

DAY 6: Tuesday 27th January 2015

TIME: 9am -1pm

I. Ministerial Statement

1) *Susuga Hon TUILAEPASaileleMalielegaoi, Prime Minister*

○ The Prime Minister's Ministerial Statement addressed the following issues:

-bilateral and multilateral relations with donor partners and the sensitive nature of these links that must not be tainted by internal politics. Comments made in Chambers are taken seriously by partners therefore Members need to be mindful of the delicate nature of these relations.

-parliamentary procedures and precedence need to be noted by Members who have been in the media recently. Samoa's parliamentary procedures are inherited from the Westminster tradition and bears close resemblance with the procedures and practices of the New Zealand House of Representatives. The Parliament branch is supreme and is not to be challenged by any of the other two branches. Members should be reminded that an official once took Parliament to Court and lost because no one regulates Parliament's procedures but Parliament itself.

a. Noted that normal parliament practice does not permit debate on Government Responses.

- Interjection by the Leader of Opposition – The Leader moved a

motion to table the Ministerial Statement and to be tentatively discussed the following day. The leader also raised that the time limit of the ministerial statement was not adhered to.

- The Speaker clarified that there are no time limits for Ministerial Statements. The Assembly endorsed the motion for the tabling of the Ministerial Statement.

I. ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 132, Report of the Education Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 33, 34, 35, 36 & 37, Annual Reports of the Samoa Qualifications Authority for the years 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 & 2012/2013.

1) *Tofa LEALAI LE PULERimoni Aiafi, Member of FALEATA WEST*

- a. The Member noted that 5 Annual Reports are under consideration and queried as to why only 6 out of 20 Post-Secondary schools were registered within 5 years.
 - Interjection by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture – The Minister stated that it is a lengthy process which the Ministry undertakes to ensure compliance with standards before registering.
 - Interjection by the Member of Vaisigano No. 1 – There are only 5 registered schools due to the strict standards set by

the SQA assessment and the Member stated that the Annual Reports reviewed by the Committee are outdated.

- Interjection by the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration – the Minister noted that there are not many Post-Secondary schools in Samoa and noted that professions are now merged under NUS (Nursing, Education and Maritime etc..)

b. The Member remarked on the research carried out on 29 Post-Secondary schools that have registered. The Government and Ministry should include Primary level in its review. The Member also questioned the performance of schools and noted that quality is integral.

- Interjection by the Member of Faleata East – the Member clarified the information given in the Committee Report.
- Interjection by the Prime Minister – the Minister stated that these concerns have been noted and should be left to the Cabinet to resolve.
- Interjection by the Member of Aiga i le Tai – the Member foresaw an increase in registered post-secondary schools.

**2) Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster, Member of AANA ALOFI
NO.3**

- a. The Member queried whether there is an initiative undertaken by SQA to align the quality of SC and PSSC to the New Zealand grading system.

2. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 134, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 25, Annual Report of the Samoa Water Authority for the year 2012/2013.

**1) Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA Peter Ah Him, Member of SAGAGA LE
USOGA**

- a. The Member stated that water and sewerage charges are particularly expensive for businesses in the urban area.
 - Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Minister clarified that efforts have been carried out by JICA to cleanse water supplies especially in Vaitele and the urban areas. Plans are also in place to recalculate costs of water and sewage usage for the public and business community.

Parliament Proceedings were suspended for its usual Morning Recess

2) Tofa AVEAU NikotemoPalamo, Member of FALEATA EAST

- a. The Member noted that large amounts of water are being wasted due to burst pipes. The Member

is disappointed by the weak recommendations posed by the Committee and advised that the Committee make more effective recommendations.

- Interjection by the Member of Palauli/
Committee Member – the Member responded that these concerns have been raised countless times with SWA and the Committee is well aware of the issues raised.

b. The Member stated that the watercatchment at Fuluasou is redundant but it is a water source relied on by many. The Member also mentioned that work on same has been carried out.

- Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Minister stated that management has addressed the issue of water wasted through leakages and remedial measures are now in place.

