

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Tuesday 18th January 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 18th January 2022**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

DAY 1
9:30

Tuesday 18th January 2022

I. OBITUARY SPEECHES

Mr Speaker read out an obituary speech for the deceased Members of Parliament; Afioga TAPULESATELE Mauteni Tamasone Metuli Il Esera, former Member for Vaisigano No.2 for the 16th Parliamentary Term; and Afioga Hon SOLIA Vaai Papu Vaelupe. Mr Speaker then offered condolences to the bereaved families for the passing of their loved ones. Parliament observed a minute of silence.

II. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

A total of 13 Annual Reports were tabled

III. PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance and Expenditure Committee tabled its report on the Supplementary Estimates (No.1) 2021/2022

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER

Mr Speaker welcomed and greeted all members of parliament to the first sitting of 2022; extended greetings to the Ao o le Malo, the Council of Deputies and all of Samoa. He then offered well wishes to the Hon Prime Minister and her Cabinet and the Opposition Members and all parliamentarians present in the first sitting.

He then touched upon the issue regarding the discrepancies of the Land and Titles Act 2020. Mr. Speaker noted that the issue was initially reported in December 2021, and investigations by the OCLA have been conducted, with findings which will be tabled in the House today. He then reiterated on the importance of the Assembly in dealing with such matters as well as the importance of such issues never occurring again in the future.

The Speaker reiterated that there will be a commission of inquiry to review this matter; noting that in accordance with Standing Order 139, the Assembly will review the Supplementary as it takes precedence and that no Member is allowed to speak on the matter until the Supplementary is passed.

V. MOTIONS – PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION:

The Deputy Speaker, Afioga AUUAPAU Mulipola Aloitafua moved the motion to table the report of findings by the Office of the Legislative Assembly regarding the discrepancies of the Land and Titles Act 2020.

The Deputy Chairperson for the Parliamentary Commission, Afioga AUUAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua moved for the Assembly to approve the Sitting Calendar for the period 2022 – January 2023; motion seconded and approved.

VI. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022- second reading debate commence

i. Tofa FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua - Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo

The Member greeted the Ao o le Malo and his good lady and all Parliamentarians. He then acknowledged the Judiciary and all who were present in the House and listening in to Parliaments' first sitting this year. He also addressed his constituency in its honorific salutations and also greeted all religious leaders and their spouses in his constituency. He also paid special recognition to his families and friends in Samoa and overseas and his wife and children for their endless support.

The Member then continued by addressing specific Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested more signposts for the ford at Tiavea, he mentioned that many lives have been lost at this part of his constituency hence the need for more signposts to alert the drivers. He also requested the widening of drainage to avoid the impacts during torrential rain. The quality of water was raised for certain parts of his constituency, specifically Tiavea and Samusu Uta as the quality of water is not safe for general consumption.

The Member requested to reduce certain charges, such as the re-activation cost for water supply as it is currently \$75 and suggested that this charge be reduced to \$50. He then commended the Minister and Ministry for setting up street lights for his constituency.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member noted the need for more teachers in Aleipata Schools, urged the Minister to please distribute evenly and equally to all schools. He then suggested to introduce vocational studies at the college level to provide students with more options such as plumbing, carpentry and other technical areas. He then mentioned the national rugby 7s team who have recently been reported to have been affected by Covid abroad.

- Minister for Health:

The Member commended the Ministry's efforts together with NEOC in keeping Samoa safe from COVID. He then queried the Minister for an update on the progress of the CT scanners. The Member encouraged the Ministry to continue with its usual health and hygiene inspections to all restaurants to ensure they are more vigilant in keeping their kitchens and work space safe and clean when preparing meals for public consumption (suggested that inspections for once a week will suffice).

- Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour

The Member commended the minister on his progress with the seasonal work scheme however, urged the Minister to reconsider the contracts signed by seasonal workers and whether companies overseas are abiding by the terms of the contracts.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:

He reminded the village committees of their roles and responsibilities in providing basic prevention care to the villages as well as advocating for the immunization of village kids. He then requested more doctors to visit each village committee at least on a weekly basis.

- Minister for Police & Prisons:

The Member commended the minister and his ministry for their work especially during the festive season as there were no accidents reported. He then emphasised the importance of training and upskilling of police officers to ensure they are well equipped to fulfil their roles in maintaining law and order and keeping the nation safe.

