

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

**PART A**  
**9:30am**

- I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – Reading of Bills (DAY 2)**
  - 1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2021/2022 – debate on second reading**
  - 2. APPROPRIATION BILL 2022/2023 – debate on second reading**

**Afioga Hon. TAPUNUU Niko Lee Hang – Member for Vaimauga No.3**

The Hon Member addressed Mr. Speaker and sought clarification as to the quarantine requirements for returning passengers to Samoa. The Member noted that the Minister for Public Enterprises was away on duty travel, and is now seated in Parliament today, hence his concern whether the Minister was cleared to be out in the public. The Hon Member asserted that the reason for his query is that he too was abroad recently, and upon arrival he was instructed to self-isolate for 7 days, and was required to report to the hospital for a follow-up check after 7 days before receiving the clear to be out in the public.

**Afioga Hon. VALASI Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele - Minister of Health**

The Hon Minister clarified that Samoa has been on Level 1 for almost 4 weeks, and since its shift to Level 1, the public was allowed to self-isolate in their homes. The Hon Minister asserted that upon arrival, all passengers regardless of receiving a negative or positive Covid19 test at the airport, are released to their homes for self-isolation. Hon Minister emphasized that this practice was made known to the public.

**i. Tofa ALE Vena Ale – Member for Faleata No.4**

The member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations, then addressed Mr Speaker and commended his efforts in maintaining order and decorum in the House by reminding Members on instances where an interruption may be made to ensure the House does not waste time on primitive matters when there are more pressing issues needing attention. The member commented on the importance of induction programs for new Members to clarify and shed light on pertinent parliamentary procedures and guidelines.

The Member touched upon the importance for proper law reforms on the Electoral Act, noting that there should be a provision which allows Members to assist constituents in any possible way, such as financial assistance or any form that does not hold candidates liable for treating or bribery. Tofa ALE mentioned that most petitions filed after general elections are due to bribery, therefore a possible solution is needed. He then recommended the inclusion of a set amount allocated to candidates to cater for the needs and requests of constituents' prior to General Elections. This will ensure that after Elections, candidates will not be held liable for bribery. Furthermore, the Member mentioned the amendment which forbids party hopping of Members, and asserted that this is a discriminatory law as Members should be free to leave a party and become independent without having to vacate ones seat. Another issue raised by the Member was in regards to the LTR Act 2008; the Member recommended Government to consider the provisions of the Act, to ensure customary lands are safeguarded. Moreover, the Member queried the involvement of the Minister in matters of customary land when such matters should be left with the Chief Matai and his/her family members. In regards to the 200k project, the Member commended the Government for the initiative to develop respective constituencies and asserted that committee members should be chosen from constituents, and not from outsiders who are only residing in the area but are not electoral voters in that respective constituency.

**Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries – interjection:**

The Minister informed the Member that his concerns have been duly noted.

**Hon Mr. Speaker - Ruling:**

Mr Speaker ruled to remove the words “O le nu'u a Saina e fai e tamaiti” to ensure Parliament's integrity is maintained. Furthermore, Hon Mr Speaker informed the Member that the LTRA 2008 is the Land Titles Registration Act, rather than Land Transfer Act as the Member referred to. In regards to the Induction program, the Hon Speaker clarified that the program is in the pipeline however it has been postponed numerous times due to the nationwide lockdown and other urgent matters for Parliaments' consideration.

**Tofa ALE Vena Ale – Member for Faleata No.4 (cont.)**

The Member noted several roads needing repair in his constituency; he then concluded by acknowledging the House, especially Mr. Speaker for his forbearance of Members.

**ii. Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua – Member for Salega No.1**

The Member greeted the whole house in all her honorific salutations. He then proceeded to commend the Minister of Finance for the Budget and the hardships that arise during preparation of the budget. He also acknowledged the Minister of Health for the newly developed Hospital at Fualalo with an ambulance for ease of transportation of critical patients to and fro. He then requested for a generator to provide light and electricity during power outage. Afioga FEPULEAI commended the work and commitment of nurses and doctors at their district hospital, and noted that there continues to be a shortage of vehicles needed especially for home visits for critical patients. Then requested for another vehicle to assist their district hospital. The Member also requested for adequate supply of medication, such as Panadol. The Member informed the Minister that there is usually a delay in getting their supplies for their District hospital, which is problematic during an emergency.

**Minister of Health – point of clarification:**

The Hon Minister clarified in regards to the pharmaceutical supplies and stated that all requests are directly made to the main hospital for proper supplies.

**Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua – Member for Salega No.1 (cont.)**

The Member continued by making the following requests:

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member requested for a TVET program for his constituency to cater for the students who are interested in this program, to avoid students leaving their families and migrating to urban areas where there are more opportunities, instead of travelling back to Apia and be home sick as well as other social problems from being away from their homes. The Member recommended for the TVET School to be built on government land between Falelima and Siuvao.

- Minister of Justice and Courts Administration:

The Member queried the status of the operations of the Land and Titles Court and asserted that the current Land and Titles Act is under investigation and proper action while the previous Act is repealed; then queried how operations continue, when there is no law which provides for its operations.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the Minister for his work thus far in developing the agriculture sector, then expressed concern over the increasing pests in Tuasivi and requested the Minister for a proper solution to this problem. Furthermore, the Member requested having more horses to assist farmers with transporting crops from the plantation to the main roads as a substitute, especially with the soaring fuel prices, as well as assist the farmers with chasing wild boars and cows from ruining crops. Afioga FEPULEAI commented on the Talomua 'First Harvest' initiative by the Ministry and asserted that his constituency is rich in the production of kava, therefore proposed to have an 'Avamua' for his constituency.

#### **Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries – interjection**

The Minister asserted that the Ministry continues to roll-out numerous programs and awareness for the public on how to nurture and plant the land to ensure a fruitful season. He then mentioned the introduction of traps for wild boars which will be given to the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela as they were the first to request this. The Hon Minister made mention of chicken traps which will soon be distributed to villages for their projects. Furthermore, the Minister emphasized the importance of registering firearm used by farmers and asserted that it is important to register to allow farmers to freely use their firearm in their farms for hunting wild boars, then touched on the importance of the 'Talomua' program for showcasing the first harvest for villages/constituencies.

#### **Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua – Member for Salega No.1 (cont.)**

In reference to the appropriation for climate adaptation projects, the Member noted the need to remove sand blocking the river flow at Fogatuli, as it is affecting residents living near the river. FEPULEAI further requested the Minister of Works for repair works in his constituency. He then acknowledged the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development on the 1million project, reflected in the budget and queried the Minister of Finance why the amount for grants has decreased and requested an explanation. He then queried the Minister for Samoa Land Corporation regarding the land in Salelologa where the Assembly of God church is located, and asked to please return this piece of land as it belongs to his constituency.

**Proceedings suspended at 10:50am; and  
resumed at 11:33am**

**MOTION: Hon Deputy Prime Minister**

The Deputy PM moved a motion to set aside SO.32 to continue proceedings as follows:

9:30am – 1pm

6pm – 10pm

Motion seconded and approved.

**iii. Tofa MANULELEUA Paletasala Tovale – Member for Faleata 1.**

The Member greeted all who were present and Samoa in all her honorific salutation. Then made his requests to specific Ministries:

- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the Minister for recent developments and repairs in his constituency, then presented several requests for more road repairs and a seawall for families residing near the river, as these families always suffer during torrential rain. He further requested road repairs for Moamoa, specifically the roads leading to the quarry, as well as the bridge at Moamoa Fou, he asserted that during heavy rainfall season, the river bursts and impact on families nearby. He then mentioned Smart meters and the need to reconsider this initiative.

- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour:

Requested the possibility of utilising lands from Laloanea to kickstart their constituents' initiatives for the 1 million project, noting that his constituency has limited land to develop.

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture:

Requested for a government primary school in his constituency to cater for low income families, as the majority of schools in this area are private and church schools.

The Member then concluded by acknowledging efforts of the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Finance on their efforts to develop Samoa as well as preparation of the Budget 2022/2023.

**iv. Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga**

The member acknowledged the Almighty for his guidance and protection upon the Members as they come together to fulfil their duties and responsibilities in leading the country. He greeted the Samoa in her honorific salutations. The Member also conveyed sincere gratitude to the Ministry to the Finance Ministry in preparing the Budget. The Member stated that, in preparation for the next financial period, every cent counts in developing and improving Samoa's economy. The Member queried the increase in Samoa's deficit ratio, as it could reflect an ongoing pattern in the future. The Member asserted that the increase in cost of living due to the pandemic and the war is inevitable. The Member further queried the decrease of budget support and expressed concern that the war in Ukraine will lure in most of the donors that support developing nations like ours, which could be competitive for Samoa in seeking grants from donor countries.

The member commended the intention of the government to increase their spending on major local developments which will in turn stimulate the economy and avoid Samoa's resources being idle. The Member asserted that this is important considering the global economy is decreasing with the pandemic and war between countries. The Member then advised the government to hasten the initiations of projects highlighting that if the delay was owed to the pandemic restrictions, then consider conducting virtual meetings for faster decision making.

