

DISCLAIMER

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Day 6

PART B

2pm

*******GOVERNMENT RESPONSES (cont.)*******

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure

The Hon Minister advised Members that the Ministry as a whole (EPC, SWA, LTA, SPA, SSS, SAA, SSFA, etc) will conduct its site visits around upolu and will go around Savaii next week. Thus, the minister advised the members to be patient as he will respond to their requests in due time.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell – Member for Satupaitea

In regards to the independent water scheme, the Member noted that they have been using the independent water scheme and requested the Minister for proper notice before their Committee visits as his constituency would like to be prepared as well as ask questions during their site visit. He then requested the ministry of Health to conduct testing of the water quality of this independent water reserve whether it is safe for consumption.

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure

Hon. Minister clarified that there are statutory limitations when dealing with independent water scheme as it is under the authority/supervision of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe – Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela

The Member also requested for testing of their independent water reserve and to advise their constituency if it is safe for consumption.

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure

The Hon Minister advised Members to consider the safe supply of metered water by the Samoa Water Authority instead of the independent water scheme as this ensures safe and clean water for their constituencies.

- Land Transport Authority

The Hon Minister noted the issue raised by the Member for Alataua West regarding a Bachelor of Engineering Program offered at the University of the South Pacific. Further noted that students who do not reach the average mark for overseas scholarship but have passed all their papers, they are eligible for local scholarships to ensure they have the chance to enhance their skills and knowledge. In regards to the Tiavea Tai road, Hon Minister noted that this area can also be a tourist attraction and that he will look into this matter as this can generate revenue for the development of the constituency and benefit our economy. He then addressed the issue raised by the Member for Gagaifomauga 2, on the construction of the Cross-Island Road in Savaii for convenience and ease of transportation around the island. The Minister noted that this a very important matter that he will take into consideration for future development projects. Furthermore, the Cross-Island road in Upolu is currently awaiting an approval from World Bank based on the evaluation report provided regarding Lot 2 around Tiapapata to Siumu. He asserted that the roads from Tiapapato to Tanugamanono will be repaired. He further elaborated on other developments in the pipeline for the Ministry to assess and consider. There was also mention of the landslide request by Gagaifomauga No.2 at Safotu and another also at Anoamaa which works are now in progress, the minister highlighted that these matters are all included under the 'Stabilization Project' funded by the World Bank and ADB.

The Hon Minister noted the request to fix the ford at Eva has also been given to the Chief Executive of LTA, further clarifying that this is not an easy project with approximate cost of more than 5million; and asserted that it has been included in the list of projects which needs to be implemented. Furthermore, Hon Minister informed the House that road works for Faleolo will resume when weather patterns are good. In regards to road maintenance which some members have raised concern and complaints the minister advised the members to be patient with the current condition of road-works as we are experiencing heavy rainfall thus, it would be much more complex if the contractors tar seal these roads in this weather. He clarified that contractors used other means to fill the pot holes on the roads as they cannot use proper tar due to poor weather.

Hon. Minister advised the members to ensure their constituencies look after government properties including road-signs to avoid damage and waste more money which can be used for other developments. On the issue of beacon Lights (road safety); the Minister mentioned many contractors conducting road works not using beacon lights to indicate to incoming vehicles that road works are in progress for the safety of the public. He asserted that the LTA will not consider vehicles without beacon lights as this is an important matter for the safety and awareness of the public. Further noted that there are specific lights for certain purposes that

must be adhered following International Standards. He then continued by informing the House of the different colours and its significance. Red - used for emergencies only, such as the Ambulance and Fire trucks, while blue is for Police. However, he recently noticed that Ambulance have also used blue beacon lights and urged relevant authorities to abide with standards.

Susuga MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale-Molioo – Hon Minister of Finance

The Hon Member raised concern with speed humps on the road which are not consistent in size, height, and appearance, as some are marked while others have no marking. She then queried whether there is any legislation that allows a person to cut a car line during a funeral as they are on the main road. The Hon Minister further explained that she did not make it to a constituency program on time as she respected the procession for a deceased member.

Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua – Member for Salega 1

The member reminded the Minister for water supply and road works as requested for villages in his constituency.

