

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Day 5**

**PART A**

**9:27am**

**I. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

A total of 3 Reports presented in the House:

1 Annual Report, 1 Government Response, 1 Regulations 20221

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

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

**i. Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Member for Safata 2**

The Member greeted Mr Speaker and all Members in the House, then acknowledged Samoa in all her honorific salutations. The Member then raised the following issues:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

He commended the Hon Minister for its 5 year Sector Plan as distributed in the previous sitting. Then raised the increase of coconuts to \$5 and more. The member raised his concern with the disease from rhinoceros beetle, elaborated that an income can be earned from collecting these beetles, and urged the government to look into the matter.

- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL) - RSE Scheme

The Member mentioned that the scheme has provided numerous benefits for our people and families. However, when undisciplined and uncultured people join the Scheme and bring disrepute to our nation, this affects our reputation and credibility of our workforce. Therefore the Member emphasized the importance of constituencies and villages to have effective vetting processes to ensure the right and capable people join the RSE scheme. Furthermore, expressed his concern with the temporarily hold on the Scheme.

- Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet – Atoa Samoa Meeting

The Member raised concern with the complexities of acquiring a permit and Talofa Pass to enter American Samoa, urged the Government for possible remedy to assist our people with the time consuming and costly process, which involves providing medical and police reports. The Member queried whether a similar process applies for passengers entering Samoa.

- Ministry of Finance

He commended the Minister and her Ministry for the tabled supplementary and expressed his support for the supplementary.

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member urged the Minister to consider prioritizing road repairs for main roads and to set up streetlights in areas that are needed. He also urged the Ministry to stay vigilant for the safety of our people and suggested to place signs where necessary. The member also raised his concern with certain lawn mower contractors, who do not clean up after their mowing services.

#### **Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga 1**

The Member expressed his disappointment with the Member speaking as he is an associate minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, yet he is voicing concerns regarding his Ministry.

#### **Hon Minister for MWTI, Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Interjection**

The Hon Minister stated that even though the Member is an Associate Minister he is still entitled to voice his concerns towards the safety of our people and further emphasised that any Member is entitled to raise concerns or issues regardless what portfolio they have.

#### **Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Member for Safata 2**

- Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member continued by addressing his concern for contractors carrying out government projects, and noted the poor quality of the work carried out, such as the Maritime facility at Mulinu. The Member noted numerous defects and leakage with this building and further raised the costs in maintaining the building. The Member noted the importance of aid from foreign donors, however there should be building standards which must be adhered by the contractors, to ensure building standards are maintained longer and urged the Government to monitor and assess the 'quality of work' and projects.

#### **Hon Minister for MWTI, Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Interjection**

The Hon Minister responded that since the government took over, there has yet been an allocation for the aforementioned projects. emphasized that the donor who funds these projects provides their own terms on who the contractor is etc and the government has no control over who to give the project to for construction. Furthermore, the Hon Minister noted that every grant from donors

come with conditions that must be followed. this includes adhering to standards of how a work is done and carried out.

**Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell, Member for Safata 2 (cont.)**

The Member continued by addressing his concern for the safety and durability of the projects for the overall benefit of our people. He further commended the work and efforts provided by the Samoa Shipping Corporation during the festive season; and requested to the Minister of Works for appropriate road works and repairs for the roads in his constituency, especially those leading to primary schools.

- **Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

The Member requested for a seawall in the village of Fausaga to counter the impacts of sea level rise and climate change.

- **Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour**

The Member raised the shortage of products in the country such as onions and beer and suggested to the business owners to order in bulk to avoid shortage of goods and services. Further noted that the shortage of beer also has benefits, to limit the alcohol consumption level of our people and prevent health issues.

**Minister MAF – Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Fosi – Minister of Agriculture**

The Hon Minister emphasised that in regards to matters raised by the Member for Safata 2 in regards to rhinoceros beetle, he stated that this is a national issue and iterated that it requires collective responsibility. Hon Minister further urged respective constituencies to consider addressing this matter with relevant allocation assigned to this project. The Minister also stated that the Ministry has distributed about 1,000 chainsaws to eradicate this issue.