3) TofaMOTUOPUAA AisoliVaai, Member of VAISIGANO NO. 2

a. The Member referenced the fourth Recommendation in his concern for water access from Asau to Satava especially with the ongoing effects of climate change that has resulted in the rise of sea levels.

- Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – the Minister stated that plans are in place to relocate water pumps to higher ground and is scheduled to take place in

2015. The Minister noted that independent water schemes has decreased from 50% to 41% where SWA is collaborating with JICA to assist in further decreasing this percentage.

- Interjection by the Member of AanaAlofi No. 1 – the Member remarked on the water pump at Leulumoega where a report in 2013 noted that this pump should be repaired with plans to carry it out in 2014. The Chairman of the Committee (Member of Falealili) responded that the Authority is still working on resolving this issue.
- Interjection by the Leader of Opposition – The Leader acknowledged the Committee report and recommended that Government reviews the high expense due to water waste. The Minister responded that in 2010 water used was not charged, a review was carried out in 2012 and by 2013 noted that water costs declined by 30%. The Minister stated that operation and maintenance of water pipes and solid waste are expensive projects to execute.

- Under a point of order the Speaker reminded Members to confine remarks on the reports in debate.

4) *Afioga AFUALO Wood Salele, Member of SALEGA*

- a. The Member queried whether there are enough engineers employed by SWA? This lack of staff specialty could contribute to a lot of water waste.

- Interjection by the Member of AanaAlofi No. 3/Committee Member – The Member noted that other Committee reports have given recommendations for employment of more engineers to address these issues.
- Interjection by the Member of Sagaga le Usoga/Committee Member –The Member noted improvements in water supply and quality.

1. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 135, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 65, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the year 2011/2012.

1) Susuga PAPA Lii Lio Masepau, Member of FAASALELEAGA NO.2

- a. The Member noted that there are problems experienced by the Mulifanua wharf during high tide and is particularly difficult for smaller vehicles to board the ferry.
 - Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure – The Minister stated that the Mulifanua and Salelologa wharves will be under a different Corporation as per change in the Ports Authority Amendment Bill 2014.

2) Tofa MOTUOPUAA Aisoli Vaai, Member of VAISIGANO NO. 1

- a. The Member stated that the Asau wharf needs repair works.

- i. Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Works – The Minister stated that the Asau wharf continues to be maintained by government and is operational.

3) Afioga Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Leader of Opposition

- a. The Leader drew the attention of the Minister to the Satitua Wharf.
 - i. Interjection by the Minister of Works, Transport and Works – The Minister stated that the Satitua wharf is operational and noted that the Lady Samoa II ships are anchored there. Plans are in place to have more ships harboured at the port in future.

2. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 136, Report of the Justice Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No. 6, Report of the Samoa Law Reform Commission on the District Courts Act 1969, Report 12/13.

1) Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member of FALEATA WEST

- a. The Member noted that there are no recommendations by the Committee and noted that Committee findings are based on recommendations of the Commission.
- b. The Member recommended that allocations for District Courts increase so as to improve their services and queried whether there are enough resources to implement the Ministry's purpose. The

Member also noted that the Family Court is not recognized within District Courts Act.

- c. The Member noted the poor preparation of the Committee report
 - Interjection by the Member of Vaimauga West/Committee Member – The Member stated that the Commission worked with the AG and MJCA which resulted in the recommendations put forth. The Committee endorses the recommendations of the Commission hence there is no need to make additional recommendations to the contrary.

2) Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster, Member of AANA ALOFI NO. 3

- a. The Member queried whether there were witnesses brought forth for consultation during the Committee's consideration of the report as none are noted therein.
 - Interjection by the Member of Sagaga le Falefa/Chairman of the Committee – the Law Reform Commission dealt with the consultation of this report. Therefore the Committee only recommended that the Government consider recommendations made by the Commission. It was found in the report that Commission stakeholders believe that 10,000 should remain with the District Court.

- Interjection by the Prime Minister – The Minister acknowledged the Committee report and noted its preparation.

