

DISCLAIMER

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PART B

DAY 6 2pm

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

- **Consideration of Parliamentary Committee Reports and Government Responses (cont.) – DAY 6**

**P.P. 2022/2023 No. 36, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P. 2020/2021 No. 98 and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 53, Annual Reports of the National University of Samoa for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021;
- P.P. 2022/2023 No.84, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 36**

i. Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga – Member for Aleipata i Luga

The member expressed gratitude to the Chairman and the Committee for the tabled report and recommendations, as well as the Government Responses thereto. Afioga FUAAVA then sought clarification on some differences noted in the Report regarding fees for Apprenticeship Programs/Course noted on page 10. The member noted that there are some inconsistencies in the Government Responses and Committee Report, noting that the Report mentions 8 Apprenticeship Programs whilst the Government Response noted only 7 accredited programs. He then queried whether the Electronics program was discontinued or placed under another program.

The Member further queried whether the Foundation Program for UPY can be taken again ‘repeat’ by students who are determined to complete their education. The Member touched on the transition of a student from college level to University and how it would be difficult for students to adjust to this especially with UPY it is mandatory to take and pass 5 courses per semester. The Member understands some students would not be able to pass all 5 as they are unable to take all 5 as full time courses, thus requested the Government to create options such as making these papers as part time courses so student can take only 2 or 3 per year/semester to accommodate

each and every students needs and to take into consideration the income spent by parents for registration/fees of these courses.

ii. Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo - Member for Anoamaa 2

The Hon Member commended the Minister, NUS Council and Committee for preparing the Report. The member further acknowledged the existence of MOU's as mentioned in the report as it reflects the increasing partnership between NUS and other Universities in the Pacific and other regions. The Member suggested an MOU with Maritime Institute as students who graduate under maritime are guaranteed to attain employment from overseas/foreign maritime companies. Hon LAUOFO elaborated that an MOU will encourage Marine graduates to become official employees of the Samoa Shipping Services and provide these graduates with some form of career-path within the Service.

On the issue of accreditation, the member noted that there are only 8 degrees accredited by SQA; however, there are multiple other degrees that are not recognized but have the potential to be included in the list of accreditation and asked to update this list. The Member commented on the sale of the NUS TV and asserted that this will be a loss for the NUS as the TV is an important asset for the University through public awareness and information. The member highlighted that 25k is paid by the University per month to the Samoa Digital Communication for the continuity of the NUS TV. Therefore, the member suggested it would be best for the NUS TV to create partnerships with other Companies or Businesses that want to use the TV and eventually generate more revenue for the University to fund the TV's operations. The member encouraged the Minister and the University to find options to continue owning the TV.

iii. Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tile- Falelatai ma Samatau

The Member noted that the main issue the University continues to face is the delayed payment of school fees and suggested that the Government looks into assisting parents with paying school fees. Furthermore, the member proposed that the government implement a student loan scheme to assist parents and students to pay school fees upon the completion of their academic studies. The Member noticed students graduating from district colleges tend to become farmers rather than continuing on to University level. Therefore, the Member suggests the Ministry and Government to introduce Agricultural Courses in these colleges so these students are able to gain relevant knowledge and understanding on farming.

Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi - Minister Agriculture (Clarification)

The Hon Minister elaborated on matters raised by the Member for Falelatai and Samatau on the student-loan scheme. Hon Minister clarified that the loan scheme for students is another project included in the manifesto for FAST Party and that the Government continues to consider and review current practices on the best approach to implement such an important

initiative. He then mentioned the 1 million development fund, which his constituency has set aside 100k to provide scholarship for all University students of his constituency.

Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tile- Member for Falelatai ma Samatau (cont.)

