

**DISCLAIMER**

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**DAY 6: MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015****TIME: 7:00pm****[PART C]****I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY continued****1. The SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2014/2015 and the APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016 - Second Reading**

The question was put and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.2 2014/2015 and the Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 were second read.

**2. The SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2014/2015 – Consideration in Detail**

Consideration in detail of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2014/2015 began with the consideration of the Bill's Schedules and the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on the Bill.

The following appropriations were approved by the Assembly for the First Schedule “Addition in Appropriations”:

1. Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration - \$414,000
2. Ministry of Health - \$88,9825.00
3. Ministry of Finance - \$120,572.00
4. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - \$28,236.00
5. National Kidney Foundation - \$28,236.00
6. National Health Services - \$1,707,850.00
7. Samoa Sports Facilities Authority - \$319,489.00

Total appropriation approved by the Assembly for the First Schedule was **\$3,526,819.00.**

Appropriations for the Second Schedule – “Reduction in Appropriations” were approved as follows:

1. Health - \$120,000.00
2. Finance - \$1,169,825.00

Total appropriation approved by the Assembly for the Second Schedule was **\$1,289,825.00.**

The Question was put and the Schedules were approved as part of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were approved as was Clause 1 and the Bill’s Title. The Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) 2014/2015 progressed without amendment.

### **3. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2014/2015 – Third Reading**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion that the Bill be read a third time which was approved by the Assembly. The Bill was then read a third time.

### **4. APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016 – Consideration in Detail**

Before the Assembly considered the Bill in detail, corrections to both the Samoan and English versions of the Bill were read aloud to the House. Corrections for the Samoan Bill included those to Clauses 56, 76, 144, 245, 354, 355 and 356. For the English version, corrections were made to clauses 32, 53, 70, 71, 236, 320, 321 and 322.

The Assembly first considered the Schedules together with the Finance and Expenditure Committee report on the Bill.

- a. The First Schedule included appropriations for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry for Commerce, Industry and Labour.

- i. ***LEVAOPOLO Talatonu, Gagaemauga No.2***

The Member queried output 5 (MCIT) and its broadband vehicle. He noted that the vehicles should be well equipped and provide accessible bandwidth services to Samoa.

- ii. ***Hon TUISUGALETAUA Sofara Aveau, Vaimauga East, Minister for Communication, Information and Technology***

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The Hon Minister stated that a request has been lodged with the Aid Committee for funding for maintenance of the vehicles referred to by the Member for Gagaemauga No.2.

- b. Appropriation for the Ministry for Communication, Information and Technology was approved.

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

The Member queried Part 14 (Sports) in terms of the Ministry's projects for Rugby League. He stated that there appears to be an appropriation for the Rugby Union, but not for Rugby League.

**iv. Hon MAGELE Mauiliu, Faasaleleaga No.1, Minister for Education**

The Hon Minister stated that assistance has not been sought for funding for Rugby League.

- c. Appropriation for the Ministry for Education was approved.
- d. Appropriation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was approved.
- e. Appropriation for the Ministry for Health as approved.
- f. Appropriation for the Ministry for Justice Courts and Administration was approved.
- g. Appropriation for the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment was approved.

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

The Member for Aana Alofi No.3 stated that there appears to be a discrepancy between figures. For example, Output 4 provides for an appropriation of

\$949,247.00 for land technical services, however the amount provided for in the Budget is different.

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

The Member for Faleata West assured TOEOLESULUSULU that the figures contained in the Bill and the Budget are the same. He stated that even if there were differences in the outputs, the total amounts are the same.

h. Appropriation for the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment was approved.

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

LEVAOPOLO suggested that the Fire Services issue licenses for items which require fire and safety approval, as a means of additional revenue.

**viii. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that this would be a beneficial venture and could possibly be considered.

i. Appropriation for the Ministry for Police and Prisons was approved.

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

The Member queried whether the national orchestra was still active to which the Hon PRIME MINISTER replied that it was.

j. Appropriation for the Ministry for the Prime Minister and Cabinet was approved.

