

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Wednesday 3rd February 2021**. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on **Wednesday 3rd February 2021**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Day 11

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

9:34am

Pursuant to S.O 18 - In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair and presided over the proceedings of the Assembly.

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

i. TOFA Foleni Lio Tama Galu, MEMBER FOR FAASALELEAGA No.3 cont.

The Member greeted the House, expressed gratitude to our Heavenly Father for all the blessings upon Samoa. Acknowledged the Deputy for taking up Mr. Speaker's Chair this morning.

The Member conveyed gratitude to the Government of the day for all the developments in Samoa, specifically in Savaii. He then touched upon the development of the township in Salelologa. Mentioned the NPF building in progress in Salelologa.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

Commenced by acknowledging the House. The PM recalled post the recent elections whereby he placed emphasis on the importance of an opposition as is required by the components of democracy. The PM noted that the HRPP decreed to form a "home grown" opposition to keep the tradition of debates in the House going (to ensure a system of checks and balance existed - particularly the oversight of the Executive).

The PM noted that a Professor of Politics attended the symposium post-elections and stated that Samoa had found the solution to the problems which arise due to a one-

party-state. i.e. forming a "home grown" opposition. He then stated to the House it is disrespectful that the Members of FAST report to the Chamber in an untimely manner and leave on their own accord even before the final prayer.

Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

The Member expressed disappointment with the PM's sentiments of which he implied that their 4 party group does not adhere to their name *Faatuatua I le Atua Samoa ua Tasi* (FAST).

Hon TUILAEPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

Clarified that as the Leader of the House, one of his duties is to monitor Members' attendance in the House. Hon PM recalled past remarks made by Members of the FAST for a change of Government "*sui le Malo*" / "Change the Government" and asserted that as a leader one must be able to make difficult choices and voice these - if one cannot make tough calls, then he is not a leader. Hon PM stated that he is merely recommending to the Members.

MR SPEAKER

Mr Speaker ruled that the Leader of the House is correct as it seems that MP's take lightly their timely attendance and noted that he has instructed the Clerk of the House to note down attendance and time of attendance.

He then made known to the House members who formally gave their excuse of absence today to the Speaker to which he has approved: *Tuifaasisina, Faumuina Wayne, Lenatai, and Namulauulu Sami Leota.*

Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Member for Gagaifomauga No.3

Noted to the Chair that the day prior, the PM had his words removed and queried how about the PM's statements in regards to likening them to a canoe without direction.

MR SPEAKER

Reiterated to the House that he is the Chair and therefore the respect he deserves be afforded to him. Noted to the House that if the Member continues to not abide by the Standing Orders then he will exercise his full authority as the Speaker to maintain order in the House. The Speaker clarified that the main role of the Speaker is to mediate the proceedings and will apply the Standing Orders where he sees fit.

He instructed the members to cease dwelling on the above subject matter and should move on.

OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, MEMBER FOR SALEGA EAST

The Member agreed with the PM that an Opposition Party is an essential component of Democracy. The Member posed to the House why their informal Party did not receive any financial aid.

Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PM clarified that this is not new practice & the dissolution of the opposition is not Governments doing. The PM recalled the strike in 1994 whereby the Opposition Leader at the time incited and presented a petition to the late Head of State that contained 250,000 signatures and requested that he dissolve the Government and allow him to lead. Reiterated that the Opposition dissolving is not the Governments fault. The Hon PM expressed disappointment with FAST asking for funding from religious denominations and overseas donors.

MR SPEAKER

Pursuant to S.O 82(3), no Member shall interrupt a Member speaking through a subsequent interjection requested by the Speaker.

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

The member called for Peace to be upon the Members of the House. He then proceeded to express gratitude, now that there is still improvement and development at Salelologa and the domestic airport at Maota.

Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga, MEMBER FOR PALAULI LE FALEFA

The Hon Member noted that during his tenure as the Minister of Works, the total cost of the rehabilitation of Salelologa town was around 600 million. During the project, there were complaints from the public that the town was now located in the forest, however to date it has become an effective town area for Savaii.

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

The member continued to acknowledge the Samoa Airways company for commencing operations between Upolu and Savaii, stated that when the Samoa Shipping Services were on hold due to severe weather conditions, there was another option of transport to use for the public wishing to travel back to the main island.

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

Recalled the past whereby 2,872 acres given by the village of Salelologa to the Late Prime Minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana for the construction of a town. Due to no funding at the time the consensus was to slowly construct.

