

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**DAY 3 - PART A**

**9:11am**

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – Reading of Bills**

- 1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL No.3 2020; and APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021 – debate on second reading cont.**

**I. TAFUA Maluelue Tafua – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo**

The Member greeted the House and Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He expressed support on the Budget and echoed sentiments that ‘wants will always outweigh the budget’. Tafua praised excellent financial management, which is reflective of overseas donors/foreign partners willingness to provide grants to Samoa (noted the amount of 107million). He continued to acknowledge efforts of the NEOC in keeping Samoa safe from COVID19. The Member commended the Minister of Health for being proactive in addressing the pandemic and suggested to continue with the lockdown as the safety of the nation remains paramount.

The Member presented statistics on the growth of Samoa’s economy and stated that during 2014-2015 4.3%, 2015-2016 8.1%; the growth was owed to the hosting of SIDS conference, Commonwealth Youth Games, All Blacks rugby match and other contributing factors. He then called for the Hospitality industry to collaborate with the airline and ministry of tourism to provide better accommodation packages for locals and when borders are opened for visitors to build revenue and keep businesses opened during unprecedented times. Tafua acknowledged the road heading towards the airport and stated that there were too many speed humps, additionally he requested for walkways for pedestrian. Tafua noted a recent incident whereby a village from Fagalii was struck by a vehicle, and then called for roads at Fagalii to be repaired.

**INTERJECTION – Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister asserted that road works/repairs will be conducted for these roads (from Vaialele onwards).

**TAFUA Maluelue Tafua – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo (Cont.)**

The Member commented on the condition of the road at Vaivase stating that there were several repairs conducted on this specific road, yet when it rains continuously, the state worsens, noting that the underlying problem is poor drainage – he then called for proper drainage installed to avoid repeated road works on the same road.

**OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Member for Salega East**

The Member queried why designs differ; noting that there should be a standardized design set by the Land Transport Authority for contractors to follow rather than having separate designs by independent contractors.

**INTERJECTION – Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister elaborated on the current process, and asserted that designs are set by the Land Transport Authority, then passed on to contractors to implement (based on LTA design) if there is an issue with the design, that falls on the contractors. LTA is responsible for the design and monitors that the contractors comply with the approved design.

**TAFUA Maluelue Tafua – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo (Cont.)**

The Member made specific requests to the following Ministers:

- Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

Acknowledged the implementation of Digital TV and requested to lower internet costs.

- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*

Mangroves at Malaeola and Lotopue- requested assistance to maintain the mangroves area for biodiversity and ecosystem

- *Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration*

Acknowledged the new Chief Justice and conveyed well wishes for his tenure.

- *Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure*

The Member acknowledged Government for the inception of the Tiavea Airport. He further stated that there were speed humps in certain villages of his constituency that were not up to standard. A request was also made by the Member to have road works at Malaela completed by the Ministry and called on the Samoa Water Authority to establish proper water supply for his constituency.

- *Minister of Education, Sports and Culture*

Tafua called for an inspection on the schools in his constituency, as it needs improvement. Member commented on the condition of the road at Vaivase stating that there were

**II. FONOTOE Nuafesili Pierre Laufo – Member for Anoamaa West**

The Member conveyed acknowledgment for the Budget and efforts to keep Samoa COVID free by the Executive and the NEOC. He acknowledged the foresight in setting aside funds for front line workers in the event of COVID entering our nation. He addressed the Ministry responsible for the safety of Samoa and commended their patriotism putting service before self. He conveyed support for the initiative to revive beautification committees and encouraged training centres for nurses in the rural communities to build capacities, additionally the member queried the feasibility of incorporating beautification committees to assist the community nurses.

