

DISCLAIMER

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**Day 6
9:34am**

- I. ORDERS OF THE DAY – Consideration of Parliamentary Committee Reports and Government Responses (cont.) Day 2**
 - 1. 1. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 121, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022 No. 5 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 31, Office of the Regulator, Annual Reports for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
P.P. 2023/2024 No. 20, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 121**
 - 2. 2. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 118, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 138 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 32, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Communications, and Information Technology for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 31, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 118**
 - 3. 3. P.P. 2023/2024 No. 5, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 142, Samoa Post Office Annual Report 2021/2022.
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 75, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No. 5**
- i. Susuga Hon. TUILAEPFA Fatialofa Auelua Sailele Malielegaoi, Opposition Leader & Member for Lepa.**

The Member greeted the House and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. He then stressed the importance of the reports being discussed especially for the Government as it gives them an overview of how the operations of Government Ministries and Corporation are going. In addition, deliberations on such reports allow Members to give advice and feedback for the improvement of Government Ministries and Corporations. Hon. TUILAEPFA highlighted a rising challenge for the continual operation of the Samoa Post Office as a result of technology and internet upgrade which may shift people from using Post Offices to a complete online system. However, the Hon. Member advised the Government to continue with efforts to develop the Samoa Post Office and seek Partnership opportunities with other Companies to ensure the survival of the Office through these rising challenges.

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

The Member greeted all members present in the Chamber then commended the Office of the Samoa Post for their financial position and collection of revenue as noted in the annual report. The Member highlighted a swift change in the Offices operations such as the 200 unused mailboxes at the Office, while the Office has increased services with pensions payout for the elders. Furthermore, the Member also requested if it is practical to also use each Fono Faavae Office in each constituency to serve as an outpost for their mails.

iii. Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3

The Member touched on the importance of Technology and Communication as this is the technological era we are in; he highlighted that without technology we would not be able to effectively communicate with our families abroad. He recalled the significance of internet and technology during COVID which ensured Samoa was on track with the world despite the effects of the pandemic. In addition, the Member highlighted the importance of maintaining Technological Infrastructures and further advised that in order to maintain such infrastructures the Ministry must hire qualified workers.

He then highlighted that CSL is owned by the Government but it is operated as a business. Moreover, the Member acknowledged the Government's efforts for bringing SNBH under the Ministry's umbrella.

Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo Toelupe – Minister for MCIT:

The Hon Minister jested that the opinions of the Member for Faleata 4 contradicts the Opposition Leader's opinions where he stated that the internet is expensive yet the Member for Faleata 3 is saying it is cheap.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3 (cont.)

The Member reiterated that he was referring to smartphones alone which is now cheaper compared to other countries which indicate the company is progressing well. The Member noted that the price for using internet varies among people and their preference; hence, why his opinion is different from the Leader of the Opposition. In addition, the Member noted that he highlighted from the Ministry's report that there is no more digital tv license. He stressed the importance of the Digital TV license which the former Government bought and permitted the free air of various Government Business channels, like Parliament Proceedings. He then queried the status of the Digital TV, and whether there were any plans regarding handling issues such as individuals travelling on marine vessels who misuse identification (ID) cards.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition and Member for Lepa - interruption**

The Leader of the Opposition asserted to the Minister that he was not referring to the cost of the internet rather the Starlink company was expensive.

iv. Afioga Hon. LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Member for Satupaitea.

The Member commended the Samoa Post Office and Staff as he realized from previous reports that despite the services of the Office not in high demand, the Office always records a profit from the Office operations despite all the Challenges the Office continues to endure. In addition, the Member acknowledged the service of the current CEO for SPO for all her hard work over the years ensuring the continual survival of the Office.

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

The Chairperson conveyed his appreciation and acknowledged the queries and concerns raised by members on both Committee reports deliberated in Parliament.

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

The Chairperson acknowledged all comments and advices for the improvement of the Post Office. Regarding the issue raised by the member for Vaimauga 1 about the 200 unused mail boxes, he reassured the member that these mailboxes have been repaired and are now available for the public to use.

