



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA
**PROCEDURAL &
STATISTICAL DIGEST NO.8**
AUGUST 19 – 20 2014

AUGUST 2014				
M	T	W	T	F
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22

BILLS

1.01 *Bills introduced*

Five Bills were introduced on Tuesday 19th August: the Public Finance Management Amendment Bill 2014, Community Law Centre Bill 2014, Media Council Bill 2014, Customs Bill 2014 and the National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2014. All bills were presented to the Assembly on a message from Le Ao o le Malo.

Standing Orders: 95, 99.

Refer to 1.03 below.

1.02 *Bills second read and referred to Select Committees*

Following first reading on Friday 20th June 2014, the Personal Property Securities Amendment Bill and the Public Holidays Amendment Bill 2014 were both second read on Tuesday, 19th August. After the conclusion of second reading debates, both were referred to the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee for inquiry.

Standing Orders: 100, 101, 137.

1.03 *Bill considered under Certificate of Urgency*

On Tuesday 19th August, the Customs Bill 2014 was introduced under a Certificate of Urgency signed by Le Ao o le Malo. The Certificate of Urgency received by the Speaker circumvents the usual requirement that Bills must be publicly published and distributed to Members prior to introduction. It also allows for a Bill to be first read, second read, considered in detail and third read in a single sitting day. The above Bill was introduced, first and second read on Tuesday 19th August and subsequently considered in detail, third read and passed the Assembly on Wednesday 20th August 2014.

Note: Unless a Certificate of Urgency has been signed by Le Ao o le Malo and presented to the Assembly, a Bill's passage through the Assembly must follow the normal procedure as set out in Standing Order 99(1).

Standing Orders: 99 – 112, 99(2), 100(1), 101(2), 107(4).

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

1.04 *Message from Le Ao o le Malo*

A message from Le Ao o le Malo to permit the introduction of five Bills on Tuesday 19th August was read out by the Speaker, following the formal opening of the Sitting and prayers at 9:00am.

Note: All messages from Le Ao o le Malo addressed to the Assembly shall be read immediately after Prayers or after a Member has been sworn in by the Speaker.

Standing Orders: 75 (1), 95.

Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa: Article 59.

1.05 *Other Announcements by Mr Speaker*

On Tuesday 19th August, the Speaker acknowledged the presence of the participants for the second Parliamentary College Programme and welcomed the participants to the House.

Standing Order: 44 (e).

1.06 *Obituary Notice*

After reading the Message from Le Ao o le Malo, the Speaker read out an Obituary Speech for three former Members of Parliament: Tofa TUILOA Anitelea, former representative for Gagaifomauga No.1 from 2006 to 2014, Afioga AIONO Fanaafi Le Tagaloa former representative for Aana Alofi No.1 from 1985 to 1988 and Afioga SAVEA Sione former representative for Anoamaa Sasae from 1982 to 1985. The House observed a minute of silence in their honour.

Standing Order: 44(1)(f).

1.07 *New Member of Parliament sworn in*

The seat for the constituency of Gagaifomauga No.1 became vacant due to the passing of its former representative in June 2014, which resulted in a bi-election

being held in August 2014. The Assembly witnessed the swearing in of the newly elected Member for Gagaifomauga No.1 on Wednesday 20th August, Afioga FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers-Ah Kau. The new Member was read the Code of Parliamentary Ethics by the Speaker before taking the Oath of Allegiance.

Note: A Member's seat may become vacant upon the death of a Member. Once a new Member has been duly elected they must take the oath of allegiance before officially taking up his or her role as a Member of Parliament.

**Standing Orders: 13, 14 & 44(1)(c).
Constitution: Articles 46(2)(a), 48 & 61.**

1.08 Motion to extend Sitting Hours

A motion was moved by the Honourable Prime Minister on Wednesday 20th August to extend sitting hours until such a time that the Customs Bill 2014 passes the Assembly; the motion was approved. Wednesday's sitting concluded at 1:30pm after the Bill passed the Assembly.

Standing Order: 31.

1.09 Twenty nine Government Responses tabled

On Tuesday 19th August, the Government tabled responses to reports from the following Select Committees: the Officers of Parliament Committee, Education, Science, Communications and Information Technology Committee, Works, Transport and Environment Committee, Finance and Expenditure Committee, Government Administration Committee and the Health and Social Services Committee. The Government tabled two responses on Wednesday 20th August to reports from the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee and one from the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee.

Note: Once a Select Committee Report has been adopted by the Assembly, the Government must table its response within ninety days with the exception of Finance and Expenditure Committee reports on any Estimates or Supplementary Estimates.

**Standing Order: 54.
*Parliamentary Papers: 2014/2015 No.112, 113 & 114.***

SPEAKER

Following Mr Speaker's acknowledgement of the participants of the Second Parliamentary College Programme on Tuesday 19th, Mr Speaker suspended proceedings at 9:22am in order for the Assembly to receive the village of Satupaitea who had arrived for a customary presentation of thanks on behalf of their Member of Parliament, the newly elected Minister of Public Enterprises.

Note: Mr Speaker has the discretion to suspend proceedings at any time if necessary.

Standing Orders: 31(4) & 44(2).

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

1.10 Nine Select Committee Reports tabled

On Tuesday 19th August, a total of five Select Committee reports were tabled, two by the Justice, Police and Prisons, Land and Titles Committee, two by the Finance and Expenditure Committee and one report by the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee. The following day, the Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee tabled three reports with the Works, Transport and Environment Committee tabling one report.

Standing Order: 51.

Parliamentary Papers: 2014/2015 No.s 101 – 110.

STATISTICAL DIGEST

19 – 20 August 2014

LEGISLATION	19 – 20 August 2014	Oct 2013 to date
<i>Bills presented to the Assembly</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normal Passage 4 - Certificate of Urgency 1 - Private Members Bills 0 • Bills referred to Committees 2 		25 7 0 20
OTHER BUSINESS	19 – 20 August 2014	Oct 2013 to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Sitting days 2 • Total hours of Sitting (excluding suspensions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business of the Assembly 43 mins - Government Business 7 hours 7 mins - Private Member's Business 0 mins - Other opportunities for Private Members 0 mins 	7 hours 50 mins	25 110 hours 53 mins 40 hours 21 mins 69 hours 34 mins 0 mins 0 mins
Questions lodged	0	0
Urgent Questions lodged	0	0
Answers to questions (written)	0	0
Answers to questions (oral)	0	0
Petitions presented	0	0
Divisions	0	0
Parliamentary Committee reports presented	9	85