

**DISCLAIMER**

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**PART B**

**Day 27**  
**6:20pm**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

*Deputy Speaker took the Chair in the absence of Mr Speaker*

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**i. Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mu'a, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (cont.)**

The Minister continued his speech by touching on the work of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS) He noted that a number of products have been tested and developed at SROS which includes the production of fuel from Fetau (*Calophyllum samoensis*) and coconuts, whiskey from taro, avocado oil, gluten free flour developed from the breadfruit. The Minister noted that the intention was to build a factory that can mass produce these products and \$2,500,000 tala was appropriated to SROS to fund the factory that can do this. At the moment, the building has been constructed at Nafanua and will be called the Nafanua Pure Products limited (NPP)- the commercial arm of SROS.

The Minister noted that these discoveries were made by our very own local youth who were educated overseas through government scholarships. He also noted that

if all goes to plan there may be a chance that some would want to buy the company. SROS also has a machine used for testing the COVID vaccine- he recalled an instance where African swine fever had spread around the world and that this machine at SROS can also do testings for Swine flu, etc.

In regards to solar power, a battery is required to store energy and distribute power for later. The batteries are poisonous and need to be shipped back to their suppliers for safety. There is also an initiative by the Organisation to create our own battery that would not contain any poisonous chemicals but one that can be disposed of once used. Minister expressed his satisfaction and applauded the work of our youth.

**Hon TUILAEPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*The Hon PM wished to clarify further the reason of the establishment of the SROS and stated the risks of a country which its economy is reliant on agricultural products. He noted that overseas countries are strict with the exportation of agricultural products. He recalled that banana used to be exported however since the disease unfortunately this cannot be continued. Banana was in significant numbers in Samoa thus exported to New Zealand and earned at least billions of dollars for Samoa.*

*He explained that primary produce/exports are particularly difficult to export to other countries due to strict measures put in place. As a result of this, Government sought to establish SROS that can upgrade our primary products to become secondary products. A form by which we can dodge international standards for primary products. Now whiskey can be made out of taro and flour made from breadfruit and banana and cooking oil made from avocado. These secondary products will be ready for export soon.*

**Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mu'a, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (cont.)**

The Minister commended the Ministry of Finance for providing an allocation to fund SROS work which was more than \$2 million tala. In regards to the Cavendish banana, 400 acres of land was used by Charlie Ah Liki to plant the banana plantation. Approximately \$80,000 SAT is spent every year to maintain the plantation and the main reason why it is hard for any other farmer to plant this type of banana.

The Minister the addressed an advice by a fellow Member in saying 'keep advising its good, it can also affect you', the Minister then stated that his advice to his learned friend is use the advice in your party. The Minister made reference to his experience when he first started his portfolio as Minister for Agriculture and

Fisheries. Noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Government and a company (that was not named). The MOU was signed by his predecessor in 15 Aug 2017. Minister asked the CEO to explain the MOU and he responded that the MOU did not follow government process and was done by a lawyer outside government. He then recalled another instance where he received an email (government email) noting that an agreement was made that 60,000 acres of land be given in return for 350 million AUD with a commission of 2% (a total of 7 million AUS). The Minister then stated that he became concerned about our lands. Then called for Samoa to hear and pointed that these practices are corrupt.

The Minister then referred to lands in his Constituency (6,300 acres of land from Asau to Falelima) was sold by a man name Aokuso in 1966 to an European man by the name of Frank Cornwall. This now belongs to the Cornwall estate. To come into the constituency claiming that land will be given back to them once in government is utter blasphemy. Your promises will only cause conflict and differences in the constituency. He then stressed on the point 'to not make promises that you cannot keep'.

The Minister made reference to his travels overseas in New Zealand, 1981 and Germany and stated that before Berlin treaty was signed, at least 1,630,000 acres of land in Samoa was sold leaving only 683,000 acres of land to Samoa. The Minister said that looking at this, made him determined that something must be done to avoid this from happening again thus the recommendations of the Special Inquiry Committee (he was the Chairperson) on the reformation of the Land and Titles Court to protect our measina.

**Hon AFAMASAGA Lepuiai Rico Tupai, MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

*The Minister queried the Minister for MAF what predecessor meant and who is he referring to.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3**

*The member wishes to clarify what had been stated by the Minister, MAF.*

**Speaker's ruling**

**Mr Speaker informed the Member that his name was never mentioned in the Minister's speech therefore permission to clarify will not be granted to the member for Gagaifomauga No.3**

**Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mu'a, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (cont.)**

The Hon Minister addressed his constituency, from Asau to Vaisala in all its honorific salutations. Noted the renovation works done for the roads from Auala to Vaisala. Road to Utulua will be fixed in the upcoming projects this year. He then addressed the drop in the cost of water supply and expressed gratitude for this. The Minister thanked the Speaker for his hard work and wished him well in his retirement. Expressed sincere gratitude to the CEO's of the Ministry's under his stewardship for the hard work and urged them to do more great things for the betterment of Samoa.

