

**DISCLAIMER**

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 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 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**9:20am**

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

Pursuant to S.O 76 the following Bill is to be tabled for deliberation:

- i) Electoral Amendment Bill 2021

**II. NOTICE FOR INTRODUCTION OF BILL UNDER CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY**

Pursuant to S.O.100(2) the House is notified that the Electoral Amendment Bill 2021 is introduced under a Certificate of Urgency.

**III. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**(I) STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS AMENDMENTS**

Pursuant to Article 105 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, 1960, the Head of State hereby issues the following Orders:

- SOE Order 37 is to be repealed and replaced with the following:
  - SOE to be extended to the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**IV. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

A total of 15 Papers were tabled (14 Annual Reports, 1 Statement of Corporate Objective)

**V. PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

5 Committee Reports tabled; 3 from the Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices; 1 from the Finance and Expenditure Committee; 1 from the Social Sector Committee.

**VI. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

**i. Hon TUILAIPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

The Hon PM addressed Samoa in all her honorific salutations. He suggested that no Member standing up to speak is perhaps a sign of worry for the upcoming elections. He then stated that the Cabinet is ready to respond however he urged Members to take this opportunity to speak as this would be the last sitting for the Parliamentary term.

**ii. Hon FAASOOTAULOA Pati Taulapapa- ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE & MEMBER FOR GAGAEMAUGA No.2**

The Member acknowledged the Omnipotent for his protection and the Clergy for their role in praying for Samoa's success. He then commended his Constituency Saleaula for the honor afforded to him to be their representative in this prestigious Chamber. Expressed sincere gratitude to the Leader of the House also Members looking after their constituencies and taking up the responsibility of making it easier for them. Without God as the compass of operations, Samoa's hopes and dreams are futile.

The member then touched upon developments in his constituency for the current Parliamentary term. The construction of Schools, availability of safe drinking water, the construction of seawalls enabling people to move back to live on the coastal lands. He has done what was needed to be done for the benefit of their Constituency in this term and that he is grateful that he has achieved what he was chosen to do for this term.

Conveyed well wishes to the FAST Party & stressed that all appointments are from God. Conveyed well wishes to his fellow Parliamentarians & best wishes to the future Government post elections.

**iii. NAMULAUULU Sami Leota, MEMBER FOR FAASALELEAGA No. 2**

The Member noted that in a nutshell he wished to convey on behalf of his constituency; sincere gratitude to the front-liners and the Covid-19 team that are on standby at the airport to make sure that we are a Covid-free country. He stated that Samoa being Covid-free is indicative of excellent leadership. Acknowledged Samoa's frontline defence (health providers/custom officials/all those at entry ports) for their service to ensure Covid does not enter Samoa.

Samoa in the previous year still operated normally irrespective of the virus that has run rampant in the world, instilling fear & destroying livelihoods thus Samoa continues to be at a better state when compared to other nations of the world. He noted the positives that Covid brought- family structure being strengthened due to curfews, agriculture & plantations being revisited due to fears of food shortages. Furthermore, the member recalled the time when there were people tested positive for Covid19 on our shores, the approach we took to make sure that we stay calm and safe right up to this day was applauding.

The Member made note of another serious challenge faced globally- climate change - heavy rainfall leading to flooding which has caused great damage to certain families/businesses in Samoa. He noted that the villages of Mataaga to Fusi need seawalls erected to stem the impending waves. The Fusi/ Patamea road-acknowledged Cabinet for the upgrading of these roads. Lodged request to the Minister of Works that new roads in-land are needed as village numbers are growing. The road in Fogapoa and Tuasivi has been noted as the safest escape route during tsunami. There are 2 more cement roads which need upgrading 1) Lago 2) Sapapalii. He suggested that Sapapalii be given priority as Lago has a detour road from Patamea to Safotulafai (auala alo) at their disposal.

***Hon TUILAIPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi- Govt response***

*The PM responded that there are post discussions with consultants regarding both roads mentioned by the member and are given priority by the government. Both roads are expected to be upgraded simultaneously.*

**NAMULAUULU Sami Leota, MEMBER FOR FAASALELEAGA No. 2 cont.'**

Concluded his speech by acknowledging the Speaker & Prime Minister. Acknowledged the Cabinet and wished them well. Acknowledged all the respected Members for their hard work during this Parliamentary term. Acknowledged the Office of the Legislative Assembly, his Church and Pastor Unoi and faletua and the support of the congregation. Acknowledged the Tama-A-Aiga, acknowledged the Constituency affording him the honour to be their representative in the Highest House of Samoa.

