

DISCLAIMER

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Day 9

Monday 1st February 2021

9:33am

I. SPEAKER'S NOTICE

Mr Speaker reminded the House that cell phones are prohibited in the House and if any member is found utilizing their cell phones or somehow interrupts the proceedings, the Sergeant-at-arms will confiscate their phone immediately.

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021- second reading & Debate on the Bill cont.

i. Hon GATOLOAIFAANA Amataga Alesana-Gidlow, MEMBER FOR FAASALELEAGA No. 1

The member for Faasaleleaga No.1 greeted the House and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. Acknowledged the Head of State and his good lady, Council of Deputy and his wife, addressed different judges in Samoa, also acknowledged the different clergies in Samoa; acknowledged our "brothers" in East Samoa, Tutuila and the Legendary Manu'atele; addressed her constituency in their honorific salutations.

Noted that at the dawn of the 16th Parliamentary Term, the Honorable lady expressed being humbled in being afforded the honour of being their representative. She acknowledged the late Member for Lefaga & Faleseela, Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Poutoa and the late Member for Faasaleleaga Pa'u Sefo Pa'u. Conveyed well wishes for the Members who will be retiring in the post

Parliamentary Term: Hon Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi (Speaker of Parliament) and Members: Hon Aeau Peniamina, Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa and Hon Tuitama Dr Leao Talalei Tuitama.

Acknowledged the Minister for Customs and Revenue for efforts made to secure funds for the development of Samoa, despite the impacts of covid19, the fact that Samoa's economy remains stable (the nation has sufficient supply of food and essentials). Conveyed support for the Supplementary Budget being tabled.

Noted that the theme of which she would like to generalise the service offered by the Executive is *Tautua Faaauau* "Continuous Service". Continuous service is imperative and is a means of which authority will be vested to the worthy. The Member noted that a good leader possesses components such as vision, of which will be vested to the individual by God if their service and intentions are deemed genuine. She then mentioned two major achievements for the Parliamentary Term:

- i. Incorporating and consolidating Samoa is founded on God as God the Father, the son and the holy spirit is in the preamble of the Constitution. The term God before the Constitutional amendment was ambiguous and was loophole prone to be exposed by all denominations to establish their religions in Samoa;
- ii. The passing of 3 controversial bills to separate the Land and Titles Court from the Court of Criminal and Civil Dispute and to value the traditions and customs of Samoa (communal rights).

The Member noted that she believes these were the 2 milestone achievements for this parliamentary term (16th). She then stressed the imperative nature of the 3 Bills to uphold and ensure our customs and traditions remain undiluted and in its purest state free from invasion from foreign traditions. Acknowledged the HRPP in its role at the helm of ship of Samoa from 1982 till now and recalled the events before HRPP came into government also known as the 'Patua Moa era' where people were lining up to get quality food as they were only afforded the option of 'patua moa'. She then stated to date anyone can afford boxes of chicken quarters and not just the back of a chicken as was the case in that aforementioned era. The Member pointed out the controversial Right Hand Drive switch of which now has proven to be a masterstroke by the 14th Parliamentary Term the proof is that all families now have cars.

The member concluded by commending the CEO's and employees for all Ministries/Corporations and State Owned Enterprises for all their service for a better Samoa.

SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Announced the absence of three members (Tofa Foleni Lio Tama Galu, Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers, Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu) who are in Savaii due to safety precautions taken by the Shipping services to close the wharf operations due to the bad weather.

ii. TUIFAASISINA Misa Lisati Leleisiuao Palemene, MEMBER FOR PALAULI EAST

The member for Palauli East commenced by conveying support for the Budget and acknowledged The Minister for Finance, SILLI Epa Tuiofi for excellent finance management. Acknowledged the House and Samoa in her honorific salutations and the three (3) arms of government. He asserted to his constituency that he was not on a 5-year holiday rather he was active as Member of Parliament. Acknowledged the Minister of Education for the School Building at Vaitoomuli with the assistance of Japan Aid in addition to the library books, desks and chairs donated for the school library. Acknowledged the collaboration between the Minister of Tourism and the Government of New Zealand in the refurbishment of the Afu Aau waterfall at Vailoa. Acknowledged the Minister for Works for the new road at Vaitoomuli and requested the development to continue with the interconnecting road also at Vaitoomuli. Acknowledged the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) for their initiative which aims to ensure Samoa utilises renewable energy as its primary source for electricity by 2025. Acknowledged the Minister of Health and the Ministry as well as the Government of Samoa and Japan for the establishment of the district hospitals for Satupaitea.

The member iterated works pending in his constituency: Vailoa road, the construction of the seawall at Faaala, establishment of playing fields for the following schools: Vaitoomuli Primary School, Vailoa College, and Fa'ala College. He recalled his maiden speech in 2016 whereby he called for consistency in communal and individual rights. Commended for incorporating communal rights in the Constitution Amendment Act 2020. The member quoted "cometh the hour cometh the man" and affirmed to the Prime Minister that this was his time. He asserted to his fellow Parliamentarians that they too are "men of this time/hour" despite the difficulties.

The Member acknowledged all religious leaders and ministers in his constituency for their prayers and support during his term; he also acknowledged his constituency for allowing him to represent them in this prestigious title. The member Concluded by calling his Constituency to Make Palauli East Great Again. He conveyed well wishes to the Parliamentarians whom are retiring post this term. Conveyed well wishes to Mr Prime Minister & the Head of State.

