



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA
**PROCEDURAL &
STATISTICAL DIGEST NO.30**
JANUARY 23-26 & 29 - 2018

JAN 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

BILLS

1.01 Bills introduced

On Tuesday 23 January, the *National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018* and the *Constitutional Amendment Bill 2018* were introduced under a Notice from the Leader of the House.

Standing Order: 102.

1.02 Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018

The debate on the second reading of the *Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018* commenced on Tuesday 23 January and was then considered in detail, third read and passed by the Assembly on Thursday 24 January.

Standing Orders: 132-138.

1.03 Bill introduced under Certificate of Urgency

The *National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018* was considered under a Certificate of Urgency on a Notice signed by the Leader of the House on Friday 24 January.

Standing Orders: 45(n) & 99-112.

1.04 Bills second read by Parliament and referred to Parliamentary Committees

A total of three bills were second read on Monday 29 January and were then referred to the responsible Parliamentary Committees: the *Constitution Amendment Bill 2018*; *Casino and Gambling Control Amendment Bill (No.2) 2017*; and the *Alienation of Customary Land Amendment Bill 2017*.

Standing Order: 101.

1.05 Bills third read and passed by Parliament

The *Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018* was third read and passed by the Assembly on Thursday 24 January.

On Monday 29 January, Parliament commenced its debate on the *National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018*, which was then considered in detail, third read and passed by the Assembly.

Standing Orders: 103 & 108-113.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

1.06 Notices from the Leader of the House

Mr Speaker read out a Notice from the Leader of the House to permit the introduction of the *National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018* and the *Constitutional Amendment Bill 2018* on Tuesday 23 January.

On Friday 26 January, Mr Speaker read out a Notice signed by the Leader of the House to permit the *National Health Services Amendment Bill 2018* to be considered under a Certificate of Urgency.

Note: All notices from the Leader of the House addressed to the Assembly shall be read out by Mr Speaker immediately after Prayers or after a Member has been sworn in.

Standing Orders: 76, 96 & 100 (2).

1.07 Obituary Speech for a former Member

After reading the Notice from the Leader of the House on Tuesday 23 January, Mr Speaker read out an Obituary Speech for the former Member of Parliament: Susuga Hon. SEIULI Taulafo, former Member for Sagaga le Usoga who served as a Member of Parliament during the fourth parliamentary term 1970-1973, and the fifth parliamentary term 1973-1976. From 1973-1976, the Member was the Minister for Health. The House then observed a minute of silence as a gesture of respect for the former Member.

Standing Order: 45(f).

SPEAKER

1.08 Points of Order

Mr Speaker reminded the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 on Tuesday 23 January, to refrain from raising matters in regards to taxing religious ministers, as it was irrelevant. He stated that the House had already passed the amendment; therefore debates should be limited to matters regarding the tabled *Supplementary Appropriation Bill*.

On Wednesday 24 January, Mr Speaker informed the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, TAFUA Maluelue Tafua, that pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Orders, any comments on a Bill that had yet to be second read were restricted. On the same day, Mr Speaker also reminded Members that they did not have the authority to instruct the Cabinet.

On Thursday 25 January, Mr Speaker reminded Members of the requirement that they seek leave of the Chair before speaking. He also reminded Members that once the Government had provided an answer to a query, it signified the end of questions on the particular matter.

Mr Speaker also informed and reminded the House on Monday 29 January, that the *Constitution Amendment Bill 2018* had not yet been referred to the responsible Committee for consideration. Therefore, any issues raised regarding the Bill could only be discussed after the Committee tabled its Report on the Bill.

Standing Orders: 59-62, 101.

1.09 Speakers Ruling

On Tuesday 22 January, Mr Speaker allowed the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Hon LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea, to speak from the seat of the Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela due to a malfunction in the Member's microphone.

Note: A member must only speak from the seat allocated to him or her.

Standing Order: 23.

1.10 Absence of Mr Speaker

The Clerk announced the absence of Mr Speaker on Thursday 24 January. The Hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair for the session.

Note: in the absence of Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker may perform the duties and exercise the authority of Mr Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the Assembly both during a sitting and an adjournment of the Assembly and during any recess of Parliament.

Standing Orders: 18 & 27.

