

DAY 3: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015  
TIME: 9am

## I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

### A. Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1) 2014/2015 – resumption debate

#### 1) *Afioga AFUALO Wood Salele, Member of SALEGA*

- a. Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Emergency Services –  
The Member does not agree with the proposal to relocate the Fire Station to Saleilua however, he maintained that it is a necessary service needed by the eastern part of Savaii.
- b. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Member requested for repair work on access roads and installation of water pipes for better accessibility in Sagone. The Member recommended that the Minister look into developing the Asau port as a former prosperous commercial site for the eastern part of Savaii.
- c. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - The Member brought the attention of the Minister to flooding problems often experienced by his constituents and asked for the Minister's response into the matter. The Member requested for the construction of a seawall to protect neighbouring residents.
- d. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – The Member noted that need for more teachers in Savaii and to hold seminars on Maths courses due to the overwhelming poor Maths scores of High School student which would affect them in the long run.
  - Interjection by the Minister of Education - The

that it has met their standards. consulted the University; they are pleased with the results and

- Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Ministry has looked into reassessing teachers’ capability in teaching Maths. Also, taken into account the constituencies’ demand for quality teachers.
- e. Ministry of Health – The Member acknowledged the complete upgrade of Motootua Hospital but wondered whether there is funding to upgrade the district hospital in Tuasivi, where facilities are under equipped and outdated.
  - Interjection by the Minister of Health – The Minister revealed that there are plans to upgrade the Tuasivi Hospital. The inspection showed that new beds, air condition units for rooms and rooms to isolate patients with infectious diseases are needed. In addition are plans to upgrade the Outpatient Unit, Accident and Emergency Services, providing X-ray machines, dialysis and the mortuary. The Minister also stated that the location of the new hospital will shift to Satupaitea.
- f. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – The Member queried whether the Ministry has met the 20% GDP contribution target and acknowledged the positive growth in agriculture.
- g. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development – The Member directed the attention of

the Minister in reconsidering the allowance for sui o nuu.

- h. Ministry of Public Enterprises – The Member acknowledged the Ministry’s attempts to commercialize its assets, like the SLC Lodge in Lelata, but recommended that this venture be placed before the Private Sector.

**2) Tofa MOTUOPUAA Aisoli Vaai, Member of VAISIGANO NO. 2**

- a. The Member commented on the poor Maths scores of High School students despite the examination being set by lecturers and professors. The Member noted that currently 90% of Fiji scholarship students are in the Arts field. (Noted that Samoa College has a known Science program).
  - Interjection by the Minister of Education – The Minister queried whether the Member wished to reverse the policy in place in overlooking students’ weakness in Maths.
  - Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Prime Minister queried whether the Member implied that the policy and work currently implemented by the Ministry was futile. The Member replied to both queries by stating that the Ministry’s focus of resolving this issue is erroneous.
- b. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Member referred to his written appeal for repair works on access roads and the installation of

street lights to accompany the new district hospital. The Member requested for the upgrading of the police outpost, district college, hospital and port in a once thriving constituency.

**3) Afioga Hon AEAU Leavaseeta, Member of FALEALUPO**

- a. The Deputy Leader of Opposition supported the \$10 million grant in the Supplementary Appropriation and noted that much of it is used for developments. Deputy Leader emphasised the important function of the Chamber where decisions and policies originate from and are approved of.
- b. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Deputy Leader requested for water access (improve water pump), construction of access roads as there is only one tar sealed road in the Constituency but reiterated that the road to the district school is anecessity. The Deputy Leader queried as to what developments can be done for the Constituency's water source.

**4) Afioga Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Member of SAFATA**

- a. The Leader of Opposition stated his support of the Supplementary Appropriation and noted that the sum is from national reserves and donor funds.
  - Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Prime Minister raised a point of order and asked the Leader to make direct and correct statements.

He stated that the Leader should be aware of development processes and timeframes since the Leader was a former Cabinet Minister. A heated debate followed soon after between the Leader and Prime Minister.

- Interjection by the Minister of Women, Community & Social Development and Levaopolo Talatonu on the term “misguide” that is often used by the Leader of Opposition.

b. The Leader of Opposition remarked on the excessive expenditure that went into the Associate Ministers’ offices in the SNPF Plaza

- Interjection by Peseta Vaifou – The Member stated that there are offices provided for Members of Parliament which are also used by Associate Ministers.
- Interjection by Tuisa Tasi Patea – The Member stated that he is one of four Associate Ministers supporting the Prime Minister. These offices were built to be in closer proximity to the Prime Minister to assist with their associate duties. The MTEA is to be avoided as it is a place where the Leader of Opposition allegedly stirs up trouble (tafu le afi) . Followed by a heated debate between the Member and the Leader with an interjection by TuuuAnasiiLeotaon the allegation.

Proceedings adjourned for its usual recess at 10:45am

- Interjection by the Prime Minister – Upon a point of order the Prime Minister clarified that the allocation for Associate Ministers is for fuel and stationery. Part of the allocation is for his own travelling costs on state trips. The entire amount therefore is not solely for the expenses of the Associates.
- Interjection by Lafaitale, Papaliitele and Levaopolo as the Members commented on (tafu ai le afi). The Speaker instructed the removal of the phrase (tafuai le afi) from the hansard.

**1) Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, INDIVIDUAL VOTERS**

- a. The Chairperson acknowledged the Ministry of Finance's preparation of the Supplementary Appropriation and accredited the assistance of all concerned with the preparation of the Finance and Expenditure Report.
- b. The Chairman stated that the Ministry of Revenue has a record of debts and suggested that in partnership with the LTA use the funds gathered from fining on the misuse of Government vehicles be used to resolve this debt.
- c. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – urgent repair work on an access road connected to the Main Island Road

- d. Individual Voters – The Chairman addressed his voters by assuring them that once the Electoral Bill as been passed, they will be voting for the urban seats

### **A. Government Responses**

#### **1) *Susuga Hon TUILAEPa Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF FINANCE***

- a. The Prime Minister congratulated the Members who spoke on the Supplementary Appropriation and acknowledged their recommendations. He stated that consultations took place regarding the appropriated sum of \$10 million, and indicated page IV in the Supplementary Estimates, which setout an overall plan for the use of this sum. He stated that it goes towards financing ongoing developments which are aimed at creating employment opportunities.
- b. The Prime Minister remarked that it is too costly to borrow from International Banks and explained why the Government borrows from International Organisations where interest rates are low with an extended period to payback the grant.
- c. The Prime Minister was upset by allegations of corrupt practices within Corporations and Ministries, and stated his attempt to address each claim. He stated that the Chief Auditor was made into a separate body from the Government so that it

could investigate finances of public bodies and ministries without repercussion. These findings can validate or refute stories created by the Media. The Prime Minister clarified, however, that the Chief Auditor can only perform this function once actuals for the Financial Year were approved. The Prime Minister concluded that these progressing developments help move Samoa forward and away from its Least Developing Status.

Proceedings adjourned at 1 pm and will resume at 3pm