

**DISCLAIMER**

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019****9:10am****PART A (9:00AM – 1:00PM)****I. WARRANT OF ELECTION**

Pursuant to Standing Orders 7(1) the Speaker of the House read out the Code of Parliamentary Ethics in S.O 15 before the swearing in of the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 2, Afioga Namulauulu Leota Sami Leota.

**i. MESSAGE FROM O LE AO O LE MALO:**

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution, a Message from O Le Ao o Le Malo permitted the introduction of the following Bill:

- Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2019

**ii. NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Pursuant to S.O 76, the following Bills were introduced in Parliament:

- Arms Amendment Bill 2019;
- Law Reform Commission Amendment Bill 2019; and
- Miscellaneous (Ministerial Assignment) Amendment Bill 2019

**Certificate of Urgency-**

Pursuant to S.O 100(2) Speaker declared the following Bills to be under Certificate of Urgency:

- Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2019;
- Arms Amendment Bill 2019;
- Law Reform Commission Amendment Bill 2019; and
- Miscellaneous (Ministerial Assignment) Amendment Bill 2019.

**iii. PAPERS PRESENTED:**

A total of 3 Papers were presented in Parliament: 2 Annual Reports and 1 Report of the Law Reform Commission.

**iv. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED:**

A total of 5 Parliamentary Committee reports were tabled in Parliament: 2 reports from the Finance & Expenditure Committee, 1 report from the Economic Sector Committee and 2 reports from the Infrastructure Sector Committee.

**II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY****1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2018/2019 and Appropriation Bill 2019/2020- Debate on second reading****i. MAIDEN SPEECH- Afioga Namulauulu Leota Sami Leota, Member for Faasaleleaga (No.2)**

The Member addressed O Le Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, Cabinet, Parliament and the Judiciary, Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He expressed gratitude to the Almighty God for his calling. He then acknowledged his constituency for their support and voting for him and acknowledged the candidates who contested with him in the by-elections; He paid respect to the late Pa'u Sefo Pa'u who previously held the seat for Faasaleleaga No.2 and further acknowledged his spiritual leaders/fathers for their guidance and mentoring as well as the Party to which he is a member of, Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP). He also recognised the tireless support offered by his work colleagues of the Federal Pacific Group in Samoa. He thanked his extended families for their support and most importantly acknowledged the support of his spouse and children.

He then spoke on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018/2019 and the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 and expressed that his constituency supports the budget that has been tabled. He firstly stated that one of God's greatest gifts to Samoa is the Faa-Matai system and put forth recommendations for the office of the Electoral Commissioner to consider: 1) to review and evaluate the eligibility of candidates running for bi-election in order to prevent any conflicting issues and 2) urged the Government to emphasise the importance of Village Councils in its decision makings.

He then acknowledged the Government of Japan for their support in different ways particularly the funding for the Safotulafai Primary School; He acknowledged the efforts and developments implemented by the Ministry of Works at Mali'oli'o and Sapapalii (particularly the construction of the bridge over the Mali'oli'o river). He requested that the

Tuasivi road should be made as a priority for improvement as it is an evacuation route in times of natural disasters. He further generally requested the Ministry to address the dire needs of reconstruction of roads within his Constituency; as well as the need for seawalls (especially for families along the coastline) to counter the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

**ii. Afioga TOLEAFOA Ken Vaafusuaga Poutoa, Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela**

The member addressed his constituency and all of Samoa, acknowledged the Prime Minister and Cabinet for their tireless efforts in preparing the Budget 2019/2020 noting also that this is the first budget to be deliberated in the new Maota Fono. He acknowledged the Minister and the Ministry of Finance for preparing the budget and urged the Minister and Ministry to seek other avenues which can generate revenue for further development of our nation.

The member spoke on the budget appropriated to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture; specifically for purposes to cover costs of hosting the Pacific Games 2019 as well as the funds for education development. He then raised concern with the local qualifications (degree) awarded to students of the National University of Samoa who then become fortunate with the Quota Scheme and have to re-take a diploma or another degree in New Zealand to seek employment, as our local degrees are not recognised in New Zealand.