Fonotoe also commented on the orders imposed by the SOE and suggested that these orders remain even after the SOE has been lifted. In efforts to boost the hospitality industry, the Member called for a capital injection from the Ministry of Tourism to assist hoteliers. Furthermore he was pleased to note the reduction of electricity and water costs due to the SOE. The Member for Anoamaa West supported the utilisation of hotels as quarantine sites for those travelling to Samoa to help the industry meet costs and expressed support for the opening of borders between Samoa and American Samoa.

He then addressed the Minister for Public Enterprise and commended his efforts in procuring an aircraft that has 5years of travel mileage. He then asserted that there is potential for our aircrafts although the airline has declared bankruptcy (24million loss for the past FY – carried forward and has accumulated an amount of 40million loss) He then supported loaning 30million from UTOS to cover the loss and assist with the purchase of the new aircraft. Fonotoe asserted that it is important to have proper revenue forecast and projections to ensure the airline is kept afloat. The member touched on the Airport at Tiavea and stated that this airline will reap benefits in the future as it will be used as a regional airport and called for completion of this project in the current parliamentary term. Fonotoe noted the importance of repair and development works on the roads for the western side of Upolu as this will compliment the new airport.

The Member made specific requests to the following Ministers:

- *Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure*

The Member requested for the access roads of Solosolo to be upgraded as there is an increase in inhabitants residing in this area.

- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*

The Member noted an appropriation of 15million set aside for the MNRE and then requested for sea walls in his constituency.

- *Minister of Customs and Revenue*

The Member queried the status of the Alcohol Control Bill and recommended to the Minister to move a motion for the withdrawal of the Bill to allow time to incorporate the relevant changes and so fourth.

Fonotoe spoke from the perspective of entrepreneurs and stated that audit fees are too expensive (considering it is a process conducted annually – therefore this is an annual expense on the business), on that note he refuted claims made by former members that legal fees are too expensive (specifically in regards to the process of adoption).

**ALAIASA Moefaauouo Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa East**

The Member refuted claims that auditors are expensive and stated that there are other means of payment that can be arranged.

**III. MULIPOLA Leiatua Laki, Member for Aiga ile Tai**

The Member addressed the Minister of Finance and commended efforts of the Village Council and Women Committees in maintaining the peace and harmony within villages.

**INTERJECTION – Minister of Women, Community and Social Development**

The Hon Minister clarified the matter raised by the Member and asserted that currently the guideline in place only allows registered villages (nu'u mavae) to have/appoint Sa'o Tamaita'i and then sought the patience of the Member as there is a time for everything.

**MULIPOLA Leiatua Laki, Member for Aiga ile Tai (cont.)**

The Member continued with his address and acknowledged the MWCSO for multiple initiatives introduced in the Financial Year. He conveyed appreciation to the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure on the developments implemented for his constituency. He then informed the Minister that the water supply/connection has not be established for the village of Manono-Tai; on the same issue, Mulipola requested to expedite the process of reconnection water supply after overdue bills are paid. He reminded the Minister of the multiple development needs for his constituency. He also acknowledged the Trust Estate of Samoa and requested consideration for application of lease for his constituents as his village is bordered by the sea and barren land (luma fale i moana, ae tua fale i papa). The Member acknowledged the initiative by the Ministry of Tourism for 'garden toilets'

**INTERJECTION – Minister for Tourism, Hon SALA Fata Pinati**

The Hon Minister made note of the concerns raised by the Member and asserted that there are various families requesting for lands (noting there are lands at Mulifanua that Government may consider).

**Proceedings were set aside at 10:50am;  
and reconvened at 11:40am**

#### **IV. NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu, Member for Gagaemauga No.3**

The Member acknowledged the 3 arms of Government; acknowledged his constituency, and noted support for the Budget and its merits. On the issue of National ID, the Member was receptive of the \$50 as an incentive to draw people to register. The Member suggested the inclusion of biometrics such as i.e fingerprint as extra identification, Member cited that this will inadvertently assist with crime scenes (finger print samples are more accurate).