Mr. Speaker:

Mr. Speaker reminded members to address each Parliamentarian by their respective Constituent designation, instead of their names for formality and as provided for in the Standing Orders.

Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister of OOTR, MCIT and Post Office

The Hon Minister acknowledged the Committees continual work of reviewing and considering all Annual Reports as this allows them to provide appropriate recommendations and feedback to improve the work of Ministries and Government Corporations. He also acknowledged all Members who raised issues and offered advices for the Ministry of Communication and the Post Office. He further stressed the importance of Technology and Communication noting in the long-term investments facilitated by the Government that are beneficial for the public. Moreover, the Post Office continues to provide crucial service for the Public and the Government will always ensure its development and survival.

Furthermore, the Minister noted that all individuals have the right to access internet and embrace the development of technology in the country which is why the Government managed to distribute internet connectivity programs in rural schools.

The Hon. Minister noted that with regards to the Leader of the Opposition suggestion to boost for the commercial facilitation of internet connection in the country by creating partnerships with overseas companies, the Minister said that this is a risky move to make as overseas or local

companies means our internet connection is prone to fluctuation and become instable, cut off anytime by companies. Thus, advised against the commercialization of internet in the country.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3 (cont.)

The Member clarified to the Minister that he mentioned 99% of the country had coverage no matter their economic status.

Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo- Minister of OOTR, MCIT and Post Office

The Hon. Minister stated that when they took over the reins from the previous Government, only 20% of the population was below the poverty line which is why they are providing assistance for instance through the 1 million district development project.

Mr. Speaker:

Mr. Speaker informed Member that the Hon Minister is trying to clarify on matters pertaining to his Ministry and asserted that the Government has its own plans with the sole purpose of initiating developments that benefit our people.

- **Afioga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of MAF:**

The Hon Minister noted that the main reason why the internet is expensive is because the former government privatized the Submarine Cables instead it should have been run by the Government.

Heated debate continued in Parliament, with statements thrown around, thus leading to the Minister of Health moving a motion to have the Member for Faleata 3 removed from Chamber to ensure proceedings continue with order and decorum. This then prompted the Hon Prime Minister to give her stance on the matter.

- **Afioga Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa, Leader of the House**

The Hon leader of the House advised members to be calm and ensure the maintenance of peace in the House and reminded them that the Public is listening in. She further noted the importance of considering these Annual Reports and that all advice are important for the improvement of Samoa. Thus, advised members to be forgiving and asserted to Mr. Speaker that the smooth facilitation of Parliament proceedings is at his hands.

The Opposition Leader, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Member for Faleata 3 all conveyed apologies to the Chair and Members; then the Minister of Health stood to withdraw his motion moved earlier as the Hon Prime Minister has already addressed the matter.

- **Mr. Speaker – Point of Order:**

Mr. Speaker acknowledged advises offered by the Leader of the House and Opposition Leader. Further encouraged members to be forgiving and ordered the Clerk to remove all unnecessary words spoken by Members of Parliament from Parliamentary Records. In addition, Mr. Speaker reminded Members to be calm and remember their calling as representatives for their constituencies.

- **Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister of OOTR, MCIT and Post Office**

The Hon Minister clarified that the Government has plans in place to assist the people as well as the service providers as he noted there are only about 15 towers around the country and some areas only have 1, thus there is poor connection in these areas. The Minister assured Members that there were no issues with the technologies used for this rather on sustainability. Furthermore, the Hon Minister highlighted that the Regulator is constantly monitoring the competition between the service providers while the Government ensures the operations of its services are in accordance with the law while also aiming to generate revenue and offering affordability to the public.

The Hon Minister noted that the MCIT is not a revenue generating Ministry, however the demand for improved technological and internet infrastructures continues to rise. The Government continues to improve this service for the country because it is important to the public. The Hon Minister noted that currently there are 3 Cables under the SNBH initiative and these cables are expensive and they are all run by the Private Sector. However, he is working with the Minister of Finance to plan a way forward for a more effective progression of these cables such as using the Ministry of Communication to provide technical assistance with the facilitation of these cables.

