

DAY 1: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
TIME: 9am

## I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

### 1. Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 and Finance & Expenditure Committee Report P.P. 2014/2015, No. 189

#### A. Debates relevant to the Bill.

#### 1) *Susuga PAPALIIIioTaeuMasepau, Member of FAASALELEAGA NO. 2*

- The Member raised the alleged unpaid allowances for the Ministry of Police during the SIDS Conference, the difficulties for the business community in using customary land and reallocation of other funds.

a. The Member noted the reduction from the SIDS Conference of \$2.6 million and suggested as to why it cannot be used to fund the allowances for the Ministry of Police and Prisons during the SIDS Conference, as officers have allegedly not been paid for their services during the conference.

- Interjection by the Prime Minister – corrected the Member in that allowances have been paid to Police Officers that were active in the SIDS Conference according to the documentations he received. The Prime Minister clarified that instructions have been given to the Ministry of Finance where Department Heads will oversee this process.

b. Ministry of Finance – The Member supported the funds appropriated in upgrading the Airport as it is the first point of access to overseas travellers. However, the Member noted that a Minister is responsible over various Ministries and SOEs that have funds set aside for them. The Member recommended that these

funds appropriated to their office and should instead go towards building an office of the Associate Minister for the responsible Minister.

- Interjection by the Leader of Opposition – the Leader raised an amount of \$700,000 that went into refurbishing the former Minister of Finance’s office in the Plaza followed by a short debate between the Leader and the Prime Minister.

c. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment – The Member noted the appropriation given for the Land Technical Services and the rising issue towards customary land where business owners wish to purchase these lands but it cannot be done as customary land is protected under Law. The Member recommended a separate category for land that can be purchased by the Business community.

- Interjection by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment – Customary land used for commercial purposes can only be leased and not purchased. If the landowners wish to lease their customary land that is under their discretion.

d. Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration – The Member requested if the funds appropriated under the Ministry could be used to rebuild and repair the Tuasivi Court House as it could no longer accommodate larger numbers of people during proceedings.

**2) AfioaLAFATELEPatrickLeिताualesa, Member of ALATAUA WEST**

a. The Member requested the Ministry of Education to repair the Falelima Primary School building.

- Interjection by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture – there is no vote item for the Ministry of Education and nor in the Supplementary Estimates.

**3) TofaAVEAUNikotemoPalamo, Member of FALEATA EAST**

- The Member looked into matters concerning the misuse of government property in the Electric Power Corporation and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

b. Electric Power Corporation –There was a Committee Recommendation for the Corporation to install solar panels and these are currently under construction in Faleolo, however, the Member believes that employees are selling copper wires illegally and wondered as to how this initiative would assist Samoa in the long run.

- Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The matter that involved employees selling copper wire illegally is under investigation. The matter regarding solar energy was that by 2017 there was sufficient renewable energy for Samoa. The feasibility of this project is constantly monitored and is under the Regulator. As well as the Wind Energy project where it is currently under construction in Tuanaimato.

- Interjection by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance – Cabinet has issued instructions to investigate the misuse of copper wires.

- Point of Order – Speaker instructed the Member to move onto other matters as the current matter raised is under investigation

c. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – the Member raised a recommendation given by the Finance Committee regarding livestock and queried as to how many Farmers from Upolu and Savaii are in the SSEB scheme. The Member wonders as to how funds are limited and as to how much was spent.

d. Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration - Fees mentioned in the previous Estimates have increased by 100%, fees for registering a Matai title is now \$100 where it was previously \$40. The Member asked that the Minister reconsider and whether there is a formula for carrying out these increases. As well as a base fee for the increase of these prices.

e. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment – The Member noted that air condition units have been freely distributed where more than 30 units were given to an individual. The Member recommended that a list be tabled into Parliament containing the names of individuals, Ministries, Corporations and the amount of air condition units given. This information should be made public given the contribution made by the whole of Samoa during the SIDS conference. He believes the Clergy should be the first to benefit from free air condition distributions.

- Interjection by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment – These units were given to selected people

for climate change purposes and within the Government Ministries and Corporations. These units are distributed in exchange of using old units so as to decrease the production and exposure of hazardous gas. This is a part of the TACC Project.

f. Immigration – the process in approving Visas is difficult.

- Interjection by the Prime Minister/Minister of Finance – Australian Visas are handled in Fiji as part of its Government’s policy and is outside the jurisdiction of the Government of Samoa.

g. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – The Member noted that entrance exams still exist for Government Schools (Samoa College and Avele College) when there was previously an initiative to discontinue this practice.

- Interjection by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture – The plan to develop Rural Schools is still ongoing where students are encouraged to attend their Constituent schools. The Year Eight National Examination has been removed to minimize elitism and discrimination amongst students. This decision was in line with the aim to harness the academic abilities of students within their own districts so as to avoid urban overcrowding and student inflation for these schools. Quality education should be equal and made available to all colleges within each Zone. However, Zones have yet to be finalized.

h. The Member requested for the installation of water pipes in Papaseea.

