

DISCLAIMER

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PART A

DAY 2
9:30am

Wednesday 19th January 2022

I. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

A total of 4 Annual Reports were tabled

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022- second reading debate cont. (Day 2)

i. Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa - Member for Aana Alofi No.2

The Member continued his address from yesterday by greeting Mr Speaker and all Parliamentarians. He then addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested for road works in his village, specifically mentioned the roads which lead to churches such as the road at Mataiili leading towards the LDS church at Lepale. The other road which was mentioned by the Member was that next to the Fasitoo Primary School which leads to the Assembly of God Church, noted that road repair is much needed in this area, together with street lights as it is too dark and unsafe for the villagers residing in this area.

- Minister for Health:

The Member commended efforts of the Ministry in keeping Samoa safe from covid, acknowledging the determination of the front-liners.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member commended the Minister and his ministry for all the work conducted to collect revenues for the nation. He then queried an update of the scanner from ADB noting the importance of having the scanner to curb the concerning rise of illegal importation of firearms and illegal substance. He iterated issues raised by his fellow Parliamentarians on having more K9 dogs to assist with the detection of illegal substance entering our nation. The Member noted the importance of having well-resourced and capable manpower to conduct thorough monitoring and investigations of large containers and cargos brought into the country.

- Minister for Police & Prisons:

The Member commended the minister and his ministry for their determination to keeping Samoa safe; commended the numerous road blocks to ensure drivers were safe to drive and were licensed drivers.

- Minister for Finance:

The Member commended the Minister for the tabled supplementary budget and noted his appreciation and support for the appropriations allocated for the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation as it is essential. The Member noted his support for the supplementary and his acceptance of the 1million as provided by the Government for development of constituencies.

He concluded by wishing his fellow parliamentarians the best and acknowledged the unwavering support and prayers of his mother, his wife and children and all his family and supporters; especially the steadfast faith in the Almighty whom all things are possible.

ii. Susuga MAULOLO Tavita Amosa – Member for Sagaga No.2

The Member acknowledged the whole of Samoa in all her honorific glory. The Member being well versed in oratory dialect addressed all districts of Upolu and Savaii in all their honorific salutations. He paid special acknowledgment to the former Member for Sagaga No.2, SEIULI Ueligitone Seiuli and fellow candidates who contested in the previous elections. He then addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture

The Member noted that a review was conducted for Sagaga College specifically for years 9 -11, which recorded that 80%-84% of students in the past 5 years dropped out after year 11. The Member stated that this concern raises the question as to the cause of dropouts, whether it lies with the students' academic ability or the quality of teaching and learning in schools.

He then noted the aim of meeting the SDS priorities and posed a question for students who dropped out in year 10 and 11, and emphasized that the Samoa Qualifications Authority should intervene as these students are not eligible to enroll for technical studies such as Don Bosco and APTC. The Member then requested for a TVET center to be established in his constituency. In regards to the cultural aspect of the Ministry, the Member suggested utilizing social media to our advantage, by promoting Samoa's culture to our people and the whole world.

The Member urged the Minister to ask the service providers (APTC, Don Bosco, and others) to take their services out to the community, by providing awareness programs to the villages to encourage students to pursue other avenues to utilize their talents/skills to earn an income. He then offered his constituency to be the trial-run for the TVET Program, if it does not progress according to plan then it can be stopped, however if the program is successful then it can be rolled out to other constituencies.

Susuga MAULOLO touched upon the setting of National Exams for the Year 8 level, and suggested to have other types of question rather than multiple choices as it assists with enhancing reading and writing skills and abilities of students.

- Minister for Health:

The Member mentioned the Samoa Health Development Plan, and the concerning doctor-patient ratio in Savaii where only 3 medical officers are to look after 1000 patients. The Member stated that this should be improved to ensure Samoa is able to rapidly counter any covid case should it enter our shores. He suggested that the PEN Fa'a Samoa - a program which the Ministry of Health in collaboration of the World Health Organization initiated (PEN the Samoan Way) is a village based model for Non-Communicable Disease prevention and control that emphasizes community participation and ownership.¹

Susuga MAULOLO then offered his constituency as another isolation –quarantine zone' as it has a Police station for security purposes which is fully secured, as well as a market for food supply and a money transfer outlet; the only requirement is to have trainings and capacity building activities for the village women to be skilled with carrying out the requirements for PEN the Samoan Way prevention care.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member accentuated that this is another sector that should be considered a priority and urged the Minister to encourage the planting of climate resilient crops, such as yams, kumara, etc. He further requested a tractor and ploughs to assist with the harvesting and clearing of lands in his constituency for ease of planting the fields.

¹ World Health Organization – Engaging people for health promotion – WHO, accessed at apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1240894/retrieve

The Member further emphasized the importance of TVET in developing people skills in poultry farming such as to ensure Samoa is safe from any related bird-flu when it emerges. However in the event that bird-flu occurs, it would be beneficial to have skills and training on how to prevent from bird –flu and how to cure the disease.

