

**DISCLAIMER**

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Wednesday 27<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 **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**Day 6**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Pursuant to Standing Order 18; *In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, NAFOITOA Talaimanu Ketu took the Chair and presided over the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.*

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

**i. LENATAI Victor Tamapua – Member for Vaimauga West & Associate Minister for Customs and Revenue**

The Member commenced by acknowledgment for the Chamber and all its honourable Members. Afioga Lenatai notified Mr Speaker of his personal commitments which he has to tend to later on in the day and sought the Speakers approval. The Member accentuated his point for flooding and pointed out that yesterday where flooding was evident in his constituency as a result of rainfall for a small period of time confirms his point.

**• Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM called for the respective Chief Executive Officers responsible for the drainage issue raised by the Member (LTA and MNRE). The PM noted that there is USD\$100 million in grants which has been set aside for the rehabilitation project for the Roads, bridges and drainage installation in town areas to ameliorate the effects of flooding. The PM reminded the heads of government of their roles as the arms and legs of governments & dispelled erroneous claims issued by certain members which paint the PM as a dictator. The PM reminded the Members that seated in this Chamber are the chosen leaders of Samoa.*

**LENATAI Victor Tamapua – Member for Vaimauga West & Associate Minister for Customs and Revenue (cont.)**

The Member acknowledged the heads of government Ministries and SOE's in their role to develop Samoa. The Member acknowledged the Constituency for affording him the honour of being their Representative and conveyed apologies if his service was not up to standard. The Member affirmed that he had done his best to be the best spokesperson he could be. The Member acknowledged the changing of Electoral Borders & noted that Vaimauga will now house 3 MP's in the next Parliamentary Term.

- **Hon Prime Minister – Point of Clarification**

*The PM elaborated that the altering of the Electoral Borders was to ensure fair representation in terms of ratio of MP to Constituents. The PM reiterated that the amendment does not change the traditional honorific salutations of the constituency. Furthermore, the PM reminded the House that voting is a Western practice hence the need to ensure that the process is at an optimal state.*

- **Hon. PAPALIITELE Tapunuu Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works Transport and Infrastructure**

*The Hon Minister sought to clarify that the new border reshuffling repeals the names of Vaimauga West or Vaimauga East and substitutes with Vaimauga No.1, Vaimauga No.2 and so forth.*

**MR SPEAKER – POINT OF ORDER**

As per standing orders, the Speaker noted that the Member is required to inform the Speaker of what the member wishes to speak on.

- **Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi- GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3**

*The Member pointed out that Vaimauga has 3 seats while one seat has been removed from Savaii.*

**Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM refuted claims by the PM and stated that he was appalled at the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 not being able to comprehend the amendment. Hon PM*

*refuted claims by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 that one seat from Savaii has been removed.*

**MR SPEAKER- POINT OF ORDER**

**The Hon Speaker gave his ruling pursuant to S.O 78 (8) “No Member may speak on any question after the same has been finally put by the Speaker or Chairperson...” Members are to refrain from speaking on bills that have been passed.**

- **Minister for Works and Transport Infrastructure- PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang**  
*The Hon Minister refuted erroneous claims issued by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 stating that Vaimauga has an extra seat while Savaii has 1 removed.*

**LENATAI Victor Tamapua – Member for Vaimauga West & Associate Minister for Customs and Revenue (cont.)**

The Member concluded by acknowledging his constituency and conveyed well wishes.

**ii. SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuiliili Tuivasa - Member for Vaimauga East**

The Member acknowledged the three (3) arms of Government; The Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, Religious Denominations and his constituency. The Member recalled the chant issued by Mautietieitalaga calling for strength from his God "Papa" and likened it to Samoa seeking strength from the Omnipotent – One true GOD. He then addressed Vaimauga in her honorific salutations, the traditional meeting places of the Tuisamau. Afioga Sulamanaia acknowledged his calling in different Committees in Parliament (Social Committee & the Special Committee). He acknowledged the 11 Ministries whom he has worked with for the past 5 years. Conveyed gratitude for selecting him to be part of these Committees.

The Member noted being overcome with emotion upon reading the deliberations of the Constitution Drafting in 1960 Furthermore, the Member acknowledged being humbled to part of the Parliamentary term which fulfils the recognition of Samoa Customs and Culture. The Member acknowledged being Part of the Parliamentary Term which recognised God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Constitution. He noted that there have been 122 Bills passed during this Parliamentary Term and stated that this is evidence of a Parliament that seeks a better life for Samoa.

He then addressed the following Ministries:

- *Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure*

The Member called for roads rehabilitation at Vaialele.

- *Ministry of Finance*

The Member requested to review the salaries for Pulenu'u. He posed the feasibility of a bonus. The Member reminded the House that the Village Council is the backbone for Law and Order in villages, constituencies and promotes peaceful communities in Samoa. Afioga Sulamanaia expressed sincere gratitude to the hard working PM for his forbearance of the challenges and hardships of his role as the Leader of the nation; furthermore, for all the projects that he approved and accepted for the betterment of his Constituency and for all the numerous developments in Samoa.

The Member again raised the deteriorating state of the road opposite golf course at Vaialele and Fagalii, and the road leading to the area.

**Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM affirmed that Climate Change is an impending Natural calamity and is a matter of national security for the World which poses a great threat to life. Even greater than Covid itself. The PM raised the attention of the House to the Adelaide bushfires as seen on the news and noted that the ramifications of Climate Change are of an unprecedented magnitude. Global Warming is the fuel for natural Calamities i.e Tsunamis, Tornadoes, Flooding. He then called to halt deforestation and noted that they play an important role in ecosystem stability. The PM called for Members to observe and honor the Sabbath and refuted calls by Members calling to open stores on Sunday.*

**Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa - Member for Vaimauga East (cont.)**

The Member acknowledged the Minister of Public Enterprise (Lands) for instilling their matai's as the custodians of the lands. He also mentioned the increase in settlement for the Mauga Fiafia area.

**Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM recalled an incident whereby he had approved a portion of land from Vaialele for plantation purposes for one individual; of which he then had to approve for the others who followed suit. The PM elaborated on the challenges of issuing government*

*lands for plantations and settlement. It is a sensitive issue, which is a challenge for Samoa Land Commission.*

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:58am**

**Proceedings resumed at 11:43am**

**Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa - Member for Vaimauga East (cont.)**

The Member continued his speech by acknowledging the NEOC and all their efforts to keep Samoa Covid free.

- **OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Member for Salega East**

*The Member noted that Vaitele land has been privatised and sold.*

**Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM clarified that the reason for privatization was due to TUPUA TAMASESE Titimaea selling off Vaitele during the civil war hence the privatisation of these lands. In Alafua Mataia the High Chief of Vaimoso & Vaitele sold off Alafua to be privatised. He noted that in 1930 & 1960 Vaitele has sought to commence Land Titles proceedings to reclaim these lands that have been sold off.*

*The PM stated that he is used to Olo utilizing dirty tactics to rouse up the public. The PM recalled that conflicts arose when the construction of the Tuanaimoto Sports Complex was executed. The PM recalled that conflicts arose when the construction of the Tuanaimoto Sports Complex was executed. The PM noted that he sought to clarify the erroneous claims issued by the independent Members aimed at rousing the public for political gain.*

**SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga East (cont.)**

The Member commended the Heads of NEOC (MPMC & MOH); spoke to his constituency and acknowledged that the seawalls requested are now in the implementation phase. Concluded by noting that his constituency houses prestigious members of the community; many CEO's, well known sportsman, lawyer. He then acknowledged the Member for Faleaulupo as a survivor from the drafting of the Constitution of Samoa.

The Member brought to light Article 102 which stipulates safeguarding of the sale of customary land. The Member expressed pride & humility in partaking in the 16th Parliamentary term which further strengthened the Samoan culture. The reinstatement of the President of the Land and Titles Court.

- **Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa, Member for Lotofaga**

*The Hon Member clarified that HRPP houses the majority and therefore it is redundant.*

### **Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM clarified that there are many underlying variables which can influence the Members to vote. Further clarified that the votes were 20 for and 18 against therefore the 2/3rds were not met hence technically the government did win. However, due to their not being a 2/3rds majority the motion was rejected.*

### **SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Taviliili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga East (cont.)**

The Member acknowledged the Heads of Ministries and SOE's for their role in ensuring Samoa progresses. The Member concluded by addressing his Constituency in her honorific salutations.

### **iii. AUMUA Isaia Lameko - Member for Falealilli West**

The Member commenced by conveying sympathies for the late Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Poutoa & addressing Samoa in her honorific salutations. He greeted the 3 arms of government and all religious denominations housed by his constituency. Acknowledged the support of his constituency during the duration of the Parliamentary Term. He then delved into the budget;

*“When tomorrow is blessed remember today” – “A manuia taeao, manatua lé asó”*

The Member mentioned the access road for Sapunaoa which was rehabilitated in the 14<sup>th</sup> parliamentary term. The member requested that water pipes to be laid through the new Sapunaoa road that was cleared out by Mr Bismarck Tamati and it is regarded as the main road for transportation of taro to supply the exportation of frozen taro project.

The Member then requested to tar seal the access road at Piu [a subvillage of Sapunaoa], where the government water reservoir is located and further

requested a bridge so that Sapunaoa is more accessible. The member stated that a rhinoceros' beetle program has successfully been completed back in the villages, and thanked the Ministry for resources that was used (chainsaws). His village also was included in the stimulus package whereby they were given coconut trees for re-planting

**Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM interjected the Member's speech by stating that a renewable energy project was implemented in Piu. The renewable energy project implemented in Piu is where garden weeds, Merrimia vine and invasive species produce biogas energy. He queried the member how is the situation at Piu now.*

**AUMUA Isaia Lameko - Member for Falealilli West (cont.)**

The member confirmed that Piu is being powered by the renewable energy and not by government source. The project has been beneficial to its residencies. Only requested that the road to Piu be tarred as it is still dirt road.

**Hon PRIME MINISTER – Point of Clarification**

*The PM then sought the member to pinpoint the whereabouts of the road requested as Falealili is a big constituency. He clarified that there are differing levels of assistance; i) Village at the grassroots level, ii) Constituency and (iii) national level. He then noted that Government usually seeks for benefits nationally.*

**AUMUA Isaia Lameko - Member for Falealilli West (cont.)**

The member then acknowledged the CSSP for works enabling access to schools and residencies in his constituency; in the village of Satalo he recalled due to the Tsunami in 2009 it led to the increase of residents fleeing to higher grounds forming an access road to where they now live. He requested that the access road be maintained for easier access of residents there.

He further acknowledged the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for chainsaws that help them eradicate the rhinoceros beetle for the village of Malaemalu and also noted that they had requested drainage for the access road of the village. The villages Sapunaoa, Salailua and Vaovai acknowledges the assistance rendered by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC).

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:09pm  
Parliament will again reconvene on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 9am.**