**B. Debates****1) TofaTUSAMisiTupuola, Member of FALEALILI**

- a. The Member requested that LTA reinforce their defensive driving courses and that programs be in place to monitor gas emissions of vehicles. The Member also requested that the Ministry Natural Resources and Environment to ensure the protection of the water catchment area in the Constituency.

**2) TofaFAGAAIVALUKenrickSamu, Member of ALEIPATA ITUPA I LUGA**

- a. The Member appealed for the installation of street lights and water pipes for continuous and uninterrupted access.
- b. The Member requested for Landfill or a designated area to dump rubbish as many residents dump rubbish around their land since rubbish collection has been inconsistent.
- c. The Member stated that 6 students from Aleipata College have gained entry into Foundation Year and has thus requested additional teachers as tertiary level students receive tutorials in urban areas. Upon a point of clarification by the Minister of Education as to what subjects are needed for teachers, the Member clarified that English and Science teachers are needed.
- d. The Member acknowledged the work carried out by the Ministry of Police and Prisons during the festive season. In addition, to requesting that Lalomanu Outpost be

refurbished due to multiple leaks caused by heavy rainfall.

**3) *AfiogaTUFUGAGafoaleataFaitua, Member of VAISIGANO NO.1***

- a. The Member requested for the installation of water pipes and street lights needed for access roads within the Constituency. These streetlights are needed so as to avoid crimes from occurring. As well as repair works needed on tar roads.
- b. To construct a Court House to avoid lengthy travelling to Tuasivi.
- c. Improve Television access due to the upcoming All Blacks game and the Sevens Tournament.

**4) *AfiogaMUAGUTUTAGATA Peter Ah Him, Member of SAGAGA LE USOGA***

- a. The Member appealed for repair works on the road towards Aleisa including the access roads in Afega, Malie and Vailoa connecting to Nuu.
- b. The Member noted the drop in fuel prices and asked for consideration in removing surcharge due to the drop in cost of fuel used for diesel engines. The member also asked as to why the cost of electricity is expensive, if the Corporation would consider alternatives in minimizing this cost.
  - Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – the Minister clarified that the surcharge has been removed. The Electric Power Corporation and

the Regulator are currently working in monitoring this cost for the next three years.

- c. The Member noted the number of contradicting health advertisements on television and requested for a review of broadcasting standards. He noticed how smoking and tobacco campaigns have been heavily censored whereas beer companies have free reign and questioned this discrepancy.

**5) TofaTUILEUTUALavaaVoi, Member of FAASALELEAGA NO. 3**

- a. The Member noted the cost of food and draws on the box of chicken as an example where it was previously \$65 and is now \$79.
- b. The Member also requested the construction of access roads for the Constituency and repair work for current roads already constructed.

**6) TofaLEVAOPOLOTalatonu, Member ofGAGAEMAUGA NO. 2**

- a. The Member beseeched that the Minister reconsider the cost of airfares as the Member noted that the most expensive route is from Apia to Auckland. Although the business community benefits from the cost of airfares, the general public suffers from these costs as they travel on family obligations.
- b. The maintenance of roads from Faleolo to Apia
- c. The Member noted the current process in meeting the target of renewable energy starting from 2007. It is a long process where a request to China takes 2 – 4 months, 8 or more



months to manufacture and 1 month to ship. There are 6 Companies that are handling these constructions. The Fualausou System is one such example where 2.2 megawatts were monitored; however, a previous visitation revealed that not a single mega watt was met. The member recommended that solar panels be inspected in order to meet the mega watts required.

- Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – New Zealand has carried out 2.2 megawatts within four months. If the work is carried according to the terms, timeframe will be met.
- Prime Minister – There are 14 Companies that bid for this project. The responsible Minister shall distribute it between 14 Companies as a backup measure if one company fails to meet the criteria.

**7) Afioga AFOAFOUVALE John Moors, Member of PALAULI**

- a. The Member requested for a sports field as well as repair works for access roads in Vailoa.

**8) Afioga MAUALAIVAO Pat Ah Him, INDIVIDUAL VOTERS**

- a. Ministry of Police – The member acknowledged the work done on a daily basis and other operations.
- b. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Member requested repair works to be done on roads in Alamagato, Vaitoloa, Aleisa, Moamoa and Palisi.
- c. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment – The Member drew the attention of the Minister to the shores in

Mapufagalelewhere there is considerable soil erosion due to rise in sea level and asked for repair work to be carried out.

- d. Ministry of Education – The Member acknowledged the administration of rural and urban schools and also supported the Minister’s viewpoint to avoid discrimination however, the Member sought clarification as to the allocation of schools.
  - e. Airport – The Member also raised the subject of much needed upgrade for the Airport and acknowledged the Government’s initiative to carry it out.
- Debates interrupted upon adjournment with the MP taking the floor to resume his speech 21/1/2015