

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament of Wednesday 12th August 2015. 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 Wednesday 12th August 2015, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2015

TIME: 9:10am

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (No.3) BILL 2015 – debate on the second reading continued.

i. MAUALAIVAO *Pat Ah Him, Individual Voters*

MAUALAIVAO noted that he now represents the Urban Seat, not Individual voters.

ii. TOEOLESULUSULU *Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi No.3*

The Member queried why MAUALAIVAO referred to himself as a representative of the Urban seat when the roll has not yet become effective. TOEOLESULUSULU sought clarification from the Chair.

iii. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West

LEALAILEPULE interjected and stated that Members for the Individual Voters roll no longer have seats as the electoral boundaries have been changed.

iv. Mr Speaker

The Speaker (*Deputy Speaker AGAFILI Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa*) informed the House that the MAUALAIVAO is still a representative for Individual Voters.

v. MAUALAIVAO Pat Ah Him, Individual Voters

MAUALAIVAO spoke in support of the amendments and expressed his gratitude to the responsible Minister. He noted that the new conditions set out in the Bill will ensure all candidates abide by the electoral rules. In regards to on-going debate as to the definition of *tautua*, the Member offered his own definition: *tautua* is one's *current* service to the village. He stated that to avoid confusion, one must not take into account past services rendered by one's ancestors. In terms of the registration system, the Member asserted that the amendments will improve the current system. Furthermore, he noted his approval for permitting the public to register to vote in their place of residence.

vi. Hon LEAUEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, Member for Aana Alofi No.1

Hon LEAUEPE stated that in his opinion, there are were additional amendments which he had expected but are not included; perhaps due to the fact the Ministry did not find them appropriate for the upcoming General Elections. The Member stated the proposed amendments to be made to the Electoral Act will result in an increase in the number of women representatives in Parliament.

In terms of *tautua*, Hon LEAUEPE stated that service begins during one's adolescence, resulting in the bestowal of a matai title. The Member stated that

candidature eligibility should extend to those matai who were bestowed with titles 2.5 years before general elections. The Member noted that this was his personal interpretation of the 3 year village service requirement, which is also applicable to candidates of the Urban Roll.

vii. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Safata

The Member queried whether Hon LEAUPEPE was making a speech in reply to his comments from Tuesday. He then stated that the amendment to the *Constitution Amendment (No.2) 2013* permitted the increase of women representation in Parliament at the upcoming general elections. However, the provision for the 3 year village service appears to be an attempt to discourage women from running for elections.

viii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister noted that in his speech, the Hon LEAUPEPE alluded to the fact that *all* women who live in villages perform *tautua* and *monotaga*; however, he stated that there are women who do not do either.

ix. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Safata

Hon PALUSALUE stated that the Hon Prime Minister was “digging up old history” as a means of diverting attention from the Bill at hand, which, in his opinion is to deter women from running for elections.

x. Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker informed the Leader of the Opposition to avoid making references to comments made from the previous sitting day. Furthermore, Hon LEAUPEPE was not specifically referring to the Leader of the Opposition in his remarks.

xi. Hon LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, Member for Aana Alofi No.1

The Member stated that it is the village's discretion as to which matai will gain their seat in Parliament. He stated that he supported the 3 year service clause in the Bill.

xii. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Member for Siumu

Despite various Select Committee recommendations not being included in the Bill, Hon TUUU noted his support for the Bill. One such recommendation was that Members should be liable to 5 years imprisonment if found guilty of a criminal offence. He noted that although the Courts impose imprisonment sentences for Members found guilty of electoral crimes, he was of the opinion that vacating that Member's seat in Parliament would suffice. He then acknowledged the various difficulties the public have faced in registering for the voters roll; particularly for those who reside in areas which do not have a Pulenu'u, such as Vailima.

xiii. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Minister for Women, Culture & Social Development and Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Hon Minister assured the Member for Siumu that the Ministry would address this issue for those villages without Pulenu'u.

xiv. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Member for Siumu

The Member suggested that the Ministry appoint him as the Pulenu'u on account of the fact that most the people affected are from Siumu.

xv. LEFAU Harry Schuster, Member for Vaimauga West

The Member noted that, legally Vailima is urban but is a part of the Vaimauga Constituency. He suggested that the issue be taken to the Lands and titles for a resolution.

xvi. *Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters*

The Member clarified that those with kinship ties to Siumu who hold matai titles, are permitted to vote for their constituency or the constituency in which they reside. However, the requirement for those who are untitled is that they must register to vote for the Constituency in which they reside.

xvii. *Hon MANUALESAGALALA Enokati Posala, Minister for Works, Transport & Infrastructure and Member for Safata*

The Hon Minister stated that the area in question should be part of the Safata Constituency as they neighbour each other.

xviii. *Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Member for Siumu*

The Member elaborated further on the discussion of Siumu land and stated that the lands in question are in fact part of Tuamasaga. He asserted that the constituency is of the opinion that these lands be registered as freehold land, whereby their residents will vote for the Urban constituency. He suggested that this be taken into consideration for any future amendments.

xix. *Hon GATOLOAIFAANA Amataga Alesana-Gidlow, Member for Faasaleleaga No.1*

GATOLOAIFAANA spoke in support of the Bill. She noted her initial concern over suggestions that the Bill will discourage women from running for elections. However, upon hearing the various submissions made by her male colleagues, she is confident that they support the increase of women membership in Parliament. She then stated that she was confident women would meet the 10% threshold and in fact, surpass it.

**** TUFUGA Gafualeata Faitua, Member for Vaisigano No.1: The comments made by the Member for Vaisigano No.1 have not been included, as they were found to be contextually out of place in terms of the provisions that were under discussion at the time. ****

xx. FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers Ah Kau, Member for Gagaifomauga No.1

FAIMALOTOA noted her support for the Bill. She reassured Members who were concerned at regaining their seats post 2016 general elections and stated that all work enacted effectively will be met with success. She then encouraged women to support the work in their respective villages, particularly those women who hold matai titles and wish to run for the upcoming elections.

Proceedings were adjourned at 10:10am due to a power outage.

Proceedings reconvened at 11:05am.

- **MR SPEAKER** informed the House that proceedings could not continue due to the power outage.

Proceedings were adjourned at 11:10am to reconvene on Thursday, 13th August 2015 at 9:00am.