

JANUARY
2015

PARLIAMENTARY SITTING SUMMARY

DAY 2: Wednesday 21st January
TIME: 9am

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 – Resumption debate on second reading

A. Debates

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

- a. The Member resumed his speech from yesterday where he acknowledged the Prime Minister's clarification on the allegations of the International Airport being bought by the Government of China.
 - Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Prime Minister clarified that the Airport will not be purchased by the Government of China and is an enterprise that is solely under the Government of Samoa. The Prime Minister acknowledged the assistance received from the Government of China as well as the Government of Japan where their partnership has made the completion of many infrastructural works possible, for instance, school buildings, the National Hospital, TATTE building etc.
 - Interjection by the Leader of Opposition–The Speaker clarified and overruled the Leader's point of order.
 - Interjection by TUUU Anasii Leota followed by a short heated debate between the Member and the Prime Minister over rules of debate with points of interjections.
- b. Ministry of Health – the Member recommended that the public take preventable measures to withstand the current heat wave by utilising fans and if possible air condition units as allegedly distributed by MNRE

- Interjection by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment – The Minister raised a point of order and stated that air condition units are freely distributed for research purposes as stipulated under the TACC project. This project also assisted with the SIDS Conference by enabling these units to be utilised in the SIDS venues.

2) Tofa TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Schuster, Aana Alofi No.1

- a. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – To provide a school bus to transport Aana Alofi No.1 College students who reside in Faleasiu, Falelatai and Samatau. The Member recalled that it has been two years since his appeal to improve the Sports Field and requested for the Minister's attention into this matter.
- b. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – To repair access roads for inland residences and plantations particularly in Fasitoo Tai.
- c. Ministry of Finance – the Member acknowledged the role that the Ministry has carried out especially towards the Supplementary Appropriation as well as the support from overseas donors.
- d. Electric Power Corporation – The Member emphasised the importance of solar energy and recommended that a separate body be set up to efficiently utilise this energy as there is only one energy service provider (i.e. Electric Power

Corporation). The Member has noted the increasing cost of electricity and recommended that these costs be made affordable. The Member compared tariffs for fuel (50 cents) and solar energy (60 cents) and wondered as to how this energy is cheaper.

- Interjection by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment – Under a point of clarification the Minister disputed the figures and stated that the Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the National Energy Coordinating Committee. This Committee monitors all policies and potential projects regarding energy resources and there is no need for a separate body.
- Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Prime Minister further clarified the comments made by the Minister and stated that there is an ongoing program that regulates submissions from energy providers and energy source implementation.
- Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Minister responded to the matter regarding energy efficiency and stated that the Power Sector Expansion Project established in 2008 at Fiaga, has seen many changes and is an initiative that involves many Ministries and Corporations. The Minister stated that this project has much to go in terms of preparation before it can be implemented. The Minister clarified that percentages are in place which determine fuel pricing and is outside the control of the

Government of Samoa. A tariff was also prepared and is currently overseen by the Regulator.

- Interjection by the Prime Minister – further clarified the comments made by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure that there are two stages in the Project. The first stage is that Shale oil is being extracted. In time the country will slowly begin to use this oil instead of bio-fuel. The costs will also begin to fall once there are more producers for this type of oil. The Prime Minister noted that fuel cost is a problem often met by Samoa’s economy. The Prime Minister stated that Samoa is the only Pacific Island state that purchases oil cheaply and this is due to the process set by the Government so that petrol is affordable.
 - Followed by the short debate between Levaopolo Talatou, Papalii Lio, Leader of Opposition, Lealailepule, Minister of Communication, Information Technology and the Prime Minister.
- e. Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration – the Member noted the recent launch of the National Broadband in the Ministry and commented on its wide-ranging uses that could be applied elsewhere. For instance, the Member suggested the benefits of telecourting as well as direct access to hospital and electoral records for registration purposes.

3) Tofa TUUU AnasiiLeota, Member of Siumu

- a. The Member apologized for his earlier non-compliance of the Standing Orders by disregarding the Speaker's ruling in his continued debate with the Prime Minister.
- Interjection by the Prime Minister – Under a point of clarification the Prime Minister stated that Members can only make an interjection against other Members taking the floor but not against another's Member's interjection on same.
- b. Airline – The Member stated that Samoa is geographically isolated from other countries which results in expensive airfares. The Member recommended that Polynesian Airlines be re-established as Virgin Samoa (Main Airline) often delays its flights.
- Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Prime Minister clarified that there are plans in place to improve the services of the Airline as well as the Airport.
- c. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Member was saddened by the Minister's refusal to have a meeting as he stated that not a single road in Siumu has been tar sealed in this Parliamentary Term. Furthermore, that Maninoa was in dire need of an access road whereas four roads have been constructed in Safata. The Member also noted that up to 2 yards of the water pipe in Falealili is damaged which could affect the public's access to water and has requested for its repair.

- Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure - Upon a point of clarification the Minister stated that he received a delegation from Siumu but has explained that the Ministry allocates funds according to a set programme for tar sealing access roads all over Samoa.

Proceedings in the Maota were suspended for its usual morning break

2. Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 continued

4) *Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevaga, Member of Faasaleleaga No. 4*

- The Member requested for construction of access roads, seawall as well as school building for constituency.

a. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure -

The Member noted that from a request put forth to the Minister earlier on in the year for construction of access roads, one is complete with one still in the pipelines. Furthermore, the Member noted that one congregation of his Constituency had to be relocated inland due to rising tide. Requested if a seawall can be constructed. Also the Member noted the cement road at Lano which needs to be repaired.

b. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture –

The Member requested for financial assistance to build a school for his Constituency, he noted that aid was provided from overseas donors, however, due to other priority projects of the donors. Aid was no longer provided.

5) Afioga FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaia Ah Kau-Stowers, Member of Gagaeifomauga No. 1

- The Member delivered her maiden speech and made the following constituent requests:
 - a. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Member requested for access road improvement for Safee, Manase and Matavanu this will allow simple access to main road as well as an alternative route during natural disasters.
 - b. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – The Member requested for a sports field and acknowledged the Minister of Education for prioritizing this request.
 - c. Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology – Request for extension of Bluesky cable to cover whole constituency, as well as, setting SchoolNet so that teachers and students are able to connect to other schools.

6) Afioga TUISA Tasi Patea, Member of Sagaga le Falefa

- The Member acknowledged works carried out for the Constituency which included repairing of roads at Faleula and Tafaigata plus water access which included Levi, these were just a few request fulfilled but the Government in addition to others.
 - a. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – the Member acknowledged programmes that are being carried specially continuous work done in order to improve export of taro to New Zealand

- b. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – acknowledged programmes conducted by the Ministry and recommended that teachers should provide adequate quality of teaching to support these programmes.
- c. Ministry of Health – acknowledged improvements in the Hospital, however, there could be further improvements with regards to the service and medical bills.
- d. Head of Departments – the Member acknowledges services provided by Public Servants for the development of Samoa. However, the Member did raise the issue regarding salary and wages, and the disparity between some scaled salaries and sought reviews thereof.

**7) Afioga LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Faafisi Apulu, Member of AANA ALOFI
No. 1**

○ *The Member acknowledged the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in improving its services with export of taro and making certain that there is a solution for cocoa and copra which were infected by pests. Also to the Ministry of Police, and the Minister for continually ensuring the protection of the people of Samoa.*

- a. *Samoa Tourism Authority – need to repair trail at Tusitala as it is a tourist destination and a popular hiking track.*
- b. *Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – repair tar seal of roads.*

Parliamentary proceedings adjourned to resume at 3:00pm.