**ii. Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH**

The Minister formally greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations and addressed the Head of State and his good lady, the Council of Deputy and his wife. Also greeted our neighbouring country Tutuila & Manu'a and all the religious leaders who pray for Samoa. Addressed the Speaker, the Leader of the House, the Cabinet, Associate ministers, the Judiciary and all the Members of Parliament in the House and the CEOs. Addressed the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly and thanked them for their unending service. She then addressed her constituency and thanked them for their prayers and constant support. Expressed gratitude towards the Hon PM and his leadership and believe that its God has blessed Samoa with the number of developments made for the betterment of our own people. Especially plans put in place to safeguard our country from Covid-19. Expressed gratitude for the confidence he has in her and her constituency to carry out the functions of the Office of the Minister for Health.

The Minister acknowledged the public servants and their efforts in ensuring government plans progress. Acknowledged our donors for their continuous financial support to fund developments for our country and this long partnership with our donors is an indication of good governance and a very trustworthy relationship. She then mentioned that she received a call from one of her constituents querying one of the manifestoes of the opposing members that they will distribute 1 million per constituency to fund developments; she then asked how such a promise can be kept.

**Hon TUILAIPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- point of clarification**

*Made reference to the Main Budget for the current Financial year and noted that expenses outweigh the revenue (127 million deficit). Hon PM then mentioned the promises made by the opposing members that once elected into Government they will*

*distribute the income, and posed the rhetoric, as how can you distribute a deficit? - this is misleading in its finest form.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA**

*We own the words, please give us the chance to explain our manifesto. We will not tell you where we will get the money to make the distribution possible.*

**Proceedings were suspended at 7:58pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 8:43pm**

**Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, MINISTER FOR WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE- Point of clarification**

*The Minister wish to stand on a point of clarification. Noted that during his time as a Minister for Finance, there was also a deficit noted in the supplementary but clarified that this does not mean the government is bankrupt as perceived by most people. He then differentiated between deficit and loss because they are two different terms. Hon PAPALII accentuated that how can such a party run the affairs of the nation when they do not understand the basics, and how to make the millions which they have pledged to distribute to each constituency.*

**Hon ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau, MEMBER FOR ALATAUA WEST**

*The Member spoke from her hat as Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and clarified that there is a difference between Estimates and Actuals. She then went on to note the different revenues and expenditures recorded from previous Financial Years. She then asked the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 to clarify his statement that government is facing a loss/deficit of 100 million.*

**Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO Leuatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA**

*Asserted that the FAST party will reform the financial institution of Samoa. Asserted again that the Hon PM had no experience in running a business.*

**Hon TUILAEPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*My business is running the operations of this nation and in doing so, allowing you and Peseta to run your businesses, the one which led you to take 3million.*

**Mr Speaker**

**Ruled for the Members to remove from speaking on the deficit issue.**

**Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH cont.**

Hon Minister continued to express gratitude to her constituency for the privilege to represent their interests in Parliament. Acknowledged the PM and the government for the many developments in the country. Commended the Hon Minister for Women, TUITAMA and his Ministry for initiating its District Development Programme as her constituency have finalised and submitted their DDP for developments for her constituency.

Noted the good partnership with Japan that gave her constituency fund for the development of its' school building. Expressed thanks to the Ministry of Works for the road projects completed and on-going in her constituency. Acknowledged ongoing project for the road at Safotu towards the Matavanu (volcanic mountain) that is nearing its last phase. Expressed thanks for the implementation of the clam conserve and marine life developments, additionally the Hon Minister acknowledged the MAF for distributing crops to assist farmers with their plantations. Addressed the helpful equipment that they have received to make the village life easier in planting and fishing (new buoys have been installed to help the fishermen). Acknowledged appreciation on the increase of our peoples' cattle and chicken farms where we can rely on in the future.

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*The Hon PM noted the difficulties faced by foreign nations in regards to limited space and limited resources (such as water and essentials) - yet Samoa is fortunate to have multiple resources, enough lands to harvest crops, oceans to fish. Samoa is a blessed nation - lucky are we to have been chosen to live in such a country.*

**Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH cont.**

The Minister commended the RSE programme conducted by MCIL as it has provided benefits for families within her constituency. A total of 37 members of her constituency have been afforded the opportunity and have left for seasonal employment, while 17 are currently in the process of leaving. Noted increase of income earning of the families within her constituency; new family homes in the village, home renovations and many new cars all because of the RSE scheme, it has improved the standard of living of our people.