The member commended the Minister for clarification and Government for their plans. He then noted the differences between students who achieve marks that would guarantee them a spot into University while others have to go through other means to gain the skills and expertise in the field. The Member used Engineering as an example, in the past, students who are intelligent and achieve sufficient marks automatically take a Bachelor of Engineering at the University while others have to train in programs such as Polytech and NZCE. The Member asserted the Government should not only focus on students with intellectual abilities but also prioritize other students studying under vocational/tvet programs. The Member also explained that some are less motivated to take Engineering because when they hear engineering, the first thing that comes to mind is Cars, the Member clarified these are mechanics and there are other fields of Professional Engineering that are essential and recognized internationally.

iv. Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivassa – Member for Vaimauga I

The Member commended the University for Reports presented for FY2019/2020, FY2020/2021 and FY2021/2022 then acknowledged the Government's and University's plans to build a new Health Science and School of Medicine Building. The member also expressed support for recommendation 2, which outlines the amount of percentages paid by apprenticeship-students and their employers however, the member raised concern regarding students who are not employed but want to acquire an apprenticeship certificate straight after YR 13 or YR 12. The member queried whether there are any plans to offer scholarship or financial assistance for these students who do not have any form of employment. Furthermore, the member expressed support and with recommendation 2 and the government responses. However, queried if there is any government scholarship assistance for students who are not working but continuing school.

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

The Chairman explained that the Minister would respond accordingly to other matters while he responds to those related to the Committee and its findings. In regards to the question by the Member of Aleipata i Luga on Apprenticeship fees whereby 50% is paid by Government (MCIL), 30% by Employer and 20% by Student/employee and that the mistake noticed by the Member was a typo by Committee.

The Chairperson stated that the issue on qualifying marks to enroll at NUS and for taking subjects as a part-time student has been noted and will be taken into consideration. The Chairperson noted the query by the Member for Anoamaa and stated that the Minister will respond on the matter. In regards to offering employment opportunities for our maritime graduates, the Chairperson noted that the most recent reports will outline that the University is offering relevant courses for these students. On the matter concerning the sale of the NUS TV, the Chairman assured there are no plans to sell the NUS TV, as it is essential to the University and elaborated that the report provided from the University highlights plans to commercialize and garner revenue from their TV. In regards to the payment of student tuition fees, the Member recommended to consider using the 1 million initiative while the scholarship scheme is in progress.

- **Afioga Hon SEUULA Ioane, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC)**

The Hon Minister explained that he will respond accordingly to the recommendations towards the Ministry and the Minister. He mentioned the matter raised by the Member of Faasaleleaga 5 as he understands the Member has a company that accepts students as apprentice. Once these students complete their theory they need companies/apprenticeship for their practical. The Hon Minister clarified that students are mostly taught on the theory aspect of any field in the classrooms while the hands-on application of the theories learnt in the classroom can only be completed when they have jobs to apply their knowledge obtained from the University.

The Minister also commented on an issue on the differences of standards used in different countries; Hon SEUULA reiterated that, there are different standards of learning around the world, and we need patience because, we all learn the same thing just in different ways/approaches. He then acknowledged Members for their recommendations to improve the education system. In regards to the matter raised in adding more courses for apprenticeship programs as only 7 are accredited, the Minister assured there are plans to add one course into the program. On the issue of repeating a program at the University to attain better grades, the Hon Minister explained that this is possible.

- **Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The member assisted the Minister of Education and responded to queries on the curriculum used at School of Maritime. The member noted, that there is a one year course on Fishing Deck for sailors. Furthermore, he noted that there are more than 60 commercial fishing boats fishing our oceans yet there are no Samoan sailors as there is a limited amount of knowledge in regards to fishing. He commended the University for this new program as this can equip sailors with the right qualification to be eligible sailors for commercial fishing vessels.

- **Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Vaai- Minister of Work, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon minister highlighted that the issue relating to upgrading Maritime courses under the NUS is a result of limited teachers for the program. The minister therefore, suggested that in time the government will transition the Maritime school under the Authority of the SSS, SSC and PFL as these corporations have staff with the knowledge to educate marine students, and apply practical options for the students to put their theories into practice.

- **Afioga Hon SEUULA Ioane, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) cont.**

The Hon Minister acknowledged the assistance of the Minister of Work and Minister of Agriculture and Members for their assistance. He then addressed an issue raised by the Member of Vaimauga 1, and clarified that the Ministry understands not all students reach the qualifying marks to make it to UPY thus the Ministry is preparing a plan called "4 Year Plan" for these student who do not reach University level. Additionally, the Minister also stated Tvet programmes in the workplace are in place to expand the skills of these students in various TVET areas. In regards to student loans, raised by the Member of Falelatai and Minister of Agriculture, the minister commended the members for their opinions and have noted the recommendation and will look into these matters. The Minister also clarified there are no plans to sell NUS TV.