In regards to the K9 Unit, the Member noted that there continues to be a rise of drugs in the country, therefore heightening the need for more K9 dogs to sniff out illegal substance brought into our country.

- Minister for Customs and Revenue:

The Member requested waive taxes on vegetables and fruits from overseas as it improves healthy living and provides benefits for our people.

- **Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:**

The Member advised the minister to consider ways to manage and protect marine life and corals; then advised the minister to continue programs which contribute to the sustainable management of marine life (example: clam reserve). He then sought clarification from the Minister to provide available data on the percentage of customary land in Samoa. As he noted that in 1998 the Asia Development Bank reported that 81% of Samoan land was customary land, however, recently customary land has decreased to 35% in 2020.

- **Minister for Justice and Courts Administration:**

He commended the Hon Minister for a job well done, although encountering several challenges while in office, she has remained calm and steadfast in fulfilling her ministerial role.

- **Minister for Communication and Information Technology:**

He also paid acknowledgment to the Minister and the Ministry for the recent progress and developments. The Member then requested that the telephone companies; Digicel and Vodafone to reduce the cost of internet usage and requested that study centres be set up for each village at respective religious leaders' home (maota o le faifeau).

- **Minister for Finance:**

The Member urged the Minister and her ministry to enforce laws to protect the nation from launderers as well as put in place stringent laws to curb the act of money laundering and illegal circulation of money within our country through overseas businesses requesting to do business with us.

- **Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:**

The Member commended the Hon Minister for his work on agricultural developments and requested for more overseas markets to sell our local products and also to reduce the price of fertilizers. He commended the Talomua program and requested the continuation of such initiatives.

The Member then applauded the Hon Prime Minister for her strong and admirable leadership throughout her time in office. He then suggested whether it was time to introduce penalties for those defaming others on facebook. He then emphasised that our culture is full of respect and it identifies the type of upbringing one was raised in and therefore reiterated that the public should not abuse technology and use it inappropriately to harm others.

ii. Tofa FUIONO Tenina Crichton – Member for Falealupo

The Member acknowledged the Ao o le Malo, the Hon PM and her Cabinet, Opposition Members, the Clergies in his constituency, his families and supporters overseas. The Member then addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member acknowledged the road works completed for his constituency prior the General Elections and requested it to be tarred to last longer and not easily damaged by heavy rainfall. He also requested for repair works on access roads in his constituency. He reiterated that once the road is fixed it will be easier for the water to be connected.

Announcement from the Chair:

Mr Speaker reminded the Member for Falealupo that pursuant to Standing Orders, Members are to be addressed by their constituency and not their names.

**Proceedings were set aside at 10:49am;
and resumed at 11:29am**

ii. Tofa FUIONO Tenina Crichton – Member for Falealupo (cont)

The Member continued by addressing the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the Minister and his ministry for all that has been implemented for the development of the agricultural sector. He also noted that it takes 6 months to 1 year for seeds to grow and it is something that requires patience. He also acknowledged the provision of chainsaws to clear the lands for ease of planting and providing vegetation and crops for the lands in his constituency.

- Minister of Health:

The Member recalled times when their constituency did not have any doctors as most doctors are located in Salelologa leaving the nurses to cater for people in the district hospitals. Then raised a certain nurse at the Sataua Hospital who does not perform her role and should be terminated. The Member thanked the minister for the provision of an ambulance within his constituency which has made the transportation of patients more convenient.

- Minister for Finance:

The Member commended the Hon Minister for the supplementary and conveyed his support on the bill.

He then concluded his speech by acknowledging the work done by late Members, TAPULESATELE and VAAI during their time as Members of Parliament - may their time be remembered and may their souls rest in peace and wished all the very best for this year.

iii. Afioga MAIAVA Fuimaono Tito Asafo – Member for Falealili 2

The Member addressed Samoa in her honorific salutations, acknowledged all MPs, acknowledged the Head of State, Council of Deputies, the Judiciary and clergies in Samoa. He also acknowledged his constituency in all its honorific salutation. The Member then commended the Minister for Finance for the Supplementary and acknowledged his support of the budget.