Afioga TAGALOATELE Tasi Poloa – Member for Sagaga 4

The member reminded the minister about his request for road works in his constituency in addition, the member requested the minister to visit his constituency and assess the quality of the independent water reserve whether it is safe for drinking. Furthermore requested for proper road maintenance at the 3 corners in his constituency to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure (cont.)

The Hon Minister reassured members that his ministry will conduct site visits around Samoa which means that all villages will be covered. Furthermore, the issue regarding public transport such as taxi and buses using accessories such as lights, speakers and others to decorate their vehicles, yet this is not allowed. The Minister stated that the Land Transport Authority is not to be blamed for this, as usually car owners abide with requirements when coming to pass or register their vehicles, once they leave then they put these accessories on. He then suggested to create a law which regulates the sale of these accessories to avoid such unnecessary issues from occurring. He then urged the Land Transport Authority to tighten its traffic monitoring duties on the roads and be vigilant with the issuing of road tickets due to the inability of people to abide with requirements.

Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa – Member for Aana Alofa 2

The member expressed gratitude to the Minister for mentioning the issue on road signs being damaged and his call for respective villages to take responsibility in the upkeep of these government assets. He then requested to enforce relevant laws on the banning of vehicles blasting their music on the radios which is much disturbance to families having evening prayers. The

Member also requested for proper drainages in his constituency as it can be dangerous for drivers when the roads are narrow. He also expressed gratitude on improvement road works at Malua and the establishment of bus stops at Utualii heading west.

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (cont.)

The Minister asserted that the Ministry are considering this issues raised by the Member for Aana Alofi No.2 and they will make sure all these issues would be referred to Ministry of Police and the relevant authorities for proper action.

- **Electric Power Corporation:**

The Hon Minister acknowledged efforts of those who first started working when the Corporation was established with limited funds. He then mentioned that the government is currently reviewing the 20% reduction in electricity charge as this was initially introduced to help address the rise in cost of living; however, it is obvious that the cost of living continues to rise. Furthermore, Hon Minister explained that an intermediary company ‘middleman’ is causing hindrance to overseas companies from coming into Samoa to develop non-renewable energy. The Minister noted that these middleman companies are withholding the use of our people to use their knowledge and expertise for the work. He further explained that an intermediary is not needed as the Corporation has an Executive Management and Board for this.

Tofa ALE Vena Ale – Member for Faleata 4

The Member queried the companies mentioned by the Minister whether these are local companies or foreign companies.

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai – Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (cont.)

The Minister noted that the Company is overseas based, and the MOU was signed in Samoa; the Minister is searching who the shareholders of this company are. The minister stressed that the government does not accept this and government will review this and find out its stakeholders. Furthermore, the Minister also explained that the work being done by the intermediary company can be well managed by our locals and he also explained that he is unacceptable. The Minister explained that it is a company from America but was sign in our country where he is tracking who signed this as well as shareholders involved.

Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tile Leia – Member for Falelatai & Samatau

The Member stood to clarify that it is the Green Market Company which the Minister is talking about. The member noted that a MOU was signed between the Government and the company in New York when we were looking for cheaper bids of electricity from overseas. The member stressed that renewable energy is expensive thus the previous government sought bids overseas and ended up with the company mentioned by the Minister.

Furthermore, the Member clarified that although renewable energy is available it does not make the electricity cheaper. The member also stated there was a question made to the previous government on why the electricity is expensive, The Member clarified the reason for high price of is due to very little economy of scales to perform these works. Therefore they have tried to collect all remaining electricity (that uses fuels) to enlarge the economy of scales (Speaker interjected the Member asserting to refrain from speaking about this matter as the Minister is already addressing this with his Government Responses)

Afioga Hon. TOEOLESULUSULU Cedric Pose Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

The Minister added that this was the same American company that requested for 18% of Samoa's Carbon Credit which is equivalent to the value of 9-12million US dollars.

Tofa Hon. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (cont.)

The Minister addressed the projects and requests made towards the Samoa Water Authority, and asserted that there seems to be duplication of roles for SWA and MNRE, specifically in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of drainage and streams. He elaborated that there have been recent issues concerning the blockage of streams, to which the underlying cause was too much littering from the public. Hon Minister urged residents living nearby the streams to help keep the areas clean. Hon OLO spoke on other projects and informed the House that there is an Air Service Agreement as requested by USA, and other countries including Tahiti and Kiribati. The Minister asserted the importance of seeking air services from these countries as many tourists will be travelling to these destinations.