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

Moved a motion for the Assembly to approve its Report on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 36, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P. 2020/2021 No. 98 and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 53, Annual Reports of the National University of Samoa for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021; motion seconded and approved.

- **Afioga Hon SEUULA Ioane, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC)**

Moved a motion for the Assembly to approve its Government responses; motion seconded and approved.

SPEAKER's Ruling:

Mr. Speaker reminded Members that there are 8 more reports left for consideration and that Parliament intends to complete its work today, as Cabinet has numerous duties to tend too. Mr. Speaker then ruled to focus on recommendations and Government Responses. He further advised Members that any query may be written and provided to respective Chairpersons and Ministers.

iii. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 38, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P. 2020/2021 No. 130 and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 56, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021;
- P.P. 2022/2023 No.85, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 38

Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee
Moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Report, which consist its findings, recommendations and resolution; motion seconded and approved.

The Chairperson then delivered a summary of its findings and read out the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

The Committee recommends the Ministry to pilot Reviews and monitoring of village Faalupega to ensure traditions and cultural treasures pertaining to respective villages are safeguarded and are not lost with the changes of time.

Recommendation 2:

The Committee recommends the Ministry to provide effective awareness on the term "Rights of the Child" to avoid Children over stepping boundaries and neglecting the Samoan value of respect.

Recommendation 3:

The Committee recommends the Ministry to be the leading agency in advocating villages and government Ministries/Organizations through awareness programmes paving more opportunities for community development.

Recommendation 4:

The Committee recommends the Ministry to be vigilant with monitoring of issues relating to domestic violence and create policies that aim to eliminate violence against women and children

- **Afioga Hon LEOTA Laki Lamositele, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.**

The Hon Minister presented the following Government Responses in accordance to the Report on P.P. 2022/2023 No.85, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 38 :

Response to Recommendation 1:

The Ministry noted the recommendation by the Committee for moving forward. Reviewing village faalupega has always been the practice led by the Ministry in the past, however, the continuation of that lead role is now in the court of the Faleula Advisory Committee with Ministry support. Further to this, a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is assigned for the

implementation of this role under Output 2 of the Ministry's Annual Management Plan for this financial year (FY2022-23), to ensure alignment of this activity to the Ministry's integrated planning framework. In addition, a monitoring and reviewing activity for the village faalupega is one of the planned tasks included in the annual work plan of the Committee to be undertaken in this financial year. Moreover, the Ministry continued to encourage villages through Sui o Nuu (SN), Sui Tamaitai o Nuu (STN) and Sui o le Malo (SM), to develop village by-laws to ensure monitoring of village faalupega are included and together will serve as an important mechanism to help them to make decisions considering crucial pillars of Good governance.

Response to Recommendation 2:

The Ministry noted the recommendation by the Committee for moving forward. The Ministry's efforts through provision of community awareness programs targeting children and in particular to the term "Rights of the Child" are taught with careful understanding and respect of the boundaries that comes with the term itself against the faaSamoa value of respect. There is a National Child Care and Protection policy and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which serve as overarching frameworks with principles and terms guiding interventions for children and complements values and principles of the FaaSamoa.

Response to Recommendation 3:

The Ministry noted the recommendation by the Committee for moving forward. The Ministry couldn't be able to deliver its programs and interventions to the communities in if it wasn't for the support of its partners. This partnership has been around for years which include Ministry partners from government ministries, non-governments agencies, private sector; civil society organisations, academia, donor agencies, and government-village representatives (STN, SN, SM). The Ministry is currently developing a National Partnership and Community Engagement Policy to further strengthen this partnership for community development. In addition, the Ministry's coordination role through STN, SN, SM is encouraged in this partnership, that for all partners when planning a community program to notify the Ministry in advance to avoid clashes of community availabilities.

