

DISCLAIMER

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PART B
2pm

1. Afioga Hon FAUALO Lefau Harry Schuster – Minister for Police & Prisons

The Hon Minister greeted and acknowledged all members of parliament and the Speaker, also acknowledged heads of government ministries for their continuous work which supports the Government. He then acknowledged the ministry of police, OEC, FESA and also the NEOC as they are working for the safety of our country from Covid. The Hon Minister commended the MOF and minister for the preparation of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Commended the Minister of Works for the installation of drainage pipes for his constituency. The Hon Minister noted that a total of 14 Members queried his ministry, and highlighted that certain members spoke on the alarming rise of drugs within Samoa. The Hon Minister continued by stating that where drugs are involved there is also the possibility of illegal firearm and weapons. The Minister stressed that like all Members, his wish is to quash the circulation and importation of drugs in Samoa, hence the Ministry endeavours to do its best to reduce and minimize this threat within our nation.

The Hon Minister also took note of the request for more K9 dogs to assist with the detection of illegal substance in Samoa. It is envisaged that assistance will be sought from the Government of New Zealand regarding proper training of the K9 as well as training for the personnel who work at customs so they are familiar with how k9 dogs operate, and to be more aware on the importation of illegal drugs in the country. The Member noted that there are possible ways that drugs and illegal weapons are imported, through alia, from out of the country and cargo which the Ministry has been made aware of, and will continue to monitor accordingly to ensure the safety of Samoa. In order to avoid the possession of unregistered weapons the Minister emphasized that license are only issued to farmers and those who practice the shooting sport.

The Hon Minister informed all Members that their requests have been noted and urged Members for their forbearance as the progress of these requests depends on the funding given to the Ministry and revenues earned. The minister further highlighted that another issue hindering the provision of a firetruck and ambulance in different constituencies is owed to having limited

qualified paramedic which is an important aspect for the ambulance. The Minister clarified that currently there is insufficient funding for Fire stations in all constituencies, however he was hopeful that if funding is received then the requests can be progressed.

In regards to LED hooked on lights to vehicles, the Minister clarified that it is hard to catch these vehicles as they only use these lights when the Police are not around, and encouraged the public to note license plates and report to the police station for relevant action.

Hon Minister then clarified on the issues raised by the Member for Gagaifomauga No 2 regarding the abuse of women and children and punishment on the men who are abusive, he clarified that laws strictly enforce and instruct the family court and judges to issue restraining orders to abusive men once there is complaint from women and children. He further expressed the importance of protecting women and children from abusive behavior. Then asserted that the village chiefs should look in to this matter as domestic violence happens within villages, therefore the Village Council is in a position to protect the victims noting that it is a collective effort.

- **Tofa SEUAMULI Fasi Toma, Member for Gagaemauga 2**

The Member reminded the Minister regarding the issue he raised, the request for Tuasivi Police Station (Deputy Commissioner) to sign off and endorse clearance police report for those applying for Seasonal Work Schemes rather than coming all the way to Upolu as it is costly.

- **Afioga LEAANA Ronnie Posini, Member for Safata 1**

The Member commented in regards to drugs and illegal weapons, LEAANA noted that it has also been found in Savaii, the Member requested for more awareness programs by the Ministry in villages to remind and teach the people on the severity of this crime and the consequences associated to it. This would be a good initiative to deter people from being involved in such illegal dealings.

- **Afioga MANULELEUA Paletasala Tovale, Member for Faleata 1**

The Member reminded the Minister about the stray dogs that affects the public which was mentioned in his address and recommended to re-activate the Dog Management Unity to deal with this issue.

- **Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa, Member for Aana No 2**

The Member advised the Minister to resume one of the programs which was useful to constituents as it educated and informed the public on the consequences and weighing of different offences.

- **Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena, Member for Faasaleleaga No 5**

The Member recommended that the Ministry collaborated with the Australian Government to assist with the use of a satellite to assist with the Ministry's efforts in detecting illegal activity carried out in Samoa.

