

DISCLAIMER

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PART B

Day 3 – Thursday 16th September 2021

2:04pm

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY
APPROPRIATION BILL 2021/2022 – debate on second reading (Cont.)**

Afioga Fepuleai Faasavalu Faimata Sua, (Member for Salega 1) cont.

The Member continued his speech by acknowledging his constituency in all her honorific salutations; recalled his humble plea to his constituency to please consider his candidacy when they cast their individual votes. The Member stated that since his appointment, he has been at a loss for words to express his appreciation and gratitude for their trust and faith in him to represent their constituency. He then acknowledged the Almighty for His prestigious calling upon a simple man. He then addressed his fellow comrades whom contested with him in the 2021 General Elections; expressed gratitude for the encouragement and advices and for their acceptance of defeat, as well as having a receptive heart of the constituents’ selection.

The Member then acknowledged his immediate and extended family, as well as his spiritual family for their support, guidance and prayers.

The Member then spoke on the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022 and acknowledged the Minister and Ministry for Finance for the preparation of the Bill.

- Minister for Finance:
 - Acknowledged the reduction of fares to and from Savaii, and urged to reconsider the free travel for children under 5years.
 - He also commended the SNPF for their dividend pay-out for its contributors and suggested that the full 8% should have been paid out as opposed to splitting 4% cash out and 4% on lending basis.

- The Member mentioned a 5million pay-out for Chinese yet these labourers do not pay taxes in our country.
- Noted an 11million appropriation for Constituencies, and queried whether the manifesto stated 11million or 51million? Sought clarification from the Minister to ensure the promise is delivered as people are expecting this.
- Made reference to page 3 of the budget noting a 1billion debt which the government intends to pay. Then queried, how debt repayments can be made when there is a reduction on electricity and water charge and a promise of 1million for each constituency.

- Minister for Natural, Resources and Environment
 - Requested the need for proper measures in place to avoid the impacts of flooding in the village of Fogatuli which has been ongoing for the past 2 years.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue (Hon Deputy Prime Minister)
 - Urged the Deputy PM to reconsider the taxation of religious ministers
 - Noted that most small businesses have closed down, when asked the response was the lack of implementing the new tax system (TIMS) correctly.
 - Thoroughly look into locally produced liquor by Chinese companies, consider the safety and standards of such products to ensure it is safe for local consumption.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:
 - Queried the distribution of an appropriation of 140k set aside for Agricultural Development Projects, would this include Savaii farmers

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - Reminded the Minister that Faiaai needs an access road, and the need for proper water supply in Fagafau.

- Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour:
 - Noted his concern for people selling their local produce near the wharf out in the sun, and suggested for proper shelter for these sellers to wait for passengers travelling to and from Salelologa wharf to sell their produce such as packet lopa, and others.

- Minister for Health:
 - Expressed his concern for having only one vehicle service the two hospitals in Fualalo and Sataua; and the feasibility of having a CT scan for Tuasivi hospital for convenience.

- Ministry for Police and Prisons:

- Requested the appropriateness of paying allowances for police officers as they work tirelessly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Samoa; and requested a police outpost for his constituency.
- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture:
 - Noted that the constituency has requested time and time again for a school building for Faiaai and has not yet been implemented.
 - Reconsider the intention of removing year 13 studies in colleges whether it will affect the academic lives of students.
 - Suggested to have only classes 4 - 8 as primary level as classes 1 to 8 holds too many students for only one principal; separate years 1 to years 3 from 4 to years 8.

As the Member concluded his speech, urged the Minister for Justice and Courts Administration to please revisit the 3 controversial laws recently passed by the previous Government.

5. Tofa SEUAMULI Fasi Toma, Member for Gagaemauga No.2

The Member acknowledged Members in the House in its honorific salutations; greeted the Council of Deputy, CJ and the Judiciary; all the denominations in Samoa and abroad. He then greeted neighbouring countries and American Samoa and the Governor. Addressed and commended his constituency for their support. Expressed gratitude to his constituency for their choice to have him represent their voices in Parliament. Acknowledged with much appreciation the blessings and support of the fellow candidates who ran for their constituency's seat. Acknowledged NAFOITOA for his work during his time as a member for Gagaemauga No.2. The Member then acknowledged the Minister for Finance for the tabled budget and expressed gratitude.

