

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Day 10**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

**9:29 am**

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

**i. Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3**

The member for Gagaifomauga No.3 commenced by acknowledging Samoa in her honorific salutations, the Omnipotent; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Conveyed sympathies for the late Member for Lefaga & Faleseela; Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Poutoa. Addressed the honorific salutations afforded to the 3 dawns of Christianity in Samoa: Mataniufeagaimaleata, Faleu ma Utuaniani, Malaeola ma Gafoga. Acknowledged the three (3) Arms of Government: Executive, Judiciary, Legislative. Conveyed best wishes for the new Governors for American Samoa in their roles manning the helm of affairs for American Samoa.

Commended the role of the Village Council in keeping law and order in the villages and being the backbone of which the will of Parliament and Government is implemented. Acknowledged the Samoan Diaspora overseas for their contribution to the economy, religious denominations and more importantly, families. The member then stated that Samoa is incurring hardships due to Parliament and its decisions. Commended and conveyed well wishes for Mr Speaker, Hon Tuitama, Hon Faasootauloa, Mulipola and Hon Aeau upon their impending retirement. Acknowledged the Executive Arm of Government: The Hon

Prime Minister and Cabinet, expressed apologies if there were disagreements during the term and attributed it to wanting what's best for the nation.

Acknowledged the Ruling Party HRPP and noted that although he did not want to leave the party he had to due to conflicting beliefs with the Party. The Honourable Member noted to the House that the Samoa that is today was built on the foundation of the, blood, sweat, tears, dreams and hopes of our ancestors.

The member conveyed well wishes to all Members of the House for the impending general election. He then addressed the FAST candidates of whom he is the leader of, and supporters reminded them of their motto of being humble by reiterating the phrase "victory is attained through humility".

He then acknowledged his constituency for their support during the Parliamentary Term. Conveyed apologies to his constituency if his service was not up to the expected standard. He then referred to Fiame Naomi Mataafa and conveyed acknowledgment for conveying support for the next Parliamentary Term. To his fellow colleague Faumuina Wayne Fong he expressed gratitude for his support. To his fellow colleague, Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai, the member also expressed his gratitude. Conveyed acknowledgement for his wife and children for their support. In regards to the Budget, the member acknowledged the Minister of Finance for good financial management.

The Honourable Member posed to the Minister of Justice, what the stipulations are for Billboards as in his interpretation, they should be allowed to put up their billboards for FAST candidates. Cited that this was his main concern of the ramifications of passing the LTC Bill where Alii and Faipule will trump individual rights.

**Hon FAAOLESA Katopau T. Ainuu, MINISTER OF MJCA, Point of clarification**

*The Minister responded by refuting claims made by the Member that the Electoral Act is rigged in favour of the incumbents.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3  
cont.**

The Member posed to the House where the line is drawn between individual rights vs communal rights.

**Hon FAAOLESA Katopau T. Ainuu, MINISTER OF MJCA, Point of clarification**

*The Electoral Act 2019 which the Member is speaking on has not been implemented and will be implemented in the post elections. The 3 Acts has no bearing on the campaigns as implied by the Honourable Member of Gagaifomauga No.3*

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER, Point of clarification**

*The Hon PM refuted claims made by the Member of Gagaifomauga No. 3 claiming that the Electoral Act 2019 favours the incumbents and diminishes the chances of the new candidates.*

*In regards to Billboards being removed, the Hon PM clarified that the Alii and Faipule have in their discretion the autonomy to remove these Billboards as it is their property. He reiterated that the Party should seek permission first before erecting Billboards. He then noted that the Billboards erected on Government Property will incur a fee as it is not their own property.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 cont.**

The Member stated that they have only encountered conflicts for billboards after the PM's sentiments in one of his TV talk show calling for HRPP candidates to somewhat "attack" FAST Candidates during their roadshow.

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER, Point of clarification**

*The Hon PM refuted claims made by Member of Gagaifomauga No.3 and stated that he had asked his Candidates and supporters to go for the free food and the free money being distributed by the FAST Party.*

*He touched upon the differing roles of the Legislative and the Judiciary i.e. Legislative is the House of Inception, House of Commencement. Judiciary is the House of Interpretation who upholds the law passed from the Legislative.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 cont.**

The Member addressed the Minister for Public Enterprise on the issue of Daylight Savings and asked the Minister whether the benefits perceived are factual. He then urged the Minister to reconsider the daylight saving as numerous parents have raised the concern about their young children especially girls having to walk to school still in the dark.

In reference to the Ministry of Communication, Information Technology (MCIT) the member stated that it is unfair that the newspaper- Savali and radio station- 2AP are being used as catalysts for the message of HRPP Party and queried where does the FAST Party go to advertise.

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER, Point of clarification**

*Noted that in 2010, the 2AP requested an interview as they had run out of news materials. Clarified that the interview was supposed to be a one-off, however due to the high ratings and audience scope, it became a program. The PM further elaborated that TV1 upon seeing the ratings took initiative and decided to host a program called TV ma le Palemia.*

*The PM noted that he had encouraged his CEO's to meet media commitments. Moreover, the PM noted that upon the CEO's not meeting their media commitments he has to respond on behalf of Government. Hon PM clarified that he is only responding to the queries and concerns raised by the media to assert and clarify Government's position on concerns raised (indirectly by FAST Members). The Hon PM recalled when he assumed the Office of Prime Minister - he called the media outlets 'Savali and 2AP' and instructed them to allow any advertisement by the Opposition Party.*

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:48 am**

**Proceedings resumed at 11:41am**

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3  
cont.**

The member continued his speech by addressing the Ministry of Police and Prisons and Corrections Services and noted that there are vast negative implications of the consumption of locally distilled liquor. There are at least 500 cases of domestic violence attributed to intoxication. The Member commended the Police's continuous raids conducted in the rural areas however, brought to light the production of methamphetamine next to the police precinct in town. The Ministry should look into this.