- **Susuga Hon. TUILAEPFA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition and Member for Lepa**

The Leader of the Opposition stood to reassert his point that the Minister should analyze the cost of these and search advice from the Regulator which is the major reason why the Office of the Regulator was established.

- **Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo- Minister of OOTR, MCIT and Post Office**

The Hon Minister acknowledged the clarification by the Leader of Opposition, with regards to the SNBH, he then asserted that all networks used by various Ministries used SNBH which was monitored by CSL this included monitoring of coverage and financial services. He further highlighted that the license for this asset is 20 years and therefore posed a question of what will happen when the license is due; this is why the Government intends to make appropriate changes. On the issue of paying the license for the Digital TV, the Hon Minister asserted that the Government is reviewing the contract for this license highlighting that the Government should

always have a say in the operation of this license so that there is not a loss at the end of the 20year contract with whichever private company chosen to operate it.

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

The Chairperson moved a motion to approve its Committee reports.

Motion seconded by: Members for Lefaga and Faleaseela, Vaisigano 1 and Falealupo;

Motion Approved

- **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 121, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022 No. 5 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 31, Office of the Regulator, Annual Reports for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.**
- **P.P. 2022/2023 No. 118, Infrastructure Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 138 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 32, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Communications, and Information Technology for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.**

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

The Chairperson moved a motion to approve the Committee report:

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 5, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 142, Samoa Post Office Annual Report 2021/2022.

- **Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo- Minister of OOTR, MCIT and Post Office**

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the following papers:

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 75, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No. 5
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 20, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 121
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 31, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 118

4. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 109, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 77& P.P. 2021/2022 No. 18, Scientific Research Organization of Samoa, Annual Reports for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
 - P.P. 2023/2024 No. 21, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 109
5. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 158, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 89, Scientific Research Organization of Samoa Annual Report 2021/2022.
 - P.P. 2023/2024, No. 64, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 1

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its report which consist of its recommendations and resolution.

Motion seconded by Members for Faasaleleaga 2 and Gagaemauga 2,

Motion Approved

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

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to consider the Governments Response on the Committees recommendations.

Motion seconded and approved.

Proceedings were set aside at 10:46am and resumed at 11:20am

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

- i. Susuga Hon. TUILAEPFA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:
Leader of the Opposition and Member for Lepa**

The Member commended the responsible Minister for SROS and acknowledged the Parliamentary Committee for their consideration and report with recommendations. He expressed his support on recommendations made by the Committee to enhance the Organization's performance. He then talked about the history of SROS and its purpose of establishment. He highlighted that there are countries who rely heavily on goods produced naturally while some rely on processed goods; for instance, Japan only allows 14% of its landmass for cultivation whereas the remaining 86% are mountainous.

The Member noted that the history that he is mentioning is important as it is what led to the establishment of the SROS until its mandated Act was passed in 2006. In addition, the Member noted that the SROS stemmed from the need to conduct our own local research and production instead of importing them from overseas. Moreover, the Member highlighted that the SROS is continuing plant-based studies to cure cancer, and if possible then we will have a local cure. Hon TUILAEPFA also acknowledged that the Organisation has opened many employment opportunities for students pursuing careers in the scientific fields to avoid brain drain.

The Member stressed on the importance of local production and manufacture as this means we will have sole control on our own prices whereas, if we continue to rely on imported products from overseas, these countries will control the prices for us making it expensive. Thus, advised the Government to focus on sustaining the development of this Organization.

