



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA
**PROCEDURAL &
STATISTICAL DIGEST NO.4**
MARCH 18 - 27 2014

MARCH 2014				
M	T	W	T	F
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

BILLS

1.01 *Bills introduced*

Seven Bills were tabled on Tuesday 18 March: the Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014, Tax Administration Bill 2014, Trusts Bill 2014, International Companies Amendment Bill 2014, Counter Terrorism Bill 2014, International Criminal Court Amendment Bill 2014 and the Metrology Bill 2014. All bills were presented to the Assembly on a message from Le Ao o le Malo.

Standing Orders: 95, 99

1.02 *Bills second read and referred to select committees*

Following first reading on 24 January 2014 the Family Court Bill 2013, National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2013 and the Fair Trading Amendment Act 2013 were second read on Tuesday 18 March. Five Bills were second read on Wednesday 19 March: the Plumbers Bill 2014, Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 and the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014. The Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014, Tax Administration Amendment Bill 2014, International Criminal Court Amendment Bill 2014, Metrology Bill 2014 and the Statistics Bill 2014 were second read on Monday 24 March. All Bills were debated on and subsequently referred to the following select committees for inquiry:

- The Family Court Bill 2014 was referred to the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee;
- The National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 and the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 were referred to the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community & Social Development Committee;
- The Plumbers Bill 2013 was referred to the Works, Transport and Environment Committee;
- The Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 was referred to the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee;
- The Fair Trading Amendment Bill 2013, Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014, Tax Administration Amendment Bill 2014 and the Metrology Bill 2014 were referred to the Foreign Affairs, Trade & Revenue Committee
- The Statistics Bill 2014 was referred the Government Administration Committee.

Standing Orders: 100, 101.

1.03 Bills passed by the Assembly

Nine Bills were third read and passed by the Assembly, The National Payment System Bill 2014, Samoan Language Commission Bill 2014 and the Electric Power Corporation Amendment Bill 2014 on Tuesday 18 March. On Tuesday 25 March the Apprenticeship Bill 2014, Lands Survey and Environment Amendment Bill 2014, Unit Titles Amendment Bill 2014, Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2014, Police Offences Amendment Bill 2014 and the Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2014 were third read and passed by the Assembly. Bills that have been third read and passed by the Assembly must then be printed fair, authenticated and assented to by Le Ao o le Malo. Once assent has been given, the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, enforceable by law.

Standing Orders: 94 (1), 101, 102, 106, 107, 108, 109 – 112, 131-137.

1.04 Bill considered under Certificate of Urgency

On Tuesday 18 March, the Trusts Bill 2014, International Companies Amendment Bill 2014 and the Counter Terrorism Bill 2014 were introduced under a Certificate of Urgency. The Certificate of Urgency received by the Speaker circumvents the usual requirement that Bills must be publically published and distributed to Members prior to introduction. It also allows for a Bill to be first read, second read, considered on one sitting day. The above Bills passed all requisite procedural stages on Thursday 20 March and were effectively passed by the Assembly.

Note: Unless a Certificate of Urgency has been signed by Le Ao o le Malo and presented to the Assembly, a Bills passage through the Assembly must follow the normal procedure as set out in Standing Order 99(1).

Standing Orders: 99 – 112, 99(2), 100(1), 101(2), 107(4)

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

1.05 Message from Le Ao o le Malo

A message from Le Ao o le Malo to permit the introduction of seven Bills on Tuesday 18 March, was read out by the Speaker, following the formal opening of the Sitting and prayers at 9:00am.

Note: All messages from Le Ao o le Malo addressed to the Assembly shall be read immediately after Prayers or after a Member(s) has been sworn in by the Speaker.

Standing Orders: 75 (1), 95

Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa: Article 59

1.06 Condolence Motion for former Member

The Speaker moved a motion of condolence regarding the passing of Afioga ANAULI Pofitu Fesili, former representative for Vaimauga i Sisifo from 2006 to 2011. The House observed a minute of silence as a gesture of respect for the former Member.

1.07 Change to Meeting Times

On Tuesday 18 March the Prime Minister, by leave, moved a motion to extend the hours of sitting (7:00pm to 11:00pm) for each sitting day thereafter so as to allow for the completion of business set out in that day's order paper; the motion was approved.

On Tuesday 25 March the Deputy Prime Minister, by leave, moved a motion that the usual sitting times (9:00am to 1:00pm) resume for the remaining sitting days; the motion was approved.

