

DISCLAIMER

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Day 2: Wednesday 27th January 2016
3:15pm

PART B

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – CONTINUED

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

27. TIALAVEA FeaTionisioSeigafolava, Member for Vaa o Fonoti

The Member thanked the Hon Prime Minister and his Cabinet for the projects implemented in his constituency. He also thanked the Minister for Women for specific works implemented in his constituency. He also thanked the Minister for Communication and Information Technology for the cell phone tower built at Uafato, which has enabled locals to connect to the Internet, and use other modes of communication. TIALAVEA then thanked the Minister responsible for the speedy construction of the temporary market, which was officially opened this morning. Finally, the Member thanked the Speaker on behalf of his constituency for his patience and commitment to his work throughout the 5-year term.

28. AFUALO Wood UtiSalele, Member for Salega

The Member expressed his gratitude for the work of the government in his constituency. He also thanked the Ministers for Education and Works for the development projects undertaken in his constituency. The Member then thanked his constituency addressing their honorific salutations.

29. Hon FAUMUINA TiatiaFaaolataneLiuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa

FAUMUINA noted his support for the Committee Report on the Bill. He then thanked the respective Ministers for working together to ensure the continued development of Samoa. He also thanked the Speaker, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the OCLA for their service to parliament throughout the 5-year term. He thanked the Hon Prime Minister and his Cabinet for the many developments in Samoa over the 5-year term.

He suggested that the government look into developments which will enable Samoa to adequately respond to the effects of natural disasters and climate change generally. The Member also stated that the construction of seawalls and appropriate drainage is an important priority. He also proposed that a cross-island road be constructed in Savaii, preferably from Palauli le Falefa to either Safotu or Manase. Another suggestion offered was to allocate the management of climate change funds to the Ministry responsible for environment issues. He noted that there is a future possibility that Samoa will be a refuge for its neighbouring islands Tokelau and Niue, if the impacts of climate change take full effect in the near future. He also proposed that the Salelologa wharf be completed as soon as practicable.

FAUMUINA noted that the employment market in Savaii should be expanded to counter the mass migration of Savaiians to Upolu. He also proposed that emergency services in Savaii, such as the hospital, be relocated from Tuasivi to Salelologa so that is it closer to his constituency. He then expressed his gratitude to the Leader of the Opposition and his party, for their contribution to Parliament and thanked his constituency for their support.

30. AFOAFOUVALE John Moors, Member for Palauli

The Member for Palauli assured his constituency that despite there being little work completed during his term, he is still willing and able to be the Palauli representative in Parliament. He then thanked the Speaker and the OCLA for their services to Parliament during the 5-year term.

31. TAFUA MaluelueTaufa, Member for Aleipataltupa i Lalo

TAFUA expressed gratitude to the Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the Report on the Bill. He then thanked the Leader of the Opposition for his contribution to the work of the Assembly. He thanked the Minister for Works for the projects, which will improve the water

supply in his constituency. He also thanked the Minister for Communication for the television coverage being established in Lalomanu, which enabled locals to view the Joseph Parker fight last weekend.

TAFUA also thanked the Minister for Police and Prisons for the new police vehicle given to the Lalomanu Police Station. He then thanked the Ministry for Education and the Samoa Tourism Authority for their specific contributions to the development of Samoa's economy. He also thanked the Ministry of Women and the Minister for the Public Service Commission for their specific efforts within the last 5 years. The Member then referred to some of the major national accomplishments during this parliamentary term such as the 50th Independence Celebrations, the SIDS conference, the All Blacks v Manu Samoa match and the Commonwealth Youth Games. He stated that these were just a few of the events which created stronger patriotism amongst Samoans and contributed significantly to its continued development.

TAFUA thanked the OCLA for their continued efforts to encourage Member capacity building, for example through the Seminar Series taken by Professor Richard Herr. He noted that all requests from his constituency were not met or approved by the government but that this is understandable due to the lack of funding. TAFUA reminded his constituency of their right and freedom to vote for their preferred candidate and then offered his condolences to the families of those who had passed away in his constituency.

Proceedings were suspended at 4:50pm and resumed at 5:25pm

32. Hon AEAU Peniamina Leavaseeta, Member for Falealupo

AEAU thanked all the Members of the XVth Parliament for their individual efforts and recounted memorable events of the term. He acknowledged the leadership of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Members. He then thanked his constituency for their support and made special mention of the developments in his constituency such as road and water works. He requested however, that solar energy be provided for his constituency to save on the costs of electricity.