- ii. Tofa LEALAIPEPULA Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3**

The Member commended the Minister responsible for the Organization, then reminded the Minister of his suggestion for the establishment of a Commercial Division that will be

responsible for navigating and negotiating the prices of locally produced products for affordability and especially the sustainability of the Organization. The Member also mentioned an issue with the flour produced locally, and stated that scones were baked using local flour, however it could not hold the pastry together as it needs imported flour for this, and again reminded the Organisation on his request to investigate this matter. He also mentioned the whisky produced by the Organisation is expensive but stressed that this product was produced with the intention that it will be affordable.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE noted his disapproval of using the Research Division under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at the Organization. He noted that this is not appropriate as the Ministry and the Organization have different tasks and responsibilities. He then advised to see whether the transition is beneficial or not.

iii. Afioga Hon LOAU Keneti Sio, Member for Sagaga 1

The Member commended the Minister and Organization for their work and continual research in making other products available locally.

iv. Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili, Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member commended the Minister for SROS and the Committee that reviewed and considered the Report. He advised the Minister to thoroughly consider issues raised by other members about research on whiskey and flour while its production process is decentralized to any Company or Business that can take up this job. The Member advised the Minister to do a public announcement on plants/leaves deemed appropriate and have been licensed to be used for its medicinal purposes given that he has witnessed a lot of people boiling and drinking various leaves/plants.

v. Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tofia Tile, Member for Falelatai and Samatau

The Member stated that he believes, the reason for producing local products is to reduce our reliance on imported goods however this is not the case as locally made products are expensive. He therefore suggested to the Government to come up with solutions to counter this issue such as decreasing tax and duties on locally manufactured products.

• Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson of the Economic Sector Committee

The Chairperson acknowledged the Opposition Leader for his in depth explanation of the history and development of the Organization. He commended all members that raised issues and commented on the operations of the Organization. He paid special acknowledgment to those who served the Organization during its inception as the SROS provides a crucial service for our nation. The Chairperson offered condolences for the passing of one of the ACEO's for the Organization, Afioga Fonoti Lupeomanu Pelenato. He acknowledged his service and knowledge shared for the development of the Organization over the years. The Chairperson also assured Members that relevant plans have been laid out by SROS and have also sought advice from the

Attorney General on patents and intellectual property rights on these products produced by the Organisation. The Chairperson also acknowledged the Organization for its efforts towards research a Solar Energy Battery which is a renewable energy and it is expected to last for 100 years. He then concluded by acknowledging the Minister and Committee members for their service.

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

The Member sought Mr. Speaker's approval to speak as a member of the Committee to assist in further clarifying the report; thus he mentioned the importance of having patents on products made by SROS where he noted they have tried to patent the guava leaves which is useful for curing diseases such as cancer however China already has a patent and copyright on this. This prompted the Committee to urge SROS to research on more plants like this and to immediately create a patent and copyright on it.

• Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister of MAF and SROS

The Minister acknowledged the Committee for their work in analyzing the report and their recommendations. He noted that the Government has plans instore for the improvement of SROS in conducting research on locally produced products. He stressed that the Organization continues to facilitate plant-based and animal-based research. The Hon Minister stated that to ensure the smooth development of SROS it needs cooperation with other Ministries like MFAT. The Minister highlighted that the Organization conducts the research, then proceeds onto the manufacturing process, then to the MFAT to negotiate trading with overseas countries.

He also clarified on the expensive price for our locally produced products as raised by some members and stated that this is justifiable because of the cost of production and value of ingredients used to produce our organic products. Moreover, the Minister noted that the capacity of our SROS has improved over the years where we can now locally conduct tests for viruses. He noted this significant improvement as he recalled the time of Covid we had to rely on testing results from New Zealand; furthermore, SROS can also conduct drug tests. Lastly, the Minister acknowledged the Organization and staff for all their efforts and service to the Country. He also stressed that only locals are employed at this Organization hence, he expressed admiration for all their knowledge. Finally, the Minister stressed that the focus of the SROS now is to manufacture products that the Office have researched on.

• Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson of Economic Sector Committee

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve its reports;
Motion seconded by Members for Satupaitea, Falealili 2, Faasaleleaga 2;
Motion Approved.

- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 109, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 77& P.P. 2021/2022 No. 18, Scientific Research Organization of Samoa, Annual Reports for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 158, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2022/2023, No. 89, Scientific Research Organization of Samoa Annual Report 2021/2022.

