

DISCLAIMER

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DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2015**TIME: 9:10am****[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. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is the present”. The Hon Minister referenced this quote to highlight the fact that past events guide our future. He then addressed various requests put forward by Members in the House. He addressed requests given to the LTA and noted that the ADB-AUS-Samoa project was launched for the Samusu, Lalomanu-Lepa road and footpaths are ~~in~~ being constructed. Work is being carried out for a four lane road at Vailoa/Saina, with the assistance of the World Bank. In Leone, work for the construction of a newly designed bridge has begun. A redesigned plan for the west coast road has been

presented to the World Bank and assistance is being discussed. The Maliolio design is being tendered and a survey is in progress to determine land that may be affected by the project. Access road reconstruction is continuing despite amidst natural disasters destroying the roads; Regardless, the Government continues its attempt to repair the roads.

ii. PESETA Vaifou Tevaga, Faasaleleaga No.2

The Member informed the Hon Minister that the land being utilised for the Maliolio project belongs to him. He noted that the delays were due to interference from village matai who had no ties with the land (in terms of ownership).

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

The Hon Minister stated that there are two plans for these roads and they depend on the acquisition of affordable, freehold land. Most roads developed by the Ministry are those which lead to hotels. He noted that there have been numerous requests from hotel owners to the Ministry, which they are attempting to address. These projects will, however, depend on the urgency of the reconstruction project. A Committee assesses the situation to determine whether a new road is needed or not.

The Hon Minister noted that there are estates in Siusega which have been subdivided and sold; requests have been put forward for construction in these locations but the usual processes must first be complied with. The residents are responsible for the private roads leading the subdivided estates; it is not the responsibility of the Government to provide assistance in these cases.

He referred to the road at Manono-uta and noted that the Ministry has already made its assessments. Three options have been put forward by the Committee, a

tar road, a cemented road or a “normal” road. The instruction that has been given to the SPA is to upgrade the port at Manono Tai so that these developments may be carried out.

iv. Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga, Palauli le Falefa

Hon FAUMUINA noted that there is a crossing at Salua which cannot be used to transport the machinery need for the construction work at Manono Uta.

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

The Hon MINISTER noted that a proper design for water pipes is needed. He noted that the problem with connecting the necessary water papers is the issue of land ownership. Not all land is freehold, others have yet to be subdivided and others fall under customary ownership. These are the types of issues which have arisen and have obstructed Government efforts in ensuring that all Samoans have access to water. The policies for the installation of water pipes remain unchanged; measurements are approximately 15-20 metres in width and he noted that many lands available for drilling are too narrow.

vi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER referred to the road at Alamagoto and stated that construction has been difficult due to its location below Mt Vaea. He stated that currently, rainfall run offs lead towards Fugalei and result in flooding in Apia. He queried why this continues to occur when ~~there are~~ there is a river at Alamagoto where the drain could lead. He then stated that an increase in drains would mean that the roads would need to be narrowed which in turn would affect freehold land along the road side.

vii. **Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister noted that Cross Island road (from Tanugamanono to Vailima) is another road which the Government has sought assistance for from the World Bank. Road designs are now in progress. A plan is in place to build a bridge to service the Alafua road (leading to Moamoa) to address traffic congestion issues. A team comprising of representatives from the MNRE and the MWTI, is tasked with reviewing the works to be implemented at Vaisigano.

The Hon Minister noted that the construction of access roads is costly. He noted that to construct 2 access roads would cost approximately 2 million. This cost in comparison to allocated appropriations in the budget, is insufficient. This is the reason why many access roads have yet to be constructed, despite constituency requests. He noted that the Government prioritises according to the funds available to them; if works are not undertaken today, perhaps they will be implemented in the next parliamentary term.

viii. **LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2**

The Member informed the Hon Minister that the access road at Salamumu does not have an access road leading inland. He noted that there are no plantations in this area but rather Fau trees, used by the villagers for handicrafts.

ix. **Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister stated that the access road to Saleaula will officially be opened tomorrow. He stated that Saleaula is essentially Salamumu.

x. Hon PRIME MINISTER

In response to the Member for Gagaemauga No.2's comment regarding the use of land at Salamumu, the Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that he was unaware of a plantation in that area. If there are no plantations, there should be no need for an access road.

xi. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member clarified that his previous interjection was in regards to the roads the Hon Minister for Works was referring to.

xii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Work, Transport and Infrastructure

The Hon Minister noted that it has been a successful year for the SPA. He noted that a Memorandum of Understanding would be signed Monday week, for the Matautu wharf.

xiii. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Aana Alofi No.3

The Member queried whether the MoU would include the successful contractor and fishing vessels as the vessels should be instructed to refrain from dumping waste in the bay. These actions are detrimental to the environment.

