



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA  
**PROCEDURAL &  
STATISTICAL DIGEST NO.14**  
APRIL 21 - 22 2015

APRIL 2015				
M	T	W	T	F
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

## BILLS

### *1.01 Bills introduced*

Six Bills were introduced on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April: the Criminal Procedure Bill 2015, the Central Bank of Samoa Bill 2015, the District Courts Bill 2015, the Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015, the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 and the International Companies Amendment Bill 2015. All bills were presented to the Assembly on a message from the Council of Deputies.

*Note: Pursuant to Article 23 of the Constitution of Samoa, the Council of Deputies performs the functions of the Head of State if there is a vacancy in office of the Head of State or during the absence from Samoa of the Head of State.*

Standing Orders: 95, 99.  
Constitution: Article 43.

### *1.02 Bills introduced under Certificate of Urgency*

The Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015, the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 and the International Companies Amendment Bill 2015 was introduced under a Certificate of Urgency signed by the *Council of Deputies*. 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.

*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).  
Constitution: Article 43.

### **1.03 Bills Second Read and Referred to Select Committees**

Six Bills were second read on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April the *Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015*, the *Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015*, and the *International Companies Amendment Bill 2015*. On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, the *Criminal Procedure Bill 2015*, the *Central Bank of Samoa Bill 2015*, and the *District Courts Bill 2015* which were all first read on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

- The Casino and Gambling Amendment Bill was introduced under a Certificate of Urgency therefore circumvents the normal procedure as set in Standing Order 99(1);
- The Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 was referred to the Primary, Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee;
- The International Companies Amendment Bill 2015 was introduced under a Certificate of Urgency therefore circumvents the normal procedure as set in Standing Order 99(1);
- The Criminal Procedure Bill 2015 and the District Courts Bill 2015 was Justice, Police and Prisons, Land and Titles Committee; and
- The Central Bank of Samoa Bill 2015 was referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

*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)]. It should also be noted that the Second Bill (Electoral Amendment) was introduced under a Certificate of Urgency, but referred to Committee for consideration under a motion moved by the Hon Prime Minister and approved by the Assembly on Tuesday 21 April.*

**Standing Orders: 100 & 101.**

**Constitution: Article 59.**

### **1.04 Bills considered in detail and third read by the Assembly**

A total of 5 Bills were considered in detail and third read, 3 which were considered along with Committee Reports and third read: the Food Bill 2013 (14/15 No. 227, Report of the Health, Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee), the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 (14/15 No. 228, Report of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee), the

National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2014 (14/15 No. 229, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee). Two Bills were considered in detail and third read, the Casino & Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015 and the International Companies Amendment Bill 2015.

*Note: Pursuant to Standing Order 108 after the third reading of the Bill no further questions are to be put and the Bill is passed by the Assembly. It should also be noted that the two last Bills were introduced under a Certificate of Urgency of which circumvents normal passage as set out in Standing Order 99(1).*

**Standing Orders: 55, 99, 101 - 103 & 106 - 108.**

## **ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

### ***1.05 New Member of Parliament sworn in***

The Seat for the constituency of Sagaga le Usoga became vacant due to the resignation of its former representative in February 2015, which resulted in a bi-election being held in April 2015. The Assembly witnessed the swearing in of the newly elected Member for Sagaga le Usoga on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Susuga SEIULI Ueligitone Seiuli. 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 resignation 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.**

***Constitution: Article 46(2)(a), 48 & 61.***

### ***1.06 Government Responses tabled***

The Government tabled three responses to Select Committee Reports on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, Report of the Government Administration Committee on the Attorney Generals Annual Report for the Financial Year 2012/2013, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on the Samoa Water Authority Annual

Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2013, and the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee on the Electoral Act Review 2015.

*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.**

***Parliamentary Papers: 2014/2015 No. 225 – 226 & 243.***

## **SPEAKER**

### ***1.07 Speakers Ruling***

Upon the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2014 being second read, the Hon Speaker ruled that the Bill be referred to the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee. As per normal practice, Electoral matters are referred to the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee.

Note: Pursuant to Standing Order 101(1), once a Bill is read a second time, it is referred to a Select Committee identified by the Speaker. Also be noted that this passage does not include Bills introduced under a Certificate of Urgency.

**Standing Orders: 101, 169**

## **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

### ***1.08 Twenty seven Select Committee Reports tabled***

Fourteen Select Committee Reports were tabled on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April and thirteen on were tabled on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April: 6 by the Health, Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee, 5 by the Works, Transport and Environment Committee, 4 each by the Justice, Police and Prisons, Land and Titles Committee, the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee and the Primary, Production, Commerce, Industry and

Labour Committee, 2 by the Finance and Expenditure Committee and 1 each by the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee and the Regulations Review Committee.

**Standing Order: 51.**

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

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### ***1.09 Change to Sitting Hours***

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion to amend sitting hours for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April: 9.00am to 1.00pm and resume at 7.00pm till 11.00pm, for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: 9.00am to 1.00pm and resume at 3.00pm till 7.00pm. The motion was approved by the Assembly.

*Note: Pursuant to Standing Order 31(1), Assembly sitting hours are from 9.00 to 1.00pm on every sitting day except for Fridays which end at 12.00noon.*

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

## STATISTICAL DIGEST

21 - 22 April 2015

LEGISLATION	21 – 22 April 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 3 39</li> <li>- Certificate of Urgency 3 12</li> <li>- Private Members Bills 0 0</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bills referred to Committees 4 36</li> </ul>		
OTHER BUSINESS	21 – 22 April 2015	Oct 2013 to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Sitting days 2 45</li> <li>• Total hours of Sitting (excluding suspensions):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business of the Assembly 9 mins 43 hours 56 mins</li> <li>- Government Business 14 hours 23 mins 178 hours 46 mins</li> <li>- Private Member's Business 0 mins 1 hour 13 mins</li> <li>- Other opportunities for Private Members 0 mins 0 mins</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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	8	126