

DISCLAIMER

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PART B

3pm

Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2022/2023 - debate on second reading cont.

iv. Afioga LEANA Ronnie Posini – Member for Safata (cont.)

The member commended the Minister for clarifying the issue on carbon credit as there were some accusations made online. Furthermore, the Member also queried the reason for halting the 1 million funds for their constituency’s developments. Afioga LEANA stated that all conditions were adhered to by the Committee and proposed to have reports from each constituency tabled in Parliament for accountability and transparency purposes. He stated that his constituency followed the layout/blueprints provided for the construction of their District office, yet other districts are not implementing the same layout.

Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo – Minister of Finance

The Hon Minister stood to clarify that she is the responsible Minister for the district project as the Minister for Women is away for medical treatment. The Hon Minister clarified that when she took the reins of the Minister’s Office; she was informed that respective constituencies’ had been issued a letter by the Minister identifying the reason for halt of payment. It was also required that a reply was to be provided to the Ministry whether the issues were identified and resolved by the 9th January 2023, however to date there has not been a reply received from the Member and his constituency.

Afioga LEANA Ronnie Posini – Member for Safata (cont.)

The Member informed the House that the issue was addressed and resolved.

Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister asserted to the Member that a reply is required, therefore the Member and his Committee should respond to the letter received and explain to the Minister that the issue has been resolved before payment of funds can continue.

v. Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa, Member for Aana Alofi 2

The Member greeted the House, commended the Minister for Finance for the preparation of the Supplementary Budget and he then raised the following issues:

- **Ministry of Education:**

The Member acknowledged the appointment of the new CEO for the Ministry of Education and requested for the salary of mission schoolteachers to be included as part of the Ministry's budget, especially for pre-schoolers and kindergarten levels as this is the starting years where the foundation to learning is introduced to students. Furthermore the need to prioritize pay rise for teachers.

- **Samoa Airport Authority**

The member mentioned the need to have proper security personnel for all government offices; noting an incident whereby a passenger was found in one of the aircrafts who did not go through proper check and screening

- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**

The member reminded the Minister of a request made in regards to the poor conditions behind their church EFKS Hall which they are still awaiting funds to commence with the works needed for improvement. The Member also pointed a health hazard situation in his constituency which continues to be an issue during heavy rainfall on low-lying areas in his sub-village where many families reside, Susuga AIONO reminded the Minister about their proposal for road works at his constituency to mitigate this issue. He further urged the government to consider looking at ways to offer an affordable service given the high cost of living.

- **Ministry of Police**

The Member urged the Ministry for proper action for individuals who take out their fishing vessels during bad weather as this also affects the work of the Ministry in upholding safety within the country.

- **Ministry of Health**

The Member acknowledged the renovations and improvement made for the Leulumoega Hospital, as well as the services provided by doctors and nurses.

- **Ministry of Women Community and Social Development**

The Member highlighted that his constituency is one of the 10 constituencies that are suspended. He stated that he has nothing else to say but believes that they have followed all requirement for the district project. He further stated that he is the only one and another man who are supporters of HRPP in the committee as the rest of the committee are FAST members. The Member wished to clarify the matter as there were statements made that there was biasness in appointing members for their Committee. The Member further stated that it has been 6 months since the Committee was paid, and sought clarification as to why this has occurred.

Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister clarified that the Member should be aware of the causes and effect of the action to terminate the Deputy Chairperson due to reasons that only the Member can resolve; furthermore, the Minister advised the Member, that the answer is to have consensus and negotiate with his committee in regards to the issue for a sound resolution for the progress and betterment of his constituency.

Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa, Member for Aana Alofi 2 (cont.)

The Member disagreed with statements made by the Minister asserting that the funds have been distributed, and that the decision to terminate the deputy Chairperson was the village decision and that he will resolve the matter.

vi. Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga 1

The Member greeted the House then commended the Speaker and deputy for taking the fort on mediating the sitting last year. Further commended all the Members of Parliament and all CEOs of Government Ministries and Agencies. The Member acknowledged the Government for the increase in pension and believes that it is also necessary to have a salary increase for the Public Service through increments or a percentage to assist with the effects of the increase in cost of living.

The Member also raised an advertisement to freeze all advertised positions from PSC and he raised a concern that there are numerous fresh graduates looking for employment. He also mentioned that, employees will not be able to move up the ladder or get promoted if this is the situation. The member calls for this to be lifted so that the service have more opportunities for our children and for people to provide a better life for their families. Afioga SULAMANAIA queried the duration of this PSC recruitment freeze as there are returning students who obtained scholarships and have not yet secured employment, yet they must be given the opportunity to serve their bond. The only request from constituency is to create more employment opportunities, fill up current vacancies and create new vacancies for our unemployed graduates and people.

