

PART B

Tuesday 21st January 2020

6:04pm

Pursuant to S.O 18 in the absence of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Tofa NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu took the Chair and conducted the proceedings.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2019/2020- debate on second reading continued

viii. NAMULAUULU Papalii Sami Leota- Member for Faasaleleaga No.2

The Member for Faasaleleaga No.2 acknowledged the Leader of the House and his Cabinet for their collective work in resolving the measles outbreak. He stated that there were lessons learnt from the outbreak: firstly, to have steadfast faith in the Lord, furthermore, efforts from all of Samoa not only the Ministry of Health but individuals from the public and private sector and volunteers from overseas who came together to assist and support Government's drive to end the measles outbreak.

The member recalled his time spent in Savaii during the public holiday as it was an opportunity for him to spend more time with the families in his constituency. He acknowledged the Minister of Works and the Ports Authority who worked tirelessly to provide services needed for transportation to and from Savaii. He then raised the need for a new vessel as the current vessel has been without air condition for a while. He further made known that he asked his constituents as to what was needed for their constituency, and they replied road and sea wall developments- requested for assistance from the government for his constituency and to look into providing water and electricity services to parts of his constituency. Roads at Sapapalii and Tapueleele need repairment, though acknowledged some road works done at Tapueleele, however the inroads need improvement as most cars cannot go through it.

In regards to seawalls, given the changes in climatic conditions and sea level rise, the constituency need construction of sea walls. He further suggested that local engineers/expertise should be utilised in the development and construction of the Maliolio road (bridge) and other similar projects in Savaii.

PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister responded that the Company the Member is referring to is a Korean Company that has long been abolished from Government contractors. He then asserted that they are currently employing local expertise.

NAMULAUULU Papalii Sami Leota- Member for Faasaleleaga No.2

He continued by acknowledging the Minister for the work done to the roads leading to the Faleolo Airport however it has been noted that there are a few vehicles who go way below the required kilometers causing unwanted traffic jam. He advised the Police to look into this as they are the ones that slow down the traffic to the Airport and is very frustrating to other road users.

In regards to the tourism industry, given the fact that the measles outbreak has been resolved, our tourism sector should start promoting and notify our potential tourists to come and visit a safe Samoa. He urged the industry to take a more aggressive approach in marketing Samoa to the world.

The member continued by stating that the road at Fiaga need work as a lot of people are using this road.

To the Ministry for Women, Social Community and Development, the Member agrees with having a pulenuu and sui tamaitai in the villages as these are the people at the forefront of government initiatives in the village level.

He thanked the Police Force for a great job during the measles outbreak for keeping the peace and roadblocks for the safety of Samoa during that time and the holidays. He then thanked the Deputy Speaker and his constituency for the support rendered.

ix. FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi- Member for Siumu

The Member greeted the Deputy Speaker, and Cabinet and commended on the appropriated fund for the Police academy. He supports the inclusion of funding for the improvement and maintenance of water drainages in the Central Business District area to ensure drainage blockage is avoided.

He thanked the Minister for Health, for the great assistance during the measles outbreak, he also noted that there was a queue of people at the hospital coming in to get confirmation letters or proof that they have already been vaccinated, he asked for the Minister to look into another way to minimize the queue

A request to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, the Member voiced the development needs of his constituency (road works) road markings are needed at the Falealili strip (the cross-island road). He asserted a concern raised by the previous Member in regards to roads leading towards the airport and requested whether it is possible to have a lane particular for Buses and one for normal cars to prevent traffic.

The Member also mentioned that there is a shortage of teachers at the Foundation level, National University of Samoa and suggested that maybe they should lower the entrance mark (grade) to Foundation so that more students would have the opportunity to.

In regards to the Samoa airways aircraft, he suggested that another plane should be purchased/leased to counter the issues arising from having only one plane.

x. TOOMATA Aki Tuipea- Member for Salega West

Member for Salega West acknowledged all the work put together by Ministries throughout the past year despite all the challenges they encountered. He commended the work implemented by the Ministry of Works within his constituency regarding road developments; however, there is need for water and electricity in some places of his constituency. There is also need to improve some of the access roads in his constituency and stated that these were the same access roads requested in the previous parliamentary term, however there was no development made on the access roads, and is again voicing the same request.

PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister responded that his request is noted and that there continues to be more constituency road developments and confirmed that the Members constituency request will be implemented eventually.

