

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Tuesday 21st June 2022**. 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 **Tuesday 21st June 2022**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday 21st June 2022

9:30am

I. Warrant of Election

Pursuant to s. 84 (2) *Electoral Act 2019*, Le Ao o le Malo declared on 4th June 2022, the successful candidate to be elected:

FOISALA Lilo Tu'u loane – Member for Gagaifomauga No.2

II. Swearing-in of the Member for the Electoral Constituency of Gagaifomauga No.2

The Member was asked to be upstanding while the Code of Parliamentary Ethics were read out by the Hon Speaker.

III. Oath of Allegiance

The new Member for Gagaifomauga No.2, Afioga FOISALA Lilo Tu'u loane took his Oath of Allegiance before the Legislative Assembly.

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hon Mr. Speaker informed the House that a complaint was received on 24th May from the Member for Gagaifomauga No.1, Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers Ah Kau against the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi. Mr Speaker explained that a response from the accused was received on 31st May, therefore he has assessed the merits and arguments put forth and has concluded that this is not a matter of

privilege and he will advise accordingly and warn the accused Member on the matter; he further informed that this brings the matter to an end.

V. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were 2 Committee Reports tabled before the House

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR:

As the House prepares for deliberations on the second reading of the Supplementary and Appropriation Bills, the Hon Mr Speaker advised Members of the House to speak directly on the Budget and express requests for their respective constituencies and urged Members to avoid speaking on each item individually until the Consideration in Detail stage.

Hon Mr Speaker further reminded Members of the procedures for interruptions in the House; he referred to Standing Orders 82 and clarified that there are only certain instances that require interruptions, that is; on a point of order; on a point of clarification; and to seek clarification. Moreover, that these interruptions must first seek his approval.

VI. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – Reading of Bills

- 1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2021/2022 – debate on second reading**
- 2. APPROPRIATION BILL 2022/2023 – debate on second reading**

Afioga Hon Tuala Iosefo Ponifasio - Deputy Prime Minister

The Hon Deputy PM greeted the House and relayed the Prime Minister's regards and well wishes for Parliament as she is away on duty travel. He then greeted the judiciary, clergy from different denominations and addressed Samoa in all its honorific salutations. He sought God's blessings upon the House during its deliberations on the Appropriation Bill and conveyed congratulations to the newly elected Member for Gagaifomauga No.1.

Tofa Hon Laufo Nuafesili Pierre Laufo - Member for Anoamaa No.

The Hon Member stood on behalf of the Opposition to convey congratulatory wishes to the new Member and members of his constituency who were present in Chambers. He then wished the Member best of luck throughout his term in Parliament.

MAIDEN SPEECH:**i. Afioga FOISALA Lilo Tu'u Ioane**

The Member greeted all who were present in Chambers, he paid acknowledgement to the former Member Afioga Vaele Iona Sekuini as well as conveyed condolences to his family. The Member acknowledged his constituency especially his village Lefagaoalii, also acknowledged the clergies, and members of his constituency for their support and choosing him as their representative in Parliament. Furthermore, the Member acknowledged the candidates who contested with him in the by-election. He mentioned that he will not make any promises but he will do all his best to develop the constituency. He declared that whatever requests that Vaele has put forward regarding their roads and pipelines he fully supports and concluded by voicing his support for the budget.

ii. Afioga FAAGASEALII Sapoa Feagai - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo

The Member for Aleipata Itupa i lalo greeted the whole house, Head of State, Judiciary and the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The member further acknowledged the Speaker and wished him well on all his responsibilities. The member continued to acknowledge her constituency and their support for her during Election Day. She also acknowledged the prayers of her religious leaders, and all her prayer warriors for their continuous prayer and support for her during the hardships of trying to get into Parliament. The Member also acknowledged the unwavering support of her family especially her mother for her steadfast faith and prayers over her. Furthermore, the Member acknowledged FALEOMAVAEGA who is also another Member for her constituency. The Member then made the following request to respective Ministries:

• Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested a total of 3 Access roads, water supply for some families residing in areas inland who currently have no access to water, and the road at Tiavea Uta to be fixed and a proper signage/board to alert drivers who are not familiar with the road, to be aware of a ford as there was an accident which occurred last Saturday. Furthermore, the Member also requested to complete the Tiavea Airport as she knows it would benefit the people residing in other constituencies such as Lepa, Lotofaga and Lefaga or could be an alternative to the Faleolo Airport in times of natural disasters.

iii. Afioga TOOMATA Norah Leota - Member for Anoamaa 2

The Member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations, she then acknowledged her constituency, especially her village of Solosolo and urged all female Members of Parliament to work together for the betterment of Samoa and women.

**Proceedings were set aside at 10:47am;
and resume at 11:29am**

Afioga TOOMATA Norah Leota - Member for Anoamaa 2

The Member expressed her concern for the impacts of sea level rise on her constituency, therefore heightening the need for seawalls; furthermore she requested that SROS develop a pesticide control to deal with pests damaging agricultural crops. She then commented on the 51 million provided in the budget and fully emphasized that this will clarify any misinterpretation on their party goal. The Member expressed support for the 51million mentioned in the budget for each constituency. Furthermore, she acknowledged with gratitude the 20% of the reduction on Electricity and water charge, as this is great assistance during these challenging times brought about Covid. The Member noted that these reductions are greatly appreciated by those residing in the rural areas. She then concluded her speech by expressing her support for the Appropriation Bill.

iv. Afioga Hon TUUU Anasii Leota, Member for Siumu

The The Member greeted the Hon Speaker and fellow Parliamentarians, the Ao o le Malo and his good lady, the Council of Deputies and his good lady, the Judiciary, the clergy and Samoa. He then expressed gratitude to the Minister of Finance and employees regarding the Appropriation Bill and the preparations. The Member also acknowledged the Finance Committees' consideration and assessment on the budget. In regards to the increasing cost of living, the Member noted his concerns on this global issue and asserted that it is all the more reason Samoans should develop our lands and fish our seas to earn an income and provide for daily needs. He acknowledged the revival of Talomua in promoting agricultural developments.

Requests:

The Hon Member commented on the increasing cost of airfares and urged the Government to purchase our own aircraft or lease an aircraft, where we may control the cost of airfares. He queried whether the relationship between Samoa and New Zealand in the Treaty of Friendship may possibly provide for waiving visa costs and requirement; noting that when Visa process was

carried out locally, our people will receive visa within 2 weeks, however since it was transferred to New Zealand, the process has been much longer, and queried whether this issue was brought to the attention of the New Zealand Prime Minister during Samoa's Prime Minister's recent bilateral talks

- **Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure::**

The Member acknowledged recent developments in his constituency, such as the road repairs and completed access roads, then requested for more road works for certain parts in his constituency. Hon TUUU made particular mention of a road from Tanugamanono to Siumu (Central Cross Island Road) where numerous road accidents have occurred thus urging the public to check their vehicles first before driving. He then further asked the Minister for Works to prioritize the development of this road as it is dangerous for the public.

- **Minister for Health:**

The Member urged the Minister for possible penalties/fines imposed for those who do not wear masks in public places, noting that Samoa continues to have Covid and we are only in the first stages. He then suggested to publicly advertise those who have contracted Covid19 as well as those who have yet to complete their vaccination to encourage such individuals to get fully vaccinated.

The Member further expressed concern on members travelling from overseas and coming to Samoa whether they have been fully vaccinated and urged the Ministry to monitor accordingly. Moreover, the member expressed concern regarding the 2 different variants of the virus in Africa which he believes can also affect Samoa

- **Minister for Women Community Social Development**

Hon TUUU, acknowledged the 1million project and informed the House that his constituency has yet to formally meet to discuss their intentions on development plans to utilize the funds.