The Minister mentioned efforts by the Ministry to create "Gene banks" [a type of biorepository that preserves genetic material] For plants, this is done by in vitro storage, freezing cuttings from the plant, or stocking the seeds (e.g. in a seedbank). For animals, this is done by the freezing of sperm and eggs in zoological freezers until further need" so that we could have the nursery to revive our coconuts so that we have the coconut cream and coconuts for drinking. The Minister asserted that the Ministry continues to seek other ways to revive our coconut trees and mostly to avoid the Rhinoceros Beetles from eating and damaging our coconuts

**ii. Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati, Member for Sagaga 3**

The Hon member greeted the House, acknowledged Mr Speaker for mediating the sitting especially when there are disputes in the Assembly. The Member emphasised that all projects and plans set out by the Government of the Day are all for the betterment of our country and people;

which is the exact motive the previous government followed. He then acknowledged efforts by the Minister of Finance in preparing the tabled Supplementary.

*Speakers Ruling: Hon Mr. Speaker instructed the Clerk to remove the term '3 amigos/pea' as mentioned by the Member for Sagaga 3 from Parliamentary records.*

**ii. Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati, Member for Sagaga 3**

- The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member stated that it is almost 20 years since he became a member and emphasised that holding a Ministerial portfolio does not mean it will benefit that respective Member alone but should consider looking at a way to benefit Samoa as a whole. He acknowledged all Cabinet and Associate Ministers for their work and encouraged them to work for improving and securing a good future for Samoa. He also advised Cabinet to have patience and forbearance with the Members concerns and opinions.

Afioga SALA mentioned his concern for the increase in the cost of living and iterated the importance of effective "checks and balances" in regards to high cost of living stating remittances has played significantly for our people in such financially difficult times. The member further emphasized to the government that it is their duty to govern the country through the current challenges of rapid increase in cost of living also, noted that their role as the opposition is to provide constructive feedback for the government to improve their efforts in addressing issues faced by the country. The Hon Member pointed out that Aleisa's main problem is the lack of accessibility to quality water; further stated that currently water access does not reach the inland mountainous areas of Aleisa. He commended the Minister of Agriculture for all efforts to farm and harvest our lands and fish our oceans which have developed our people and constituencies.

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

The Hon Minister acknowledged the Member for raising this issue with parliament this morning and he will look into the matter and provide access to water in the areas mentioned by the Member.

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

The Hon Minister reminded that there were promises to the village from previous government that there will be water pumped from inland however, no progress to date. He further supported the request by the Member for the water supply to Aleisa.

**Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati, Member for Sagaga 3 (cont.)**

The Hon Member mentioned works regarding installation of pipes around this area in Aleisa has not progressed and asserted that plans during the previous government were planned but only God can execute.

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member queried how the continuous rise of cost of living can be combated. Further stated that this is why farmers have raised the cost of coconut because it is trying to balance the high cost of living we are facing. The Member touched on having price control in order to monitor the high cost of living we are experiencing and stated that they also prefer and encourage competition and this is why price control was waved. The member feels that we should not prioritize money as this is the source of evil.

### **Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi - Minister MAF**

The Minister stated that the government are in progress of doing plans to avoid our people from relying on imports, rather go back to cultivate the lands and create farms so we could rely on our own available resources. The First Harvest 'Talomua' is an initiative by the government to drive the vision to live and depend on our own resources, to avoid the impacts of high cost of living. The minister highlighted the importance of understanding that the rapid rise in cost of living is a domino effect from the global economy thus, the government is addressing this issue by encouraging agricultural development. This is reflected from the government's efforts to initiate the 'Uluai Seleselega' First Harvest program so our people will not be too dependent on imports. Hon Minister again iterated that the solution is in our hands. He recalled the previous week where he attended the 'first harvest' for Lufilufi, and he noticed the number of locals turning up with livestock and crops. The Minister then asserted after observing this harvest, Samoa has the means to provide for themselves during these times. The Hon Minister asserted that you must be willing to grow and breed chicken, cows, pigs so that you can feed yourself and your families without relying on overseas products.

### **Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati, Member for Sagaga 3 (cont.)**

The Hon Member concluded his speech by acknowledging the Minister for the explanation and for the opportunity given to him.

**Proceedings set aside at 10:45am; and  
Resumed at 11:25am**

### **MOTION - Hon TUALATevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, Deputy Prime Minister**

The Deputy Prime Minister moved a motion to set aside S.O 32 to continue proceedings until 1pm and reconvene at 3pm – 10pm; *motion seconded and approved.*

**iii. Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe, Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela conts**

The Member acknowledged his constituency in its Honorific Salutations and the respective clergies within the Constituency for their constant prayers. The Member raised issues towards the following 8 Ministries:

- **Ministry of Customs and Revenue**

He highlighted that the Ministry launched its Compliance Improvement Plan 2023-2026 yesterday, which consists of plans to prevent and protect our borders and ports of entry with the hope to address illegal drugs from entering our shores.