Response to Recommendation 4:

The Ministry noted the recommendation by the Committee for moving forward. The Ministry continues its advocacy role in the communities providing programs and interventions on combatting violence against women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, elderlies and persons with diverse backgrounds. These programs are guided by the existing frameworks led by the Ministry which include National Policy on Family Safety: Elimination of Family Violence 2021-2031, National Child Care and Protection Policy 2020-2030, Community Sector Plan 2021-2026, Ministry Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and Interagency Essential Services Guide. These frameworks support the monitoring

of violence eases but also to assist the victims of violence with the right pathway to take when seeking assistance from relevant organizations.

**Mr. Speaker announced that the floor is open for Members who wish to raise issues or make queries on the recommendations and responses put forth and advised Members to be mindful of the remaining time for consideration of the reports thus encouraged Members to write their questions and provide to respective Chairs and Ministers for the appropriate response.*

i. Afioga SULAMANAIA Feataiai Tauilili Tuivasa - Member for Vaimauga 1

The member advised the Ministry of Women not to alter or amend village 'faalupega' as they are traditional treasures 'measina' for respective villages. He then mentioned the importance of by-laws as they are considered by the Courts.

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

The Chairperson noted that he has taken the request by the member for Vaimauga 1 into consideration and highlighted that recommendation 1 was formed out of different copies of Faalupega available in the country however, he understands these are treasures and the Ministry does not take the matter lightly.

- **Afioga Hon LEOTA Laki Lamositele, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.**

In regards to exercise programs by the Ministry raised by the Member for Salega earlier, the Minister has noted their opinions and requests on additional funding for these programs. He also informed Parliament that the Ministry will review this program and will work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The Hon Minister commended the Ministry of Women and management for all their operations and service to the country.

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

The Chairman moved motion for the Assembly to approve its Report on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 38, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P. 2020/2021 No. 130 and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 56, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021; motion seconded and approved.

- **Afioga Hon LEOTA Laki Lamositele, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.**

Moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Governments Responses presented earlier on P.P. 2022/2023 No.85, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 38; motion seconded and approved.

P.P. 2022/2023 No. 39, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P. 2020/2021 No. 133 and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 15, Annual Reports of the Samoa Qualifications Authority for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021;

- P.P. 2022/2023 No.86, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 39

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**
Moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Report which consist its findings, recommendations and resolution; motion seconded and approved

The Chairperson then delivered a summary of its findings and read out the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

To implement relevant policies and plans to ensure the recognition of NUS local degrees in foreign countries.

Recommendation 2:

The Authority is recommended to properly use our Samoan language especially in the naming of accredited programs in the Annual Report as well and all documents submitted to Parliament.

- **Afioga Hon SEUULA Ioane, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC)**

The Hon Minister presented the Government's Responses in accordance to the Committee's Recommendation.

Response to Recommendation 1:

Samoa Qualification Framework Policies

i. The Development and the implementation of the Samoa Qualifications Framework Policies June 2012 guides the robust examination of the quality of PSET Provider programmes in Samoa including NUS, through the Programme Accreditation process.

ii. This is clearly defined in the SQF Policy in alignment with one of its core functions aimed at 'providing assurance that PSET in Samoa maintains international comparability' utilizing the Quality Standards.

iii. The overarching rationale not only focuses on promoting the quality and quantity of accredited and registered qualification on the SQF but at the same time, facilitates comparability of the SQF against other international Frameworks.

iv. This practice ensures consistent application of Quality Standards in the Programme Accreditation process across all PSET providers in Samoa including NUS.

Strategic Plans for SQA

i. The Strategic Direction for the effective implementation of SQA's mandated functions are in line with Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016-2020; Education Sector Plan 2019-2024; Post School Education and Training Strategic Plan 2016-2020); Samoa Qualification Authority Corporate Plan 2017-2020.

Response to Recommendation 2:

i. The Samoa Qualifications Authority notes the recommendation for using the Samoan Language in naming of the accredited programs in the Annual Report as well as all documents submitted to Parliament.

ii. The Samoa Qualification Authority will inform the Providers and seek their agreement to use the Samoan translation of their programs in the SQA Annual Reports as well as all documents submitted to Parliament.

iii. The Board of Directors will be informed of the Social Sector Committee's recommendation and seek their advice on this matter.

