

DISCLAIMER

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Day 1: Wednesday 22nd June 2016

9:00am

[PART A]

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2015/2016 – second reading debate** *(inclusive of the Appropriation Bill, Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Second Supplementary Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Year ending 30 June 2016).*

1. TOLEAFOA Ken Vaafusuaga Poutoa, Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela

The Member began his maiden speech by expressing gratitude and appreciation to his constituency for their support. He then acknowledged various denominational leaders, his family and American Samoa counterparts. Toleafoa acknowledged the invaluable work of Ministry Chief Executives, in addition to the many Heads of Departments. He then acknowledged the work enacted by the former Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela and Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon Le Mamea Ropati.

After thanking his constituency for the opportunity to represent them in Parliament, he addressed the various candidates who contested the Lefaga and Faleaseela seat in the General Elections. He thanked the Minister of Finance for the budget and in particular for prioritizing of health and education, the development of which

are integral to achieving the current Samoa Development Strategy (SDS). He encouraged an overall focus on wise spending for the further development of the country.

Toleaofo then noted the various financial needs of his constituency, such as the construction of a hospital. He acknowledged the current construction and renovation work of various school buildings, but noted that allowances for students on scholarships are generally delayed. He noted the importance of scholarship funds for the purchase of school supplies and suggested that scholarship funding be released as soon as they are awarded.

The Member then addressed specific Ministers:

(a) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

Toleaofo acknowledged the many requests received by the Minister for the construction and repair of roads, but stated that there is a need to prioritise the access road at Fagamanu and Faleaseela, so that it may be used as an escape route inland in the event of natural disasters. He also noted that the roads at Savaia, Gagaifo and Matafaa need upgrades, and the need for the repair of the road frequently used road from Faleaseela to Mataaafa.

(b) Police and Fire Emergency Service

The Member noted his concern at the relocation of the prison to Tanumalala, which is within the boundaries of his constituency. He requested that construction of the new facility follow international standards to minimize inmate escapes, and to protect neighbouring residents. He then expressed his gratitude to the Fire and Emergency services for their fast response and subsequent containment of the diesel fuel tank explosion at the Matautu wharf earlier in April.

(c) Agriculture and Fisheries

Toleaofo thanked the Minister for the allowances, which were allocated to several farmers and requested that similar entitlements be extended to other farmers, such as horticulturalists. He expressed his gratitude for the "Koko project" and recommended that a similar project be implemented for other locally produced goods such as tomatoes and bananas.

(d) Natural Resources and Environment

Toleafoa thanked the Minister and Ministry for the Water Protection Programme that was recently held in his constituency. He noted that Lefaga and Faleaseela are the only areas that do not have seawalls, and therefore requested that they be constructed to protect both the people and the surrounding areas, given their close proximity to the ocean.

(e) Women, Community and Social Development

The Member requested the continuance of the fine mat weaving programme for "ie o le Malo".

(f) Communication and Information Technology

Toleafoa raised an issue which had been raised previously regarding the inadequate television reception in the areas beginning from Liua Le Vai o Sina and Falelatai.

In summing up, Toleafoa wished all Members the best for the remainder of the year, particularly in regards to their various parliamentary duties and responsibilities.

2. MULIPOLA Leiatua Laki - Member for Aiga i le Tai

MULIPOLA addressed the House and Samoa in all its honourific salutations. He then acknowledged his village and constituency, thanking them for electing him as their parliamentary representative. He asked for their continuous support and prayers, as he endeavours to enact his duties to both God and country.

He acknowledged the former Member for Aiga Le Tai, Afioga Ifopo Filisi, and praised the Government for its various development projects that have been completed, and those which are still in progress.

The Member continued by raising several concerns and requests to various Ministers:

(a) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

MULIPOLA noted that work had begun 4 months previously on a particular road in

his constituency, yet it remains incomplete. He stated that it is now a health hazard owing to the mass accumulation of dust.

He requested the construction of roads in areas frequently used by his constituents, stating that many roads have not been maintained or upgraded in 30 years. In particular, he noted that access roads within the areas of Lalovi, Fualolo'u, Satuimalufilufi and Apolima were in urgent need of upgrades.

The Member stated that water within his constituency is scarce and requested the construction of additional water pipes. He noted that perhaps the scarcity is a result of the water supply being redirected to the Aggie Greys Lagoon Resort, which in turn has limited the supply to his constituents. He stated that Manono Tai does not have access to water and detailed the obstacles for residents when attempting to transport water to and from these areas. He requested the installation of an adequate water system to ensure easy access by residents. He further requested the installation of water pumps to service inland residential areas within Aiga Le Tai. Additionally, the Member requested the installation of street lights to illuminate roads, particularly during the early mornings throughout the daylight savings months.