Standing Order: 31

1.08 Bill Withdrawn on the Assembly's First Sitting Day

A motion was moved, by leave, by the Minister of Police, Prison & Fire Services that the Counter Terrorism Bill 2012 be withdrawn; the motion was approved.

Note: A motion to withdraw a Bill from the Order Paper may be made without notice by the Responsible Minister or Member. This procedure may take place before the commencement of public business or the commencement of any stage of a Bill. This was the first Bill withdrawn in 2014.

Standing Order: 113(1)

1.09 Issue raised over allocation of time for Private Members' Business on Thursday sittings

An issue was raised by the Leader of the Opposition over the disallowance of Private Member's business as set down in the Standing Orders for Thursday sittings. The Speaker exercised his discretion and rearranged business for that day in attempt to continue consideration of select committee reports. No Private Members' business was considered.

Note: Although the Standing Orders provides for Private Members' Business on Thursdays, the Speaker has the authority to alter the Order as set out in that days Order Paper if he thinks it necessary.

Standing Orders: 44(2), 45(1) & (2).

1.10 Withdrawals

The following statements were omitted from the Hansard:

- 19 March “Samoa Water Authority plumbers are incompetent”
- 26 March: “STEC cars have been damaged because of the oil used, this is the truth; Samoa has the most expensive electricity”.

Note: Words or statements given within the Chamber may be ordered to be removed from the official Hansard at Mr Speaker’s discretion; particularly words or statements which may be interpreted as offensive, inaccurate or contentious.

Standing Orders: 60(c), 82(2)

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

1.11 Select Committee Reports presented, considered and approved

A total of 54 Select Committee Reports were presented to the Assembly which included lapsed business carried forward from the 2011 – 2013 Financial Year (36 reports). The Assembly considered and approved 30 reports during its seven day sitting.

Note: It is unusual for the number of Select Committee Reports outlined above to be presented, considered and approved by the Assembly in any one sitting. Precedence was given by the Assembly for the consideration of Select Committee reports over other business for its March sitting.

Standing Orders: 51, 53.

1.12 Three Select Committee Reports presented together

On Wednesday 26 March, the Chairman of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee presented three of its Reports:

- *Report No. 62* on the Annual Report of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa for the Year 2009/2010;
- *Report No. 64* on the Corporate Plan of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa for the Period 2012-2014, and the

- *Report No. 123 on the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Annual Reports for the Financial Years 2010-2011 & 2011-2012.*

All three reports were presented on that day's Order Paper and presented together but were not considered until the following day.

Note: It is not uncommon for two or more Select Committee reports to be presented in one sitting; however, they are not generally presented together and subsequently considered and approved the following day.

Standing Orders: 51, 53.

1.13 Government Responses to Committee Reports

The Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 54 advised Government to provide full response to Committee Recommendations within 90 days, for the Committee Reports considered and approved by the Assembly.

Standing Order: 54 (1)

1.14 Officers of Parliament presents its Report

The Report of the Officers of Parliament Committee on the Reports of the Controller and Auditor General for Period Ended 30th July 2009 – 30th June 2010, and for Period Ended 30th July 2010 – 30th June 2011 (P.P. 2012/2013 No. 13 & P.P. 2013/2014 No. 12), was rescheduled in the Order of Business due the absence of the Hon Prime Minister who is the Responsible Minister for the Audit Office.

Standing Order: 53

STATISTICAL DIGEST

18 – 20, 24 - 27 MARCH 2014

LEGISLATION	18 – 20, 24 – 27 March 2014	Oct 2013 to date
<i>Bills presented to the Assembly</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normal Passage - Certificate of Urgency - Private Members Bills • Bills referred to Committees 	4 3 0 5	13 5 0 13
OTHER BUSINESS	18 – 20, 24 – 27 March 2014	Oct 2013 to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Sitting days • Total hours of Sitting (excluding suspensions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business of the Assembly - Government Business - Private Member's Business - Other opportunities for Private Members 	7 30hours 5mins 10hours 45mins 19hours 20mins 0 mins 0 mins	14 60 hours 5 mins 30 hours 30 mins 29 hours 35 mins 0 mins 0 mins
Questions lodged	0	0
Urgent Questions lodged	0	0
Answers to questions (written)	0	0
Answers to questions (oral)	0	0
Petitions presented	0	0
Divisions	0	1
Parliamentary Committee reports presented	54	70