

**DISCLAIMER**

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Thursday 21<sup>st</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 **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

**9:21am**

**I. PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A total of 3 Committee reports were tabled (1 from Social Sector Committee; 1 from Infrastructure Sector Committee and 1 from Finance and Expenditure Committee).

**II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

**i. ILI Taateo Setefano, MEMBER FOR AANA ALOFI No. 2**

The Member for Aana Alofi No.1 commenced by addressing Samoa in her honorific salutations. Addressed the Head of State, Council of Deputies, Executive, Religious Denominations, America Samoa, Judiciary and Legislature. Acknowledged the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI) as he noted that he had seen that there is an appropriation in the Supplementary for the water supply of his constituency, of which he has requested before. He then acknowledged the work of frontliners, NEOC and MOH who have been holding out the virus long enough for a vaccination.

The Member acknowledged his constituency for their support, religious denominations for their prayers as he proceeded to undertake his role as a Member of Parliament. Acknowledged his constituency particularly Nofaalii & Leulumoega and conveyed his acknowledgement for the support afforded to him

& noted to his constituency that he had done his best to be the best representative that he could be.

The Member concluded by cautioning voters to not be swayed by promises that sound sweet to the ears but are implausible to achieve. The Member conveyed his support for the Supplementary Budget.

**ii. AMITUANAI Fagaivalu Kenrick Samoa, ASSOC. MINISTER FOR TOURISM & MEMBER FOR ALEIPATA ITUPA I LUGA**

The member commenced by acknowledging his fellow Parliamentarians and addressed Samoa in her honorific salutations. He then commended those who have worked together for a better future for Samoa. Conveyed sympathies to the family & constituency of the late Member for Lefaga & Faleseela- Toleafoa Ken Vaafusuaga Poutoa. Acknowledged the PM and Cabinet for developments undertaken during the past Parliamentary Term and the projects been done for his constituency. He acknowledged the impending plans for a new airport at Tiavi and stated that the project will certainly benefit its residents there.

He acknowledged the Committee whom were tasked with being the presiding officers for the 3 Bills which were controversial during its discussion. The Member conveyed support for the Government and highlighted all those contesting the elections are all under the banner of HRPP. Concluded by conveying acknowledgment to his constituency for affording him the honour of being their representative to Parliament.

**iii. SEIULI Ueligitone Seiuli, ASSOC. MINISTER FOR MWTI & MEMBER FOR SAGAGA-LE-USOGA**

The member for Sagaga-le-Usoga commenced with acknowledgement of Samoa's 3 arms of Government, the traditional authorities of Samoa and all their honorific salutations and acknowledged their support during this Parliamentary Term. He further acknowledged the Minister of Finance & their Ministry for excellent financial management which is reflected with Samoa's current financial standing irrespective of unforeseen market threat- i.e. Covid19.

The Member touched upon works implemented during the Parliamentary Term for his constituency: Roads at Afega Tai and Malie have been newly constructed. He then stated that if he is re-elected he would continue to execute more developments for the Constituency.

The Member concluded by replaying his apologies to his constituency if they deem his service insufficient & affirmed that he had tried to serve them to the best of his abilities. He conveyed them well on the elections and thanked the Parliamentary support service for their enduring work, Speaker for his patience throughout the term and wished him well on his retirement.

**iv. LEAANA Ronnie Posini, MEMBER FOR SAFATA WEST**

The Member acknowledged the Minister of Finance and his Ministry for excellent financial management skills. Acknowledged the Government for placing emphasis on Education: Free Secondary & Primary Education for all Government schools only. Acknowledged Government for the initiative for TVET scholarships. Acknowledged MESC for the initiative to take up the salaries for teachers of Government Schools, private & Missionary Schools.

He further pinpointed that overseas donors continuing to fund school buildings reflect the high level of trust they have for the Samoan Government. Acknowledged the Medical School in Samoa, OUM and Faculty of Medicine of NUS and noted that there is a potential for them to become the HUB of the Pacific for Medical studies. Noted that OUM's continuous involvement with Samoa is indicative of the trust they have for the Samoan Government.

