

JANUARY
2015

PARLIAMENTARY SITTING SUMMARY

DAY 2: Thursday 22nd January
TIME: 3pm – 7pm

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY continued

1. Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 –

A. Government Response

1) *Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati, Minister of Police*

- The Minister in response to speeches of Members addressed issues relevant to the Bill as well as requests.
 - a. Savaii – the matter raised regarding K9 Unit operation between Upolu and Savaii. The Minister stated that there is an increase in transactions carried out at the wharf with trafficking of narcotics through passenger's bags or parcels. There are suspicions that for every raid that the Ministry has had in place, these raids are unsuccessful due to informants notifying drug dealers. Investigations are continuing regarding this matter.
 - b. Reckless driving – the Minister stated that this matter is handled by the Land Transport Authority, if it was not illegal it would be preferable that any vehicle that exceeds the speed limit be stoned, the Minister however stated that he is not legalizing such actions in response to interjection by Member of Faleata West.

- c. Minister confirmed that there are plans to build a Fire Service at Aleipata
- d. Outpost at Salailua and Salega – Minister stated that this request is once again taken under consideration, as it was brought before the Minister for the past five years.

2) Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA Enokati Posala, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

- The Minister addressed issues raised by Members regarding the Ministry and Corporation within his portfolio.
 - a. Reckless Driving – The Ministry is trialing the monitoring of cars involved in traffic accidents through GPS
 - b. Solar Energy – The Minister stated that there are companies that have signed contracts for the construction of solar panels. With 2.2 megawatts being installed and are used. As for renewable energy, there are also other companies that have signed contracts for the extraction of energy from renewable materials. There are plans set in place to use electricity from water, wind and diesel if there is a low supply of electricity from the sun. Furthermore, the Ministry is working together with IRENA to sustain the production of energy. A Smart System is set in place to monitor water and wind electricity, these are conducted by the Ministry of

Finance, Land Transport Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa Water Authority and Electric Power Corporation of which all are working under the National Energy Co-ordinating Committee (NECC). The Minister also noted that with fuel efficiency, the Government was able to save 7 million due to maintenance carried out every 4 months.

- Interjection by Member of Faleata East – The Member queried as to how this will be beneficial to public spending on electricity. The Minister clarified that the cost of fuel fluctuates overseas, however, the Regulator will be monitoring public spending on electricity for the next 3 years. Cost of electricity continues to increase, as it is used by the public as well as businesses. The Minister stated that all sectors must work hand in hand to achieve a better outcome.
 - Interjection by the Member of Faleata East and Leader of Opposition. There should be a future plan to determine the benefits of this plan to the public.
- c. Street lights – The Minister stated that an application should be lodged with the Corporation of which a survey is conducted. This application is considered by a Committee.

i. Interjection by Member of Faleata

West – acknowledged the process and requested for more cash power outlets.

The Minister stated that there are plans to set up an Office in Salelologa. Furthermore, the cash power project that was conducted in partnership with the National Bank of Samoa will end in March, whilst the Corporation is considering of entering into a partnership with other Banks.

- d. Samoa Ports Authority – The Government of Japan is assisting with repairs to the Matautu wharf, this will also include an extension of the wharf. As for the Asau wharf, a visitation was carried out in 2013 where findings revealed that the wharf is still up to standard.
- e. Airport – The Minister noted the requests to rebuild the Airport but emphasised that the Airport Authority's first priority is maintaining safety standards within the infrastructure.
- f. Samoa Water Authority – there is an access road at Sagone and an area has been cited for work to commence. Bore holes have also been drilled at Tapatapao to assist residences from Aleisa to Fasitoo Uta. Studies have been conducted for a

tentative catchment and water collection area for Vailima.

- g. Land Transport Authority – Routine maintenance are being set to take place during Financial Budgets in January and June. There were also contracted lawnmowers assigned to each zone, this was changed from one company for each 50 kilometres to 25kilometers for each company. Inspections are carried out every quarterly and reported to the Cabinet. The Minister further stated that there are projects for emergency remote access roads, however an inspection conducted by the Authority found that roads are damaged due to grass growing on the roads, however, it is the duty of the Sui o Nuu or Village Committee to maintain these roads.
- Interjection by Member of Aana Alofi No. 3 – The Member stated that debris runs off tar sealed roads and into drains causing blockage possible leading to floods and further damages roads.
- h. Samoa Shipping Corporation – For the Mulifanua wharf, markings and tar seals are underway.

