

DISCLAIMER

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PART A

DAY 3
9:38am

Thursday 20th January 2022

I. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

A total of 3 Papers were tabled; 2 Supreme Court Reports from Petitions, and an Annual Report from the Development Bank of Samoa for the FY 2020/2021.

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022- second reading debate cont. (Day 3)

i. Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga (cont.)

The Member continued his address by again greeting all who were present and wishing good health upon the Opposition Leader, Minister for Women Community and Social Development and other Parliamentarians who were unwell. He again acknowledged with much appreciation the new ambulance for their district hospital, and asked the Minister for a driver to be on call during emergencies.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member asserted that although there is no appropriation in the Supplementary for the Ministry of Education, it is worth mentioning as it is one of the pivotal sectors in any nation. He then mentioned that 50% of Year 13 students in Aleipata College made it to UPY which is a record never achieved before, and then echoed sentiments by previous members to introduce technical and vocational studies in Colleges for students who are not academically capable. The Member was pleased to note that his constituency college is the defending champions for rugby

tournament although the training fields are not up to standard, and requested for proper development of a sports field for Aleipata College.

On the academic front, the Member provided a scenario on the low number of teachers especially when the majority are women who may possibly take leave at some point for maternity, which will give rise to another issue of teacher shortage. Furthermore, the Member noted his support for the ECE and queried the link of Early Childhood Education to primary schools if there was a connection of syllabus used in ECE and primary schools that the Ministry should look at. He also queried the tutorials offered after school by teachers, whether teachers were half committed during school hours and more focused during their lessons given at tutorial time.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member highlighted the allocation provided in the Supplementary for water supplies and electricity and commends the government for considering the inclusion of requests made during the Main Appropriation Bill. He then touched upon the importance of having tsunami evacuation zones considering the recent climate developments in Tonga. He queried the feasibility of having a resort in his constituency to help with means of earning an income for his constituents. The Member mentioned the poor quality of water tanks at Lalomanu and sought the Minister's assistance for a solution as these water tanks provide water for general consumption of his people.

The Member requested for a seawall at Lata at Lalomanu; as well as completing works for the Ulutogia road and the access road for Vailoa. The Member also requested for a sign post near the ford or a speed hump to prevent cars from accidents. He then mentioned a road between Pu'e and Malaela which is in poor condition as the high tide reaches this road and urged the Minister for possible solution.

- Minister for Police:

The Member requested for a Fire Emergency outpost in his constituency given that there is a district hospital and a police outpost, it would be most fitting to also have a fire service stationed to ensure the full emergency services can be provided to the constituency in any unfortunate event. In regards to drugs, he fully supports of having the scanner in place to scan all materials being imported. The Member called to prioritize the investigations on illegal drugs, weapons and money.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member requested to subsidize tax on vegetables and fruits to encourage healthy lifestyles for our people, and again urged the Minister for the scanner to be brought in and set up to assist the Ministry with detection of illegal products imported.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the Minister for the initiatives in boosting the agriculture sector especially the warehouse in NZ to store products exported. The Member then queried the 7 days pesticide that farmers use, which have detrimental impacts on the overall quality of soil and land. Afioga FUAAVA emphasized that agricultural development is one of the key-pillars for our economy moving forward. The Member raised concern regarding the development of our marine ecosystem recalling that people used to fish a lot however, recently the number of fishing boats decreased due to 'buoy' which he believes is causing the problem.

- Ministry for Police and Prisons:

The Member requested for a surveillance patrol boat to monitor the waters and wharf in his constituency to ensure the overall safety of our people.

- Samoa Land Corporation

The Member commended efforts made by the Corporation in safeguarding customary lands, he further posed that allegations on the decrease of customary lands as mentioned by certain parliamentarians is somewhat offensive as it implies that those who were part of the administration of customary lands were involved in some illegal dealings.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:

In regards to \$200,000 for constituency developments, the Member queried whether there was a Cabinet Directive to note the terms of this project as they were only given pamphlet on how the funds can be claimed.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested for road repairs in his constituency, as there are large potholes near mountain slide areas which cause problems for the general public driving by and also for the constituents who utilise these roads.

The Member concluded his speech by offering well wishes to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as to Mr Speaker and all of Parliament and all who were present.

ii. **Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers-Ah Kau - Member for Gagaifomauga 1**

The Hon Member addressed Samoa in all her honorific salutations, she then recalled the many obstacles encountered the previous year, giving praise to the Almighty for his continuous provision. Hon Member acknowledged the three pillars of government, addressed his highness the Ao o le

Malo and his good lady, as well as the Council of Deputies. She then addressed her constituency in their honorific salutations. The Hon Member then spoke on the Supplementary Budget.

The Hon Member commended the \$4.1million allocated to MWTI (2million for EPC & 2million for SWA)

- Minister for Health:

The Hon Member proposed to have an additional allocation for the Ministry of Health to pay for overtime and salaries of employees, especially those involved in the mass vaccination as they are working day and night in order to safeguard our country from covid, as well as funds to raise Samoa's preparedness in its fight against the pandemic. The Member commended the minister on the provision of Ambulance for each district hospital.