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

The Leader of the Opposition noted that the role of women as representatives of their villages is an important one, however, this role is not emphasised enough. He stated that women should be prioritised, particularly in terms of their increased representation in Parliament.

i. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FalemoeLeiatua, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Hon Minister noted that 'Sui Tamaitai' and Village Mayors are fully supported through various Ministry initiatives; such as regular monthly meetings for both groups. He stated that the intention is to balance entitlements between women representatives and village mayors.

ii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister stated that village mayors have been involved in local governance, since the time of the German Administration. However, women representatives are a relatively new role which is why their entitlements are still at the lower end of the scale.

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

PALUSALUE stated that village mayors and women representatives should be equal and that the government should work with the Opposition to see that this equality is realised.

iv. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FalemoeLeiatua, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Hon Minister stated that the Leader of the Opposition should not comment on matters which he does not understand. He went on to explain that women representatives are indeed acknowledged, for example they are presented with a Warrant of Agreement signed by the Minister; a clear indication that women are recognised by the government.

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

The Leader of the Opposition asserted that the government must attempt to solve the ongoing issues of burglary and theft.

vi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister replied that the government is and will continue to carry out their responsibilities, regardless of people's individual life choices. He noted that in any country, there are instances of crime regardless of the well-intentioned efforts of governments. A person's choice to commit crime is something which the government has limited control over.

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

The Leader of the Opposition disagreed and stated that the commission of crime in Samoa is a direct result of the high cost of living. He acknowledged the Minister for Samoa Land for the rapid response to the construction of the temporary market; however, he voiced his disappointment that there has been no funding set aside for 'unforeseen circumstances', such as the destruction of the Savalalo Flea Market.

viii. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister stated that as the Leader of the Opposition is a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, he should have asked these specific questions during Committee meetings.

ix. Hon LAUTAFI FioSelafi Purcell, Minister for Public Enterprises and Member for Satupaitea

The Hon Minister clarified that funding has been allocated for 'Special Concessions' for those businesses which were affected by the destruction of the market.

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

The Leader of the Opposition stated that it would be ideal for those affected to be compensated promptly.

xi. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister noted that government members must endeavour to cease the circulation of inaccurate information and ensure that the 'facts' are made public.

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

In closing, the Leader of the Opposition acknowledged the good work of the Minister for Works.

34. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters

PAPALIITELE thanked the Minister for Finance and the Ministry for preparing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. He stated that the responses given by the Hon Prime Minister to the various queries on the Bill were sufficient. He then thanked the Parliamentary Committee Office, in particular Clerk Assistant Tiatia Tualaulelei, for their support and service throughout the term. He also acknowledged the Public Service Commission and all the government Ministries who assisted in providing responses to queries on the Bill. In closing, PAPALIITELE expressed gratitude to his constituency, to the Hon Prime Minister and the Speaker.

- The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion to extend sittings hours to 9:00pm; the motion was approved. Government Responses then commenced.

35. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister stated that second reading debates are noticeably different from those held for other readings; Member speech time limits are extended and Members tend not to sugar coat their words. The ability for Members to engage in heated debates in Chamber is a reflection of one of the core principles of democracy in action, namely "freedom of speech". He then stated that parliamentary practices in other Commonwealth parliaments are markedly different from those practiced in Samoa. He stated that the Samoan Parliament incorporates aspects of its culture and religion in House proceedings whereas most other Parliaments fail to say grace **before proceedings and** meals. He remarked that although there is constant talk about poverty in Samoa, he believes that Samoa is blessed with all the resources necessary for survival.

The Hon Prime Minister thanked the Minister for Public Enterprises for the temporary market which was opened earlier this morning and noted that SAT306,000.00 was used for its construction and SAT\$200,000 was used to pay the hired builders. On the theme of the flea Market the Hon Prime Minister recounted its history and various challenges that affected Samoa's agriculture in terms of blights. The Hon Prime Minister stated that history offers many lessons; for example in 1985

there were many complaints in regards to the scattered location of small businesses throughout the Apia township area. The Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment were then tasked with rectifying the problem which eventuated in the construction of the Flea Markets. He noted that many successful businesses had their humble beginnings in these small flea markets.

- The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion for the appointment of Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO and Hon LE MAMEA Ropati to the Council of Deputies; the motion was approved.

