



Part 2 commences:

i. **Hon AEAU Peniamina, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Member for Falealupo** raised an objection to the Hon Prime Minister's motion claiming that it was an attempt to bulldoze the Bill through without proper consideration by the House. The member urged the Government not to rush parliamentary debates.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** replied by reminding the member for Falealupo that the House has been discussing this Bill for 4 days therefore accusations that the Government are attempting to rush the enactment of the Bill are unfounded.

The **Leader of the Opposition** claimed that the delay in parliamentary proceedings is the Hon Prime Minister's need to continually make 'ministerial statements'.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** urged the Leader of the Opposition to study Parliament's Standing Orders wherein it states that a Ministerial Statement has no time limit and it may be delivered at any time in a sitting day.

Hon AEAU provided his own definition of a 'Ministerial Statement'.

Mr Speaker: the Question was put with the motion seconded by the Hon Deputy Prime Minister and subsequently approved by the Assembly.

ii. **Hon LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, Member for Aana Alofi No.1** queried the procedure governing member speeches on Bills. He enquired as to whether it was necessary for members who support the Bill to make speeches.

iii. The **Hon Deputy Prime Minister** clarified issues raised by the member for Aana Alofi No.3 reiterating the fact that customary land is not included in the Bill.

iv. The **Leader of the Opposition** stated that the provisions in the Bill enables land to be sold but the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment continues to assert that public land may not be sold.

v. The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** then detailed the considerations the Attorney General must make when considering possible amendments to the Bill.

vi. **TOEOLESULUSULU** supported the Bill's main objective of promoting development in Samoa. He noted that if this means that land may be leased for foreigners to gain citizenship then that is an acceptable outcome. He noted that the majority of businesses and companies in New Zealand are owned and operated by foreign investors. He noted that companies in Fiji are running at a loss caused by a decrease in tax deductions, therefore businesses in Samoa should be encouraged to seek ways to gain profit. Further to this, priority should be given to the development of locally owned and operated businesses as there is a concern that if all businesses are run by foreign investors, local businesses will not prosper. He recommended encouraging prominent and affluent people of Samoan descent (for example Seiuli Dwayne Johnson) to personally invest in Samoa. He also encouraged the Government to explore other investment opportunities such as (PICTA & PACER) to attract foreign investors to Samoa. Samoan businesses should be encouraged to enter into such agreements in order to foster competitiveness to aide overall business development.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** acknowledged the member's recommendations and stated that he has personally written to the administrators of the organisations mentioned but they have yet to send a response to his requests.

The **Hon Deputy Prime Minister** clarified that in terms of FTA & PICTA, Samoa was one of the initial signatories to these agreements. Samoa's concession to PACER plus has yet to be finalized. The Hon Deputy Prime Minister noted that PACER plus aims to promote labour mobility and to create more job opportunities for Pacific peoples.

vii. **TOEOLESULUSULU** suggested that an avenue for local contractors to tender their services overseas should be created.

The **Deputy Prime Minister** in reply, stated that local contractors are able to tender for work overseas such as in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

viii. **Hon MANUALESAGALALA Enokati Posala, Minister for Works, Transport & Infrastructure and Member for Safata** noted the importance of utilizing local labour in the Government's development projects (such as for the maintenance of roads). For example, American Samoa has made a request for Samoan contractors to assist with their local infrastructure; there is a need to maintain and upgrade the existing engineering knowledge pool within Samoa.

ix. **Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatuaa, Minister for Women, Community & Social Development and Member for Aana Alofi No.2** noted that member speeches from the Opposition have been too lengthy, which exemplifies their limited understanding of the matters under discussion. Proceedings would not

be unnecessarily lengthy if these particular members did not take it upon themselves to divulge to the House their personal expertise on various matters to the House.

x. The **Leader of the Opposition** objected to the remark made by the Minister for Women and asserted that a member may remark on any subject matter he or she so chooses to as a means of contributing to the House's debates.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** stated that the Leader of the Opposition is in fact education members of his own party.

xi. **Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa** informed the House that there is only one World Bank condition which companies must adhere to and that is to meet the requisite cash flow position. This condition was set aside upon the request of Samoa in order to enable newly established Samoan contractors to bid for other Pacific Island contracts, for example, in the Cook Islands. The World Bank does not require insurance as a condition but rather the simple knowledge that Samoan companies have the requisite funds.

xii. **TOEOLESULUSULU** noted that the computer industry is the fastest developing industry and recommended that we consider attracting these types of companies to invest in Samoa.