**Proceedings were set aside at 10:45am;
and resumed at 11:23am**

MOTION – Hon Prime Minister

The Hon PM moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), to continue parliamentary proceedings until 1pm and resume again at 2pm until 6pm; *Motion seconded and approved.*

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers-Ah Kau - Member for Gagaifomauga 1
(cont.)

- Minister for Health:

The Hon Member reiterated the need for more assistance to the Health Ministry and requested for repairs and maintenance for the District Hospital in her constituency as it cares for many patients and therefore urged the need to be considered. She then urged the Hon PM and the Government to keep Samoa's borders closed until we are certain it is safe to open.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Hon Member reminded the Minister about the scanner and how important it is for Samoa, then expressed disappointment with the delay in retrieving the scanner. She then highlighted the

importance of obtaining the scanner which potentially has a ripple effect in minimizing violence against women as studies have found that an underlying cause of violence is drugs.

Deputy Prime Minister – Interjection:

The Hon Member clarified that there was no resolution to cease bringing in the scanner and asserted that in due time he will clarify on the matter.

Hon Prime Minister – Clarification:

The Hon Prime Minister confirmed that there is no intention to delay the scanner.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers-Ah Kau - Member for Gagaifomauga 1 (cont.)

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Hon Member queried whether the TIMS system has been officially dismissed as it is a beneficial taxation system for our economy.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:

The Hon Member noted that she was given pamphlets from the Ministry regarding the terms of obtaining the 200k funds for constituency developments. Hon FAIMALOTOA explained that she assumed the funds would be released to the constituency, however it seems that the process requires a Working Committee to be established to deal with administering and reporting the use of funds. The Hon member sought clarification with the conditions of receiving the 200k, because it is stated in the conditions that the constituency will not receive the actual money as the Government through the Ministry will be responsible for all spending. This implies that each constituency will only write out a plan of how they want to spend their 200k, then submit the plan to the ministry that will manage the funds; she further queried how the committee members will be paid, by the fund or otherwise.

Hon Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries – Interjection:

In the absence of the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, the Hon Minister stood to clarify that the committee should consist of individuals who are appreciative of the 200k project, as it was noted from previous sittings that certain members (especially from the Opposition side) were hesitant and questioned whether the project will occur, therefore causing much delay in the implementation of this project.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers-Ah Kau - Member for Gagaifomauga 1
(cont.)

The Hon Member requests for a review on the cost of living as it is too expensive for them in Savaii and to please bring back the Price Control Board. The Hon Member urged the leaders to advise families living abroad to speak with respect, as there has been much statements made between families and the public which cause disruption and does not promote peaceful living amongst families.

iii. Afioga LEANA Ronnie Posini – Member for Safata No.1

The Member greeted the Hon Prime Minister cabinet all the members present in the house, the Ao o le Malo and his good lady, Council of Deputies, and the Chief Justice wishing him good marriage.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member noted the importance of access roads for the development of farming in his constituency as most of the farmers from Safata grow taro and contribute to the export of taro to available overseas markets. He then requested for access roads at Salamumu, specifically the road towards the Methodist church and a resort in Salamumu. He then urged the minister to consider waterways around the main road from Saanapu to Sataoa as they are mostly affected during heavy rain and flooding. Further requested the government to give support for those community who rely on the independent water scheme for water supply, to ensure the safety of the people consuming the water.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member requested for seawalls for his constituency to counter the impacts of sea level rise which have affected many families in his constituency.

- Minister for Health:

The Member commended the Minister for the extensions of their district hospital, he was pleased to hear that their hospital is extended.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member queried the progress of the coral protection project which involves the removal of the crown of thorns starfish.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The member queried the progress of TIMS, further queried the status of the scanner to assist the Ministry with easily detecting illegal importations. The Member echoed sentiments made by previous speakers on testing all government officials including parliamentarians.

- Minister for Police and Prison:

The Member commended the OEC especially the former commissioner for his work during by-election. Then acknowledged the 7 elected members of parliament and raised concerns regarding some candidates' statements during their campaign for by-election.

Speaker's Ruling

The Member advised the Member for Safata 1 to refrain from speaking on matters in the past and urged him to move forward.

Afioga LEANA Ronnie Posini – Member for Safata No.1

The Member queried the 10 positive cases from the flight that arrived yesterday to which the Minister for Health stood up and asserted that the Member for Safata No 1 should be sure to verify his statements whether they are factual before openly voicing them, and stated that there is a Committee (NEOC) who is responsible to inform the public on such matters.

The Member then queried the employment of Chief of Staff for certain Ministers and their roles, to which the Hon Prime Minister stood to clarify that the position is called 'Principal Advisor'. The Member then concluded his speech.

iv. Afioga AUUPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua – Member for Aiga i le Tai

The Deputy Speaker noted that there is a small wharf at Manono Tai and highlighted that a stable wharf is needed for Manono Uta. He then mentioned the pros and cons of the current wharf, as the boats can travel only when the weather permits such as when the sea level is high. He then asked the Minister for Works; that if there is a borehole that can be drilled in his constituency to supply water for his constituents, please commence drilling immediately as it is imperative that all those residing in Manono Uta have a stable supply of good quality water.

Proceedings were suspended at 1:02pm and will resume at 2pm.