**Proceedings set aside at 3:48pm; and
Resumed at 4:14pm**

**Mr. Speaker announce the Chamber is open for any queries and comments on the Recommendations and Responses presented earlier on the Report under consideration in detail.*

i. Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau – Member for Alataua West

The member commended the chairman and committee for the report presented, he then queried the existence of Qualifications accredited to Church Ministers for instance those in the Malua and Piula Theological Colleges, and wanted to know whether there are Church Ministers present in the SQA's Committees that review these Qualifications before they become officially accredited.

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

The Member acknowledged the Member of Alataua West for the questions and clarified Theological Colleges are included, furthermore the Chairperson knows that these Qualifications are part of the SQA's Continuing Educational Programs. The Chairperson noted that the Minister will provide a more detailed answer to the question raised.

- **Afioga Hon SEUULA Ioane, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC)**

In regards to the question raised regarding the inclusion of Church Ministers in the SQA Committee, the Hon Minister confirmed that there is a Church Minister and that there are also policies of the authority that deal with certain matters as raised by the Member for Alataua West.

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

Moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Committee's Report on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 39, Report of the Social Sector Committee on P.P. 2020/2021 No. 133 and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 15, Annual Reports of the Samoa Qualifications Authority for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021; motion seconded and approved

- **Afioga Hon SEUULA Ioane, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC)**

Moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No.86, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 39; motion seconded and approved.

v. P.P. 2022/2023 No.49, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 99, and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 27, Samoa Housing Corporation Annual Report for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021;

- P.P. 2022/2023 No.143, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 49

- **Afioga FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua, Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee,**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Report on P.P. 2022/2023 No.49, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 99, and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 27, Samoa Housing Corporation Annual Report for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 which consist its findings, recommendations and resolution; seconded and approved.

The Chairperson then delivered a summary of its findings and read out the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

The Committee recommends the waiving of dividends for Samoa Housing Corporation for now, as it needs the funds urgently to build more houses to rent out.

Recommendation 2:

The Committee recommends the Government and the Ministry of Finance to consider a review of fiscal policies for a supplementary assistance for the Corporation to help in renovations and the maintenance due to many of its residential buildings.

- **Afioga Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Acting Minister for Samoa Housing Corporation.**

The Hon Minister presented the Governments Responses on the Committee's Recommendation accordingly.

Response to Recommendation 1:

It is imperative that with the transfer of the governments housing portfolio in 2013 to the Corporation to manage, an appropriation of funds or budget support must accompany the transfer of these capital assets. Otherwise it will affect the viability of the Corporations core function in providing loans to build housing developments and to improve living standards of our people; This recommendation is accepted and well received

Response to Recommendation 2:

The assistance for budget support is a welcomed and accommodating response for the Corporation in fulfilling their responsibility in managing the housing portfolio. Not only to repair and maintain its original stock but also build new housing units to satisfy the demand for rental accommodation; The recommendation is accepted and well received.

**Mr. Speaker informed Members the floor is open for any opinion and/or queries on the Report under consideration in detail.*

i. Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo – Member for Anoamaa 2

The Opposition Leader expressed support for the Committee's recommendations provided by the Committee and urged the need to hasten the process of releasing land from MNRE for the SHC's purposes of building new housing properties. He further acknowledged the former CEO of the Corporation for her long service and contribution to Government. He then commended the SHC for report presented and acknowledged the previous CEO Matautia for her contributions in government in the past years and wished her well on her next journey.

ii. Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga – Member for Aleipata itupa i luga

The Member commended the Minister and Committee for all their preparations. He then expressed support for all recommendations however, advised on one aspect which is land leased from MNRE for the Corporation's plans. The member stressed the importance of understanding this case as the SHC is responsible for Housing and related matters where MNRE under a mandated legislation deals with land. Thus, the member urged to allow negotiations between the SHC and MNRE regarding the lease price for land considering the importance of both state houses built by SHC, and leased land for MNRE as this is one of their main source of revenue.

iii. Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tuilili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga I

The Member queried whether the Corporation has any loans/debt.

