

DISCLAIMER

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Thursday 20th January 2022

PART B

DAY 3 – 2:15pm

iv. Afioga AUUPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua - Member for Aiga i le Tai (cont.)

The Member continued by commending the Minister for Works on the provision of street lights in his constituency, then advised the youth to use social media wisely. He concluded by acknowledging the Minister for Finance and her Ministry for the tabled Supplementary.

v. Tofa Hon TUUU Anasii Leota - Member for Siumu

The Hon Member greeted Cabinet, Associate Ministers and all Members of Parliament. He then commended the Minister for Finance and her ministry in preparing the supplementary, as well as paid acknowledgment to the Finance and Expenditure Committee for their report on the Supplementary and noted his support for the Bill. The Hon Member asserted that several matters he was going to speak on have already been raised by fellow members who spoke earlier, therefore he will only mention the main issues:

- **Minister for Health:**

The Hon Member commended the Minister, employees and especially the front-liners for their tireless efforts and expressed gratitude for their dedication and commitment to Samoa; he also praised NEOC for their continuous efforts in protecting our nation by keeping a close look out on our borders. He then urged the responsible authorities to not hasten opening our borders as Fiji has opted to do as this will be costly for our people, looking back to the measles outbreak. Hon TUUU reminded the House that it is a collective responsibility to ensure Samoa remains covid free.

The Hon Member reminded the House that Fiji should be taken as an example and to learn from this. He recalled the measles outbreak which claimed the lives of 85 people, which should be a lesson for Samoa, to keep borders closed. The Member also mentioned anti-vaxers and urged responsible authorities to ensure all who are eligible to be vaccinated to get vaccinated.

Furthermore, the Member urged the Minister to look into the services of the emergency department at the hospital, as there have been complaints that there is a lengthy waiting time before the doctor at the emergency sees the patient. The Member recalled services offered at the Medcen Hospital in past times as a good example of a well-managed Emergency department.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Hon Member requested access roads for certain parts in his constituency, then addressed the Land Transport Authority and advised that road repair/maintenance contractors should be managed and monitored to ensure the quality of service provided is up to standard. He then requested the widening of the cross-island road for transportation to the rural areas for the safety of the public; and advised truck drivers to drive responsibly and safely especially at the Tiavi area on the cross island road.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Hon Member clarified that he never made any statements about refusing to accept the 1million initiative provided by the Government; he then recommended to make the process of acquiring the \$1million tala easier, and to accept the members assigned to respective committees. He then noted that his constituency is planning to divide up their 200k among the 4 villages, therefore affording each village with 50k each. The Hon Member concluded by wishing everyone well especially the Opposition leader for his strength to be restored.

vi. Afioga AGASEATA Valelio Tanuvasa Peato – Member for Aana Alofi 3

The Member greeted the Hon Prime Minister and her Cabinet and all the Members in the house. He addressed his constituency, acknowledge his families, and his wife and children. He also offered condolences to the families of a deceased member in his constituency. He then addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the Minister on recent developments within the agricultural sector, he also requested training for the farmers of his constituency. He commended the minister for the Talomua program which is now done individually in each constituencies.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the Minister for the water at Leulumoega Tuai which now provides for Lefaga & Faleaseela, then raised the need for better water access for families residing in Nofoaalii. The Member noted that an access road at Nofoaalii needs fixing so the children at the village ECE can easily access their school safely.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

The Member queried the process whereby, a criminal who has served his/her sentence in but still have their names on police-database which can hinder them from traveling. He queried whether this should be reconsidered so that these people who have served their sentence are free to travel and not persecuted again.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member reminded the Minister for their Vaialua pool that needs fixing.

- Land Transport Authority:

The Member requested that the hump towards Piula needs to be fixed as it can cause accidents and affects vehicles, and generally noted the need to fix all speed humps as damages are costly to vehicle owners.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member noted that previous speakers mentioned the increase of stray dogs, then queried the possibility of training these strays to detect illegal substances to assist with the decrease of K9 dogs. He then concluded by offering well wishes to all present.

vii. Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Malagaitutogi Sepulona Moananu - Member for Anoaamaa No 1

The Member greeted Samoa and wished everyone a happy new year. He then commended the Members who won from the by-elections and expressed his hope to have the 2 additional women seats to also be part of Parliament. The Member queried the status of the Samoa Airways and addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister for Health:

He urged the Minister to consider other important assets (machines) for treatment such as CT scans and other necessary resources rather than focusing on funds to be better prepared for covid; noting the increase in numbers of non-communicable diseases. He then reminded the Minister for an ambulance for his district hospital.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member urged parents to never give up in educating their children, if they fail from one subject then push and encourage them to take another

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the minister for his drive to boost agricultural development which is a benefit for Samoa when there is a shortage of imported meat and food. He then advised the minister to conduct research and find ways on how to preserve taro so that it can last longer like rice, to avoid being too dependent on imported goods.

