

JANUARY  
2015

## PARLIAMENTARY SITTING SUMMARY

DAY 4: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
TIME: 9am**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY continued****1. Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 –****A. Government Response****1) *Afioga Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries***

- a. Organic Farming – The Minister encouraged organic farming as it holds a higher market value than non-organic farming (use of pesticides) and drew on coconuts as a beneficial produce and cash crop to grow. He acknowledged the work of the Women in Business Organisation who are at the forefront in producing virgin coconut oil for export. He also stated that plans are in the pipeline for an overseas company to set up a virgin coconut oil factory in Samoa to meet export demands.
- b. Cyclone Recovery – The Minister stated that under the Cyclone Recovery Program expenses have been made in increasing awareness on advanced technology methods.
  - Interjection by the Member of Faleata East – The Member asked for clarification on expenditure under the Program. To which the Minister

responded that the exact sum spent was \$1 million and not \$30million

- Interjection by the Member of Aiga i le Tai – Under a point of clarification the Member queried whether the Program would include the wreckage of two fishing boats in Manono during Cyclone Evan. The Minister responded that the vessels needed to be registered legally for them to be covered under any assistance.

**2) Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua – Minister of Women, Community and Social Development**

- a. The Minister called on villages to maintain assets particularly access roads within their constituencies.
- b. The Minister made special mention of the Women in Business (NGO), as their work in the community contributed to the country's economy and noted growth. The Minister also expressed his gratitude of its close collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman.
- c. Cultural wealth – It is a Government initiative that knowledge in making *siapo*, *ie o le malo* and *ie iniini* are maintained. The Minister announced that 10 *ie iniini* were produced and met the threshold set by the Government.
- d. The Minister noted the importance of female government representatives in villages and stated

that the Ministry will look into increasing their allowances.

- Interjection by the Member of Siumu - the Member expressed his gratitude on the work carried out by the Minister.
- Interjection by the Member of Faleata West – The Member asked for the Minister’s attention on initiatives for Vaitele such as the freshwater pool at Vaitele tai. To which the Minister responded that all issues will be looked into, if time and finance permits.

**3) *Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA Sofara Aveau, Minister of Communication and Information Technology***

- a. National Broadband - The Minister stated that the launch of the National Broadband has reached the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration and all Ministries will soon have access to this service. The Minister stated that works are in progress to establish this service for the National Hospital and across all the district hospitals in the country. The Minister remarked on complications with this service as Digicel poles have interfered with the optic fibre cables to which the Ministry is currently working on.
- Interjection by the Member of Faleata West – The Member queried as to which body will overlook this service or would it be privatised? The Minister

responded by stating that the National Broadband is a government initiative but there are companies which will overlook this technical oversight.

- Interjection by the Member of Aana Alofi No. 3 – The Member queried as to whether training takes place for those who utilise and manage these services. Moreover, how this service will be maintained and whether there is a timeline for the completion of this project. The Minister responded that trainings are in place for the usage of the Broadband system, and a time limit has been set for its completion.
- b. Video Conferencing – The Minister noted the difficulty in establishing this service especially at a standard that can be used by the Health Department in dealing with urgent and confidential matters. The Minister explained that more time is needed to perfect the installation and delivery of this service.
- c. The Minister commented on television access issues for *Itu o Asau* that monitoring procedures are in place and noted that other channels except for TV1 have poor access throughout Savaii. The Minister stated that the Ministry is working at Tufutafoe to improve Savaii's access to these channels and will expect a report as to its progress this month.

- Interjection by the Member of Vaisigano No. 1 – The Member stated that there is no access to TV1 around 6pm and queried if further works can be done to improve this service. The Minister responded that this was also an issue currently looked at in Tufutafoe.
- d. Submarine Cable – it is a long process as it includes under sea installation. Completion of this work will take approximately a year and a half. A committee is yet to be established to overlook the management of these services. The Minister remarked on suggestions to merge the SNBH and Submarine Cable committee as one, as their purpose and usage are the same and can be managed by one committee.

**4) Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister of Public Services**

**Commission.**

- a. Birth Certificates – regarding the matter raised, the Minister stated that it is essential that all Samoans have a birth certificate as this will assist the Bureau of Statistics department.
- b. Public Service Commission – the Commission assures that policies are adhered to and despite its decisions; they are made for the development of government services and in accordance with its

framework. The Minister however has advised the Commission that changes are needed in order for development to take place. The Minister referenced New Zealand as a comparison in reducing the term for Chief Executive Officers to 2 years. This will invite new ideas so as to further develop government services as well as foster trust in the Commission's decision-making.

