

DAY 2: MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2015

TIME: 9:08am

[PART A]

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

**1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2014/2015 and
APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016 (debate on second reading resumed)**

i. LEFAU Harry Schuster, Vaimauga West:

LEFAU acknowledged the major works undertaken by the Government within the Vaimauga West District; in particular, the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (TATTE) building, Savalalo Market and the renovation of the national hospital. Other noteworthy projects include the road on Cross Island road, heading towards Siumu. The Member then requested that the Government look in to widening the roads at Alamagoto, Tanugamanono and Afiamalu. He also requested that these roads also have appropriate drainage such as the road at Letava. He also requested that the seawall at Vaiala be repaired.

LEFAU thanked the Ministry of Justice for their work, in particular, for the progression of their case work. The Member noted that 16 appeals had been heard within the last 5 years, all of which have been ruled on. Further to this, he noted that there has been a decrease in cases brought before all the courts within Samoa, including Savaii. This is a positive indicator that the court's backlog of case work is being cleared. The Member suggested that Samoa take note of the

American practice whereby judges may be penalised for not hearing cases and deciding upon them; a practice which could potentially aide the courts work load.

In terms of education, the Member acknowledged the good work of the Ministry for Education (MESC) in their efforts to ensure all school aged children attend school. Despite MESC's efforts, the Member acknowledged the fact that many qualified teachers leave Samoa in search of better salaries overseas. The Member encouraged MESC to utilise air media to promote educational programmes. He noted that the use of television programmes (such as those aired on EFKS TV) would be an additional learning aide for teachers in the rural areas.

The Member addressed the Deputy Prime Minister in regards to his role as responsible Minister for the Ministry of Commerce, Labour and Industry (MCIL). The Member noted that in the Vaimauga district, there is limited land which may be cultivated as a means of employment (or self-employment). He therefore urged MCIL's development and promotion division to create more opportunities for farmers to export and sell their goods both locally and internationally. For example, locally produced cocoa is currently being exported to New Zealand to produce *Whittakers* chocolate produce. In closing, the Member acknowledged the Minister for Works for the Fugalei drainage system and noted that Vaisigano is also in need of a similar development.

ii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

AVEAU reminded the Government of his previous requests for work to be done within his Faleata East; in particular, the Vilimaa road, which services an area which has increased its number of residents over the years.

The Member then addressed the issue of education and noted that the number of children not completing school was on the rise. He stated that the reason for this was the inability of parents and families to pay the required school fees. He noted that this trend was increasing, despite their being free education for students from years 1 to 11. The Member queried the reason for this and noted also why some students were still paying fees despite the Government's fee relief scheme. The Member urged the Minister for education to address this issue. He also noted that there are some schools which charge additional fees for water and electricity. He suggested MESC to provide funding to cover such expenses.

In terms of transport for children in the rural areas, he noted that this is an expensive cost. He suggested that in some areas, the transportation costs exceed the cost of school fees. He requested that the Government donate the buses which were procured for the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) conference in 2014 to those schools most needing this assistance.

iii. Hon PRIME MINISTER :

The Hon PRIME MINISTER clarified that the SIDS buses have already been allocated to various Ministries and organisations. The PRIME MINISTER noted that Members of Parliament tend to exaggerate the needs of their constituencies before elections. However, it should be stressed that Members must focus on the facts and encourage citizens to live within their means. The Hon PRIME MINISTER also noted that it is the duty of respective school committees and teaching staff to ensure that their students are attending school. This may be achieved by the families of their students and by keeping and monitoring their roll books.

iv. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

The Member continued by querying the allocation of funds, mentioned by the PRIME MINISTER and requested that the organisations which have been given the SIDS vehicles be read out to the House.

v. Hon PRIME MINISTER:

The Hon PRIME MINISTER informed the Member and the House that the list will be read out on his weekly radio interview.

vi. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

AVEAU noted that the MESC should bear in mind that the total expense of a child's education is not limited to school fees. He suggested there be a subsidy to assist families in meeting these various expenses.

vii. Hon MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasaleleaga No.1, Minister for Education:

The Minister for Education referred to the Member's comments on education as "dirty politics". The Hon Minister sought to correct the Member for Faleata East's comments and stated that the underlying issue is that many parents do not prioritize education. The Minister suggested that the Member for Faleata East personally approach these parents and educate them as to the importance of their children attending school.

