

DISCLAIMER

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PART A

Day 4: Monday 26 June 2017

9:12am

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

(i) Hon. LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Minister continued with his response, informing Parliament that he ended his statement last Friday discussing the Chinese and Samoa relationship to build the agricultural sector, noting the positive outcome from this network was China agreeing to fund the first stage of phase 4 to develop local vegetable producers. The Minister mentioned the Ministry's continued efforts to provide capacity building programs to improve the knowledge of local farmers as this will ultimately lead to a decrease in imported agricultural products, together with the opportunity to expand our local produce and in time take over the supply for local supermarkets.

The Minister also acknowledged the Ministry of Health with its initiative to promote healthy eating habits and healthy living in schools; teaching and informing the younger populace of Samoa to make better and wiser decisions; the Minister stated that the 'Eat the colours of the Rainbow'

theme by the Ministry of Health is the reason for an increase in supply of vegetable and agricultural produce.

With regards to the ploughs raised by Members, the Minister clarified that there were 3 ploughs available at any time and day convenient to the Members. However, they must be returned to the Ministry after they have been used.

- **INTERJECTION**

Hon. AUULUA Fatialofa Lupesoliai Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi – Prime Minister

The Hon. Prime Minister reiterated the importance of the issue raised with regards to plough machines mentioned by the Minister as there were a few Members who raised this matter; noting that in the past, government resources gifted to villages and constituencies for development purposes were abused and solely utilized by the village mayor ‘Pulenuu’ which was why Government has decided that ploughs were available for public usage to develop villages and constituencies with the primary condition that it was returned to the Ministry for safekeeping; ensuring Government resources were maintained for a longer period of time as these are expensive.

Hon. LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Minister continued by stating that the abuse of government resources was the same reason fertilizers were controlled as they were abused and not utilised appropriately.

The Minister addressed the issues raised with regards to the cattle industry; stated there were 40 cows brought into the country to begin a breeding program as local cows took a longer period of time to breed and were physically unhealthy animals. Therefore, the Ministry mixed together by mating imported cows with local cows to ensure an outcome of having a healthier breed. The Minister also made mention to the excessive use of cows in different faalavelave’s; pleading and advising the public that this practice should be minimised as our local cattle industry can never effectively grow if we continue to slaughter them for various reasons.

The Minister elaborated that in approximately 3 weeks the Pig farming project will commence for the purposes of breeding. The Minister also mentioned the purchase of new machinery for the poultry farm to increase the number of eggs laid; noting that this was one of the Ministry's focus to decrease the amount of imported eggs brought into the country. The Minister explained that for every month, 40 containers of eggs were imported. With regards to sheep farming; the Minister noted that the Ministry continued to research and determine the right type of sheep to breed, preferably the kind that can endure Samoa's climatic conditions.

Fisheries:

The Minister encouraged the fishermen to fish the deep waters and outside the reserved areas of Samoa; he noted that there were 15 buoy's used in Savaii; however, most of the buoy's were damaged due to reckless fishing and negligence in pulling from one area to another. The Member elaborated that in Thailand the tilapia fish is a major export therefore if Samoans continue to nurse and breed tilapia, the Ministry can identify a market to allow local fishermen to commercialize this transaction.

The Minister mentioned the works of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS) noting that the Organisation continues to look at ways to commercialise their findings and experiment projects. The Minister also elaborated that Samoa will be hosting the 'Breadfruit Festival' in October 2017 to showcase our local experiments and foreign experts are invited to participate and provide feedback. The efforts of SROS and the Ministry to improve the standards of our local products exported to overseas markets were acknowledged by the Minister. The Minister made particular mention to the experiments such as oil produced from avocado and frozen goods as a preservative tactic to ensure the quality of produce is sustained during the duration of export.

- **INTERJECTION**

LOPAOO Natanielu Mua – Member for Vaisigano No.1

The Member reminded the Minister that the mandarin fruit in his constituency grows in plenty, and queried whether there were any markets available for this fruit.

Hon. LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Minister elaborated that the difficulty in commercialising our local mandarin was due to fungal parasites of plants, and then advised the Member to target the local markets, restaurants, hotels and resorts for now.

