

DAY 3: TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2015

TIME: 3:10pm

[PART B]

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. *IFOPO MatiaFilisi, Aigai le Tai*

The Member welcomed the newly appointed Commissioner of Police. The Member queried whether the number of police posted in his constituency was sufficient, considering they also oversee ManonoUta. This issue became apparent when an incident occurred at Aana II College whereby it took close to an hour for the police to arrive at the scene, due to lack of transport.

The Member acknowledged the Minister for education and noted his appreciation for work completed. He stated that the Ministry's achievements are a positive reflection of legislation which Parliament had enacted within this parliamentary term. The Member then addressed the Minister for Works and noted his appreciation for the completed road in Apolima. He noted that 4 acres of land were cleared in his constituency to provide a sports field for college students within the constituency, from Falelatai to Mulifanua. He also requested that land be given to the constituency to cultivate in an effort to contribute to the national economy. The Member asserted that their constituency is a prime area for the cultivation of

land as the villages face seaward with the estates behind household dwellings. He also noted that there are pieces of land within the constituency which are being leased and noted that there was also an intention that they would be leased on a “lease-to-own” basis.

The Member acknowledged the Minister for Agriculture and the Ministry’s effort to promote programmes aimed at conservation; namely the fisheries programme implemented along the coastline including Mulifanua. The Member noted that sea cucumbers are conserved in his constituency and proposed that similar projects be implemented by the Ministry. The Member addressed the Minister for works and stated that the road in ManonoUta needs redevelopment. He then advised the Minister for Finance that the “cake” (the current budget) be halved in to four pieces (representative of Upolu, Savaii, Manono and Apolima) and not limited to the usual two pieces (for Upolu and Savaii).

ii. TIALAVEA FeaTionisioSeigafolava, Vaa o Fonoti

TIALAVEA noted that as a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, he has already presented his views on the budget during Committee deliberations. The Member then proceeded to raise issues which were specific to his constituency. The Member supported the proposal to construct a road at Uafato and noted that an additional road leading towards the village is also necessary; the construction of both would essentially be more cost effective.

The Member also requested that an access road be constructed in Faleapuna. He noted that at present there is one access road which is at least 1.15km in length and needs sealing. He stated that it would be beneficial to extend the road to 2km (the standard length for access roads) as has been done in other areas of his constituency. Failing an extension, the Member suggested that it could possibly be

overhauled and upgraded. He noted that the similar upgrades are needed at Salimu and Musumusu.

In terms of national poverty, the Member noted his appreciation for the current living standard in Samoa. The Member recounted conversations he had had with African officials in Fiji, regarding poverty scales in their respective countries. His appreciation for Samoa was heightened on account of the stories shared by his African colleagues. The Member noted that poverty in Samoa means “little or no money”; in other countries it may mean “great impoverishment”.

The Member referred to a loining factory which has been proposed to be established at the Matautu wharf. The factory would be similar to a Fijian factory where fish are filleted and cleaned. He noted that Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Fiji have signed an EPA with Europe, which is a commendable achievement. He suggested that Samoa investigate the benefits of such a partnership as it could increase national revenue and create additional employment opportunities.

TIALAVEA commended the Minister for Finance for his attempt to lower the licence fees charged to international ships docked in the Apia wharf. He also acknowledged the Minister for Health and the services available to the public in emergency medical situations. However, the Member did note that there was an issue as to the hospital’s maintenance; he suggested that cleaning services be given to a contractor. The Member then acknowledged the Minister for Police and Prisons by commending his work and that of the Ministry within the previous years. He did note that there is currently an inmate who has yet to be captured; it has been 5 months since the inmate escaped. A possible solution offered by the Member would be to offer a reward for the capture of an escapee.

The Member noted his gratitude for the marine cable procured by the Ministry for Commerce, Industry and Labour. He recommended that the management of this project be administered by MCIL due to the high cost of internet services in Samoa at present.

iii. MOTUOPUAA UifagasaAisoliVaai, Vaisigano No.2

The Member for Vaisigano No.2 offered his condolences to the Member for Vaisigano No.1 for the untimely passing of his wife. In regards to the Budget theme “live within our means”, the Member noted that perhaps a contributing factor to the now limited budget is the excessive number of paid public servants. He used the hospital as an example and stated that the hospital is overstaffed. MOTUOPUAA then suggested that Samoa follow in Fiji’s footsteps by offering medical doctors the opportunity to attain postgraduate scholarships. The Australian-PNG exchange programme is one such example and would be a beneficial arrangement for Samoa and New Zealand.

The Member also noted that Sataua is the centre of business and similar services, but its location is undesirable to the public. He suggested that the district’s college be re-located to Sataua as it is in a central location, Asau being too distant to be a desirable location. He also requested that the Ministry for Works consider the requests put forward for the constituency.

iv. Hon MANUALESAGALALA MatiTuigamalaEnokatiPosala, Safata, Minister for Works

The Hon Minister reminded the Member that there are several roads in his constituency that require work; construction work must therefore be prioritised and implemented individually. He noted that the main issue for the Member’s constituency is “isolation”, namely the distance between the areas in question.

