

Day 2: Wednesday 22 April 2015
9:00am

I. SWEARING IN OF MEMBER FOR SAGAGA LE USOGA

New **Member for Sagaga le Usoga** was sworn in to Parliament, **Afioga SEIULI Ueligitone Seiuli**. The seat was vacated when Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA Faamausili Auimatagi Peter Ah Him resigned.

II. BUSINESS COMMITTEE MOTION

The **Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chairperson for the Business, House, Standing Orders and Electoral Committee** moved motion for the newly elected Member for Sagaga le Usoga to be appointed to the Officers of Parliament and Government Administration Committee. The motion was approved by the Assembly.

III. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Food Bill 2013 (Consideration in Detail)

- a. **P.P. 2014/2015 No. 227, Report of the Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee on the Food Bill 2013.**

The Chairperson of the Committee, **Hon GATOLOAIFAANA Amataga Alesana Gidlow** moved for Committee Report to be approved by the Assembly. Motion approved.

The Bill was considered in detail along with Committee Report.

CLAUSE 6

The Chairperson moved motion for Clause 6(2) to be amended.

- i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, noted that the Bill was referred to the Committee in 2013 and queried the delay in Committee consideration. In addition, the Member queried the units for the penalties as it is greater than fine imposed for serious crimes.

The **CHAIRPERSON** in response to the issues raised by the Member, stated that the delay was due to the availability of Committee rooms, furthermore, investigation and Committee consideration had to be thorough. In relation to penalties, the reason for the harsh penalty is to ensure that caterers comply with hygienic standards pertaining to food preparation.

The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** raised concerns on catering that is provided to majority of Ministries. Using a scenario that if a person was to cater for approximately 1000 people and consumption would result in mass deaths, would this be a sufficient punishment, this is small compared to what it may cause.

LEALAILEPULE recommended that there should be a prison term as penalty instead of a fine as it is not affordable. As there should be consistency in regards to the penalties.

The **Chairperson** clarified that the Bill involves the health of the public and prevention is better than cure, a price cannot be put on a life.

The Amendment was approved by the Assembly.

CLAUSE 7

The Chairperson moved motion for Clause 7 (3) and (4) to be amended.

- i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, queried the consistency of fines, as the first amendment is to increase the penalty whereas with this clause the penalty decreases.

AVEAU, Committee Member, clarified that the Bill does not only deal with individual businesses but it also targets Large Scale companies as well that own the products that are to be imported. Stating that if there is a misconduct in relation to labelling or standard of food products imported this Bill provides for penalties.

Hon Minister of Health, clarified that there is a difference between penalties concerning food standards and penalties for the provision of false information.

The Amendment was approved by the Assembly.

CLAUSE 11

- i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, queried whether the importation of tinned fish used for family obligations are included in this provision as it raises health risks due to substandard products that have been noted.

Chairperson stated that there is a difference between Mackerel and Herring thus there is a difference in cost.

CLAUSE 13

- i. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi No. 3,* queried clause 13 (3) as to whether there is a clause in the Bill which provides for safety or hygiene in food preparation in homes.

CHAIRPERSON clarified that the Bill provides for all aspects of a food business in relation to licenses and others. There will be regulations that will provide for any additional provisions.

Hon AEAU, Committee Member in addition to clarification by the Chairperson stated that the Committee commented against large food suppliers that it is wrong to put discriminative labels on the different kinds of herring products imported and to be categorized as herrings for traditional obligations and those that are expensive for personal use.

TOEOLESULUSULU stated that it is unclear as to what the regulations will provide as it is not mentioned within the Bill.

CHAIRPERSON clarified that even a roadside BBQ will be required to have a license as is provided in the Bill. These will be included in the Regulations.

CLAUSE 18

The Chairperson moved motion for Clause 18(1) to be amended.

- i. **LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West**, queried as to whether the new subclause (g) should remain but to remove subclause (h) as no Entity is responsible for food consumers.
- ii. **TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi No. 3**, queried that the clause does not include a member from the Nutrition Unit to be a representative in the Food and Nutrition Policy Committee, furthermore whether there should be a representative for the National Health Service. Also, the Member stated that for reference made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry should be amended to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as per current practice. ‘

Chairperson responded that the sub-clause (g) is still kept but provides that an additional representative from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.