- **Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Member for Satupaitea**

The Hon Member advised the Minister on the importance of having a vigilant police force, who are aware of different ways which criminals are using to import certain ingredients to assist with the manufacturing of illegal substances in the country, such as the use of certain tablets (Panadeine). Further encouraged the Ministry to continue with awareness programs and village programs to inform the village councils on how to detect illegal dealings within villages as it is a collective effort to ensure the safety of Samoa is upheld.

- **Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoes Pierre Lauofo, Member for Anoamaa 2**

The Hon Member reminded the Minister of another police outpost approved for his constituency, which will be built on the rugby field at Saoluafata, near the college.

- **Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga, Member for Alepata Itupa i luga**

The member noted that he mentioned the 3 most common illegal dealings which have been found during the recent police raids. These consist of drugs, illegal weapons and money however there are other things which have been found (equipment and resources), such as flasks, test tubes and pipes. The Member noted the importance of K9's, however the Ministry should also consider ways to further build the capacities of the Police and customs officers (border officers) on how to detect these type of dealings. He further emphasised the need for the scanner to be brought in as soon as possible as it will greatly assist the ministry in keeping Samoa safe from criminal activities.

Afioga Hon FAUALO Lefau Harry Schuster – Minister for Police & Prisons (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified that the Ministry of Police are aware of the process in creating these drugs and management continues to upskill the police force so they are better equipped and prepared of the tips and pointers (what to look out for) during raids.

- **Afioga TOLOGATA Tile - Member for Samatau & Falelatai**

The Member reminded the Minister of his suggestion to have mandatory testing of all suspects, and government officials as well as Parliament Members, this will determine who is using these illegal substances.

Afioga Hon FAUALO Lefau Harry Schuster – Minister for Police & Prisons (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified that with police clearance reports required for seasonal employment schemes, there are always questions whereby you have to tick whether you committed an offence in your country and how long. This is where you have to be honest, as this is very important in travelling. If you lie on the form, they will eventually find out and then leads to deportation. The Hon Minister acknowledged all Members for their contribution and concluded his response.

2. Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo, Minister for Finance

The Hon Minister noted the main issues raised by Members during their speeches, such as the Price of Goods and high cost of living in the country; Hon Minister noted the factors which increase the costs of goods and products then iterated that the Government continues to look at ways to assist our people with the global increase of cost of living. Furthermore, the Hon Minister noted the challenges owed to the pandemic and its impact on tourism. She clarified that the reason she highlighted the above reasons was because Samoa's economy has relied heavily on external factors mainly tourism, and this is the main reason our people are suffering together with the global economy due to the pandemic. She asserted that it is paramount for the Government to create other avenues and make necessary changes to curb the impacts of the pandemic. Therefore, the minister highlighted that one of the main focus for the government is the wellbeing of people. The minister outlined ways to help with the standard of living and welfare of all citizens, this includes; the provision of quality education, access to health service, as well as vast business opportunities. Focusing on social developments is beneficial for both villages and the country as a whole.

The minister clarified that according to the prepared budget there is an approximate surplus which is more revenue than expenses of 2.7million, this means the deficit has decreased from 2.5% to 2.4% when compared to the budget passed in September 2021. She further noted that in November 2021 the IMF held its review and provided recommendations upon the usage of our funds. The Hon Minister asserted that the ministry continues to prioritize the implementation of the projects funded through grants to ensure that these projects will be completed within the required timeframe and the funds to be fully utilized.

The Hon Minister clarified statements referring to SUNGO being given 3million grant and elaborated that there is no such appropriation, however there was a 3million appropriation for the Disability personnel. She then affirmed that when they took over the reins from the previous Government there were uncertainties and numerous setbacks when dealing with the airplane, the Cabinet has therefore decided to discontinue this path, reject the contract and return the aircraft as the Government of the day focuses on cleaning the entire process involved with bringing the aircraft to Samoa.

