

DISCLAIMER

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DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2015**TIME: 11:25am****[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. *Hon MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasaleleaga No.2, Minister for Education***

The after effects of Cyclone Evan resulted in combining schools in certain areas. For example, it was suggested that the Mulivai-Safata school be merged. The Hon Minister also noted that guidelines have now been set for the establishment of pre-schools. The Maritime school will be housed at the Oceania campus. There are also initiatives to set up sports fields. The Ministry will also assess the fee relief scheme. Other programmes the Hon Minister referred to were the maths and science programmes aired on TV and the School Net programme provided in primary and secondary schools.

The Hon Minister stated that he has raised the issue of an NUS branch for Savaii with the NUS executive. He stated that the NUS is not at this time ready to make such a move, but note that USP has a branch in Savaii at this point in time. The Hon Minister requested that a graduation ceremony be held in Savaii to encourage interest from possible students in that locale. The Hon Minister then noted that technological services are now available in all schools, such as email and telephones.

ii. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

In response to comments made as to public servants and employees generally, the Hon Minister sought to correct statistics stated in the House. He claimed that the correct statistics are that 36% of appropriation has been allocated for personnel with 64% used to fund the Ministry's work. Based on this, the Hon Minister stated that statistics previously quoted in the House were false.

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

The Member for Aana Alofi No.3 suggested that the Hon Minister is confused as to appropriations previously referred to. He stated that 10 million and 8 million were for outputs 1 to 10; membership fees and other costs total 20 million as mentioned by the Hon Minister, however, only expenditure for personnel was mentioned. The Member stated that this is an issue for many Ministries, where a substantial portion of their appropriations have been allocated for personnel costs.

iv. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

The Hon Minister stated that the general appropriations of allocations within Ministries are essentially the same.

v. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member noted that the figures in the Budget have yet to be corrected, therefore figures stated by the Member for Aana Alofi No.3 and the Hon Minister are both incorrect.

vi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that Members were effectively considering the Bill in detail which is not permitted at this time.

vii. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters

The Member informed the House that according to his calculations, 31% of the Ministry's budget is allocated to personnel.

viii. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

The Hon Minister reminded the House that resources are not the only expense provided for in the Budget; other expenses and costs are included, in addition to aide received from international partners. For the Ministry of Natural Resources, he stated that there are international conventions administered by the Ministry which attract grants. These grants are utilised to counter the effects of climate change as well as other environment issues.

ix. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

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

The Member sought clarification as to the assertion that his statistics were incorrect. He noted that there are 14 ACEOs in the MNRE, totalled with the CEO's salary, the amount is substantial.

xi. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

For the SROS, the statement that 56% of its budget is allocated for personnel costs is incorrect; 44.4% is allocated for personnel. The reason for this is that most positions are on a contractual basis. It is different for SROS because it is well equipped facility-wise and staffed with those with specialised technical expertise (science related).

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

The Member stated that 1.1 million was spent on personnel; he suggested for the Hon Minister to check the accuracy of this figure.

xiii. LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2

The Member for Gagaemauga No.2 reminded the House that TOEOLESULUSULU is the Associate Minister for the MNRE. This means that he has thoroughly analysed the budget for this Ministry.

xiv. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

The Hon Minister assured the House that they are all referring to the same Budget. In regards to an energy audit of various Government buildings to decrease maintenance costs; this is being implemented. The Hon Minister reiterated the fact that there are many projects currently being administered by the MNRE which audit electrical appliances. One of these projects is set to be trialled by 5 Pacific Islands

including Samoa (PIP 1 and PIP 2). Phase one is to be funded by the UNDP. Another project is Technical Assistance G which will be funded by China. Both projects are now in Phase 2.

The Hon Minister stated that 250 LCD street lights are being shipped to Samoa in addition to solar street lights which will decrease carbon emissions and energy costs. The Seawall PPCR (Pilot Project on Climate Resilience) will be funded by the World Bank. The MoF will be the focal point with implementation undertaken by the MNRE. The Project is based on communities and a Project Management Unit has been selected to review the CIMP (Coastal Implementation Management Plans). The delay has been due to the conditions set out by the World Bank which must be fulfilled before implementation. This cannot be bypassed.

Work in Matautu remains a priority for the Ministry. The Lalomanu seawall is a request that will be considered; the Hon Minister advised Members to check which projects each of their requests should be categorised under. The project implemented by the KRAMA Company in Vaisigano is to re-design the area and construct a bridge. This is to avoid overflow issues. The Hon Minister stated that work may be completed by September.

xv. Hon AEAU Peniamina Leavaiseeta, Falealupo, Deputy Leader of the Opposition

The Member queried whether or not Falealupo is earmarked for construction projects.

xvi. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Gagaemauga No.3, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

The Hon Minister replied in the affirmative. He then stated that the renovation of State owned buildings such as the Samoa Post building has been earmarked for commencement. In terms of land tax (Government leased lands) there is a stamp duty that is to be paid to the MOF and a requisite formula which must be complied with in determining the rate of tax.