**iv. FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi, MEMBER FOR SIUMU**

Acknowledged Samoa in her honorific salutations and American Samoa. The member made note that he wished to touch upon works implemented for his constituency during the Parliamentary Term. He spoke on the global issue of climate change, stated that the changes in climate have detrimental impact on any nation's economy- case in point the recent flooding in December and January which affected most businesses in Samoa. He then urged the relevant Ministries to have the foresight when preparing long term plans to factor in all conditions when designing major projects particularly climate resilient infrastructure.

Further he acknowledged all the Government Ministries who are involved in keeping and protecting Samoa Safe from Covid19 and all the teams who are working hard and contributing to the safety of our people. In regards to the Measles Epidemic in 2019 he acknowledged the Ministry of Health and noted that more mortalities could have been recorded if they weren't swift to respond.

The member suggested to the government that the 7s rugby team standards dropping must improve. Acknowledged Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) for the new buoys. He suggested to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI) that a new road to the Coconut Beach should be constructed as well as the roads that go through Siumu passing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) chapel and a new bridge. He called for routine maintenance for all roads and suggested 3 years to be the threshold to which maintenance is to be implemented.

**Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE- Govt Response**

*Provided an update on the road near a school building (presumably the one in his constituency) that the bidding process has begun. The Cross Island Road from Tanugamanono to the 4 corners in Siumu is currently going through maintenance funded from the Asian Development Banks (ADB). Hon Minister clarified that this road project also includes laying boulders for drainage and will commence some time in 2021.*

**Hon TUILAEPALupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi- Govt Response**

*In response to road maintenance mentioned by the Member for Siumu; the Hon PM noted that there are guidelines in place. He further elaborated that maintenance for roads is tendered thus refuting the member's claim that there is no road maintenance.*

**FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi, MEMBER FOR SIUMU cont.'**

The Member made note of the town area and the flooding problem. Noted that the town area is low lying hence the flooding. He acknowledged the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) for the unit prices and encouraged them to meet their goal whereby by 2025 Samoa should be 100% renewable. Acknowledged the Samoa Water Authority (SWA) for maintaining optimal standards for safe water consumption. He then suggested the construction of several reserves/catchment for water to ensure safe/treated water is supplied to the public; as it was noted that the quality of water was poor during torrential rain.

**Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE- Govt Response**

*In response to safe consumption of water mentioned by the Member for Siumu; the Minister stated that water supplies that are connected to SWA tank reservoirs are clean during torrential rain. On the contrary, those whom are connected to the rivers have dirty water during torrential rain. The Hon Minister noted that these are impending works for SWA; to connect all of Samoa to SWA's reservoirs rather than community water supply.*

**Hon TUILAEPALupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi- Govt Response**

*The Hon PM further elaborated on the Minister's comments - clean water supply is crucial; however, the maintenance of water is not 100% to ensure clean water is always supplied to the public. Hon PM spoke of the nature of man whereby although there is clean treated water available they will opt to use free untreated water. The Hon PM noted that water prices soar due to abuse of water i.e. (not reporting leakages to SWA). He further stated that it is good this matter has been raised in the Chamber so village Matais can hear about the detriments of consuming dirty water and perhaps change their mindset to enable their villages to have access to clean water and not rely on the Independent Water schemes which some are not safe for consumption.*

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:53am**

**Proceedings reconvened at 11:53am**

**FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi, MEMBER FOR SIUMU cont.'**

The Member continued by noting that the budget for the past years have been stable; acknowledged the Ministry for Revenue for all their efforts to collect taxes for the development of Samoa; acknowledged the Ministry for Finance for the managing of the government's fund. Acknowledged the opportunity given to our

people who have been employed overseas for work (Seasonal workers) it has benefited our economy and also families. Acknowledged the re-merge of the Police and Prisons services but urged the Ministry to establish a separate division tasked with effective monitoring of all entry ports to ensure illegal substances do not make its way into our economy.

