

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on Friday 25th January 2019. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific question about the Proceedings of Parliament on Friday 25th January 2019, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Friday 25 January 2019

Day4

9:10am

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – reading of Bills continued

1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019 – consideration in detail (cont.)

▪ Ombudsman	\$50,643 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ PSC	\$69,115 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ FESA	\$83,987 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ NKF	\$35,955 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ NHS	\$5,735,928 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ PTO	\$17,294 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ SQA	\$46,200 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ STA	\$55,796 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ OOTR	\$23,124 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ SROS	\$43,368 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ NUS	\$339,727 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ SSFA	\$23,994 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ MPE	\$32,664 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ STATS	\$57,613 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ LTA	\$103,820 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ SLRC	\$16,263 -	<i>Approved</i>
▪ Prisons	\$2,335,970	<i>Approved</i>

TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2018-2019 - \$16,557,282

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Second Schedule (Section 3(1))

Total Reduction in Transactions on Behalf of the State - (\$165,000)

Total Reduction in Expenditure - (\$165,000)

TOTAL REDUCTIONS OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2018-2019: \$165,000

Clause 3 – *Approved*

Clause 2 – *Approved*

First Schedule – *Approved*

Second Schedule – *Approved*

Short name and Title - *Approved*

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019 approved with amendments.

2. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2018/2019 – third reading

The Hon Minister of Finance moved for the third reading of the Bill; motion seconded and approved.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2018/2019 was passed by the Assembly.

3. LANDS AND TITLES BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved.

4. TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Minister for Revenue moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved.

5. SAMOA LANGUAGE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved

6. RETURNING OFFENDERS BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Prime Minister moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved

7. ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved

8. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Minister of Health moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved

9. COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – first reading

The Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration moved for the Bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved

10. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 2019 – second reading

The Hon Minister of Health moved for the Bill to be second read; motion seconded and approved – and the Minister spoke to clarify the objects and intents of the Bill.

The Hon Minister firstly noted that the Bill amends the Principal Act namely Ministry of Health Act 2006 and repeals the National Health Services Act 2014. He clarified that necessary planning procedures were conducted to ensure smooth transition for the merge. He elaborated that the rationale behind the bill is to improve the standards for the Ministry and reduce the number of overseas referrals for treatments as it is costly. Furthermore, the Minister noted that the Bill also provides emphasis on the area of prevention over treatment, as well as developments to eradicate non communicable diseases. The Hon Minister stated that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had already pledged support to effectively implement the Ministry.

▪ Hon Prime Minister – Clarification

The Hon Prime Minister stated that he did not understand the definition of Non-Communicable Diseases; called for the term to be changed to Death Diseases (as it is easier to understand) The Hon PM stated that the MOH and NHS were merged before; however, due to countless dilemmas in the Ministry, experts from New Zealand were sought to review current practices and legislation; findings of the review led government to form two separate departments; however, over the years, many issues were raised since the changes which has therefore led the ministry to have both departments merged with the aim to provide effective and efficient services to the public. The Hon PM affirmed that the change was vital and was a positive step taken by the Ministry. He further noted the contribution of 25million made by the World Bank to ensure the effective implementation of the merge.

The Hon PM delved into the implementation of the merge stating that the plan will be implemented in 3 phases: first phase will focus on the segregation of the Administration; second phase deals with the Tuasivi Hospital; and the third and final phase in enhancing the Health clinics in districts. He elaborated on the importance of having medical officers in the district hospitals to avert unnecessary incidents as witnessed in the previous year where two infants died as a result of a mix-up of vaccines used for immunizations. Additionally it is envisaged that the merge will also alleviate the congestion witnessed at the main hospital at Motootua.

(i) FONOTOE Nuafesili Pierre Laufo, Member for Anoamaa West

The Member acknowledged the Minister on the Bill and supported the importance of the Bill – and advised for the proper spending of the assistance provided from World Bank he then made the following queries:

- Whether there was a fund set aside to cater for redundant workers;
- Whether workers made redundant can re-apply to the Ministry;
- Whether the merge would therefore bring the employees of the Ministry under PSC?

The Member agreed with statements made by the Hon PM that, for Doctors to be placed in District hospitals.

▪ **INTERJECTION: Hon Prime Minister**

Hon TUILAEPA assured the Member that there were set requirements and protocols to adhere in the selection and recruitment for the position of Director General; and that although the Ministry is under the PSC, the authority to hire and fire is vested with the CEO; the PSC is only tasked with up-skilling of employees.

***Proceedings of the Assembly adjourned at 10:45am
and reconvened at 11:17am.***

(ii) FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa

The Member conveyed support for the Bill and suggested that proper incentives be provided to doctors who are stationed in district clinics and to consider the 'isolation factor' whereby he/she is alone in a village, and therefore needs to be kept busy and occupied, otherwise will feel 'home-sick'.

He then shed light on section 19 of the Ministry of Health Act, noting a contradiction between the provisions of s.19 and the recent changes whereby all fees and charges introduced by the Ministry is subject to approval by the National Revenue Board as provided in the *Public Finance Management Act 2001*.

(iii) SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga East

In regards to the recruitment and selection process of the CEO's whereby the Public Service Commission Board conducts an interview, then provides the report with the recommendation on the most suitable candidate for the position to Cabinet, yet the Cabinet overrides the recommendation. The Member queried the need for such time consuming process. He then suggested the process be reviewed so as to ensure decisions are made earlier, and to avoid unnecessary involvement of the Board when Cabinet has the final say.

(iv) Hon LAAULI Polataivao Leuatea – Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member noted his disagreement for the proposed merge, and stated that it was a theory tested before and it failed; hence the reason for the separation. He then queried the relevancy of reverting to a move that was once tried, tested and failed. The Member mentioned the friction between doctors and nurses.

The Ministry of Health Amendment Bill 2019 was second read.

*Proceedings of the Assembly adjourned at 12pm
and will reconvene at 9:00am on Monday 28th January 2019.*