The challenge presented to the Government in its attempts to establish water supplies, is the issues which arise between individual villages as has been evidenced in the dispute in Falealupo.

v. MOTUOPUAA UifagasaAisoliVaai, Vaisigano No.2

MOTUOPUAA again requested that the Government begin work on the Fagasa road.

vi. TAFUA MaluelueTafua, AleipataLalo

The Member informed the House that the budget prioritises 5 major sectors, being health, education, infrastructure, technology and agriculture. He noted that it has taken the Finance and Expenditure Committee 3 weeks to analyse the Budget, noting that the Budget is in line with Treasury Instructions.

The Member noted that many of the roads in Aleipata have yet to be repaired since the 2009 tsunami. TAFUA noted that the roads in Tiavea Tai, Lotopue and Utufaalalafa, also heavily affected by the tsunami, have yet to be repaired. According to the Member, school children walk on the dirt road as it has not been sealed; sealing of the road is necessary. He also requested that water be supplied to Samusu and that the speed bumps in Aleipata be lowered as at present they are too high. The Member reminded the Government that before any project is undertaken; a consultation should be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders. This will render the Government fully informed of the needs of individual constituencies in Samoa.

vii. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member for Gagaemauga No.2 queried the purpose of the slipway at Aleipata and the number of residents employed to work there.

viii. TAFUA MaluelueTafua, AleipataLalo

The purpose of the slipway is to enable old ferries to dock.

ix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that if the Member does not wish the wharf to be established in his constituency then it should be relocated to Lepa.

x. TAFUA MaluelueTafua, AleipataLalo

In response, TAFUA informed the Hon PRIME MINISTER that he had misunderstood his earlier comments. He clarified that he was appreciative of the fact that the wharf was located at Aleipata.

xi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

Corrected the Member's comment and asserted that the ferries which use the slipway are not "old".

xii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA MatiTuigamalaEnokatiPosala, Safata, Minister for Works

The Hon Minister informed the House that to pull ships for repair requires a lot of work. This has been their experience in the repair of the police patrol boat at the Aleipata slipway. He noted that in the future, ships from other Pacific countries will be repaired at the slipway. He also noted that the wharf in Satitua has been well developed and that the Asau wharf is also utilised when there is a large number of ships docked at other wharves.

xiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER informed the House that the wharf in question was not initiated by the Government; it was initially a Satitooa project. The Hon PRIME MINISTER elaborated as to the benefits of the port, namely that it is in close proximity with Tutuila which permits easy travel and promotes trade. He then noted that the Mulifanua and Salelologa wharves were located in their respective locations/villages due to their close proximity to each other.

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

Hon PALUSALUE stated that the real concern here is that the slipway was a costly project, however, it is not being utilised properly.

xv. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that the Minister had already outlined the projects in progress.

xvi. TAFUA MaluelueTafua, AleipataItupai Lalo

TAFUA remarked on Community Service Obligations (CSOs) as set out in the Budget. He stated that there is an interested hotel entrepreneur who requires a CSO assessment of the Aleipata area for the establishment of his business venture (for example, street lights are needed).

xvii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA MatiTuigamalaEnokatiPosala, Safata, Minister for Works

In response to the Member's comments, the Hon Minister stated that the abovementioned issue needs clarification. He also stated that in terms of electricity, villages must approach the EPC with their issues in addition to requests being

forwarded to the relevant Committee. He also stated that visitations should be made to the areas in question.

xviii. TAFUA MaluelueTafua, AleipataLalo

The Member for AleipataLalo again requested that street lights be installed alongside the recently constructed road. He also requested roads for the villages of Satitooa and Saleaumua. The Member noted that 370 million is received from the tourism sector therefore Samoa should be diligent in their attempts at “cleanliness”. He requested that rubbish disposal bins be installed along the roadside as litter is a recurring problem in the area. For example, he states that many tourists visit the Le Mafa pass; a site that is sometimes used as public rubbish disposal grounds.

The Member also noted the increase in the cost of chemicals for agricultural purposes and notes that the use of such chemicals will negatively impact our water sources. He recommended that lists of goods, inclusive of their prices, be published as a single list to avoid confusion; particularly amongst tourists. In addition to these observations, the Member noted that several government buildings including the Bluesky building and Mulivai church, do not have disabled access ramps. He noted that there was an accident at the area between the DBS and the NPF plaza; the Member requested that an overpass be built for pedestrians in this area.

