

**DISCLAIMER**

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Friday 20 January 2023**. 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 **Friday 20 January 2023**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**DAY 4**

**9:28am**

- **GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY - Reading of Bills**

**1. Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2022/2023 – debate on second reading (cont.)**

**i. Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West**

The Member greeted the House, the Almighty for His continuous guidance and protection, and Samoa in all her honorific salutations. She then pinpoint on the following matters provided in the tabled supplementary:

- **Supplementary – Ministry of Finance**

The Member stated that the supplementary presents that \$6.6 million is allocated for revenue and \$4 million is appropriated for major development work of the Government. This is an indication that there's no allocation specifically for any developments for each constituency. She further commended the Hon Minister for Finance for complying to relevant policies in compiling the tabled supplementary.

- **Public Service Commission (PSC)**

The Member raised a concern on ceasing the recruitment process for positions as advertised as this will not achieve the policy to pay for employees and public servants. However, she asserted that she supports the Review but urged the Government to continue the process of recruitment as she believes that this will pose more challenges if we freeze employment opportunities.

**Afioga Hon TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio – Minister for Customs and Revenue and Acting Minister for PSC.**

The Hon Minister corrected his statement made in the previous parliament sitting where he stated that 80% of the budget is appropriate to public servants income but emphasized that this can be further clarified by the Hon Minister for Finance. He further asserted that he believes that about 39-40% in the main budget is appropriated for employee's salaries but clarified that the Review in progress is to review organization structures of each Government Ministries for a short period of time.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West (conts).**

- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

The Member then put emphasis on the importance of prioritizing our children's education as in any other countries. She also urged the need to improve the skills and knowledge for our teachers in order to ensure that we have the best for this sector. She then urged the Government to seek foreign financial support for the National University of Samoa (NUS) to allocate funds for the capacity building for teachers at the University. She also requested for more opportunities for students to seek opportunities to further their studies on special courses abroad.

The Member for Alataua West then asserted that ever since she became a Member, she noticed that there will always be a remaining allocation from Government Scholarships scheme from each Financial Year. In this regard, she suggested whether it's possible to utilize these unused funds to assist students who are unable to pay for their school fees as this is one of the reasons why other children are unable to reach at a higher level of education. She then commended the University of the South Pacific (USP) for offering a degree for a Bachelor of Engineering and suggested to allocate the aforementioned remaining funds for this programme.

*(Note: the Member for Alataua West stated that NUS offers the Bachelor of Engineering (BoE) but was corrected by the Hon Minister for MWTI, Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai that it is the University of the South Pacific that offers the degree for BoE not NUS).*

In reference to the selection process of Scholarships overseas, she perceived that this has been dominantly conducted by our foreign partners such as New Zealand and Australia which has limited Samoa's voice in this process. She then urged the Government to claim its place in this process. She further suggested for the NUS to form a partnership with overseas Universities (NZ & Australia) to ensure our students are able to further their education in foreign universities.

**Tofa Hon TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster – Minister for Natural Resources and Environment**

The Hon Minister sought clarification from the Member for Alataua West on her allegations regarding Cabinet Members children who benefits in getting scholarships overseas as this may mislead the public listening in.

**Afioga Hon LOAU Solamalemalo Keneti Sio – Member for Sagaga 1**

The Hon Member clarified that the partnership with the NUS and overseas Universities has been established a while ago and emphasized that the financial support from overseas for Scholarships is primarily authorized by the donors. He further accentuated that the allocations from Australia and NZ have their own policies in place which we have no control over.

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West (cont).**

The Member for Alataua West asserted that her statements were based on speculations she heard regarding the selection process of Scholarships overseas.

*Mr Speaker cautioned the Member to refrain from making statements based on rumours as they are not certain.*

**Tofa Hon TUUU Anasii Leota – Member for Siumu**

The Hon Member speculated that he perceived that the overseas Government may have taken over the process of scholarships because Samoa has no voice in the process. He then queried on the cause why NZ and Australia has taken over the process but not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

**Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Moti Momoemausu Alofa Tuuau, Member for Alataua West (cont).**

The Member for Alataua West responded that the query posed by the Member for Siumu will be clarified by the responsible Minister as this is also her query. The Member then touched on the Commonwealth Leaders Convention that Samoa will host next year and accentuated that there's no allocation provided in the Supplementary. In this regard, she queried whether Samoa is able to host and whether there are plans in place considering the short period of time for preparations.

- Ministry of Women, Community and Social Developments - District Development Project (\$1 million)

The Member firstly emphasized on the importance of policies in place and for Constituencies to comply with the requirements in generating the funds for this initiative. She then suggested for auditors to monitor the funds allocated to ensure the allocation is well managed on a daily basis. She then commended the Hon Minister for this initiative but requested to accelerate the roll-out of the remaining amount so that developments can continue as the cost of living is also increasing.

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

Member for Alataua West also queried the status of a forensic audit to audit the Tiavea Airport so these funds can be utilized and then concluded by acknowledging the support of her Constituency.

**ii. Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai – Member for Vaa o Fonoti**

The Member greeted the House and his constituency for their support and then raised the following issues:

- Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment

The Member reminded the Hon Minister to consider the vulnerability of his Constituency on the impacts of the Climate Change especially for the village Fagaloa as it is very prone to sea level rising.

- Ministry of Health

The Member first commended the Hon Minister and Ministry for their hard work and then requested for a hospital to be placed at Fagaloa.

**Afioga Hon VALASI Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele – Minister for Health**

The Hon Minister responded to the Member for Vaa o Fonoti that there's already a hospital in his constituency (built on the former Member of the Constituency's land); however, it was not well maintained but assured the Member that he will consider this matter and get a contractor to renovate this hospital so it can continue to serve for the people of his constituency. He further stated that there is another project in place for this hospital and clarified that he conducted a review on the condition of the hospital and there was an unutilized fund of \$300k. Further to this, a request was also presented to him to use this neglected building as the Committee's Office but he rejected it as it is a government property and government funds were used to build it.

**Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa 1**

The Member advised the Hon Minister to take the people responsible for the poor management of the hospital project to court without implying that the previous Government of the Day is at fault as his statement implies that the whole opposition side is accused on the misconduct of resources for the aforementioned district hospital.

**Afioga Hon VALASI Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele – Minister for Health**

The Hon Minister clarified that he was not pointing fingers or implied to neglect the work done by the previous Government of the Day but accentuated that this district hospital was built during the previous government of the day time; however, it was disused. He then encouraged the Member for Anoamaa 1 on the importance of its constituency's service to nearby villages/constituencies through its district hospital.

**Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa 1**

The Member stated that he has no issue on the service his constituency hospital offers for the nearby constituencies such as Vaa o Fonoti and Aleipata but was hoping the Hon Minister will propose to extend the hospital as it is too small to serve all the nearby constituencies.

**Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai – Member for Vaa o Fonoti conts**

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member commended the Hon Minister for his encouragement on agricultural developments and asserted that his Constituency continues to grow ‘ava’ and ‘koko’ as it has been a source of income for majority of the families in his Constituency. In this regard, he requested to have an Ava Mua for his Constituency. He further stated that three (3) villages in his Constituency are prominent in handicrafts but suggested for a market to sell these so people can earn money for their developments. He then expressed his excitement on the re-opening of our borders as it has paved a way for an opportunity for villages to export their product to earn more income.

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member then requested for roads at the village of Sauano and Saletele to be fixed as there have been a number of complaints on these roads. He further requested to repair the roads near a ford that was damaged due to heavy rainfall and urged the Ministry to be on the go on these especially this time on raining seasons. The Member also requested for the roads at Salimu and Musumus to be tarred and to repair the bridge at Uafato for the safety of our people.

**Afioga Hon LAAULI Keuatea Polataivao Fosi – Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister clarified that the ava mua requested to be done for Fagaloa is a different project from all the projects and that the Ministry is waiting on the Constituency for a set date for this project to proceed. He further stated that there will materials and equipment for projects of each constituency as the main budget provides \$10K for all agricultural materials and tools for agricultural developments for each Constituency. The Hon Minister asserted that there is a Strategic Plan for the next 5 years that was launched yesterday and it is will be tabled in parliament for their information.

**Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister assured the Member for Vaa o Fonoti that his requests for road maintenance and repairment have been noted and will conduct his site visit around the aforementioned roads.

**Proceedings set aside at 10:33am; and  
Resumed at 11:05am**

*Mr Speaker announced the Assembly that the copies for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Strategic Plan 2022-2026 have been distributed to each Member for their information.*

**Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai – Member for Vaa o Fonoti (conts)**

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure continues

The Member then spoke on the attraction site at Uafato which is often visited by the students of NUS as it holds cultural and historical significance and therefore requested for the roads towards Uafato to be fixed so that people can drive to this attraction site.

The Member for Vaa o Fonoti then raised a concern on the aircraft used to transport passengers between our country and Tutuila as it is too small. In this regard, the Member requested for a Dash 8 aircraft that can hold 35-37 passengers. He then concluded his statement by acknowledging the appointment of the new CEO's and conveyed his appreciation to his Constituency for their support.

**iii. Afioga TEA Tootala Peato – Member for Faasaleleaga 4**

The Member for Faasaleleaga 4 firstly conveyed his support on the Supplementary and expressed his gratitude to everyone, especially the Speaker for his patience during heated deliberations and discussions between Members in the House. He then acknowledged all Members and thanked the Government of the Day as he perceives that there is an improvement in collecting revenue for the development of Samoa. He also acknowledged the Opposition Leader and his party for their work in the development of our Nation and commended the Members for Vaimauga 1 and Sagaga 2 for their well, structured opinion shown regarding the constituency projects. He further asserted that he is content with all the matters raised by each Member and those who supports the initiatives posed by the Government of the Day. He further expressed his appreciation on the unity and the support of his Constituency regardless on what political party they support. The Member then commended the following Ministries for their work together with request for the development of his Constituency:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member commended the Hon Minister of Agriculture for his work and initiatives in encouraging our people to produce and grow our own food so that we can be self-sufficient and well sustained instead of relying on foods from overseas as we do not have enough foreign reserves to buy food from overseas for our people.

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested to fix main roads at his Constituency and suggest that they intend to use the fund for the \$1 million district project to pave internal roads and leave the main roads to the Government.

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

The Member requested for government land for his constituency's development as the customary land in his Constituency is not enough to cover all developments provided in their plans.

- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

The appointment of the new CEO was acknowledged by the Member and emphasized on the importance of this sector to the youth.

- Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration

The Member commended the Minister for her patience with all the issues relating to legislation and court cases.

- Ministry of Health

The Member stated that he once advised the Hon Minister to resign as he was concern about his health but perceives that the Minister is strong willed and fit to take his role. The Member also acknowledged the Member for Faasaleleaga 5 for his contribution during their time as Government of the Day.

The Member then jested that he once wished to be a Minister one day as he has been a Member for four (4) Parliamentary Terms and has never held any Ministerial post. He further jested that the Deputy Leader of Opposition should be called the Leader of the Opposition and for the Member for Anoamaa 1 to be the Deputy Leader of Opposition.

He then concluded his statement by requesting to repair the Tuasivi Hospital as it has become deteriorated and conveyed his best wishes to his Constituency.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 12:10pm and will reconvene on Tuesday 24  
January 2023 at 9:30am.**