The Member concluded his speech, by acknowledging the Government for his appointment to be a member of the Privilege Committee and clarified that he signed the Committee's report with full knowledge and understanding on the issue.

Ale Vena Ale - Point of clarification

The Member advised that the issue raised by the member has already been discussed in the House, whereby the Speaker has already ruled therefore, the Member should refrain from mentioning it.

v. Afioga Tagaloatele Pasi Poloa- Member for Sagaga 4

The Member began his speech by acknowledging the Ao o le Malo, Council of Deputies, Parliamentarians and Samoa. He then touched specifically on the following Ministries:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the Ministry for the roads from Faleula to Nofaalii and Fasitoo, he then queried the progress for the roads at Aleisa, Nofaalii and Aleisa-Uta which need developing for easier access and to ensure vehicles' conditions are maintained. The Member reminded the Minister for the road in Aleisa as well as the road in Alamutu that needs to be tarred.

- Minister for Health:

The Member acknowledged the Minister and his Ministry on efforts to keep Samoa safe, despite the lack of resources and equipment needed for appropriate testing and medical care for the patients.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:

The Member commended overall initiatives by the Ministry especially the 1million project for development of constituencies.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member requested for an alternative way to pay for permits to cut down trees as there are trees that urgently need attention, and suggested whether another process can be followed.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member requested for a 'Talomua' (First Harvest) Program for his constituency.

vi. Tofa LAGAAIA Tiatuau Tufuga - Member for Palauli 3

The Member addressed Mr Speaker then commended the Minister of Finance and her Ministry for preparing and clarifying on the budget. Although there are limited funds and scarce resources, the Minister is acting boldly to cater for the needs of Samoa. The Member then noted his support on the budget and urged Members to follow suit, so that the Budget can be approved and funds disbursed to respective Ministries and Offices for the overall development of Samoa.

vii. Afioga NIUAVA Eti. L Malolo - Vaisigano No.1

The Member greeted the Ao o le Malo and his good lady, the Council of Deputies and his good lady, the Judiciary, Parliament and all who were present in the House. He acknowledged the Minister for Finance and her Ministry in preparing the Budget.

The Member then made requests on behalf of his constituency; he mentioned that he will not ask for more due to the fact that the 1million project is now included in the budget, thus the development of his constituency will be funded accordingly by this money.

- **Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:**

The Member requested for road repairs throughout his constituency, and urged the Minister for equal distribution of funds for approved projects.

The Member acknowledged the Minister of Finance and her Ministry in preparing the budget, as well as overall efforts to address the increasing cost of living, particularly, the cost of fuel and expensive building materials. The Member noted that there were factors outside ones control, such as fuel, and that Samoa can only learn to adapt with the increasing costs of imported commodities. The Member mentioned storage tanks for fuel and recommended its relocation from the wharf to an isolated area, far from town to ensure the safety of the public at large.

The Member mentioned possible methods to market Samoa and suggested the Survivor program as a good strategy for promoting Samoa to the world, as the show has a wider reaching audience. Furthermore, he recommended that the Survivor program can be shot in Savaii to also allow Savaiians to benefit, by providing rental services, accommodation, food and leisure to the shooting crew.

- **Minister for Education, Sports and Culture**

The Member commended the Minister on various projects for the development of the education sector; he then requested for a TVET program in his constituency, to raise the education standard as the passing rate to University is very low.

- **Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa**

The Member commended the CEO and the Organisation on numerous initiatives to utilize natural products found locally on ways to improve health and wealth of Samoa. NIUAVA suggested the possibility of creating medicinal herbs from natural products that can counter obesity and weight gain throughout Samoa and stated that Parliament can be the first to use such medicine.

On the issue of social media, the Member noted his disappointment with the language used by our Samoan people towards political figures such as the Hon Prime Minister and Hon Leader of the Opposition. The Member further stated that it was most disappointing to see members of the House also participating in such activity, and urged the House and the public at large to stop.

**Proceedings suspended at 1pm; and
will resume at 9:30am on Wednesday 22nd June 2022**