

DISCLAIMER

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Day 1: Wednesday 22nd June 2016

3:16pm

[PART B]

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY CONTINUED

- 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).*

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

The Member continued his speech by acknowledging the candidates who contested the Aleipata Itupa i Luga seat at the General Elections, and prayed for their support during his Parliamentary Term. He then thanked his family for their support, and his election committee for their assistance during the General Elections. AMITUANAI thanked the Hon Prime Minister and his Cabinet for their work during the previous Term, which has contributed immensely to Samoa's development. The Member then stated that his constituency supports the tabled budget and then raised specific issues with various Ministers:

(a) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member emphasised his constituency's ongoing request for the improvement of its water quality. He suggested the construction of water pipes and pumps in the Alafou area to service villagers who relocated inland due to the 2009 tsunami. The

Member then requested the construction of a road to service the Ulutogia, Vailoa and Lalomanu areas, noting that work has begun but has yet to be completed.

(b) Natural Resources and Environment

The Member requested that work on the seawall at Lalomanu be continued. He urged the Hon Deputy Prime Minister to address the issue of littering throughout the country, particularly for tourism purposes. The Member then queried the current status of local meat production cattle slaughtering practices. He suggested the procurement of the 'niuean taro' for local farming.

(c) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member stated that the Government should encourage students to attend schools within their respective constituencies.

(d) Electoral Commission

The Member stated that the Commission should endeavour to continue to encourage voters to vote for candidates representing their place of residence.

(e) Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member requested that the Government provide cattle to rural farmers, to encourage the growth of the local meat market.

(f) Police and Fire and Emergency Services

The Member acknowledged the good work of the Ministry and encouraged them to continue on the same path.

12. FAUMUINA Asi Pauli Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West

The Member began his address by acknowledging the unique composition of his constituency, in that it is comprised of residents from across the island. He noted that this, however, did not lessen the traditional importance of the territorial constituency as it has its own salutations pertaining to Faleata. He also noted the territorial constituency's traditional parallel relationship with neighbouring traditional villages.

FAUMUINA expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Finance for the budget, and

noted that despite the shortage of national funds to assist all constituencies, the public is grateful nonetheless. He went on to praise the Minister for his budgetary efforts, despite limited national funding at his disposal.

(a) Works, Transport and Environment

The Member highlighted an issue experienced by residents who have been relocated from Apia to Moamoa, stating that these areas do not have water or electricity despite the understanding that both were to be made available prior to residents relocating. Furthermore, residents he noted that residents are unable to use the local bridge due to flooding after bouts of heavy rainfall, emphasizing that this is a recurring problem. He stated that work in areas consistently affected by flooding, such as Vaigaga, have been put on hold and requested such work to be continued.

(b) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member encouraged the Minister to utilize funding which has been allocated for primary schools, as government funding is what most educational institutions depend on for development. He also noted that there is vacant land in Vaitele, which should be utilised for a school building.

(c) Health

FAUMUINA praised the Minister for his good work during past Terms. He suggested that relevant criteria be put in place to screen those wishing to be transferred overseas for medical treatment to ensure that the entire process is cost-effective.

(d) Women, Community and Social Development

The Member supported the decision to make Hon FAIMALOTOA Minister, as it seems appropriate to have a female in charge of national matters pertaining to women and gender issues.

(e) Police and Fire and Emergency Services

The Member noted his support for the relocation of the prison to Tanumalala, as it will provide an isolated environment away from residential areas. He also noted his support for the proposal of an inmate-warden ratio of 1:1. He then acknowledged the overall effort to decrease the widespread ownership of

unlicensed guns.

13. TOOMATA Aki Tuipea, Member for Salega West

TOOMATA acknowledged the support of his constituency and made special mention of his village for their continued support, which has resulted in his election to Parliament as their representative. The Member then noted his gratitude to the Minister of Finance for the budget; acknowledging the tireless hours put in by the Ministry and the Finance Committee. He then went on to raise specific issues with relevant Ministers:

(a) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested that a road be constructed to service the villages of Fagafau, Samata-Tai and Samata-Uta.

(b) Health

He stated that not only are the hospital facilities in his area poor, but there is an issue with a lack of access to requisite medication. He stated that the need for villagers to travel great distances to receive medication could result in potential unwanted deaths.

In closing, the Member made general comments in regards to the opportunities for locals to apply for overseas work initiatives, stating that it would be ideal to allocate such opportunities to all villages. He then stated that owing to the fact that Savaii is a popular tourist attraction, developments should be increased to maintain its appeal.

14. LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata West

The Member thanked his constituency and village and acknowledged the good works of the Minister and his Ministry for preparing the Main Estimates. He then raised specific issues on behalf of his constituency with relevant Ministers:

(a) Education, Sports and Culture

LEAANA praised the Ministry for its continued efforts to improve Samoa's educational facilities. He noted that Safata College has seen an increase in its student roll (now approximately 500), yet there are only 10 teachers. He also

noted that primary schools in Vaiee, Nuusuatia, Lotofaga, Sataoa and Saanapu need more teaching staff, as there are an average of 3 to 4 teachers per school.

