

**DISCLAIMER**

This Summary provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Part B. 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 record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Part B, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**DAY 5: FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015****TIME: 11:34am****[PART B]****I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY continued****1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2014/2015 and  
APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016 (debate on second reading resumed)****i. *Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries***

The Hon Minister informed the House that since its inception 3 years ago, the “stimulus package programme” has had 557 participants; 280 from Upolu and 177 from Savaii. He stated that the programme for coffee and cocoa will soon be phased out with emphasis to be placed on the farming of coconut (niu). He reiterated the importance of the coconut and its bi-products. He encouraged that more Samoans farm the coconut as there are potential investors for the production of virgin coconut oil, but studies have revealed that the supply is insufficient. The Hon Minister informed the House that the Asia Pacific Coconut Community, which

includes all Pacific and Asian nations, are now focusing on the replanting of coconuts, particularly in the Pacific region. He stated that Samoa has been chosen to become the international gene bank for coconut. All variants of the coconut from around the world will be grown and kept in Samoa for future development programmes. He also noted the coconut's use in juice making and noted that the Samoan coconut is popular for juice production.

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

LEALAILEPULE suggested that the Hon Minister focus on coconut production for export as this will ensure an increase in national revenue.

**iii. Hon LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, Aana Alofi No.1**

Hon LEAUPEPE noted his support for the Member from Faleata West's comments. He noted that coconuts have been cross-germinated for this very purpose. According to the Member, Samoa does not have the land required for the mass production of coconuts; therefore this initiative (as explained by the Minister) should be reconsidered. He stated that over 100 acres of WESTEC land at Faleolo were utilised for the production of the hybrid coconut.

**iv. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries**

The Hon MINISTER noted that there exists a lucrative market for coconut juice; it is for this reason that the Ministry is attempting to grow coconuts which would produce the required juice. He also noted that Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Division which will work with Women in Business to initiate various methods of organic farming. He stated that a primary reason behind the establishment of the Organic Farming Division was to decrease the amount of chemicals used for the fertilization of plants.

In terms of fishing, the Hon Minister noted that statistics have improved since February of this year. He stated that a total of 940 metric tonnes of fish have been dispersed for export. He noted that the *Yah Yow Fisheries Company* has earned in excess of 2 million since its establishment in Samoa. The Hon Minister noted that there are several international companies interested in setting up business in Samoa including companies from China and Korea. He noted that there has been a substantial improvement in Samoa's fisheries sector. In response to several Members asserting that the Asau wharf is underutilised, he stated that the potential investors are looking at utilising the Asau wharf.

**v. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Aana Alofi No.3**

The Member noted that the Thai fishing company to which the Hon Minister referred to has been approved for establishment in Samoa. He also noted that 70% of the world's canneries are based in Thailand; to this end, the Member urged that the Thai fishing vessels should be monitored. He stated that their intentions could be to fish Samoan seas without utilising Samoa's loining factories which would be detrimental to Samoa's economy.

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

The Member stated that 80% of tuna from the Pacific is canned overseas but it is our objective that tuna be fished and canned in Samoa.

**vii. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER informed the House that two tariffs are imposed on cannery companies because the cans must be imported. He noted this expense was the reason for the closure of the corned beef factory. Past experience has led to the Government's decision to establish a loining factory as opposed to a cannery.

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

Hon AEAU queried the existence of a list for those international fishing companies licenced to operating in Samoa. He questioned whether the majority were from China or neighbouring Island States.

**ix. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries**

The Hon Minister stated that Samoa's EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) is minute by international standards. Access agreements must be acquired by all boats wishing to enter Samoa's harbours. There is a Vessel Monitoring System in place to monitor where boats are fishing. He then corrected the Member for Aana Alofi No.3 that the company he had referred to was from Taiwan, not Thailand.

The wharf at Asau currently needs electricity and water; these developments will not begin until the wharf at Apia is complete. Regarding the SACEP, the Hon Minister stated that it assists both farmers and workers within the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry. To date, 7494 farmers and fishers have registered for the SACEP programme. 3493 have already begun to use the programme. Other projects in the pipeline include those for the development of greenhouses and packing houses. He stated that a packing house will be established to accommodate the growing demand for taro; similar efforts will be implemented to cater for fishers.

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

TOEOLESULUSULU noted that 10 containers of taro have already been exported. The Member therefore queried why there was a problem with exportation when there appears to be an ample supply of taro in Samoa.

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

The Member noted that there is a recommendation that fish be ‘bottled’ and not canned as bottles are now produced in Samoa.