TOOMATA Aki Tuipea- Member for Salega West

The Member continued by querying the \$25 tala that you pay when you change bookings for a ferry ride- the Member requested the relevant Ministry to look into this matter as \$25tala is a lot to pay for just a change of booking.

The Member noted that currently the practice of providing a list with the names of scholars, rather scholarships are awarded based on the marks attained by students. He then asked the government for another school building for their constituency, to be able to provide education and proper classrooms for the children in their constituency. He also suggested that a Public Service Commission administration Office should be established in Savaii to make travelling easier for teachers as well as ensure that the teachers do not unnecessarily take leave to come to Apia just to follow up on minor issues such as pay rise and so forth.

The Member further stated that there were a lot of buses donated during the Pacific Games and requested for a Bus to be utilised as a School Bus for his constituency and farther constituencies who have students walking lengthy distances to go to schools. The request comes as a result of the member's effort to keep our children safe, especially our daughters.

The Member addressed the Tourism industry and advised the Tourism and MAF Ministry to consider planting useful plants, organic fruits and vegetables as well as attractive flowers.

Prime Minister

The Hon PM noted that the Tourism industry alone brings in more than 400million tala annually, therefore it is Government's vision to have a reserved area for only plants (organic/flowering/ornamental, etc..) as there are certain tourists who are interested in such things. The whole point is creating different sites and experiences for tourists when coming to Samoa. These tourists visit our shores and spend money in our country which will in turn raise tourism revenues. He further pinpointed to the importance of these developments such as the botanical garden and Fiafia park as the main intention for such developments is to increase the economy of our country.

The underlying goal is to create employment opportunities for our people; to improve the quality of life for all of Samoa.

TOOMATA Aki Tuipea- Member for Salega West

The member expressed his support for the developments mentioned by the PM and further suggested to the industry to look into flowers and plants that will attract tourists to visit them.

He recalled when the Police conducted a drug bust last year and suggested the need for Police to be more vigilant as well as the local village authorities to strive to stop the consumption and distribution of illegal substances (specifically weed) as this has negative impacts on individuals especially the younger population of Samoa.

The Member concluded by addressing his constituency and thanked them for their support.

xi. AUMUA Isaia Lameko- Member for Falealili West

The Member began by addressing the Minister and Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESc) by acknowledging the Ministry for assisting families with low income by funding their children's school fees. He addressed the Samoa Water Authority and requested for a tank for water storage. He further requested for the construction of seawall to protect their beach resorts and other families from sea level rise.

In regards to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure- the member requested for a tar sealed road leading to schools back in the village, the road to schools needs fixing for easy transportation and safety of the children. He also advised that declaration forms need to be sufficiently supplied on our local aircraft.

The Member went on to commend the efforts of the Ministry of Health for the cooperative response during the measles outbreak and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries for various developments.

xii. GATOLOAFAANA Amataga Alesana- Gidlow- Member for Faasaleleaga No.1

The Member firstly conveyed her appreciation for the assistance and donations from our overseas partners during the measles outbreak. She commended the Minister for the tabled Budget.

Acknowledged the Minister of Health and the management for their hard work during the measles outbreak last year which greatly impacted our country. Further commended all the service providers for being prompt during natural disasters such as FESA, EPC and SWA despite the shortage in staff but still ensured the country is safe.

The Member emphasised the need for a Police Headquarters in Salelologa. She then stated that it has been awhile since the roads in her constituency have been maintained and at this time, the tar has been worn-off thus humbly requesting for the roads to be fixed and maintained for easy transportation. She proposed to construct a short cut road from Salelologa to Asau. In regards to the national airline, the Member suggested to introduce free flyer initiatives so as to draw in more customers.

PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Minister clarified in regards to roads, the Sapapalii road and bridge is in the pipeline and will be in construction at the conclusion of the Maliolio bridge project.

xiii. Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili- Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The member acknowledged the Members and stated that despite all the issues in the previous year, he is grateful to God for his endless blessings. He further acknowledged the efforts of all those who worked tirelessly and volunteered during the measles outbreak to ensure it did not spread too far. He then thanked the Minister for Health and the Ministry for the endless support and great work during the hard times.