**HON MINISTER TIALAVEA Tionisio Seigafolava Hunt, MINISTER OF CUSTOMS AND REVENUE- Govt response**

*In regards to Police fitness, the Hon Minister noted that there has been a revamp in their admission criteria: 17 weeks intensive fitness tests. In regards to Narcotics; the Hon Minister commended the Ministry of Police for intercepting shipment of narcotics which was hidden in plain sight (i.e.) in detergents, baby formulas.*

**FAALOGO Iosefa Sopi, MEMBER FOR SIUMU cont.'**

The Member continued by suggesting training more K9 dogs to assist the Police force with detection of these illegal products and seizing them before it is distributed around Samoa; acknowledged the MFAT for the Scholarship's schemes for Samoa, commended partners of these schemes; acknowledged the Samoa Land Corporation (SLC) their role as custodians of our lands; acknowledged them for remaining steadfast in the oversight of government lands of which some villages claim ownership of; acknowledged the Samoa Airways Company on the acquisition of the new plane; acknowledged the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration (MJCA) for the inception of the 3 bills which copped a lot of controversy & acknowledged them for remaining steadfast irrespective of criticisms.

The Member further expressed acknowledgement: Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (OCLA) custodians of lawmakers of the Independent State of Samoa, acknowledged all the work, seminars, allowances, drinks, foods, foreign affairs. Thank you for all capacity building activities and exposure to international platforms which has broadened our knowledge on parliamentary matters (political sphere); acknowledged the Executive arm of Government (PM & Cabinet) conveyed acknowledgement to the works for this Parliamentary term.

The member concluded by relaying his final requests- 4 more roads in his Constituency need construction.

**v. FAUMUINA ASI PAULI Wayne Fong, MEMBER FOR URBAN WEST**

The member for Urban West conveyed acknowledgement to the Speaker of the House; acknowledged the Hon PM for steering Samoa's ship for the past 5 years; acknowledged his constituency Urban West and acknowledge his new constituency

Faleata Number 2; acknowledged the Minister for Justice and commended on setting the precedent for immense changes implemented during the Parliamentary Term. The member acknowledged MWTI for the new road in his constituency; acknowledged the Minister for excellent financial; acknowledged the Minister of Education for the Vailoa school. The member expressed that he was pleased that the government's project to build a wharf at Vaiusu did not come to fruition.

**Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE- Govt Response**

*The Hon Minister responded to the Member's statement regarding the plan to construct a wharf at Vaiusu and explained that the plan came about as a solution to solve the current congestion at the Matautu wharf (i.e. meaning the wharf has reached its full capacity). He further explained that in the event that 3 container ships wish to dock and offload at the same time – at the moment the Matautu wharf cannot accommodate this as we do not have the space hence the development project for the Vaiusu wharf. The Minister noted that the benefits are immeasurable and in his opinion would benefit the member's constituency immensely.*

**Hon TUILAIPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi- Govt Response**

*Hon PM asserted that overseas consultants (engineer's opinion in 1972 - reported that the wharf in Vaiusu would possibly be the main wharf for Samoa in the future as ocean swells are too strong at the Matautu wharf and would impact vessels docked at this harbor. The Hon PM stressed that the current wharf at Matautu has reached full capacity. Moreover, he cited the ocean swell being a detriment to users of the Matautu wharf. He further elaborated that the consensus by consultants that Vaiusu wharf is the best option for vessels.*

*The Hon PM Samoa stated that there be more capacity to host more vessels, all of which will reap many economic benefits for Samoa and her people. The Hon PM made note of the foresight of our progenitors in inserting in the constitution which stipulate "ALL LANDS and SEA's are under the authority of the GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA". He assuaged claims that the ecosystems will be disrupted if this plan comes to fruition.*

*Furthermore, the Hon PM noted that the plan will be executed in phases all of which will be stated later. It is ludicrous if an individual does not see the immense benefits that this project can reap & stated that those whom cannot see this are short sighted.*

***There was no motion for extension; Clock striked 1:00pm and Parliament immediately closed for the next ensuing sitting.***

**Proceedings were adjourned at 12:50pm  
and will reconvene on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 9am.**