The Member then queried the issuing of license and noted that the process has become complex as people have to go to the hospital for assessment and more inspections; and requested for a more simplified process and possibly have all different assessments conducted in one area for convenience.

The Member acknowledged the district development projects and emphasised that his constituency was the first to present its audited financial statement on the project. He then commended the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment for the seawalls in Laulii. Furthermore, commended the Land Transport Authority for the approval of a request to repair the Fagalii

bridge. Then requested road repairs for the road between Fagalii and Maugafiafia as it is an access road used by numerous members of the public, as well as students attending Samoa Primary School.

- Minister of Health

The Member queried the status of Covid and the new variant within our country; urged the Minister to make advertisements and conduct numerous awareness programs on this new variant so the people are aware and take precautionary measures for their safety. Furthermore, the Member requested the construction of a District health centre at the MNRE reserve area in his constituency.

- Minister of Education

The Member commended the Minister and his ministry for all efforts made to ensure the progress of this important social area. He commented on the current process whereby students are awarded with overseas scholarships and requested that the process go back to how it was in the past, where one does not need to apply but is rewarded based solely on his/her academic abilities. Afioga SULAMANAIA noted his disagreement towards the process of applying for a scholarship. He again raised the importance of creating new employment for our fresh graduating scholars so that they may be able to serve their bond and provide for their families.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Member commended efforts and new initiatives brought about to revive the agricultural and fisheries sector and expressed his disappointment for the shortage of onions. He then concluded by relaying best wishes for all.

vii. Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Member for Vaisigano 1

The Member greeted the House, wished everyone Happy New Year and offered congratulatory wishes to newly appointed CEOs and all CEOs present in the House. He acknowledged the Minister of Finance and her ministry for preparing the Supplementary and raised the following issues:

- Minister for Communication and Information Technology

The member raised the poor coverage and connection for telephone companies in his constituency, Afioga NIUAVA commented that this was never an issue in the past and requested the telephone companies for assistance.

- Minister of Finance

The member commented on the process of requesting to Cabinet for approval of Parliamentary Committee visits to Savaii, and recommended that this process be reviewed as submissions to Cabinet for their endorsement causes delay and prolong the work of Parliamentary Committees.

Susuga Hon LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister responded in his capacity as the Acting Minister for MCIT that he had a meeting with the telephone companies and the Regulator to discuss several matters including nation-wide coverage for our people. The Hon Minister asserted that both Vodafone and Digicel are providing good coverage throughout Samoa, however if there are issues regarding bad coverage, then it is a lapse somewhere, that can be fixed and solved.

vii. Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo, Member for Vaisigano 1

The Member continued with expressing his points and concerns, he mentioned the processes involved for Visitor Visa to New Zealand and the complexities and timeliness which has caused much displeasure to our people who are applying and waiting for their Visa. He mentioned an incident whereby his daughter could not exit the airport for 18 hours on a transit to her destination, thus his request for the process to be simplified for our people.

- Samoa Shipping Services

The Member commented on the business of vessels going to and from the islands of Upolu and Savaii in the festive season, and stated that he noted there was not enough space at the wharf for vessels to dock, then suggested that this problem can be avoided if the Asau wharf was also used as another port for domestic travel. The Member acknowledged the services offered by Shipping as there were no more people/families sleeping at the wharf due to shortage of vessels

- Land Transport Authority

The Member requested for roads to be widened, especially the road leading to Asau Primary and College, as once a vehicle approaches, students have no walkway or footpath to use for their safety.

- Minister of Natural, Resources and Environment

The Member acknowledged the Ministry's approval for lease of 10 acres of land for development purposes of his constituency, however requested for the lease to be reduced from \$2,000 to \$200 as the constituency is in an isolated area. The member then requested for a seawall in Auala and Asau.

- Minister of Finance

Noted an allocation in the supplementary for petrol prices and requested for a bus to cater for his constituency, and once there is enough funds to purchase their own bus, then the 'borrowed' bus from the ministry will be returned. The Member acknowledged Mr Speaker for the opportunity to speak and concluded.

**Proceedings set aside at 4:39pm and
Resumed at 5:20pm**

viii. Afioga Tagaloatele Pasi Poloa – Member for Sagaga 4

The Member greeted the House and the CEOs of respective Ministries and agencies. He acknowledged the Ao o le Malo and his good lady, Council of Deputies, Judiciary and the president. He greeted the Judiciary, all religious ministers and Samoa. He then acknowledged Mr Speaker for his patience and leadership in leading the Parliament during its proceedings for being the mediator, he also commended the works of all Ministers and their ministries.

