

Day 1: Tuesday 21 April 2015
9:00am

I. MOTION

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER**, moved a motion to suspend standing orders to consider Bills under Certificate of Urgency that need to be 3rd read today. The motion was seconded and approved by the Assembly.

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Criminal Procedure Bill 2015 (First Reading)

The **Hon MINISTER of Justice and Courts Administration, FIAME Naomi Mataafa** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a first time. Upon the motion being approved, the Bill was read a first time.

2. Central Bank of Samoa Bill 2015 (First Reading)

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER, TUILAEPA Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a first time. Upon the motion being approved, the Bill was read a first time.

3. District Courts Bill 2015 (First Reading)

The **Hon MINISTER of Justice and Courts Administration, FIAME Naomi Mataafa** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a first time. Upon the motion being approved, the Bill was read a first time.

4. Casino & Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015 (First Reading)

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER, TUILAEPA Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a first time. Upon the motion being moved, the Bill was read a first time.

5. Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 (First Reading)

The **Hon MINISTER of Justice and Courts Administration, FIAME Naomi Mataafa** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a first time. Upon the motion being moved, the Bill was read a first time.

6. International Companies Amendment Bill 2015 (First Reading)

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER, TUILAPEA Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielagaoi** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a first time. Upon the motion being moved, the Bill was read a first time.

7. Casino & Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015 (Second Reading)

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER, TUILAEPA Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi** moved a motion for the Bill be read a second time. The Hon PRIME MINISTER made a brief statement clarifying the Bill. Stated that when the Principal Act was passed and the provision for licenses approved, it was not foreseen that Sheraton Aggies Hotel at Vaisigano would be renovated, however, since the Vaisigano branch will be reopened another Casino is proposed for this branch. The Bill therefore seeks to allow the for casino operators to operate two casinos under the same licence, as the Principal Act 2010 does not permit such practice. Furthermore, the amendment also provides for the Totalisator Agency Board (TAB) to continue to act as the Gambling Control Agency for an additional two years. The Bill also regulates interactive gambling which will be regulated by TAB.

- i. **AVEAU Tuala Niko Palamo, Member for Faleata East** made note of gambling promotions that are done through mobiles by the Digicel and Bluesky Companies. The Member queried whether these companies are required to have a licence.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** clarified that a licence cannot be given to such companies as the laws do not cover such games.

- ii. **MOTUOPUAA Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai, Member for Vaisigano No. 2** made comment that there are locals who have foreign passports who are able to enter casinos. The Member suggested whether the law should allow for all who hold foreign passports to be eligible for gambling instead of restricting it only to those specific casino hotels.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** clarified that locals who hold foreign passports are permitted to enter and utilize the services made available by casinos.

- iii. **Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Leader of Opposition and Member for Safata** suggested that the Government should be cautious with over-extending gambling or casino privileges and the use of electronic devices for gambling. Furthermore, made note of developments that were initiated in 2010 and reiterated his objection to casinos.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** stated that the Lotto Act was passed in 1990 in order to allow for its establishment in Samoa.

- iv. **TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi No. 3,** requested that different categories of issuing licences be mentioned in the Bill and should clarify as to who is entitled to such licences. The Member made note that there are other gambling activities that are operated by other smaller businesses.

The motion for Second Reading of the Casino & Gambling Control Amendment Bill 2015 was approved and the Bill was read for a second time.

8. Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 (Second Reading)

The **Hon MINISTER of Justice and Courts Administration, FIAME Naomi Mataafa** moved a motion for the Bill to be read a second time. The Hon Minister made a brief statement on the Bill, stating that there are 6 clauses in the amendment, the purpose of the Bill is to allow additional time for a candidate to challenge the qualification of another candidate to contest the Elections. Furthermore, the Bill seeks to address the initiative to establish a tribunal to assess elections as given in recommendation of the Electoral Review Committee. The Hon MINISTER also stated that the bill also redefined the urban constituencies boundaries, and those who wish to register in the urban constituencies should have lived in the constituency for 6 months, this amendment addresses the motion as raised in the March sitting. Lastly, the Bill empowers the Head of State to make transitional regulations on the advice of Cabinet to deal with amending forms and creating new ones.

- i. **PAPALII Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau, Member for Faasaleleaga Nu. 2** stated that the changes of boundaries brought forth are confusing compared to traditional boundaries. Furthermore, the Government land parcels are also

confusing for instance the boundary for Urban East includes Vaitele and Vaimoso and the boundary for the West Urban seat reaches Safata. There should be a map accompanied with the Bill to clarify the boundaries. The Member requested whether this Bill can be withdrawn to be reintroduced after election in the next Parliamentary Term.

NB: Debate commenced between the **Member of Faasaleleaga Nu. 2**, the **Hon PRIME MINISTER** and the **Hon MINISTER OF JUSTICE** regarding the royal family of Malietoa and its affiliates.

- ii. **MOTUOPUAA Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai, Member for Baisigano No. 2**, raised concerns on the report put forth by the Commission, querying urban seats and its boundaries. The Member stated that the Urban East boundary is clearly defined, however the Urban West boundary is covered mostly by mountains and valleys therefore the boundaries are unclear. The Member suggested that there should be a clear definition for boundaries.
- iii. **AFUALO Wood Uti Salele, Member for Salega**, queried the terms of the area of Vaitele and stated that it should be included in the urban boundaries not Faleata. Furthermore, the electoral roll should also be considered as the last elections noted that Faleata roll had more than 6000. The Member also queried the term for residency of 6 months for urban constituencies, suggested if this can be amended to 12 months as it is more sufficient.
- iv. **LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West**, stated that the increase in the Electoral Roll for Faleata West which includes Vaitele was a Government initiative. Furthermore, the recommendations in the Commission of

Inquiry was not opposed as to the boundaries that were given the only concern was regarding the seats. The Member noted that there have been 3 Amendments to the boundaries, however, the first amendment in 2014 is the correct boundary.

The **HON MINISTER** in a point of order stated that other boundaries have been changed but the boundaries for this specific constituency is still being discussed before Parliament, therefore the proposed changes are not passed as law.

LEALAILEPULE reiterated previous Members concerns on the boundaries. The Member suggested that the Bill be referred to Committee to consider the new proposed boundaries.

- v. **Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters**, recommended to the Electoral Committee that non-traditional villages such as Sogi should constitute the urban constituencies.
- vi. **MAUALAIVAO Pat Ah Him, Individual Voters**, stated that there was uncertainty in the individual voters roll, however, after clarification, it was accepted that this was a relevant change.

Proceedings were suspended for its usual morning break at 10:45am

Proceedings resumed at 11.20am.