- Minister for Health:
 - The Member expressed appreciation for the site visits to different district clinics, and asked to consider a permanent doctor stationed at Vaipouli as the doctor only comes in once a week. Noted that the constituency has paid 80,000 for the building yet it is not fully utilised.
 - Noted that the Safotu Clinic needs proper bedding and resourcing as the beds are in poor condition.
 - Noted that there seems to be a shortage of wheelchairs in most district clinics in Savaii
 - Requested that the complete service should be carried out by the Ambulance from transporting the patient referred from Tuasivi to Motootua, rather than leaving them at Leulumoega Clinic.
 - In regards to the dialysis area at the Tuasivi Hospital, the Member suggested to relocate the dialysis room to another area, as it faces the door to the morgue, which can be disheartening, as if this is the solution for those who undergo dialysis treatments.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:
 - Queried which authority is responsible for the maintenance of Vaipouli school building
 - Noted the need for more teachers specialising in Maths and Science, and raised the need for more teachers in Vaitoa as there are more than 40 students with only 1 teacher.
 - Consider the provision of school buses for the Patamea and Samalaeulu Schools as the distance between the two schools are quite far apart.
 - Expressed concern with teachers missing classes to attend meetings, and suggested to use virtual means to avoid students missing lessons.
 - To reconsider government grants to primary schools which is currently \$100 and colleges \$300, and further suggested to increase primary grants to \$150, and for the minister to consider having auditors to analyse these grants and whether they are reaching schools and used accordingly.
 - Noted the costs of courses at the National University of Samoa, which can be afforded by others however can be an obstacle for low income families.

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:
 - Requested that the Ministry look into farmers receiving a fair value of their local produce exported as there seems to be a notable gap between the amount received by the farmer per kg compared to the cost the sellers are charging overseas.

- Ministry for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - Noted the need for contractors to be honest with maintaining roads, requested road works for Itu o Tane College and Laumoli Primary School in Avao; an access road for Saleia village
 - Queried the process for the Satitua wharf project
 - Reconsider the feasibility of continuing the Tiavea Airport
 - Acknowledged the reduction of water and electricity charges
 - Consider waiving fares for children below 5years travelling to and from Savaii
 - Requested to utilise the village 'aumaga' to clear and tidy the lands rather than paying contractors to carry out this task, therefore the monies earned from cleaning the roads will be earned by the village.

- Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour:
 - Requested whether there can be a provision which stated that Chinese businesses can only be located in Salelologa, and leaving the rural areas for the operation and development of local retail businesses.
 - Noted his support for the previous process for bingo registration where \$100 or \$200 was paid to the Police Office (as the village council were involved in this), as opposed to the current practice, where an application is submitted a month prior at the cost of

- \$600, the Member noted the costly and time consuming of this process, and asked to revisit this process for convenience to the public.
- The Member noted the land used by the Vaipouli College, whether this was freehold or government owned land and requested confirmation as to the ownership of this land.
 - In regards to seasonal work, the Member requested to consider opening the opportunity to all constituencies.
 - He mentioned the restriction orders of covid19 towards bingo operation hours to 11pm as there is no covid case in Samoa.
- Minister for Customs and Revenue:
 - Reconsider the production of alcohol & whether it is within the appropriate limit as there is an increasing concern on youths going around drunk and the impacts of their drunkenness on the community.
 - Sought clarification on old cars at Matautu wharf, for the Ministry to look into this issue as it's not a healthy site for the people working there and also hazardous to the environment.
 - Ministry of Police and Prisons:
 - Requested to raise salary raise for prison warden
 - Ministry for Justice and Courts Administration:
 - Commended efforts to reduce court charges
 - Revisit the 3 Acts recently passed and assess potential risks.
 - Ministry for Communication and Information Technology:
 - Queried the need for a security officer for the Post Office, Samoa Commercial Bank and Pacific Ezy Money and requested to use one of his constituents.
 - Queried whether there were any impacts of the telecommunication posts for Digicel and Vodafone established in his constituency.
 - Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development:
 - Queried whether the appropriation of 2.1million for communities, include the women committees
 - Consider the necessary continuation of using sardine cans and ietoga for faalavelave
 - Queried the status of Independent Water Schemes in Samoa
 - Ministry for Finance:
 - Raised concern with the 1 billion debt and asked how the debt will be lightened
 - Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:

- Noted the importance of the Savali newspaper and suggested that more copies be distributed to respective village councils
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment:
 - Consider the establishment of a seawall at Fagamalo

**Proceedings were set aside at 3:47pm;
and continued at 4:20pm**

6. Tofa FESOLAI Apulu Tuisupu Tuigamala, Member for Aana Alofi 1

The Member greeted the Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, Prime Minister and Cabinet and all Members present. Greeted the clergies and all of Samoa and paid special acknowledgment to the Hon Speaker and Prime Minister on behalf of his constituency.

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture:
 - Requested school buildings in his constituency and enough teachers, as there is one primary school whereby the pastor and his wife are teachers.
 - Requested to ensure teachers are qualified to teach the students and to restore Wi-Fi connections in schools as they are important to the learning lives of students.
- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - Requested to have street lights established for his constituency, noting that some areas do not have street lights. He further raised the need to ensure electricity wires are safe.
- Minister of Health
 - The Member requested for proper procedure in selecting those who can be referred overseas for medical treatments; noted the cost of waiting for a proper diagnosis has costed many lives and therefore the need for proper resourcing of our health facilities to ensure early and easy detection can be achieved in order to save lives.
 - The Member noted that the absence of a Coronary Angiogram which detects heart problems is a worry and must be addressed.
- Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour:
 - Suggested to bring in the plane as it has its benefits, such as bringing our Samoan students studying abroad home safely.

