

## **DISCLAIMER**

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### **Day 1: Wednesday 21 June 2017**

**9:00am**

#### **I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

##### **1. Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 – debate on second reading**

###### **(i) TOLEAFOA Ken Vaafusuaga Poutou - Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela**

The Member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations and proceeded to acknowledge the efforts of the Minister of Finance and his Ministry for the tabled Budget. He then acknowledged Samoa's international partners for the various funds provided, and other assistance rendered for Samoa's development.

Requests by the Member to specific Ministers included the following:

- Minister for Works Transport and Infrastructure

TOLEAFOA noted the need for road upgrades at Falelatai and Samatau; Safaatoa; Falevao; and the main road at Matareva Beach. He noted that the access road located at Faleaseela and Fagamalo were also in need of repairs. The Member also requested the construction of a bridge along the road towards Liva le Vai o Sina. Requests for water supply were also noted for Faleaseela and Tanugamalala. The Member stated that given the prison to be established in the area, it would be ideal to install ample streetlights.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment

Requests by the Member included the construction of evacuation roads and sites for community safety during natural disasters. An evacuation site was also for the area surrounding the Return to Paradise Resort. Additionally, the Member requested the construction of a seawall to counter

the impacts of rising sea levels within the area.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member noted his thanks for the Ministry's prompt response to requests from his District for the help with taro blight. Given that the demand for taro was increases, the Member requested the construction of better service roads for farmers and business people.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture

TOLEAFOA thanked the Minister and his Ministry for the newly constructed school in Savaia. He also queried the interest rates charged by the Samoa Housing Corporation (17%).

- Minister for Health

The Member acknowledged the new health collaboration between Samoa and India and requested that a clinic is set up in his constituency.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development

The Member praised the Ministry's efforts in their attempts to continually develop village life. He stated that the Ministry's work has been particularly effective in strengthening the relationship between the village councils and women representatives.

- Minister for Revenue

The Member thanked the Minister and his Ministry for their ongoing attempts to secure various income streams for Samoa's continued development.

**(ii) FAUMUINA Asi Pauli Wayne Fong - Member for Urban West**

The Member for Urban West noted that there have been many visible budget cut backs, noting Parliament minimizing catering costs as an example. He then noted that funds allocated to the Fire Service Department are insufficient, and recommended that the Minister reconsider the amount. In regards to seasonal employment opportunities in New Zealand and Australia, the Member noted his concern that many are being employed who are not physically fit for the arduous tasks.

The Member put forward requests to specific Ministers:

- Minister for Communication and Information Technology

FAUMUINA requested that the Minister look into appropriate measures to mitigate the negative impact of mobile technology on today's youth. He then acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry for the installation of the new network cable.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested the construction of a road from Malololelei to Moamo. He also noted that there have been ongoing disputes as to who is responsible for road works for the Falelauniu area, and whether the Ministry could settle the issue to enable necessary works to begin.

**(iii) SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa - Member for Vaimauga East**

The Member noted his support for the tabled budget and requested that a wharf is constructed in Laulii. He also requested the construction of seawalls Laulii and Vaialele; the Member noted that large amounts of sand were removed from these villages for various state development projects. This, according to the Member, has since left the village vulnerable to land erosion from the ocean. The Member also requested that an access road is constructed in Vaialele.

The Member continued by noting that in past years, the villages of Vaialele, Letogo and Fagalii had requested the return of community land to be returned by the Samoa Land Corporation. The Member requested that the Minister consider compensation (or similar) for Fagalii residents owing to the inconvenience caused by large developments such as the Airport and the Golf Course.

○ Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member queried the status of the ploughs, which had previously been promised by the Minister for all Members.

○ Minister for Women, Community and Social Development

The member noted his disagreement with the new terms the community have placed on the women who reside with their in-laws. The Members stated that in-laws are well aware of their place in the community, just as males

○ Minister of Communication

In regards to technological advancement in Samoa, the Member noted that the cable has already installed yet the Estimates note that there is a lump sum payment set aside for telecommunications. The members encouraged the Hon Minister to assess the situation.

The member acknowledged the efforts of the UTOS Board, noting it had provided members and the Government with dividend payments. The member also acknowledged those who were able to attend the funeral service of Tuliaupupu. Finally, he requested that two members from his constituency be appointed as UTOS Board members.

**(iv) LEAANA Ronnie Posini - Member for Safata West**

Requests by the Member to specific Ministers included the following:

○ Minister of Works

The member stated that his constituency required road developments; in particular, an access road was required for Vaiee and Saanapu. He noted that there have been several television programmes filmed in the area, therefore the roads should be suitable for travel. He also requested street lights for Vaiee, Nuusuatia, and Saanapu to name a few.