viii. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition:

Sought clarification from the Hon Minister for education as to his comments made to the Member for Faleata East. The Leader of the Opposition stated that despite the Hon Minister stating that AVEAU's comments were merely for "political show", the points made were relevant in that they are for the benefit of Samoa.

ix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the Member of the Minister for Education's comments made in the House the previous week. In summary, the Minister had stated that for education in Samoa to be successful, it should be a collaborative effort. The Minister had given as an example, a student from Falelatai schooling in the Apia area. The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the House that the transport issue is the reason why there are schools within the rural areas and in Savaii. It is to ensure that schools are accessible to all children, without the need to travel exclusively to Apia for education.

x. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition:

The Leader of the Opposition requested that the comment "dirty politics" made by the Minister for Education, be removed from the official record of proceedings.

xi. Hon MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasaleleaga No.1, Minister for Education:

In response to the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Minister stated that interpretation of "dirty politics" is subjective. He continued by stating that one's interpretation of that comment will be inappropriate if indeed his or her mind is "dirty".

xii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

Acknowledged that it is indeed a parent's duty to ensure their child is education; however, such efforts could be in vain if parents do not have the financial means to carry out this duty. The Member stated that the Government should provide necessary assistance in this regard. In regards to the availability of schools in the rural areas and Savaii, the Member noted that not all schools provide adequate

science programmes. It may therefore be necessary for science students to transfer to other schools to obtain education of standard.

xiii. Hon MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasaleleaga No.1, Minister for Education:

The Hon Minister questioned the Member as to his personal view as to a workable and timely solution to the issues he has raised.

xiv. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

AVEAU noted that a tenable solution is the provision of buses to assist in students needing transport to and from schools.

xv. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that the difficulty in addressing the Member's request is that it would essentially open the flood gates for additional requests. The Member would, upon acquiring school buses would then make a request for drivers and other unnecessary things.

xvi. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

The Member spoke in support of the SAT\$3 million set aside for the preparation of the Commonwealth Youth Games 2015; however, he queried whether any funding has been allocated for the development of Samoa's local sporting teams. The Member then acknowledged the Government's prioritization given to the work of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

xvii. Hon FONOTOE Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo, Anoamaa West, Deputy Prime Minister

The Deputy Prime Minister added to the comments made by the Member for Vaimauga by stating that Samoa's private sector and local businesses use locally

grown produce for goods to be exported. For this reason, it is essential to process local crops as a value added good. Hon FONOTOE stated that recent statistics show there is an increase in Samoa's exports. He stated that it is therefore important to foster a collaborative effort between businesses and farmers to support the export of goods made from local products. Hon FONOTOE went on to remind the Member that at present, farmers are not taxed and are not obliged to contribute to the NPF, whereby the NPF would be of valuable assistance to farmers.

xviii. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition:

The Leader of the Opposition urged the Deputy Prime Minister to look at the VAGST Bill currently before the House, which states that farmers will be taxed once the law is enacted.

xix. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

The Member encouraged the Minister for MNRE to allocate wisely, the SAT\$3 million set aside for the Cyclone Evan relief efforts. He then acknowledged the SACEP (Samoa Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Project) and stated that it would be beneficial for the Hon Minister to discuss this programme in detail. In reference to the MCIL, the Member requested that the actual statistics as referred to in previous debates regarding employment, be made available to the House.

xx. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the Member that issues under discussion are for the 2016 budget. He stated that there are 8 days until the end of the current financial year; reports for this Fiscal Year will be complied with in the upcoming Fiscal Year.

xxi. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

In response, AVEAU stated that because this financial has not ended, current statistics should be made available for comparison purposes. The Member then queried the forecast for the cost of Electricity, particularly when Samoa begins to utilise renewable energy. He noted that there is a large portion of funds allocated for electricity and would therefore like clarification on this matter.

xxii. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Independent Member:

Hon PAPALIITELE noted that that recommendation from the Finance and Expenditure Committee is to consider solar energy as an alternative energy source. He also noted that environmental issues are a high priority.

xxiii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Hon Minister noted that the Member had raised this same issue in the previous fiscal year. He then informed the House that as opposed to previous years, electricity per unit is now below one tala. Overall, the cost of electricity has fluctuated over the years, but it is much cheaper now than in the past.