The member sought to clear the statements made by some members that the FAST roadshow is distributing out money as a form of bribery for the upcoming elections, by stating that the gifts, food, money rendered to attendees of rallies is based on mutual respect. To the Ministry of Finance, the member stated that there is a deficit as reflected on the budget tabled which runs developments for the country. He recalled the funeral for a Former Member of Parliament and queried why the amount disbursed for the Funeral of the late Fiu was \$10,000 when the cabinet policy states \$3000.

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER, Point of clarification**

*Noted that the 10,000 in question by Gagaifomauga No.3 is left to the discretion of Cabinet based on the mutual respect, that the member has already reiterated. The PM noted that it is hypocritical for the Member to mention this as he too had attributed their money, food given out during FAST rallies. He then expressed disappointment with the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 for raising this matter which is a matter of non-imperative nature.*

**Hon LOAU SOLA Keneti Sio, MINISTER FOR MESC**

*The Minister clarified that the cabinet policies disbursed to the families of deceased Members of Parliament have changed.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 cont.**

*Acknowledging MCIT, the Member stated that it was the questions posed to the PM which imply that they are defaming the PM which the Member refuted them.*

**Hon AFAMASAGA Lepuiai Rico Tupai, MINISTER FOR MCIT**

*The Minister clarified that due diligence of sources is done before Savali, MCIT poses questions to the PM and it is not sensationalized as is implied by Laauli. The Minister clarified that the office is open for FAST to utilize as their catalyst for the dissemination of their Manifesto.*

*The Minister noted that the PM does not pay for his programs on Savali and TV1 as it is at their curiosity and personal information that these interviews occur. The Minister further accentuated that the PM does not claim payment for making his time.*

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*Hon PM clarified that his programs are not an expense as he is the respondent to the medias interviews. Emphasised that these programs are not operated by the Government therefore the government should not be responsible to pay for such services. He further touched upon equal opportunities afforded to those who wish to utilise the media.*

*He affirmed to the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 that he is aware of the FAST Party interviews aired overseas. It is with these interviews that the local media formulate their questions from.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 cont.**

The member concluded by acknowledging his constituency and conveyed well wishes to Members of the House.

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*The Hon Prime Minister noted that he sought to elaborate on Gagaifomauga No.3's statements stating that Parliament has caused hardships to the people. He then argued that this statement is highly erroneous. It is Government's intention to develop schools to educate the children (a parent's treasured possession); as well as to develop the health sector, raise the standard of our hospitals to ensure a healthy populace; and the appropriate budget and distribution of benefits; in addition to strengthening the Village Council these are paramount reasons why Parliamentarians were elected into this House.*

*The Hon Prime Minister then called to remove statements stating that "ana le seanoa le Palemene leni e te le lailoa Samoa" (the People are incurring hardships due to Parliamentary decisions).*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 cont.**

The member caused to explain the meaning of the phrase raised by the PM and stated that when the PM utters statements that is a decree and compliance is always mandatory in Parliament.

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*The Hon PM clarified that he is not the supreme decision making authority as implied by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3*

**TAFUA Maluelue Tafua, MEMBER FOR ALEIPATA ITUPA I LALO**

*The member seconded the motion to have sentiments issued by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 removed from Parliament Hansard.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3**

*Argued that the meaning of his words "Parliament is responsible for the distribution of the nation's sweat and hard work" not as interpreted by the Prime Minister.*

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*The Hon PM clarified that he sought to clarify as it is in their role as Parliamentarians that words uttered by the Member for Gagaifomauga no.3 imply ulterior motives.*

*Speaker put the question to the Assembly whether to remove the conflicting words made by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3's. The ayes have it.*

*Statements by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 stating that "Nation is suffering under this Parliament's rule"/ "...ana seanoa le Palemene lenei e te le lailoa Samoa" has been removed.*

ii. **TOFA Foleni Lio Tama Galu, MEMBER FOR FAASALELEAGA No.3**

The member commenced by stressing to the House to convey gratitude to the almighty. Addressed Samoa in her honorific salutations. Acknowledged the role of the Speaker of the House and wished well wishes to him on his impending retirement. He acknowledged the Office of the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and acknowledged him for the excellent service rendered during the Parliamentary term. Acknowledged the PM who is the Leader of the Nation and the Cabinet. Acknowledged respective Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees. Acknowledged CEO's in their role of being the arms and legs of government. Acknowledged the Head of State and the Council of Deputy. Acknowledged the various religious denominations housed in his constituency and American Samoa in her honorific salutations. Acknowledged his Constituency for their support and affirmed that the theme of his speech was "Gratitude".

He then spoke on the Manifesto of the HRPP which is "What is good for Upolu is good for Savaii". Commended the Government for adhering to their manifesto as is seen with development projects that were implemented in the Parliamentary term such as:

- a) Roads- Salelologa to Palauli to Salega- Asau to Itu o Tane all are in good condition. Affirmed that 2009 road switch was the right call as history has shown it has benefitted most families;
- b) Acknowledged government efforts to refurbish the Vaiaata Prison and supported the rehabilitation programmes offered there- developing vegetation, crops which also cater for the prisoners at Tanumalala;
- c) The re-construction of the Maliolio Bridge;
- d) The maintenance of the Tapueleele road where the Vaiola college is located. And etc.

The member then stated that Salelologa is also still developing. The member attempted to call out the number of projects already implemented in Salelologa.

*Speaker interrupted the Member as it was time for Parliament to end its proceedings of the day and assured the member that he will continue his speech when Parliament reconvenes tomorrow.*

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:05pm  
Parliament will again reconvene on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 9am.**