

DISCLAIMER

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Thursday 21st June 2018

3:11pm

[Part B]

**6. Hon TIALAVEA Fea Leniu Tionisio Seigafolava Hunt, Minister for Revenue
(cont.)**

The Hon Minister acknowledged the 202 church ministers who have registered with the Ministry for the payment of taxes noting that although there are 346 religious ministers who have not registered, the Ministry is grateful for those who have registered. The Hon Minister commented on the issue raised in regards to the prisons project having no master plan; the Minister asserted that the project has 3 site plans.

(i) OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Member for Salega East

The Member queried the absence of a 'master plan' he noted that site plans can be altered, whereas a master plan cannot be amended hence his query.

Hon TIALAVEA Fea Leniu Tionisio Seigafolava Hunt, Minister for Revenue

The Hon Minister asserted that regardless of it being called a site plan or master plan, it serves the same purpose.

Hon PRIME MINISTER – Clarification:

The Hon Prime Minister explained that no plan is set in stone, as there are various unforeseen factors which are not accounted in the plan thus the need for variations; all plans change due to circumstances that were not thought of during the write up of the plan.

Hon TIALAVEA Fea Leniu Tionisio Seigafolava Hunt, Minister for Revenue

The Hon Minister commented on the progress of the project and made reference to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, whereby the funds allocated for the new prison recorded savings which is an indication of good management and distribution of funds. Hon TIALAVEA

informed that there were also plans to develop a new prison for Savaii (\$600,000). The Hon Minister also elaborated on the second phase of the project which focuses on the construction of roads, fences and a church; to fund a stand-by generator for the prison; the Hon Minister reassured Members that all development projects proposed and implemented are for the benefit of Samoa. He acknowledged his constituency and the tireless efforts of his Ministry, noting that these are the people who deserve the credit.

7. Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister addressed Samoa in all her honorific salutations then addressed the issues and concerns raised by his fellow Parliamentarians. The Hon Minister noted the positive state with the export agricultural products (taro, copra and oil). He then acknowledged the efforts of the Women in Business and the Non-Government Organisation stating that the lifestyle of a farmer is not easy because there are countless hardships encountered coupled with some factors that are beyond their control, such as climatic conditions and market trends.

Hon LOPAOO noted that although the taro export is excelling at the moment, there are projections for its decline. He elaborated that Samoa has taken advantage of the opportunity to control the market while Fiji's taro export has declined due to recent calamities. The taro whiskey is another illustration of the Ministry's efforts to maximize ways to gain profit. The Hon Minister spoke on the developments of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa to extend the storage life of taro noting that due to the low storage life of the Samoa's taro, Australia refuses to open its markets. The Ministry is also working with SROS to develop a locally manufactured pesticide.

In regards to the rhinoceros beetle, the Minister asserted that Cabinet approved the purchase of 100 furnaces to assist with the extermination of these critters. The Minister noted the progress of the breadfruit flour noting that there is slow supply due to limited resources. He then informed the House of the status of the SACEP program, stating that the second part of the project is being discussed. The Member wrapped up his response by informing the House of the growing population of cattle and discussions to establish a Nonu farm.

8. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Hon Minister addressed Parliament, the Finance and Expenditure Committee and special acknowledgement of the Church leaders and his constituency for their prayers and support. He then acknowledged the Minister of Finance and the Ministry for their efforts in preparing the Appropriation and Supplementary that is before Parliament.

The Hon Minister expressed that it is the Ministry's intention to complete all planned projects for the financial year noting that 8 roads for Upolu have been completed and 4 in Savaii, while 2 are in progress for Aleisa East and Siumu. The Minister explained that access roads were developed to provide easier access for families to their plantation and assist with transporting crops to the main road for sale.

The Minister took note of the concern raised with the timely processes of permits by the PUMA; offered a suggestion to the Minister of Environment and Natural resources whether a merge of the Planning and Urban Management Association (PUMA) with the Ministry of Works is possible. The Hon Minister reminded Members of the formal process in submitting requests that is to submit a written letter to the Ministry for upgrades or construction of street lights, pipelines, etc. Written requests will then be given to the Board/Committee for their assessment.

***Proceedings were set aside at 4:43pm; and
resumed at 5:41pm***

Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (cont.)

