

**DISCLAIMER**

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**PART A**

**Day 28**  
**9:20am**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**I. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

2 Papers were presented to Parliament:

1. SR 2021/6, Alcohol Control Act 2020 – Notice of Commencement; and
2. SR 2021/7, Notice of Amendment to the National Building Code of Samoa 2017 and Notice of Commencement.

**II. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Hon TUILAIPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Ministerial Statement**

The Hon PM greeted the House and the public listening in. Greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations, acknowledged different clergies in Samoa.

He noted that we are nearing the end of Government responses and then progress through the consideration in detail stage of the Bill before preparing to dissolving Parliament. Reiterated that some Ministers have been able to clarify on issues put forth by Members and as witnessed at last night's sitting I advised the Minister for Health to only speak on matters regarding her Ministry and wish for the remaining Ministers that have

yet responded to do the same. Highlighted that this is his 9th Parliamentary Term (from when parliamentary term was only 3 years) which is an indication that he has enough experience and knowledge on parliamentary procedures. The PM stated that the tradition and culture of our country, when it is time to serve the food, the matai (chiefs) would always say 'pupula faalelei mata'/ 'ensure that you observe wisely' and this can be applied here, when it is time to clarify on matters that needs to be clarified, I would not hesitate to air what is right and true about the work of this Government. If I have raised my voice, it is because I need to do my job and clarify matters so that this nation understands the good intention of the Government.

Noted that there were inappropriate words used in the previous years during Parliamentary session but conveyed his apologies if anyone gets offended when he does the same. He believes speaking in simple language (gagana tusao) will simplify any misunderstanding on a matter. Also stated that Alii and Faipule of all villages are seen as police officers for the villages, they enforce village rules so that respect is practiced and to protect village people, their culture and our traditions. Also stated that if you want to learn and be an expert, sit in village meetings together with the Matai (Chiefs). The PM commended that there were countless times the matter regarding the measles have been clarified either by the previous Minister of Health, Hon Tuitama, myself and Salausa (because they have the knowledge to understand the processes etc.) and still some people do not want to understand.

Highlighted that God gave us 'conscious' to know wrong from right and posed the rhetoric, who is Government? We are all government, the people of Samoa is part and parcel of the government; Hon Minister iterated that all Samoans work to further the interest of Samoa, so for one to demean or accuse Government of unsubstantiated allegations, this is demeaning your own self. Emphasised that GDP is Gross Domestic Profit or Gross Domestic Product which reflects the collective work done by everyone (our people) for the development of our country. Noted that there are constant factors which affect the growth of the economy. The Hon PM commented on a statement that was made by the Minister of MAF in his speech during last nights' sitting whereby an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed without due process being followed and recalled the period when HRPP was elected to Government in 1983 when the late Hon Tofilau who was the PM at the time, selected him as Minister of Finance, and the Ministry of Agriculture at that time came to see him and notified him of an MOU agreement which was sent from an overseas company – the Hon PM knew the usual process to ensure the dignity of Government was upheld and to avoid Samoa from any potential liabilities from foreign partners. He advised the Minister at the time to prepare a submission notifying the Cabinet of this MOU and assess the genuinity of the terms of the MOU. Hence the foundation of this important procedure to seek advice and research from relevant authority to ensure any MOU is genuine - heightening the need for reports from CEO's for advice/recommendation before a decision is made. Hon PM noted that those employed in the Ministry of Finance have

acquired the skills and knowledge to decipher the genuinity of MOU's as they have dealt with numerous correspondence with foreign partners. Therefore, iterating his point that Samoa's government is made up of collective effort from all its people- "o le sa a Samoa e fau tele".

The Hon PM then spoke on the measles outbreak which was raised during last night's sitting and asserted that we must consider the setup at the time the outbreak occurred. Hon PM then touched upon the recommendation to separate the National Health Services and Ministry of Health in 2006. The reason why there was a separation in 2006, was because after multiple Commission of Inquires the result would always come back to this model, (following NZ set up whereby administration of Heath Ministry is separated from the medical side). Noted that another Commission of Inquiry was formulated to investigate the incident that occurred in Savaii in 2018 (MMR vaccination that killed two infants). There were articles on different channels of media opposing vaccination but disregarding the medical officers enforcing the public to get their children vaccinated. Most people would say to turn to God instead of getting vaccinated but PM emphasised that God also made doctors to take care of our health. Further noted that there were families who would rather use natural remedies with hope to cure measles instead of getting the vaccine ever since the incident in Savaii. Hon PM noted that Samoa would probably be the first nation from the UN issuing that it has "closed down" to ensure the nationwide vaccination for measles was conducted - noting that all public servants and government officials were advised to ensure every Samoan was vaccinated. After the nationwide vaccination was conducted, the follow up assessment was conducted and findings showed that 2,500 citizens in Savaii refused to receive the MMR vaccine due to the fear that was instigated from the incident of the death of two infants. Mr Prime Minister then acknowledged the frontline workers with all their efforts during the MMR vaccination for the country. He turned to those who often criticise government for the measles epidemic and stated that before you point your finger to judge others, one finger is pointing at you which means, look at yourself first before you judge others. Hon Prime Minister stated that when you ship out of Cabinet (on your own free will) and throw stones, pointing your finger to Cabinet decisions while you were seated there yourself, know that you have broken the golden rule for all Cabinet's - you have forgotten your role and your oath- '*ua galo ia te oe lou tiute ma lou tautoga*'. Emphasised that there is a principle which guides all Cabinet's work, and asserted that it is the principle of collective responsibility and honesty.

#### **MOTION TO TABLE THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development moved a motion to table the Hon Prime Minister's Ministerial statement.