(b) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

LEAANA thanked the Ministry for completed projects and those which are in still in progress. He specifically noted that the Sataoa road requires repairs as well as the access roads at Vaiee and Sataoa. He also stated that the existing bridge needs to be repaired as it has suffered extensive damage due to constant water overflows. In particular, he noted that the Saanapu road which is close to the Australian Survivor series location, is in need of urgent repair for public safety. He requested the installation of streetlights in front of Safata College as well as general repairs to the Saanapu hospital.

The Member expressed his thanks for works carried out on the Saanapu road, but noted that there are areas where the tar seal has become rough therefore posing a safety hazard to drivers.

(c) Health

The member requested renovations to the Saanapu hospital to ensure the continuance of medical services to all residents of the constituency.

(d) Natural Resources and Environment

LEAANA noted that works to the existing seawall needs to be completed in Sataoa and Saanapu.

(e) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member requested the Ministry to develop templates for school reports that are reader friendly, and able to be utilised by all schools. He stated that the current reporting style is too generalized and do not promote student improvement through the identification of specific areas in need of development; particularly at the primary level.

He further recommended that teachers should specialize in specific subjects, as opposed to having teachers teach all subjects, particularly for Years 1 to 3. He emphasised that the current educational standard for Year 13 students is too low and this is reflective of the education provided at the primary levels.

He then made general remarks on the idea of children's rights, stating that the youth of today are less respectful and well behaved compared to 30 years ago. He stated that perhaps there should be less emphasis on child rights to avoid later behavioural problems.

He noted that a Committee should be established to review the organizational structure of the National University given that it has been in existence for over 10 years.

The Member supported the allocation of \$300,000 to the Samoa Qualifications Authority stating that its programmes have been invaluable to the development of educational standards. He expressed his gratitude for their contribution to the education sector through their accreditation standards and regulation of qualifications.

(f) Hon Deputy Prime Minister

The Member noted the recurring issue of land lease contracts and stated the Samoa Tourism Authority should be consulted when customary lands are proposed for lease for tourism purposes. This will ensure that the relevant background checks are carried out on interested investors, prior to the signing of contracts.

(g) Justice, Courts and Administration

The Member queried the possibility of reassessing the current system of hearing appeal cases, noting that cases seem to be held up once referred to the Court of Appeal. He stated that hearing delays before the Lands and Titles Court result in families being inconvenienced; the system should be improved to ensure justice and that families are not denied their rights to enact cultural ceremonies, such as the conferment of matai titles.

(h) Land and Transport

The Member requested that the timeframes for vehicle registrations be extended. Furthermore, he suggested that taxi drivers should undergo thorough background checks before the granting of a commercial licence. This would ensure public safety by avoiding those with criminal histories being able to provide transport to the public, and in particular tourists.

(i) Finance

The Member commented favourably on the surplus noted in the budget and suggested that it be utilised to fund core projects or to repay debts.

15. SEIULI Ueligitone Seiuli, Member for Sagaga le Usoga

The Member began his address but then shortly after, the Assembly was suspended for its usual afternoon recess.

Proceedings were suspended at 4:44pm and reconvened at 5:23pm

The Member continued his speech by expressing gratitude to those who contested the Sagaga le Usoga seat at the General Elections. He thanked them for graciously accepting his election, evidenced by the lack of electoral petitions lodged with the Courts. He also thanked the Hon Prime Minister for making him the Associate Minister for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

16. TUIFAASISINA Lisati Misa Leleisiuao Palemene, Member for Palauli East

The Member thanked the village of Vaitoomuli and its pastor and bishop for their support. He then gave special thanks to the village of Vailoa and its various denominational leaders for their support. He thanked those who contested the Palauli Seat for their acceptance of his election and offered his sincere thanks and gratitude to his wife and children for their ongoing support.

In regards to the tabled budget, the Member noted that we must ensure that our needs are in alignment with the budget. He stated that despite there being a lack of financial resources, we must trust that the Government will prioritize projects accordingly. He then went on to address specific constituency needs:

(a) Finance

The Member suggested that the Ministry focus on developing Salelologa as the town centre to reduce the need for Savaii residents to travel to Apia.

(b) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member stated that road works need to be implemented in the villages of Vailoa and Faala, which will encourage residents to begin agricultural projects in the area. He also stated the road at Afu Aau Falls requires upgrading as it is frequently visited by tourists. The Faala road also needs repairs for the same reason.

(c) Education, Sports and Culture

The Member noted his support for the reintroduction of corporal punishment and a zoning system for schools, stating that such a system would counter the increase of school violence in the urban areas, in addition to countering other social ills evident amongst today's youths.