xxiv. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER made note that this is a recurrent issue brought to the House and its continued discussion reflects “ignorance” [by Members]. The Hon PRIME MINISTER explained that the cost of fuel depends on fuel costs which are at the discretion of fuel suppliers. He stated that in the seventies, the Arab States were in control of fuel prices, being the major supplier in the world. If Samoa utilises renewable energy, electricity costs will be less unstable as prices will not be dependent on fuel suppliers. If Members understand this policy, the electricity issue will not be repeated in the House unnecessarily.

xxv. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

AVEAU clarified that he continues to raise this issue because the answers provided are indirect and therefore insufficient. He stated that the Government are merely “beating around the bush” in terms of the responses they have offered until this time.

xxvi. Hon PRIME MINISTER:

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that responses have been worded in such a way as the Government assumed the Member was fully informed of these issues.

xxvii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

AVEAU noted that 66 employees of the EPC have been made redundant and questioned the EPC’s role in this matter. The Member also requested that the Minister ensure the availability and maintenance of clean water supplies.

xxviii. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Social Development and Culture.

The Hon Minister clarified that Samoa’s independent water scheme has been managed by various organisations and Ministries. These include the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and village councils. This approach was the Government’s attempt at ensuring that water sources from various localities are made available for public consumption.

xxix. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

The Member stated that he has personally visited the water sources referred to by the Hon Minister, and he has evidence which proves these water sources to be sub-par in terms of quality.

xxx. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition:

In response to several comments made by HRPP members, the Leader of the Opposition stated that issues raised by Tautua Samoa members are those which the public wish to seek clarification on. Owing to this, members of the Government should refrain from interjecting when Tautua Samoa Members address the House.

xxxi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The PRIME MINISTER stated that “interjections” are for the purpose of clarifying “hidden meanings” in questions raised in the House. The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the House that there is a rule on statements which have dual meanings; such statements should first be addressed before a question is put before the House.

xxxii. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Independent Member:

PAPALIITELE informed the House that the Finance Committee have rectified the errors in the Finance Report tabled in the House last week. He acknowledged the efforts made by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in this regard.

xxxiii. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Social Development and Culture.

The Hon Minister voiced his disappointment at the Leader of the Opposition’s attitude. He stated that, as a veteran Member of Parliament, Hon PALUSALUE should be well versed as to the House’s Standing Orders. TOLOFUAIVALELEI clarified that a Minister is not obliged to respond during general debates. Such a requirement is reserved for Question Time only.

xxxiv. Mr SPEAKER: Point of Order

Mr Speaker directed Members to refrain from discussing matters already discussed in the House.

xxxv. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West

The Member requested that Question Time be held on Thursday to enable Members of the Opposition to present their questions in the House.

xxxvi. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

Commented that the error in the Finance and Expenditure report referred to by the Committee Chairperson is not a “typo” or a “minor error”; an entire page of the report was missing.

xxxvii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that Committees are supposed to investigate proposals put forward in Bills. The Finance and Expenditure Committee is usually given 14 days to investigate the Appropriation Bill; however, they were given 3 weeks this time. The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that mistakes may still occur despite every effort having being made to be thorough and accurate; however, despite the error referred to by Members, the figures remain unchanged.

xxxviii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Faleata East:

Aveau again raised the issue of the error contained in the original Finance and Expenditure Committee report.

xxxix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER reassured the Member and the House that it was merely a “common error” and nothing more.

xl. Mr SPEAKER

Mr Speaker begged tolerance from the House in their discussions of the Budget as the confusion and disagreements have resulted from the erroneous report tabled last week.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:39AM for morning tea break.
Proceedings resumed at 11:25am.

xli. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

Hon TUUU expressed his gratitude for the developments undertaken by the Government in his constituency of Siumu. He also thanked the invitation Siumu received to perform at the 53rd Independence celebrations. He acknowledged the efforts of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry for Education, Social Development and Culture in assisting the Siumu Primary School. These efforts, according to the Member, will benefit not only Siumu but neighbouring constituencies. On the other hand, the Member expressed disappointment at the Government's failure to enact construction work in his district; for example the road towards Safata.

xlii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Hon Minister rose to offer clarification in these issues to the House. The Hon Minister stated that in the fiscal year 2011/2012, priority was given to Samoa's 50th Independence celebrations. At the end of 2012, Samoa was devastated by Cyclone Evan and funds were allocated accordingly to the repair of the roads at Fagaloa and parts of Safata. Priority was given to the preparations for the SIDS

Conference in the fiscal year 2013/2014 which saw repairs made to the roads leading to the Faleolo airport and resorts and the like around Samoa.