- **Ministry of Communication and Information Technology**

The Member raised disappointment on the poor connection provided by both telecommunication providers. Further stated that Vodafone installed a pole within his constituency for the improvement of connection and network. His constituency received a bill of \$4000 thereafter whilst the Member asserted that they have not used their services and presumes that the Service provider intends to collect the fee from the \$1 million project initiative.

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Member thanked the Minister for initiating and enhancing projects such as farming and agro-nursery as we will be relying on these in the future. The Member further stated that this is a good way to stop relying on imported products and food as it costs money, where we can always go back to agro-farming and fishing for food and for sufficient source of income. The Member further queried on "traps" for the control of wild boars ruining the land and crops. He then made a request to construct a fence around the constituency in order to protect these lands/plantations.

**Hon Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries - LAAULI Leuatea Polativao Fosi**

The Hon Minister responded that the matter raised by the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela was raised in his maiden speech and clarified that the Ministry has reached out to the Ministry of Police for their assistance, especially for the raid squad and K9 Unit to hunt these wild boars to assist with addressing this issue. The minister noted that upon negotiations with the Police Commissioner they concluded that they will start off with traps using k9 dogs to hunt for wild boars. He further accentuated on plans that the Ministry are pursuing so that the farmers are given as much assistance to avoid and diminish the growth of these animals roaming around which damages the plantations and harvests of farmers. The Minister also encouraged the work of Alii and Faipule, in villages and constituencies to ensure agro-produce is safe from wild boars and other animals. He further advised the Village Council to use the funds from the 1 million initiative to buy tools for constructing fences around their farms and plantations.

**Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe, Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela conts**

The Member acknowledged the Minister for his clarification and response, then continued his address:

- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member raised the delay of road works for his Constituency at Matautu, Matafaa and Gagaifo

**Tofa Hon OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Minister for MWTI**

The Hon Minister responded to the Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela to be patient as there is a paucity of funds but the government intends to improve roads equally for all

**Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe, Member for Lefaga and Faleaseela conts**

- Minister of Health

The Member requested for a hospital to be built to cater for his constituency, further stated that he appreciates the plans in place for a hospital but currently awaiting for financial support to implement this. He informed the Minister that there is available land offered from families, however he would like the hospital to be centralized to ensure convenience and accessibility for all constituents. The Member concluded by acknowledging all present and relayed best wishes to the Minister of Finance.

**iv. Afioga AGASEATA Valelio Tanuvasa Peto – Member for Aana Alofi No. 3**

The Member greeted all Members in the House and acknowledged all CEOs of respective Government Ministries and Agencies present. He extended greetings to Samoa in all her honorific salutations and called on his constituency for their support as he tries to make a voice on their behalf. Acknowledged the Minister of Finance and her ministry for the tabled Supplementary.

- Public Service Commission

The Member emphasized his support for the review by PSC on the recruitment and employment of citizens especially the School Inspectors and requested the Remuneration Tribunal to review salaries accordingly.

- Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour

The Member also touched on other sources of income for our people, through scholarship opportunities for our students overseas to attain good education, as well as through the RSE scheme. The Member echoed sentiments by fellow Members to have the Fono Faavae included in the vetting process to ensure the most suitable and capable candidates are selected for these opportunities. Furthermore, the Member requested to have another liaison officer to assist our people going abroad with necessary paperwork and to explain the working conditions and entitlements so they are made aware.

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member raised an allocation to be given to his constituency for the development of agriculture, and raised the 10k allocation for equipment for developments. He further queried on suppliers of equipment needed by constituencies.

### **Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi – Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries**

The Hon Minister clarified that the Government's primary intention is to give the opportunity to the Constituency to implement their own development hence the allocation of 10k for each Constituency and urged the Member for Aana Alofi 3 to be patient as the plan is for 5 years. The Hon Minister urged the Member to accept the policies given for these initiatives and further clarified that the Ministry has used the 600k which is usually appropriated for the Agriculture Show to be distributed to each Constituency during its 'First Harvest'. He then pleaded to the Members and Constituencies to implement these funds properly. The Minister then asserted the main issue here is when funds/money is offered to each constituency they distribute it right away without proper planning for the best use of these funds.

### **Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati – Member for Sagaga 3**

The member expressed his support for the 1million initiative as well as the plan of the ministry of MAF regarding the 'uluai seleselega' and elaborated that \$200,000 was given to his constituency and they have a remaining fund of \$90,000 with about 35k was used to renew their Committee Office.