**Proceedings were set aside at 10:47am;
and resumed at 11:27am**

MOTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon PM moved to change the sitting hours from:
9:30am – 1pm; and
6pm – 10pm; Motion seconded and approved.

ii. Susuga MAULOLO Tavita Amosa (cont.)

The Member continued by addressing the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour:

The Member raised concern regarding casual workers and suggested that ID's be made for these type of workers to assist employers with easily tracking the employment history of these individuals.

- Minister for Justice and Courts Administration

The Member queried court results on the lands whereby the Sagaga College and the District Hospital are located

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

Susuga MAULOLO queried the customary lands of Malie taken by the Samoa Land Authority, then urged the Government to look into the matter. He then requested seawalls for Afega and Malie and planting of mangroves within his constituency (coastal intertidal zone) to counter the impacts of king tide and to promote environmental benefits.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development

The Member queried whether any workshop will be conducted in constituencies to inform and clarify to villages and constituents how \$1 million project will be distributed and utilized.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the Minister for the works of last year and current projects and developments in progress. He mentioned the road works which are needed for his constituency.

The Member then concluded by reminding the Hon PM and cabinet on the progress of some developments already underway; such as the Alaoa project. The Member reminded the House that the grant provided for the projects have time-limits, therefore if the time lapse and we have not utilised it, we can lose the funds.

iii. Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena – Member for Faasaleleaga No.5

The Member greeted the House and then voiced his requests to the following Ministers:

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member commended the Minister and his Ministry as it is an important aspect in all children. He emphasised that the Government should look into other means and avenues to upskill individuals so they can be better placed in contributing to their family's welfare. The Member iterated what previous members raised, that schools should also provide for technical and vocational studies as it has been reported that overseas companies are offering employment for our people in the areas of plumbing, carpentry and others, which therefore justifies the need for our Government and responsible Ministries to tap into this opportunity and upskill our people.

- Minister for Health:

Afioga PESETA commended the Minister and Ministry for all their efforts to keep Samoa safe from covid. He then raised the issue of general repairs needed at the Motootua Hospital, such as the elevators being out of service. He also raised the need for proper transportation provided for patients from Savaii, as some have unfortunately died on the way to the Motootua Hospital, then suggested additional Ambulance for Tuasivi Hospital and Leulumoega to assist with the transportation of patients to the main hospital in Motootua.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

The Member commended the hard work of the Ministry during the festive season and on a daily basis, noting that there is still much to be done and reviewed. Afioga PESETA accentuated that during his time as an associate minister for police, he and the PM at the time sought ways to prevent the illegal production, supply and distribution of drugs in the country and pushed to conduct raids. The Member then queried how these illegal substance make their way into our shores, and it is only through the shipments and cargos received at the Customs department, which again heightens the need for the scanner to be brought in. The Member also suggested a satellite to be purchased and used to also assist with curbing the illegal importation of drugs into the country.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member raised the issue of shops providing vague receipts which do not specify the items purchased and therefore the customer cannot validate whether the VAGST amount charged is accurate to the purchase made, then urged the Minister and his ministry to conduct visits and inspections in shops at the rural areas to ensure they are not over-charging their customers.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member raised the need for continuous road maintenance especially for the roads at Lepea to be widened, to avoid traffic congestion.

- Minister for Finance:

The Member suggested that the 10% retention included as conditions under business contracts be reverted to Government as maintenance fund, as it is currently going back to businesses and is a loss to the Government.

iv. Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua - Member for Salega No 1

The Member greeted the House, Judiciary and all clergies in Samoa. He then conveyed apologies to the Speaker on his absence yesterday as he attended a family funeral.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member recommended to the Minister to have the ECE or pre-schools included in primary schools for easier transition of students. He then raised the name of their college and requested to change it from Savaii Sisifo College to Salega College as it is located in the Salega constituency.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested water supply for Si'uvao as there is no pipelines for this area and people have to travel by foot or cars to get water. The Member also noted the need for speed humps in certain areas of his constituency as it claimed the lives of 4 children in his constituency.

- Minister for Health:

Afioga FEPULEAI commended the Hon Minister for his work and for responding to their request to provide an ambulance for their district hospital.

- Minister for Police & Prisons:

The Member noted the costs incurred on his constituents from travelling to Asau and back, as this is the nearest police outpost for his constituents.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member encouraged the Hon Minister to utilise its assets (agricultural developments) wisely; and requested for more coconut and cocoa supply to begin developments in his constituency.

v. **Tofa ALE Vena Ale - Member for Faleata 4**

The Member greeted the House and Samoa in all her honorific salutations, he then spoke on the \$1 million tala project and clarified that he never rejected the assistance from the new Government, as this will benefit his constituency; rather he queried the usage, distribution and monitoring of the 1million fund.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member queried that the school building at Saina is very old and it needs renovations; he also mentioned that the land is quite large which can also be used to build a College as it has 5 acres.

- Minister for Works Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member noted that he had already submitted his request to the Hon Minister for roads in Safune and Saina which need serious repairs as these are not access roads but roads to many family homes of many residents living inland.

Proceedings were suspended at 1:03pm and will resume at 6pm.