Proceedings were suspended at 7:20pm and resumed at 8:00pm

36. Hon SALA Fata Lisati Pinati, Minister for Police and Prisons and Member for Gagaemauga No.1

The Hon Minister noted the importance of the services provided by the Police and Prisons Ministry and therefore thanked the Hon Prime Minister for entrusting him with this particular Ministerial post. He expressed gratitude to the Speaker for his work, in particular his continued efforts to control proceedings during sittings. He noted that there are many Members who are dissatisfied due to their specific requests not being met, to which he gave assurance that "there is always tomorrow".

The Hon Minister then thanked the Ministry for their continued service, despite constant public criticism. He noted that it is essential that both islands be provided with the same services, and therefore proposed that a new Headquarters be constructed in Salelologa to service Savaii. He stated that it is important for the Member appointed as Minister for Police in the upcoming term continue the developments which have been planned for the future.

In response to statements made that the Fire Service was ill prepared for the Savalalo market fire, he stated that the efforts of the Service on the day ensured that the efforts of the Service on the day ensured that the fire did not affect neighbouring buildings, such as the Development Bank of Samoa. In response to Hon Faumuina's query regarding the establishment of a Police Academy,

he stated that these plans are already in the pipeline. He then addressed his constituency and thanked them for their support.

37. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure and Member for Safata

The Hon Minister stated that major projects implemented in 2015 are scheduled for completion this year. He stated that the Samoa Water Authority projects are intended to improve the overall quality of water for consumption in Samoa. He noted that SWA projects in Tapatapao, Tanumapua and other areas of Faleata were fortunate to receive financial assistance from the Japanese government given that the total cost is SAT36 million. He noted that the water projects in the Vailima area are aimed at assisting neighbouring villages with their water supplies.

The Hon Minister then noted the various works of the Electric Power Corporation including the repair and upgrade of the power plants at Loto Samasoni, Fale o le Fee and Alaoa. In terms of renewable energy, he stated that by 2017, it is hoped that Samoa will be 100% powered by solar energy. He also noted that Savaii will receive solar panels, similar to those in place at Faleolo. He stated that consultations have begun with overseas companies which will assist in introducing solar energy to Savaii this year. Agreements have also been made with various companies which produce solar, hydro and wind energy.

He stated that there is a partnership with the Japanese government for the required work at Matautu wharf. Also, the Samoa Ports Authority's developments to service routes to Tokelau and other Pacific islands are underway, with a view towards the overall improvement of inter-island travel.

38. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West

LEALAILEPULE stated that consultations with Vaiusu were necessary in regards to the construction of the proposed wharf.

i. Hon LEAUPEPE Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi, Member for Aana Alofi No.1

The Member acknowledged the work of the Minister and stated his hope for him to return to his seat to continue his good work for Samoa.

ii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure and Member for Safata.

The Hon Minister noted current road projects such as the 4-lane road at Vaitele that is still in progress. The Hon Minister stated that a survey was taken to determine that the direction of the footpaths was appropriate, and the result was in the affirmative.

iii. AVEAU Tuala Lepale Nikotemo Palamo, Member for Faleata East

The Member queried whether the survey results showed a possibility for the construction of a bicycle lane.

iv. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure and Member for Safata.

The purpose of these major road works is that the road will lead to the international airport. In regards to the Leone bridges, the Hon Minister stated that there are requirements, which must first be completed before the World Bank may offer its assistance. In regards to the inland roads at Aleisa, Faleasiu-Uta, Faleula and Leauvaa, the Hon Minister stated that the Ministry is currently in the process of upgrading these roads. He also stated that the Airport Authority is currently working on improving the tarmac for the runway; this project will be implemented in phases.

v. TAFUA Maluelue Tafua, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo

TAFUA requested that the Minister consider the repair of 2 bridges in his constituency that were damaged in accidents, and worsened by their poor condition.

vi. IFOPO Matia Filisi, Member for Aiga i le Tai

The Member noted that the Hon Minister stated that the surveys for road works were complete and queried when work will begin on the roads at Manono.

vii. Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Individual Voters

PAPALIITELE queried the road works for Letava and Vaoala as a written request was submitted and signed by the constituency in 2011, for relevant repairs. Additionally, the Member lodged a formal request with the Land and Transport Authority in 2012.

viii. Hon MANUALESAGALALA Mati Tuigamala Enokati Posala, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure and Member for Safata.

The Hon Minister stated that the requested works will be completed in due time. He then expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Police for the outpost established and also the Ministry of Education for the new school buildings in Lotofaga, Saanapu, Vaiee and Mulivai. In closing the Hon Minister thanked his constituency for their support.

Proceedings were adjourned at 9:18pm.

The Assembly will reconvene at 9:00am on Thursday, 28th January 2016.