

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**PART B**

**6:03pm**

**Interjection: Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena – Member for Faasaleleaga No.5**

The Member for Faasaleleaga No.5 interjected to clarify on the statements made by the previous Member who spoke before proceedings were suspended, that his children’s business are not listed as road repair/maintenance contractors. The Member therefore urged the member not to put his family’s business in disrepute.

i. **Tofa ALE Vena Ale - Member for Faleata 4 (cont.)**

The Member continued his address by reminding the Minister for Works of the road repairs needed in his constituency.

- **Minister for Customs and Revenue:**

The Member queried the status of the scanner for the Ministry of Customs and Revenue. The Member iterated the importance of the scanner in curbing the illegal importation of drugs and firearms into Samoa. The Member urged the Minister and Cabinet that the scanner should be prioritized as it will easily detect these illegal importations and also be a warning and an obstacle for those dealing and supplying these illegal substances.

- **Minister for the Office of the Electoral Commission:**

The Member recommended to the Government to establish a commission tasked with the reviewing of electoral Boundaries, as his constituency may possibly be divided into two, noting that the population statistics of his constituency from the recent census stands at 6,000. That would

be 6,000 eligible voters in the next General Elections, hence his prediction of the division of his constituency.

- Minister for Health”:

Acknowledged the Minister and his ministry for all efforts in keeping Samoa safe from covid. Made specific appreciation for the vigilant actions by front-liners and the preparedness of the ministry to deal with covid if it enters our shores.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended efforts of the Minister and his ministry in developing the agricultural sector and recommended to look into taro export requirements to American Samoa with emphasis on the restrictions provided.

The Member concluded by addressing the Prime Minister and her Cabinet and urging them that Samoa’s constitution needs to be reviewed to better reflect and clarify roles and responsibilities of respective positions, specifically the Ao o le Malo and others. He also voiced his views on the date of the first sitting for the new parliament; this should be reduced from 45 days to 35 days, as this is sufficient time for the Electoral Office to finalize its official count. The Member asserted that a constitutional review is essential to avoid misunderstandings which occurred after the 2021 General Elections.

### MR SPEAKER – Point of Order

Mr Speaker advised the Member to refrain from mentioning the Head of State, as this is a dignified role and respect should be given to the title.

ii. **Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tofia Tile Leia – Member for Falelatai & Samatau**

The Member generally voiced his support for the Prime Minister’s statement on the independence of the Judiciary, however he was also disappointed to hear about the outcome of the Deputy LTC President. The Member also raised the increase in cost of living (such as building supplies, food, and others). He then commended the Deputy Prime Minister on the removal of tax on ministers which was enacted last year as it was part of the FAST Manifesto.

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member then mentioned the Government’s intention to remove the recently implemented TIMS system and suggested that this system continue as it has numerous benefits. The Member then touched upon the importance of bringing the scanner as soon as practicable as any further delay would be costly.

Afioga LUPEMATASILA then queried the Minister why he wishes to revive the ANZAC public holiday; noting that it is observed by the nation and it is in no way disrespectful to those who were part of the war. He then queried how many Samoan soldiers were involved to justify a public holiday, again asserting the impacts of another public holiday on business people.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member reminded the Minister that his constituency continues to wait in anticipation for the 200,000 fund to develop the constituency, he further noted an amount of \$320,000 which was unutilised by the Ministry in the previous FY. He also urged the Minister to continue seeking other markets overseas for our local producers to sell and export their produce, raising the possibility of an imbalance in excess supply and demand shortage.

The Member mentioned the importance of harvesting crops such as yams, kumara and tapioca as these cost more in Asian markets when compared to taro. He again asserted his support for the 1million fund for the development of constituents.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

Afioga LUPEMATASILA commended the Ministry for reducing the price of electricity and accentuated that he was not against the decrease, however clarified that the current government mentioned that electricity will be reduced by 20% in November 2021; although this was illegal, he is in support because it is affordable.

The Member accentuated that he did not intend to offend anyone as he was only trying to clarify that what the Minister approved was incompliant with the provisions of the current legislations which mandate such matters. However, the current government announced the drop in electricity price on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and became effective on the 11<sup>th</sup> which is less than 20days, again contradicting the legal timeframe provided. Although the Member pointed out the discrepancies of this process, in its overall sense provide numerous benefits for the public. The Member further clarified that no political party or government should use the reduction of charges and fees for electricity and water as a means for campaign as this is unlawful.

- Minister for Public Enterprise:

The Member raised the airplane and urged the Minister to bring the airplane to Samoa. He also mentioned the issue of daylight saving and queried whether the new government can provide evidence that there are no benefits of practicing daylight saving hence their determination to cease daylight saving and further emphasized whether there should have been a review of this law, also it should have been brought to Parliament to repeal before it was ceased as it was the lawful thing to do.