In general, the Land and Transport Authority may only enact work within the funds available to them. The Hon Minister noted that where road works have been completed, many villages have declined to adequately maintain the roads. However, works for the upgrade of various roads around Samoa are still in the pipeline.

xliii. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition

The Leader of the Opposition corrected the Minister and stated that the damage to roads is not a result of the carelessness of *faipule*, but rather a result of “poor construction”.

xliv. Mr SPEAKER

Mr Speaker stated that a Member may not interject an interjection.

xliv. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Hon Minister recounted on his experience before becoming a Member of Parliament. He stated that he would encourage villages to purchase cement to improve the roads themselves. He further stated that it is the responsibility of village chiefs to upkeep the roads whereas it is the responsibility of the Government to provide the roads in the first instance.

xlvi. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition

Hon PALUSALUE agreed that each village has a responsibility to help maintain the roads; however, damage to the roads was not a result of villagers being “careless”.

xlvi. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leिताua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Social Development and Culture.

The Hon Minister sought to clarify whether the Leader of the Opposition was attempting to protect the HRPP Member (Hon TUUU). He stated that it appeared as if Hon TUUU had changed his allegiance to the Opposition party.

xlvi. Hon LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, Aana Alofi No.1

Queried why Hon TUUU was gesturing towards them?

xlix. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition

The Leader of the Opposition stated that he was not attempting to persuade Members to join the Opposition. Such a move would be up to each individual.

i. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

Hon TUUU clarified that the road he had referred to was constructed in 1995. At that time, the contractors responsible for the road works in his opinion, did not live up to operations of standard.

ii. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West

The Member for Faleata West queried why Hon TUUU had mentioned his constituency when in fact; he (Lealailepule) had yet to make any comment about this issue.

iii. Mr SPEAKER

Mr Speaker stated that Hon TUUU made an error in naming the Member for Faleata West's constituency. He was in fact referring to Vaimauga West, not Faleata West.

liii. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

The Member stated that he was simply making reference to the work the Government had failed to enact, despite this current parliamentary session coming to an end. He stated that the Safata road which was destroyed during Cyclone Evan was repaired in a timely manner. However, other roads were also destroyed yet remain damaged. He also stated that his request for the Government to repair the Siumu road has been responded to with the statement that the reconstruction of other roads will have a "trickle effect" for the Siumu road.

liv. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Hon Minister asserted that the Member for Siumu was mistaken in his comments. He stated that the allocation of funds were appropriate. He referenced the allocation of lands done under Malietoa Tanumafili II's term. He stated that when no more land was left to distribute, the Head of State stated that "[t]he rest should be left to God."

lv. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

Hon TUUU stated that he has over the years, presented the same requests to the Government on behalf of his constituency. He also stated that the Prime Minister has been made aware of his requests, to which a promise was given that the work will one day be carried out.

lvi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

In response, the Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that requests which are continually presented in a disrespectful manner, will not achieve favourably results. However, he noted that there was still ample time to implement such projects.

Ivii. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

Hon TUUU stated that the roads in the Hon Prime Minister's constituency have all been repaired. This is also the case in most constituencies of Government Member's; however the roads in his constituency remain in damaged situation.

Iviii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that post-Cyclone Evan, the roads at Aleipata had to be re-constructed. Approximately SAT\$40 million was allocated to the Siumu road which leads inland. The efforts along that road have resulted in a road comparable to those in New York. The Hon PRIME MINISTER urged the Member to have faith as without faith; even a request given on one's death bed will not be heard.

Iix. FAGAAIVALU Kenrick Samu, Aleipata Itupa i Luga

Rose to clarify that in fact, only one road in his constituency has been sealed.

Ix. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition

Assured the Member for Siumu that the roads within his constituency will be repaired and that if they are not, he should consider joining his party, Tautua Samoa.

