

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on Thursday 20th June 2019. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on Thursday 20th June 2019, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

DAY 3: Thursday 20th June 2019

9:10am

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2018/2019 and Appropriation Bill 2019/2020- Debate on second reading (cont.)

(i) Afioga Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa.

The Member greeted his fellow Parliamentarians and Samoa in all her honorific salutations, expressed gratitude to the Heavenly Father for His continuous guidance upon the Members. He also expressed gratitude towards the people for their endless support and addressed respective Ministries for carrying out their functions effectively. The Member then stated his admiration towards Mr Speaker for being patient and the mediator throughout the debates on the tabled Budget.

The Member then conveyed his congratulatory wishes to the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 on his appointment and relayed his best wishes with his duties as a representative for his constituency.

Further to his speech, he acknowledged the work put forward by Specific Ministers/Ministries:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member commended on the inspection conducted for road maintenance in his constituency and expressed his appreciation with Samoa's new airport. He further acknowledged the new bridge at Vaisigano which was constructed for the safety of our people. He also expressed appreciation for plans to construct a wharf at Asau and Salelologa, and thanked the Hon Prime Minister in ensuring that this project is completed.

- Minister of Communication, Information and Technology.

The Member acknowledged the Ministry for installing the TUI SAMOA CABLE in our country because he believes that this will help the teachers conduct their work through this modern technology.

- Minister of Finance and the Revenue

He commended the Minister for Finance and his Ministry for compiling the Budget; and the Minister for Revenue for recording another increase in revenue for the tabled budget.

- Minister of Health

In regards to the merging of the Ministry and National Health Service (NHS), the Member commented that this was not an easy arrangement given that it was costly and caused job redundancy; however, he commended the Ministry for successfully completing the merge.

- Minister of Samoa Prisons and Correction Services

The Member acknowledged the Minister for the new prison at Tanumalala and Vaiaata in Savaii which will accommodate for the secure and solid housing of prisoners, so as to avoid constant prison breaks.

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture

Commended the responsible Minister for all preparations made to ensure the smooth progress of hosting the 2019 Pacific Games.

The Member then expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister for convincing the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), and the European Union (UE) agreement to be signed here in Samoa; and acknowledged that the Chairman for this particular Union to be Samoan, and requested for a deputy Chairman to assist the Chairman.

Hon Prime Minister – Point of Clarification

The Hon PM elaborated on the structure of the ACP-EU Partnership and the respective processes within this Partnership. Hon PM mentioned members of the Partnership included current Parliamentarians, Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, Lauofo Fonotoe Pierre Lauofo, and Gatoloaifaana Alesana Amataga Gidlow.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (cont.)

The Hon Member continued his speech, and noted the amount allotted to the Samoa Rugby Union being insufficient.

Hon Prime Minister - Interjected

The Hon Prime Minister stated that although he is the Chairperson of the Rugby Union, it is important to ensure there is a portion for development of each sport in Samoa. He also advised the Member to be open-minded and not biased solely on rugby.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (cont.)

FAUMUINA explained that he held rugby in high regard as it contributed to the promotion and marketing of Samoa, as well as personal development of individuals and their families. The Member urged the development of sports and other means to provide options for school-drop outs. The Member acknowledged the development of Super 9 Rugby Tournament in the nation.

The Hon Member addressed the importance of agricultural development in villages and urged Village Mayors to take lead in such developments; he also touched upon the importance of reviving and sustaining weaving Samoa's treasures, the ie-Samoa.

Hon Prime Minister - Interjected

The Hon Prime Minister expressed appreciation towards the Member for his point to encourage 'Falelalaga and urged village mayors and women leaders to take lead and encourage the younger generation to learn and participate in weaving the ie-Samoa, and to encourage our traditions and culture.

Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA Faaolatane Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa

The Hon Member further elaborated on the Budget's Theme of "Equal Opportunities" and asserted that encouraging community development projects would be beneficial to the youths and school dropouts; as this can be a means to earn an income and support themselves and their families.

Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Prime Minister informed the Member to refrain from encouraging developments solely to make a living, rather as another way to restore and promote Samoa's culture and traditions.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuivilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga East

The Member noted the importance of the issue raised by the Member for Palauli le Falefa, and requested the Government to consider the development of a program for weaving for the younger generation in schools.

Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Prime Minister applauded the recommendation as this was another means to pass on knowledge from the elders to the youth, to ensure the sustainability and continuity of this measina Samoa.

Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA Faaolatane Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa

The Hon Member concluded his statements by addressing his constituency for their prayers and support and wished the Parliament well in its deliberations.

