

DISCLAIMER

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**DAY 4
9:38am**

Friday 21st January 2022

I. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

A total of 4 Papers were presented; 3 Annual Reports and 1 State of Human Rights Report by the Office of the Ombudsman.

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022- second reading debate cont. (Day 4)

i. Afioga Hon LOAU Solamalemalo Keneti Sio - Member for Salega No.1

The Hon Member greeted Parliament and all Samoa listening in, extended greetings to our neighbouring islands Tutuila and Manua. He then raised the issue of confirmed covid cases in Samoa from the recent repatriation flight; asserted that he is hopeful Samoa will rise above this issue as we are resilient people. He then commended the Minister for Finance and her Ministry in preparing the tabled supplementary budget which he and his constituency supports. The Hon Member generally noted the various issues and concerns raised by other Members which need to be addressed, then wished the Government well in dealing with the issues which have been brought to light in the House.

Hon LOAU expressed disappointment with comments made by people on social media towards the Government and the Opposition Members, and reminded the public to be mindful of what is being said when freely expressing their opinions, as we are merely putting ourselves to disrepute “...o oe lava ua e faalumaina” He then concluded by addressing his constituency and offered well wishes to all in performing their respective duties.

ii. **Tofa FESOLAI Apulu Tusiupu Tuigamala**- Member for Aana Alofi No. 1

The Member addressed his constituency and then voiced his requests to specific Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested for road works in his constituency, and explained that busses cannot access inland roads (Fasitoo – Aleisa) due to its poor state, therefore constituents residing inland have to walk to their homes and requested the minister to please fix these roads. He also raised the need for proper drainage to counter the puddle in front of the court building which is problematic for the public especially the disabled members and elderly using wheelchairs.

- Minister for Finance:

The Member commended the Minister and her ministry for preparing the supplementary budget.

Hon Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure – Interjection:

The Hon Minister informed the Member that his ministry is able to carry out the request if the Ministry for Justice and Courts Administration includes an appropriation for this project in their budget.

Hon PRIME MINISTER – Interjection:

The Hon PM advised the Member to speak as a representative of the constituency rather than as the associate minister for the Ministry for Justice and Courts Administration.

iii. **Afioga TEA Tootala Peato** - Member for Faasaleleaga No.4

The Member addressed the House, acknowledged the Minister for Finance for the supplementary and noted his support for the Supplementary. He then addressed the Hon PM and her Cabinet and wished the government well in their duties, urged them to continue implementing projects for the benefit of the nation and not just certain parts. The Member commented on the 1million project, and asserted that his constituency have already elected its Committee and are awaiting the responsible Minister on the progress. He then commended his Minister for Health for his efforts during challenging times, and jested that he remain the course and not resign anytime soon. The Member also acknowledged the frontline workers for their commitment and continuous work throughout the pandemic.

**Proceedings were set aside at 10:35am;
and resumed at 11:16am**

iv. Afioga Hon TAPUNUU Niko Lee Hang - Member for Vaimauga No.3

The Hon member was the first from the Finance and Expenditure Committee to speak, he addressed Mr Speaker and Parliament, Hon Prime Minister and her Cabinet, all who were present in the House, and extended his greetings to his Constituency of Vaimauga 3.

The Hon Member then commended the government for fulfilling what they set out in their manifesto, such as the decrease in the prices of electricity and water; and further queried the feasibility of reducing the cost of business licence registration. The Hon Member also clarified the claims made by previous members regarding the increase in cost of living, and asserted that the government cannot control this, as it is due to the increase in prices of overseas products [goods and services] which implies the law of demand where the price increases due to the increase in demand. He then recommended the government to consider providing concessional rates specifically for food and building materials times are challenging with the pandemic and the increase in cost of living globally.

The Hon Member continued by further clarifying the reasoning why Government halted the Price Control Board as owed to price-competition strategy, which provides businesses the freedom to compete and create their own prices which eventually led to a decrease in prices of goods in order for a business to be more competitive. However, urged the current government to reconsider other ways to decrease the cost of living as we are in challenging times.

The Hon Member queried the status of the aircraft, and advised the Government not to let their different viewpoints hinder the continuity of this project intended to assist the economy.

Afioga Hon LEATINUU Wayne Soialo – Minister for Public Enterprise: Interjection

The Hon Minister stood to clarify that he understands both parties have different reasons and priorities relating to the aircraft, the Government of the day seeks to implement and continue projects which provide profit. Currently, the small aircrafts are flying and it is only when the government can afford to pay for a bigger aircraft then they will make the decision. However, they do not agree with the idea to lease an aircraft at the cost of UTOS investments.

Afioga OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Minister stated that he received an audit report for Samoa Airways which outlines that the plane was not in good condition thus, for safety reasons the aircraft cannot be used.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU Niko Lee Hang - Member for Vaimauga No.3 (cont.)

The Hon Member queried the Government how much money was on the table when they decided to forego the contract of the aircraft.

Afioga Hon LEATINUU Wayne Soialo – Minister for Public Enterprise: Interjection

The Hon Minister clarified that there was a committee who are currently dealing with negotiations with the company who owns the aircraft on an agreement to ensure Samoa does not pay any money when returning the plane. The Hon Minister also noted that there was too much debt relating to the Samoa Airways aircraft hence the Government's decision to forego.

Afioga Hon TAPUNUU Niko Lee Hang - Member for Vaimauga No.3 (cont.)

The Hon Member asserted that the only reason he continues to push for the aircraft is that it will assist with the generation of revenues for Samoa. He then concluded by commending the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries in initiating the 1million project for constituency developments. He thanked the Hon Speaker for his time and offered well wishes to all Parliamentarians.

**Proceedings adjourned at 12:06pm;
will reconvene at 9:30am on Monday 24th January 2022.**