In regards to Samoa Shipping Corporation and calls to waive fees for late bookings, the Minister stated that he has asked the Corporation to look into this. In regards to access roads he noted that this will all be duly noted and addressed. The Minister clarified on the importance of revenue for works and government projects.

9. Hon SALA Fata Pinati, Minister of Tourism

The Hon Minister acknowledged Parliament and informed the Members who raised issues pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism that he has taken note of everything and will look into these with his Ministry.

10. Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama

The Hon Minister stated that 11 Members expressed concerns in regards to the Ministry, which included; the need for construction or maintenance of district hospitals and the possibility of having a doctor stationed permanently in the rural outposts. Hon TUITAMA asserted the existence of an action plan in place to combat the increasing number of Non-Communicable Diseases.

The Minister of Health explained that there are on-going talks with the World Bank for funding to assist with the implementation of multiple development projects that have been requested by the Members. Hon TUITAMA conveyed the message by the World Bank emphasising the importance of primary healthcare (first-aid treatment) before an injury/condition becomes serious.

In regards to the development of the National Kidney Foundation, the Minister noted 159 dialysis patients being treated at the Foundation, iterating the bulk of the costs is carried by the Government while patients pay the normal fee of \$10; he also mentioned the direct link between Non Communicable Diseases and renal failure. The Hon Minister raised the importance of healthy eating habits as most diseases are caused because of poor dieting and unhealthy lifestyles.

The Hon Minister mentioned the need for renovations and proper resourcing of hospitals and more ambulance are developments which the government will implement once funding is secured from donors. With regards to the issue of Boom vodka, this is noted and the relevant authority will carry out a formal investigation into the accusations made and acknowledged the efforts of the Liquor Board in administering the contents, quantity and prices of alcohol sold in the country.

(LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao, Member for Gagaifomauga No.3, commented that the report on Boom vodka prepared by foreign experts will be provided to the Minister for proper investigation)

In terms of procurement of pharmaceuticals, the Hon Minister acknowledged the concerns raised and stated that this is a major concern for the Ministry and asserted that a new strategy is being discussed for a more effective and cost saving process. The Hon Minister acknowledged his constituency and concluded his response.

11. Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour

The Hon Minister addressed the House and spoke to clarify the issues and concerns raised by Members pertaining to the Ministers portfolio. In regards to the leasing of land for commercial purposes, the Minister clarified that the Samoa Land Corporation is responsible in overseeing the progress of land development, noting the Corporation's policy on leases- that after 3 months and no development has been done, the Corporation is authorised to terminate the lease.

The Minister acknowledged the National University of Samoa and the Samoa Qualifications Authority in efforts to accredit apprenticeship schemes to meet international standards. In regards to concerns for safety education in the workplace, the Minister explained the existence of an Occupational Safety and Health division within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour to assess the safety of offices. Hon LAUTAFI acknowledged the support from his fellow parliamentarians in the operations of Samoa Airway, noting that the 'collective effort' of the nation is required to ensure the success of the Airline. The Hon Minister acknowledged his Ministries, Executive officers and staff for their commitment and to his constituency for their prayers and support.

MOTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Prime Minister, TUILAEPA Lupesoliai Fatialofa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, moved for proceedings of the Assembly to continue until the Supplementary Amendment Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 and Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 passed the Assembly; motion seconded and approved.

12. Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Speaker - Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

The Hon Deputy Prime Minister addressed the House and spoke to clarify the issues and concerns raised by Members pertaining to the Ministers portfolio. In response to proper management of water, the Minister urges the public to conserve water as it is a limited resource. Hon Minister noted that seawalls are a must and pledged that the Ministry will attempt to meet the requests for seawalls. Furthermore, Hon FIAME stated that planting a tree near water sources have long-term effects and encouraged Members and the public at large to do so. The Hon Deputy Prime Minister stated that sea level rise is inevitable however we are fortunate to be a mountainous nation. In response to those whom called for conservation of mangroves, the Hon Minister agreed

to such suggestions and stated that Mangroves are renowned for being a good breeding place for all types of fish.

With regards to the concerns raised to merge the Planning and Urban Management division (PUMA) with the Ministry of Works; The Hon Minister clarified that the role of PUMA to assess whether requirements are satisfied before permits are issued for the construction of a house/building cannot be part of Ministry of Works; the Minister further clarified that PUMA has an investigative role as to whether housing/ development affects the environment, therefore the Authority is to maintain its independency. The Hon Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged the Ministry for their efforts and her constituency for their support and prayers.

