

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**9:14am**

**I. NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Pursuant to S.O 76 a notice is given to permit the introduction of the following Bills:

- i) Meteorology, Geo-Science and Ozone Services Bill 2020; and
- ii) Land Titles Registration Amendment Bill 2020.

**II. NOTICE OF VACATION OF SEATS**

Mr. Speaker announced the vacation of seat for two Members pursuant to S.O. 21(6) (a) & (b):

- Member for Salega East; and
- Member for Urban West.

Mr. Speaker declared that the two Members during candidate registration had breached provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Act 2019 thus the vacation of seat.

Mr. Speaker noted that he had liaised with the two Members and they have indicated that they were aware of the ramifications of registering as Party Members as stipulated in the Electoral Act. Mr. Speaker also noted that in the past, certain Members had also vacated their seats upon changing party affiliations during candidate registration in 2010.

**III. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER**

- (i) **Amendment to State of Emergency (Covid-19)**

State of Emergency Orders to be extended from **27<sup>th</sup> October to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020** to remain in effect.

**(ii) Obituary Speech**

Mr. Speaker read out an Obituary Speech for the former Members of Parliament:

- ❖ Matataualiitia Afa Lesa: MP from 1996-2001; and
- ❖ Tuilagi Vavae: MP from 1988-1991.

*A minute of silence was observed to pay respect to the deceased Members.*

**IV. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

- 2 Papers were presented to Parliament (1 Notice of Commencement for the Energy Management Act and 1 Statement of Corporate Objectives 2021-2024 for SQA).
- 3 Committee Reports were tabled; (all 3 reports were from the Economic Sector Parliamentary Committee).

**V. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**i) METEOROLOGY, GEO-SCIENCE AND OZONE SERVICES BILL 2020- first reading**

Hon PM moved a motion to have the Bill first read.

**Motion Seconded and Approved**

**ii) LAND TITLES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020- first reading**

Hon PM moved a motion to have the Bill first read.

**Motion Seconded and Approved**

**MOTION TO SET ASIDE STANDING ORDERS**

The Leader of the House moved a motion to set aside S.O 101(1) to allow the reading of the Bills which were first read on the same day.

**Motion approved**

**iii) METEOROLOGY, GEO-SCIENCE AND OZONE SERVICES BILL 2020- second reading**

The Hon PM moved a motion to have the aforementioned Bill second read and spoke to clarify the objects the Bill.

*Motion approved*

### **Hon TUILAIPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi- Prime Minister**

The Hon PM clarified that the Bill provides a means to regulate and manage the operations of the Meteorology, Geo-science and Ozone services in Samoa. It also provides for the Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems for the primary purpose of early dissemination of warnings to the public to reduce the impact and harm caused to life and property in the event of natural disasters.

The Meteorology Office has been in operation for 108 years and dates back to the German colonial days. This is the first Bill to oversee the services of the Meteorology Office with the purpose of providing information and warning whilst facing the impacts of Climate Change.

The Hon PM noted Government's intention to add 2 seats in Cabinet (come the next Parliamentary term). The merits of the Bill are as follows:

- (a) Analyse and provide scientific and quality managed data and information in the areas of (i) meteorology, (ii) geoscience and (iii) ozone layer;
- (b) Control collection, analysis and dissemination of quality managed data, information and material for the purposes of the Act;
- (c) Provide meteorological services including data, information, warning which may be provided by the Division for the benefit of the General public;
- (d) Provide aviation meteorological services or weather-related information or data for the purposes of aviation in accordance with the NZCAA Part 174;
- (e) Provide meteorological information for the purposes of maritime, navigation and shipping;
- (f) Provide comprehensive range of meteorological related information, data, analysis;
- (g) Issue meteorological warnings, so as to protect and minimise the risk of harm to human life, property and the environment;
- (h) Provide astronomical and geo-scientific related data, information and analysis relating to astronomy, earthquakes;
- (i) Provide oceans services including oceans information, data products and services relating to tides & ocean related measurements;
- (j) Provide oceans information relating to sea- surface temperatures, currents, wave activity;

