

DISCLAIMER

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**Day 1: Tuesday 26 January 2016
9:00am**

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2015/2016 – debate on second reading

**1. Hon PRIME MINISTER and Member for Lepa, TUILAEPA Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai
Aiono Neioti Dr Sailele Malielegaoi**

The Hon Prime Minister delivered his Ministerial Statement, noting that the Estimates also clarify the Supplementary Appropriations. With Section I, in compliance with the law, all financial spending should be recorded, including Ordinary Revenue and Ordinary Expenditure. This also includes Financial Aid from overseas donors. The Hon Prime Minister noted that the government budget totals SAT\$697 million.

The Prime Minister also noted that before any portion of the budget may be allocated, payments of loans must first be taken into account. Currently, the amount of total loans stands at SAT102million. After deducting these loan repayments the remaining budget is SAT\$595million. These have been allocated to national projects and developments.

The Hon Prime Minister refuted accusations that have been televised, stating that it is inaccurate to state that the government will continue to loan, as there is SAT595million to be used. Taking note of the Main Budget, the Hon Prime Minister clarified that there was appropriation set aside for three (3) items: (i) Natural Disasters Management, ii) Urgent Unforeseen Projects and iii) Projects which require additional funding. From the Main Appropriation, a total of approximately SAT93 million remains. Appropriations for developments totaled SAT189million with an excess of SAT96million from our financial donors.

Education funds from the Asia Development Bank (ADB) ceased at the beginning of 2016; developments for fisheries and agriculture are continuous. Funding for these projects were accomplished with a single loan, acquired solely for various national developments. The Hon Prime Minister continued by stating that loans granted by International Financial institutions depend on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country; Samoa's GDP is forecasted to increase to SAT2 billion. The purpose of the reserve is to purchase exports. For this reason, it is important that our foreign reserves should be maintained between SAT300 - 400 million, as a repeat of the 1981 incident should be avoided. Foreign reserves are estimated to reach SAT400million. He then stated that for this reason also, events held in Samoa such as the Joseph Parker fight is important for Samoa's economy. The Hon Prime Minister then encouraged "wise spending", as it is integral for a stable economy. He noted that since HRPP came into power, Samoa has not been devastated by famine; on the contrary, Samoa continues to prosper.

i. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Leader of Opposition and Member of Safata

Hon PALUSALUE moved a motion for the Ministerial Statement to be tabled.

ii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister rebutted the motion, stating that the statement must first be printed before debates are permitted.

iii. Hon PALUSALUE Faapo II, Leader of Opposition and Member for Safata

Hon PALUSALUE stated that the Ministerial Speech should be tabled to permit Members to refer to the speech during their individual speeches.

iv. Hon AEAU Peniamina Leavaiseeta, Member for Falealupo

The Member sought leave from the Speaker to take into account the motion; the motion to table the Ministerial statement was declined.

2. PAPALII Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masepau, Member for Faasaleleaga No.2

PAPALII made note of the appropriations for Education, emphasizing his support for money appropriated for a 7% increase of teacher salaries. He then queried whether the increase would be for all teachers, or a select few.

i. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister corrected the Member and stated that the salary adjustments are to correct previous adjustments, made in error.

ii. PAPALII Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masepau, Member for Faasaleleaga No.2

PAPALII stated that all teachers should be given the 7% raise. He then recommended that students currently studying in Fiji should be included in the tabled appropriation (sponsorship), given the political unrest in Fiji at present.

iii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister stated that many Samoan students have been given the opportunity to study in Fiji and have returned unsuccessful. He noted that there are supporting documents to show the success rate of Samoan students sponsored to study overseas.

iv. PAPALII Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masepau, Member for Faasaleleaga No.2

PAPALII noted his concern over the existing bias within the Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development, whereby only women representatives are given salary raises.

In terms of study options, the Member suggested that the government encourage students to study medicine. He noted that there are many medical operations, which cannot be undertaken in Samoa, such as those for prostate cancer. This would enable early testing which would stop infections spreading, before the disease becomes terminal. The Member then requested that

specialist doctors make rural visitations (particularly, to his constituency), such as an otolaryngologists and optometrists.

PAPALII then stated that an emergency access road was needed for his constituency; in addition, repairs are needed for the Vaimaga road. He then noted that similar requests for his constituency for the repair of roads at Sapapalii and other villages, streetlights and a sea wall for Vaimaga have already been put to the government for consideration. The Member concluded his speech by addressing his constituency, and urging them to vote for him in the upcoming General Elections.