The member then turned to acknowledge the refurbishment of Falelatai Hospital & Saanapu. He conveyed acknowledgement to the Minister of Works for the Saanapu Access Road, Sataoa Access Road upgrading in the pipelines in the Supplementary. He stated that he and the matai's of his constituency had visited the Minister of MNRE at the time in request of the construction of seawalls and stated again that this request be given a priority by the now Minister of MNRE.

**FIAME Naomi Mataafa, MEMBER FOR LOTOFAGA- Point of clarification**

*The Member for Lotofaga noted as per government policies; not all villages can be given Seawalls. The Hon Lady then stated that the Member for Safata's statement "the PM has noted that the seawalls will be rebuilt" goes against government policies.*

**Hon TUILAEPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Govt response**

*The Hon PM noted that the Member for Lotofaga is right that all seawalls cannot be erected for villages simultaneously due to finances. He cited the United States of America as an example; finance is limited and resources are finite. The Hon PM noted that he had taken heed of the Member for Safata's request for seawalls and affirmed that all constructions will be done according to the autonomy afforded by the budget.*

*He then recalled the formation of the policy for Government Appropriation for Education. In 1983, the late Tofilau Eti Alesana (Prime Minister at the time) posed the feasibility of appropriation of assistance to Missionary Schools, the Hon PM noted that the first appropriation at the time amounted to \$50,000. Which is miniscule compared to the 37 million appropriated for education at this time.*

*The Hon PM praised the foresight by the Late PM Tofilau & Le Mamea Ropati for the inception of the NUS of which was mocked for being a \$5-dollar University. He stated that he is not worried if anything happens in University's overseas such as was the case in Fiji USP, Samoa has the NUS to rely on for its students.*

*The Hon PM reiterated that HRPP implements developments with the thought of benefits reaped for future generation not developments that will benefit only a few and on a temporary basis. The Hon PM recalled his time living in Europe whereby he witnessed first-hand the importance of seawalls in Netherlands and only hope where finance is available can be implemented in the future in Samoa.*

**Proceedings were suspended at 11:01am**

**Proceedings resumed at 11:53am**

**Hon FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, MEMBER FOR PALAULI-LE-FALEFA-Point of order**

*The member stood on a point of order to clarify in regards to seawall funding. He recalled at his time of Minister of MNRE, he noted that Lotofaga's seawalls were erected and funded by the adaptation fund. The member noted that seawalls will not be erected on areas which hosts mangroves as they act as a natural seawall.*

*The adaptation program fund should be used to fund the construction of seawalls.*

**Hon TUILAEPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Govt response**

*The PM asserted that the Honorable Member from Palauli was correct however this was the practice during his tenure as the Minister of Natural Resources. The Hon PM recalled an overseas meeting which he attended whereby the Asian Development Bank (ADB) resolved to pledge funds to act as incentive to stem deforestation i.e. these funds were used at Falealupo and Tafua initiatives of deforestation at a certain period of time.*

**LEAANA Ronnie Posini, MEMBER FOR SAFATA WEST cont'**

*The Member continued his speech by explaining that he is only voicing out the queries relayed to him by his constituency. The member acknowledged the*

construction of the new bridge in his constituency. Acknowledged the pipeline dreams for a new road that connects Vaiala to Taumeasina Hotel for the convenience of users. He pointed towards the 3 controversial bills in which he was a member of the Committee that considered them and reassured the country that customary lands being leased out will come back to their ownership once lease is over. He gave an example of his family in Saanapu who leased out 15 acres of land to a company for a period of 30 years. As custodians they canceled the agreement after 20 years and the land immediately came back to its owners- implying that the worries and concerns of some members of the public is erroneous.

The member referred to the Ministry of Police and acknowledged the efforts by the Police to ensure that illegal firearms & narcotics are detained. Acknowledged the Ministry for placing their life on the line as per oath to ensure that Samoa remains safe. Acknowledged government for the Regional Scheme and noted that the rapport & trustworthiness of Government has resulted in the partnership. The member noted that families of his constituency have reaped immense economic benefits, of which they have utilised to lift their standards of living. The member acknowledged the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries for improving agricultural farming in rural areas such as in their Constituency, also mentioned that the banana type 'fa'i Isalaelu' does not grow well in their constituency but is still thankful that it grows well in other areas.

