

DAY 3: TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2015

TIME: 9:15am

[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. TAEFU Lemi, Falelatai&Samatau (continued)

The Member for Falelatai&Samatau requested the establishment of a medical clinic at Falelatai. According to the Member, the clinic will cater for minor health issues and temporary relief measures for local residents. The Member stated that under the Government's current manifesto, services which are deemed as "good" for Upolu should also be "good enough" for Savaii. In terms of a medical clinic, he asserted that if the Government sees similar clinics as a necessity for the urban areas, then they should consider the same for Falelatai.

ii. LAFATELE Patrick Leिताualesa, AlatauWest

LAFATELE remarked that after 7 years of being a Member of Parliament, the water supply in his constituency has only just been installed. He then requested that the Falelima Primary school be repaired, due to its poor state.

iii. *MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasaleleaga No.1, Minister for Education*

The request, as mentioned by LAFATELE, has already been processed. The repair proposal has already been given to Japanese donors who will begin works according to their funding and work schedule.

iv. *PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition*

The Leader of the Opposition re-emphasised the Member for Alataua's 7 year plea for water supply in Alataua West. He noted that similar pleas have been raised by many Members.

v. *Hon PRIME MINISTER*

The Hon PRIME MINISTER explained that drilling for water is no simple task. Installing water supplies requires time and patience; this caused the delay in the installation of a water supply at Alataua West.

vi. *AEAU Peniamina Leavaisseeta, Falealupo, Deputy Leader of the Opposition*

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition noted that the borehole at Falealupo has been drilled; now there is an ample supply of water from the aquifer. However, in the case of Alataua West, the delays have been due to a lack of necessary resources.

vii. *Hon PRIME MINISTER*

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that it takes months to drill water from the aquifer, and noted that it took years in the case of the village of Fasitoo. He again reiterated the need for Members and villagers to be patient.

viii. LAFATELE Patrick Leitaualesa, Alataua West

The Member for Alataua West addressed the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and stated that he was not “lucky”, but rather that the water project was completed during his parliamentary term.

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

The Leader of the Opposition stated that he has been a Member of Parliament for 6 terms and it appears as if all Members who ~~oie~~ have occupied the Alataua West seat have made the same request.

x. LAFATELE Patrick Leitaualesa, Alataua West

LAFATELE declined to comment on the Leader of the Opposition’s remarks but requested that a College for Neiafu be built.

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

The Hon Minister stated that the project to construct a school at Neiafu is included in the Ministry’s long term plans. He noted that there is an existing college in that area, however an additional school is necessary to service the large number of students in that area.

xii. LAFATELE Patrick Leitaualesa, Alataua West

The Member stated that the request has been put forward for the Government’s consideration.

xiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER responded to LAFATELE’s request for renovations to the Falelima primary school. He stated that the issue has already been raised by the chiefs of Alataua West, and informed the Member that the request has been noted.

The Hon PRIME MINISTER then clarified that such an initiative would essentially depend on the number of students and available teaching staff. He continued by stating that the Government, at present, is attempting to first develop teachers with various teaching programmes. According to the PRIME MINISTER, if the number of qualified teachers is increased, requests such as the Member's will be easier to implement. Similarly, if a constituency has a large number of school-aged children, their request would also be considered.

xiv. LAFATELE Patrick Leiatualesa, Alataua West

The Member for Alataua West clarified the rationale behind the request for a college at Asau. He stated that the current schools within this area are unable to service the large number of students. The Member then requested the installation of additional street lights in his Constituency before expressing his gratitude for the local hospital. In closing, the Member reiterated his constituency's requests; namely a request for a hospital and renovations to the local schools and roads.

xv. AFOAFOUVALE John Moors, Palauli

The Member began his address by apologising to the House.

xvi. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

LEVAOPOLO queried the Member as to the reason for his apology.

xvii. AFOAFOUVALE John Moors, Palauli

The Member stated that it is human nature for one to make mistakes which he or she may be unaware of. Therefore, the Member stated that his apology was for mistakes he may have made that he was unaware of, which may have harmed another Member of Parliament.

The Member noted that several countries are experiencing economic hardships, such as Greece. For this reason, the Member noted his appreciation for being a Samoan citizen as Samoa is in an economically stable era. The current budget is a reflection of this and expresses economic normality. The Member then expressed his gratitude for the Ministry of Works for the developments in his constituency. He also requested that the Ministry for education consider a sports field for his constituency. In referring to the Minister for Police and Prisons, the Member expressed thanks for the services rendered for his constituency. He also thanked the Minister for Agriculture for the numerous initiatives aimed at development implemented within his locale.

xviii. SOOALO Mene, Gagaifomauga No.2

The Member began his address to the House by stating that the budget before the House is comparable to a “biblical story” in that it is based on biblical principles. He asserted that the guiding principle here is “faith”. The Member noted his support of the budget and thanked the Minister for Finance for the preparation of the Bill. The Member noted that revenue had increased by 10% within the last 5 years.

