

DISCLAIMER

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Tuesday 18th June 2019

3:13pm

PART B (3:00PM – 7:00PM)

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

(vi) Afioga TOOMATA Aki Tuipea, Member for Salega West

The Member greeted his fellow members and Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He commended the work of the Ministry of Finance on compiling the budget report with the aim to generate revenues for the overall development of the economy of Samoa. He then praised the collective responsibility of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in achieving the main goal of the budget. The Member then commented on the continuation of the pay which is now on its second phase which is an indication that the Government is addressing the issues put forth by the people regarding the need for an increase in salaries.

Furthermore, the Member commended the efforts of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture in lending assistance to families struggling to pay children's school fees. He then touched upon the Ministry for Revenue and its continuous developments and initiatives to generate revenue for the nation. The Member expressed gratitude to the assistance and support of donor nations in the implementation of projects for the development of Samoa. In regard to the reconstruction and maintenance of roads, the Member requested the need for improvement of roads for Savaii.

The Member was grateful for Government's drive to develop Savaii, by the construction of the Asau wharf; and expressed the contribution of such a development for Savaii would be beneficial in providing employment opportunities for those residing in Savaii, as well as reduce the number of domestic migration between the islands, in seek of better opportunities.

Afioga TOOMATA Aki Tuipea, Member for Salega West (cont.)

The member expressed support on the major projects provided in the budget, and as a member of the Finance Committee he applauds the patience of the Government regarding all issues, concerns and requests made by Members. He acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry for Revenue in seeking means/funds to implement the various projects for the development of Samoa. TOOMATA expressed his appreciation on the work carried out by the Ministry of Works in the reconstruction and maintenance of roads.

In regard to the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration, the Member commented on plans for the establishment of an office for the Ministry in Savaii; he then requested the Office to be located in Salelologa for ease of access. The Member concluded his speech by expressing his support on the Supplementary and Appropriation Bill.

(vii) Afioga LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata West

The Member expressed support for the budget and spoke on the following issues which needed to be improved and developed within his constituency. The Member acknowledged the construction and maintenance of roads in Samoa – and requested the need for road maintenance in his constituency (specifically the village of Saanapu). The Member commended the Minister for the construction of a new health centre in Saanapu and acknowledged the efforts of the responsible Ministry for the project on eradicating the ‘crown of thorns-starfish’ (alamea)

The Member then spoke to address the issues in the Tourism sector and recommended to have enough advertisements at the airport to showcase local products and businesses to attract more tourists to our shores; as it was noted from workers at the airport that the reason for the lack of advertisements was the high costs incurred when advertisements are displayed in the airport. LEAANA then suggested the Government to allocate appropriate funds to ensure proper marketing.

LEA'ANA commented on the need for Ministries and Offices to take a stronger approach with confirming the qualification of foreigners employed in our local offices; as there was an incident where a medical practitioner employed at the National Hospital had fake qualifications. The Member raised concern regarding accessories individuals are placing on their private vehicles, such as the LED lights which pose dangerous risks to drivers on public roads as it is an eye sore which impacts the vision and safety of drivers. He then touched upon the closing times for nightclubs in Samoa at 12am and suggested the Police Service to conduct its road blocks at this time, to ensure intoxicated drivers are avoided and traffic accidents are minimized.

(viii) Tofa OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Member for Salega West.

The Member greeted the House and commended the assistance provided by donor nations through grants and assistance. Recommended the reduction of overall debts to ensure the economy is not at risk.

Hon Prime Minister - Interjected

The Hon PM interjected to inform the Member that Government is well aware of the financial position of the economy, and stated that Samoa is able to meet its debts, and is a growing economy as reflected in the numerous developments in the nation.

Mr Speaker – Point of clarification

Mr Speaker advised the member to take note of the clarification provided by the PM and to refrain from speaking further on this matter.

Hon Prime Minister - Interjected

The Hon Prime Minister clarified the actual figures circulating in the economy of Samoa;

- total revenue of \$826.6 million
- 70.17 million paid for the nation's debts
- 80 million to assist with development purposes and requests made by Members for the improvement of constituencies.