MOTIONS

1.11 Parliamentary Committee Reports & Motions

The Chairperson for the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee, AEAU Peniamina Leavaiseeta, moved a motion for the House to grant additional time for the Committee to consider three reports, noting that its Reports would be tabled at the next parliamentary sitting:

- i. *Honours and Awards Amendment Bill 2017.*
- ii. P.P.207/2018 No.59, Office of the Ombudsman Report of the State of Human Rights for the period ending 30th June 2017.
- iii. P.P.2017/2018 No.100, Samoa Law Reform Commission Final Report on Pule a le Matai Sa'o (FR 18/17), February 2017.

On the same day, the Chairperson for Finance and Expenditure Committee, ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, moved a motion for the House to grant additional time to consider three of their reports and be tabled in the next sitting:

- i. P.P. 2017/2018 No.58, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the Financial Year, 1 July 2015- 30 June 2016.
- ii. P.P. 2017/2018 No.64, Annual Report of the Office of the Regulator for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016.
- iii. P.P. 2017/2018 No.67, Public Accounts of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016.

The Chairperson for Infrastructure Sector Committee, TAFUA Maluelue Tafua moved a motion for an extension to consider three reports as its deliberation are yet to be completed and stated that the reports will be tabled in the next sitting:

- i. P.P.2017/2018 No.68, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the Financial Year 2015/2016.
- ii. P.P.2017/2018 No.70, Annual Report of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology for Financial Year 2011-2016.

- iii. P.P.2017/2018 No.115, Annual Report of the Electric Power Corporation for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

Standing Orders: 52 & 65.

1.12 Motion for the withdrawal of a Bill

The Hon. Minister for Revenue, TIALAVEA Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt, moved a motion to withdraw the *Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Bill 2017* on Tuesday 23 January.

Standing Orders: 65(k) & 114.

1.13 Motion for Appointment to Parliamentary Committees

The Deputy Chairperson for the Parliamentary Commission, NAFOITIA Talaimanu Ketu, moved a motion on Wednesday 24 January to appoint the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Hon LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea as a member of the Infrastructure Sector Committee.

Note: The Parliamentary Commission may recommend the appointment of a member to serve on a Parliamentary Committee.

Standing Orders: 144 & 146(1).

1.14 Motion by the Parliamentary Commission

On Tuesday 23 January, the Deputy Chairperson for the Parliamentary Commission, NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu, moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the programmes of Sittings and Proceedings for the calendar year as per Committee recommendation.

Note: A recommendation of an Assembly Sitting Programme must be made and approved by the Assembly no later than the last sitting of the previous year.

Standing Order: 170 (g).

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

1.15 Thirteen Parliamentary Committee reports tabled

A total of twelve reports were tabled on Tuesday 23 January: 2 reports from the Standing Orders, electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee; 2 from Finance and Expenditure Committee; 3 from the Infrastructure Sector Committee; 4 by the Social Sector Committee and 1 from the Economic Sector Committee.

On Wednesday 24 January, one report was tabled by the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Standing Orders: 49 & 52.

Parliamentary Paper: 2017/2018 No's 125, 129, 131, 134-136, 138, 141-143, 145-146.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1.16 Changes to Sitting Hours

On Wednesday 24 January, the Prime Minister moved a motion to extend sitting hours from 7pm-11pm until the *Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2017/2018* was passed by the Assembly.

Standing Order: 32.

STATISTICAL DIGEST

23-26 & 29 JANUARY 2018

LEGISLATION	23-26 & 29 Jan 2018	Oct 2013 to date
<i>Bills presented to the Assembly</i>		
) Government Bills:		
- Normal Passage	1	85
- Certificate of Urgency	1	33
- Private Members Bills	0	0
) Bills referred to Committees	3	66
OTHER BUSINESS	23-26 & 29 Jan 2018	Oct 2013 to date
) Number of Sitting days	5	90
) Total hours of Sitting (excluding suspensions):	22 hour 26 mins	418 hours 1 mins
- Business of the Assembly	46 mins	43 hours 31 mins
- Government Business	21 hour 40 mins	376 hours 15 mins
- Private Member's Business	0 mins	1 hour 13 mins
- Other opportunities for Private Members	0 mins	0 mins
Questions lodged	0	4
Urgent Questions lodged	0	7
Answers to questions (written)	0	0
Answers to questions (oral)	0	7
Petitions presented	0	0
Divisions	0	5
Parliamentary Committee reports presented	13	278