- **Afioga FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua, Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee**

The Committee Chair commended members for their input and asserted that the issue raised by FUAAVA will be taken into consideration. In regards to question raised by SULAMANAIA, the Chairman noted that the profits reported by SHC indicates that there are no loans made.

- **Afioga Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Acting Minister for Samoa Housing Corporation.**

The Minister assured all Members that matters raised would be taken into consideration by the Corporation when conducting their works. Then commented on the query raised regarding land under the MNRE is taken into account by the Committee and the MNRE. The Hon Minister then paid acknowledgement to the former Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for her services throughout the years and wished her well.

- **Afioga FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua, Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee**

The Chairperson moved the motion for the Assembly to approve the P.P. 2022/2023 No.49, Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 99, and P.P. 2021/2022 No. 27, Samoa Housing Corporation Annual Report for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021; seconded and approved; motion seconded and approved.

- **Afioga Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Acting Minister for Samoa Housing Corporation.**

The Hon Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Governments Responses in accordance to the Committee's Recommendations as presented earlier; motion seconded and approved

- vi. **P.P. 2022/2023 No.51, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 111, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade Annual Report 2019/2020;**
- **P.P. 2022/2023 No.135, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 51**

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for the Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider P.P. 2022/2023 No.51, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 111, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade Annual Report 2019/2020 which provides its findings, recommendations and resolution on the Report; motion seconded and approved.

The Chairperson then delivered a summary of its findings and read out the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

To inspect thoroughly the preparation of its Annual Report submitted for the Parliament's consideration. The Committee could not approve the analysis of the financial statement provided by the Ministry because they were not able to provide financial statement from the Ministry of Finance to confirm the operating of the Ministry's funds. Although, there were notable complications [and] the Committee's opinion that the Ministry must ensure that they can be accountable for these important issues when the Committee deliberates on the Ministry's implemented works.

- **Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, Acting Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).**

The Hon Minister delivered the following Government's Responses in accordance to the Committee's Recommendation.

Response to Recommendation 1:

The recommendation by the Committee is noted. The Ministry however wishes to advise that that Statement of Certification or Schedule 2 of the FY 2019/2020 as requested by the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC) of Parliament during the consultations on the Ministry's Annual Report 2019/2020 on the 2nd March 2022 during the Covid19 lockdown period. Another copy of the Statement is attached for information.

**Speaker of the House informed Members the floor is open for any opinion and/or queries on the Report under consideration in detail.*

i. Afioga AIONO Tile Gafa – Member for Aana Alofi 2

The Member acknowledged the report from the Committee and responses by the Minister then queried on the status of employees assigned to work in foreign missions taking up international posts, and queried whether they will return to their employment within the Ministry or will they have to find employment after serving their foreign posts.

ii. Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member expressed his concerns with the committee report tabled and noted that its incomplete as there was no financial statement provided in the Annual Report and noted his disappointment with progressing with consideration of the report when it was incomplete.

• Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for the Economic Sector Committee

The Chairperson clarified the questioned raised by Vaimauga 1 regarding the audited reports not included in the Committee Report discussed and elaborated that Ministries are treated differently from State Owned Enterprises (SOE's), thus different procedures apply in regards to the auditing of its spending and the presentation of financial statements for Ministries compared to SOE's. The Chairperson clarified that Government Ministries have one pool of fund located with the Ministry of Finance for disbursement, therefore the audited account is done once according to the documents and funds left with the MOF, whilst SOE's have separate sources of funds hence they can audit their spending independently. Therefore, the Chairperson noted that for this case the financial statements of MFAT have been audited they were just submitted later when the report was discussed by the Committee. In regards to the question raised by Aiono, the Chairperson reassured the member that the filling of International Posts, as well as the guarantee whether they will have employment at the Ministry upon their return is at the discretion of the Cabinet.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member expressed his disappointment on how the Chairperson delivered his response to his query.

**Mr. Speaker reminded Committee Chairpersons to be respectful of fellow Parliamentarians when responding to queries.*

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for the Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairperson apologized to the Member and clarified his statements that he was addressing his responses backward, as in starting from the last recommendation and moving upward, but apologized to the Member regardless, for the misconception.