The member also noted that no bids had been put forward during the tender for ships docked at Aleipata, in particular Lady Samoa 2. LEAANA requested the Government look in to the issue having regard for any natural hazards that would impact the wharf.

○ Minister of Health

The member noted that the Saanapu medical clinic was not equipped to cater for the number of people in his constituency. He requested that the Minister ensure the clinic is adequately supplied at all times.

○ Minister of Education

The member acknowledged the work of the Hon Minister to date, particularly in regards to the construction of various colleges within the constituency under the American programme. He noted that this included the recruitment of additional teachers for colleges. He also noted that the programme had reinitiated school visits and assessments. The member continued by noting that that grants from the Ministry increase based on the number of students in a school. He requested that this policy is reconsidered as many classes are overcrowded yet there is only one teacher.

He continued by noting that it has been 11 years since the University and Polytechnic had been combined, and there appears to be a lot of focus on vocational studies. It should therefore be time to utilize local specialists for educational purposes, instead of relying on international consultants as they are expensive. The member continued by commending the efforts of the University for the PhD level studies. He also recommended that a Commission be established to better serve the interests of the NUS and the IOT.

○ Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

The member requested the construction of a seawall for the village of Sataoa. He then acknowledged the committee who visited his constituency to clarify and explained the terms of leasing freehold land and in particular, customary land.

○ Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour

The Member noted that permits have been issued to foreign investors who do not appear to be doing any activities on island.

○ Minister of Tourism,

The Minister noted that there was too much litter around the wharf area in Matautu and the town area generally. He recommended the Ministry to advise restaurants and night clubs to keep these areas clean; he also advised that taxi operators attempt to present themselves in a neat and tidy manner.

- The Minister of Tourism interjected, noting that there was a beautification committee which was responsible for the cleanliness of the town area. He thanked the Minister for the suggestion.

▪ **Mr Speaker**

Point of order – in regards to a comment made by the member in regards to “\$400 for cash power”—the Hon Speaker stated that such a comment could be misunderstood by the public. He stated that the Hon Minister pays his cash power with his own money, not public funds.

The member for Safata West continued by noting the practice wherein overseas Samoan convicts were deported back to Samoa after serving their sentences. He noted his concern over the increasing number of dangerous returnees being brought to Samoa and queried whether an

agreement with international states could be made to restrict the number of returnees to Samoa.

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:47am and reconvened at 11:46am**

- Hon PRIME MINISTER'S motion: extend sittings hours until the Appropriation Bill has been passed; sitting hours will be 9am – 1pm, and 3pm – 7pm. The motion was approved.

**(v) Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili - Member for Aana Alofi No.2**

The member for Aana Alofi No.2 greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He then proceeded to note requests to various Ministers:

- *Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The member noted his constituency's gratitude for the recently installed electricity connection. He also requested an access road in Nofoaalii.

- *Minister for Natural Resources and Environment*

The member requested a seawall for the village of Vaialua, particularly because this is where the residences are for the Head of State and a member of the Council of Deputies. He also noted that recurring problem of littering, noting its predominance within the town area.

- The Hon PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister stated that the issue raised by the member was important because this matter involves the whole country, especially in regards to the authority of *Alii* and *Faipule* in villages; however, the Prime Minister noted that Samoa has always been renowned for its cleanliness.

The member concluded his speech by stating that littering problem was not the issue for a single individual or the Ministry, but it was the responsibility of the entire country.

- MESC

The member requested funding to construct a primary school in his constituency. He the noted that many vocational courses only have enough funding for theoretical studies, he proposed that additional funding is allocated to enable practical training as well.

**(vi) TAPULESATELE Mauteni Metuli II Esera - Member for Vaisigano No.2**

The Member for Vaisigano No.2 thanked the Minister and the Ministry for an efficient budget this year, which is evidenced in the lack of a supplementary Bill.

- *Minister of Health*

The member acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry to seek employment opportunities for local graduates.

- *Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries*

The member noted his concern over the lack of preventative measures currently in place for diseased plants within the area.

- *Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The member thanked the Minister for Works and his associate and the Executives for Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation, for works implemented in his constituency. The member thanked the Minister for the clean water access within his constituency.