3) SusugaPAPALII LioMasepau, Member of FAASALELEAGA NO. 2

- a. The Member rationalized that the report of the Samoa Law Reform Commission is passed by Parliament then given to Government and the AG to consider the appropriate actions of each recommendation.

3. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 137, Report of the Justice Committee on P.P.

2014/2015 No. 13,14 & 24, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Police and Prisons for financial years 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2011/2012.

1) AfiogaTOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster, Member of AANA ALOFI NO.

3

- a. The Member raised the issue found with the English translation of the report in the usage of the phrase “...huge obsessions” and sought clarification or correction as to its usage.

- Interjection by the Prime Minister – the Minister stated that the English is readable and simple. Some island nations accept pidgin English so long as it is comprehensible.

2) TofaLEALAILPULE RimoniAiafi, Member of FALEATA WEST

- a. The Member remarked on the Community Engagement Unit.
 - i. Interjection by the Member of Sagaga le Falega/Chairperson – The member clarified the first recommendation where savings from Ministries have been transferred back to the Ministry of Finance. The Community Engagement Unit has been in operation and there is an increasing awareness of the public on legislation.

4. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 143, Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on P.P. 2014/2015 No.80, Annual Report of the National University of Samoa for the year 1 July 2011 ending June 2012.

1) TofaLEALAI PULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member of FALEATA WEST

- a. The Member questioned whether the Committee conducted visitations to matters raised in the Annual Report.

5. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 172, Government Administration Committee Report on P.P. 2014/2015 No.51, Office of the Attorney General Annual Report for the Financial 2012/2013.

1) Susuga PAPA LII Lio Masepau, Member of Faasaleleaga No. 2

- a. The Member supported the employment of a specialist in forensic pathology.

6. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 173, Officers of Parliament Committee Report on P.P. 2014/2015 No.4, Parliamentary Pension Scheme Annual Report for 2013.

1) TofaLEALAILPULE RimoniAiaif, Member of FALEATA WEST

- a. The Member recommended to combine allowances and salaries for the purposes of calculating the pension percentage for Members. The Member also queried whether the Members of Parliament are entitled to the Death Benefit Fund.
- Interjection by the Member of Sagaga le Usoga/Chairman – The Chairman stated that everyone is entitled to the Death Benefit and that only Committee and sitting allowances will be added to calculate the 10% entitlement rate.
 - Interjection by the Deputy Speaker/Committee Member – the Member clarified that tax is deducted from the gross earnings and allowances are not inclusive in the calculation of the pension percentage.

7. P.P. 2014/2015 No. 187, Report of the Justice Committee on P.P.

2014/2015 No.123, Ministry of Justice Annual Report for 2012/2013.

1) AfiogaTOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster, Member of AANA ALOFI NO.

3

- a. The Member clarified the need for additional funding
- b. The Member noted an increase on requests for income yet the revenue collected has fallen. The

Member advised that the Committee should recommend the Ministry to find alternatives for collection of revenue.

- Interjection by the Member of Palauli/Committee Member – The Member stated that there have been constant complaints that the charges that the Ministry puts on its services are too expensive. The increase in requests is due to technology procured by the Ministry and its usage is expensive.

2) TofaLEALALEPULE RimoniAiafi, Member of FALEATA WEST

- a. The Member noted the 9% increase of funds for the Ministry in 2012/2013 and commented on its steady rise throughout the financial year. The Member recommended that increasing requests for funds from this Ministry need to be prioritised
 - Interjection by the Member of Sagaga le Falefa/Chairman – The Ministry is implementing numerous works and noted the recent establishment of the Family Court and the proposed Youth Court and Alcohol and Drugs Court. Legal Aid has been allotted \$50,000 each financial year, however, the Chairman noted that increasing number of people are using this service.

- b. The Member recommended that mechanisms in collecting revenue be improved and perhaps a resolution be made on the constant request to increase funds.

Parliamentary Proceedings suspended at 1 pm to resume at 3pm