At least 2,400 acres was returned to Salelologa as customary lands due to tensions which arose after Tofilau's death and the government kept only 400 acres. He noted that Apia's roads were built around the existing settlements which is contrary to Salelologa which have their roads built first and then settlements will commence of which will be around the roads. The PM noted that this is the main cause of the flooding, no planning on the construction of the roads and drainage in Apia.

He then noted that the Wharf at Asau is good for docking ships as it is big in stature. The Hon PM noted that Samoa aims to be the Hub and the central point for docking of Ships of which will further increase employment opportunities. The Hon PM noted that geographically, Upolu is the central point of the Pacific strategically it is a good place to be the centre of ships docking in the Pacific as the Marine Engineers identified Vaiusu as a suitable place for a new port.

The PM noted that the Governments dream is for Savaii to be populated (people and business wise) similarly to Upolu in the next 100 years. He then reiterated the Constitution whereby all land lying below the line of high-water mark is Government land (Article 103).

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

The member then requested for a Ford in Saipipi to avoid the impacts from the river flow at Tapueleele and Patamea. The Member noted that during torrential rain, the field in Saipipi floods which affects transportation travelling to and from the area.

**ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI Sepulona Moananu,
ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA SASAE**

MOTION- Requested that extra time be given to the Member to continue his speech as this is the concluding speech for all Members of this Parliamentary term.

Motion approved. Extra time was given to the Member for Faasaleleaga No.3

Proceedings were suspended at 10:53am

Proceedings resumed at 11:43am

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

The Member recommenced by acknowledging his constituency. Acknowledgement was given for the road rehabilitation at Faga Road, seawall from Tuasivi to Salimu.

Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PM conveyed to the House that he will be attending an online Pacific Island Leaders meeting in fifteen minutes of which the agenda will be vaccines for the Pacific. The meeting seeks to consolidate which vaccine they would take as to date there are 125 vaccinations available. The Pacific Leaders seek to reach a consensus on deliberating and consolidating which vaccine has the least side effects.

The PM formally requested leave from the Chair of the House to attend the meeting.

MR SPEAKER

The Speaker acknowledged the PM for adhering to Standing Orders by formally requesting a leave of absence from the Chair. He hopes this would be followed by fellow Parliamentarians when they seek to leave in between the proceedings. Leave was granted.

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

The Saipipi Road was constructed in 2016 and acknowledged the recent rehabilitation of the road. Acknowledged his village and his constituency for supporting him throughout this Parliamentary term. Addressed the Ministry of Health and noted that this is a busy Ministry. He then took the opportunity to stress that "Health is Wealth" or in other words "Your Health is of Paramount Importance". Acknowledged his Minister Faimalotoa Kika Stowers for selecting him to be her understudy. Stressed to the House the importance of "walking the talk" "talking the walk". Acknowledged the works of Dr Leausa Naseri for making sure that we are safe and taken care of during this Pandemic. Conveyed gratitude for our front-line defense the health workers for all their efforts to ensure a healthy and safe Samoa.

ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA SASAE

Noted that "Health is your wealth" is a vague definition and jested that there are those who are healthy that disturbs his wealth.

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

The member concluded by acknowledging the initiative of instilling medical officers to man clinics on the peripheries. Acknowledged the Ministry of Health for having doctors stationed at the different clinics in different constituencies. The Member

noted that the Vaipouli clinic is currently being looked after by the doctor who is originally stationed in Safotu thus requesting a specific doctor for this clinic. He also noted with gratitude that the Tuasivi Hospital is currently serviced by 4 doctors, this is an immense improvement. Concluded by conveying well wishes to the Parliamentarians whom are retiring.

LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, MINISTER FOR MAF

The Minister asked the Chair for permission to leave the House to take a bathroom break.

ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA SASAE

As Party Whip of the majority party in Government, the Member called out that the behaviour of the Minister of MAF was childish.

OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, MEMBER FOR SALEGA EAST

Moved the motion to remove the words of the Minister from Parliamentary records.

MR SPEAKER

Speaker agreed with the Members that what was said by the Minister is a ridicule of the Standing orders that require a member to seek the permission of the Chair to take leave from proceedings. Motion approved.

Removed words iterated by the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from Parliamentary records.

ii. **FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy Stowers, ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 (Article 44 (1B))**

The member commenced by greeting all the Members in the House and Samoa in her honorific salutations. She touched upon personal highlights in this parliamentary term, which is: (1) The incorporation of the Christian beliefs of Samoa in the preamble of the Constitution; (2) The separation of the Land and Titles Court from the Civil and Criminal courts. (3) Implementation of the women quota (10% women representation in Parliament). Noted that this Parliamentary term is unprecedented as this was when the Quota for women came into play.