- *The Hon Speaker reminded the Member to adhere to speech time limits as per Standing Orders.*

The Member continued his speech by requesting the construction of a seawall at Lepuia'i, and the possibility of using inland areas for plantations, and the establishment of a designated "safe zone" in cases of natural disasters.

(b) Electoral Commission

The Member requested an additional seat on the Electoral Roll for his constituency to reflect and cater for the increase of residents over recent years.

(c) Health

In conclusion, the Member requested a hospital branch for his constituency given the far distance from the nearest hospital.

3. AUMUA Isaia Lameko - Member for Falealili West

The Member for Falealili West began his speech by thanking the O Le Ao o le Malo, various denominational leaders, the Diplomatic Corp, Samoa and our counterparts in American Samoa; in particular the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and the House of Representatives. He then greeted his constituency and expressed his deepest gratitude for their support and acknowledged the previous Member, Tusa Misi Tupuola.

In terms of the tabled *2016/2017 Financial Reports*, the Member noted an increase in estimated revenue for the current fiscal year, as compared to previous years; he also noted the increase of donor funds. AUMUA then spoke on the prioritization of education, health, finance and works.

(a) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member expressed his gratitude for the Ministry and in particular the National University, for various projects implemented in collaboration with international Universities.

(b) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested the construction of a sea wall at Salesatele. In terms of road construction, he stated that there was a need for the repair of roads at Poutasi, Satalo, Sapunaoa as they lead to popular tourism sites. He also requested additional tools and the implementation of appropriate systems for the replanting of cocoa and coconuts.

(c) Communication, Information and Technology

AUMUA requested the installation of a relevant cable for internet connection and noted the need for equal employment opportunities in this field, for both degree and non-degree holders. Furthermore, he noted the need to promote apprenticeships for non-degree holders.

(d) Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Member then concluded his speech by requesting the Public Service Commission

to review existing employment benefits for public servants.

4. ILI Setefano Taateo Tafili - Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Member for Aana Alofi No.2 began his speech by greeting all the Members and their respective constituencies. He thanked the Office of the Clerk for their ongoing service and support, and acknowledged the presence of those teachers and students participating in the 2016 Parliamentary College Programme. He then acknowledged the efforts of various denominational leaders; and expressed gratitude to his constituency for their support, particularly during the General Elections (with special mention of his village Nofaalii). He then acknowledged the efforts of the former Member, Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatava. ILI then urged his constituency to support his efforts during this Parliamentary Term.

The Member then raised issues for the attention of various Ministers:

(a) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

ILI reminded the Hon Minister of a previous request for an upgrade to the road at Nofaalii, further noting the need for water and electricity access in that area. He stated that the safety of residents in Vaialua has been jeopardized due to rising sea levels, and requested that necessary action be taken to ensure the safety of residents. He stated that residents of inland Leulumoega need access to water; despite the Civil Society Support Project (CSSP) providing water tanks, access to water remains limited. He then acknowledged the road works in Leulumoega and the outer parts of Nofaalii, but noted that these areas need of electricity.

The Member expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Finance, noting that despite his new appointment, the Hon Minister is not new to the finance sector.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:46am and resumed at 11:39am.

- **Hon Prime Minister's Motion:** The Hon Prime Minister moved a motion for the extension of sitting times from 3pm-7pm until the budget has been approved; the motion was seconded and approved.

5. FAASULUSAU Duffy Stowers - Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member greeted the House and Samoa, the *O Le Ao o le Malo* and Cabinet in all its honourific salutations. She then addressed her constituency and acknowledged the Hon Prime Minister for the initiative to reserve seats in the House for women representatives, which has resulted in two representatives for Gagaifomauga No.3

She continued by acknowledging Government efforts to ensure that relevant initiatives are put in place to promote the overall development of the country. The Member then raised the following issues:

(a) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member made general comments on the current educational system, stating that the teaching standards utilised by Malifa Primary should be used across the board. She also suggested that the Ministry conduct an audit or relevant examinations to gauge the delivery of curriculum material, noting the discrepancy in teaching methods used in classrooms in the urban and rural areas. She stated that this could also be used to assess and monitor the current capacity of teaching staff.

