



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA  
**PROCEDURAL &  
STATISTICAL DIGEST NO.12**  
FEBRUARY 17 – 20 2015

FEBRUARY 2015

M	T	W	T	F
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

## BILLS

### 1.01 Bills Second Read and Referred to Select Committees

Two Bills were second read on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February: the *Petroleum Amendment Bill 2014* and the *Credit Union Bill 2014* which were both first read on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February, the *Citizenship Investment Bill 2014* was second read following first reading on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

*Note: Pursuant to Standing Order 100(2), members may only discuss a Bill's principles and general merits during second reading debates. Once a Bill has been referred to a Select Committee for consideration, no further proceedings may be taken until the Select Committee has presented its report on the Bill to the Assembly [S.O 101(3)].*

**Standing Orders: 100 & 101.**

**See also 1.09 below re: the presentation of Select Committee Reports.**

## ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

### 1.02 Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

In his opening remarks on the Assembly's first sitting day, Mr Speaker noted the temporary re-location of the Assembly's Chamber to the *Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (TATTE)* Conference Centre. Mr Speaker noted that Assembly proceedings will be held at the TATTE Conference Centre until the Youth Commonwealth Games, to be held at the Tuanaimato Sports Complex, have concluded. Mr Speaker then welcomed students who were present for the one day National University of Samoa (NUS) and University Preparatory Year (UPY) Law Programme visit.

*Note: Le Ao o le Malo may appoint any place for Assembly proceedings to take place, as is provided for in Article 52 of the Constitution.*

**Standing Order: 44(e).  
The Constitution: Article 52.**

### **1.03 Government Responses tabled**

The Government tabled a response to the Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on the Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the financial year ending 30 June 2012, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

*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. Note also that pursuant to Standing Order 54(2), Government Responses are not required for the following: reports on Bills, Supplementary Order Papers, questions of privileges, Estimates and Supplementary Estimates.*

**Standing Order: 54.**

## **SPEAKER**

### **1.04 Points of Order Raised by Mr Speaker**

Mr Speaker noted the following points of order during the Assembly's four day proceedings:

1. Member speeches made during second reading debates on a Bill must be restricted its content and context. This also applies to responses offered on behalf of the Government to Member queries;
2. Members must not interrupt a Ministerial Statement or a Minister's clarification speech of a Bill;
3. Members should refrain from making references to the Clergy during their speeches;
4. Committee Members must not comment on a Report currently before a Committee if an issue related to it is raised in the House;
5. A Minister may present his or her Ministerial Statement to the House as either a 'general statement' or a 'reply';
6. An adjournment motion may not be moved if an earlier motion to extend sitting times until specific business has been completed, still stands. A new motion must be moved and approved, which displaces the prior motion, for an adjournment motion to be valid.

*Note: In regards to Point of Order No.6, a motion for adjournment of proceedings was moved by the Leader of the Opposition. However, an earlier motion moved by the Hon Prime*

*Minister to extend sitting times until the Citizenship Investment Bill 2014 was second read, was still effective. In order for proceedings to be adjourned, a motion for the Bill to be second read had to first be moved then approved; which was done so by Members of the Government. It should further be noted that in such cases, the Hon Speaker has ultimate discretion and his or her decision is final.*

**Standing Orders: 44(1)(r), 68- 70, 90.**

## **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

### ***1.05 Select Committee Reports tabled***

Two Select Committee Reports were tabled on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February: the Government Administration Committee's report on the *Statistics Bill 2014* and the Finance and Expenditure's report on the *Public Finance Management Bill 2014*. The Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee tabled its report to the Samoa Law Reform Commission's report on the Media Regulation, Report 10/12 on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**Standing Order: 51.**

***Parliamentary Papers: 2014/2015 No's 199, 200 & 206.***

**See 1.03: procedure for 'Government Responses'.**

## **MEMBERS**

### ***1.06 Leader of the Opposition Addresses the House***

Following Mr Speaker's announcements, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II sought leave from Mr Speaker to address the House; leave was granted. The Leader of the Opposition apologised to the House for his actions which lead to his being withdrawn from the House at the direction of Mr Speaker on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The Hon Prime Minister accepted the apology whereby the House showed their appreciation with applause before proceeding with its Government Business for Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**Standing Order: 44(1)(j).**

### **1.07 Resignation of Member**

The Member for Sagaga Le Usoga, MUAGUTUTAGATA Faamausili Auimatagi Peter Ah Him sought leave from Mr Speaker to address the House. Leave was granted and the Member provided a personal explanation to the House announcing the immediate resignation of his Seat. The Hon Prime Minister accepted the Member's resignation which was also acknowledged by Mr Speaker.

*Note: In accordance with the Assembly's Order of Business, personal explanations may be provided to the House following Ministerial statements and prior to Motions by Ministers and Chairmen of Select Committees.*

**Standing Order: 44(j), 63.  
The Constitution: Article 46(2)(b).**

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **1.08 Change to Sitting Hours**

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion to extend sitting hours until the *Citizenship Investment Bill 2014* had been second read on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February; the motion was approved. Assembly proceedings adjourned at 5:40pm.

*Note: Friday Sittings are to end at 12:00pm unless a motion is moved to change the Assembly's sitting hours and is approved.*

**Standing Orders: 31(1) and 45.**

## **WITHDRAWALS**

### **1.09 Mr Speaker ordered withdrawal of Member's comments**

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, Mr Speaker ordered that references made to "Heads of Departments" made by the Member for Faleata East be omitted from Official Parliamentary records as the people in question were not present in the House.

*Note: Words or statements given within the Chamber may be ordered to be removed from the official Hansard at Mr Speaker's discretion; particularly words or statements which may be interpreted as offensive, inaccurate or contentious.*

**Standing Order: 60(c), 82(2)**

**See Also: Procedural and Statistical Digests No.4 at 1.10 and No.9 at 1.09.**

## STATISTICAL DIGEST

### 17 - 20 February 2015

LEGISLATION	17 - 20 February 2015	Oct 2013 to date
<i>Bills presented to the Assembly</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Bills:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Normal Passage</li> <li>- Certificate of Urgency</li> <li>- Private Members Bills</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bills referred to Committees</li> </ul>	0 0 0 3	31 9 0 27
OTHER BUSINESS	17 - 20 February 2015	Oct 2013 to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Sitting days</li> <li>• Total hours of Sitting (excluding suspensions):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business of the Assembly</li> <li>- Government Business</li> <li>- Private Member's Business</li> <li>- Other opportunities for Private Members</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4 16 hour 31 mins 27 mins 16 hour 04 mins 0 mins 0 mins	40 189 hours 05 mins 43 hours 07 mins 143 hours 53 mins 1 hour 13 mins 0 mins
Questions delivered in the Chamber	0	0
Urgent Questions delivered in the Chamber	0	7
Answers to questions (written)	0	0
Answers to questions (oral)	0	7
Petitions presented	0	0
Divisions	0	0
Parliamentary Committee reports presented	3	110