The Hon Minister also conveyed thanks and acknowledgement for the doctor stationed at the Safotu clinic as it is convenient and easily accessible to conduct medical check-up and receive treatment; was also grateful for the appropriation from the World Bank to establish new housing arrangements for doctors stationed in respective clinics. Noted on the issues brought forward toward the district

hospital such as: broken doors and beds, no medicine and no doctor. Highlighted that the Parliament have passed several legislation during this parliamentary term but heavily supports the amendment made to the Constitution to incorporate Christianity - Samoa is founded on God in the preamble. Noted the improvement in the services provided by MCIT, phone signals have been improved and other services provided.

**OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, MEMBER FOR SALEGA EAST**

*Suggested for the Minister to speak on the works of her Ministry.*

**Hon TUILAEPa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*Supported the statement by the member and urged his Minister to speak on the works of her Ministry.*

**Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH cont.**

The Minister acknowledged the suggestions by the Prime Minister and member for Salega East. She then averted to responding to issues raised by Members. She quoted the theme for SDS 17-20 'Accelerating Sustainable Development and Broadening Opportunities for All' and accentuated that the Ministry's goals are in alignment to this theme. Noted the importance of the Ministry of Health in dealing with the health needs of the nation hence Government prioritising this Ministry.

Noted that four (4) legislation guide the work and operations of the Ministry of Health:

- a. Ministry of Health Act 2006;
- b. National Service Health Act - repealed
- c. National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Act 2005; and
- d. Health Ordinance 1959.

The Hon Minister further noted legislation and subsidiary legislation which regulate the operations of the Ministry:

- Food Safety Standards Regulation 2015;
- Tobacco Control Act 2008;
- Mental Health Act 2007;
- Nursing and Midwifery Act 2007;
- Dental Practitioners Act 2007;
- Pharmacy Act 2007;
- Medical Practitioners Act 2007 and many others.

The Hon Minister noted that these legislations guide the Ministry with the overall performance of its operations.

Noted completed projects during this Parliamentary term:

- Immunisation injection policy;
- National overseas medical scheme 2019 (which provides for the overseas referral of patients who cannot be treated locally);
- Integrated Community Health Approach program 2018;
- HIV Aids policy.

**Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa, MEMBER FOR LOTOFAGA**

*Noted that the Minister is currently reading out the legislations which guide and mandate the operations of the Ministry and queried whether she will elaborate on what these legislations and guidelines are and whether it is effective or otherwise.*

*She then stated that if the Minister is only listing the legislations but does not wish to elaborate on each legislation then what use is it. Urges the Minister to clarify what these legislations are.*

**Hon TUILAIPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER**

*Acknowledged the Member for her question, as she was seated in Cabinet all these years and did not think to query the policy for immunization.*

**Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Iemaima Stowers, MINISTER OF HEALTH cont.**

The Minister stated that Government has also mandated the immunization of all children and enforced in schools, as students are expected to provide immunization records upon registration into any school.

**Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa, MEMBER FOR LOTOFAGA**

*The member again reiterated red flags prior to measles and stated that in March 2019, the recommendation was made by the commission for mass vaccination yet the Ministry did not take heed of this, yet it costed the lives of 83 babies before the mass vaccination was implemented.*

**Hon TUILAIPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Point of clarification**

*The Hon PM asserted that the Commission report came in during the time when the Member for Lotofaga was seated in Cabinet, yet did not think to query during Cabinet meetings. Hon PM stated that the Member who raised the question, is well aware of the response to the question as she was in Cabinet at the time.*



**Mr Speaker**

**Government has already clarified on the matter and the report has provided its findings, what more does the Member for Lotofaga want from the Government?**

**Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa, MEMBER FOR LOTOFAGA**

*The member queried why the Government did not go with the resolution to enforce immunisation? As the PM mentioned that there were mothers that were hesitant to take their children for immunisation which the government does not have the authority to enforce immunization given the incident that happened when two children died from the immunisation injection. She believes that if the government were quick to enforce the immunisation we wouldn't lose many of our children during the measles outbreak.*

**Hon TUILAEPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Point of clarification**

*The PM noted findings from the report that recorded 2,500 refused to immunize. Mentioned that this amount included parents and children who travelled to New Zealand to receive immunization as the confidence in our local vaccines was lost, and those who were considered as antivaxers during the mass vaccination initiative.*

**Hon GATOLOAIFAANA Amataga Alesana- Gidlow, MEMBER FOR FAASALELEAGA No.1**

*Chairperson of the Social Sector Committee who was the Committee who considered the Measles Report and asserted that there is no point in dwelling in the past and pointing fingers to see who is at fault (no point fault finding) however we must take the lesson learned from this tragedy and improve our systems, procedures by reviewing existing guidelines and policies to ensure the future is safe for our people. Mentioned that recommendations made in the committee report and urged the Ministry to follow through.*

**Mr Speaker**

**Mr Speaker advised the Member for Lotofaga that the Government has already responded and clarified on the matter. Mentioned the response of the Committee Chair which provided an important point to look to the future and asked to conclude with discussing the issue.**

**Proceedings were adjourned at 10:11 pm  
Parliament will again reconvene at Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 9am.**