

DISCLAIMER

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TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015

TIME: 9:00am

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPORPRIATION BILL (No.1) 2015/2016 – first reading.

The Hon Prime Minister (Minister of Finance) moved a motion for the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2015/2016 to be first read; the motion was approved.

2. FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2015/2016 – tabling

The Hon Prime Minister tabled the first supplementary estimates.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY APPORPRIATION BILL (No.1) 2015/2016 – motion for second reading.

The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion for the Bill to be second read; the motion was approved. The Hon Prime Minister then delivered the Budget Address.

The Hon Prime Minister noted that the theme for the Budget for this year was "to live within our means". He stated that the supplementary appropriation totals \$8.58 million, sourced via the following:

- Additional revenue from Samoa International Finance Authority (SIFA) of \$4 million;
- Additional revenue from dividends received of \$2.83 million;
- Additional revenue collected from the Office of the Regulator of \$1.1 million;
- Additional revenue from the Ministry for Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) \$217,396;
- \$432,952 in VAGST from Ministries and Corporations.

He continued by stating that additional revenue, inclusive of VAGST totals \$9.06 million. An excess of \$477,205 in expenditure is funded from savings identified under the Parliamentary Pension Scheme and the Ministry for Revenue.

Priority expenditure:

- i. Forestry and Fisheries (Ministry for Agriculture & Fisheries) - \$350,000 to assist with development programmes, in particular for Women in Business;
- ii. \$1.1 million is appropriated to service the connection of a Samoa Broadband Highway Project for the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology;
- iii. \$1 million is appropriated to support education programmes and teachers (Ministry for Education Sports & Culture). A portion of this fund will be used to support retired teachers who have returned to teaching to assist the development of Samoa's educational system;
- iv. \$151,044 is appropriated for the Ministry of Finance for wages and salaries of the staff of the Ministry for Public Enterprises; \$70,000 is allocated to cover utility costs for the Commonwealth Youth Games and \$57,500 is allocated for the hosting of the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) meeting;
- v. \$116,879.40 is appropriated for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for operational costs for the Samoan embassy in Wellington. \$27,363 is allocated for end of contract salaries for the Embassy in Auckland, \$32,626 is allocated for operational costs for the Embassy in Brussels and \$19,266 is allocated to fund the salary of a new student counselor in Fiji. \$31,338 is allocated for the Ministry in Apia for end of contract benefits and salaries for local staff;
- vi. \$45,900 is appropriated for the Ministry of Justice, a portion of which is allocated for salaries for personnel engaged for the Alcohol and Drugs Court e.g. a Psychologist;
- vii. \$29,400 is appropriated for the Customary Land Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;

- viii. \$63,805 is appropriated for the Ministry of Police & Prisons to cover the costs of outstanding invoices for building materials used for the Dog Management Unit;
- ix. \$144,000 is appropriated for the Ministry for Revenue to finance 2 new vehicles for revenue collection;
- x. \$1million is appropriated for the Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development for the development of village water schemes, a portion of which is allocated to support the hosting of future youth games;
- xi. \$64,753 is appropriated for the Office of the Attorney General for the salary of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- xii. \$1 million is appropriated for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to fund contractual works for the Samoa Water Authority Division;
- xiii. \$34,636 is appropriated for the Ombudsman for the salary of the Special Investigations Officer;
- xiv. \$1.5 million is appropriated for the National Health Services to support and continue programmes for the transfer of patients requiring overseas medical treatment;
- xv. \$1million is appropriated for the Land Transport Authority to fund contractual work for drainages in the urban area.

The Estimates were referred to the Finance & Expenditure Committee for consideration, and to report their findings to the Assembly in not less than 14 days pursuant to Standing Order 132.

Proceedings were adjourned at 9:30am.
Parliamentary proceedings will reconvene on
Tuesday, 26th January 2016 at 9:00 am.