He conveyed his appreciation for the renovations made at the hospital at Leulumoega and then relayed his concerns and requests:

- MCIL- requested for another aircraft in support to the other Members requests so as to resolve the current issue of delayed flights;
- MWTI- noted that the Nofoolii and Leulumoega roads need repair and Vaiula needs the construction of a seawall. He then asserted that the road from Aleisa to Lefaga needs light Poles in the area to prevent car accidents.
- The Member raised concerns with the public carelessly throwing their rubbish onto the rubbish shelves awaiting pick up from the rubbish collectors and stated that littering near the main road is an eye-sore and a bad image for tourists visiting our country.

He concluded by thanking the constituency for their support and for their prayers.

**Proceedings were adjourned for
normal Parliament recess at 8:00pm and resumed at 9:02 pm**

xix. SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuiliili Tuivasa- Member for Vaimauga East

The Member commended on all the work implemented by our country; CEOs of each Ministries and their staff. He also acknowledged the clergy for their continuous prayers that has helped make everything possible. He then acknowledged his constituency for their support.

He commended the Minister of Finance and his Ministry for their efforts in preparing the budget since the commencement of this Parliamentary Term and stated his support for the tabled Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2019/2020. Though Samoa does not have natural minerals or oil to earn revenue like its neighboring countries, however the budget is sourced from the sweat of her own people.

The member then stated since he commenced his role as a Member of Parliament for his constituency, there were no road developments done in his constituency, recognized numerous road works done in other parts of the country and in Savaii however nothing has been done in his constituency. Despite this, he will continue to remind government of roads in his constituency that need road work.

SPEAKER- POINT OF ORDER

Hon Speaker reminded the Member to use appropriate language during his speech in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Order.

SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuiliili Tuivasa- Member for Vaimauga East

The member continued by stating that the Laulii village has most of its families live near the sea and are prone to sea level rise thus the request for construction of seawalls in this area. He further urged the government that the roads from Fagalii to Letogo needs maintenance.

In regards to Lands under the stewardship of the Samoa Land Corporation (SLC), the Member requested the Corporation to lend a parcel of land to the constituency under a reasonable price. He made known government's plan to remove the Airport in Fagalii and to transfer the land to the Police and requested the Police for a parcel of land from the airport to be reverted to the village of Fagalii to provide a field for the residence there.

Though the member acknowledged the development of the agricultural sector, he further requested the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to please consider other means to market and sell agricultural crops and products at the markets. He further mentioned a time he attended a meeting in Tahiti and noted immense fishing vessels docket at the wharf and amazed at the amount of commercial fishing occurring there. He then advised the Minister for MAF to consider the costs of fish in the local markets as they are overpriced, yet this is one of Samoa's most common dish. The member went on to mention the increase production of Israel banana yet there is no overseas market for it and suggested that the Ministry work towards dissolving the ban on such product by other markets.

The member acknowledged and thanked the initiative by the Minister to add the Customs to the name of the Ministry of Revenue. He highlighted that the Ministry garners about 90% of revenue for the country.

He noted the numerous importation of vehicles however few people understand the engine capacities and that duties imposed on vehicles brought into the country is determined by the engine size, the Member urged the Minister for Customs and Revenue to consider this, as most vehicles are gifts from families and relatives overseas for our people.

He requested the Ministry of Finance to raise the pension entitlement for pensioners. In regards to fuel importation, the Ministry should look into another company to bring in fuel to Samoa - as the Member noted there is one provider. This can be a problem as monopolizing the market encourages costs to be controlled by the provider, whereas if there was another provider this would allow competition thus lesser prices for fuel.

SILI Epa Tuioti – Minister of Finance

The Minister explained that every 4 - 5 years a bidding process takes place to find the most affordable provider of fuel for Samoa - and usually the cheapest fuel provider is the one the Ministry would go with.

SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuiliili Tuivasa- Member for Vaimauga East

In relation to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, there is a reserve in Vaialele, he requested whether the village can utilise a portion of the reserve for development purposes or for the Fagalii Primary School playing field.

He urged the MJCA to look into Lands and Title cases that long have been called off and requested that these cases should be addressed immediately.

He then thanked the Electoral Commissioner for the changes introduced however our people are one to not heed to immediate changes thus leading to the law and new changes being ineffective however encourages the Commission to keep going with the changes. He finally requested that the time for transferring votes be extended for one month.

The member concluded by requesting MCIL to ensure better quality of coverage.

xv. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi- Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member for Gagaifomauga No. 3 acknowledged the efforts put forth by the Ministry of Finance in preparation of the Supplementary and praised the Minister of Finance for his hard work thus far. He further went on to urge the Minister to adopt other developments such as producing local products (coconut oil and breadfruit flour) to gain more revenue.