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

The Leader of the Opposition queried whether positions for work at the Matautu wharf were being advertised.

xv. **Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Safata, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister responded that all Government projects are advertised. This is to ensure the pool applications are received from the appropriate pool of capable candidates.

xvi. **Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Safata, Leader of the Opposition**

Hon PALUSALUE stated that if it was the case that these contracts were advertised, there would have been an excessive number of applicants.

xvii. **Hon Le Mamea Ropati, Lefaga & Faleaseela, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister stated that these contracts have indeed been advertised. He noted, however, that locals do not tend to apply for work which requires time away from home. Many of these vacancies require work off island for periods of up to 3 months. It is for this reason that recruitment has been extended to Tuvalu and Kiribati.

xviii. **Hon PRIME MINISTER**

This would, according to the Hon PRIME MINISTER, include seasonal workers in New Zealand. He noted that there seems to be an issue with workers who return before their contracts are due, owing to being homesick. He stated that he is inclined to establish an organisation for such people.

xix. **LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West**

The Member for Faleata West noted his support for such an organisation and suggested that LEVAOPOLO be tasked with its management.

xx. Mr SPEAKER

Mr Speaker noted his general disappointment at the issue raised by the Hon Minister for Agriculture. He urged the public to take the opportunities which are offered by newly established businesses; particularly due to the fact that there are not many jobs to choose from in this day and age.

xxi. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo, Faleata East

AVEAU disagreed with previous comments and stated that people do not accept these types of contracts because of the low salaries. MCIL records show that they had advertised 40 vacancies whereas other Ministries do not have the same statistics.

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

The Hon Minister reminded the House that these companies which are being referred to, are private companies. The MCIL do not advertised on their behalf and their appropriations are not included in the Budget.

xxiii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo, Faleata East

The issue, AVEAU asserted, is not who is responsible for the vacancies; whether it is the Government or the private sector, all vacancies should be recorded. Even the Bureau of Statistics does not record the number of vacancies which have been advertised.

xxiv. Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Satupaitea, Minister for Public Enterprises

The Hon Minister commented in regards to employment statistics. He stated that there have been no recorded statistics for the venture under discussion as it is a new business. He informed the House that he had personally asked the owner whether

or not locals had applied for any vacancies. He stated that applicants were informed that the work would require them to be off island for three months; many of the locals which were first interviewed did not return.

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

The Hon Minister noted that in terms of the Matautu wharf, the SPA is guided by the international shipping ports security code (in line with IMO regulations). He then noted that it was business as usual for the Samoa Water Authority (SWA). He noted that the boreholes at Lalomanu and Savaii have been over drilled resulting in salty water due to it being close to sea level. He noted that when water becomes salinated, it affects the growth of crops. He noted that a borehole has been proposed for the Faleasiu area. The location for a borehole at Salega has now been approved with an access road recently being completed. He stated that the Tapatapao project is being funded jointly by the EU and JICA. Pipelines from Falelauniu, Tapatapao and Siusega are being funded by JICA. Work for pipelines at Aleisa and Faleasiu Uta are funded by the EU.

xxvi. Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga, Palauli le Falefa

Hon FAUMUINA stated that the Hon Minister may have unintentionally failed to mention a water pipeline for GATAIVAL, which has been included in the list of work to be implemented.

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

The Hon Minister stated that the water supply servicing Vailima and the town area is funded by the Government and JICA. The water projects for Moataa Uta and Magiagi are set to be completed at the end of 2016.

xxviii. TAFUA Maluelue Tafua, Aleipata Itupa i Lalo

The Member stated that he had previously raised the issue of water supply in Utufalalafa Uta and Satitooa. At present, these villages rely on rain for water. He noted that the Hon Minister has made no mention of these villages.