**xii. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries**

The Hon Minister informed the Member that the Hon PRIME MINISTER has already addressed the issue he has raised regarding canneries.

**xiii. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER informed the House that he had visited the United States in 2014 to assess the functioning of the *Bumble Bee Foods* Company. Upon querying the Company as to the possibility of packaging tuna in plastic bottles, the owner replied that cans were the consumer preference. Changes in packaging may ultimately affect demand and consumption.

**xiv. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries**

The Hon MINISTER explained that there has been a delay pay out due to the installation of the new DVS system. The SACEP’s first intake resulted in 53 registrations; over 2 million has been used to date for this programme. Livestock breeding is another component of the programme initiated by the World Bank. Cattle have since been shipped for this purpose. He urged the public to promote cattle farming as opposed to their slaughter for customary and cultural practices. He further noted that 35 rams have been shipped from Australia for breeding. In regards to slaughterhouses, the Hon Minister stated that more will be established in due time. Furthermore Samoa’s first abattoir for use in Upolu and Savaii will soon arrive. He also informed the House that vegetable and fruit crops were being sown

at Nu'u. The Hon Minister noted that land used in Falelatai for farming is not suitable for vegetation and stated that the current greenhouse is uneconomical.

**xv. TAEFU Lemi, Falelatai & Samatau**

The Member took note of the Hon Minister's response on behalf of his constituency and suggested that another suitable location be sought.

**xvi. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries**

The Hon Minister stated that the location should be accessible. He noted Samoa's 2013 award for meeting the requirements of MDG goal 1, the reduction of poverty and praised Samoa for its 2015 award.

**xvii. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted the significance of the award and stated that it was an achievement of which Samoa should be proud of.

**xviii. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Lefaga & Faleseela, Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries**

Hon LE MAMEA acknowledged the Hon PRIME MINISTER's comments. The Hon Minister alluded to his retirement from Parliament due to illness and "old age".

**xix. Mr SPEAKER**

The Speaker acknowledged Hon LE MAMEA's retirement and praised his work as both a Member of the Opposition and now Cabinet Minister.

**xx. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Community & Social Development**

The Hon MINISTER stated that the Ministry works in collaboration with Women's Committees, village councils and the Ombudsman to effect its objectives. He also noted that the Ministry has human rights obligations that must adhere to.

In terms of the Independent Water Scheme, the Hon Minister noted 32 villages have registered for the scheme. Pipes have been laid for numerous families as well as the installation of necessary water tanks. This year, 4 villages have implemented the scheme, namely Fagaloa, Lona, Lelea and Nuusuatia. On-going efforts are being made to ensure water is of a high quality. He noted that there are at least 11 members of the Independent Water Scheme committee who are tasked with assessing the various issues met by the scheme. The Hon Minister stated that negotiations to source water from Vaiee and Nuusuatia have been successful.

**xxi. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo, Faleata East**

AVEAU noted his appreciation for the water scheme and suggested that water should be tested before being stored in tanks. He stated that the water should be clean to ensure water supplies are suitable for consumption.

**xxii. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Community & Social Development**

The Hon Minister informed the House that there are workshops and trainings for locals selected to oversee village water storage, which will ensure the quality of water is maintained. Furthermore, water testing is carried out by both the SROS and the MoH.

**xxiii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo, Faleata East**

AVEAU stated that there is no such water storage system in his constituency, constituency; however he has personally inspected other water storage tanks and notes that they are not well protected.

**xxiv. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Community & Social Development**

The Hon Minister assured the Member that water storage systems are properly tested to ensure its safety for consumption. He noted for example that water testing performed at Sili and Salailua revealed zero traces of e-coli. He asserted that statistics show that less than 10% of water in Samoa is of poor quality.

**xxv. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Aana Alofi No.2, Minister for Women, Community & Social Development**

In response to the Member for Faleata East's query as to what e-coli is, the Hon Minister explained that it is bacteria found in water from plants and trees. When water with e-coli traces in it is consumed, the bacteria causes one to have irritable bowel symptoms. The Hon Minister stated that the Government is to appropriate 2.2 million in order to improve water sources in Sili and Fagaloa. Legislation will also be enacted to ensure the improvement of the Independent Water Scheme. The request by the Member for Siumu to improve water quality in his constituency will be implemented next year.

In regards to the Manutoao Village Council building, the Hon Minister agreed that the building was in a poor state. He stated that work will be carried out to ensure that a suitable building be in place for village council meetings. He further noted that JICA has allotted 20,000 and the Government has appropriated 200,000 for the renovation of these 2 village council houses.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:00pm.**

**Parliament will reconvene on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 9:00am.**