- Minister of Community and Social Development (1 million project)

The Member stated that their constituency is ready for the million project and have followed the guidelines and policies of this project

The member commended the Minister of Education, Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance for their tireless efforts for the development of the nation.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The Member reminded the Minister of its proposal for road works already submitted for his consideration. He mentioned one of the sub-village in his constituency have requested for their access road to be completely tarred as and for an access road.

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

The Hon Minister clarified that the road works were not ceased by the Land Transport Authority rather a disagreement from the constituency.

Afioga Tagaloatele Pasi Poloa – Member for Sagaga 4 (cont.)

The Member acknowledged the Minister for his clarifications regarding the incomplete roads in his consistency and hopes it would be complete before June. He concluded by acknowledging the Minister of Health for the district hospitals nearby and requested for one in his constituency and expressed his support for the supplementary.

ix. Tofa MANULELEUA Paletasala T Tovale – Member for Faleata 1

The Member acknowledged Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister and Cabinet and all Parliamentarians. He acknowledged the Minister of Finance for the preparation of the Supplementary Bill. He then spoke specifically to the following Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure

The member noted that the Minister and Ministry has already inspected the road at Moamoa and is still awaiting when the Minister would give the approval to commence road works on this road.

Also noted the condition of the crossing bridge in Moamoa Fou and informed the Minister that it is unsafe for vehicles to cross especially during heavy rainfall. The member conveyed acknowledgement for all road works and developments implemented in his constituency and reminded the Minister of several requests such as the drainage at Fugalei area and behind SMI Hardware for his consideration and action.

- Minister Justice and Courts Administration

The Member acknowledged the Ministry for their hard work and commended efforts for completing a backlog that they had over the years. Commended the Minister for the opening service, to kick start their year of work.

- Minister of Police

Afioga MANULELEUA commended certain villages for the initiative to set bylaws to combat noise pollution from vehicles passing by with loud music and causing much disturbance. He continued by expressing his disappointment with the public during the Toa Samoa parades whereby the majority of cars placed their speakers outside of their vehicles making this issue of nuisance even worse, therefore urged Police and the Ministry to thoroughly look into this matter. Furthermore, he requested for a police to be at the three corner road going into St Mary's to clear the road as there is always a traffic jam at that area in the mornings.

x. Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua – Member for Salega 1

The member acknowledged all who were present and wished all a Happy New Year, he greeted his constituency and all those listening in, and made the following points:

He commended the minister and ministry of Finance for their efforts in preparing the supplementary; furthermore he commended the minister of Health and his ministry for their continuous efforts in ensuring health and safety within Samoa, he then requested for a generator for their district hospital. Afioga FEPULEAI again acknowledged efforts of the Minister for Works and his ministry for the developments made for his constituency and all efforts which have made inter-island trips convenient for the public. He then requested to have their roads tarred and for water supply access to be made priority for some areas in his constituency including the village of Si'uvao.

Furthermore, the Member raised concern with environmental conditions regarding the river at Fogatuli and clarified that the Member clarified that water overflows on the road during heavy rainfall, and makes it impossible to cross by foot and also vehicle, therefore suggested that the gravel could be dug up so the rivers could flow well. The member explained that there is a cliff in his constituency that recently claimed the life of an individual, thus the urgency of his request for a guard rail to be established in this area for the safety of the travelling public.

Afioga FEPULEAI requested for more liaison officers overseas to assist our people travelling abroad for seasonal employment and acknowledged the Minister of Finance for the allocation to

employ a new liaison officer to assist with all needs and requirements for our people abroad, and concluded by expressing support for the Supplementary.

xi. Afioga FUIONO Tenina Crichton – Member for Falealupo

The Member greeted the House and spoke specifically to the following Ministers:

- Minister of Works

The Member raised concern with the impact of heavy rainfall on most of the roads within the constituency; he further stated that the recent road developments made in the previous year has also been damaged. He added there is a church inland, but with damaged roads, his constituents have found it difficult to access this church. The member raised concern with the condition of access roads during hazardous weather. Additionally, the member expressed concern with the lack of water supply which caters for the community residing inland rural areas of his constituency. Furthermore, the Member requested for streetlights to be installed at inland areas in his constituency.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development

The member touched on the 1 million initiative raising concerns with the availability of funds. He also acknowledged the increment on pension.

- Minister of Health

Commended the minister and ministry for their continuous efforts in ensuring health of the public. However, the member raised the issue of over-sized doctors who should be setting examples for the general public coming in.