3. TUSA Misi Tupuola, Member for Falealili

The Member for Falealili expressed his gratitude to his constituency for their support, the Head of State, Government, the Hon Speaker and the Committee, which considered the Estimates, as well as Samoa as a whole.

The Member urged his constituency to be patient. He noted that requests for road repairs in several parts of his constituency have been put forth for Government consideration. He then noted that recent amendments to the Electoral Act have resulted in the division of Falealili East and West, but he urged his constituency to continue to remain united. In regards to the upcoming general elections, he urged members of his constituency to vote as the Spirit moves them to.

The Member then spoke on the Supplementary Bill, stating that Ministers will not accept any new Constituency requests at this point. In that regard, he again noted his gratitude and support for Cabinet and the Hon Prime Minister for the tabled Bill.

Proceedings were suspended for its usual morning break at 10:45am

Proceedings resumed at 11.24am.

- The **Hon PRIME MINISTER** moved a motion to extend the Assembly's sitting times from 3:00pm - 7:00pm; the motion was approved.

4. MOTUOPUAA Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai, Member for Vaisigano No.2

MOTUOPUAA expressed his gratitude for all those who have supported the 15th Parliament throughout its term. He then raised the issue of the SAT1.5million appropriation for the transfer of local patients overseas. He urged the government to encourage medical students to specialize in the areas most commonly operated on overseas, to decrease the need to transfer patients internationally for medical treatment. He then noted that in such cases, patients should be transferred to New Zealand and Australia, because Fiji's medical standard and environment is similar to that of Samoa. He then concluded his speech by addressing his constituency of Vaisigano No.2.

5. FAGAIVALU Kenrick Samu, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga

The Member noted his support for the Bill and then stated that he has put forward many requests on behalf of his constituency, none of which have been considered. He stated that it is hoped that the new government would take these requests into account. The Member ended his speech by expressing his gratitude to his constituency and requesting that they re-elect him in the upcoming term.

6. TUILEUTU Alavaa Voi, Member for Faasaleleaga No.3

The Member for Faasaleleaga No.3 addressed his constituency and thanked them for their support throughout the term. He then announced that he will not contest his seat in the upcoming elections, and made his final farewell remarks.

7. ALO Fulifuli Taveuveu, Member for Anoamaa East

The Member thanked his constituency for their support throughout the parliamentary term. He announced that he would not contest his seat in the upcoming elections. He then went on to express his gratitude to the Minister for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for the approval of a request for work to be undertaken at a village, which had been affected by flooding. He also thanked the Minister for the construction of seawalls in the area. The Member then thanked the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the construction of streetlights along a specific access road in his constituency. He stated that it has made travel along this road safer. He then expressed gratitude for the Hon Prime Minister and applauded his patience in handling the many struggles faced by the Assembly during this parliamentary term.

8. LEFAU Harry Schuster, Member for Vaimauga West

The Member for Vaimauga West began by expressing gratitude for the Ministry of Justice and the Courts, in particular, the Supreme Court. LEFAU urged his constituency to use their right to vote and noted that that right includes the freedom to vote for anyone. He then applauded the government and their efforts to develop Samoa's infrastructure, and for the various projects undertaken in his constituency.

9. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi No.3

The Member queried the Bill on two points. First, the additional appropriation for the Samoa Water Authority requires an explanation, particularly where some areas within his constituency have yet to receive water access. He requested that the additional appropriation be used to remedy these types of situations. Second, he queried the appropriation for the Land Transport Authority, which has been allocated for the Global Climate Change Alliance; specifically, whether this would be co-funded with international funding.

The Member then addressed his constituency, expressing his gratitude for their support and urging them to re-elect him in the upcoming elections. He then thanked the government, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for the good work achieved during this term. The Member then read out specific personal goals he had in terms of representing his constituency. He stated that he measures his performance against the stated goals and concluded that he will attempt to achieve these and represent his constituency to the best of his abilities. He also acknowledged that many of the requests put before the government were not answered, but he believed there is still hope in the future. He noted that developing schools and other projects within his constituency are his priority, including the continued search for a donor to assist with necessary funding.

Proceedings were suspended at 1.00pm

Proceedings to resume at 3:00pm.