**Hon Prime Minister- POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

The Hon PM clarified on the issue of local degree's not internationally recognised, the PM stated that the degrees' awarded by the National University is not the issue, as foreign nations also prioritise and value degrees from our local Universities.

**Afioga TOLEAFOA Ken Vaafusuaga Poutoa, Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela- cont'd**

The Member continued with his speech, and acknowledged the Minister for Public Enterprises for the Samoa Airways services and requested that more planes should be purchased to accommodate the growing clientele of the airways.

He requested the Minister of Works for the need to repair and develop the roads in his constituency and noted with thanks the donation of another vessel from the Government of Japan to cater for the Mulifanua-Salelologa route. The member raised the need for a clinic in his constituency to cater for the sick and elderly rather than having to come to Leulumoega clinic as it is quite a distance. He requested for the construction of seawalls for certain villages in his constituency living near the coastline. He concluded that the constituency was in support of the budget.

**Hon Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister stood to inform the House that the Deputy PM (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment) who is also responsible for the development of seawalls was currently absent in Chamber as she was attending a seminar on the global crisis of climate change but encouraged Members to continue raising their issues and concerns and make their requests as he was taking note.

**iii. Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West**

The Member acknowledged the efforts of the Minister of Finance and the Ministry in preparing the budget. He then addressed the issue of the University of the South Pacific (USP) not recognising the degree from the National University of Samoa (NUS) particularly in the case of not being able to cross-credit similar subjects from NUS to USP. The member then queried the leasing of customary land by the Government and stated that there are other ways to make developments on customary land.

**Hon Prime Minister- interjection**

The Hon PM interjected on a point of order to correct the Member that there were other forums and settings which are available to the Member to raise his concerns and queries. He then informed the Member that there are certain instances whereby developments such as the construction of roads for the greater good of the public requires government to permanently take land rather than lease that land.

**Afioga FAUMUINA Asi Pauli Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West- cont'd**

The Member for Urban West continued with his speech by querying why salaries for engineers working at the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation are higher than the Ministry's engineers.

**Hon Prime Minister- interjection**

PM interjected to clarify that this was due to level of qualifications. He further explained that some engineers have been offered high salaries but still refuse to be employed by government. He stood his ground by stating that government will not go any higher from its set policies to please a person.

***Parliament went on recess at 10:45am and resumed proceedings at 11:35am***

**MOTION****Hon PRIME MINISTER, Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi**

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion to set aside S.O and to change the time of the sittings from:

9am – 1pm; and

3pm – 7pm

until the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 is approved.

The Prime Minister reminded Members that there is urgency to pass the Appropriation Bill as it needs implementation.

**Motion seconded and approved.**

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West- cont'd**

The Member continued his speech on the Appropriation Bill and stated that the majority of members in the Chamber are from the HRPP Party and some members will only speak on things the Prime Minister who is the leader of the Party want to hear.

**Hon Prime Minister- interjection**

PM interjected to correct the Member for Urban West Urban in regard to making statements which were misleading to the public who are listening in - The PM iterated that it is the Member's right to speak his mind in the House on a point of order however the issues raised by the Member portrayed the Government in a negative light.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West- cont'd**

The Member for Urban West then spoke on the issue of having a steady aircraft to service our people/country - consider an aircraft with a large cargo space to cater for packages brought into Samoa.

**Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister for Public Enterprises**

The Minister acknowledged the Members who spoke on the need for a steady aircraft owned by Samoa. The Government is currently working on securing an aircraft but the honest truth is that since all Max 8 and 9 aircrafts are grounded worldwide (due to a defect in this type of vessel) there are no more vessels available to be leased on a long term basis.

**Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West- cont'd**

The Member continued with his speech and commended the work carried out by the Office of the Electoral Commissioner but suggested for the Ministry to review its list of villages from Vailoa and Tulaele.