- Minister for Works Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the Minister for the numerous road works carried out in Savaii and requested road works for the road going down to the Piula cave pool.

Minister for Works – Interjection:

Hon Minister reminded the Member that the roads at Lalomauga and Falevao are in progress.

Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Malagaitutogi Sepulona Moananu - Member for Anoamaa No 1 (cont.)

The Member concluded his speech, and wished everyone well and urged his fellow parliamentarians to avoid going on the media or on tv1 and tv2 and make nonsense proclamations

**Proceedings were set aside at 3:45pm;
and resumed at 4:21 pm**

viii. Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Member for Satupaitea

The Hon Member greeted Samoa, then addressed his constituency and expressed that he is in unison with Mr Speaker's intention to let go of the past and move forward. The Hon member was grateful that Samoa continues to be covid free, and posed the rhetoric why Samoa continues to be safe and covid free. He responded that it is Samoa remaining steadfast in God and the daily prayers. He then congratulated all of Samoa for patiently dealing and coping with the pandemic. The Hon Member praised the NEOC committee for their commitment to protect Samoa.

- Minister for Health:

The Member commended the Minister for allocating funds to provide housing for doctors assigned to all the district hospitals around the nation. He also queried the status of the CT Scan and asserted that he is aware that the ACC procured this machine so it should be here.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Hon member raised the importance of accurate taxation, noted the different lanes in customs inspections (green, blue, yellow red lane) and the importance of the scanner in identifying the different lanes for each item in containers/cargos. The Member iterated sentiments made by previous members on the importance of the scanner.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

The Hon Member reminded the police about their duty in keeping the country safe from the use of illegal drugs especially with the involvement of top officials, then recommended that employees be sent abroad to upskill and build capacity and knowledge on how to better detect illegal substance in Samoa. Hon LAUTAFI commended the ministry for their on-going work with checking drivers' licenses and car-registrations.

- Minister for Works Transport and Information:

The Member commended the Minister for constructing the access road for certain parts in his constituency and reminded the minister of the request for an access road. He then requested the minister for seawalls to ensure the safety of those communities close to coastal areas during tsunami threats and sea level rise. The Hon member expressed requests for a seawall and speed humps within his constituency.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Hon Member commended the Minister on recent developments such as the storage facility opened in Savaii, as this is also a motivation for farmers to cultivate and harvest their lands. The Hon Member asserted that the warehouse in Otahuhu is under-utilized and recommended to be

fixed so it can store our local crops exported to New Zealand, he further stated that people will be driven to cultivate the lands if they know that there is a solid market for their crops

- Ministry for Commerce, Industry and Labour (Samoa Airways):

The Hon member queried the government's plans regarding the plane as there hasn't been any official government release regarding its status. He iterated the benefits that Samoa will reap from the airplane if it was on island. He further noted that there was much time spent on planning and negotiations that went into bringing in the aircraft.

The Member queried the minister regarding the seasonal workers and related issues especially for those in Australia. Thus, recommending that maybe it would be appropriate to have another liaison officer to help administer and oversee the seasonal workers to avoid any issue of employer abuse of our people. The Member raised an issue of individuals not eligible to be seasonal workers, yet through connections they enter the program, these individuals are usually the ones causing problems; the Member advised the Minister that these practice should be avoided as it can undermine the scheme which has benefitted numerous Samoans.

ix. Tofa LENATA'I Victor Tamapua – Member for Vaimauga No.2

The Member commended the minister for Finance and her ministry, as well as the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the preparation of the supplementary budget 2021/2022. Thus, his constituency fully supports the supplementary.