- Minister for Education:

The Member emphasized the importance of education, thus requesting to the minister to improve resources in schools. He reiterated that if schools are adequately resourced then students' ability to learn will also be improved. The Member mentioned the shortage of teachers as well as the lack of resources available for teachers, resulting to teachers buying their own materials for the lessons. The Member urged the minister to look into this problem and provide possible solutions.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member requested for road works in his constituency and requested access roads to be tarred.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member requested the returning of land owned by the government under the ownership of Falealii and requested for seawalls to be made for Salesatele, Utulaelae and Sapo'e.

- Minister for Health:

The Member requested the re-establishment of the sub-center that used to be located at Salesatele as the district hospital at Poutasi could not tend to all the needs of the constituency.

- Minister for Police and Prisons:

The Member requested for a fire truck to be stationed in his constituency, to counter the impacts of natural disasters. In regards to the Electoral Office, the Member requested that the Commissioner look into clearing the electoral roll for his constituency as most people on the roll are not descendants of Falealili.

The Member concluded by acknowledging his supporters, his wife and children, then wished the Prime Minister well in her reign as well as the Deputy PM, Speaker and all Parliamentarians.

iv. Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell - Member for Safata 2

The Member greeted the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the leader of Opposition and the Opposition party. The Speaker and all Members present in the House.

- Minister of Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member firstly mentioned that in his constituency there are 4 primary schools and no college, therefore raising the need for a college. He then touched on the issue of teacher shortage for the 4 primary schools within his constituency.

The Member noted the increase in number of students dropping out of primary which reflects the lack of students' ability to reach college, thus questioning the cause of the issue whether it is an issue from home or from schools. He then requested for a technical college in rural villages where students who drop out of school can utilize their talents aside from academic learning.

- Minister for Health:

The Member requested for a district hospital as the population of the constituency is increasing. He recalled that 20 years ago there was a hospital and doctor in Fusi-Safata however it was removed. Then requested for a pharmacy in the constituency and noted that there is currently land put-aside for this purpose.

- Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Member commended the progress in the exports of our crops and vegetation. He then requested for programs and projects to have more awareness in his constituency to clarify and inform his constituents on requirements and eligibility for the farmers; noting that programs held in the town areas require his constituents to look for bus fares to travel to Apia.

The Member mentioned a different type of taro, growing differently from the normal taros and requested that a solution be made to solve the problem arising from grafting the talo salani and talo fusi.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:

The Member commended the Hon Minister for the road work already completed for his constituency, noting that there were several works still on hold. The Member further requested for a two-lane road as it is only a single lane road at the time. The Member raised concern regarding the ford in Mulivai which hinders cars from crossing when there is flooding, thus requesting the minister if this ford can be built higher and place pipes below to ensure the transportation of people is convenient.

- Minister for Communication and Information Technology:

The Member raised concern regarding the poor internet connection in his constituency especially in Safata and Mulivai. Then requested the minister to look into the issue.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

He queried whether the minister is thinking of building seawalls, hotels, or beaches around the peninsula in Safata.

The Member acknowledged the Minister for Finance for the tabled budget and noted his support. He then concluded his speech by addressing his constituency in its honorific salutations and expressed his appreciation for their support. He also acknowledged his church ministers; the

voters, his constituents and paid special acknowledgment to the previous Member, Tofa Nonu Lose Niumata. Then he concluded by acknowledging his wife and children.

v. Susuga Aiono Tile Gafa - Member for Aana Alofi No. 2

The Member greeted to the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Opposition leader and all members of parliament. He also acknowledged the whole of Samoa in her honorific salutations as well as our neighboring country American Samoa and his constituency. He also acknowledged his fellow comrades who contested with him in the previous elections.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:

The Member reminded the Minister of the request he gave regarding the sea level rising behind the hall of their church if they could find a solution. The church are planning to rebuild/renovate their church building while relocating their services to be held in the church hall, however, this may pose problems with the sea levels rising and drawing near the hall. The Member then requested for a solution regarding the pond within their constituency which affects the families nearby.

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:

The Member raised concern regarding the lack of teachers and requested to have at least 3 teachers allocated to their primary schools. The Member requested for internet connection for their computers available.

- Minister for Communication and Information Technology:

The Member requested for more computers to equip the lab in the aforementioned school.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:08pm
Parliament will again reconvene on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 9:30am.**