Ixi. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

The Member also stated that the drains which were built by the Chinese should be reconstructed. He noted that the independent water scheme, as mentioned by the Minister for Women (MWSCD), is yet to be implemented in his constituency.

Ixii. *Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leिताua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Social Development and Culture.*

The Hon Minister informed the Member that for the water scheme to be implemented, there are requirements that must be enacted by the village. He then personally guaranteed the Member that once this process has been adhered to, the work will be completed. He then encouraged the Member not to lose faith.

Ixiii. *Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu*

The Member stated that this is the first time such a requirement has been mentioned. The Member then addressed the Ministry for Police in regards to the issue of convicts escaping Tafaigata Prison. He suggested that in response to such cases, photos of the said inmates should be publicised to alert the public. He further suggested that when an inmate escapes, that inmate should be shackled to prevent any future attempts at escape.

Ixiv. *Hon SALA Fata Lisati Pinati, Gagaemauga No.1, Minister for Police*

In response to the Member's suggestions, the Hon Minister stated that he has already sent a request to the officials responsible for inmates as to the publication of an escapee's photos. He stated that he is still awaiting a response in this regard. In regards to shackling escapees after their first attempt at escaping, the Hon Minister stated that such a practice was employed during the Roman times as well as by Al Qaeda terrorists. However, the Hon Minister assured the Member and the House that photos of escapees will be publicised in the future.

Ixv. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Siumu

In response, Hon TUUU stated that his suggestion to employ shackles was his own solution. However, he noted that if the bars in cells at the new prison are “high enough”, this should be sufficient to counter this issue.

The Member then suggested that the markets be open 24 hours to account for those sellers who live in the rural areas. He also noted that suppliers should be permitted to sell at other, more accessible locations as the market does not attract many consumers.

Ixvi. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member expressed his gratitude to the Minister for Works in regards to the completion of road works in Saleaula; a tsunami evacuation road. He requested that the Government look into developing the main road also. LEVAOPOLO then advised the Ministry of Finance to prepare their financial reports properly. He referenced the Hon PRIME MINISTER’s budget motto, which is “to live within our means”. He stated that it appears as if revenue is decreasing while expenditure is being increased to meet necessary development projects. The Member stated that it appears as if the Hon PRIME MINISTER has lost his faith.

Ixvii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the House that it is necessary to prioritize all development projects. He noted that development work is not the sole responsibility of the Government; the public must also play their part and public needs must also be proportionate to Samoa’s available resources.

The Hon PRIME MINISTER then continued by noting that there has been a slight decrease in national revenue within the last 20 years. However, the Government’s budget within that time has remained the same; only the figures have changed.

Ixviii. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member for Gagaemauga No.2 noted that for there to be economic growth, there must be also be an influx in expenditure.

Ixix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the Member that there have been many reconstruction projects which have only recently been completed this fiscal year. He used the drainage project from Vaisigano to Lelata as an example and noted that these projects began after Cyclone Evan and are near completion. He further noted that with the end of these projects in near sight, there has also been a decrease in available funding for their completion.

The Hon PRIME MINISTER then noted that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed which guarantees USD\$30 million in funding for the wharf project. These projects will be implemented within the next fiscal years; all of which are mentioned in this budget. He further noted that all other major construction works have been completed.

Ixx. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member queried the grants referred to by the Hon PRIME MINISTER.

Ixxi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that his previous clarification should have been sufficient. However, he clarified that the amount initially given via grants has been utilised. He also stated that some funds remain unused and referred to the age old adage that one “cannot have your cake and eat it too”.

Ixxii. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member stated that this was an issue with developing country status nations, and one reason why he personally was against Samoa's graduation from least developing country status.

Ixxiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that these terms are United Nations terms. Financial statements and the economic status of each individual country is considered and reviewed accordingly, the results of which determine the UN's assistance. The Hon PRIME MINISTER forecasted that Samoa's GDP will amount to approximately 2 billion in the future; this will result in Samoa being ineligible for further international grants.

Ixxiv. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member acknowledged the Prime Minister's clarification but stated that the Hon Prime Minister's adage for the budget was akin to a "cry for help".

Ixxv. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER urged the Member to avoid repetitive comments; he should not "whip a dead horse". He stated that if the Member has nothing more to say then he should end his speech.