**SULAMANAIA Tauiliili Fetaiai Tuivasa, MEMBER FOR VAIMAUGA- point of clarification**

*The member refuted claims by the Member for Safata West in regards to the fai isalaelu by saying that it grows well in his constituency, in fact there is so much of its volume in his constituency that most bananas ripe so fast.*

**Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES & MEMBER FOR VAISIGANO No.1- Govt response**

*The Minister of MAF stated that there was a case where a container of bananas for exportation was not exported because the bananas were overly ripe and not in compliance with standards for exported bananas. The Minister assured that the government are now conscious of the banana plants to be planted in Samoa therefore, the Ministry are only looking at using our own to prevent any pest from entering into our country.*

*Hon Minister asserted that the majority of the banana farming community cannot meet the quality standards for exportation, noting that only the Tanumapua farm has met the required standard as these bananas plantations cost 30 to \$40,000 to maintain them within the country. Minister revealed that we still do not have enough bananas for export to NZ as the majority of farmers have let-go of harvesting this*

type of banana (Cavendish).

**LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3- point of clarification**

*During his reign as Minister of MAF, SACEP was rolled out. Research on what type of banana would grow well in Samoa was conducted. He corrected the Minister's statement, that the container he mentioned was not exported because of overly ripe bananas but the process of exportation was not followed. This curbed the commitment and dedication of farmers to grow more bananas.*

**Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES & MEMBER FOR VAISIGANO No.1- Govt response**

*The Minister responded that he was clarifying what actually happened. He then reverted to the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 that he would not have known the reasons for the non-export of the container of bananas as he was not in Cabinet discussion.*

**MULIPOLA LEIATAUA Laki- Member for Aiga-i-le-TAI**

*The Member sought to speak from the perspective of a Banana farmer himself. The Member affirmed that the Cavendish has market potential & the potential to expand. The Member noted the cons are it requires extra maintenance and called for Parliament and government to develop the local banana.*

**Hon TUILAIPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Govt response**

*Leader of Government noted that in March 2020, he had visited Israel so as to visit the origin place of the cavendish banana. The PM noted that Israels' farming technique of the cavendish requires a greenhouse to filter out the strength of the sun. The PM noted that israeli scientists affirmed that the Cavendish is not disease prone as is implied & noted that all bananas are prone to diseases.*

*After his travel overseas, the Hon PM, visited and observed local farmer's techniques for growing Banana's: it involves a labor intensive process whereby a tractor hoes up and softens the ground for bananas. The Banana plants are then grown close to each other to ensure that it does not get blown over by the wind. Basically, it is a labor intensive development and the export value per container of bananas is worth 30,000 tala. He then stated that the market is there and strategically we are in a good position to supply the Cavendish however; the supply does not meet the demand hence why NZ employs Phillipines & South America to supply Cavendish.*

**LEAANA Ronnie Posini, MEMBER FOR SAFATA WEST cont'**

The Member noted that he raised the matter to bring to light food security matters which may be a potential problem in this Covid era. He acknowledged the initiative of the Festival of Lights & its implementation is indicative of Samoa as a Christian nation. He touched upon the Constitutional amendments made during this Parliamentary Term: Samoa is founded on God the father the son & the Holy Spirit; the 3 Bills which recognize the authority of the Ali'i & Faipule only in matters pertaining to Lands & Titles. The Member reasserted that this provides a wider scope of autonomy in decision making for the Land and Titles court. The member stated that the Honorable Prime Minister was appointed by God to lead Samoa as you are a man of great resolve.

He concluded his speech by acknowledging the Ministers in Cabinet and their Associates, Speaker of the House and wished him good health. He addressed his Constituency, Safata West who are known in cultural history as a strong family and conveyed his sincere gratitude for their support during this Parliamentary Term.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:05pm  
and will reconvene on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at 9am.**