He suggested the reintroduction of broadcasting educational programmes, noting its usefulness in supplementing the teaching of subjects with few teachers such as mathematics and science. He went on to request the widening of the playing field at Palauli College and the construction of a mini gym as currently, the school is the sports centre for the entire constituency.

(d) Justice, Courts and Administration

The Member requested that court hearings be again held in Savaii. He stated the need for Savaii residents to travel to Apia for their respective court cases is expensive and timely; he therefore urged the Ministry to find a more cost effective solution to this problem.

The Member touched on the issue of human rights, noting that presently, the Courts rigorously uphold individual rights, which are guaranteed under the Constitution,, meaning *Village Fono* decisions are often overturned; which, according to the Member, is not ideal. In terms of freedom of religion, TUIFAASISINA stated that Government decisions should be based on Samoa's current religious situation, further noting that Samoa is and should remain a Christian country.

- The Hon Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries moved a motion for additional time for the Member to continue his speech; the motion was denied.

The Member concluded his speech by praying for God's blessings to be on Samoa

and its Parliament.

17. SALAUSA John Ah Ching, Member for Faleata East

In opening his speech, SALAUSA acknowledged the three branches of the State; the Constitutional Officers; his counterparts in American Samoa; his constituency - including the villages of Lepea, Vaimoso and Vaimea; various denominational leaders and all those who offered their support during the General Elections.

(a) Finance

The Member thanked the Minister of Finance for preparing the tabled budget and noted his support of the various projects and proposals earmarked for the upcoming financial year. Noting the influence of global changes on the national economy, he stated that all relevant parties should work together to ensure that proposed projects are completed. He suggested that planning and implementation phases be firmly emphasised amongst all Ministries. He stated that despite Ministry plans being provided for in Corporate Plans, there seems to be lack of prioritization of the implementation stages. He encouraged collaboration and coordination between the various sectors to ensure completion of set objectives, plans and proposals.

(b) Agriculture and Fisheries

In noting the abundance of proposed plans for this specific sector, the Member stated that it is necessary to review and prioritize such plans to determine which projects should be discontinued.

The Member stated that extreme poverty does not necessarily mean a lack of basic necessities such as food and water, but it can also describe a situation where there are not enough buyers or sellers, or moreso, an imbalance between “supply” and “demand”. The Member stated that a farmer who is blessed with rich soil and abundant produce would never go hungry; however, the existing crop market is insufficient to cater for local supply levels. This, he stated, is evidence that although many are not 'poor' in the sense that they lack food there is limited cash on hand to purchase other necessities. This, he asserted, could be due to two reasons: a lack of potential 'markets' or the farmer being unaware of existing and potential markets.

In regards to mobile abattoirs, the Member noted his support for such a project and encouraged its implementation for the development of local meat production.

(c) Health

The Member stated that the priority of district hospitals should be the provision of primary home care.

- Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta moved a motion for an extension of the Members speech time; the motion was denied.

SALAUUSA continued by expressing his gratitude to the Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for works completed, despite the innumerous difficulties which they have encountered in the process.

- The Hon PRIME MINISTER recommended that the Speaker appoint Members to speak, so as to utilize the Assembly's time efficiently. He stated that the country patiently awaits the approval of the budget so that projects can be implemented.
- Mr Speaker affirmed that there is no Standing Order prohibiting such an action, and proceeded to appoint the Member for Falealili to begin his Maiden Speech and budgetary comments.

18. FUIMAONO Samuelu Teo, Member for Falealili East

The Member for Falealili East noted his pride in the origins of the traditional warrior Manu Samoa which echo his pride in the achievements of the Manu Samoa rugby team. He stated that not only does the team inspire patriotism, they are a reminder of the legend has its origins in Falealili.

He continued his speech by greeting the country, the *O Le Ao o le Malo*, the Council of Deputies and their good ladies; the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister; the Judiciary; denominational leaders; Ministry Heads and their respective staff. He then gave special thanks to his village of Salani and its various denominational leaders. The Member then thanked his constituency and expressed gratitude for the opportunity given to him to express their views in the House. He also thanked his election committee and his wife and 12 children for the support.

In terms of specific issues and requests, the Member addressed various Ministers:

(a) Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member suggested that the Minister visit the villages of Salani, Salesatele, Sapoe and Utulaelae to determine what road works should be implemented. He noted that these roads have yet to be tar sealed, yet are frequently used by farmers for the transportation of their taro exports. He noted that if tar sealing was not possible, that roads be repaired instead to ensure the public safety.

He then requested the construction of a seawall for Utulaelae and Sapoe to protect residents from possible natural disasters such as tsunamis. He also requested the installation of streetlights in various areas.

***Proceedings were adjourned at 7:01 pm and will reconvene
at 9:00am, Thursday 23rd June 2016.***