- **Afioga ALAIASA Moefaaouou Sepulona Moananu, Member for Anoamaa 1**

The Member clarified that the plane was not a political party initiative but a decision the previous Government considered was a positive development that would prove beneficial to the people, and one which would harness revenues for our economy. The Member noted his disappointment with the statements made by the Minister for Finance, using the term “to clean out” as it implies there were fraudulent dealings with bringing the airplane to Samoa, yet there was one intention only and that was for Samoa to benefit and not for any political party to gain.

- **Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3**

The Member also expressed disappointment with the comments by the government regarding the airplane and implications and assumptions of some dirty dealing in running the airplane. The Member reminded the House that at the outset, the new Government clarified that the only issue with the plane was its ‘air worthiness’ and the concern for safety. However, the statements made today imply otherwise. The Member for Faleata asserted that the current CEO for the Samoa Airways was also the president for PASO who is well versed and qualified with such matters, how so did he not foresee the safety and worthiness of a plane for his people.

Speaker’s Ruling:

Mr Speaker ruled that no member will rise again to comment on the airplane, the Hon PM has already spoken on numerous occasions to clarify Government’s decision on the matter, and the Government’s decision and clarification is final.

- **Tofa Hon LAUOFO Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo, Member for Anoamaa 2**

The Hon Member commended the Government on their initiatives aimed at boosting the agricultural sector, as he recalled from 1962-1980 50% of Samoa’s GDP was from Agriculture; however this rapidly dropped to only 10-12% to date, the member further commended the Government’s effort in securing overseas markets which will help with exports and fuel economic growth as well as social development. The Member again commended the Government for proposing the development of a warehouse in Otahuhu New Zealand for our exported agriculture products to be stored and marketed overseas. Hon LAUOFO queried whether the warehouse will be registered as a company and if local farmers can have shares in this company. He also reminded the Minister and Cabinet about the queries he raised during his speech regarding the operation of an overseas market as this will also build Samoa’s partnership with Australia and New Zealand through trade.

Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Hon Minister clarified that his Ministry is responsible for administrating the warehouse in Otahuhu, the goal then was to use this for our products exported overseas, the Ministry that was assigned then to look after this warehouse was STEC as they were the commercial arm of the government and they were responsible for this, noting that this was a good project. The Hon Minister asserted that firstly land was bought, but the problem then was STEC did not have the necessary capacity to make necessary arrangements, they could not handle it, thus multiple problems came about then ceased until the new Government took over.

The Hon Minister clarified, the new Government revived from scratch, hence the inception of the Import and Export authority. Hon Minister elaborated further the purpose of the Authority to monitor this project to view and act in the best interest of all exporters to ensure the exporter can be rewarded and Samoa's economy benefits. It is envisaged that the Authority will open exportation of local crops, harvests, handicrafts and locally produced goods.

The Hon Minister affirmed that he is aware of previous methods and strategies being unsuccessful which therefore resulted with deficit, however the new Government intends to avoid any deficit and in order to do so, a commercial and business outlook must be taken for decision making rather than a political viewpoint.

- **Tofa Hon LAUOFO Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo, Member for Anoamaa 2**

The Hon Member acknowledged the response from the Minister, then reminded the Minister that the Import and Export Authority mentioned is done in accordance with Samoa's legislations and bylaws, and that New Zealand also has their separate laws and regulations on such matters. Therefore he is mindful that there may be restrictions, however, it seems that the Authority will operate like a business-type which is his perception from the Minister's response.

Hon Prime Minister - Point of Order:

The Hon PM asserted that the Member for Anoamaa was not part of the Cabinet in the past parliamentary term and has perhaps forgotten process as usual, however should he need further explanation of the process then ask his fellow party members who were seated in Cabinet the previous parliamentary term.

- **Tofa Hon LAUOFO Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo, Member for Anoamaa 2**

The Hon Member stated that he was not elected by his constituency to come and give request to Members but to the responsible Ministers and the current government. He further mentioned that he recalls that the Minister for MAF mentioned they applied their own process so to ask his fellow

Party Members would not bring out results as the new Government has their own way of doing things and their new policies.