The Member spoke on food issues, in particular food and hygiene certification. He suggested that certificates should be displayed in all businesses and restaurants. He also encouraged that the Ministry of Health carry out hygiene checks, particularly for tourism purposes. Other achievements the Member commented on included the SamoaNei Galo programme, a MESC initiative to revive and strengthen the Samoan culture amongst the youth. Also, the Member noted that the Chapel being constructed at Taufusi does not have a car park. He also suggested

that there should be a maintenance programme for Government buildings such as TATTEE and the DBS. In closing, the Member voiced his support for the installation of the marine cable in Savaii and hopes that this will be beneficial to his constituency also.

Proceedings were suspended at 4:44pm for afternoon tea.

Proceedings resumed at 5:18pm.

xix. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion to extend sitting hours until 11:00pm; the motion was approved.

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

Hon LEAUPEPE noted his appreciation for the distribution of the necessary resources for the implementation of various projects across Samoa. The Member stated that the water pipes at Faleasiu and Fasitoo should be joined to and re-directed inland to enable villagers to access water supplies. In closing, the Member voiced his support of this year's Budget. He stated that the theme can and should be adopted by all of society; people should live within their means. Priority must first be given to pressing matters in each sector.

xxi. AFUALO Wood Uti Salele, Salega

The Member for Salega reiterated the need for a police post within his district. He noted that there is currently vacant land to establish a branch in his district as Asau and Palauli would be inconvenient due to distance. He noted that the branch, once established, could also be utilised as a voting poll during elections. He then advised the Minister for Education that education should be a priority for those wishing to join the police force. Despite the existence of a Police Academy, school leavers

should come from a strong educational background to improve the quality of the police force. He also suggested that the police force should include people employed as security persons. The Member referred to the road at Sagone which will officially be opened this coming Thursday and thanked the Minister for making this development possible. He also noted that the additional water areas to source water in Sagone should be sought out.

The Member advised the Minister for Education to review the education system, beginning at the grass roots level in an effort to raise the quality of higher education for future students. This would also ensure that when students complete their tertiary level studies, quality employment will be available to them. He also urged the Minister to review salaries for primary school teachers. The Member then addressed the Minister for Agriculture and asserted that he was comparable to Moses; his contribution to the development of Samoa has been substantial. The Member predicted that agriculture should contribute to at least 15-20% of Samoa's GDP in the future. He also touched on the recent conflict within the Farmer's Association and urged those involved to find a solution as farmers need to work collaboratively to be successful.

In terms of the law, the Member stated that lawyers must be fully utilised. He requested that lawyers should be used for the drafting of Bills which Members propose to introduce to the Assembly. In summing up, the Member also congratulated the Samoa Land Corporation for its substantial net profit and requested that the Minister for Revenue assist the Corporation with tax issues. In addressing the Minister for Health, the Member noted his gratitude at the establishment of the Kidney Foundation branch in Savaii, which currently has at least 3 patients. He also encouraged the Minister for Education to establish an NUS campus in Savaii.

xxii. Hon FAUMUINA TiatiaFaaolataneLiuga, Palauli le Falefa

Hon FAUMUINA stated that requests should be allocated according to available funds. FAUMUINA noted that the Committee report states that GDP will increase by 1.19% and it is forecasted to reach 2 billion. In 2001, GDP was less than 1 million; 2011 above 1 million, now GDP has increased at least 5 times within the past 5 years. He then communicated the request from his constituency: the completion of the renovation of the Savaii wharf; the completion of at least 2 acres of road in Salelologa; widening of the Asau wharf; the construction of a cannery factory at Asau and the renovation of the Asau wharf. He also requested that the airport in Savaii be expanded to accommodate 747 aircrafts.

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

The Leader of the Opposition noted that the Member supports the theme of the budget, “to live within our means”, but the requests he has communicated are substantial and funds are questionable.

xxiv. Hon FAUMUINA TiatiaFaaolataneLiuga, Palauli le Falefa

FAUMUNIA accused the Leader of the Opposition as being one who “lacked vision”. He clarified that his requests were envisioned to be implemented within the next 5 to 10 years. In particular, the expansion of the Asau airport and the project to source water from the Maliolio River or the *Vaiolealelo*; to accommodate the Salelologa area.

xxv. Hon MANUALESAGALALA MatiTuigamalaEnokatiPosala, Safata, Minister for Works

The Hon Minister stated that there are land issues which have limited the Ministry’s attempts at further development of the Salelologa wharf. In regards to the request

from FAUMUINA for the use of the said water sources, there may not be sufficient storage facilities to support such a request.

xxvi. Hon SALA Fata LisatiPinati, Gagaemauga No.1, Minister for Police and Prisons

The Hon Minister noted that Member's requests and dreams for Savaii are admirable, however, the implementation of these request will be the responsibility of each Member to follow up.

xxvii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that one cannot find fault in the exaggeration of "thick dreams" (mitilololo) from that side, though he acknowledged that all great developments begin this way.

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.