### **(vii) FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy Stowers - Member for Gagaemauga No. 3**

The Member for Gagaemauga No.3 made requests to the following Ministers:

- *Minister of Finance*

The member thanked the Minister of Finance and the Hon Prime Minister for the tabled budget. She stated that the Ministries and Offices who have maintained or decreased their workforce is evidence of the Ministry's ability to effectively carry out their operations within their resource and financial means.

- *Minister for Health*

The Member noted that district hospitals are inadequately resourced, despite an increase in the Ministry's budget as proposed for this coming fiscal year.

- *Minister for Education*

The Member also noted a decrease in the estimated budget for the Ministry of Education. She noted that education was important and should be prioritized; allocated funding would be used to further assist district schools in standardizing their curriculum. She requested that the Ministry review the procedures for establishing district pre-schools; she stated there needed to be more emphasis on educating pre-school aged children as opposed to merely providing child minding services.

- *Minister for Communication and Information Technology*

The member reiterated the importance of coverage, noting that it saddened her to know that her constituents would not be able to hear her speech, as 2AP coverage does not extend to her constituency. The member requested that the Ministry consider extending radio coverage to all areas of the island.

- *Ministry for Revenue*

The member acknowledged the Minister, the CEO and its employees for the ongoing work efforts. She also noted that due to a decrease in expenditure, the budget has a surplus which is commendable.

**(viii) OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Member for Salega East**

The Member greeted the Hon Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and the members of Parliament. The member for Salega East made the following requests to various Ministers:

○ *Minister for Works, Transport and Information*

The Member thanked the Minister for recent developments carried out in Sagone and Vaipua; he also requested that works are carried out in Fogapoa. He noted that pipes were required to distribute water to 20 other families located on the western side of the water tanks.

The member continued by suggesting whether it would an appropriate time to use cans for packaging alcoholic beverages. He stated that this would reduce the risk of injuries to consumers. The Member also noted that this would provide a good opportunity for a company that manufacturers cans to set up business in Samoa; in addition to a recycling company. This would in turn, create more job opportunities for resident Samoans.

The Member noted his support for the estimates; however, he noted that there were other issues which the Ministry should look at such as maintaining VAGST as it is, restricting any further future increases.

○ *Minister for Education, Health and Works*

The member stated that these Ministries were not revenue-earning; however, he encouraged the Ministers to consider their budgetary allocations. The member explained that during his recent hospital visit, he asked for a wheelchair and although he was given one, it was not in suitable condition as there were no arm rests. He stated that these Ministries should utilize their budgetary allocations wisely, to ensure they are being spent where money is needed.

○ *Samoa Tourism Authority*

Noting the Authority's SAT\$4.5 million allocation for marketing in New Zealand and Australia, he queried why the Arab states were not considered. He stated that to date, he had not seen any advertisements for Samoa in New Zealand.

○ *Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries*

The Member noted that additional funds were required to complete the SACEP programme, noting that had USD 12Million was dedicated to this programme. The member suggested that this programme should cease it does not include the entire nation.

○ *Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour*

The member referred to the Sex Offenders Register, noting that it would require review of related technical issues. He stated that Parliament should review how these problems should be addressed at the earliest opportunity, emphasizing that prevention was better than a cure. the member mentioned the Sex Offenders Register that will be enforced soon, but it is through technology that these issues arise. The member asserted that Parliament should be looking at the cause of these problems and begin to address the problem from where it began rather than

focusing on the 'cure'.

**Proceedings were suspended for recess at 1:00pm and reconvened at 3:00pm**

**(ix) Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo – Member for Falealili East**

The Member made requests to the following Ministers:

○ *Minister of Finance*

The member thanked the Minister of Finance and the Ministry for preparing the budget. He then queried the 21 million surplus from the previous fiscal year's budget. He noted whether this figure was accurate, or whether he was mistaken, and it was actually a loan amount.

○ *Minister for Natural Resources and Environment*

The member reminded the Minister of his previous request for the construction of a seawall at Sapoe, as it remains in disrepair since the 2009 tsunami.

○ *Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries*

The member commented that there was an increasing number of taro plantations in his constituency, yet there is a lack of funds to export them. He requested whether the Hon Minister could look into this. The member stated that the issue of competition in regards to the taro market, and stated that there should be a standardised market price for taro exports. He asserted that there needs to be an open market to enable competition with other countries such as Fiji.

○ *Minister of Education*

The member acknowledged the efforts of the Minister to revive school assessors; the member also noted the need for employment opportunities in the education sector to cater to the increasing number of new university graduates.

○ *Minister of Communications and Information Technology*

The member thanked the Hon Minister for the recent installation of the internet cable, and requested a follow up on an appropriate firewall to monitor and regulate school aged children's access to inappropriate sites.- asked for a follow up on filters (firewall installed) to block inappropriate sites.