- **Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3**

The Member elaborated on the terms of a Business private partnership whereby the government partners with businesses, which is in a sense Government's contribution given that private businesses are too small to act as competitors. Therefore, NPF and UTOS are some practical examples of the agencies that invest in certain businesses, similar to the Warehouse in New Zealand. The Member iterated these dealings are not to promote the interest of Government rather to benefit the businesses.

Hon Prime Minister – Clarification:

The Hon PM clarified that the previous Government had a different outlook on certain things, the new government also has their own views and priorities. It is not a matter about what is right or wrong, rather different perceptions and therefore, what was important in the past may not be so important today.

**Proceedings were set aside at 3:50pm;
and resumed at 4:18pm**

- **Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers, Member for Gagaifomauga No.1**

The Member requested if the 200k may be distributed to assist with allowances for essential workers and the front liners who are at risk for the safety of the nation.

- **Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga, Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga**

The Member raised the projections of Samoa's deficit ratio and queried the benchmark of Samoa's profit compare to the deficit

Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo, Minister for Finance

The Hon Minister noted the main issues raised by Members during their speeches, such as the Price

The Hon Minister noted that there is only 5 more months before the FY ends, however in the current FY, there is an appropriation of 5million for tourism, 10million for businesses and 1.5million for ADRA that has since been approved since the pandemic hit. Furthermore, there is 1million for the violence against women programme. The Hon Minister asserted that Samoa's economy is set for the next 5 months.

The Minister mentioned the recent positive covid-19 cases which were in quarantine and explained that this unfortunate event is an opportune moment to test Samoa's response to the pandemic, in terms of resources and cooperation with Government policies and SOE restrictions.

Hon MULIPOLA acknowledged all Members on their input and recommendations to assist the Government of the day and acknowledged the assistance of Samoa's foreign partners and donors for their hand in developing Samoa.

3. Afioga Hon MATAMUA Seumanu Vasati Sili Punufana, Minister for Justice and Courts Administration:

The Hon Minister acknowledged Members who spoke on her Ministry and took note of their concerns and comments for improvement of the overall services of the Ministry of Justice. She further asserted that due to her Ministry not having an appropriation in the Supplementary she will not take up much time of the House.

- **Susuga MAULOLO Tavita Aмосa (Member for Sagaga 2)**

The Member reminded issues which he raised during his speech as these were important developments for his constituency;

To which the Minister responded that she had taken note of all requests made by the Member; then concluded her speech and wished all of Samoa and Parliament well.

4. Afioga Hon. SEUULA Ioane, Minister for Education, Sports and Culture.

The Hon Minister greeted the House then began to address issues raised by Members in their speeches. In regards to the shortage of teachers, the minister affirmed that the ministry has plans to solve this issue. In addition, the issue raised by members about school inspectors, the ministry has now employed 5 inspectors ready to start this year. On the issue of the TVET and PSET programs as mentioned by other Members, the minister asserted that the APTC and NUS are currently collaborating on possible ways to include TVET programs in the curriculum so that students have an alternative route to learning, and can eventually graduate from this program and formally utilize their skills and knowledge in certain fields.

The other issue noted by one of the Members was regarding the quality and safety of the school buildings in their constituency, the Minister clarified that the constituency is responsible for this project through the provision of land, and submitting a request form to the ministry and overseas countries for funding or any other assistance such as paying for resources needed to enhance the student's learning.

He then confirmed that the One Government Grant still exists, especially in such challenging times. In regards to the issue of Yr 8 exam setting made too simple with only multiple choices; the Hon Minister clarified that the new system provides that year 8 students automatically go straight to yr 9 at a college within his/her constituency, hence, the multiple choice test is a way to assist students transitioning from primary to college, which much differs from the previous year 8 National Exams which were more challenging.

In regards to teachers' salaries, the Ministry is also working on collecting all relevant data, such as qualifications, experience, etc...to progress with proper classification of salaries. Hon Minister further added that the collation of relevant data has not been easy for the ministry and has taken already taken up much time.

