, Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 120, Report of the Infrastructure Sector Committee on the P.P. 2021/2022, No. 4 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 49, Electric Power Corporation Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

- **Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Vaai: Minister of LTA, SAA, SSC, SWA, SSS, EPC and MWTI**

The Hon Minister moved a motion that Assembly approve the following Government Responses on the Committee recommendations provided in its Reports seconded by Ministers of Agriculture; Health; and Sports and Recreation, *Motion Approved*.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 23, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 58
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 24, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 126
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 25, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 53
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 28, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 117
- P.P. 2023/2024, No. 143, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No .60
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 32, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 125
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 61, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 123
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 96, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 52
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 97, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 120

10. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 91, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Officers Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 69 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 12, Parliamentary Pension Scheme Annual Reports for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

-P.P. 2023/2024 No. 33, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 91

11. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 151, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 130, Parliamentary Pension Scheme Annual Report 2021/2022.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 74, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 151

- **Afioga AUUAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua, Chairperson for Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Officers Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the two reports inclusive of findings, recommendations and resolution. Motion seconded by members for Vaisigano 1, Gagaifomauga 2 and Faleata 1; *Motion Approved*.

- **Afioga Hon LAUTIMUIA Uelese Vaai- Minister of Finance**

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Government Responses on the Committee recommendations provided in its Reports as mentioned above; Motion seconded and *Approved*.

12. P.P. 2023/2024 No. 1, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 71, Samoa Senior Citizen Benefit Fund Annual Report 2021/2022.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 76, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No. 1

13. P.P. 2023/2024 No. 2, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 88, Samoa National Provident Fund Annual Report 2021/2022.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 77, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No. 2

- **Afioga FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua- Chairperson of Finance and Expenditure Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the two reports inclusive of findings, recommendations and resolutions; Motion seconded by Faasaleleaga 2

Motion approved.

- **Afioga Hon LAUTIMUIA Uelese Vaai- Minister of MOF**

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Government Responses on the Committee recommendations provided in its Reports as mentioned above; motion seconded by; Minister for Sports and MNRE and Minister of Communications.

Motion Approved.

Mr. Speaker opened the floor for any member who wished to speak on the above-mentioned reports and Government Responses.

i. Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 4

The Member commended the plan to increase Members pension. He reiterated the importance of having this scheme as a back-up plan if they do not return to Parliament for the next elections. The Member urged to review the Legislation regulating parliamentary pensions. The Member raised issue with the timeframe which permits members to take out their pension at the age of 55, he believes that this is not ideal given that some members only last 1 term and will have to wait until they are 55 years of age this is if members enter parliament at a young age. However, this is different if Members enter Parliament at 55 years or more. Furthermore, he requested to reconsider increasing pensions for our elders considering their needs. He also requested the Government to consider changing the age that permits workers to take out their NPF from the age of 55 to 60 so it is closer to when they can access their pension benefit at 65.

The Member advised that the Board for NPF should include individuals as representatives of the Government, Ministry of Finance, public servants/employees and the Attorney General to avoid any conflict. He advised that MPE should reconsider the selection criteria for the NPF board members to avoid growing concerns by the public. He then commended ACC with their works, especially with handling several government assets; he then reiterated that any land sold (on-market) around the urban area should be firstly prioritized to the Government.

ii. Tofa Hon. LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo, Member for Anoamaa 2

The Member expressed support on matters raised by the Member for Faleata 3, regarding benefits for Senior citizens, he requested for an increase in pension for them as well as other benefits such as medications and free travel to Savaii. The member queried the Minister about the NPF investment into various companies which is of great concern considering that these are contributors hard earned money, and they also have a right to know how their funds are used as they are also expecting to gain from their contributions (implying that there should be a return on investments). Thus, he proposed to include the parliamentary pensions scheme with the contributors' scheme so that they are eligible for the percentage (dividend payout) benefit; for instance, when the government tends to increase the dividend for all contributors to 8% they would also be entitled if they were included in this scheme.

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

The Member again queried the absence of signatures for certain Committee members on the reports being considered. Iterated on the importance of all Committee members approving their own report by signing them, as they are presented to Parliament for its consideration. Furthermore, he requested the Minister whether it is possible to change the amount of time a member can take out their NPF from two times within a FY to whenever they want.

Proceedings were adjourned at 1:02pm and will reconvene at 9:30am on Friday 15th March 2024.