She further noted that men are given preference over women irrespective if women are more qualified than men. She touched upon the census of Samoa for 2016, the total population count of 195,000. She then noted that 48% of eligible

voters are female while 52% were men. The Member then suggested to increase the quota percentage from 10% to 15%.

ALAIASA MOEFAAUOUO MALAGAITUTOGIAI Sepulona Moananu, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR MESC & MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA SASAE

Noted that the Member spoke on Gender Equality and posed to the House what if a male urged voters not to vote for women. The Member noted that in his interpretation of the statements by the Member it seems that she is calling on women not to vote for men, vote based on Gender.

FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLETANE Liuga, MEMBER FOR PALAULI LE FALEFA

Clarified that religion is not in tandem with western values and the two can never be reconciled.

FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy Stowers, ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 (Article 44 (1B)) cont.

The Member responded by stating that the Member for Anoamaa's interpretation is erroneous. She then posed the viability of raising the quota number of women to 15%.

Addressing the Ministry of Police, she noted the effectiveness of the Ministry of Police relies heavily on the involvement of the Alii and Faipule. Cited the village of Faleatiu as an example and made reference to the major narcotics busts implemented during the previous year.

Hon AFAMASAGA TOLEAFOA Rico Tupai, MINISTER FOR MCIT

The Minister stood to refute the claims made by the member stating "the place where there are many drugs" and affirmed that the problem is solved as a result of a joint effort between Alii and Faipule and the Police. He acknowledged the statements made by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 which signifies Samoa's drive to recognise women representation in Parliament and noted that Samoa is the first nation in the Pacific to incorporate the 10% quota for women representation in Parliament.

Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU Tionisio Hunt, MINISTER FOR MOP

The Hon Minister clarified that the raid which recently took place by the Ministry of Police, was to apprehend the escapee Mr Chong Nee rather than the eradication of the illegal growth of marijuana.

FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy Stowers, ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 (Article 44 (1B)) cont.

The member continued her speech by addressing the Ministry of Education and acknowledged the Ministry for heeding her proposal of which there is now a proposed initiative of which Government will pay for teachers for mission schools [i.e. the inclusion of teachers employed in religious schools within the payroll of the Ministry of education]. She then conveyed gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and the Hon PM for the foresight and requested for that fund set aside for a Playing field at Aopo to be released when available so as to develop youths that excel in sports in her village and constituency.

Hon LOAU SOLA Keneti Sio, MINISTER FOR MESC

The Hon Minister clarified that the issue raised by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 has not been implemented but talks are in progress to determine the feasibility of such a move. The Hon Minister mentioned the OGG (One-Government Grant) of which 60% of the grant is afforded to Mission and Private Schools which indirectly sources the payment of teachers.

FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy Stowers, ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 (Article 44 (1B)) cont.

Addressing the Office of the Electoral Commission (OEC) she recalled the last minute rush of the public to register for voting and called on OEC to have access to statistics records so as to effectively identify people whom have not registered.

Hon FAAOLESA Katopau T.Ainuu, MINISTER FOR MJCA

The Minister noted to the member that he had made note of what the member has raised. The Hon minister made note of the timeframe of 3 years and stated that this was ample time of which voters should have utilised to register.

FAAULUSAU Rosa Duffy Stowers, ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3 (Article 44 (1B)) cont.

The Member noted that the State Orders since Covid have been enforced for more than a year - yet it seems like not much has changed (when compared to foreign countries) which reflect Samoa's economic stability and stable Government. Acknowledged the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance for excellent financial management skills which is reflective in no food shortage, or any bearing on the financial standing of Samoa irrespective of Covid-induced market conditions.

Noted that although there are some negative impacts caused by Covid (such as the tourism and hospitality industry) but the majority of the business sector is persevering. She also noted that upon commencement of the 16th Parliamentary Term, there were multiple Ministries which lagged in presentation of their Annual Reports. With pride she noted that all Ministries annual reports are up to date and compliant with relevant laws are at an unprecedented high. Acknowledged the Head of Ministries for the undying commitment to ensuring that Samoa continues to progress which has resulted in better standard of living for the people.

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

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:10pm
Parliament will again reconvene on Thursday 4th February 2021 at 9am.**