



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA
**PROCEDURAL &
STATISTICAL DIGEST NO.11**
JANUARY 20 – 27 2015

JANUARY 2015						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
16	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		

BILLS

1.01 Bills introduced

One bill was introduced on Monday, 20th January 2015: the *National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2015*. The bill was presented to the Assembly on a message from *Le Ao o le Malo*.

Standing Orders: 95, 99.

Refer to 1.05.

1.02 Bill considered under Certificate of Urgency

The *Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Bill 2014* was introduced under a Certificate of Urgency signed by *Le Ao o le Malo* on Tuesday, 16th December 2014. The Certificate of Urgency received by the Speaker circumvents the usual requirement that Bills must be publicly published and distributed to members prior to introduction. It also allows for a bill to be first read, second read, considered in detail and third read in a single sitting day. The above bill was first read, second read, considered in detail and third read on Monday, 20th January 2015.

Note: Unless a Certificate of Urgency has been signed by Le Ao o le Malo and presented to the Assembly, a bill's 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).

1.03 Bills second read and referred to Select Committees

One bill was second read during the Assembly's January sitting. The *National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2014* was second read on Monday, 20th January 2015. The *Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Bill 2014* was also second read on the same day, but due to it being considered under a Certificate of Urgency, was not referred to a Select Committee for scrutiny. The *National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2014* was referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Standing Orders: 100, 101, 137.

Also refer to 1.02.

1.04 Five bills considered in detail and third read

On Monday 20th January, five bills were considered in detail by the Assembly. These bills were the *National Kidney Foundation Amendment Bill 2015*, *Scientific Research Organization of Samoa Amendment Bill 2015*, *Fair Trading Amendment Bill 2015*, *Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2015* and the *Personal Property Securities Amendment Bill 2015*. Following member debates, a motion for the bills to be third read was approved and they were third read the following day on Tuesday, 21st January 2015 as passed by the Assembly.

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

Constitution: Article 60.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

1.05 Message from Le Ao o le Malo

A message from Le Ao o le Malo to permit the introduction of 1 bill on Tuesday 20th January, 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 has been sworn in by the Speaker.

Standing Orders: 75 (1), 95.

Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa: Article 59.

1.06 Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015

Debate of the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015 commenced on Tuesday 20th January; followed by Government responses on Thursday 22nd January. The Bill was passed by the Assembly, without amendments on Friday 23rd January.

Standing Orders: 107(4), 108-112, 133, 131-137

1.07 Proposed sitting program agreed to

A motion was made for the proposed sitting program for 2015 to be approved and was subsequently agreed to by the Assembly.

Standing Orders: 169(3) (i)-(iii)

1.08 Change to sitting hours

On Wednesday 21st January, the Honourable Prime Minister moved a motion to extend the sitting hours (3:00pm to 7:00pm) until the Supplementary Appropriation Bill was passed by the Assembly; the motion was approved. The sitting on Friday the 20th however, concluded at 12pm as the Standing Order stipulates that all Friday sittings must conclude by 12 noon. Three additional motions were moved by the Honourable Prime Minister on Monday 26th January for sitting hours to resume, however, a motion was then moved again on Tuesday 27th January to extend sitting hours from 3:00pm – 7:00pm and from 7:30pm till all matters in the Cue Paper were discussed; these motions were approved.

Standing Order 31(1)

1.09 Maiden speech by Member of Parliament for Gagaifomauga No.1

Maiden speeches are a parliamentary convention whereby members are able to address the Assembly uninterrupted for a maximum of one hour. Although this may in practice occur at any time during a parliamentary term, the common practice is for members to deliver their maiden speeches at the beginning of a new parliamentary term. Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers who is the newly elected Member for Gagaifomauga No.1 and successful candidate after the late MP Tuilo'a Anitelea Tuilo'a, delivered a maiden speech on Wednesday 21st January 2015 during the second reading debate of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015. At the conclusion of the Member's speech, the Assembly showed a sign of appreciation by a round of applause. The speech was then declared by Mr Speaker as being the member's maiden speech and has been noted as such in Parliament's official transcripts.

Hansard Advance, pp.933-938, Wednesday 21st January 2015.