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

The Member queried why it appeared as if there was a decrease of estimates earned from imports as opposed to previous years.

xi. ***AFUALO Wood Uti Salele, Salega***

The Member stood to respond in his capacity as a Committee member and stated that this decrease in revenue was due to the various conferences Samoa has hosted in recent years.

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

The Member noted that the difference was substantial, 2 million to be exact.

k. Appropriation for the Ministry for Revenue was approved.

xiii. ***LELAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West***

The Member queried whether the name of the Ministry will be reviewed as it does not simply deal with “women’s” issues but also youth issues and issues relating to males.

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

The Member noted that there appeared to be a substantial debt for Press and Printing and the appropriations are also substantial. He queried what was being done to address this issue.

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

Hon PALUSALUE queried Output 2 (Ministerial support). He questioned the reason behind the increased appropriation for personnel (from 114,000 to 130,000).

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

The Hon Minister stated that a change to the Ministry's name is unnecessary as it is already all inclusive. In terms of the printing issue, he noted that an explanation was given for this earlier. The Government has allotted funds to support the printing press as it is an essential support service to the Government. Cabinet has directed the MoF to work with the MWCSO to resolve its existing debt. In terms of personnel, for services to be improved there should be enough staff to accommodate the growing international visitors to Samoa.

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

The Leader of the Opposition noted that the Hon Minister's response is an indication that he does not understand the budget. He stated that there needs to be a separate appropriation to account for the hosting of international guests.

- I. Appropriation for the Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development was approved.

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

The Member commented on VAGST totalling 7 million and noted it was a Government grant. He further noted that an appropriation was allotted for the upper airspace in excess of 900,000; however, this is not included in this year's Budget.

**xix. Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga, Palauli i le Falefa**

Hon FAUMUINA noted that 7 million has been allotted for the payment of VAGST to the EPC. This is the Government's attempt to lower the costs of electricity bills for the public.

- m. Appropriation for the Ministry for Works, Transport and Infrastructure was approved.
- n. Appropriation for the Attorney General's Office was approved.
- o. Appropriation for the Electoral Office was approved.
- p. Appropriation for the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly was approved.
- q. Appropriation for the Ombudsman Office was approved.
- r. Appropriation for the Public Service Commission was approved.

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

LEVAOPOLO noted that 60,000 has been appropriated for a "human rights survey" and queried which specific human right this survey is intended for. The Hon Prime Minister responded that it was a survey for "any right[s]".

**xxi. AFUALO Wood Uti Salele, Salega**

The Member for Salega clarified that this survey is under the Samoa Bureau of Statistics as part of its role under the new Statistics Act.

**xxii. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

In response to several Members raising issues of who (Government or the Opposition) is responsible for clarifying budget details, the Hon PRIME MINISTER stated that the Government will respond when the Committee cannot.

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

The Member again queried which human right(s) the survey was for to which the Hon PRIME MINISTER responded that it was for "any human right[s]".

- s. Appropriation for the Bureau of Statistics was approved.
- t. Appropriation for the Samoa Law Reform Commission was approved.

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

The Member queried the actual cost to build a fence as a solution to the continued escape attempts by prison inmates.

**xxv. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that there is a proposal to relocate the current prison to 500 acres of land at Tanumalala. Here, a suitable fence will be constructed which will be similar to the “tower of Babel”. The land boundaries for the prison have been laid and construction will commence at the end of the year.

- u. Appropriation for the Ministry of Prisons and Corrections Services was approved.

Total Appropriations were approved and the Schedules were approved as part of the Bill. Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were approved as well as Clause 1 and the Title. The Bill progressed without amendments.

**5. APPROPRIATION BILL 2015/2016 – Third Reading**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion that the Appropriation Bill 2015/2016 be read a third time which was approved by the Assembly. The Question was put and the Bill was read a third time. Mr Speaker noted that the Budget has passed the Assembly and the House applauded.

