

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Friday 5th 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 **Friday 5th February 2021**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Day 13

Friday 5th February 2021

I. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr Speaker reminded Members of the House to make relevant corrections to the advance copy of the Hansard, and have them returned to the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly within four days from the date it was despatched, to ensure proper and accurate recording of statements made by respective Members in the House.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Liuga

The Hon Member reiterated statements made by Mr Speaker in regards to Members' corrections made to the advanced copy of Hansard and asserted that the Hansard records are important as these statements are used by the Courts to determine the true intention of a Bill deliberated in the Maota Fono.

II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

i. Hon FONOTOE Lauofo Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo, MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA WEST.

The Hon Member acknowledged Mr Speaker, and addressed Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He acknowledged the government for the projects that have benefitted his constituency, the Member also requested to look into their request of a seawall and a few roads to repair at his village and constituency. Hon FONOTOE reminded the responsible Minister of Works about the seawalls for his constituency; however, assured his constituency that these projects are in progress and will be implemented eventually.

In regards to the global crisis of 'climate change' the Member reminded the House that his constituency suffers severely in terms of floods and landslides during torrential rain, and immediate assistance is very much needed.

The Member acknowledged the dam project of which will further EPC's capacity to supply electricity. The Member called to rehabilitate drainage and redirect it into a dam-like setting; thus dealing with 2 issues at one time *kill 2 birds with one stone* i.e flooding ameliorated for town while generating Electricity in the same town.

Hon SILI Epa Tuiofi, MINISTER OF FINANCE – Point of Clarification

The Minister stated that to date, collaboration between the Government of Samoa, the Asia Development Bank (ADB), and Australian Government to fund the Alaoa Dam and noted that they had procured nearly 100 million USD for the project. Hon SILI further clarified that the project is intended to be implemented in late 2021 given that tenders auction should be done first, unfortunately Samoa does not have specialist to perform this project therefore, overseas bidders are invited and applicable to apply. Hon Minister asserted that the implementation of the project has also been delayed (pushed back) due to Border closures & affirmed it will commence next year.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER– Point of Clarification

The Hon PM acknowledged the Member for Anoamaa West in remaining vigilant in meeting the needs for his constituency. He also acknowledged the Member for excellent vision in suggesting that the waters be redirected straight into the Alaoa Dam. The Hon PM noted that engineers have confirmed that Samoa's town has been erected in a low lying area. In regards to flooding, The Hon PM attributed this to the global issue of Climate Change and noted that regardless, Samoa is better off than other Pacific nations. The Hon PM noted that the Government is seeking to mitigate the effects of Climate Change for this generation and others generation which follow. The PM stated the importance of access roads that the government developed for the villages to move inland areas away from the impact of climate change on the coastal low lands. The Hon PM restated that the Government will answer accordingly and emphasized that Rome Was Not Built in a Day.

Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, MINISTER FOR MWTI

The Hon Minister noted concerns in regards to flooding raised by the Member for Anoamaa West. Clarified that this is the rationale behind the construction of the Alaoa Dam to mitigate the effects of flooding in Samoa. Acknowledged the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in this project. He noted that there are talks in place for project with the World Bank aimed to ameliorate landslides in constituencies Anoamaa West and Gagaifomauga No.1.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER– Point of Clarification

Hon PM noted that he had discussed with some overseas Diplomat ways to mitigate landslides in the Atua District side. The PM noted that upon closer inspection of the landslide at Lalomanu, it was noted that it was initially thought that removal of the landslide was the solution however, as engineer's advised the Mountain landslide was the pillar stopping further landslide. He then referred to Israel's solution for stemming

landslides which was to build a slope on the mountain and building retaining cement walls the bottom. The PM noted that they are aware of the potential landslide areas; Safotu Side, Anoamaa side, Ululoloa side. The Hon PM noted that their mitigation strategy proposed; reaps 3 major potential benefits simultaneously ;1) stopping floods, 2) ground water storage underground- which will bolster our water supply 3) hydro-electricity production. He again stressed that these Projects will reap benefits for future generations of Samoa.