- Samoa Water Authority

The Member requested for water access to the rest of their constituency if there could be a pressure pump so the water could flow to the inland areas

- Electric Power Corporation

The Member requested for streetlights to make it easier for the constituency to walk to and from at night time. HE mentioned that there are village taboo [tapuafanua] that people could not walk during the night in these roads so therefore requests for streetlights to avoid accidents occurring. Furthermore, made known to the House that there is an area in Falealupo that has potential to be a tourist site if the roads can be fixed as it leads to this beautiful area which in turn can reap benefits and contribute to the constituency and Samoa's economy.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuivilili Tuivasa, Member for Vaimauga

The Member referred to statements made by the former Member who was speaking to be removed from Hansard as it sounds derogatory to the Opposition Leader.

Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Molioo – Minister for Finance

The Hon Minister asserted to the Member for Falealupo that funds will be distributed in due time, and sought the Speaker’s approval for the removal of words made by the Member for Vaimauga 1 in reference to the Government having no money; ‘ua leai ni tupe a le Malo’. The Hon Minister elaborated that the budget passed by the Assembly has an allocation of 11 million to cater for the first \$200,000 for the 51 constituency but given that his constituency did not comply with the requirements, its development has been put on hold. The Hon Minister moved for the removal of the derogatory words.

Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker ruled for the removal of words as requested by the Hon Minister.

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

The Member greeted Samoa in her honorific salutations then commended the Minister of Finance for the preparation of the Bill as well as the Chairperson for the Finance and Expenditure Committee and its member for their deliberations on the supplementary. He then made the following requests for his constituency.

- Request for seawalls in his constituency to combat the impacts of sea level rise.
- Request for road works specifically for the bridge at Salani.
- Request for the installation of streetlights in areas of Utulaelae going inland.
- In addition, the member requested for proper road signs to be set up around the road going to Aleipata and the other one going to Salani.
- Moreover, the member requested for a speed hump to be constructed in front of the Salani EFKS church to avoid speeding cars and for the safety of the congregation and public.
- He mentioned that although there is no allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture, he would like to acknowledge efforts of the Ministry.

xiii Afioga SEUAMULI Fasi Toma – Member for Gagaemauga No. 2

The Member greeted the House and commended our people going on the RSE scheme for the development of their own families and requested that the RSE Scheme would go through the Fono Faavae of each constituency so that they will pick the right people from their constituency for the seasonal work.

- Minister of Health

The Member commended the Minister and his Ministry for working tirelessly for the healthcare of our people. He then mentioned his disappointment for the lack of proper resources at the Tuasivi Hospital – lacking wheelchairs for patients; he requested for at least 6 wheelchairs for the Hospital, especially the Emergency area.

The Member also touched on the river overflowing at Lago as it is impossible to cross especially people that need to reach the hospital for dialysis treatment. He further suggested whether it is time to have a hospital at Vaipouli. In regards to the Safotu hospital, the Member stated that patients are looked after by nurses while the doctor sits in the comfort of his residence receiving calls and updates from the nurses servicing the hospital. The Member urged for proper action to be taken as Safotu hospital caters for 5 constituencies which heightens the need to be properly resourced and have an attentive doctor to care for patients. The member also mentioned that a contractor dug up an area in front of the college at Avao and has not returned to cover the area and urged the Minister to look into this matter. He echoed sentiments from fellow Parliamentarians in regards to commending the services offered by the Shipping Services during the festive season.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment

The Member mentioned the impacts of climate change and sea level rise thus the need for seawalls in his constituency. The member concluded by encouraging the minister and all relevant authorities to find solutions to address the inappropriate use of social media.

xiv. Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers- Ah Kau, Member for Gagaifomauga I

The Hon Member greeted the House and all listening in, acknowledged the different denominations for their callings and their silent prayers for Parliament. She then addressed the following Ministers:

- Minister of Health

The Hon member commended the Minister and Ministry for all their hard work and reminded the Minister for her constituency request for a hospital to be repaired/renovated stated that this hospital serves for 5 constituencies. She further stated that there have been news on the second wave of Covid whereas some countries have opted to close its borders again; therefore, she urged the government to be proactive and take necessary actions for the safety of our people.

- Public Service Commission

The Hon Member mentioned the ‘freeze’ on vacancies and recruitment as informed by the PSC, and urged that this be reviewed as there are numerous people (students) who are seeking employment.

- Recognized Seasonal Employment

The Member asserted that this scheme has been beneficial and advantageous for numerous families in Samoa, and urged the Government to prioritize these areas, that provide means of income for our people

- Minister of Police

The Hon member recalled the incident which occurred to the Opposition Leader and emphasized the importance of having police officers assist and provide security to our dignitaries.

Mr. Speaker calls on a Member of Parliament to adjourn Proceedings with a prayer.

**Proceedings of the Assembly adjourned at 7:03pm and will reconvene on Wednesday 18th
January 2023 at 9:30am**