**Seconded and approved.**

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

Noted that the reason for the establishment of NHS in 2006 was to be responsible for clinical services only and highlighted it was under its administration when the incident occurred in Savaii, 2018.

The Hon Minister noted that the regulatory and monitoring was the role of the Ministry while the NHS was a services provider and during the (EPI) Extended Program Immunisation it was under the NHS.

**Mr Speaker**

**Speaker again urged the Minister to speak on matters that were not spoke on yet.**

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:34am**

**Proceedings resumed at 11:11am**

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

The Minister continued by listing out work completed and ongoing during the Parliamentary term.

- Established and reviewed guidelines and laws that guide the work of the Health;
- Health Program Advisory Committee established;
- Prosthetic Building in construction;
- Renovations for the Malietoa Tanumafili Hospital in Tuasivi;
- Construction of the Pharmarceutical Warehouse;
- Primary Health Care Centre that caters to the public, anticipated to accommodate 60 machines for Kidney foundation. At the moment only 22 machines are utilized at the NKF;
- Improved services/machines (boiler systems), procurement of machines for the eyes is in the pipeline;
- Primary Health care services and Public Health Care services to collaborate in ensuring health promotion;
- Doctors distributed to all district hospitals- major milestone for this parliamentary term. This is to encourage residents to use their district hospitals instead of travelling to the main hospital;
- Health Professional Councils established (includes council of dentals, council of Doctors, Council of Nurses and etc.);

- Since the merge, our own people are working together to ensure a smooth merge- by collaborating with consultants from MOF, PSC, etc instead of paying for overseas consultants;
- Capacity Building programmes for the staff were conducted;
- Promote and strengthen MOH collaboration with its partners not only donors but those local incl. private sectors, religious organisations, etc.;
- Another programme (PEN Faasamoa) where the Ministry works in collaboration with WHO; this has 3 main pillars; early detection of NCDs, NCD management and increased community awareness and assists with educating locals in the basic health check such as (checking diabetes and NCDs.);
- Agreement signed with the Republic of China in 2008 to render its medical doctors to Samoa for assistance;
- Main focus that took most of the Ministry's time these past two years is the protection of Samoa from covid-19.

The Hon Minister took the opportunity to convey thanks to the Government for the funds to further improve its services. Thanked Samoa for their support to the services. Greeted her constituency and her honorific salutations; acknowledged the different denominations leaders within her constituency; acknowledged each village in her constituency and its honorific salutations and asked forgiveness regardless of her services offered; acknowledge the retirees from Parliament, the different Committees, Members of Parliament, CEO and all public servants for their services and serving the country with immense commitment. Acknowledged his Associate Minister Tofa Foleni and his support and hard work in assisting her with their responsibilities. Finally conveyed gratitude and well wishes to her family and loved ones.

ii. **Hon TIALAVEA Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt, MINISTER FOR CUSTOMS AND REVENUE, MINISTRY OF POLICE & PRISION CORRECTIONS**

The Minister noted that he wishes to respond on queries towards the Ministries under his portfolio. He acknowledged his constituency for their support and prayers as he represented the constituency for Vaa o Fonoti this Parliamentary term. Acknowledged the clergy for their encouragement and advice which pushed him to execute his duties as Minister.

Greeted his constituency in its honorific salutation and thanked them for their support and having faith in him by electing him to be their Member. Conveyed apologies to his constituency if the development works have not been complete

and their wants were not met during his time, noting that the next representative will continue to see these requests to fruition.

Hon Minister declared his official farewell to his Vaa o Fonoti constituency as he will run from the Anoamaa constituency in the next general elections. Hon Minister then spoke on the Ministries under his portfolio:

- **Ministry of Police & Prison Corrections**

Addressed the Head of State, Council of Deputy, Speaker, Leader of the House, Cabinet and Members of Parliament and Members of the Judiciary. Addressed Samoa in all her honorific salutations.

Conveyed sympathies to the wife and child of the late Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela, Afioga VAAFUSUAGA Toleafoa Ken Poutoa; and also offered condolences to the Member for Faleata West, Afioga LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi on the passing away of his mother. Acknowledged the whole of Samoa with their support for the Ministry of Police in regards to their duties and roles ensuring the safety of the public.

Noted that on 1 July 2016 he was assigned as the Minister for the Prisons Corrections Services and Rehabilitation and Soalo Mene as the Associate Minister, which was recently separated from the Ministry of Police in 2014. Hon Minister noted three main prisons in Samoa at the beginning of his reign as a Minister of Prisons and Correctional services; Tafaigata Prison which houses most of the prisoners from all over Samoa, Vaiaata in Savaii, and Oloamanu for Juveniles. Noted that the Act stipulates the functions of the Prison Services which are notably complex and challenging. He then went on to list some of the Ministry's milestones:

- Noted that the prison was a full house during his visit at the Tafaigata Prison which was why he recommended for a larger building to house the prisoners and concluded that they had to work on the new prison building. The Cabinet approved the proposal and rendered 550 acres of land for the new Prison;
- Regulations were then prepared to guide the managing of prisoners. This was due to the fact about 70% (approx. 600) of prisoners were on parole thus the need to review its regulations;
- Corporate Plan for the years 2016 to 2020 was drafted;
- An Operation Manual was drafted to guide procedures;
- An agreement was signed between the Prisons Services and the Government of New Zealand in regards to information/capacity sharing on managing prisons;

- Establish rehabilitation programmes for prisoners;

Noted that in 2016, the following was recorded:

Number of employees: 80 (30 females and 50 male); Number of prisoners housed: 629; number of rehabilitation programmes rolled out:31;

*Speaker interrupted the Minister's speech as it was time for Parliament to adjourn. Asserted that he would continue his speech in the afternoon session.*

**Proceedings were adjourned at 12:07pm  
Parliament will again reconvene at 6pm.**