POINT OF ORDER: Mr Speaker reminded members that the Committee process is the appropriate avenue for members to put forward their specific recommendations; there is also the consideration detail stage of the legislative process. He requested that members focus on issues that have yet to be discussed in relation to this Bill in an effort to avoid repetitive debates.

xiii. **Hon FAAMOETAULOA** referred to the earlier comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and distinguished between the ‘taking’ of land and the ‘selling’ of land.

The **Leader of the Opposition** noted the clarification given by the Minister and claimed that the definition differs from that which was offered by the Hon Prime Minister

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** again reiterated the fact that public land may not be sold under the provisions of the Bill.

xiv. **AFOAFOUVALE John Moors, Member for Palauli** quoted the quote “Some men see things as they are and ask “Why” I dream of things that never were and ask “Why not?”” to support his encouragement to the Government to implement programmes which will be beneficial to all future generations of Samoa.

xv. **PESETA Vaifou Tevaga, Member for Faasaleleaga No.4** commented that the Bill is comparable to ‘loyal’ or ‘good’ service.

xvi. The **Leader of the Opposition** interjected and requested that the member refrain from making sarcastic and ambiguous comments.

xvii. **Hon Le Mamea Ropati, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela** commented on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4’s comment and claimed that “good service” includes those who “speak out of turn”.

xviii. The **Leader of the Opposition** again asserted his opinion that customary land may be purchased under the Bill. An assertion he states was made by the Minister for Natural Resources & Environment. He then asked for clarification as to who is correct in this matter.

xix. **Hon FAAMOETAULOA** sought clarification of the Leader of the Opposition's remarks. The Minister informed the House that there are situations in which the Government feels that it is necessary to sell public land. An example is when vacant land could be used for water storage, then the Government will consider selling it for this crucial purpose.

xx. **The Hon PRIME MINISTER** claimed that the Leader of the Opposition does not in fact understand the Bill. He stated that it is clear that public and customary land may not be sold. He again urged the Leader of the Opposition to read and study the Bill to aide his understanding of the matters under discussion.

xxi. **PESETA** offered clarification on this issue by stating that customary land will be available for lease whereas purchase (as in the case of freehold land) is prohibited.

xxii. **AGAFILI Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa, Deputy Speaker and Member for Palauli West** stated that due to inaccurate media reporting of the Bill and its objectives, it has caused concern within his constituency. He referenced a headline in the Tala Fou news whereby it was claimed that parliament were at present debating a bill which "sells citizenship". He stated that the current reality in Samoa in terms of employment opportunities is bleak; Samoan children are often limited to working in the plantations or at sea. The ratio of graduates to employment

vacancies is out of proportion; there are an excessive number of graduates competing for the same vacancies. The member voiced his support for the Bill as it attempts to create more employment opportunities for future generations.

The Deputy Speaker noted that for Members such as the Leader of the Opposition, such concerns are not pressing as his children are Australian citizens, living and working in Australia. However, the reality for many Samoan parents is that despite their children successfully completing their education, they may remain jobless here due to lack of employment opportunities.

xxiii. LEALAILEPULE requested that the previous member's remarks should be amended to a generalised reference which includes everyone.

xxiv. The **Leader of the Opposition** noted that issues raised by the Deputy Speaker are not unique to Samoa as the same problems are apparent in overseas countries.

xxv. The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** stated the focus should be placed on the creation of 'new' job opportunities using Australia as an example where hundreds of graduates struggle to find employment. The Hon Prime Minister stated that the Government is currently in negotiations with Australia over the secondment of local APTC graduates in trades such as mechanical engineering to Australia.

xxvi. **Hon MAGELE** referenced his previous New Zealand example used in his address to the House on Thursday [19th February]. He then noted that despite this, the Leader of the Opposition continues to state that he should not attempt to compare Samoa to other countries. The Minister wished to note the fact that the

Hon Prime Minister had just compared Samoa to Australia and therefore he is owed an apology from the Leader of the Opposition.

xxvii. The **Leader of the Opposition** replied that this is because the problems faced in Australia are similar to those experienced here in Samoa.

xxviii. **IFOPO Matia Filisi, Member for Aiga i le Tai** requested that an extension be given to the Deputy Speaker to continue his speech.

Mr Speaker took the member's request into consideration.

Note: A brief exchange between the **Leader of the Opposition** and the **Deputy Prime Minister** ensued which continued to deal with fact that the Leader of the Opposition's children reside in Australia which means that he is unaffected by the employment issues within Samoa.