- (k) Provide data on controlled substances under the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete Ozone Layers, including Hydro chlorofluorocarbons;
- (l) Develop, improve and strengthen public information protocols and systems in order to ensure the effective dissemination of warnings issued under this Act;
- (m) Incorporate and implement the detection and assessment of extreme weather or natural phenomena as part of the Country's Multi Hazard Early Warning System;
- (n) Promote the understanding, recognition and where appropriate, the use of verified traditional knowledge and practices, related to meteorological, geo-science and ozone relates services;
- (o) Allow and facilitate the exchange of meteorological geoscience and ozone data with the Division or their counterparts from other countries in accordance with Resolution 40 of the WMO Policy;
- (p) Oversee and monitor the use of all meteorological, geoscience and ozone quality controlled scientific data, collected by the Division;
- (q) Determine appropriate fees and charges for the provision of the services by the Division, particularly where they provide commercial entities, or for commercial purposes;
- (r) Approve, undertake or support research, academic or scientific studies to further the understanding of meteorological, geo-science and ozone;
- (s) Support the work of other Ministries and agencies in respect of preparing and planning for climate related events and the assessment of risk to life;
- (t) Support the planning, preparation and response of Samoa to climate change and its related risks through the Divisions functions under this Act;
- (u) Raise public awareness about functions of the Division and all meteorological, geo-science and ozone related matters;
- (v) Undertake and provide such other functions or services as are required by Other Ministries or agencies or organisations as approved by the Minister.

The Division is to perform its functions under this Act in the Public Interest and for the following purposes:

- a) Public safety;
- b) Navigation, shipping and maritime safety;
- c) Aviation and air safety;
- d) Disaster preparedness and Disaster management;
- e) Contributing scientific and technical data, information to all climate related matters including climate change, climate adaptation and climate resilience for the benefit of the country; and

- f) To assist persons and any agency engaged in primary production, industry, trade, commerce, education, sports, leisure, special events and tourism.

The Hon PM touched upon the ascribed roles of the Met Office of which they execute on a daily basis, providing weather updates, Geo-Science & natural gases for electricity, research on the Earth's Magnetic Field. He further explained that the Earth Magnetic Field protects the earth from the rays of the sun and is driving the force behind the tides.

*Debate on the Second reading of the Bill*

**a) HON LAAULI Leauatea Fossie Polataivao- Member for Gagaifomauga No.3**

Acknowledge the Speaker and the Government. He further commented on the vacation of seats for the two members as announced by the Speaker.

Point of Clarification- Hon PM

*Noted that as per Standing Orders the Member should speak on the Bill. He further instructed the Member that as per Standing Orders, permission should be sought from the Speaker of the house to speak, but he is not doing that.*

**SPEAKERS RULING**

***Ruled the House to speak on the Second reading of the Meteorology, Geo-science and Ozone Services Bill 2020 but to refrain from speaking on matters referred to the Court.***

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:42am**

**Proceedings reconvened at 11:33am**

*Debate on the second reading of the Bill cont.:*

**b) HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga- Member for Palauli le Falefa**

The Member queried whether the Mercalli Scale is applicable in the Samoan context (i.e. most families do not have pictures hanging on the wall & suggested whether hanging pots on the wall would have the same accuracy. He further suggested that MNRE should work together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) in taking good care of the environment. In the very issue of protecting the environment, the Member suggested to encourage the public to protect the environment, government should reward those who look after the environment well. He further suggested to Government as per Bill that was recently passed allowing the purchase and import of electric vehicles, that they should take the lead and purchase some.

Hon. Faumuina spoke on the importance of waste management (old engines, machinery and tec.) and that Government should take action to find an overseas market that accepts such waste. He concluded by suggesting that the Met Office should be relocated to higher grounds as well as for accessibility purposes.

**c) HON LAUOFO Fonotoe Pierre Laufo- Member for Anoamaa West**

In response to the Member for Palauli Le Falefa, stated that there are traditional indicators which signal a pending natural disasters (i.e. rooster crowing, dogs barking and so forth). He further went on to state the importance of establishing the Early Warning System and that is equally important to carry out trial runs to ensure all systems are operational and effective when an actual natural disaster occurs.

The Member noted the importance of Samoa being signatories to international agreements and forums such as the World Meteorology Organisation, noting that these are also means for Samoa to be exposed to international best practice methods and systems as well as knowledge and expert sharing with different nations. He noted that Samoa is currently in the Cyclone season (November to April) and acknowledged the efforts of the Met Office to ensure its systems are effective for any unforeseen cyclones.