(ii) ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West, Chairperson Finance and Expenditure Committee

The Member firstly addressed her Constituency and expressed gratitude for their continuous support. She then commended the Government for the preparation of the Supplementary and Main Appropriation. The Member for Alataua West noted her support for the budget, as it reflected Samoa's economy was growing. She asserted that having more expended over revenues was not an indication of poor management or planning, as this concept is similar when looking at lending schemes; where 50% of total assets of the borrower is the approved amount for lending. The Member noted the percentage of the overall budget being allocated to source salaries of all public servants/employees. The Member asserted that in her opinion, preparation of the budget was in alignment with government policies.

The Chairperson commended the efforts of all Ministries in preparation of the budget, noting that this was a reflection of the knowledge and expertise of those tasked with the responsibility; she was also pleased to confidently note the calibre of the future leaders of Samoa.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:45am; and reconvened at 11:28am.

MOTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion to change sitting hours:
9am – 1pm adjourn; and
Reconvene at 9am Friday 21 June 2019

The Hon Prime Minister stated the importance for Parliament to attend the opening of the Samoa Village in Faleula, which will be the central hub for the Pacific Games in July 2019.
Motion seconded and approved.

ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West, Chairperson Finance and Expenditure Committee (continued)

The Member acknowledged the following Ministries on the various developments for the improvement of services in Samoa:

- Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

The Member commended the Ministry on the introduction of the digital TV, and suggested the possibility of introducing another telecommunication company in Samoa to increase competition in the market and reduce costs for the people.

- Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development

ALIIMALEMANU noted a tragic incident in her village, involving a bus carrying numerous school children which crashed and injured numerous victims; the Member recommended the need for the Government to intervene and assign an actual bus specifically catered for only students.

- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

The Member again raised the need for a new school building in her constituency, to avoid the lengthy travel the children from Alataua West take every morning to attend schools in other constituencies.

- Ministry of Tourism

The Member for Alataua West noted the increasing rate in the number of tourists travelling to Samoa; and stated that the arrival cards each visitor is required to complete upon entry to Samoa contain vague categories and labels for the visitor to declare. Specifically in regard to the term 'tourist' as used in the arrival cards, and requested for another column to be inserted to distinguish 'real tourists' from 'Samoans visiting families and attending church conferences and family faalavelave'.

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member commended efforts of the Minister and Ministry in the reconstruction and maintenance of the roads for the Alataua West constituency; and further noted support to the Minister for the increase of allocation for road maintenance in Savaii and Upolu. The Member thanked Mr Speaker for her time and concluded her speech.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

I. Hon Prime Minister, TUILAEPA Lupesoliai Neioti Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi

The Hon Prime Minister asserted that the figures provided in the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 are estimates yet to come to reality; he stated that the concerns raised by Members in the increase and decrease of figures from the different appropriations was irrelevant, as the figures were mere projections for what is expected in the next financial year.

He asserted that the past financial year recorded a net surplus which is the most important finding for any economy – to identify whether it is progressing rather than remaining stagnant-- therefore defeats the purpose of Members raising their voices, causing unnecessary alarm over

figures which have yet to come into play, whilst the figures which have been proven to date are being ignored.

The Hon Prime Minister touched upon the reason for having all CEO's present in Chambers since 1984, to listen in on proceedings of Parliament, as this would ensure recommendations and advice was efficiently provided to the Minister in regard to the issues and concerns raised by Members.

He then cautioned Parliamentarians with private businesses to remove all vested interest from their personal business, and to pass it on to their spouses and children, so as to ensure their undivided attention and priority is placed on the role they have sworn under oath to take., that is, the role to be a Parliamentarian—and the representative (voice) for their constituents.

The Hon PM asserted the House that there were enough funds available to Government to source the developments needed in the country, and reassured Members that the projected total expenditure outweighing the expected revenues generated is not worrisome, as this helps the economy in terms of having a tight grip on spending and also seeking other avenues to generate revenue.

Hon Prime Minister urged CEO's and Ministries to ensure annual reports are submitted to Parliament on time to provide Committee's the opportunity to provide important recommendations to further enhance the services of the Ministries/Agencies/Offices. The Hon PM explained that it was pointless reporting on events and operations for the past 2 – 3 (or more) financial years, as this was an indication of Ministries 'under-performing'.

The Leader of the House then touched upon the importance of Good Governance – and elaborated on the principles which ground the doctrine of 'Good Governance;

- (i) Transparency – this was critical to ensure goals and targets are made clear at the outset, to inform all involved of what is expected of them individually and collectively. Transparency promoted openness and honesty.
- (ii) Accountability – this principle heightens the need for good auditors to ensure individuals, Ministries and all are held responsible for their actions (whether good or bad) – those with honesty and integrity are rewarded accordingly while illegal and dishonest dealings are accordingly dealt with.
- (iii) Promote the practice of Consensus-oriented which values the input of the general public in all decision making.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:01 pm; and
reconvene at 9:00am Friday 21 June 2019**