

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament of Tuesday 24th January 2017 [Part B]. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on Tuesday 24th January 2017 [Part B], you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly the Legislative Assembly.

**Day 1: Tuesday 24 January 2017
[PART B]**

3:00pm

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

**1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2016/2017 – debate on second reading
continued**

11. AUMUA Isaia Lameko, Member for Falealili

The Member for Falealili made note of a “Public Sector Reform” which was implemented some years ago, to encourage public servants to become multi-skilled, which would in turn cut down overall employment costs. He suggested that a relevant review be undertaken, as there has been a decline in mutli-skilled public servants as of late. AUMUA referred to the Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Public Enterprises, as examples of Ministries that are over staffed. In comparison, he referred to areas within the public sector, which required more workers, such as the Ministry of Works, which is in need of suitably qualified engineers. The Member then stated that he believed the amount allocated to the Ministry of Education for the Manu Samoa rugby team is insufficient.

12. LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata West

The Member for Safata West noted several requests to various Ministers such as the construction of a hospital within Saanapu (to replace the existing Health Care Centre), to eliminate the need for locals to travel to the Moto'otua hospital. In addressing the Minister of Health, the Member stated that only 12 teachers are currently teaching approximately 500 students at Safata College, and requested that more teachers are provided for the area, including the primary school. In terms of infrastructure issues, the Member stated that the roads at Sataoa and Vaiee require repairs. The Member then stated that there is an increasing number of maritime graduates who remain unemployed. He suggested that the Samoa Shipping Services seek both local and international vessels, which may provide employment opportunities for these graduates. LEAANA then queried the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, as to the process utilised for leasing customary lands to foreign investors. Finally, the Member queried the Minister of Finance as to whether or not the SAT\$23,600,000.00 surplus from the previous financial year had been fully utilised.

13. ILI Setefano Taateo Tafili, Member for Aana Alofi No.11

ILI expressed his gratitude to the Hon PRIME MINISTER and his Cabinet for having the courage to take a stance on issues, which have historically and continue to aggrieve many Samoans, in respect of delayed decisions handed down by the LTC. He then noted his support for the Supplementary Appropriation bill and concluded by requesting the Minister for Works take note of several roads in need of repair in his constituency.

14. FUIMAONO Teo Samuelu Teo, Member for Falealili East

The Member expressed his gratitude to the Special Committee of Inquiry for their work and subsequent report. He then expressed gratitude to the Minister of Works and the Ministry for the installation of streetlights within his constituency, while also noting other roads within the area, which require repairs.

15. NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketii, Deputy Speaker and Member for Gagaemauga No.3

The Deputy Speaker noted that his specific requests for infrastructure works for his constituency have been delivered in writing to the Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. NAFOITOA suggested that two full time civil engineers be recruited to ensure continued quality and effective

services are provided at all times. He then addressed the Minister for Education and suggested a focus on the development of boxing and weightlifting. In regards to Parliamentary Committees, the Deputy Speaker requested that additional funds be allocated to ensure Committees are able to fulfill their responsibilities, particularly in terms of site visits. Finally, the Deputy Speaker noted the increase in overall unemployment and lack of national employment opportunities, suggesting that the Minister for Labour and Employment look at providing education for different trades which may open up international opportunities for locals such as with the United Nations.

16. FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi, Member for Siumu

The Member for Siumu requested repair work to several roads within his constituency. He then requested that Women's Village Committee meetings be held at one time as opposed to having several meetings at different times. He also requested a sports field to be constructed in Siumu, stating that there is an ongoing increase in sportspeople from Siumu, who require suitable field to train on.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

1. Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Hon AFAMASAGA Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Member for Aana Alofi No.3).

The Hon Minister acknowledged those Members who raised issues relevant to his portfolio, noting that all matters would be addressed in due time.

2. Minister for Justice and Courts Administration, Hon FAAOLESA Katopau T. Ainuu (Member for Vaimauga West No.2).

After acknowledging his Ministry, the Hon Minister noted that no Members had raised any issues relevant to his portfolio.

3. Minister for Education, Sports and Culture, Hon LOAU Sola Keneti Sio (Member for Sagaga le Falefa).

The Hon Minister stated that he had taken note of all the issues raised by various Members, which will be dealt with in due time. In regards to the loss of students' examination records, the Hon

Minister stated that it has been a recurring issue since 2013, and is wholly due to oversight issues on the Ministry's part. He apologized to Parliament, and in particular to the public for the negative effects of this continued issue. Hon LOAU then noted that many sports fields have already been constructed in various constituencies, with many more to be developed in the near future.

4. Minister of Finance, Hon SILI Epa Tuoti (Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 East)

The Hon Minister acknowledged the issues raised by Members, in addition to the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC). He then thanked the various Ministries who had worked collaboratively to finalise the Supplementary Appropriation for their cooperation with the FEC.

5. Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers (Member for Gagaifomauga No.1).

The Hon Minister noted the request from the Member for Siumu; however, KIKA stated that there are differences amongst different villages, all of which have specific preferences for meeting times and procedures. The Hon Minister also noted that the practices within each village are largely dependent on their respective *Ali'i* and *Faipule*. KIKA further elaborated that the Ministry initiates meetings with the *Pulenu'u* to discuss matters regarding government services. She noted that *Pulenu'u* are representatives of the Government, and all developments within various villages are channeled through the *Pulenu'u*. The Hon Minister stated that a proposal is to be presented to Cabinet regarding various requests from villages. In closing, the Hon Minister reiterated the importance of women's roles in society in general.

6. Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang (Member for Urban East).

The Hon Minister noted the request for the recruitment of full time civil engineers, noting that the specific areas in need of civil engineers are for planning, infrastructure, assets management and regulation. In regards to roads, the Hon Minister stated that the Ministry had recently completed a 'standards test'; however, it became evident that the standards employed in Samoa will differ according to which standards the technical advisor (private sector) chooses to follow. He then continued by stating that the Ministry continues to seek ways to establish one standard in regards

to road standards, to ensure the quality and longevity of public roads. The Hon Minister then clarified that the approximate salary for civil engineers would be SAT\$200,000, whereas Consultants generally cost upwards of the SAT\$400,000 contract price range.

Proceedings were suspended at 4:45pm and reconvened at 5:22pm.

- **Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang (Member for Urban East) – continued.**

The Hon Minister referred to the roads in the Falelauniu area, noting his agreement to the assertion that the condition of these roads were appalling, and they were in dire need of repair. In response to the water issue raised by LOPAOO, the Minister stated that in his opinion, residents of Asau should only pay 50% of their water rates, owing to the poor quality of the water. In response to borehole requests, PAPALIITELE stated that boreholes will be drilled in the near future and that it was of the utmost patience that constituencies continue to exercise patience. In response to the Member for Vaisigano No.1's request for a borehole, the Hon Minister stated that it would be more cost effective for boreholes already drilled such as those in Falealupo.

The Hon Minister then addressed issues raised by the Member for Salega West, stating that he was not aware of a rush by members of the public to occupy seats on the ferry; additionally, the purchase of additional ferries or other transportation would not be cost effective. The Hon Minister concluded his speech by noting that the Ministry recently completed a roads assessment in both Upolu and Savaii which identified many roads which are in need of repair. He then noted that once the appropriate funding is made available, works to relevant roads will commence.

7. Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Hon SALA Fata Pinati (Member for Gagaemauga No.1)

The Hon Minister acknowledged his wife and family, in particular his constituency for their support.

8. Minister of Health, Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama (Member for Aana Alofi No.1 East).

The Hon Minister addressed various concerns raised by Members, particularly in regards to bacteria being found in local water supplies, as raised by the Member for Vaisigano No.1 The Hon Minister explained the various means in which bacteria may spread in the environment, and how it may contaminate water supplies. In response to the various requests for the construction of new hospitals, the Hon Minister stated that all requests would be taken into consideration but are ultimately dependent on available funding.

9. Minister for Public Enterprises, Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell (Member for Satupaitea).

The Hon Minister first addressed the request put forward by the Member for Vaimauga East in regards to re-selling customary land in Vaimauga East to its residents; he stated that it is difficult for the Ministry process all requests when there is a long standing waiting list of approximately 3,000 requests, particularly from residents in the rural areas and in Savai'i. In regards to the closure of Yazaki, the Hon Minister stated that there are incentives in place to address this issue. He stated that the purpose of such initiatives is to ensure those former employees of Yazaki are able to transition to other jobs such as the seasonal schemes, contract jobs and repair jobs. He also noted that training opportunities would be provided to jobseekers.

In regards to seasonal work opportunities offered in New Zealand and Australia, the Hon Minister noted that there are other avenues which the government has found for additional job markets for locals. The noted that the labour market information system is being created collaboratively between the National Youth Council and the Ministry, with a specific focus on youth employment. In closing, the Hon Minister responded to an assertion made by a Member that the Ministry for Public Enterprises was over staffed by stating that the existing staffing structure is sufficient. Furthermore, he noted that owing to the existing staffing structure the Ministry has been able to ensure all of its Ministry reports are up to date and there has been an increase in dividends received from State Owned Enterprises.

10. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Hon HON FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA Naomi Mataafa (Member for Lotofaga).

The Hon Deputy Prime Minister noted the various issues raised by Members, stating their importance, particularly in regards to land issues. The Hon Minister touched on the issue of water and rubbish on customary land, emphasizing that it is a sensitive issue for both the Government and the general public. Hon FIAME referred to the comments made by the Hon Minister for Health, who stated that debris on the land could ultimately seep into the soil and contaminate the water. The Hon Minister stated that the collection of village rubbish has now been outsourced, and public servants now undertake cleaning from time to time within various villages.

2. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2016/2017 – consideration in detail.

- Schedule One
 - MCIT - \$709,885;
 - MESC - \$1,934,828;
 - MOF - \$225,000;
 - MFAT - \$353,570;
 - MOH - \$825,080;
 - MJCA - \$125,000;
 - MWTI - \$157,105;
 - OCLA - \$274,134
 - NHS - \$680,000
- Total Additional Overall \$5,284,602
- Schedule One - Approved
- Schedule Two - Approved
- Clause 2 - Approved
- Clause 3 - Approved
- Clause 1 – Approved
- The Bill progressed without any amendments, was third read and passed the Assembly.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 7:10pm to reconvene at
9:00am on Wednesday, 25th January 2017.**