Hon FONOTOE Laufo Nuafesili Pierre Laufo, MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA WEST, cont.

The Member acknowledged the PM for stating that the local contractors will be considered for building the dam.

Hon SILI Epa Tuiofi, MINISTER OF FINANCE – Point of Clarification

Clarified that the main Contractor for the mentioned projects will be overseas, however they will hire locals as subcontractors. Noted that this is a good capacity building opportunity for the locals but 90% of workers for these projects are our local people.

Hon FONOTOE Laufo Nuafesili Pierre Laufo, MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA WEST, cont.

Noted that Samoa will benefit if the Alaoa dam is constructed i.e. foreign reserves funds used for oil for electricity will be saved. Acknowledged NEOC in keeping Samoa Covid free.

Hon FAIMAALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH

The Minister that there will be 5000 vaccinations in the first order and it is required that one person should have two vaccinations. Confirmed that the Front line workers will be given priority in vaccinations, then the geriatric's and children and then all others who are fit.

Hon FONOTOE Laufo Nuafesili Pierre Laufo, MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA WEST, cont.

The member continued by addressing the Flea market at Sogi and expressed support at the initiative for a flea market at Sogi as it is another way to extend the town area to this part of the Apia. He also supports another extension of the wharf area. Called to separate the wharf docking for oil ferries, tourist ferries and asserted that there is immense commercial potential for this development post construction of the Vaiusu Wharf. Also called to balance effects of the wharf on the ecosystem i.e. mangroves.

Hon TUILAIPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER– Point of Clarification

The Hon PM clarified that the Mangroves will remain untouched and stated that the West Side of the bay will be where the Wharf will be constructed. Noted that the vision for the Government post the next Parliamentary Term is for Samoa to be powered by 100%

renewable energy, hydro, wind, solar-electricity. Samoa is seeking the introduction of Electric vehicles as per stipulations of the Paris accords of which Samoa is signatory to.

He further noted that they seek to construct another traffic lane and separate traffic 1 lane for going and 1 for coming. There are plans posing the viability to construct a road behind the TATTE building to ameliorate the traffic congestion. Noted that it was imperative as the number of cars in Samoa has increased immensely. Stressed the vision of Government which is to build a Samoa reliant on sustainable energy and a wharf that'll reap immense economic benefits for the nation. He renewed calls for a hazard allowance for frontliners.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:47am

Proceedings resumed at 11:30am

Hon FAIMAALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH

The Minister noted that the Public Service Commission has been tasked with drafting this regulation which allows a hazard allowance for Medical Officers and noted that sailors are included as well.

Hon LAUTAFI FIO Seilafi Purcell, MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISE

The Minister touched upon incentives or compensation for employees under the ACC as raised by the Member for Anoamaa West and clarified that there are amendments in progress to the ACC Act to try and counter impacts of unemployment due to Covid. He also sought to clarify that Samoa Airways is still in operation and is bidding their time for recommencement of operations.

Hon FONOTOE Laufo Nuafesili Pierre Laufo, MEMBER FOR ANOAMAA WEST, cont.

The member continued by acknowledging the Hon Prime Minister for reaffirming that they would rehabilitate the road in his constituency. Acknowledged the Private Sector, Respective Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees & his fellow Parliamentarians.

Concluded by asserting to his constituency that he seeks to serve and declared that he is still seeking to serve as their Member of Parliament. He noted that he had heard whispers of the wind stating that the MP is done (referring to himself) and stated that this must have been what David have felt when his enemies ascended upon him. Recited Psalm 23, to accentuate his point. Conveyed well wishes to Mr Speaker, Hon Faasootauloa, Hon Aeau and Mulipola Laki on their impending retirement from Politics. Conveyed sympathies to the family of the late Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Poutoa as he was a member of the Economic Sector Committee of which he was the Chairperson of. Acknowledged the support of his wife and family and encapsulate his speech by wishing everyone all the best with the coming General Elections.

Proceedings were adjourned at 12:05pm

Parliament will again reconvene on Monday 8th February 2021 at 9am.