- **Susuga MAULOLO Tavita Aмосa, Member for Sagaga 2**

The Member reminded the Minister that he mentioned the TVET and PSET programs during his speech, however his concern was regarding the salaries for trainers/providers for TVET and PSET programs as it has also been a discouraging factor for others to pursue this avenue due to the low salary associated to such work. The Member again urged the Minister to reconsider the setting of the Year 8 Exams from only multiple choice questions as it encourages students not to broaden their thinking in problem solving.

- **Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevaga, Member for Faasaleleaga No.5**

The Member raised his concern with the apprenticeship programs in the country. The Member stated that it was his opinion the education do not have the necessary skills and capacity to fully develop the child's brain in this technical area. The Member further noted that learning is two-fold, the theory aspect of learning and the practical aspect. He then acknowledged the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the developments thus far in the education sector and suggested the establishment of a site which focuses primarily on apprenticeship learning.

Tofa Hon LEATINUU Wayne Soialo, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour

The minister further clarified statements by the Minister for Education regarding apprenticeship programs, and asserted that a similar program was conducted by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, this is divided into 8 subjects taught at the National University of Samoa. The

minister outlined how the program was implemented; the government pays 50% of the program, 30% is covered by the employer (of the individual participating in the course) while the remaining 20% is paid by the student. The Hon Minister emphasised that the program was very much active.

- **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua, Member for Salega 1**

On the issue of Early Childhood Learning (ECE), The Member requested that pre-schools and primary should be put together under one learning stage under the Ministry to avoid the lack of teachers providing ECE, whilst at the same time utilizing pre-school teachers at the primary level to carry out the teachings required for ECE. The Member further noted that the internet for zoom programs in his constituency have not been connected, however with the pandemic looming and temporary school closure, the need for internet connection for ease of communication has heightened.

- **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1**

The Member was pleased to note the Minister's explanation on the increase of School Assessors, however queried whether the salary for School principals should be reviewed, as it was noted that the salary is determined on the amount of students enrolled in respective schools.

Afioga Hon. SEUULA Ioane, Minister for Education, Sports and Culture (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified that the year 8 exams will be initiated for years 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. They are merely diagnostic tests to gauge the capacity and level of learning for students. In regards to combining ECE learning and Primary Schools so as to be provided and paid for under the same budget, the Hon Minister clarified that this cannot be done, as there are already plans, strategies and policies by the Ministry to monitor teachers capacity at respective stages. Hon Minister affirmed to the Member for Vaimauga No. 1 that the PSC are aware of this issue and the Ministry only hopes that the Public Service Commission will act accordingly.

5. Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister for Communication and Information Technology:

The Hon Minister greeted the House and addressed Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He then emphasised on the importance of MCIT especially during these uncertain times. Further noted that the Government continues to look at possible avenues such as using satellites to afford equal opportunities for respective bodies to enhance the economy of Samoa. The Hon Minister acknowledged the assistance of the telecommunication companies, especially in providing low costs for services available to student learning online. The Minister asserted that by opening up the satellite, schools and students have better coverage and access online, furthermore, the Ministry continues to monitor the systems in place to measure the project's effectiveness.

In regards to requests for computer labs and others, the Minister asserted that he has taken note of all requests made. Hon Minister then clarified on the important role of the Regulator as they are tasked with trying to achieve an 'equilibrium' between supplier and customer by monitoring all the ISPs and Electricity costs so both are satisfied.

- **Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata**

The Member accentuated that the Ministry for Communication and Information Technology is the most reliable and effective ministry during the pandemic.

Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Minister for Works raised an important matter with regards to smart meters and the numerous concerns raised by the public and other members of Parliament; the Minister elaborated that the Minister awaits the software from an American Company to test the effectiveness and monitor flaws of the smart meters. As some members of the public have made complaints stating that sometimes the smart meter would collapse and once it has been revived, all the units have been used up. He then urged the Minister for Communication and Information Technology to look into these issues as they may cause problems for the operations of the EPC.