The Member thanked the Minister for Health for the new national hospital in addition to work carried out within his constituency. These include buildings and programmes conducted through SPAGHL.

xix. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

LEVAOPOLO noted that the Member for Gagaifomauga No.2 had failed to mention that the ambulance provided by the Government was not appropriately equipped, for example, it did not have “emergency shelving”. LEVAOPOLO stated that the ambulance was comparable to a “hearse”.

xx. Hon FAUMUINA TiatiaFaaolataneLiuga, Palauli le Falefa

The Hon Minister questioned the Member's ability to make such comments, given the fact that he does not frequent Savaii as much as the Member for Gagaifomauga No.2.

xxi. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member defended his previous statements by asserting that he is well aware of the situation in Savaii. He informed the House that members of his constituency prefer that he execute his parliamentary duties in Upolu. In regards to the ambulance, the Member noted that it was in poor condition. He then reminded the Member for Gagaifomauga No.2 that services [such as this] which are provided by the Government are "far from excellent".

xxii. TUITAMA TalaleleiTuitama, AanaAlofi No.1, Minister for Health

The Hon Minister stated that the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 was in breach of House procedures; LEVAOPOLO already made his speech and should therefore not make a speech during SOOALO's speech.

xxiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister informed the Member that the Minister for Health will address these issues when the Government responds. He also stated that ambulances within Samoa (and the Member's constituency) are in fact "fully equipped" with the necessary medical equipment. He stated that these comments should be corrected given that the public were listening to these parliamentary's proceedings.

xxiv. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters

Hon PAPALIITELE noted that the description given by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.2 was descriptive of a fire engine as opposed to an ambulance.

xxv. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member defended his previous comments and stated that he would discuss the matter privately with the Hon PRIME MINISTER at a later date.

xxvi. Mr SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER supported the claim that the ambulance in question is in good condition, however, noted that the complaint should be referred to the Minister for Health.

xxvii. SOOALO Mene, Gagaifomauga No.2

SOOALO thanked the Ministry for Agriculture for their various initiatives. He noted that the Ministry's success is evident through the taro supply which remains abundant despite the large number of taros being exported overseas. He then touched on the issue of food security and noted that Samoa has been the first to achieve the objectives set out by this programme. He recommended that the Ministry utilise the programme to the fullest as it will positively affect Samoa's GDP.

In addressing the many other Ministries, the Member made the following comments. He encouraged the Ministries for Women, Police and Justice to work collaboratively to ensure the safety of Samoan citizens. He noted that the Ministry for Public Enterprises will assist Samoa's national revenue. SOOALO then expressed gratitude for the work of the Ministry for Works and the Ministry for Natural Resources, particularly their efforts to promote development projects. The Member

then noted that requests have already been made on his constituency's behalf by other Members and he awaits their favourable response.

xxviii. PESETA VaifouTevaga, Faasaleleaga No.4

PESETA thanked the Government for his appointment as an Associate Minister and noted his personal thanks to the PRIME MINISTER for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to renovate the wharf at Vaiusu.

xxix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The project for the port at Vaiusu is still in progress with the ADB in the process of carrying out necessary background studies.

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

The Leader of the Opposition stated that it appeared as if the Member's Minister is the PRIME MINISTER and more so, that he does not understand the MoU to which he refers to.

xxxi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The PRIME MINISTER noted that discussions were held regarding the Vaiusu wharf but the Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 was not present at the time.

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

Hon PALUSALUE noted that Members have continued to state that "what is good overseas is good for Samoa." His issue with such a statement however, is that Members tend to look at the overseas situation and neglect to assess Savaii. The Leader for the Opposition noted that there are many issues in Savaii that need to be addressed.

xxxiii. PESETA VaifouTevaga, Faasaleleaga No.4

PESETA stated that despite there being a “government” for 53 years, an access road has only just been built at Puapua. He noted that Asaga and Lago require access roads also. Despite these issues, the Member noted his thanks for works that have been completed; particularly the access road at Puapua which will officially be opened this coming Thursday.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:45am for morning tea.

Proceedings resumed at 11:26am

xxxiv. PESETA VaifouTevaga, Faasaleleaga No.4

The Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 noted his appreciation for the work of the Land and Transport Authority in Savaii. He then requested a new school for his constituency. In regards to the access road at Puapua which is about to be opened, the Member stated that an old chapel close to the new road has been removed for safety purposes. He thanked the Minister for Works for the removal of the chapel.

The Member also thanked the Minister for Health for the renovation of the main hospital in Tuasivi. He noted that he has personally visited the site and noticed the improvement. He remarked on the new facilities at Motootua but advised the Minister to seek out areas which require improvement. He gave an example of a young girl from his constituency who had been hospitalised and noted his disappointment at the resources available to patients, such as the current beds being unsuitable for the “Samoan physique”.