▪ Interjection by Member of Faleata West – The Member suggested that the Commission identify issues and complaints raised against the Commission.

The Minister explained that this issue will be sorted out on how the Commission can further improve its human resource services.

- c. Samoa Land Corporation Lodge – The Minister clarified that the intention to establish a new hotel is not to compete with the private sector as the Government supports efforts of the private sector.
- d. Suspension of Chief Executive Officers and Assistant Chief Executive Officers – as addressed by Individual Voter Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang, there are provisions provided for breach of code of conduct. The Commission is looking into this matter.
- Interjection by Individual Voter, *Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang* – the Member emphasized that

Chief Executive Officers and Assistant Executive Officers should discontinue their entitlements when suspended.

**5) Afioga Hon TUILOMA Lameko, Minister for Revenue**

- a. The Minister encouraged the Ministry to improve its systems for collection of revenue for the government.
- b. The Minister also proposed that the Ministry find additional avenues so that the country may obtain more revenue.
- c. The Minister stated that there is a request for Duty and Custom specialist to assist the current system in place and other ways to improve development.

**6) Afioga Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa – Minister of Justice and Courts  
Administration**

- a. Solar system to assist Ministry's electric bill - The Minister stated that officials are considering this recommendation as it is an alternative to decreasing power costs.
- b. Savaii – Minister has noted issues for improving services in Savaii
- c. Land and Titles Fees – increase of these fees is required for the execution of work. Services provided by the Land and Titles have improved

through the installation of Digitization systems in storing all judicial records and archives. However, digitization of records for Savaii is in progress with 20,000 files remaining.

- d. Recording Systems – Installation of recording systems in all court rooms have been completed. This service is yet to be provided for Savaii.

**7) Tofa Hon FONOTOE Pierre Fesili Lauofo – Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour**

- a. The Minister stated that the Government and Companies are continuing to work in collaboration to identify ways to attain additional income for the country. As well as, seeking ways to establishing local produce in overseas countries.
- b. Remarked on the purchase of an additional plane for Virgin Samoa in order to improve national economy.
- c. The Minister stated that competition of existing companies in Samoa have increased in order to assist the public in gaining access to affordable goods. Furthermore, a new legislation is provided in order to strengthen this competition.
- d. Flight Route for China and Samoa – private organisations are attempting to identify a route from China to Samoa and vice versa.



- e. Cost of Chickens (box) – currently at \$95 which is expensive. The Minister explained that there are two types of chickens imported; imports from America are cheaper whereas imports from New Zealand are pricey. However, the Minister stated that when issues are resolved in America the cost of chicken will continue to fall.
- f. Export of Taro – There has been an increase in taro exported amounting to \$4 million as compared to the previous year.

**8) Susuga Hon TUILAIPA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele  
Malielegaoi – Prime Minister and Minister of Finance**

- a. The Prime Minister remarked on the competition between Bluesky and Digicel and is an example to increase such a competition between companies.
- b. Faleolo Airport – Plans are in place to upgrade the Airport to a five star standard and is another method of attracting more transit flights to our port and hence increase employment.
- c. The Prime Minister concluded his final response and moved a motion to pass the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1)  
2014/2015

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015 – read a second time.

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## **B. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015 – Consideration in Detail**

**2) Grant and Appropriation of 10,790,305 out of the Treasury Fund**

**3) Reduction of amounts earlier appropriated and re-allocation of other outputs and sub-outputs**

### **First Schedule Addition in Appropriations**

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries - \$230,926**
- **Ministry of Finance - \$6,575,636**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - \$831,860**
- **Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration - \$395,000**
- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - \$921,765**
  - *The Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 under a point of clarification queried the Minister as to where the \$50,000 sum under Land Technical Services is spent for. The Minister clarified that the sum will be used to pay off contractors involved with this service.*
- **Ministry of Police - \$636,000**
- **Ministry of Revenue – \$387,000**
- **Ombudsman - \$30,000**
- **Bureau of Statistics - \$84,596**
- **Prisons and Correction Services - \$358,922**
- **National Kidney Foundation - \$70,000**
- **Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa - \$34,000**
- **Land Transport Authority - \$234,000**

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015 – was Considered in Detail, read a third time and had passed the Assembly.

Parliamentary Proceedings were adjourned until Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.