***Parliament went on recess at 4:50pm and
Resumed at 5:35pm***

Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification

The Hon Prime Minister clarified that the Government is well aware and well equipped with the necessary skills and expertise (with knowledgeable advisors) to thoroughly prepare the budget and critically assess each development project to ensure its sustainability and beneficial for the majority of the nation. The budget is not carelessly prepared, as implied by the Member for Salega West – and therefore it is important to clarify the Member in this regard so as to avoid any misunderstanding between Members and constituents listening in to the proceedings of the Fono.

(ix) Tofa ILI Setefano Taateo Tafili, Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Member conveyed support for the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020; and made the following requests to the respective Ministers:

- The Minister of Natural, Resources and Environment – the Member requested for the construction of seawalls in certain villages in his constituency (along the coastline) to protect the public roads from the impacts of heavy waves crashing onto the roads and to protect families residing near the coastline from the impacts of sea level rise.
- The Minister of Education – The Member requested for an increase in salary for teachers
- The Minister of Health – A request was made to the Minister for an ambulance and driver to be stationed at the Leulumoega Hospital; he further requested for another doctor to be stationed at the Clinic as there is a doctor on duty at the moment, but she is a Philippine with a different culture and background.

The Member concluded his speech by acknowledging his constituency and

(x) Tofa AUMUA Isaia Lameko, Member for Falealili West

Acknowledged the efforts of the Minister of Finance and the Ministry for preparing the budget – commended the move to prioritise the hosting of the Pacific Games (PG 2019) and for the beautification of Samoa for all those visiting and participating during the PG 2019. He then pleaded with the Minister for an additional 100million for the next FY to provide for the development works needed for our country; such as the development of public roads

The other issue noted by the Member was the wages for local labourers employed in seasonal employment schemes in New Zealand, the Member is mindful that our locals are not exploited abroad.

In regard to the Land Transport Authority – the Member commended efforts made by the Authority and encouraged the development and maintenance of roads; then suggested that there should be an inspector called ‘Road compliance standard inspector’ tasked with examining the standard of roads after it is constructed or maintained, to ensure the terms agreed upon are followed, this is important as it would avoid constant maintenance of roads as it should be able to meet the changing climatic conditions.

(xi) **Afioga FUIMAONO Samuelu Teo, Member for Falealili East**

The Member made the following requests:

- The Ministry of Health:
 - requested a health centre for the constituency, as Poutasi is quite a distance, although there was a centre in Salesatele, there is currently no shelter or facility for this centre, if it is possible to reconstruct another facility to revive this health centre.
 - If the service can be revived, whereby the nurses and midwifery travel to different areas of Upolu to perform basic health care and check-ups for babies and the sick patients in the rural areas.

- The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour:
 - Commended the efforts taken by Samoa Airway to market and promote the services of Samoa Airway; and encouraged that air flights be maintained at affordable prices so as to avoid the expensive air fares such as New Zealand.

- The Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - The roads at Utulaelae are in a terrible state - beyond maintenance
 - The roads from Salani also need reconstruction as it is usually the common route taken by tourists travelling to Aleipata – although it has been maintained, the road is in ‘beyond maintenance state’ and therefore needs to be reconstructed completely.
 - The road which is utilised as an escape route needs to be repaired to ensure there is a secure route taken by constituents during times of natural disasters.

Hon PRIME MINISTER – Interjection

The Hon Prime Minister interjected that the Cabinet has considered the matters put forth by the Member and noted that they have also consulted the successful contractors to provide good services in compliance with the expected and acceptable standards.

(xii) **Susuga LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea, Member for Gagaifomauga No.3**

The Member greeted the all fellow Parliamentarians and spoke on the case which involved his removal as a registered party Member for HRPP.

The deliberations strayed off point at this stage as the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 was speaking off the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 and the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020, heated discussion between the Hon Prime Minister and the Member; whilst Mr Speaker tried to mediate and control the authority of the House.

Mr Speaker therefore concluded that Proceedings be set aside for the day and will resume tomorrow, Wednesday 19th June 2019 at 9am.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 7:20pm;
and will reconvene on Wednesday 19th June 2019 at 9:00am**