

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on Wednesday 20th June 2018. 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 questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on Wednesday 20th June 2018, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday 20 June 2018

9:07am

[Part A]

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Appropriation Bill 2018/2019 – debate on second reading cont. [Day 2]

Minister for Revenue – Hon TIALAVEA Fea Tionisio Seigafolava Hunt

The Hon Minister stated that the purpose of his speech is to elaborate the consultations between Government and the Pastors whom have rejected the taxation law, further noting that before the law was passed they had consulted all pastors.

Hon Prime Minister, TUILAEPA Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi

The Hon Prime Minister explained that the Government will provide its response when all Members have spoken on the Appropriation Bill. He then advised the Minister for Revenue to leave the issue with him, noting that Parliament as the law making body does not pass legislation which provide special conditions or consideration for a minority group. He iterated that the laws are to govern all people of Samoa and that there are no exceptions.

Mr Speaker – POINT OF CLARIFICATION

The Hon Speaker advised Members to avoid speaking on bills which have been passed by the House as it does not reflect well on Parliament.

(i) NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu – Member for Gagaemauga No.3

The Member acknowledged Samoa in all her honorific salutations then proceeded to thank the Minister of Finance for preparing the budget; NAFOITOA then reminded the following Ministers of pending requests.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested an evacuation route to be developed in his constituency as this is important in times of natural disasters; the need for road upgrades throughout his constituency, then queried an update on the progress in the maintenance of the Maota Airport development in Savaii.

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture

Acknowledged the opening of Avao School and requested funds for completion of the sports field as this would help develop the talents of the students who would utilise the field.

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

The Member acknowledged Samoa in all her honorific salutations and thanked the continuous support and prayers of his constituency. The Hon Member noted the importance of the Samoan culture and its' intertwined relationship with religion, thus the importance of treading with care and caution when dealing with sensitive issues.

LAAULI acknowledged the Minister of Finance and encouraged him to develop and implement other means to generate revenue for the development of Samoa. He then spoke on the benefits of crypto-currency.

INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon PM asserted that the government has discussed the issue with financial experts whom have advised that the economy cannot work in tandem with cryptocurrency due to the absence of a regulatory body to pursue the interests and rights of consumers.

LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi – Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member spoke generally to acknowledge the efforts of the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour specifically in regards to the operations of Samoa Airways and urged Parliament and the public to support Samoa's national carrier and to refrain from speaking negatively about the Airline publicly.

INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon PM acknowledged the Member for raising the issue as it is not an easy task running an airline as the profits are usually minimal, however it was important to purchase Samoa's own aircraft 'For Samoans, By Samoans' thus the importance of getting behind Samoa's national carrier as this helps the development of the economy. The Hon Prime Minister noted the unsuccessful partnership arrangements with Virgin Airline thus the importance of independently operating our own airline.

LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi – Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member acknowledged the Minister of Health in his efforts to complete the merge of the National Health Services and the Ministry; he then urged for an inquiry into the manufacturing of 'Boom vodka' which has been proven to contain harmful content which are detrimental to the health of the population consuming this alcohol.

The Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 acknowledged the Minister for Tourism on deciding Savaii to host the Miss Samoa pageant. The Member addressed the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment on the need to create a seawall in his constituency. LAAULI also raised the inconsistent supply of water and this is to be reconsidered by the Ministry and the Samoa Water Authority; in regards to the supply of electricity, the Member noted the inconsistent supply of electricity causing power surges and sudden outages which can damage electronic gadgets.

The Member noted the need for more developments in the farming sector and queried the Minister of Communication on the progress of the SchoolNet programs and the coverage of broadband in the country. LAAULI concluded by thanking the Government, specifically the Hon Prime Minister for his leadership and acknowledged the Hon Speaker for his patience and tranquillity in presiding over Parliament.

***Proceedings were set aside at 10:43am;
resumed at 11:27am***

(iii) SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga East

The Member acknowledged Parliament and Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He then made the following requests to specific Ministers:

- Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

The Member requested land prices for the villages of Vailele, Letogo and Fagalii to be reduced for the constituents as these lands are recorded as customary. The Member expressed his

disappointment on the adverse effects of the Fagalii airport to the villagers thus the need for a relocation plan for these residents to the village of Vaialele.

INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Minister clarified that the lands the Member is referring to, belongs to the government and the people of Samoa.

○ Minister of Education, Sports and Culture

The Member requested the relocation of the Letogo Primary School as the number of students continues to grow while the facility is limited. The Member also requested the government for additional lands to cater for the construction of new school buildings.

○ Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested for access roads to be dug to assist farmers with bringing crops from the plantation to the village noting that this is currently done manually; SULAMANAIA requested funding to assist with the development and construction of a local market to sell products and crops of its constituents. The Member requested for speed humps to be established to avoid car accidents. In regards to the quality of water used for consumption, he requested that these be tested for continual usability; he further requested the water bills to be reduced.

INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Prime Minister stated that the issue with water quality is important and the Member should not only seek the Minister's assistance but also inform the responsible Authority (SWA) to ensure the quality of water is safe for consumption.

(iv) OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Member for Salega East

The Member commented on the Revenues recorded by the Ministry noting that there should be more than what is recorded. He raised concerns in regards to the operation of the project for the new prison, noting that the figures and the project plans were not consistent, owing to the absence of a master plan. Another concern was the limited space available at the Vaitele and Fugalei markets to cater for the increasing number of farmers to sell their crops from their plantations.

INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon PM refuted claims made by the Member and explained that he often visits the market and there are numerous available areas, also pinpointing that the rationale behind leasing out the market space to Coin Save was due to the lack of farmers. The Hon Prime Minister elaborated that the prisons project has a master plan and that the member should refrain from speaking on projects he has no knowledge of.

INTERJECTION – Hon Minister for Revenue

The Hon Minister additionally refuted claims of having no master plan and stated the existence of a Tenders Board who assesses each bid/tender for relevant projects.

INTERJECTION – ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West

The Finance Committee Chair spoke to explain the reasons for conducting a site visit to assess the progress of the prison project and there being a savings of \$200,000 which was used for variations.

INTERJECTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon Prime Minister clarified the process of the Tenders Board and that there were deliberations and consultations over the awardee of the contract that the current contractor is capable and has been constructing various government projects in previous times. He again reiterated that there was no act of favouritism implemented in the process of assessing contractors for this Project.

***Proceedings were suspended at 1:03pm; and
will reconvene at 3:13pm***