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

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Government Responses on the Committee's Report;

Motion Seconded by Minister of Works and Minister of Police; *Motion Approved*

P.P. 2023/2024 No. 21, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 109

P.P. 2023/2024, No. 64, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 1

6. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 112, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No. 66 & P.P. 2022/2023 No. 31, Annual Reports of the Samoa Tourism Authority for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 29, Government Response on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 112

7. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 113, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2022/2023 No. 42, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Annual Report for Financial Year 2020/2021.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 22, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 113

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson of Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its reports; Motion seconded and *Approved*.

- **Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa - Prime Minister:**

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion that the Assembly consider its Government Responses; Motion seconded by DPM and *Approved*.

8. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 98, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022, No. 70 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 48, Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 62, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 98

9. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 46, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 136 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 39, Office of the Ombudsman Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 78, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 46

10. P.P. 2023/2024, No. 86, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2023/2024 No.12, Office of the Public Service Commission Annual Report 2021/2022.

- P.P. 2023/2024, No. 119, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No. 86

- **Afioga AUAAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Chairperson for Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee.**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Reports: Motion seconded and *Approved*.

- **Afioga Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa - Prime Minister & Minister for MPMC, OMB and PSC.**

The Hon Prime Minister moved the motion that the Assembly consider its Government Responses; Motion seconded by Deputy Prime Minister and MAF; *Motion Approved*.

Mr. Speaker opened the floor for Members who wished to speak on the abovementioned Reports and Government Responses

i. Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West

The Member commended the Committee for their usual task of reviewing the annual report 2019/2022 and 2020/2021 for the Samoa Tourism Authority. The Member acknowledged the recommendations provided by the Committee as well as responses by the Government specially on the use of Stimulus Package as she highlighted from the Committee report that there were a lot of funds appropriated for the Stimulus Packages for both hotels and staff that were made redundant because of COVID. She highlighted the importance of clarifying how the funds for stimulus package were used. She then raised the Atele Park Project which has now been given to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and questioned whether this Ministry will continue with the plans laid out by the Authority on the park or will it be used for its own projects.

ii. Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member acknowledged the CEO for STA and responsible Committee for their consideration and report. He then raised the need for proper road repairs and maintenance to tourists sites and locations as this can also be a hindrance for our tourism industry, especially the tourists visiting our shores. Furthermore, he acknowledged the STA for offering opportunities for his constituency to perform at the wharf to welcome cruise ships coming into the country where they received \$2,000. He then raised the issue of certain Committee members who did not sign the Committee Report and queried whether they do not support the report, thus sought clarification for this.

Afioga SULAMANAIA queried the immigration declaration form that all passengers travelling to and departing from Samoa need to fill in and proposed whether our Customs Division at the airport should carry out the immigration duties and also to categorized lanes in accordance to what passengers declared on their forms to avoid any long queues etc...

iii. Susuga Hon. TUILAEPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Leader of the Opposition and Member for Lepa.

The Member expressed his support for the Authority and all its developments that serve to attract more tourists in the country. He stressed the importance of tourism for the economy. He then highlighted that the Government at the time aims to target tourists who will stay for longer periods, at least a week to make their money worth and this is why the Government focused on enhancing its promotion around the world as well as improving its tourists sites to capture the attention of tourists and lure them into our country. Hon TUILAEPA also touched on the purpose for the Atele Park Project to serve as a garden to grow natural flora found in Samoa that would attract tourists which is also practiced by other countries.

He then mentioned negotiations with American Samoa, and sought clarification of the 400 acres of land which the Government has negotiated between Tutuila, he wanted to understand as it is also important for the village of Falealili and Tutuila to be aware and clear on Government plans for this land.

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

The Member clarified that he is one of the members who did not sign the report due to the reshuffle made by the Parliamentary Commission, therefore he thought it was not ethical to sign on a report he was not a part of when the responsible Committee commenced its deliberations.

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

The Member also explained that he did not sign the report as he was on duty travel.

• Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member asserted that he is referring to a different report and the two members who put forth their reasons of not having their signatures on the report are not included in the responsible Committee report he is referring to.

• Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for the Economic Sector Committee

The Chairperson acknowledged all those who spoke on the Committee's reports and then addressed concerns regarding Government plans for Atele and asserted that the STA could not cater to all parks at the same time, as the Government prioritized the Friendship Park. Furthermore, the Chairperson noted that there are a lot of tourist developments in Samoa however, the issue is the lack of proper signage (signal posts) or billboard signs for tourists and the public to easily recognize and identify historical sites when they are site-seeing.

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

Hon TUILAEPA advised that the House must be informed about the reason why certain members of committees did not sign their reports as this is a crucial matter, stating that the absence of their signature implies they do not support the Committee's report.

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

The Hon. Prime Minister clarified to the Opposition leader that she does not know anything about the 400 acres of land for American Samoa as he mentioned.

- **Afioga AUAAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Chairperson for Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee.**

The Chairperson highlighted that only one report was queried by a member and also clarified on the reason why certain Members in his Committee did not sign the report; he asserted that one member resigned from the Committee, the other was unwell, while another Member was away on duty travel.

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

The Member advised the Chairperson that he must have explained this matter of members not signing beforehand, so that the House will understand such reasons.

Mr. Speaker:

Mr. Speaker acknowledged the concerns raised by the Member for Vaimauga 1 however, he reminded him that the process has been simplified where findings, recommendations and resolutions of respective Committees are not called out.

- **Afioga AUAAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Chairperson for Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee.**

The Chairperson asserted to the Member for Vaimauga 1 that it is provided in Standing Order 66, that if the majority of the Committee signs the report, then it is final. The Chairperson then concluded by commending the Member for Vaimauga 1 for the recommendation on the declaration forms; he then acknowledged his Committee for their efforts and continuous works.

- **Afioga Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa (Prime Minister), Minister for STA, MFAT, MPMC, OMB and PSC**

The Hon Prime Minister acknowledged all opinions and advises by members on the Samoa Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She then clarified on a point raised by the Opposition Leader regarding the 400 acres and stated that it is probably 'fake news' as she has no knowledge of such negotiations taking place. The Hon Prime Minister further

clarified that the only land matter which involves land for American Samoa is the exchange of land in both Samoa and American Samoa to accommodate needs for both nations. The Hon Prime Minister asserted that there is land at Moataa which will be exchanged with land in Tafuna whereby the Government intends to setup a storage warehouse near American Samoa's wharf to store products from Samoa shipped into the territory.

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

The Hon Opposition Leader clarified that these were not fake news as he was listening in on the Senate's meeting and the matter was mentioned in that formal meeting.

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson of Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the following reports;

Motion seconded and Approved.

- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 112, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2020/2021 No.66 & P.P. 2022/2023 No. 31, Annual Reports of the Samoa Tourism Authority for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 113, Economic Sector Committee Report on the P.P. 2022/2023 No.42, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Annual Report for Financial Year 2020/2021.

- **Afioga AUAAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Chairperson for Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee.**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve its reports; Motion seconded by Members for Vaisigano 1 and Gagaifomauga 2

Motion Approved

- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 98, Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee Report on the P.P. 2021/2022, No. 70 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 48, Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2022/2023 No. 46, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 136 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 39, Office of the Ombudsman Annual Reports 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.
- P.P. 2023/2024, No. 86, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2023/2024 No.12, Office of the Public Service Commission Annual Report 2021/2022.

- **Afioga Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa (Prime Minister), Minister for: STA, MFAT, MPMC, OMB and PSC**

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve Government Responses on the Economic Sector and Standing Order's Committee reports; Motion seconded by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for MAF; *Motion Approved.*

- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 29, Government Response on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 112
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 22, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 113
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 62, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 98
- P.P. 2023/2024 No. 78, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 46
- P.P. 2023/2024, No. 119, Government Responses on P.P. 2023/2024 No. 86

Proceedings were adjourned at 1:11pm and will reconvene at 9:30am on Thursday 14th March 2024.