Afioga Hon TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo - Minister for Communication and Information Technology (cont.)

The Hon Minister commended the Minister for MWTI for his feedback and advise which he and his Ministry will take into consideration. The Hon Minister then acknowledged the PM, Mr Speaker, Cabinet, all Parliamentarians, the Office of the Legislative Assembly and all offices under his portfolio then concluded his response.

6. Afioga Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Hon Minister noted that no member spoke on the appropriation for his Ministry which was an indication that all were in support and agreement for the allocation; he then began to address issues raised by Members. The Hon Minister elaborated on the issues relating to land which were raised and briefly clarified that all requests made by Members were pertaining to Government owned land in their respective constituencies.

The minister further outlined the land ownership stats for the country which is currently: 81% are customary land, 1.5% are leased land for development purposes, while 15% are government owned which roughly equates to 103 acres of land. Therefore the majority of land in Samoa, are traditionally owned and belonging to families and are all recorded in the LTC. The Hon Minister

asserted, that currently the Ministry is only responsible with the accurate registering of lands after court decisions have been made for both government and free hold land.

- **Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3**

The Member commended the minister for his speech and clarifying the division of land in the country. However, requested the minister to elaborate more on their manifesto which plans to return unused lands back to villages. This is taking into account his constituency or village of Vaitele where their lands have not been returned. The Member also expressed gratitude for removing what was done at the flea market as it was unappealing.

- **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1**

The Member also commended the minister for clarifying that 81% of land are still customary/traditionally owned this is very important as it disregards all misinformation claiming most of Samoa's customary lands are now owned by the Chinese. Afioga SULAMANAIA then queried whether SLC was a company, if so, who were the shareholders.

Tofa Hon LEATINUU Wayne Soialo, Minister for Samoa Lands Corporation

The Hon Minister for Lands clarified that SLC is a Government State Owned Enterprise. SLC is registered under former government officials such as, Hon Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Hon Faumuina Liuga, Hon Lautafi Purcell, and now it is currently registered under the current minister for SLC.

- **Tofa MANULELEUA Paletasala Tovale, Member for Faleata 1**

The Member commended the government for not building the wharf at Vaiusu, then queried whether the Government should take action against the people who are reclaiming the mangroves area in their constituency, then suggested a trade between the Government and these families.

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti Malolo, Member for Vaisigano 1**

The Member reminded the Minister to remember his constituency and their lands, then requested whether 300 acres of their constituency land can be given back to his people to cultivate and earn a living as the majority of land in his constituency is considered Government owned.

- **Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa, Member for Aano Alofi No2**

The Member acknowledged the developments which have taken place in his constituency, and further requested for access roads inland to enable ease of access of families to their plantations for cultivation.

Afioga Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment (cont.)

The Hon Minister noted that all requests have been noted by the Government and the Ministry, and will be reviewed accordingly for future consideration. In regards to climate change, during torrential rain, it will most likely cause flooding, however iterated that the Government is discussing plans and consultations for all vulnerable areas on what to do with the impact of climate change. Furthermore, in the long run, the people around the vulnerable areas will be relocated to high areas given the impact caused by flooding and tsunami.

The Hon Minister elaborated that in past years, there were funds for each project like climate funds, LDC funds, adaptation funds and Green Climate Fund that funded the Vaisigano Bridge and other projects at the time. The goal is to develop these projects for the safety of our people especially the families who live along the coastline and other low-lying areas prone to the impacts of sea level rising and climate change. In efforts to combat the impacts of climate change, we must focus on ways to sustain and maintain our environment as opposed to cutting down trees and contributing to flooding, mangrove reserves must be maintained. Furthermore, the Hon Minister asserted that the Ministry continues to look at other possible solutions and review the Disaster Management Committee and Disaster Management Act to ensure Samoa's personnel are well equipped for any disaster.

