

DISCLAIMER

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Day 3: Thursday 28th January 2016
9:00am

PART A

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – CONTINUED

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

- The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the 36 Select Committee Reports and 12 Government Responses tabled, without debate; excepting Parliamentary Paper 2015/2016 No.91 (Report of the Business, Standing Orders, House and Electoral Committee Report). The motion was approved.

38. Hon MAGELE MauiliuMagele, Minister for Education, Sports and Culture and Member for Faasaleleaga No.1

The Hon Minister addressed the adjustment of teacher salaries, stating the all teachers will receive salary raises. He clarified that there will be two adjustments, with the final increase to be implemented in 2017.

He stated that construction at the Colleges at Falelima and Alataua i Sisifo will soon begin. Upgrades requested for the College at Mataevave has been noted and will begin once funding

has been finalised. The Hon Minister stated that the request to upgrade the sports field at Mulifanua has been noted with work to commence in September 2016.

The Hon Minister then expressed his gratitude for his constituency hosting the University of the South Pacific's graduation ceremony at the end of 2015. He also thanked the University for permitting more students from Savaii to study through their institution. In closing, MAGELE addressed his constituency in all their honorific salutations, and expressed his gratitude for their support.

39. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment and Member for Gagaemauga No.1

The Hon Minister expressed his gratitude to the Speaker for his patience and commitment to his role throughout the 5-year term. He then thanked the Hon Prime Minister and his Cabinet for the contributions to the development of Samoa during the term. He also thanked the Associate Ministers for their assistance and support.

FAAMOETAULOA continued by noting that there were no comments on the Bill in relation to the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment.

i. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West

The Member queried whether the Disaster Management Office is responsible for assigning contact numbers to the various Emergency Services. He noted that there have been several complaints in regards to incorrect telephone numbers, as was apparently the case during the Savalalo Market fire. The Member sought clarification as to whether the Disaster Management Office could create a single emergency number for all services.

NB: The Hon Minister did not offer a reply to the Member's question; however, the Hon Prime Minister rose to state that LEALAILEPULE'S question was valid and had been noted.

ii. Hon FAAMOETAULOA Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii, Minisita o Punaoo Faanatura ma Siosiomaga ma Sui Usufono o Gagaemauga Nu.1

In closing, the Hon Minister addressed his constituency and expressed his gratitude for their support. He also thanked the Environment Sector, the Ministry and Associate Minister for their patience and support.

40. Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Minister for Health and Member for Aana Alofi

No.1

The Hon Minister thanked the Hon Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and all the Members for their patience and service. He noted special thanks to the Associate Minister for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, MAUALAIVAO Pat Ah Him and the Ministry of Health. He noted that without their support and dedication, he would not have been able to complete this parliamentary term.

Specifically, the Hon Minister thanked the Minister for Works for the commencement of development works on the Moamoā Road. He also thanked the government for road works at Lealalii and Sapulu in Faleasiu Tai. He then expressed gratitude for the water works at Faleasiu, noting that drilling has begun and water will soon be available in the area. The Hon Minister noted his thanks for the street lights erected at Sapulu. TUITAMA continued by expressing thanks to the Independence Committee for preparations undertaken for the 2015 Independence celebrations and for the opportunity given to Faleasiu to perform. He thanked the Hon Prime Minister on behalf of his constituency and village of Faleasiu for his ongoing support.

The Hon Minister then addressed the issue of prostate cancer, stating what must first be decided is the effectiveness and efficiency of two options: 1) sending patients overseas for treatment or 2) procuring the equipment necessary for patients to be treated locally. He also stated that to employ an overseas surgeon would be expensive, costing between SAT150,000 - 200,000 per annum. TUITAMA stated that Samoa is the only nation in the Pacific Region which sends its patients to New Zealand for medical assistance. However, to be eligible for transfer a patient must first meet several requirements. There is an a mass of paper work that must be completed including attaching supporting evidence such as monographic scans and doctor recommendations. There is also a scoring system whereby patients are rated according to the seriousness of their medical condition. Serious cases (0-5) are generally referred for immediate care. If a patient

meets these preliminary requirements, the government will write to the New Zealand government requesting assistance.

i. TUFUGA Gafoaleata Faitua, Member for Vaisigano No.1

The Member queried what the scenario would be for medical conditions for which there is no specialist doctor on island. He queried whether the government could send such patients overseas.