### **Afioga AGASEATA Valelio Tanuvasa Peto - Aana Alofi No. 3 (cont.)**

The Member made known to the Minister that their First Harvest is on April 29 and commended the assistance to the constituency. He requested for access roads at Nofoaalii to be completely tar sealed so it could reach other residents who are living inland as well as the school on this road. The Member requested for water access in certain parts of his constituency and informed the Minister that there are numerous roads which need maintenance and repairs. There was also mention of issues from certain families in his constituency who have requested for sufficient power supply.

- Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

The Member requested for seawalls for the village of Vaialua and concluded his address.

### **v. Afioga MAGELE Sekati Fiaui – Member for Faasaleleaga 2**

The Member for Faasaleleaga 2 acknowledged all Members present in the House and the OCLA for serving the Parliament effortlessly. Further acknowledged Samoa and his Constituency and families near and far for their support. He then urged Members to adapt to change and to learn from past mistakes and go forward.

- RSE Scheme (Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour)

The Member was pleased to note an increase in the numbers of citizens traveling abroad for the RSE scheme and commended Ministry for this.



- Minister of Finance

Acknowledged the Minister and her Ministry for the preparation of the supplementary Budget. Applauded the foresight to increase pension.

- Ministry Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested for a speed hump in front of the Chinese shop at Safua and he also mentioned that this was also requested in 2020;

*To which the Hon Minister responded that he has yet to receive such a request.*

The Member asserted that a proposal was submitted in 2020 and that he will provide a copy for the Hon. Ministers' records.

### **Hon Minister for MWTI, OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai**

The Hon Minister interjected that since it is a new parliamentary term, the Member is required to submit a new proposal.

### **Afioga MAGELE Sekati Fiaui – Member for Faasaleleaga 2 (cont.)**

The Member continued by addressing the following Ministers:

- Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure

The Member requested for repair work on access roads in his constituency; further emphasized that his constituents have been eager to harvest the lands but have been held back due to the poor state of the roads which lead to plantations. The Member expressed his gratitude for the 1mill district project that has provided much assistance to his constituency.

He mentioned a fresh spring inland of Salelavalu can be used if the Water Authority provides a water pump that can easily distribute this water to areas within his constituency which will in turn solve the issue of water supply in certain areas of his constituency.

The Member mentioned an issue at the Faleolo International Airport whereby photos were prohibited but there is no sign to inform the public of this, and suggested for proper signpost to be placed in this area so that the public are made aware.

- Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

The Member echoed concerns raised by other Members, regarding telecommunication coverage in Savaii, and sought the relevant authorities for proper action as it was never this bad in the past.

- Ministry Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Member queried the visa application process for New Zealand and suggested for possible negotiations with the NZ Government for necessary action to simplify this complex process. He further noted similar concerns for the process to attain a permit and Talofa pass, and urged the Government for assistance.

- Public Service Commission

The Member supports the review and the Workforce Plan, however, he is concerned with recent graduates having no employment opportunities, thus affecting their ability to serve their bonds after graduating.

The Member acknowledged the 1 million project for the development of constituencies and conveyed acknowledgement to the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for their prompt respond to a request in regards to a land in the Member's village which they are now leasing and have built there Ofisa Fono Faavae on. The Member further commended the 'Talomua Program'.

He then concluded by urging Samoa to keep the 'Sabbath Holy' by banning loud music and cars from playing inappropriate music loudly on the day of the Lord.

**vi. Afioga Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Pierre Laufo – Member for Anoamaa 2**

The Hon member greeted the House, addressed Samoa in her honorific salutations, acknowledged the Ao o le Malo and his good lady, the Council of Deputy and his good lady; he addressed the judiciary. He acknowledged our neighboring country, American Samoa and addressed all denominations for support through their calling. The Hon Member conveyed appreciation on different issues and opinions raised by respective Members and stated that the current war in Europe, the high cost of living and climate change have contributed to the shortage of supplies of essentials in our country. He therefore urged to be vigilant and to create a contingency plan to address these incessant issues.

- Samoa Tourism Authority

The Member emphasized that we should prioritize the revival and development of our Tourism industry, the Member further stated that before we were hit with COVID we received 400million from this industry. Further encouraged vendors in rural areas to be well equipped and ready for the tourists in our country.

**Proceedings adjourned at 1pm and will reconvene at 3pm**