- **Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, Acting Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).**

The Acting Minister noted that all audited financial reports/statements by the Audit Office go through the Treasury thus, all matters raised against missing audited reports will be taken into consideration and related processes will be thoroughly considered moving forward. In regards to employees going for International Posts, the acting Minister noted that they still have employment at the Ministry when they return as normal process; he then concluded by commending the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their services to the country.

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for the Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairman moved a motion for the Assembly to approve P.P. 2022/2023 No.51, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No. 111, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade Annual Report 2019/2020; motion seconded and approved.

- **Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, Acting Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).**

The Hon Deputy Prime Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Governments Responses to the Committee's Recommendations presented earlier; motion seconded and approved.

vii. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 66, Report of the Social Sector Committee on the P.P. 2021/2022, No.13, Samoa National Kidney Foundation Annual Report 2020/2021;

- P.P. 2022/2023 No.161, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 66

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

The Chairman moved a motion for the Assembly to consider its Report on P.P. 2022/2023 No. 66, Report of the Social Sector Committee on the P.P. 2021/2022, No.13, Samoa National Kidney Foundation Annual Report 2020/2021 which comprises its findings, recommendations and resolution; motion seconded and approved.

The Chairperson then delivered a summary of its findings and read out the following recommendation:

Recommendation 1:

The Committee recommends the Government to consider building a new Facility/Office in Savaii to serve patients who require dialysis and kidney failure medical treatments.

Recommendation 2:

The Committee recommends the Government to fund more dialysis machines in Savaii.

- **Afioga Hon VALASI Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele, Minister of Health**

The Hon Minister delivered the Government's Responses in accordance to the Committee's Recommendations:

Response to Recommendation 1:

That is the long-term plan given the susceptibility of the current building and equipment to effects of sea spray. Planning for new premises in Savaii will commence once the new Headquarters in Upolu is completed.

Response to Recommendation 2:

The Ministry of Finance is considering a request from the Foundation to fund 30 new dialysis machines for both Upolu and Savaii.

**No members raised any queries or concerns on the Report and Responses provided.*

- **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to approve P.P. 2022/2023 No. 66, Report of the Social Sector Committee on the P.P. 2021/2022, No.13, Samoa National Kidney Foundation Annual Report 2020/2021; motion seconded and approved.

- **Afioga Hon VALASI Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele, Minister of Health**

Moved motion for the Assembly to approve the Government's Responses on the Committee's Recommendations as presented earlier; motion seconded and approved.

viii. P.P. 2022/2023 No. 93, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No.74 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 21, Annual Reports of the Public Service Commission for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021;

- P.P. 2022/2023 No.169, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No.93

- **Afioga AUUAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Chairperson for the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee,**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider P.P. 2022/2023 No. 93, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No.74 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 21, Annual Reports of the Public Service Commission for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 which comprises its findings, recommendations and resolution on the Report; motion seconded and approved.

The Chairperson then delivered a summary of its findings and read out the following recommendation:

Recommendation 1:

Carefully look at the recruitment and selection process for the positions of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations. As there will be opportunities for Assistant Chief Executive Officers of the specific Ministry or Corporation to be eligible for vacant advertised positions. The Committee Executive Officer's for their roles; however, CEO positions were generally awarded to candidates outside of the Ministry or Corporation.

Recommendation 2:

Reconsider the plan mentioned by the Commission to contract Principal Officer. The Committee suggests that the Commission to look at all the relevant pros and cons, such as potential increases or decreases to Government funds. The Commission should review its plans, to strengthen guidelines and policies to guide its performance.

Recommendation 3:

The Commission should look at the lapse of their Annual Reports, for future tabling of their reports. The Committee noted differences of provided Report as there were computing errors and a difference in the structure of reports; all of which should be clear for consideration by Parliament and respective Committees.

Recommendation 4:

The Commission should look at having enough estimates for their reserved funds, to ensure there is enough fund to conduct their planning outputs. The Committee noted from the report considered

that some of the issues faced by the Commission, is not enough reserved funds and it is the reason of not achieving their plans.