○ *Minister of Health*

The member commented on the limited number of doctors on island. He used the Lufilufi clinic as an example, stating there is frequently no doctor to see patients, requiring people to travel to the Motootua hospital for treatment.

**(x) Toomata Aki Tuipea – Member for Salega West**

The Member proceeded to make requests to certain Ministers, which included the following:

○ *Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The member noted the need for better roads within his constituency, in addition to appropriate access to water supply. He thanked the EPC for their hard work and requested that street lights are installed in certain areas within his constituency.

○ *Minister of Education*

The member noted the newly established schools in his constituency which were funded by JICA. He continued by requesting redevelopment of a school within his constituency which had been adversely affected from past cyclones. He proposed that the Ministry seek funding from Chinese contractors to remodel and renovate local school buildings.

○ *Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries*

The member noted the importance of finding solutions to rid the island of persistent pests. He noted that many coconut and koko plantations (two of Samoa's main agricultural products) are frequently affected and therefore thanked the Government for relevant funding allocations.

○ *Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour*

The member noted that he supported the Ministry's efforts to encourage foreign businesses and investors in Samoa; however, he noted that there are also adverse effects, such as a recent case wherein Chinese men robbed a person at an ATM. He stated that investors raise the level of competition between local businesses owners and foreigners; however, he emphasised that this

The member concluded his statements with a final request to Government—he requested the development and improvement of the Salelologa wharf which could help alleviate the stresses on urban areas from Savaii residents relocating to seek out employment opportunities.

**(xi) Faalogo Iosefa Sopi – Member for Siumu**

○ *Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The member for Siumu requested repairs to the roads within his constituency, in addition to the construction of drainage pipes as it is an ongoing problem during periods of heavy rainfall.

○ *Ministry of Health*

The member encouraged the Minister to continue to seek out opportunities for local residents to receive overseas medical treatment. He suggested that a Samoan ambassador is stationed in India to ensure our people have a trusted physician to see while travelling abroad.

○ *Minister for Education*

The member requested computers for the Palalau school.

**(xii) Aumua Isaia Lameko – Member for Falealili West**

The Member made requests to the following:

○ *Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The member requested repairs to roads in Saleilua, noting that the road to Saleilua school has been severely damaged. He also requested a better electricity supply/connection in his constituency.

○ *Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries*

The member asked the Minister to reconsider the existing processes and procedures of the SACEP Project.

○ *Minister for Communications and Information Technology*

The member informed the Hon Minister that the Digicel's network coverage did not extend to some parts of his constituency; whereas the Bluesky network was operational in all areas.

○ *Minister of Health*

The member questioned the merging of MOH entities, noting the positives of the separation in terms of implementation of work deliverables and clarity of roles

The member stated that Falealili was in need of better facilities; this could limit the need for residents to go to the Motootua hospital.

**(xiii) Nafotoa Talaimanu Keti – Member for Gagaemauga No.3**

The member for Gagaemauga No.3 emphasized the importance of developing the Savaii wharf and town. He noted that those residing in Savaii should be afforded equal opportunities and standing of living to those residing in Upolu. The member's requests to various Ministers' on behalf of his constituency included the following:

○ *Minister of Education*

The member noted that two primary schools in Avao required more teaching staff. He noted that at present there were Peace Corp volunteers providing teaching services, but there was a need for permanent staff. The member requested the development of alternative programmes for students who do not meet the minimum pass requirements for tertiary level studies.

He requested that a branch of the APTC could be established in Savaii, as it is an ideal course for local residents, and it would help increase the skills of residents to support the Savaii workforce.

○ *Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The member requested repair works for the roads within his constituency.

**(xiv) Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga – Member for Palauli le Falefa**

The Member noted that there should be increased allocation for the ongoing improvement of existing prison facilities. He then advised that the wharf in Savaii needed improvements. He provided an example of where a wharf facilitating the transportation of large shipping containers between Savaii and New Zealand, which could bypass the need to first ship containers to Upolu.

The member noted that his constituency needed support for the development of organic farming.

○ *Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour*

The member voiced his disagreement towards the Ministry's plan to stop child vending based on the assumption that it is harmful to the community. The member asserted that these children are out on the streets selling goods because they no longer want to attend schools; the member mentioned a phrase that "you can take the horse to the water, but if it does not want to drink then it will not"

**Proceedings were adjourned at 7:00pm to reconvene on  
Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, at 9:00am.**