**d) TAFUA Maluelue Tafua- Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo**

Acknowledged the Hon PM for amending and modernising the Bill which governs the Office after 108 years. He stresses on the importance of having warning signals in cases of emergencies.

The Member touched upon the recent earthquake and called to incorporate the News as an early warning system to inform people of the scale of the earthquake and whether its strength warrants the public to seek for higher grounds for safety.

**e) SULAMANAIA Fetaiai- Member for Vaimauga**

Commended the Hon PM for steering the ship of Samoa during these tumultuous times of chaos and uncertainty and for keeping Samoa Covid free. He further stated that the Bill is imperative due to impending threats of climate change. Additionally, public awareness and an informative nation is crucial to ensure all are aware of what to do in times of natural disasters. Having escape routes especially for the constituency of Vaimauga as it is near the coastline, is important so as to ensure the public can move inland with ease in times of natural disasters.

**HON PM- Government Response**

Hon PM commended the Members who spoke on the matter and noted that in summary the majority of speakers gave emphasis on the Early Warning System. He recalled past events whereby there was a warning of a Tsunami after the earthquake and instead of people running to seek for refuge then run towards the calamity which is wrong and dangerous.

***Bill was second read, approved and referred to the Infrastructure Sector Committee.***

iv) **LAND TITLES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020- second reading**

Hon PM moved a motion to have the aforementioned Bill second read and wishes to speak on the Bill.

Motion approved

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi- Prime Minister**

The Bill amends section 18 of the Land Titles Registration Act 2008, to extend the commencement of the expiration of cautions. Currently, the period is 12 years from the commencement of the Act which expires in March 2021. Due to the need to defer the expiration period, the Bill seeks to amend the section 12 to add a further 5 years to the expiration period thus will lapse in 2026.

The amendment is made due to family members of those who own these lands cannot reach an agreement yet time is lapsing. PM further noted that there are further issues that arise especially in instances where the Church would give out their private land without being registered thus the need to extend time so as to deal with the matters aforementioned.

*Bill was second read, approved and referred to the Infrastructure Sector Committee.*

v) **ALCOHOL CONTROL BILL 2018- consideration in detail**

Hon Chairperson, Fonotoe Lauofo Pierre Lauofo moved a motion to have the Committee's report considered by the Assembly.

Motion approved

Clause 2	approved
Clause 3	approved with amendments
Clause 4	approved with amendments
Clause 5-18	approved
Clause 19	approved with amendments
Clause 20-21	approved
Clause 22	approved with amendments
Clause 23-25	approved
Clause 26	approved with amendments
Clause 27-34	approved
Clause 35	approved with amendments
Clause 36-41	approved
Clause 42	approved with amendments
Clause 43	approved
Clause 44	approved with amendments
Clause 45	approved with amendments

Clause 46 approved with amendments  
 Clause 47- 57 approved  
 Clause 58 approved with amendments  
 Clause 59-66 approved

**MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Hon PM moved a motion to extend house of business until the Bill is in consideration is passed together with other remaining orders of business.

*Motion approved*

Clause 67-77 approved  
 Clause 1 and Short Title approved with amendments.

***The Bill progressed with amendments***

vi) **CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2020- consideration in detail**

The Chairperson for Economic Sector Committee, Hon FONOTOE Laufo Pierre Laufo moved a motion for the Committee’s report to be tabled without any amendments.

*Motion approved*

Schedule approved  
 Clause 1 and Short Title approved with amendments

***The Bill progressed without any amendments***

vii) **ALCOHOL CONTROL BILL 2020- third reading**

The Hon Minister for Customs and Revenue, Afioga Tialavea Seigafolava Tionisio Hunt moved a motion for the third reading of the Bill.

*Motion approved*

***Alcohol Control Bill 2020 passed the Legislative Assembly***

viii) **CONTROL TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL 2020- third reading**

The Hon Minister for Customs and Revenue, Afioga Tialavea Seigafolava Tionisio Hunt moved for the third reading of the Bill.

*Motion approved*

*Control Traffic Amendment Bill 2020 passed the Legislative Assembly*

**MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

Hon PM moved a motion for the adjournment of proceedings and to reconvene on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

*Motion approved*

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:22pm;  
and will reconvene on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 9am.**