Hon TUILAEPA Fatialofa Neioti Lolofietele Galumalemana Auelua Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PM noted that all Commonwealth Parliament operates with Standing Orders (SO) without any room for deviation. Noted that there is unwritten rule of engagement of which sets Samoa apart from the Commonwealth i.e. Mutual Respect for one another. Suggested to the Speaker as there is no Member willing to speak on the Bill, Parliament goes for its recess.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:45am

Proceedings resumed at 11:41 am

iii. ALAIASA Moefaau Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA EAST

The member commenced by acknowledging 3 arms of Government and Samoa in her honorific salutations. He recited the biblical verse which states "Blessed is the nation which makes God its Lord" Psalm 33:12 and noted that Samoa seeks to abide by this.

He conveyed sympathies for the late Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Poutoa and prayed for eternal life for his fellow late Parliamentarian. Noted that this is a reminder that irrespective of age, death is inevitable and called for the House to be ready spiritually when the Lord comes. He called for the House to ease up on defaming fellow members and reminded them that Samoa is one family.

Conveyed gratitude for the erection of seawalls, road rehabilitation, water projects implemented during the Parliamentary Term. Conveyed sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Health that played the role of frontliners at the time when we were affected with measles, up to this time with the covid19. They have kept us safe through their services and they continue to work tirelessly just so that Samoa is protected. Acknowledged the availability of free education and noted that this illustrates the urgency of which the Government holds Education in. In regards to the Regional Seasonal worker scheme, he conveyed gratitude to the Government for the initiative which has positive implications for the uplifting of living standards for Samoa. Reminded those on the scheme to ensure that good manners are observed at all times. Expressed gratitude to our Development Partners as they have helped with the development of Samoa through aiding and funding most of the projects that has benefited Constituencies and the whole of Samoa. To the Aii and Faipule, gratitude was conveyed for keeping order in Samoa. Reminded that service rendered in the tunoa (kitchen) is the catalyst for an individual to be vested

with the right to sit in the Village Council. The member stated that we do not have enough people in the police force however thanked the Ministry for their tireless service.

Hon TUILAEPA Fatialofa Neioti Lolofietele Galumalemana Auelua Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- interjection

The PM noted that to date, there are roughly 700 Police Officers and iterated that this is not a sufficient Number to cater to the public and its needs. The rationale behind the establishment of Police Stations in districts was to cater to the needs of the public. The PM reiterated this is usually insufficient to cater to the needs. The PM further noted that the decentralization of Police Offices aims to allow the Ministry to respond in a timely manner during times of emergencies. Noted that this is essential to keep the youth in order whom aim to emulate what they see on the internet which results in federal offences. The PM noted that this is where the Matai and Faipule come in, they are also "Police Officers". The PM noted that they are essential in stemming the influx of the consumption of narcotics in villages i.e Marijuana, Methamphetamine.

The PM then noted that this is the variable which distinguishes Samoa from the world, the presence of the Village Council and its imperative role in maintaining law and order. The PM noted that the Alii and Faipule with the support of "Faletua ma Tausi" are imperative as they can prevent problems that occur in villages from happening. The PM accentuated the importance of operating with the highest degree of love and commended the Member whom is speaking for reminding the country of the importance of the Village Council.

ALAIASA Moefaauo Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA EAST cont.

Noted that there is an interdependence in the village with different components of which "Unity Commands Blessings" as stated in the Bible. The member called for unity and cohesiveness between the 3 arms of Government.

Hon TUILAEPA Fatialofa Neioti Lolofietele Galumalemana Auelua Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PM refuted calls for unity by the Member for Anoamaa East stating that there is no cohesiveness between the 3 arms of government and stated that the differing of opinions are inevitable. This is due practice of democracy; differences of opinion are inevitable.

ALAIASA Moefaauo Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA EAST cont.

The member continued that he will not sing as this is the highest House in Samoa and it is similar to the "holy lands". Reminded the Heads of Government Ministries to not be prejudice and afford equal treatment to all Members of the Public whom seek help irrespective of economic standing. In regards to differing opinions and election preparations, the Member called for peace and calm and reiterated that dissidents are a part of democracy. Stressed that patience is an important requirement when negating in the world of Politics. Acknowledged the Minister and the Ministry of Finance for their service as they continue to secure funds for the development of Samoa. The member formally addressed the FAST party and called both parties (FAST and HRPP) to stay humble in their campaigning and etc. He then reiterated to the House a phrase from the bible "*blessed are the meek for they will inherit the kingdom of God*".

Acknowledged the Ministers and Ministries for all their services (specifically mentioned the benefits of technology to learning and living, if used appropriately.

LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3

The Member acknowledged the advice from the Member for Anoamaa East.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Informed the House that he has received a letter from the Member for Salega East, OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai to be excused from today's sitting as he is unwell to attend.

ALAIASA Moefaauo Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA EAST cont.

The member continued that everything rises and falls on leadership; the Member reminded the House to put God first above all. Concluded by addressing his constituency in her honorific salutations and acknowledged them for their support. Called for a common courtesy approach when conducting campaigns for the elections. Finally conveyed well wishes to Mr Speaker, Faasootauloa, Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta, Tuitama on their retirement.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 12:59am
Parliament will again reconvene on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 9am.**