**iv. Afioga FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy-Stowers, Member for Gagaifomauga No. 3**

The Member noted her support for the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020 and stated that from the annual reports considered in Committee's, actuals provided in the financial statements for different Ministries/Public Bodies and SOE's portrays a growing and developing economy. She further commended that the performance and activities carried out by each government ministries and agencies are reflected in their annual reports which is an indication that each ministry are working in accordance to their functions and responsibilities. There was also an acknowledgment towards the efforts of the Ministry of Finance for the preparation of quarterly reports provided to Parliament for scrutiny and touched upon the minimum wage and asked for reconsideration to increase this rate. She also mentioned the interest rates which private lending businesses were using for its lenders and suggested that there should be some form of control to ensure such lending services do not take advantage of the hard-earned monies of the low to average earners.

The Member commended the work of the Minister of Education for instigating efforts to license teachers and private schools and queried which output of the Ministry this was funded by. She further suggested whether it was possible to transfer an amount to assist with issuing license to bus drivers as a way to control the number of accidents occurring as a result of their carelessness.

For the Minister of Health, the member requested for the construction of a health centre to care for the elderly and sick in her constituency. In terms of branding and packaging of products, the member advised the Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour for its regular inspections in shops in the rural areas who are selling expired products etc. She relayed an experience where she went to one shop to buy a pack of tobacco but noted that the shop was selling the small pack of cigarettes for \$4 when the original set price was \$6. With that she informed the responsible body to review its price flooring so as to be in line with the main aim of the recent amendment on the incentive tax.

The Member concluded by encouraging the Government for efforts to develop the nation; and urged the Government to continue with its developments and projects in the pipeline, such as the major development for the Asau wharf.

**v. Afioga FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi, Member for Siumu**

The member made the following requests to respective Ministers:  
Minister for Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

- Although this request was made at the commencement of the parliamentary term, it is worth mentioning again, as the conditions of the road are worsening and therefore need reconstruction;
- There is a need for proper drainage for certain parts in his constituency as the water spreads out to the families residing nearby during times of heavy rainfall and has been problematic for these families;
- Light posts need to be improved.

Minister for Ministry of Health:

- Requested the Minister of Health centres or clinics within his constituency to cater for the sick and elderly.

Minister for Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour:

- Commended the work of the Ministry and the Minister for Samoa Airways for catering to our people. He further noted that even though Samoa has a new aircraft now, that does not mean revenue will increase instantly however, he suggested to purchase another aircraft in order to assist with the current one.
- Requested that the wages for our local citizens who are employed in seasonal employment in carpentry and joinery (certain traits) in Christchurch New Zealand, should have the same minimum wage as New Zealanders to ensure our local labourers are not exploited by foreign companies.

The member concluded his speech by commending the Minister of Education for the preparations for the Pacific Games thus far and informed him that the member is available if further support is needed for the Pacific Games in July.

**vi. Afioga TAPULESATELE Mauteni Tamasone Metuli II Esera, Member for Vaisigano No.2**

The Member addressed his constituency and raised the following issues in regard to the Appropriation Bill 2019/2020:

- He commended the work of the Minister of Education and his associate minister regarding the new secondary schools buildings within his constituency funded by the government of Japan;
- The Member acknowledged the Ministry for the progress of the Primary Schools for Papa and Sataua; The Papa Primary School was funded by JICA to which the Member conveyed his thanks to the Government of Japan for their assistance;
- The Member commended the Minister and Associate Minister for the Ministry of Health for their efforts in successfully implementing the merge between the Ministry

- of Health and the National Health Services and suggested the need for more ambulance vehicles;
- Water is an integral element for the country and stressed on the importance of ensuring clean water for consumption;
  - Gratitude for the projects implemented as was requested previously. The member requested the need to improve access roads in Sataua and Papa. He is hopeful that the Papa road will be included in the roads plan for this financial year.
  - Gratitude to the Ministry for Revenue for working tirelessly to find revenue for the overall development of the nation and to fund the ample requests by constituencies;
  - Acknowledged the assistance from Samoa's donors who provide funding for the implementation of various developments in the nation.
  - Acknowledged Government's efforts to provide assistance through sponsorship and funding of school fees and educational development for students whose families cannot afford the cost of school fees.
  - Offered his encouragement and best wishes to the Prime Minister and the Samoa team competing in the upcoming Pacific Games 2019.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 12:55pm**

**The Assembly will reconvene at 3:00pm**