13. Hon. TUILAEPA Auelua Fatialofa Lolofietele Lupesoliai Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister noted that all issues raised by members are of the utmost importance as there are two important aspects for the development of the nation;

- i) Money; and
- ii) Effective people to utilise the money

Hon TUILAEPA asserted that overseas countries will only give aid if they see Samoa's economy developing. He reminded Parliament on the importance of their role to serve the people of Samoa. The Hon Prime Minister made specific mention of the people being influenced by foreign ways, heightening the need for stability in families, churches, and especially for the village council to take a strong stand to uphold the values and cultural aspects of Samoa (citing the disappointing disputes in the villages of Salelologa and Laulii). The Hon PM stated that such incidents beg the question; what are the village mayors and council doing?

The Hon PM iterated that in preparing for the betterment and safety of the nation, it is crucial to prepare for challenges and trouble to ensure the protection of our people from the evils of the world.

Hon Prime Minister recalled that when the Human Rights Protection Party took over the reins to run the affairs of the nation, Samoa's economy was in a poor state (bankrupt). He explained the importance of businesses as these provide employment opportunities for the nation, iterating that one of Government's priorities is to create employment for its people if this cannot be obtained locally then foreign opportunities are sought such as the current seasonal employment scheme.

5. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2017/2018 – consideration in detail

Clause 2 – *Approved*

Clause 3 – *Approved*

First Schedule:

National Health Services – 5,062,593 (Total Additional Expenditure)

Approved

Second Schedule:

Ministry of Finance – 571,246 (Total Reductions)

Approved

Clause 1 and Short Title: *Approved*

6. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2017/2018 – third reading

The Hon Minister of Finance, SILI Epa Tuioti, moved the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017/2018 to be third read; motion approved. The Bill was third read and passed the Legislative Assembly.

7. APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019 – Consideration in detail

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries: <i>Approved</i>	\$17,115,561
Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour: <i>Approved as amended</i>	\$18,371,462
Ministry of Communication and Information Technology: <i>Approved as amended</i>	\$10,581,790
Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture: <i>Approved</i>	\$103,678,563
Ministry of Finance: <i>Approved</i>	\$89,326,611
Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <i>Approved</i>	\$23,274,821
Ministry of Health: <i>Approved</i>	\$18,405,623

Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration: <i>Approved</i>	\$12,954,826
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: <i>Approved</i>	\$25568464
Ministry of Police: <i>Approved</i>	\$29,773,936
Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet: <i>Approved</i>	\$78,68,122
Ministry for Revenue: <i>Approved</i>	\$13,229,346
Ministry of Women Community and Social Development: <i>Approved</i>	\$11,448,451
Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure: <i>Approved</i>	\$44,506,804
Attorney General: <i>Approved</i>	\$4,889,770
Samoa Qualifications Authority: <i>Approved</i>	\$3,768,659
Office of the Electoral Commissioner: <i>Approved</i>	\$2,031,454
Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: <i>Approved</i>	\$6,455,602
Ombudsman: <i>Approved</i>	\$1,110,777
Public Service Commission: <i>Approved</i>	\$4,839,968
National Health Service: <i>Approved</i>	\$80,134,187
Ministry of Public Enterprises:	\$2,664,235

Approved

Samoa Bureau of Statistics: \$4,682,939
Approved

Samoa Law Reform Commission: \$1,351,522
Approved

Samoa Prisons and Corrections Services: \$9,581,377
Approved

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES \$547,614,267

The Finance Committee Chairperson, ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau put forth the amendment to reduce the Total Overall Expenditure 2018/2019 from **\$547,614,267** to **\$546,890,252**
The motion seconded and approved.

The question was put and the ayes have it

Clause 2 – *Approved as amended*

Clause 3 – *Approved*

Clause 4 – *Approved*

Clause 1: Short Title and Commencement – *Approved*

8. APPROPRIATION BILL 2018/2019 – third reading

The Hon Minister of Finance, SILI Epa Tuioti moved for the third reading of the Appropriation Bill 2018/2019; motion *Approved*.

The Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 was third read and passed the Legislative Assembly with its amendments put forth by the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

***Proceedings were adjourned at 8:40pm
to reconvene at 9:00am on Friday 22 June 2018***