- Ministry for Agriculture

The Member noted that the Covid19 is a wakeup call for Samoa to revitalize and initiate subsistent living (live by your own means). Member reaffirmed that there are positives from the Covid19. Requested to consider appropriate funding made available to the development and harvesting of agricultural crops and farming. The Member stated that it is better to be proactive. Nafotoa echoed sentiments from the Member for Anoamaa East in honouring God and called to continue the closure of businesses on Sundays and accentuated to "Keep it Holy"

The Member for Gagaemauga No.3 refuted claims made by the Member for Salega East looking to incite controversy, and asserted that Saleaula's seat still exists.

#### **LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt – Member for Gagaifomauga No.3**

The Member stated that Saleaula has a lower chance of gaining a seat in the next parliamentary term owing to the changes made to the electoral constituencies Act.

#### **INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister**

The Hon PM stated that he had already clarified the matter several times and that the electoral boundaries was to equally accommodate the number of people residing/occupying in respective constituencies. Furthermore, the Hon PM stated that Constituency's with 2 Members are based on the ratio of constituents to MPs. Hon PM asserted that election is a Western Practice and noted that in order to ensure harmony with our Customs the ratio was set as a guideline for the Number of MP's per Constituency.

The Hon PM touched upon qualms raised and asserted that village salutations will be altered to accommodate the changes. The PM noted that on the 15 August 2017, Cabinet including Laauli endorsed the proposed changes during his tenure as a Cabinet

Minister. Hon PM reiterated Electoral Constituencies will not override Traditional Constituencies as implied by the naysayers at the time.

### **FAASOOTAULOA Pati Taulapapa – Member for Gagaaemauga No.2**

The Member expressed disappointment with his constituency being the subject of debate and stated that he will respond in due time.

### **V. PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena- Member for Faasaleleaga No.4**

The member addressed Parliament and used the Story of Abraham to illustrate the need for faith. On the issue of deficit, the Member stated that Abraham operated with nothing and became the father of all nations via faith. Peseta echoed sentiments of the PM to not be afraid of change. Recited a prayer by the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference”

The Member requested a Theologian college to be established as this is a good initiative for the youths causing violence in public places; Peseta acknowledged the faith of certain leaders in Government Ministries and setting aside an hour of praise. The Member made note of the progress by Government Ministries; requested that APTC skills be applicable and called for overseas consultants to oversee students. He also commented on the process for building houses and the guidelines/requirements involved in the process.

### **INTERJECTION – Hon Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour**

The Hon Minister interjected to clarify on issues raised by the Member; there is an apprenticeship program in place and asserted that trainees receive adequate time to familiarize with the systems in place. The Minister stated that if there are no individuals equipped with the skills then overseas consultants are hired.

### **PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena- Member for Faasaleleaga No.4 (Cont.)**

The Member called for a commission to deliberate application for lands and requested to the Ministry of Works that the roads in his constituency need development works. The road for Pu'ap'ua needs an upgrade as this road runs through village plantations. Peseta acknowledged the Minister for declaring that the bridge for Lano is included in the agenda of development upgrades.

Member concluded by acknowledging his Constituency for their support; moreover, the Member made note of the Unanimous Support for the 3 Bills. Furthermore, the Member conveyed well wishes to his opponents in the upcoming General Election.

**VI. TAEFU Lemi Taefu- Member for Falelatai & Samatau**

The Member addressed Samoa in her honorific salutation, advised respective Ministries and Government agencies to update their annual reports and produce e-copies to save paper. Projects (under the Ministry of Finance and others) have been stagnant for 3 years and requested a status report on the progress of development projects. The Member acknowledged the Committee in remaining steadfast regardless of critics at the time of inception. The Member noted the Pros of the SOE, is that more time spent with family (strengthening the family unit) and commended the educational learning/tutorials televised which is such a positive initiative. The Member encouraged teachers and noted in his observation the morale amongst teachers seem excellent

**Proceedings adjourned at 1 pm;  
and will reconvene at 6pm.**