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

The Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 recommended that the Ministry encourage the study of medicine, including the up skilling of existing doctors, as a solution to the aforementioned issues.

iii. Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Minister for Health and Member for Aana Alofi No.1

The Hon Minister stated that currently, several doctors are overseas on tertiary scholarships for specialised study. In Fiji there are 6 doctors studying pharmaceuticals, 4 studying surgery and 4 doctors studying gynecology, pediatrics, optometry and pathology respectively.

iv. TUFUGA Gafoaleata Faitua, Member for Vaisigano No.1

The Member continued to seek clarification about his previous question.

v. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister stated that if there are no specialist doctors available for specific cases, the doctors on duty will attempt to find other means of treatment. He confirmed the statements made by the Hon Minister that the Ministry has commenced education programs to up skill local doctors. Furthermore, the Ministry is attempting to implement new technology and procure modern equipment which will assist in the improvement of Samoan hospitals. The Hon Prime Minister stated that these issues however, should not be used to take away focus from the good work which has been achieved by the Ministry thus far.

He then clarified that parallel to the Samoan government's patient criteria, New Zealand also has a strict set of preliminary requirements that must be satisfied before a patient is transferred. He stated that Members and the public in general must understand that New Zealand must first prioritise their own patients and will decide on the acceptance of Samoan patients on a case by case basis. He offered several examples of Samoan patients who had applied for transfer to New Zealand, but were declined by the New Zealand government. For example, a Samoan patient who had been transferred to Fiji later requested to be treated in New Zealand. In response to his request, the New Zealand government informed him that he would receive the same treatment in New Zealand as he was already receiving in Fiji.

vi. Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Minister for Health and Member for Aana Alofi No.1

In closing, the Hon Minister expressed his gratitude to his constituency for their support throughout the 5-year term.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:49am and resumed at 11:30am.

41. Hon LE MAMEA Ropati, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela

The Hon Minister thanked the Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture for the support given throughout this term. He noted that the targets, which had been set for the export of crops, fisheries, and produce for domestic consumption, were attained. Furthermore, the costs for the importation of substitute products were lowered. He then expressed his gratitude to the Associate Ministers Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell and LENATAI Victor Faafai Tamapua for their support and dedication.

He then thanked the Ministry's various stakeholders and partners and also private businesses. He thanked Women In Business (WIBDI) for their organic farming initiative and made special mention of Taimalie Charlie Westerlund and his personal contribution to the agricultural sector. He then thanked his constituency for their support.

In closing, the Hon Minister urged Parliamentarians to hold fast to their Christian values, both inside and outside of the Chamber, as Samoa is a nation founded on God.

42. Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI Falemoe Leiatua, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Hon Minister thanked the Hon Prime Minister for entrusting him with his Portfolio, and thanked Cabinet for their work throughout the term. He expressed gratitude for the Ombudsman and his efforts to seek justice within government ministries and the private sector.

He then thanked the Chief Executive Officer and Ministry for Women and its stakeholders and partners. He emphasised the importance of hard work and honesty in the provision of services. He thanked the Hon Prime Minister for agreements Samoa has entered into which recognise persons with 'Special Needs' and the importance of 'Human Rights'. He also thanked Women in Business (WIBDI) for their contributions and for supporting the many developments initiated by the Ministry. He further thanked the village mayors and women village representatives and his constituency for their continued support.

The Hon Minister made special note of the village of Nofaalii for their show of patriotism with their water display during both SIDS and the Commonwealth Youth Games.

43. Hon TUISUGALETAUA Sofara Aveau, Minister for Communication and Information Technology and Member for Vaimauga East

The Hon Minister began by addressing the issue of Emergency Service telephone numbers. He stated that in 1999 there was only one number for all Emergency Services (999). Today, there are several numbers for different services, perhaps because previously it had meant that one switchboard operator would transfer calls to all the Services. He stated that it is the Ministry's responsibility to inform the public of their respective contact numbers; as perhaps the real issue is lack of public awareness. The Minister then noted that payments for water, telephone and electricity bills may now be paid at the Samoa Post Office. He also noted that 2AP now has a new building.

Other developments the Hon Minister spoke about included the new TuiSamoa cable currently being installed, which will connect to the Australian, American, Fijian and other neighbouring cables. In regards to the request put forward by the Member for Vaa o Fonoti, the Hon Minister stated that a letter has been given to the Electric Power Corporation for assistance to be rendered to the cell phone towers at Uafato.

TUISUGALETAUA thanked his constituency for their support and thanked the government for the developments that have been implemented in his constituency. He then asked his constituency to be patient regarding their requests for roads, bridges and the like as they will be dealt with in due time. He expressed gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister for his commitment as the leader of the government, and for supporting his constituency.

The Hon Minister stated that a new School will soon be built in Fagalii, as soon as consultations are complete and approval has been given. He then expressed gratitude to the Associate Minister and the Chief Executive Officer and the Ministry for Communication for their support and specific contributions; he also thanked the Regulator for works undertaken. Finally he expressed his gratitude for the efforts and commitment of his fellow Cabinet Members throughout the parliamentary term.