The Minister acknowledged local businessman Lemalu Ray Ah Liki, chairman of the Samoa Commercial Bank for offering an agricultural loan of SAT\$3,000 – SAT\$10,000 for the development of personal plantations and farms; he also acknowledged the Nanses family for providing a shipping route convenient for Samoa's exporting needs.

In regards to the rhinoceros beetle and its impacts on the agricultural sector, the Minister informed the public that this is not only the responsibility of the Ministry but that of each individual as it is a national issue. He then advised to collect the beetles and burn them. The Minister then urged all Members to work together with their constituents to combat the issue.

The Minister pleaded to the Ministry of Public Enterprise to allow the leasing of land to farmers for the development of the agricultural sector; also raised concerns on the condition of the packing facility in Upolu as it has been fully taken up with frozen goods waiting to be exported. The Minister also raised the concern of having no packing facility in Savaii, noting that it is crucial as Savaii provides 12 containers of taro; and it is important to have proper packing facilities to ensure the quality of exports are in good condition.

The Minister concluded with addressing his constituency.

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

The Minister addressed the Chamber, the Office of the Clerk, members of the gallery (CEO's) and the public at large. He acknowledged the majority of Members who raised issues and concerns regarding the Ministry, such issues included the maintenance of road, the development of access roads, seawalls, bridges, drainages, laying pipes to access water and drilling bore holes. The Minister confirmed that all requests have been noted and asked the Members to be patient; all requests will be implemented before the Parliamentary Term ends.

- **INTERJECTION**

FAUMUINA Asi Pauli Wayne Fong – Member for Urban West

The Member reminded the Minister that his query was in regard to a new road for Moamoa and Malololelei, noting that this would also be beneficial for Falealili and Safata residents.

Hon. PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister elaborated that the Member requested for a new road, which was also included in the projects which have been noted. He then continued with explaining the proper authorities and ministries that the public should put forward their requests for development works; for instance, if an individual is requesting for a seawall near the main road area, then those requests are to the Land Transport Authority, if it is a seawall to protect private property then those requests are addressed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

In relation to the concern raised by one of the Members, of having too much chlorine in the water supply, the Minister asserted that there were tests conducted to determine the right amount of chlorine to eliminate the risk of bacteria in our water supply, and the results of those tests are

followed to ensure the people of Samoa have access to safe and clean water.

With regards to the issue raised by the Member for Safata West, whereby an old Lady Naomi 2 boat at Aleipata was raised, the Minister elaborated that the Ministry continues to monitor the vessel to prevent any environmental implications and claimed that there were plans to develop the reef as a tourist attraction site, operational for commercial purposes; whereby tourists can enjoy swimming and scuba diving. The Minister also noted that there was a request in place to the Japanese government to replace the old vessel.

The Minister also confirmed that the electricity levy will not impose an increase to the cost of electricity per unit as raised by other Members. There was also specific mention of the bridge in Leone which will officially be opened in July.

Proceedings were set aside at 10:44am and resumed at 11:30am

The Minister continued by confirming that in regards to the condition of the roads at Falelauniu, the Land Transport Authority is responsible to repair these roads.

- **INTERJECTION**

LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo – Member for Anoamaa West

The Member raised the road in Sauniatu, stating that it is a public road and repair works have not been done; the Member asked whether this road will also be included in the Minister's list for this parliamentary term.

- **INTERJECTION**

ALAIASA Moefaaouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa East

The Member requested whether the roads going behind family homes can also be tar sealed to avoid dust from going in and out of homes due to many vehicles passing by.

- **INTERJECTION**

PAU Sefo Taumata Pau – Member for Faasaleleaga No.2

The Member reminded the Minister that these were old requests voiced by Members and asked whether the Minister would live up to his word that he and the Ministry will conduct village inspections.

Hon. PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister responded that the countless requests by Members have all been noted and will be considered once the *Appropriation Bill 2017/2018* is passed; also considered using funds from the AF to maintain and repair roads, the Minister noted that there were previous inspection carried out and the concern was that the roads were not well maintained.

The Minister also mentioned the Ministry's intention to establish road meters to require paying for parking in town areas and public places and noted that the Land Transport Authority will continue to collect payment of fines on road offences.

