

DISCLAIMER

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Day 1: Tuesday 24 January 2017 [PART A]

9:00am

I. ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

1. Ministerial Speech & Adjournment for Urgent Public Business

Following the Hon PRIME MINISTER'S Ministerial Speech on the report of the Special Inquiry Committee on the Lands and Titles Court (LTC), he moved a motion for the House to debate the Committee's report together with the responses provided by the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration; the motion was carried. Debates then ensued under Standing Order 33 'Adjournment for Urgent Public Business'.

Members who participated in the debate included:

1. LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.2 and Chairperson for the Special Inquiry Committee on the LTC;
2. Hon AEAU Peniamina Leavaiseeta, Member for Falealupo;
3. Hon FAAOLESA Katopau T. Ainuu, Minister for Justice and Member for Vaimauga West No.2;
4. TAFUA Maluelue Tafua, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo;

5. Hon GATOLOAIFAANA Amataga Alesana Gidlow, Member for Faasaleleaga No.1;
6. Hon FAASOOTAULOA Pati Taulapapa, Member for Gagaemauga No.2; and
7. Hon TUILAEPA Auelua Fatialofa Lugesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER and Member for Lepa.

The Hon PRIME MINISTER moved a motion for both reports to be referred to Cabinet for further scrutiny; the motion was carried.

2. Motion by the Parliamentary Commission

NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu, Deputy Chairperson for the Parliamentary Commission, moved a motion for the House to approve the Parliamentary Sitting Calendar for 2017, which is as follows:

- March 7
- May 30
- June 20
- August 22
- October 17
- December 19
- January 23 2018

The motion was carried and the 2017 Parliamentary Sitting Calendar was approved.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:42am

Proceedings reconvened at 11:23am.

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2016/2017 – debate on second reading****1. FAUMUINA Asi Pauli Wayne Fong, Member for Urban West**

The Member for Urban West stated that in his opinion, more funding should be allocated to Parliamentary Committees so that they may effectively fulfill their responsibilities. He provided an example by stating that the existing vehicles used by Committees for their inspections are in need of repair. He appealed to the Hon Speaker to address these issues so that all Parliamentary Committees may be resourced enough to execute their duties.

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

The Member noted a recent technical difficulty within the Ministry of Education, which resulted in the loss of many students' exam results. He stated that the Ministry should endeavour to utilise finances appropriated, to ensure that the requisite resources are procured for the safekeeping of educational records. The Member then stated his support for the budget, in particular the allocation to the Ministry of Health to service medical operations.

3. LOPA00 Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisagano No.1

The Member for Vaisigano No.1 noted the condition of the water at Asau, Vaisala and Auala, noting that in a report received on 22nd September 2016, the water was declared unsafe for consumption. He stated that the goals specified in the Sustainable Development Goals include environmental goals such as the provision of clean and healthy living conditions. He then noted that if the Samoa Water Authority cannot find solutions to the existing water problems, it would be wise for those responsible to tender their resignations.

4. FAAULUSAU Rosa Stowers, Member for Gagaemauga No.3

The Member for Gagaemauga No.3 noted her concern over the physical condition of the hospital at Safotu, in addition to the lack of available doctors to service the hospital. She also noted that there needs to be an improvement in the overall educational standards within her constituency.

5. TAPULESATELE Mauteni Tamasone Metuli II Esera, Member for Vaisigano No.2

TAPULESATELE made reference to a certain 'project', which began in September 2016, but has since been put on hold. He then noted that a mechanical failure to a water drill in his constituency has delayed the provision of water to various areas.

6. ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua Sisifo

ALIIMALEMANU noted that there is only one school for the 12 villages within her constituency, which is located at the far end of Alataua West. She stated that the school's location is an issue as many school children must wake up as early as 3am to catch the bus, in order to make it to school on time. The Member therefore proposed the building of another school within her constituency, to service the 12 villages and the many school aged children within the area.

7. Hon FAUMUINA Faaolatane Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa

The Member for Palauli le Falefa focused his speech on unutilized appropriation from the financial years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 (7 million and 10 million respectively). The Member stated that Committees have queried various Ministries as to why they were not utilising allocated funds, to which many reply that they were not aware of such allocations. He therefore stated that the Ministry of Finance should attempt to implement training programmes to inform Ministries and Corporations, as to the exact amounts of appropriation allocated to them each financial year, to encourage the utilization of funds. The Member then raised concerns over the lack of government focus on the private sector, which he stated is the 'engine for [national] growth'. He suggested that a 'project management center' be established with the purpose of monitoring projects, which have been put on hold due to various issues.

8. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Member for Salega East

Specific requests put forward by the Member for Salega East included an extension to the road at Foga Savaii; a borehole to be drilled at Sagone; for the lawns at the Ministry of Education Headquarters to be kept tidy; for the Ministry of Education to ensure proper record keeping and proper marking of student exams. He then noted that it has been more than 5 years since the Samoa National Broadband was put in place, with one of the motivating factors for its implementation being to aide the education sector. He stated that with ongoing cases of student exam records being lost, this is evidence that such a goal has yet to be achieved. He further

noted that it should be clearly defined as to who is responsible for implementing the broadband programme, whether it is the Ministry for Education or Communication, Information and Technology (MCIT). He then stated that although MCIT is responsible for the technical side of the programme, in actuality, they do not have capable engineers to deal with maintenance issues, to ensure the project is implemented as was intended.

OLO then spoke on issues directly concerning the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), noting the differences between the dumpsites at Tafaigata and Vaiaata. The Member stated that rubbish is not sorted in the same manner at Vaiaata as it is done at Tafaigata, and requested for the Minister for MNRE to look into the matter. In regards to the Ministry of Justice (MCJA), the member raised concern over the separation of powers between the Parliament and the Judiciary. He stated that such a separation should be clearly defined for the public, as this is one of the first instances where the power of Parliament has been questioned, in regards to summoning members of the judiciary.

9. SULUMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga East

The Member for Vaimauga East noted that large sums of money are utilised for the transfer of patients overseas, and therefore queried whether there is a doctor resident within New Zealand who is running a business reliant on patient referrals. The Member then requested that government land within the constituency should be re-sold to Vaimauga East residents. The Member expressed his gratitude to the MCIT for the installation of the broadband system. Finally, SULUMANAIA expressed his gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister for instigating the inquiry into the Lands and Titles court, as a means of addressing long standing public issues and concerns.

10. TOOMATA Aki Tuipea, Member for Salega West

TOOMATA expressed his gratitude for the Supplementary Appropriation bill, and for the Hon PRIME MINISTER'S ability to uphold justice by establishing the Special Inquiry on the Lands and Titles Court, with regards to their practices and procedures. The Member then made mention of various concerns detailed in the report, and acknowledged the tireless efforts of the Committee members.

In regards to public commutes to Savaii, the Member noted whether there were any other means available for public transportation. He stated that during public holidays, there is always a rush for people to get seats on the ferry both at Mulifanua and Salelelologa. To avoid these issues, the Member asked the Minister to look into alternative transportation to and from Savaii.

Proceedings were suspended at 1.00pm

Proceedings are to reconvene at 3:00pm.