Hon PRIME MINISTER clarified that there is a Consumer Protection Association and supported the proposal to have a Nutritional Committee that will focus solely on food protection.

SPEAKER on a point of order directed the Chairperson to re-read amendments to the Clause so it may be recorded.

Chairperson made corrections to the amendment stating that the amendment put forth by the Committee is to be inserted to the Bill and following sub-clauses to be renumbered in the correct alphabetical order.

The Amendment was approved by the Committee.

CLAUSE 28

- i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, queried whether Scientific Organisation of Samoa scientist be the analyst?

CHAIRPERSON clarified that Clause 18 provides for the power of the Minister to appoint 3 additional members to the Committee.

CLAUSE 32

The Chairperson moved motion for Clause 32 (5) to be amended.

The Amendment was approved by the Assembly.

CLAUSE 36

- i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, stated that the Ministry should consider the excessive use of commercials for alcohol and junk food and sodas. It is unhealthy and counter healthy living promotions by the Ministry are not enough.

CHAIRPERSON stated that the Bill needs to be passed in order to create Regulations to address these issues.

CLAUSE 44

- i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, made note to the Health Promotion Foundation Act 2015 and stated that this Bill should not duplicate the functions under that Act.

CLAUSE 1

The Chairperson moved motion for Clause 1 to be amended.

The Amendment was approved by the Assembly.

The **Food Bill 2015** progressed with amendments and correction.

2. Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 (Consideration in Detail)**a. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 228, Report of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee on the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014.**

The Chairperson of the Committee, **Hon LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi** moved for Committee Report to be approved by the Assembly.

The Bill was considered in detail along with Committee Report.

CLAUSE 11

- i. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Member for Gagaemauga No. 2*, queried as to whether there is an Advisory Committee for slaughtering and questioned the functions of the Committee, as well as, the skills and qualifications of committee members.
- ii. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West*, queried the progress of mobile units, and whether there will be Slaughter houses in Savaii and rural areas. Furthermore, what is to become of cattle that is slaughtered for family faalavelave whether this will be prohibited under Bill until a mobile slaughter unit is available.

CHAIRPERSON clarified that everything has been prepared including mobile units.

Hon MINISTER of Agriculture and Fisheries clarified that in reference to the query regarding mobile units they are scheduled to arrive by the end of the year. World Bank is relying on this Bill being passed first then the mobile units will be purchased. Each slaughter house will have mobile units and there will be a specialist to supervise slaughter activities in order to ensure that the meat is tender and edible. There will be a three year transitional period for this Bill in order to familiarize the public with the slaughtering provision.

- iii. **TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi No. 3,** stated that the debate is only on cows and queried as to whether this will include other animals such as pigs and chickens.

CLAUSE 18

- i. **LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West,** queried as to reason for having a slaughter house only for Upolu and not Savaii as is provided in this Clause.

Hon MINISTER clarified that the requirements mentioned by the Member is the exact reason why it is difficult to export to American Samoa but the Ministry is working towards meeting these certification requirements. The Ministry is still trying to increase the number of cattle to ensure that we can meet the demand. For instance, Vanuatu is currently able to slaughter and export as they have the necessary resources. The World Bank is supportive

of this venture so as to ensure that Samoa will be able to slaughter and export meat.

- ii. **PESETA Tevaga Vaifou, Member for Faasaleleaga No. 4**, stated that there should be a slaughter house for Savaii as transportation is a challenge.
- iii. **Hon AEAU Peniamina Leavaiseeta, Member for Falealupo**, supported the view proposed by the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, and stated that Government should provide mobile units to collect cattle in Savaii.

Hon MINISTER clarified that the mobile units are not for the storage or transportation of meat. It is for the slaughtering of meat for sale. The slaughterhouse will begin in Upolu and in the future when the need is realized, Savaii will have a slaughterhouse.

CLAUSE 1

The Chairperson moved motion for Clause 1 to be amended.

The Amendment was approved by the Assembly.

The **Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2015** progressed with amendments and correction.

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

Proceedings resumed at 11.21am.