(b) Health

FAAULUSAU requested the construction of a hospital to service the areas from Safotu to Saleaula. In concluding her speech, the Member thanked the Minister of Finance for the budget and wished the Assembly well for the remainder of its June sitting.

6. LOPAOO Natanielu Mua - Member for Vaisigano No.1

The Member for Vaisigano No.1 addressed the Assembly and acknowledged the *O Le Ao o le Malo*, the Council of Deputies, the Judiciary, the Office of the Clerk and various denominational leaders. He then addressed his constituency in all its honourific salutations and addressed the Chair, thanking him for the opportunity to address the House. He then thanked the Minister of Finance for the tabled budget.

(a) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member stated that the distance of his constituency from the urban area makes

it difficult for resident children to access quality education. He noted that in Asau, there are specific educational issues that must be addressed; for example, 80% of teachers are diploma graduates which reflects the overall uneven distribution of qualified teachers in the rural areas. In comparison, teachers with higher qualifications are allocated to schools in the urban area. He stated that this results in poor quality of education received by children in the rural areas. To counter this, the Member suggested that a 'foundation' Programme be implemented in the rural areas, to ensure that all school children are given equal learning opportunities and are not disadvantaged due to their geographical locations. He provided further examples to support his claim and stated that children are the future of Samoa, therefore current educational standards should be high throughout the country, to ensure well educated adults in the future.

(b) Health

The Member suggested that the Ministry ensure there are safe buildings to host visiting doctors when they hold clinics in the rural areas. He then requested the construction of a pharmacy in Savaii, as at present there is only one that services the entire island.

(c) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

LOPAOO requested the construction of a wharf at Asau. He also suggested the implementation of a feasibility study to assess the possibility of utilising the area's natural water springs as an alternative water source. He then noted the need for general repairs to be conducted to roads within the Asau area, and the construction of a seawall.

(d) Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member requested cocoa plant seedlings to increase his constituency's cocoa production levels, making specific reference to available funds under the Samoa Agriculture Enhancement Project (SACEP), which could be used to finance such a request. He then thanked Women In Business Development Inc. (WIBDI) and noted the need for continued Ministry support in village development efforts.

(e) Finance

The Member noted that the current budget deficit reflects the need for Samoa to focus on developing its agricultural exports. He then suggested that the Minister find and utilize financial institutions, which provide low interest rates on loans.

(f) Electoral Commission

The Member requested the establishment of an additional Seat for Asau, as they do not have an individual seat (such as Safotu and Saleaula), but share a seat with Vaisala and Auala. He noted that the significance of Asau's traditional pule should be recognised by having its own Member of Parliament.

(g) Samoa Tourism Authority

LOPAOO queried the possibility of developing the vast amounts of available natural land to be utilised for tourism purposes. Finally, the Member wished the Speaker and the Assembly well for the remainder of the sitting.

7. Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister noted that second reading debates are for the discussion of general economic issues and requests for development works. Specific budgetary queries are to be raised during the consideration in detail stage, wherein the Finance and Expenditure Committee and relevant Ministers are able to respond accordingly.

8. FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi - Member for Siumu

The Member for Siumu addressed the *O Le Ao o le Malo*, the Council of Deputies and thanked his constituency for their support. He then addressed various Ministers:

(a) Finance

The Member noted his support for the budget, noting that if Samoa were a country of riches, Members would not have a lot to say on the budget.

(b) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

FAALOGO noted that a letter of request for the construction of new roads and the maintenance of old roads has already been prepared. He stated that there is only one existing road that was constructed 5 years earlier. He also noted that the

roads leading from Apia to Siumu need to be repaired, in addition to the installation of street lights.

(c) Health

The Member acknowledged the Minister's statement in regards to patients requiring overseas medical treatment.

(d) Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member requested the construction of a ramp at the existing wharf. Furthermore, he noted that the Minister should address the current practice whereby farmers use their residential land for crop growing, as opposed to utilising inland areas for their plantations.

9. NONU Lose Niumata - Member for Safata East

The Member began his speech by addressing Members, Cabinet, the Government and his constituency. He also thanked denominational leaders for their continued prayers and support. The Member acknowledged those who contested the Safata East seat at the General Elections and noted his constituency's support for the budget.

Specific development requests included the renovation of school buildings in his constituency, ongoing road maintenance and a possible road widening project.

10. AMITUANAI Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga

AMITUANAI welcomed fellow Members of the House and in particular all the newly elected Members. He then addressed his constituency.

Proceedings were suspended at 12:58pm and will reconvene at 3:00pm