The Member queried the status of the 200k project and its timeframe, taking into account there is only 5 months left for the current FY. The member is therefore questioning the government's plans if this project is postponed as we await the return of the responsible Minister. He then recommended to the government whether it is more appropriate for the \$4million to be allocated and divided equally among each constituency and their respective committees.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the ministry for fixing the road towards the Vaimauga College in time for schools in this area to begin for this year. The Member expressed appreciation for the road works carried out in his constituency and requested for proper tar seal instead of chipseal as it is more durable. He then requested for fixing the road at Moataa next to the field and concluded his speech by commending all authorities for the development of Samoa.

x. **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa-** Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member greeted the Assembly then began his address:

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member reminded the Minister about the approved request for a seawall for Laulii, and queried whether the current minister intends to implement this project. He again reminded the minister on the importance of seawalls for his constituency to counter the impacts of sea level rise. He also requested the planting of palm trees and mangroves on the river banks to avoid the rivers from reaching the families nearby especially in the village of Vailele.

- Minister for Communications and Information Technology:

The Member commended the minister for continuing the work on the satellite as it is very useful.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member requested the minister for ways to help students and their families pay for their school fees especially for NUS students. The Member recommended the possibility of part payments; although delayed, give parents time to find the means to pay for their children's fees so that they can study. He also raised concern regarding the lack of teachers, and highlighted the concerning ratio between students and teachers. He then urged the minister and his ministry to come up with incentives to encourage students to pursue teaching as a career path as well as extending the retirement age for teachers to 70 years of age. Afioga SULAMANAIA also encouraged the collective effort from village ladies to teach the children in pre-school level and Early Childhood Education.

- Minister for Justice and Courts Administration:

The Member recommended more benefits for the Judges such as a vehicle or other means of bonus.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:

The Member raised the independent water scheme, and the need for continuous testing to ensure the quality of water is safe for general consumption. He also expressed disappointment with the ministry in terms of rushing respective constituencies for their 'faalupega' village salutations for review, and asserted that this belongs to the village.

- Minister for Police:

Commended the ministry for their commitment in keeping the nation safe.

- Minister for Health:

The Member stressed the importance of keeping the borders closed and requested private family homes for quarantine at \$50/per night, so that they can earn an income, and also reminded the minister to ensure there is sufficient supply of medicine for the public.

- Minister for Commerce Industry and Labour:

The Member spoke on the importance of the price control to avoid the rapid increase on the prices of goods and services. Also asserted to consider looking into expired goods sold at certain shops and recommended to reconsider looking into seasonal workers that go straight to work when they should at least be given a week to familiarise themselves with the weather.

- Land Transport Authority:

The Member requested to fix the escape routes at Fagalii Uta for ease of transportation during times of natural disasters; also requested to fix roads in Vailele and Letogo and suggested to have free water supply for the Mapuifagalele Home of the elderly.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the Minister for pushing developments in the agricultural sector as this ensures Samoa has a contingency plan when food supply from imports are affected.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member recommended reducing taxes on food and building materials and expressed concern with the 200k initiative which may possibly cause an increase in workers' tax in the future. The Member concluded his remarks by stating that his constituency supports the supplementary budget.

Hon PRIME MINISTER - ANNOUNCEMENT

The Hon Prime Minister announced that there are 10 passengers from the flight that arrived last night who have tested positive for COVID-19. She emphasised that there are 73 passengers in total and that all passengers have been tested. Furthermore, all passengers met the travel requirements, such as being vaccinated and certain requirements before travelling to Samoa, except for the children who were below the age and did not receive the vaccine. The Hon Prime Minister explained that the 10 passengers who tested positive have been referred to the hospital in an isolated area to be monitored and cared for, while 9 other passengers who were considered to have had 'close contact' with these 10 passengers have also been referred to the other isolated site at Faleolo for proper monitoring; which at the moment they have not showed

any symptoms of the virus. The Hon Prime Minister stated that all 10 passengers tested positive are asymptomatic.

Furthermore, due to the recent developments of Covid in Samoa, the Government has delayed the arrival of the flight from New Zealand scheduled to arrive on Saturday until further notice. Hon PM also noted possible closure of borders between Samoa and Australia until the cases in Australia have dwindled. Hon Prime Minister accentuated that government has decided to enforce COVID-19 precautionary measures: such as wearing face-mask, social distancing and improve hygiene standards and practices. She concluded by pleading to the public to stay calm and observe the precautionary measures.

**Proceedings adjourned at 6:06pm;
will reconvene at 9:30am on Friday 21st January 2022**