Ixxvi. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

In terms of employment, LEVAOPOLO quoted employment statistics from 2012 stating that of a population of 180,000, approximately 112,000 were unemployed. However, he noted that this figure included infants.

Ixxvii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that there is a national census of those in paid employment. However, he stated that the statistics can be misleading as there are many self-employed citizens working in various plantations. This population, according to the PRIME MINISTER is not recorded or referred to as part of the “employed” population. The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that there are many employment opportunities, both locally and abroad. In addition to these opportunities, the Government introduced a Bill seeking to create additional employment opportunities yet these initiatives continue to receive criticism. There are also a lot of contracts being awarded to contractors. He stated the real issue as not being the lack of employment opportunities, but rather the lack of skilled, local workers. This has resulted in a trend to recruit experts from overseas, as opposed to local personnel.

The Hon PRIME MINISTER then noted that in previous years, Samoan patients were referred overseas for kidney failure treatment. This is no longer necessary as the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is now able to treat these patients locally. He stated that these have been positive Government initiatives for the benefit of all Samoans, yet, people continue to resist and oppose them.

Ixxviii. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition

The Leader of the Opposition rejected the Hon PRIME MINISTER’s statement that “all the Opposition does is criticize.”

Ixxix. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleaseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries

The Hon Minister commented on the issue of employment. He stated that there are 88 vacancies for sailors; however, there are not enough workers to fill these vacancies. He stated that Samoan sailors are hesitant to work as they do not wish

to work for several months at sea. It is this reluctance by the local work force which leaves the Government no option but to seek foreign sailors from other Pacific countries such as Kiribati.

Ixxx. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member raised the issue of tourism. He stated that Samoa is unable to experience economic growth by relying solely on tourism. He suggested that sectors which can generate national revenue, be utilised.

Ixxxi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that the Member's suggestion was "foolish". It may be an option for developed countries but not for Samoa. He stated that it is estimated that by the end of this year, the tourism industry would have contributed at least 400 million to Samoa's national revenue. Samoa will also be hosting a conference for seasonal workers, which will also create additional employment opportunities.

Ixxxii. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member stated that another Member stated that 1 in a family of 9 per household is employed. It was for this reason that he (Leavaopolo) argued that the cost of labour be reduced in an attempt to attract overseas investors, as a means of increasing employment opportunities.

Ixxxiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER again referred to the Member's solutions as not only foolish, but irresponsible. He reminded the Member that the Government does not control the private sector; they are only able to offer assistance but decisions are out of their control. For example, Yazaki is preparing to move their business out of

Samoa; business is demand and supply driven. He stated that no company would wish to establish themselves in Samoa without proper incentives to do so. He stated that the Government is attempting to develop Salelologa Township to enable residents and locals to develop the area into one which will attract businesses.

Ixxxiv. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member noted that is important for all working age members of a household to work. He noted that a family's income would be higher if all 9 members of the family earned an income, albeit at a lower rate. However, if only a single family works for a higher rate, the overall income would be lower. He offered this example in solution to his previous argument that lowering the income rates would be beneficial.

Ixxxv. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER reminded the Member that for a worker to fill a potential vacancy, they must be suitably qualified. He also commented on the Minister for Agriculture's earlier comments that some workers who are sent overseas are unsuccessful and return to Samoa after a few days abroad.

Ixxxvi. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

LEVAOPOLO clarified his stance and stated that he encourages a lower labour rate as it is more beneficial to have all citizens employed.

Ixxxvii. MAUALAIVAO Pat Ah Him, Independent Member

Expressed his gratitude to the Governments efforts in regards to national developments and requested additional access roads be built within his constituency.

lxxxviii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that the Member represents Samoa as a whole and as such has been the beneficiary of many successful development projects.

lxxxix. MAUALAIVAO Pat Ah Him, Independent Member

The Member stated that the Road at Vaitoloa will soon commence and expressed his gratitude to the Minister for Works (MWTI) in this regard.

xc. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West

The Member noted that Vaitele was mentioned by the Member and questions which road he was referring to.

xc. MOTION BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion that standing order 31(1) be set aside to permit the extension of the Assembly's sitting hours from 9am – 1pm and 3pm – 7pm. The motion was approved.

**Proceedings were suspended at 1:00pm
to resume at 3:00pm Monday 22nd June 2015.**