SPEAKER

1.10 Points of order raised by Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker noted the following points of order during the proceeding and especially the debate on the Government Response on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 57 on Tuesday 27th January 2015:

- The Speaker clarified that there are no time limits (time duration) for Ministerial Statements;
- Speaker reminded Members to confine remarks on the reports in debate;
- The Speaker clarified that parliamentary practice and procedures adhered to by the Parliament such as those of the New Zealand House of Representatives do not permit debate on Government Responses;

*Standing Orders 58, 59 60 & 61, 61(2) & (3).
Hansard Advance pp.1184 & 1271, Tuesday 27th January 2015.*

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

1.11 Motion of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee

On Tuesday 20th January, the Deputy Chairman of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the programme of Sittings and Proceedings for the calendar year 2015/2016 as per Committee recommendation.

*Standing Order: 169(3) (i)-(iii)
Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa: Article 52*

1.12 Select Committee Reports tabled, considered and approved

On Tuesday 20th January, four Select Committees tabled their reports. The Justice Committee tabled three reports while the Finance and Expenditure Committee tabled one report. On Thursday 22nd, the Justice, Police & Prisons Committee tabled one report.

Five Select Committee reports were considered and approved by the Assembly on Monday 26th January.

1. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 58, Report of the Justice, Police and Prisons and Land and Titles Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 78 & P.P. 2013/2014 No. 79, Ministry of Police and Prisons Annual Reports for the Years 2007-2008 and Financial Year 2008-2009.

2. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 102, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 5, Annual Report of the SIFA for the year 2012.
3. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 103, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 8, Samoa Life Assurance Corporation Annual Report for the year 2013.
4. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 109, Report of the Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee on P.P. 2012/2013 No. 36, Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.
5. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 131, Report of the Education Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 7, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority for the year 2011/2012.

Standing Order: 51.

Parliamentary Papers: 2014/2015 No.s 186-189 & 192.

1.13 Five Select Committee Reports on bills approved

For the Assembly to consider a bill in detail, it must first approve its corresponding Select Committee report in accordance with Standing Order 106. Upon consideration of the five bills listed in **1.04** above, five Select Committee reports were presented to the Assembly and subsequently approved.

1. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 129, Report of the Health and Social Services Committee on the National Kidney Foundation Amendment Bill 2013.
2. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 130, Report of the Education Committee on the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014.
3. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 165, Primary Production Committee Report on the Fair Trading Amendment Bill 2013.
4. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 167, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee Report on the Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014.
5. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 168, Primary Production Committee Report on the Personal Property Amendment Bill 2014.

Standing Orders 51 & 53

Refer to 1.04

1.14 Government Responses considered and approved

25 Government Responses were considered and tabled during the Assembly's January sitting. On Tuesday 27th January, responses to the reports of the Primary

Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee; Health and Social Services Committee; Officers of Parliament Committee; Works, Transport and Environment Committee; Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology; Finance and Expenditure Committee; Government Administration Committee; were tabled.

Note: Once a Select Committee Report has been adopted by the Assembly, the Government must table its response within ninety days with the exception of Finance and Expenditure Committee reports on any Estimates or Supplementary Estimates.

Standing Order: 54.

1.15 Approval of Government Responses by motion

26 Government Responses (Papers Nos.26-51 on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 27 January 2015) were approved by the Assembly by motion without debate.

STATISTICAL DIGEST

20 - 23, 26 - 27 January 2015

LEGISLATION	20 – 23, 26 - 27 January 2015	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 	1 0 0 1	31 9 0 24
OTHER BUSINESS	20 – 23, 26 – 27 January 2015	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 	6 53 hour 18 min 1hour 30 mins 52 hours 08 mins 0 mins 0 mins	36 172 hours 44 mins 42 hours 40 mins 127 hours 49 mins 1 hour 13 mins 0 mins
Questions delivered in the Chamber	0	0
Urgent Questions delivered in the Chamber	0	7
Answers to questions (written)	0	0
Answers to questions (oral)	0	7
Petitions presented	0	0
Divisions	0	0
Parliamentary Committee reports presented	5	107