The Hon Minister noted that despite the fact that more rubbish bins have been placed around the town area, littering remains to be a problem. There is a Waste Management Act which imposes penalties for littering and the dumping of rubbish and poisonous chemical. In regards to the development of the wharf at Salelologa, he noted that the land south of the wharf is Government owned whereas land to the West is privately owned. He stated that he instructed officials to survey the privately owned land and make a recommendation to the Government to purchase this land to enable expansion of the wharf.

In regards to the construction of a car park for the Chapel at Taufusi, he has been advised that there is already a car park which may be accessed from the road behind the old Amau Wholesale and Tyre Shop. Issues of water testing depend on the SROS for implementation as it (SROS) is the only locally accredited institution qualified to carry out the necessary testing.

xvii. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West

The Member queried food testing as it does not appear under the SROS mandate. He suggested that all imported goods should be tested by the SROS.

xviii. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters

Hon PAPALIITELE stated that the Committee is concerned with the timeframe in which Annual Reports are submitted for tabling in the Assembly.

**** General debate on the construction of a bridge and tunnel ******xix. Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Aana Alofi No.1, Minister for Health**

The Hon Minister stated that there were exactly 32 members that gave speeches of which 17 Members commented on matters regarding his portfolio, from which 9 Members expressed gratitude for health services. The Minister addressed issue raised on poor services specifically late services from medical staff at the hospital. Similar complaints were received regarding the out-patient at the old hospital, stating that this is the reason for establishing two separate services one for General incidents and the other for accidents and emergency. The Hon Minister elaborated on the specialization of doctors of which out of 47 there are 10 private doctors. Furthermore, these doctors are assigned according to their set of skills between these two separate services and are allocated in shifts. The Minister acknowledged the shortage of medical practitioners and stated this was the sole reason for establishing the OUM (Oceania University School of Medicine. - Next year, it is hoped that some 10 students will graduate from this University.

The Minister also acknowledged the request for the Need of more medical machinery and responded that the Government is looking into the issue. Also noted that when the Hospital was reopened, there were also a procurement of new machinery which totalled SAT\$13 million in costing, but it is not all about the machinery. There is the need to engage those with the relevant expertise in operating such machinery. The Minister noted that medical machines are expensive on top of the expertise to operate them. Another expense consideration is engaging doctors who can analyse the data as well identify the need for maintenance and when, these are aspects that are needed to be considered when procuring medical machinery and equipment.

On the matter of up skilling and training doctors, the Hon Minister stated that the Government is in partnership with the Manukau District Health Board through which assistance is offered to Samoa for the up skilling of doctors; the Ascot Specialist Hospital in Auckland is also assisting in responding to Samoa's requests on health issues Samoa is unable to address due to financial limitations. The Government is considering ways to decrease costs. The Minister also made reference to a visitation by the Ascot Hospital Director, and that a list was drawn up on areas that may receive assistance from Ascot Hospital. This will minimize the number of patients required to be sent overseas for medical assistance.

xx. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West

LEALAILEPULE queried as to whether assistance for private practitioners are still being offered.

xxi. Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Aana Alofi No.1, Minister for Health

The Hon Minister responded that this matter will be addressed in due time as he is responding to other issues first.

On matters raised regarding the capacity building of doctors, the Minister stated that this is the sole purpose of partnerships. He made reference to the partnership between Papua New Guinea and Australia and stated that this partnership is easy as PNG was once a colony of Australia. The Minister made note of the partnership between Samoa and New Zealand however, there are some issues relating to accreditation systems. Furthermore, there are a lot of local doctors that go overseas for attachments for at least 2 years, however, when they return a certificate of completion is not presented. Career structure nowadays relies on qualifications. If it is not recognised then there will be no upgrade in salary level. Noted that if our doctors go for further studies to Fiji they return with a Diploma or Masters. Such

qualifications contribute to upgrading their salaries and status grade. He suggested that potential students attend Fiji School of Medicine as the educational qualifications are recognised in Samoa. In terms of quality of service: there are plans put forth to ensure that the service delivery reaches its potential. In NHS, they have the Complaints Policy and Consumer Code of Rights and Responsibility under which the MHS invites and encourages critiques and commentary on service delivery, to provide a basis upon which programmes for improved service delivery is developed. A recommendation has been given as a way to better ensure quality services.

Proceedings were adjourned at 1:00pm.

Parliament will reconvene at 9:00am, Friday 26th June 2015.