3) Afioga Hon FAAMOETAULOA Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

a. Seawalls – Minister commented that response will only be given to request lodged in written form.

a. Interjection by Member of Gagaemauga No. 2 – the Member commented that request made in the House should be considered and given priority and not only applications

The Minister clarified that request have not been made before yet the Ministry needs to know these request so a survey can be conducted.

▪ Interjection by Member of Gagaemauga No. 2 – commented that the Minister should respond to request raised by Members of Parliaments in the House as this is the proper venue for voicing the needs of Constituencies. Follow up proposals can be done at a later point but initial requests voiced by Members should be heeded by the Minister.

The Minister explained that a survey is conducted by the Ministry on the effect on land, this will determine priority of these developments.

Furthermore, for Constituencies that have numerous requests, it is the duty of the Sui o Nuu and Member of Parliament to identify which project should be given priority, as each request is categorized according to priority.

b. Government Lands – Lands that are leased for development cannot be leased as a freehold land,

this is so land remains the property of the village and not resold.

- Interjection by Member of Faasaleleaga No. 2 – Member stated if possible to consider for future purposes having customary land leased as freehold land.
 - Interjection by Prime Minister – Customary land if sold is illegal, unless it for the purpose of the land being leased.
- c.** The Minister in response to a Members request stated that the transfer of land to one Corporation is being considered by Cabinet.
- d.** Robert Louis Trail – Minister stated that repair work to the trail has been done recently. However the request to have a drive way to the trail will defeat the purpose of the trail, being it is useful for health reasons such as exercise. However, this recommendation is taken under consideration by the Ministry.
- e.** Mangroves – During the SIDS conference a charter was signed to preserve mangroves. There are plans to have a competition between villages in order to assist with maintenance of mangroves.
- f.** Boreholes – water is hygienic, accessibility of villagers to the water holes.
- g.** Green Climate Fund - Fund made especially to mitigate climate change so that by 2020 this fund

would reach 100 billion USD. This fund is made especially for developing countries. The Ministry of Finance is spearheading this Fund. There are procedures that need to be prepared now, so that when this Project is carried out the proposal would be ready. The Pacific are included in this fund, proposals are drafted so that either Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment be the implementing entity.

Parliament Proceedings suspended for usual break at 4:45pm

4) *Afioga Hon MAGELE Mauiliu Magele, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture*

- a. New College for Falealupo, its is being considered but not sure as to when it will be done. The problem is that there are not enough teachers, furthermore the number of students for the college.
- b. Samoan language course is not for scholarship recipients in the University of Samoa, the purpose of the university is so that people are able to take Samoan and that when they graduate they have taken a Samoan course. It is not the intention to include Samoan for those awarded scholarships.
 - Interjection by the Member of Palauli Sisifo - Samoan language is not included in the selection of

overall marks for scholarships yet it is compulsory to take it at UPY, why not have it as an option since Auckland and Victoria University in New Zealand offer Samoan papers

Minister - priority is given to courses need like english and others, there is an option in making it important for our country.

c. Teachers - Teachers need for Aleipata Itupa i Luga, there are english teachers for this constituency.

d. Sports Fields - Palauli, visited the sports field at Palauli College and Vaipouli these fields are up to standards. Physical education such as rugby and others, it is up to the Principal and the Teachers, the Ministry is only involved in the Fiafia Sports project of which they only introduce the sports. U12 Rugby, the purpose of this program is that it will be implemented by the school. The Ministry is not involved in Sports Associations. The Ministry creates communication between Associations and the schools. Therefore the recommendation to establish a sports committee is not necessary.