- Minister of Natural Resources and Environment:
 - Highlighted that there are 250k acres of his constituency under the government to be returned to his constituency as they promised in their manifesto that these lands be returned to the constituency.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:
 - Urged local farmers to plant cocoa and coconuts and increase the cost to ensure a reasonable profit is made by the farmers as it is not an easy task.

- Minister of Finance:
 - Acknowledged the Minister for the well prepared budget and reminded the Government to keep their 1million promise.

- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - Urged the Electric Power Corporation to fix the electricity supply and requested that a generator be installed for the Ministry for Justice and Courts Administration as there have been numerous hindrances to the operations of the judiciary when the power goes off.

- Minister of the Office of the Electoral Commission
 - Suggested to open-up elections for Samoans living overseas to recognise their rights and as Samoan citizens and express our appreciation for their countless donations to our Political Party

7. Afioga AGASEATA Valelio Tanuvasa Peto, Member for Aana Alofi 3

The Member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations, greeted the Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary and all Members present in the House. He then acknowledged the Minister and Ministry of Finance for the well prepared budget, and addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture
 - Noted efforts to include all teachers in the ministry's payroll, then queried whether this includes Early Childhood Education teachers and those teaching at Fia Malamalama School.
 - The Member also requested the revival of School Committees and suggested a salary raise for these committees.
 - In regards to the NUS, the Member noted his concern for the high costs of courses, and suggested the implementation of 'student loan schemes' to ensure all are given a chance at tertiary level education.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:
 - Mentioned the appropriation for agricultural development projects, and suggest a more simple way of receiving this fund, rather than applying and waiting to receive assistance.
 - Noted his concern for not having enough lands available to his constituents to farm and harvest.

- Minister of Health:
 - Commended the Minister for conducting site visits to see first-hand conditions of district clinics and hospitals
 - Suggested to have another ambulance for Savaii patients as there are only 2 ambulances available for Savaii patients.
 - The Member mentioned the appropriation to renovate hospitals and clinics, and suggested to renovate the main hospital in Motootua as he noted leakages in certain parts of the hospital, as well as the need to renovate the Leulumoega clinic to ensure it is operational and up to standard, noting that this is one of the main clinics for patients.
 - In regards to disabled people eligible for pension, the Member queried whether they are eligible to receive both pension and disabilities benefits
 - The member queried Housing schemes and sought clarification as to how these funds will be distributed as everyone is equally financially vulnerable.

- Minister of Finance:
 - Noted a decrease in certain charges for services such as the EPC, SWA and others, then queried where the funds will be generated to pay off the 1 billion debt.
 - Suggested the maintenance of tourists sites to generate more income
 - Noted the numerous FESA stations throughout the Central Business District Area, and requested a station near his constituency to counter any sudden occurrences and to compliment the hospital and airport near his constituency.

- Minister of Communication and Information Technology:
 - Queried the status and direction of the cable and whether the ministry is earning any money from this

- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - The Member queried the minister whether poor 'planning' is the cause of constant maintenance of road works.

8. Afioga MAGELE Sekati Fiaui, Member for Faasaleleaga 2

The Member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations, then addressed the Minister of Finance, and commended her for the preparation of the budget. He then queried the status of the \$50 national ID's. He sought clarification on how the 1 billion debt will be paid and suggested to reconsider cutting taxes and that high paid employees should pay more taxes than low income earners, and the possibility of introducing tax returns.

The Member then noted the increasing tides and impacts of climate change. He also touched upon the appropriation for agricultural projects and reminded the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the request by his constituency which have not been answered. He called for specialists such paediatrician, gynaecologist and geriatricians for rural clinics.

He addressed the Minister for Works and requested the need for repair works for the access roads in his constituency. He raised the need to change the policy and process of licensing of vehicles. He requested for a speed hump placed in-front of the Chinese shop at Lalomalava as there have been increased car accidents in this particular area. He also requested for seawalls to be constructed in his constituency.

The Member addressed the Minister of Justice and Courts and suggested to reconsider the policy regarding working on Sundays implying that it is inappropriate to work on Sundays, also to reconsider the 3 Acts recently passed by the previous parliament and its implications. He concluded his speech by addressing his constituency and expressing heartfelt gratitude for this prestigious honour they have bestowed upon him.

9. Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Member for Aana Alofi 4

The Member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations and addressed his constituency. He then commended the Minister of Finance for the tabled budget and ensuring that money is distributed to all ministries and different parts of the economy such as; sports which is a great opportunity for the development of Samoa, tourism, education and all other sectors.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 6:04pm;
and will reconvene at 9:30am on Friday 17th September 2021.**