- **Susuga MAULOLO Tavita Aмосa, Member for Sagaga 2**

The Member commended the Minister for acknowledging his request about the land at Malie but and reminded him of the villages of Malie and Afega at the seaside which are highly affected by the high sea level rise to consider a seawall for the protection of the families around this area.

Proceedings suspended at 6:31 pm; and resumed at 7:06pm

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER

In accordance with Stand Orders the Speaker announced the schedule for parliamentary Committees meetings as follows:

Standing Orders Committee Wednesday 2nd February, 2022 at 10am

Social Sector Committee Wednesday 2nd February, 2022 at 1pm

Economics Sector Committee Thursday 3rd February, 2022 at 10am

Infrastructure Sector Committee on Thursday 3rd February, 2022 at 1pm; and

The Special Inquiry Committee on Friday 4th February 2022 at 1pm

Afioga Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Schuster, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified that there were specific villages who qualified to for the Climate Change Fund, further noting that it was a lengthy process, approximately 2 - 3 years to prepare relevant proposals for international organisations to provide funds for these projects. In regards to the Samoa Tourism Authority, the Hon Minister noted that the Authority continues to collaborate with the Bureau of Statistics to identify stats on tourism and hospitality and the impact the pandemic has brought on the hospitality sector. The Hon Minister then concluded by acknowledging all the work done by the ministries under his portfolio as well as his constituency.

7. Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio - Deputy Prime Minister

The Hon Minister greeted the House, and thanked the Speaker for the opportunity to speak; he then went on to address specific issues raised by respective members on his portfolio. The Hon Deputy PM highlighted the issues raised included the need for the MCR to bring in and utilize the CT Scanner at the borders to assist with easily detecting illegal substances brought into Samoa; there was also the issue of reducing taxes on vegetables and fruits, the general efforts to reduce cost of living as well as heightening border security and the application of TIMS taxation software.

The Hon Deputy clarified that the government does not intend to stop the TIMS system as this is mainly enforced for large businesses to accurately monitor the flow of tax. Furthermore, the deputy PM noted that he will not discuss the cost of living any further as the minister for Finance has already clarified this issue, and warned the country that we are heading towards challenging times. He then elaborated that small businesses who do not earn 200,000 are not mandated to apply TIMS, however, these businesses will be measured in a different scale, considering their income collected from tax, noting that the rational reason behind the TIMS is to garner revenue for the government's development.

In regards to the X-ray scanner, he emphasised that this was a paramount priority for the Government, as it is important for the detection of illegal dealings. Hon TUALA asserted that it is Governments intention to bring this scanner in as it will greatly assist the ministries efforts to keeping a Samoa safe and secure. The Hon Minister further clarified that the ADB is funding this scanner under the wharf development project currently underway. Tender process awarded a NZ contractor however due to the difference in specifications of the machine, NZ could not do it. Second tender awarded a Chinese contractor. The Hon Minister emphasised that MCR is highly essential to the government as a form of providing extra revenue to fuel development. Hon Minister further explained that the scanner is portable and can easily be transported from one place to another, however he was advised by a consultant that the machine be only shifted within the wharf premises not outside. Furthermore, the ADB offered to build a house for the machine, so it has its own housing to store to prevent any radioactive activity to the general staff and public nearby if not well-stored and maintained.

The Hon minister noted the issue of K9 Dogs, and explained that there are only 2 K9 dogs utilized by the Ministry, 1 for police services and the other for the customs border services. He then emphasised that customs are front liners and also need to be vigilant at all times to ensure no illegal drugs will enter our shores.