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion that Standing Order 100(1) be set aside to permit all Bills which are to be first read today, to be second read tomorrow. The motion was approved by the Assembly.

**6. NATIONAL PROSECUTION OFFICE BILL 2015 – First Reading**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion for the Bill to be first read; the motion was approved. The Question was put and the Bill was read a first time.

**7. BROADCASTING AMENDMENT BILL 2015 – First Reading**

The Hon Minister of Communication, Information and Technology moved a motion for the Bill to be first read; the motion was approved. The Question was put and the Bill was read a first time.

**8. VILLAGE FONO AMENDMENT BILL 2014 – First Reading**

The Minister for Women, Community and Social Development moved a motion that the Bill be first read; the motion was approved. The Question was put and the Bill was read a first time.

**9. COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE BILL 2014 – Consideration in Detail**

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Committee Report has to be tabled and approved by the Assembly. The Assembly approved the Report.

Amendments were put forward to Clauses 2 and Clause 2(1) for the Samoan version. Both Clause 2 and its amendment were approved. Clauses 3 and 4 were approved. Clause 5 was approved with the Committee's amendment and correction. Clauses 6, 7, 8 and 9 were approved. Clause 10 was approved with the Committee's amendment and correction to the Samoan version. Clause 10 was approved with the Committee's amendment and correction. Clauses 11, 12, 13 and

14 were approved. Clause 15 was approved with the Committee's amendment and correction. Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 were approved. Clause 23 was approved with the Committee's amendment and correction.

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

The Leader of the Opposition noted that there have been a lot of amendments to the Bill and queried whether this was due to poor drafting skills.

**xxvii. TUISA Tasi Patea, Sagaga Le Falefa, Committee Chair**

TUISA noted that the Bill is important and that after thorough investigation by the Committee, these amendments were put forward.

Clause 24 with the Committee's amendment and correction was approved.

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

The Member suggested that the Bill pass the Assembly as many of the Member's do not have copies of the Bill before them for reference.

**xxix. Mr SPEAKER**

Mr Speaker noted that the folders containing all the relevant Bills were distributed to Members at the Pre-sitting briefing; therefore, all Members should have their Bills with them.

Clause and the Title of the Bill were approved with the Committee's corrections.

## **10. MEDIA COUNCIL BILL 2014 – Consideration in Detail**

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the Committee report on the Bill must first be approved by the Assembly.

**xxx. AGAFILI Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa, Palauli West, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chair of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee.**

AGAFILI moved a motion that the Assembly approve the Committee's report; the motion was approved. The Assembly then considered the Bill in Detail.

Clauses 2 – 11 were approved; Clause 12 was approved with the Committee's amendments and correction. Clauses 12-31 were approved.

**xxxii. LEALAILEPLE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West**

The Member noted that the purpose of the Bill is to establish a Media Council; therefore the issue is whether there is an existing association. Furthermore, is there a provision within the Bill which requires all media representatives to be part of this Council?

**xxxiii. AGAFILI Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa, Palauli West, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chair of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee.**

The Deputy Speaker noted that this Bill was part of the Government's attempt to unite media persons in Samoa. He noted that he attended a Media and Parliamentary meeting in India hosted by the IPU and the UN, and it became apparent that many countries do not have legislation to monitor their media.

**xxxiiii. LEALAILEPLE Rimoni Aiafi, Faleata West**

LEALAILEPULE noted the Opposition supported the law. The concern was, however, that once enacted, the law cannot be enforced.

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

The Leader of the Opposition noted that the Bill is to ensure the establishment of the Media Council but raised concerns as to how this may be enforced when there appears to be no support for a journalist's association.

**xxxv. Hon PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PRIME MINISTER noted that there are only a few journalists who have yet to join the Media Council.

**xxxvi. Mr SPEAKER**

Mr Speaker directed Members to see Clause 32 which makes it a requirement for all media persons to be "admitted to the bar of the media association".

**Proceedings were suspended at 8:45pm.**