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

The Hon Minister stated that work for these roads are now complete, therefore work for water supplies may now begin as the land is now accessible. In regards to the Samoa Shipping Services Company, services now include trips to the Cook Islands and American Samoa. The Lady Naomi will be used by the Cook Islands. For the wharves at Salelologa and Mulifanua, the ticketing system has been upgraded and there is a proposal in place to implement a loyalty programme to reward frequent travellers. In terms of the EPC, the renewable energy project is still in progress. The EPC purchasing power is independent and sourced through Independent Power Providers. Tenders for the production of 100% renewable energy in Savaii have recently closed with the sole tender being a solar energy company. The EPC is currently evaluating the tender.

xxx. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West

The Member noted that there are various costs charged to each Ministry for the provision of solar power. He noted that at least 70 cents per unit which is expensive when compared to hydro power. If this is the case, he recommended the Minister to re-evaluate the possible sources of power for Samoa.

xxx. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters

The Member queried the Hon Minister as to whether there is currently a proposal for a road to service Malololelei; specifically the road next to the Divine Mercy School.

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

The Hon Minister noted that solar panels are expensive, both locally and abroad. He noted however, that the cost of electricity has decreased over the years. He informed the House that a review of electricity costs is underway and will be presented to Cabinet for discussion.

xxxiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that the Hon Minister was employing the “do not put all your eggs in to one basket” strategy. He stated that the Government is attempting to adopt different strategies and methodologies in their cost analysis.

xxxiv. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

As a side from the actual cost of solar energy, the Member stated that installation costs alone are expensive. He stated that costs will only decrease several years after installation; the effect is not immediate.

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

The Hon Minister noted that work on the Asau and Maota airport are in progress. He informed the House that the company upgrading the Faleolo airport have also

begun renovations. Negotiations are underway between the Government and villages in regards to the proposal for an ~~Aleipata~~ airport at Aleipata.

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

The Leader of the Opposition suggested that ~~if~~ it takes 5 minutes to travel to Pago Pago but between 1 – 2 hours to travel from Apia to Aleipata. He stated that if this is the case, there appears to be no logic behind the construction of an airport at Aleipata.

xxxvii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that there are 2 aircrafts; one being a 9-12 seater which will service the American Samoa-Samoa route. Due to issues that may arise from flights taken in bad weather conditions, the Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that an alternative aircraft is also necessary; particularly for Aleipata residents. The airport is a long term project and is part of the overall plan for the Aleipata Township.

xxxviii. IFOPO Matia Filisi, Aiga i le Tai

The Member noted his appreciation for the projects undertaken at Manono Uta. He reminded the Minister for Works that the report mentions the Salua and Satuilagi crossing; he suggested that the project would more suitably be implemented in phases.

xxxix. LAFATELE Patrick Leiatualesa, Alataua West

The Member noted that IFOPO had mentioned street lights for his constituency, he suggested that the Minister consider this issue.

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

The Hon Minister commented that the Leader of the Opposition is only concerned with Apia residents who will use the ports at Aleipata. However, one should consider the Aleipata residents who use the Fagalii airport.

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

In response to the Hon Minister, Hon PALUSALUE questioned whether this meant that the port is reserved for use by Aleipata residents only? He noted that such an idea is illogical.

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

The Hon Minister noted that the EPC are responsible for street lights however, he stated he may receive requests which he will then forward to the EPCI. He stated that certain specifications must be provided to the CSO Committee who will then assess the application. He then expressed gratitude for the Mulivai school and the near completion of Vaiee schools and the proposal for a school at Saanapu. He also thanked the Minister for Agriculture for the farming school which will encourage agricultural developments in his constituency. He then thanked the Minister for Health for the hospital branch in Saanapu.

xliii. Hon MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasalelega No.1, Minister for Education, Sports and Culture

The Hon Minister reiterated the importance of education for all and reminded the House that education is a fundamental human right, not a privilege. Education is the key to economic success. The Hon Minister stated that the national GDP and expenditure are measures of a country's education system. He quotes statistics from

the United Nations which state that 4-6% of a country's GDP should be expended on education. Samoa has allotted 5.19% of its GDP to the education sector and 17.06% of Samoa's expenditure on the education sector.

The Hon Minister expressed his gratitude for the public's patience while capacity building programmes for teachers are implemented. For example, the USP has utilised this programme for 63 teachers in the math and science disciplines. He also noted that all secondary schools are awarded equal opportunities and resources. Teachers are also allocated to schools according to need and demand.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:45am and resumed at 11:24am