Recommendation 5:

To ensure accurate review of all information and working outputs to ensure accuracy before tabling. This recommendation stems from the Committee's observance of past errors within PSC reports.

- **Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, Acting Minister for the Public Service Committee (PSC).**

The Hon Minister delivered the Government Responses in accordance to the Committee's Recommendations:

Response to Recommendation 1:

The development of the Merit Based Selection Policy was approved by Cabinet on the 26 July 2017 to ensure fair and honest recruitment as well as appointing employees based on their abilities to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a Senior Executive (CEO and ACEO) position, and are also assessed against objective job competencies and descriptions. The policy opens more opportunity for eligibility both external and internal applicants whom are assessed on the basis of Merit (Skills, Personal Attributes, Qualifications and Experience). The component of experience encapsulates the applicants knowledge and skills acquired during their time within a particular that is directly linked/relevant to the position. Therefore, an internal applicant has the advantage over others due to their experience, and if they fully excel in the other three merits, they are more likely to be appointed more so than external applicants.

Response to Recommendation 2:

The Commission has commenced work in reviewing first the Deputy CEO and ACEO salary tiers following a Cabinet directive to establish DCEO positions. This review is expected to trickle down to other position levels including Principal Officers and will weigh the feasibility of contracting.

Response to Recommendation 3:

The Commission accepts the anomaly raised by the Committee in the compilation of its Annual Report, and will ensure to take measures to rectify and properly check information in future reports before submission to Parliament and respective Committees for their consideration and review.

Response to Recommendation 4:

The Commission has over the years ensured to provide budget provision for all its activities however all budget appropriation approved by Parliament is dependent on the Ministry of Finance's advice throughout the preparation of the Approved Budget Estimates in which we face

budget cuts which is out of our control. However duty note the need to be proactive to seek relevant funds to ensure the achievement of outputs plans.

Response to Recommendation 5:

The Commission apologizes for the lapse on our part, but all issues and recommendation provided is duly noted for improvement in the following years.

i. Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau: Alataua West

The member raised to clarify on a point raised by the Committee regarding the absence of audited financial reports/statements, owed to Ministries trying to meet set legislative timelines, thus resulting to providing financial statements that have not been audited. The member advised to review policies related to submission of Annual Reports and audited reports before Parliament to ensure the smooth flow of all processes and ensure that all related audited financial statements are included in submitted Annual Reports of Ministries/Corporations. The member noted that the current policies where all financial accounts of Corporations and Government Ministries should be finalized 4 months from the end of the FY, and submitted within 6months after the end of the Financial Year. The member highlighted these deadlines are the reasons behind the late submissions of audited reports.

- **Afioga AUUAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Chairperson for the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee**

Moved motion for the Assembly to approve P.P. 2022/2023 No. 93, Report of the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petition and Constitutional Offices Committee on the P.P. 2020/2021, No.74 & P.P. 2021/2022 No. 21, Annual Reports of the Public Service Commission for Financial Years 2019/2020 & 2020/2021; motion seconded and approved.

- **Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, Acting Minister for the Public Service Committee (PSC).**

The Hon Deputy Prime Minister moved a motion for the Assembly to approve the Governments Responses on the Committees Recommendations presented earlier; motion seconded and approved.

- ix. P.P. 2022/2023 No.114, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on the P.P. 2021/2022 No.50, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Annual Report for 2020/2021;
- P.P. 2022/2023 No.172, Government Responses on P.P. 2022/2023 No.114**

- **Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Chairperson for the Economic Sector Committee**

The Chairperson moved a motion for the Assembly to consider the Committee's Report comprising of its findings, recommendations and resolution of the Report under consideration in detail; motion seconded and approved.

SPEAKER's Ruling:

Mr. Speaker announced that the approved motion changed sitting hours to adjourn at 6pm with the intention to cover all papers under the Orders of the Day, however there are only 2 reports left for consideration and so he called for proceedings to be suspended and to consider the remaining reports tomorrow.

**Proceedings adjourned at 6:04pm and will reconvene at 9:30am on
Wednesday 15 March 2023**