

DISCLAIMER

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PART D
11:23pm

Government Responses (cont.)

10. Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, and Member for Falealili 1

Hon Minister greeted all the Members in the House, the Head of State, the Council of Deputies, Chief Justice and the Judiciary, CEOs present and the Deputy Clerk and Office of the Legislative Assembly. He extended greetings to our neighbours in Tutuila and Manua; addressed his constituency and acknowledged the Speaker and commended him on his calling.

Hon Minister asserted that most of the issues raised by Members were in regards to the internet connections. He then highlighted schools with and without internet connections. He further noted that there are funds set aside in the budget to address these internet connection issues and services. Hon Minister noted that not all teachers are familiar with the use of technology, which can be an obstacle to pushing for internet connectivity within schools.

Hon Minister noted issues raised in regards to the SNBH - clarified that this is the system used for internet connection for all Government services within town areas. However, when it stretches to schools outside of the urban areas, then wireless connection is used to reach these schools; thus the numerous problems with connectivity faced by most of the schools in rural areas.

Hon Minister also noted queries made by some Members on the possibility of making the Samoa Postal Services privately operated. In regards to SULAMANAIA's request regarding possible 'screening' of what goes on social media, the Hon Minister responded that the Government has considered to restructure the ICT.

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

The Hon Member sought clarification on a separate appropriation listed under the Office of the Legislative Assembly regarding a constitutional review project for \$250,000. Hon Member queried whether this project should be tasked with the Samoa Law Reform Commission as it is a lengthy and complicated task.

ii. Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3

The Member highlighted that the government only deals with the provision of technological infrastructure and cables whereas, all connectivity related matters are the responsibility of MESCS and schools.

Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, and Member for Falealili 1 (cont.)

In regards to the separation, the government of the day intends to reflect the three separation of powers more so in the budget. In relation to constitutional review, Hon Minister stated that the previous government had this in their plans but was included under the budget of the Ministry for Justice and Courts Administration, and therefore the new Government has decided to transfer this project to the Legislative Assembly as it is more fitting to deal with constitutional matters.

Hon Minister noted that having the SNBH under the CSL is costly as the government provide an allocation which is half a million every budget for the CSL for the managing of SNBH. He also noted that Samoa has 3 cables but not enough usage. Noted that he has considered LEALAILEPULE's comment but he is stressing the importance of CSL in ensuring the internet connection reaches all schools, and that schools are well prepared specifically for schools in rural areas as some teachers are not familiar with using technology.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata 3

The Member clarified that CSL as mentioned by the Hon Minister were the successful bidders after the tender process as they were the cheapest and appropriate price for their service.

iii. Susuga Hon TUILAEP Auelua Fatialofa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, Opposition Leader and Member for Lepa

Hon Member clarified on the different cables in Samoa and sought clarification on the separation of the justice independent funding.

Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, and Member for Falealili 1 (cont.)

The Minister clarified that the budget for constitutional review was under Justice in previous budget but the Government has decided it is more appropriate to place this constitutional review under the Legislative Assembly.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP Auelua Fatialofa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, Opposition Leader and Member for Lepa

Hon TUILAEP A stated that the previous government did not propose a constitutional review rather a commission.

Hon Prime Minister – FIAME Naomi Mataafa

Hon Prime Minister clarified that the money allocated for constitutional review and asserted that they will use the money allocated from the budget to go through the Constitution of Samoa and see if there are any changes that needs to be made further stating that the constitution is now 60 years old, and changes are necessary.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP Auelua Fatialofa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, Opposition Leader and Member for Lepa

Hon Member asserted that he understands but noted that their actions seems likely that the Government oppose legislations recently passed (mainly the three controversial legislation) in the House.

Afioga Hon. TOELUPE Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, and Member for Falealili 1 (cont.)

The Hon Minister concluded his response, congratulated the Hon Prime Minister on her new calling then addressed his constituency.

Hon Mr Speaker:

The Question was put by Mr Speaker whether the Appropriation Bill 2021/2022 be read a second time; motion seconded and approved and the Bill passed second reading stage. .

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION BILL 2021/2022 – Consideration in Detail

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, consideration will commence from Schedule 2:

Schedule 2

Estimated Revenues – Approved

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – Approved

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour – Approved

Ministry for Communication and Information Technology – Approved

Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – Approved

Ministry of Finance – Approved

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Approved

Ministry for Health - Approved

Ministry for Justice and Courts Administration - Approved

Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment – Approved

Ministry for Police and Prisons – Approved

Ministry for the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Approved

Ministry for Customs and Revenue – Approved

Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development – Approved

Ministry for Works, Transport and Infrastructure – Approved

Attorney General – Approved

Samoa Audit Office – Approved

Office of the Electoral Commission – Approved

Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly – Approved

OMBUDSMAN – Approved

Public Service Commission – Approved

STATS - *Approved*

SLRC - *Approved*

OVERALL EXPENDITURE: \$700, 213, 021 - *APPROVED*

SCHEDULE: APPROVED

CLAUSE 2: APPROVED

CLAUSE 3: APPROVED

CLAUSE 4: APPROVED

Clause 1 and Short Title : APPROVED

The Appropriation Bill 2021/2022 progressed without Amendments

III. Appropriation Bill 2021/2022 - third reading

Hon Minister for Finance, Afioga MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo moved a motion for the bill to be third read; motion seconded and approved.

The Bill was third read and officially passed the Legislative Assembly

Hon Prime Minister – MOTION

The Hon PM moved the adjournment of the proceedings of Parliament and leave the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.2) 2021 for Tuesday 28th September 2021; motion second and approved.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:42am; and
will reconvene on Tuesday 28th September at 9:30am**