- **Minister of Education, Sports and Culture:**

The Member believes that the Education and Health Sector are the pillars of a nation, and therefore its budget should never be reduced as these are the main sources of investments for Samoa (Health is wealth). He further stressed the importance of our Human Resources, heightening the need for proper training and education, as well as having healthy lifestyles and wellbeing for our people. Samoa does not have minerals or abundant resources, therefore our people are our greatest assets.

**Speakers Ruling:**

The Speaker rules not to speak on each item of the budget and the percentages but talk of things that benefits the constituency and broad topics beneficial to constituency

**Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga (cont.)**

The Member advised the Minister for Samoa Tourism Authority to be more creative and vigilant in promoting Samoa as a tourist destination. The member further requested the government to review Visa applications for our people wishing to travel abroad, noting the current lengthy and timely process online. As the process is conducted online, many families and individuals are at a disadvantage (having limited access and knowledge on processing the online application and without credit cards). He raised the possibility of imposing tax on unhealthy food, as this can assist the Ministry of Health with healthy living as well as countering obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and other Non-Communicable Diseases. The member further noted that workers' salaries has yet to increase, and pleaded with the Government for the possibility of an increase to assist with the increase in cost of living.

- **Minister of Health:**

The Member expressed appreciation to the Minister for the work carried out in tendering hospitals which included 3 in Upolu and 3 in Savaii and also the development of residence for doctors assigned/stationed in rural clinics. The Member further advised the Minister to look into having enough supplies of medicine for our people as we continue to live with Covid. The Member requested for pharmaceutical supplies to be increased and prioritized, and more ways to strengthen protection for frontline staff.

The Member further advised the Minister to look into improving the record keeping system where for all patients and also those who have been affected and killed from the pandemic and also records of those who have been vaccinated as this is very important. The Member asserted that restrictions should be observed and vaccination cards and masks should remain mandatory. The Member mentioned another outbreak called ‘monkeypox’ which is rapidly spreading throughout the world, and therefore Samoa should be vigilant with its precautionary measures to ensure we are safe from this outbreak, and that it does not ruin our tourism industry.

- Minister of Women, Community and Social Development:

The Member commend the Ministry for the 200k funds for the development of each constituency.

- Minister of Natural Resources and Environment:

The member requested for government land in the area to be used for their projects, as they cannot use constituency land as they are mostly customary lands. Meaning that if they were to use these land, then it will cause turmoil between families and this could drag and cause delay on the implementation of development projects. The member requested for land to establish a Fire and Emergency Station for his constituency.

- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested for a road hump at the Tiavea ford as it is usually where accidents occur.

#### **Tofa Hon OLO FITI Afoa Vaai – Interjection (clarification)**

The Minister explained that works have been done to the area mentioned by the Member, noting that this is the second time works have been done in the same location. The Minister stated that the previous government had not prioritized this area before and that the current government is looking for appropriate development in this area. The Hon Minister urged the Member to advise his constituents accordingly to look after government property. He then mentioned that there is a reason why there are road signs to avoid serious accidents.

#### **Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga (cont.)**

The Member requested for water-pipes in Lalomanu to ensure his people have access to clean water supply; to which the Hon Minister for Works, *acknowledged that a request was received and that the project will be implemented, assuring to the Member that his constituency will have access to clean water supply soon.*

#### **v. Afioga MAIAVA Fuimaono Tito Asafo – Member for Falealili 2.**

The member commended the Minister of Finance and the ministry as whole for their preparation of the budget. He then addressed specific Ministers:

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture  
The Member requested for renovations for certain schools in his constituency, and the need for proper sourcing, such as more teachers and proper desks and chairs for students.
- Minister of Police and Prisons  
The Member requested for a fire truck for his constituency
- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries  
The Member commended the Minister for his work in developing the agriculture and fisheries sector as well as the wellbeing of farmers.
- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure  
The Member requested road works at Salani as it is almost 30years since it was constructed. Then reminded the Minister for seawalls to be built for his constituency, specifically for the villages of Salesatele, Utulaelae, Sapo'e as these are the most vulnerable villages. In addition, the member requested for stable water supply for certain parts in his constituency.
- Minister for Women Community and Social Development  
The Member commended the Ministry on the 200k project for the development of respective constituencies.

**vi. Tofa FESOLAI Apulu Tuigamala - Member for Aana Alofi No.1**

The Member greeted the House and acknowledged the Minister of Finance and her Ministry in preparation of the budget. He then commended the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the Talomua initiative and requested a plough to prepare the land for vegetation and a fishing boat for his constituency.

**Proceedings were set aside at 1pm;  
and resume at 6pm**