**Point of Clarification: Tofa Hon LEATINUU Wayne Soialo, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour:**

The Hon Minister clarified that the practice of daylight saving was only assented by the Head of State in the first year it was introduced, every year thereafter it was practiced without the assent of the Head of State; therefore it was already an illegal practice during the previous Government.

- Minister for Police and Office of the Electoral Commission:

The Member asserted that while he was the CEO for the Electric Power Corporation, he always pushed for testing of all Government officials and employees, to detect any consumption of drugs by employees. He again iterated that he remains adamant that all should be tested including Members of Parliament. The Member further expressed disappointment with the involvement of religious leaders in the election process through the monotaga conditions of each candidate. He made reference to the recent by-elections which involved church ministers in court proceedings and more so for the disregard of their testimonies provided.

**iii. Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai – Member for Vaa o Fonoti**

The Member greeted all present in the House, acknowledged services provided by the OCLA, addressed his constituency, the clergy and extended Happy New Year to all. He then addressed the following Ministers specifically:

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member raised the issue of high tide which continues to impact his constituency, then queried the status of his requests made to the Minister.

- Minister for Education Sports and Culture:

The Member commended the Hon Minister for finishing his studies then emphasised the importance of finding a solution to the shortage of teachers.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

The Member again reminded the Minister and his ministry of the importance of their role in maintaining law and order as well as keeping the nation safe from crime. He also mentioned the recent developments of drugs and firearms in Samoa which again heightens the need for the ministry to be more vigilant and aware in carrying out its roles.

- Minister for Health:

The Member commended the Hon Minister for his site visits around district hospitals and applauded the Ministry for ensuring Samoa continues to be safe from covid. The Member also mentioned the CT scanner and reminded the Minister of the urgency of this important resource for our health sector.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:

The Member commended plans currently in place and requested that the \$200,000 should be given entirely for the development of constituencies, rather than utilizing part of the funds to pay committee members who will be administering the fund. The Member noted the composition of the committee and asserted that it consists of 7 women, 7 men and the MP to be the chairperson. Then suggested that the full fund be given to the constituency for development purposes.

**Proceedings were suspended at 7:48pm; and  
continued at 8:27pm.**

**MR SPEAKER – POINT OF ORDER:**

Mr Speaker reminded Members that second reading debates should be focused on Ministries addressed in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2021/2022, rather than speaking to all Ministers and making requests. Mr Speaker asserted that he has noticed Members speaking to all Ministers and making requests while these Ministries are not included in the Supplementary Bill.

**Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai – Member for Vaa o Fonoti (Cont.)**

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member asked the Minister whether there were any plans to export and sell Samoan handicrafts and local products to overseas markets other than agricultural products.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member commended the minister and his ministry for continuing to collect revenues for the economy. He then emphasized on the issue of illegal importation of drugs and firearm into Samoa, and advised that the scanner should be a priority for the Government to be installed. The Member also touched upon the TIMS taxation system and sought leniency for small businesses such as his Pizzeria, and to apply the new system to large businesses.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member expressed gratitude for the roads made in his constituency awaiting to be tar sealed.

He then commended the Minister for Finance and her ministry in preparing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and offered wishes of good health to the Opposition Leader and the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development who are absent due to illness. He then offered well wishes and good thought to the Hon Prime Minister and her Cabinet, as well as the Hon Speaker and all Parliamentarians. He then concluded by acknowledging his constituency and his wife and children.

**iv. Tofa SEUAMULI Fasi Toma – Member for Gagaemauga No. 2**

The Member greeted all Parliamentarians and those present in the House, also offered prayers for God's healing upon the Leader of the Opposition and Cabinet Members who are unwell. The Member then acknowledged all of Samoa in her honorific salutations. He acknowledged his constituency and asserted that although financial constraints, he continues to make an effort to see them every weekend.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member reminded the Minister of the requests for his constituency, such as speed humps in certain parts of his constituency to ensure the safety of constituents. He then queried the minister whether there are any transport-privileges (specifically via ferry rides between Upolu and Savaii) for church leaders during unexpected meetings.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

Acknowledged the efforts made by the Deputy Commissioner and police officers in Savaii for their tireless efforts in upholding the safety of communities during the busy festive season. He then raised the issue of authorising police reports required for seasonal workers scheme. The Member noted that the Deputy Commissioner in Savaii should be empowered to endorse and sign-off on police reports to avoid the travel cost to Upolu to have it signed at the Police headquarters in Apia. The Member also requested for a fire truck for Savaii, as it is very much needed during times of drought or in emergency situations.

- Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour:

Acknowledged the approval to continue with Bingo, as it is a common practice in his constituency to raise funds for constituency developments. Then requested to review the process for renewal of licenses as it is quite lengthy and should be shortened for the sake of the public.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member reminded the Minister of the impacts faced by his constituency when it is high-tide therefore raising the need for seawalls to be made as soon as possible for his constituency

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

Acknowledged the Minister for the developments thus far in his ministry such as the storage facility in Savaii for local products ready for export.

- Minister for Health:

The Member acknowledged the ambulance received for the district hospital in his constituency as requested.

- Minister for Finance:

He reminded the Minister of the letter submitted to her office for the development needs of his constituency and expressed his support for the supplementary budget.

The Member concluded by offering well wishes to the Opposition Leader, Cabinet Members and Parliamentarians who are unwell, as well as the Prime Minister and her Cabinet, the Hon Speaker and all of Parliament.

**v. Tofa MANULELEUA Paletasala T. Tovale – Member for Faleata 1**

The Member greeted all present in the House, then acknowledged the Prime Minister, Cabinet and all Parliamentarians who were present at the Talomua program of his constituency which was held in his constituency.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member acknowledged the Minister for improving the drainage in his constituency, especially in the Pesega and Vaimoso area, as it is mostly affected during torrential rain and flooding. He then requested that the Minister looked into fixing the river and drainage behind SMI Hardware as this is one of the underlying causes of flooding in township area as the river banks are narrower when it draws nearer to the town area.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

The member also acknowledged the Minister on efforts made by the ministry in keeping Samoa safe, then noted that there continues to be cars using LED hooked-on lights on vehicles that are hazardous on the road, especially to oncoming drivers on the other lanes which may possibly lead to accidents, furthermore, the Member mentioned the noise pollution by vehicles, and urged the Minister to find a solution to this as it is problematic to the public and can affect the overall safety of the public on roads. The Member also raised his concern regarding the increase in stray dogs around the streets of Apia as the Dog Management Unit is inactive.

- Samoa Land Corporation:

The Member requested parts of the lands at Laloanea to be given back to their constituency so they can cultivate and use these areas which have been buried by businesses.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member requested for another primary school in his constituency as there is currently only two Primary schools; one at Lepea and the other at Vaimoso. Further stated that the School building for Lepea Primary school is no longer safe for the students, suggested that the Minister looked into the matter for a more safe building for the students.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member requested if the lands owned by government could be traded with the lands already bought by businesses around the area where the mangroves are grown so that his constituency can regrow and maintain the mangrove forests for food and other benefits for the residents of his constituency.

The Member concluded by expressing gratitude to his constituency and all her honorific salutations, wished the PM, Speaker and all MPs well.

**vi. Tofa LAGAAIA Tiatuuu Tufuga – Member for Palauli No.3**

The Member addressed the House, expressed support for the tabled Supplementary. Advised the Ministries with additional funds to utilise wisely and honestly for the benefit of Samoa. He asserted that his constituency do not have requests except to have the 1 million afforded to each constituency for the development of constituencies. He urged all Members to be unified and exist harmoniously and concluded his speech.

**vii. Tofa NIUAVA Eti L Malolo – Member for Vaisigano No.1**

The Member addressed Mr Speaker and the House, then paid special acknowledgment to his constituency, and offered condolences for the passing of the former Member for Vaisigano No.1. He asserted that he will not voice the requests he made during his maiden speech to save time.

He then raised the increase in the cost of living, and queried whether the Price Control Board should be revived to ensure business prices are controlled as the price of goods have rapidly increased. He mentioned the daily schedule for a flight to Savaii and urged that this service be continued, even if it is once a week to assist with travel plans for the people.

The Member addressed the Minister for Samoa Land Corporation and asked to return the lands for his constituency in Asau and Auala for his people to reside and cultivate to earn a living. The Member also raised concern regards to little insects which are visible especially during night time when the lights are on and have caused problems for children.

He then expressed support and appreciation to the Minister for Finance for the tabled Supplementary and concluded by asserting that the borders should remain closed until it is absolutely certain that Samoa is safe to open her borders again for the safety of our people.

**viii. Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga**

The Member acknowledged efforts by the Government and respective Ministries in keeping Samoa safe and ready for covid. Although there seems to be some positive tests during quarantine, the nation continues to be safe and covid free. The Member also acknowledged the developments for their district hospital such as the new Ambulance.

The Member noted that the Supplementary does not provide an allocation for the Ministry for Health.

**Proceedings adjourned at 10pm and will resume at 9:30am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**