He reverted to the Minister for Communication and advised him to look into controlling the language used on social media and control cyberbullying. He further mentioned the Broadband (SNBH) and queried its whereabouts. The School net utilised 17million of the government's previous budget yet the member has not read or heard any report as to its

progress and urges the Minister and government to provide an explanation for this. The Member thanked the Government for the newly elected Land and Titles Judges and also Supreme Court and District Court Judges.

SPEAKER- POINT OF ORDER

Hon Speaker reminded the Member to call Ministers by their portfolio title instead of their names pursuant to S.O 78.

LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi- Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member addressed the Minister for Health and conveyed his appreciation for her patience and her courage; he then requested to formulate a Commission of Inquiry on the issue that occurred at the Safotu hospital.

xvi. TAFUA Maluelue Tafua- Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo

The Member made known to the Minister of Works that there are 9 villages within his constituency and road repairs and development works are needed on all of its access roads, especially the Lotopue and Utufalalafa villages.

He reminded the Minister of Communication of the request for better network coverage for better broadcasting services - noting that in the weekend he was trying to listen out whether a cyclone was heading towards Samoa but he could not get a signal and was not prepared.

Acknowledged the Electoral Commissioner and Office for their efforts to improve electoral process in general. He then advised the government to again consider the removal of the airport in Fagalii.

Relayed frustration on their newly improved roads that were damaged again by heavy rain, and was concerned that the easily damaged roads was a result of poor monitoring when the project was being undertaken.

He pinpointed to the Minister of Education and urged that awareness programs on non-communicable diseases (NCD) should increase so as to better inform the people of the dangers of having poor diet and nutrition and therefore encourage better/healthy eating habits to avoid/combat the increase of NCD's in Samoa.

xvii. FONOTOE Nuafesili Pierre Laufo- Member for Anoamaa West

The member asserted that many concerns were mainly on the measles outbreak which is why he will not heavily speak on this issue; however, all reports in this regard should be tabled and have it as a guideline for future purposes.

He stated that the measles outbreak has greatly affected the tourism industry of the country and we should initiate ways to recover from this, and it is also good to note that the Government have some funding to promote and improve the standard of our tourism industry.

The Member spoke on enforcing effective strategies to ensure proper trainings and capacity building activities for police officers so as to make them more aware on what to look out for at port entries (customs/ airports/ wharfs). He suggested that business owners should be registered and categorized and consider having address installed/recorded given that it is important for EPC, SWA, Electoral and etc. to easily find their respective locations.

The Member noted the development of a domestic port at Tiavea - the member agrees with such developments as it balances out the developments in Samoa (the international airport being on the other end of Upolu, while the domestic port located at the other end) The member stated that the port would also boost development in that area of Samoa with shops and other facilities needed to cater for passengers travelling through the Tiavea port.

The member requested for road development to roads towards Sauniatu as well as Solosolo as there are four religions in that village. The road in Eva needs to be fixed and maintained. He requested for the construction of seawalls for the villages of Salelesi and Eva.

xviii. SALAUSA John Ah Ching- Member for Faleata East

The Member acknowledged the Office of the Electoral Commission for the amendment made on electoral boundaries which has changed his constituency from Faleata East to Faleata No.1 (these changes will be effective upon the dissolution of Parliament by the Head of State). He then addressed the Government; Cabinet, Members of Parliament and CEOs of respective Ministries and their staff and stated his support for the Bill.

The Member acknowledged the fact that Samoa is a one-party state in which he was worried about in the beginning (based on the thought that the government may not operate effectively as there will be no Opposition to scrutinize its' activities) however noting from the previous years of the parliamentary term, the nation continues to grow and thrive under this one-party state ruling which is something worth commending.

He put emphasis on the country's foreign exchange which has increased over the years and asserted that there were no issues recorded/reported on our budget.

The member reverted to the measles outbreak which occurred late last year and stressed on how contagious it was and stated that vaccinations/immunization is the solution to solve any further outbreak of measles as the only way the measles virus exists is when it is within a living host (humans) therefore if children especially are vaccinated then the threat can be contained and eliminated altogether. He then urged parents/guardians who continue to have doubts with the health system to please vaccinate their children for their safety and pinpointed this to be one of the priorities in his constituency.

Proceedings were adjourned
at 11.04pm and will resume on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 9:00am