The Hon Minister explained that the scanner may be used between our country and American Samoa. Then expressed sincere gratitude to the Speaker for being patient and concluded his response.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022- consideration in detail

First Schedule: *Approved with amendments*

Second Schedule: *Approved*

Clause 2: *Approved*

Clause 3: *Approved*

Clause 1:

Short Title and commencement: *Approved*

3. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022- third reading

Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo, Minister for Finance moved a motion for the third reading of the Bill; motion seconded and approved

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2021/2022 was third read and officially passed the Legislative Assembly with amendments.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PRIME MINISTER: Afioga Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa

The Hon PM gave her address on the positive Covid-19 cases in Samoa and the progress thus far, The Hon PM asserted that the repatriation flight QF115 from Australia was a set of usual Pacific Flights Program scheduled to bring home seasonal workers as well as give the opportunity for our people overseas to return home. On the 19th January 2022, the flight which initially had 261 passengers only had a list of 73 passengers who boarded the flight. Hon PM continued by stating as usual, the registration of the flight was organized by Samoa's consular in Sydney. She then continued to highlight the various reasons why others could not make the flight, such as:

Others were unwell during the festive season; others could not attain their Samoan passports in time for the flight (noting that we do not accept foreign countries passports); others were not fully vaccinated; while others did not have enough funds for the airfare as well as certain unforeseen circumstances.

In regards to rumours about a family boarding the flight to attend a funeral, the Hon PM asserted that she has not received confirmation of this, however if that were the case, these individuals would have knowingly lied on their declaration forms. Hon FIAME elaborated further that upon the arrival of the flight on the 19th, all passengers were tested and gone through the standard covid protective measures at the airport. However, on Friday 21st January, a total of 10 passengers were tested positive; then an additional 5 tested positive (nurses who were assigned to care for the positive patients) on Saturday 22nd January. On the 23rd of January an additional 7 passengers who were all managed in isolation sites also tested positive. Then an additional 3 positive cases on 24th January. Since then only one additional case has been reported on 26th January. To date the amount of positive patients remain at 30; 25 passengers from the flight and 5 nurses. Hon PM confirmed that there was no community case.

The PM outlined that the Government's response was in relation to the NEOC stages; whereby Stage 3 was enforced from the 22nd-24th and continued till the 28th of January; then moved down to Level 2 from January 28th – February 11th for two weeks.

The PM further clarified the data collected and recorded by the WHO database regarding Samoa's covid cases reports 32. The Hon PM clarified this was owed to WHO recording all number of positive covid cases in the country including the 2 which were recorded last year [2021 which are now negative], this is why it does not align with our record of 30 positive cases from the recent flight on the 19th January 2022.

The PM also mentioned the issue regarding a nurse and a quarantine driver who breached Quarantine rules. She assured the public they have now been taken back to quarantine sites, and are subject to stringent scrutiny by health and police officers. This case serves as a lesson for anyone who breaches quarantine rules that there will be consequences.

Hon PM spoke on the report on the Land and Titles Act and the Constitution, which raised uncertainty that could affect the work of the Judiciary, the understanding of the public as well as the work of the Office of the Attorney General. In the 2020 copy it does not include all the amendments approved by Parliament. It does not include the appointment of the judges of the LTC, their salary and benefits and conditions of appointment. The Hon Prime Minister accentuated that the Parliament has the authority to deal with this problem and with the report tabled by the OCLA, PM asked that the Parliament propose the solution to this problem.

As provided in Standing Order 159(1); a motion was moved by the PM to establish the Special Committee with the following Members:

1. Afioga AUUAPAU Mulipola Aloitafua [Chairperson]
2. Afioga Hon LOAU Keneti Sio (Deputy Chairperson)
3. Afioga VAELE Paiaaua Iona Paiaaua Sekuini
4. Afioga FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua
5. Afioga LUAMATIAMANU Ringo Purcell
6. Tofa Hon TUUU Anasii Leota
7. Afioga ALAIASA Moefaaouuo Sepulona Moananu

The Terms of Reference for the Special Committee included:

- (1) To review the responsibilities of Parliament and necessary procedures that may be undertaken whenever a matter as such arises;
- (2) To identify and confirm the intention of the insertion of amendments into the 2 Bills;
- (3) To consider the legal implications that influenced this matter;
- (4) To provide recommendations to the Assembly as a way forward and solution to the problem; and
- (5) To report back to the Assembly at a forthcoming sitting.

Motion seconded and Approved

**Proceedings adjourned at 8:52pm; and
Will reconvene on Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 9:30am**