- Interjection by Member of Aana Alofi No. 1 - request for sports field at the Aana Alofi No 1, this field has not been completed. From Faleasiu to Satapuala. The field used by the School for atheletics and other sports cannot be used given it is rocky. Development of sports clubs should have

an assistance, aside from Rugby and Soccer. A lot of athletes are not able to further develop skills beyond primary and secondary schools.

Minister - The Ministry facilities between the Association and the School for funds.

- d. Examination use to be set from Australia and New Zealand given that at the time there was limited staff. Examinations were set by them, marked by them as well as scaling the marks within the median. The problem with Maths and Science, was that scaling the marks meant that students has passed but there was still a problem with Maths and Science. University conducted a research from year 4 - year 13, the problem was teachers. The Government has identified this problem which is why priority has been given to salary of teachers as well as capacity building of teachers. 64 Scholarships have been given for teachers. Another problem is teachers who are skilled in Maths have retired.
- Interjection by Prime Minister - Re-hire teachers who are skilled in maths and science, do what must be done. This also affects Church schools, this process of scaling marks is not beneficial to anyone. This practice should be banned.

- Interjection by Member of Faleata West - from all subjects that were taken for examination the only problem was with Maths.
 - Interjection by Prime Minister - maths is compulsory for different professions, for doctors, engineers, auditors. Convey thanks to the Minister in prohibiting this practice.
 - Interjection by Leader of the Opposition - Introduce a bill to rehire retired teachers who are able to assist with this problem.
Minister - University is also addressing this issue. FOE has lifted its standards. There are policies by the University regarding entry marks to the University.
Negotiations with China and India that there will be teachers brought in to assist. Agreed with comment by Lealailepule that these teachers were committed.
- e. Rotation of Principals - this is based on a study for best practice as done in other countries. A principal does not work in one school for a long period, this will decrease commitment from Principals. A change of environment will assist. Relationship should not be developed between a Principal, School Committee and the Village it should be between Principal, Teachers and the students.

5) Afioga Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Minister of Health

- a. Comment by Member of Sagaga Usoga matter was raised by the UN to minimize Non-communicable diseases. In 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCD's, was given and from that time numerous countries have tried to deal with these diseases, but only through Political will this can be done. For the question raised, this is the sole purpose of SPAGHL, so that in any policy there should be a health initiative. SNAP - Smoking, Nutrition, Alcohol, Physical Exercise in order to minimize NCD's. In a survey conducted in 2003, Samoa is heading to 80% of its people being over-weight. Smoking is banned from advertisement in accordance with the Tobacco Control Act 2008 and regulation 2013 these are under the Ministry of Health, for enforcement. Alcohol is controlled by the Liquor Act and is administered by the Inland Revenue. The Law Reform Commission has been given a reference to draft report on alcohol being banned from advertising.
 - Interjection by Member of Faleata West - it is certain that there is an increase in NCD's the question is whether the programs done are effective. It all comes down to the approach.
- b. Broadband is also used in the health sector in order to achieve connectivity within the Hospital. There

are two ways of how the broadband is used. Cable is used in the urban areas and wireless for the rural areas. This system is in place for connection and communication this includes Tuasivi. This includes access to patient files, Cabinet has selected a Committee to examine the use of this system. The first system was set up in 1999, General Practitioners were given Computers in order to connect with the Hospital. If such a system is set up this will assist outpost hospitals. For matter raised by Deputy Speaker about having a permanent doctor. Beginning next year there will be about 40 qualified doctors and apprx 60 doctors.

▪ Interjection by Member of Faleata West - question on CT Scan it was planned to arrive in December however it is almost February. Priority should be given to the CT Scan no matter if it cost millions.

Minister stated negotiations are still underway for the acquisition of the CT scanner hoping for finalisation by end of January.

6) Afioga Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

- Minister stated that approximately 99.8% of Members have conveyed their thanks to the Ministry for work done.

- a. The Minister remarked on the Revitalize Agriculture Sector plan with the Ministry considering methods to motivate producers. Complaints were made to the Ministry but the Minister noted that these issues are slowly being addressed. In regards to food poverty, with the plan to increase harvest of crops and sustain.

Parliament Proceedings were suspended at 7:03pm to resume on Friday 23rd at 9am.