In terms of Samoa's crop production, the Member noted that it continues to be a fruitful venture. He acknowledged the work of the Ministry for Agriculture, despite claims that there is not enough demand for taro for export purposes. He then, however, noted that what was of the utmost importance was food security in Samoa.

xxxv. FAIMALOTOA Kikalemaimā Stowers, Gagaifoimauga No.1

The Member for Gagaifoimauga remarked that only 5 months have lapsed since she made her maiden speech, and she was now delivering her "final speech" in the House. Despite this, the Member noted her gratitude for being able to address the House and in particular, the budget.

The Member continued by thanking the Minister for Finance and the Ministry for preparing the budget and the Finance and Expenditure Committee for their report. She also touched on the theme for the Budget, "to live within our means" and noted her support for such a sentiment. The Member stated that she was well aware that the scrutiny process for the budget is both intense and thorough but stated that this was necessary to ensure that the final budget reflects the economic needs of Samoa.

She noted with thanks the allocation of funds for the construction of a road in Safotu in addition to the Samoa Shipping Services improved services for the members of her constituency. The Member noted that the PRIME MINISTER mentioned that work will be carried out at the Maliolio River which is beneficial given that at least 20 Members of Parliament are from Savaii. She also expressed gratitude for the programmes instituted by the Ministry ~~for~~of Education, aimed at developing Samoa's education system. She thanked the Minister's approval of a sports field in her constituency.

She noted with thanks the Minister ~~for~~of Health's timely response to a member of her ~~constituency's~~constituency's medical emergency. Furthermore, she thanked the Minister ~~for~~of Natural Resources and Environment for the construction of a seawall between Manase and Safotu as well as the expansion of the road between Manase and Safotu. FAIMALOTOA voiced her concern at the situation of houses close to the sea at Manase. She requested that work be carried out to ensure that these areas are able to withstand natural disasters that may occur in the future. The Member voiced support for the establishment of the submarine cable in Savaii which she noted, would promote efficient network between Samoa and its Pacific neighbours. The Member also supported a previous request that the Government apply for development loans for road works in Samoa. Finally, she noted that Savaii should be a priority in such a venture.

xxxvi. PAPALII LioFaavaivaiomanuTaeuMasepau, Faasaleleaga No.2

PAPALII noted that a similar request for the Government to apply for a large development loan has been made for an airport to be constructed in Savaii.

xxxvii. FAIMALOTOA KikalemaimaStowers, Gagaifomauga No.1

FAIMALOTOA clarified that her request is an amendment to a previous request made by another member. Such a request should be sufficient to account for the construction of an airport, wharves and other infrastructure projects.

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

The Leader of the Opposition reminded the Member that Samoa is not permitted to apply for such loans. He stated that grants given to Samoa have exceeded the limit of approximately 1 million.

xxxix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that the Leader of the Opposition was probably one of the members who has yet to read the budget. He instructed PALUSALUE to refer to the loans as provided for in the budget and balances so that he may be better informed as to the state of things.

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

The Leader of the Opposition informed the Hon PRIME MINISTER that he was in fact reading from the budget. He referred to page 9 (“fiscal strategy”) and asserted that the current national debt owed to various international organisations amounted to 1 million.

xli. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The PRIME MINISTER stated that the fiscal strategy does not prohibit the State from applying for large development loans.

xlii. FAIMALOTOA KikalemaimaStowers, Gagaifomauga No.1

FAIMALOTOA emphasised that there is no such limitation on the Government and encouraged the Government to seek out available funding.

xliii. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, AanaAlofi No.3

The Member for AanaAlofi No.3 stated that clarification was needed for Members to fully comprehend that there are approximately 20-30 million loans which have not been repaid. This does not include approximately 14 loans which Samoa currently has with various international organisations.

xliv. AVEAU Tualalepale Niko Palamo, Faleata East

AVEAU stated that one must “cut [his] suit according to [his] cloth”, however, he noted that the loans appear to be substantial, in excess of available funds.

xlvi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that the “cloth” as referred to by AVEAU has been divided into three groups. He then stated that Members such as AVEAU tend to put forward accusations without first taking the time to read the relevant reports.

xlvi. FAIMALOTOA Kikalemaimaima Stowers, Gagaifomauga No.1

FAIMALOTOA stood by her previous comments and stated that despite her apparent ignorance to “statistics”, she requests that the Government apply for larger development loans to fund the necessary road works across Samoa.

xlvi. SEIULI Ueligitone Seiuli, Sagaga le Usoga – MAIDEN SPEECH

The new Member for Sagaga le Usoga acknowledged the work of the Government in support of his constituency; including efforts made by the clergy and the former Member for Sagaga le Usoga. He spoke out to encourage his constituency to vote in the upcoming General Elections, particularly due to the fact that his current term has only been six months.

He requested that the road at Tuanai, heading towards Aleisa be re-sealed as it has been damaged as a result of heavy rainfall. He also noted that the Afega road needs repair and that a new College within his constituency needs repair also. The Member also mentioned that the road at Malie needs repair. He voiced his support for the Budget, currently before the House.

Proceedings were suspended at 12:52pm
To be resumed at 3:00pm, Tuesday 23rd June 2015.

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament of Tuesday 23rd June 2015 – Part A. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard recording the proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on Tuesday 23rd June 2015, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.