- **INTERJECTION**

FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga – Member for Palauli le Falefa

The Member commented on the establishment of parking meters, saying this strategy will allow the public equal access to parking spaces, rather than public servants blocking the road. The Member also reminded the Minister of another issue regarding the Land Transport Authority and the Ministry of

Police, stating that Government should find a way to make both Acts coherent with each other.

Hon. PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister clarified that instant fines regarding car accidents and offences are collected by the Land Transport Authority and other serious offences are collected by the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration. The Minister elaborated that the revenue collected will go to Government, advising the public to change their mind-set that the Police are 'getting nothing' from enforcing traffic laws as they are both working hand-in-hand assisting each other and sharing the work load.

• **INTERJECTION**

LEAANA Ronnie Posini – Member for Safata West

The Member reminded the Minister about the appearance of taxi drivers, noting that there should be a policy to ensure taxi drivers present themselves in a clean and neat manner, as they project the image of Samoa to their passengers who are also tourists.

Hon. PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister concluded his response and asserted to all Members that he has taken note of all requests made in Chambers in addition to the requests submitted to his office.

(iii) Hon. SALA Fata Pinati – Minister for Tourism and Member for Gagaemauga No.1

The Minister addressed the Assembly, highlighting the events that have exposed Samoa to the world, such as the rugby match between Samoa and Argentina in the 1991 World Cup, another important event was the SIDS Conference where Samoa hosted more than 100 countries.

- **INTERJECTION**

OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Member for Salega East

The Member queried the \$11.4million spent on advertisement in New Zealand, noting that Samoa should have targeted a country farther from Samoa to ensure a wider audience can view the different tourists sites Samoa can offer, as well as showcasing the Faa-Samoa to foreigners.

Hon. SALA Fata Pinati – Minister for Tourism and Member for Gagaemauga No.1

The Minister informed the Member that the grants and financial assistance given to Samoa from overseas donors have strings attached; the assistance is given with conditions and therefore, Samoa can only negotiate and agree to terms that are most beneficial from the options available.

The Minister addressed his constituency and concluded.

(iv) Hon. TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama – Minister of Health and Member for Aana Alofi No.1 East

The Minister began his response by addressing the Assembly, Head of State, Council of Deputies and Samoa. The first issue the Minister elaborated on was the transfer of patients to India for medical treatment. The Minister explained that there were 3 patients referred to India after they were rejected in New Zealand. Another benefit the Minister noted was that of treatment costs in India, as it was one-third of the costs of treatment in New Zealand, therefore allowing more patients to receive medical treatments in India. The Minister indicated that there are 14 patients waiting to be transferred to India for treatment.

On the other hand, the difficulty in India as noted by the Minister is the distance to travel from one medical area to another in addition to having no family members to care and support the patient. However, this can also be taken as a positive, easing the burden of families overseas to care and look after the patient. The Minister elaborated that preferably all patients will be

treated in India, save for emergency cases where the patient cannot receive a specialised surgery in India then he/she is referred to New Zealand. The issue of having a Samoan Ambassador in India was also mentioned, as the Minister noted this would be a bridge between Samoa and India relations.

The Minister acknowledged the 13 Members who raised concerns with the Ministry of Health, noting that 12 of these members queried the merge between Ministry of Health and the National Health Services.

The Minister then elaborated that the merge seemed appropriate because the standard of the hospital is not where it should be, noting that the number of services has increased but prevention and cure is not reflective of this. The Minister also clarified that the Ministry and Corporation should work closely to achieve an effective and efficient outcome.

The Minister elaborated on the increase in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) in Samoa, and stated that every week more than 10 people die from heart failure, diabetes, and high blood pressure. The first-aid community treatments received in the rural areas was an issue the Minister urged the community to revive, stating that if the communities would assist with first-aid treatments infections and wounds can be prevented at this level before requiring serious medical attention at the hospital.

In regards to the issues raised by members whereby there is a shortage of doctors serving the rural areas, the Minister informed the Assembly that ideally the Ministry would like to have a doctor stationed at each clinic daily, however, at the time the Ministry can only accommodate a doctor in all clinics for 1 – 2 days per week.

Proceedings were suspended at 1:00pm and will reconvene at 3:00pm