In regards to housing permits issued by the PUMA Authority, the Minister informed the public that this service is also carried out in Savaii, and advised to abide with conditions and recommendations given to them by the office in terms of construction of houses. The Minister elaborated that there are several proposals approved with the design, yet families build a different design that was not approved by the Authority and asserted that this is an offence and in breach of the law. The Hon Minister concluded by acknowledging his ministry for all their efforts and services to the country, he also acknowledged his Associate Ministers for the support and his constituency.

3. Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister greeted the House and Samoa in all its honorific salutations; acknowledged heads of government ministries and corporations for their service to the country; acknowledged the Speaker and OCLA for their service to parliament. He then acknowledged the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the opposition noting his gratitude for their work in opposing government.

The Hon Member mentioned the absence of the Hon Prime Minister and stated that this was the first time a Prime Minister is absent for deliberations of a Supplementary and asserted that this signifies the Prime Minister's trust and belief in her Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and all Members to pass the Bill while she seeks medical treatment overseas.

Hon Minister stressed on the importance of agricultural developments for our people; he believes this will make Samoa less dependent on imports and most important counter the increase in cost of living. He mentioned his fellow Ministers commenting on solar energy and carbon credit, and asserted that if these developments make life easier for our people, then the Government will give its endorsement and, all for the betterment of our nation and people.

The Minister stressed on the use of substitutions of imported products and mentioned a poultry company arriving in Samoa after an assessment was made on ways to solve the huge amount of imports of daily essentials (food products) for our people. The Minister elaborated, the answer is with the 51 constituencies; they have established their Offices with Committees who are tasked to give sound advice and proper monitoring and management of developments for the prosperity of its constituents. Further stated that it begins with constituencies, to feed all livestock and grow much crops. The Minister asserted the answer to this problem is in our own hands.

The Minister urged people to put their animals in cages to ensure they do not roam around and destroy peoples plantations they worked tirelessly to cultivate. He explained further that there are certain constituencies looking into purchasing different types of wires needed for cages to put animals in and ensure they do not escape and roam. He then informed the House that the FAO have released that the number one threat in the world is food security; in this regard FAO has provided \$10million in grant for our country to boost agricultural development. The paramount aim of the Ministry is to multiply planting materials so that our people are able to develop agro-farming and agro-nurseries. He also mentioned plans to submit a Cabinet Paper for their endorsement to prohibit the excessive slaughter of cows for family faalavelave, rather focus on exporting our meat for more revenues to generate in the country.

The Minister touched on the matter of mechanization, and elaborated that there have been many requests to import vehicles to use in farms but the customs have set a limit on manufacture years imported into the country for safety reasons, and requested to the Minister to lift this restriction so that farmers are able to bring in vehicles suitable for the farms. He asked his constituency for their patience as he seeks possible ways to implement their request.

In regards to our Fisheries and marine ecosystem, the Hon Minister explained that there are currently 2 Fisheries Companies docked at the main wharf, however the issue is they are located at the main wharf where Cruise Ships dock thus, this can be problematic therefore Government recommends a separate wharf for these Companies.

Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena – Member for Faasaleleaga

The Member queried the feasibility of acquiring companies that can train our locals with poultry farming, given the shortage of eggs we have experienced lately.

Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga

The Member noted the 10million offered by FAO and sought proper compensation for the costly preparations made by the constituency for the building to house the Ministries at their constituency. Afioga FUAAVA queried whether any form of compensation can be received for his constituency.

Susuga MAUOLO Tavita Aмоса – Member for Sagaga 2

The Member echoed sentiments made by the Hon Minister that Samoa will be developed if we continue to cultivate our lands and fish our seas. He queried whether cows will be converted to cash at \$500 or \$1,000. He then stated that when our people buy corned beef, the money belongs to overseas countries and this will potentially cause an increase in our trade deficit.

Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister reassured the member for Aleipata itupa i luga/lalo that he will consider building a nursery within the area as requested by both members. Additionally, with regards to the request by Sagaga 2 the minister noted that the family can decide the value of their cows used in their faalavelave as the cabinet cannot put a specific value/price for cows given that there are different types of faalavelave. He then addressed issue raised by the Member for Faasaleleaga 5 and spoke on the process for developing poultry farming. He also noted that sea grapes are now distributed to all constituencies and it will be provided during the First Harvest where all the constituencies will be eligible to receive these sea grapes farms, (aliao), clams (faisua), tilapia and other equipment useful for the farmers. The Minister also stated the recent opening of the Nursery at Mulifanua consisting of tanks containing these sea resources that would be distributed among constituencies during their First Harvest.

**Proceedings suspended at 3:48pm; and
resumed at 4:23pm**

Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa 1

The Member expressed his satisfaction with the Minister's responses and urged constituencies to conduct their talomua to see for themselves the importance and benefits of this.

Susuga Hon. LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi – Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister commended the Member for Anoamaa 1 and advised him to share his knowledge and ways with other Members so they could also receive the benefits that you received from following our policies with the projects set out by the government. Furthermore, the Minister stated the purpose and objective for Farmers is to ensure sufficient and enough food security for the country. He then mentioned before, the Development Bank was established primarily to provide assistance to farmers and fishermen, however now the Government has snatched this away from them by having the bank accept various businesses disregarding the main reason/purpose of the Development Bank particularly for farmers and fishermen (individuals without any assets and low income). The CEO of the development bank, Minister of Finance and the Ministry to return the 5 million to kick start this initiative again. The Minister stated this bank has become more of a commercial bank but there was "Direct discussions" between farmers/fishermen and the Government on the needs of these people as well as loans.

-The Minister also mentioned issues in terms of commercial loans, these loans have snatched the incomes of these farmers and fishermen and advised the farmers and fishermen to be patient.

-There are also finalising discussions with the Samoa National Bank where they are planning a scheme to have these farmers/fishermen to attain loans here that would have a guarantee of between 5k and 10k.

The Minister also touched on the newly established Export Authority that will focus on assisting exporters with the exportation of their products overseas. The Minister also mentioned Fiji's system of trading, and he noted that there is good relations between Fiji and other countries and this has helped them shelf their products in overseas countries fast and vice versa. He also noted that, they also have enough supplies hence the boost in their economic.

He addressed SROS and commended the organization for their service to the country through research. He further encourage students working there, to work hard as this is why we encourage students to be educated at a higher level and in this field to develop our own scientific research organization. He then addressed his ministry, executive officer and paid acknowledgement the chief executive officer and staff, also acknowledged the current CEO who recently submitted his resignation letter.

The Hon Minister queried the Minister of Communication regarding the poor internet connection as well as, numerous issues raised by other members regarding network fees while telephones have not been utilized. The minister advised the minister for MCIT to carefully consider all service providers offering internet connection in the country to ensure they are not taking advantage of us.

He then concluded by extending heartfelt appreciation to his CEO who has given notice of his resignation. He asserted that 4.7%increase of our GDP is a confirmation that we are well taken care by our Heavenly Father and we must ensure that the people are well. The Minister further encouraged his fellow FAST members to have patience and have faith in performing work and developments that will assist our country. The Minister then acknowledged his constituency for their

continuous support then concluded by acknowledging his wife and children for their unwavering support.

4. Afioga Hon. TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasion: Minister for Customs and Revenues

Hon Deputy Prime Minister acknowledge Samoa in all its honorific salutations. Extended greetings to Ao o le Malo and good lady, and all Members present in the Chamber as well as his constituency.

The Hon Deputy PM acknowledged the issues raised by Members in regards to Employment; salaries, no allowances/overtimes, scholarships and all other matters which he will attempt to clarify and provide response.

In regards to the review planned for the PSC, Hon Minister clarified that this review is on organizational structure for Government offices, specifically for Principal level to Officers as this accounts for 80% of the workforce (not including contractual positions).

He then highlight the important areas that this review will focus on which are:

- People Development
- Skill Workforce

The Minister stated the aim is for PSC to commence with the review in order to outline a plan/structure of public servants for the next 10 years so to bring forth a National Workforce Plan. It is envisaged that the plan will regulate Government ministries/offices. Hon Deputy PM asserted that it has been almost 16 years since the last review for National workforce plan took place. They are also making plans for private sector and businesses but priority is given to Public servants. The Hon Deputy PM also mentioned the rapid increase of public servants by 11.2%, in numbers amounting to 900 employees and in terms of income 58million was the allocation for the increase of workers for their salaries and this was an unplanned increase. Furthermore, another rationale for the review is to strengthen public servants to serve the government and country effectively and efficiently (good productivity), rather than having too much public servants who do nothing. Therefore the review is warranted to ensure we have the right people for the job.

Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tile Leia – Member for Falelatai & Samatau

The Member noted that Samoa is praised by other pacific countries for its public servants and how they operate in large numbers. The member emphasized that one role of government is to create employment for its people and new graduates to boost the economy. Furthermore, the Member noted that the other primary role of the PSC is to build capacities of the private sector, provide trainings to equip the employees in order to provide the quality work that is needed in the workforce. The Member pose that this review seems that it will result in redundancy and unemployment of our people. He further noted efforts of the previous government to create more employment opportunities to ensure recent graduates from Universities are able to have employments available for them in order to make use of the scholarships they received and to provide a return to our economy. He then expressed disappointment with the minister implying that the government plans to minimize the workforce.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga 1

The member expressed his disappointment with the PSC review as the Deputy PM implies that some people will be laid off upon the completion of the review.

Afioga Hon. TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasion: Minister for Customs and Revenues (cont.)

The Minister asserted that there is no intention in this review that will make workers redundant and affirmed that the employees are secure. However, any review is necessary for acquiring new ideas and plans for the future. He further asserted that the Review provides programs for employees such as Continuing Education, Seminars and attending foreign conventions to expand the knowledge and expertise of all employees. He further clarified that the review will thoroughly look at those who are working hard and their performance matches the level of productivity required as well as, look at those who do not meet the standard performance within the workplace and provide necessary capacity building as well as making sure that the people are the best fit for their roles. Hon Deputy PM continued with his response by stating that the review cannot cause redundancy; affirming that a person will only be redundant if the performance is poor, has criminal records, or does not have good character. The Minister clarified that this review looks at whether the people are working at the right area that they studied or have qualifications suitable for the work they are employed in. Additionally, the Hon Deputy PM asserted that in his few months experience within government, he believes that some people are appointed to certain positions which they are not qualified for, and it is the aim of the review to identify these gaps and provide proper action. He also noted the lack of capacity level to conduct certain jobs/tasks in our country, such as; forensic pathologists thus this review will take this in account.

The Hon Deputy PM assured Members that there are opportunities and vacancies to accommodate recent graduates searching for jobs. Furthermore, he stated that there are other skills that are not found in Samoa such as pathologists, vets, carpenters, engineer, lawyers, policy makers, etc... that the Government will try and locate scholarship opportunities for these career paths for the next 5 to 10 years offered as the Government are looking to foster the skills they prioritize. He further noted that the government is conducting the review on salaries noting that upon the completion of the review, a National Workforce Plan will be established as well as, recommendations for appropriate salaries will be provided by the Remuneration Tribunal.

The Minister clarified on the process of eligibility for scholarships, which several members raised in their speeches. Hon Deputy PM asserted that students must firstly attain an average of 75% onward, fill in an application form, abstract reasoning test online which is 20% and the interview which also weighs 20%; all these stages are factored in by the selection committee. The Hon Deputy PM elaborated that there is a total of 32 scholarship opportunities for Samoa citizens for 2023: 26 from New Zealand and 6 for Fiji., 5 – Australia; 8 – Fiji (AUSAid). Moreover, there are 50 fully funded government scholarships at the National University of Samoa and 60 partial

scholarships funded by NGOs, 60 scholarships for TVET, 10 scholarship awards for OUM, 20 scholarship for undergraduate/ first degree at USP, and scholarship awards available for apprenticeship programs which amounts to 3.2million. The Hon Deputy PM stated that these are some of the matters raised by Members that will be looked into by Government; the security of Hon Tuilaepa, security during the Commonwealth and during Atoa-Samoa talks.

Susuga MAULOLO Tavita Aмоса – Member for Sagaga 2

The member commended the Deputy Leader for his clarification of the review proposed to be implemented by the PSC, and iterated that he is a member of the Standing Orders Committee, which considers the PSC Annual Reports, and suggested whether it is worth looking at the performance mentioned in the PSC AR to clarify on the matter for the review.

Hon SPEAKER – Point of Order:

Mr Speaker advised the member for Sagaga 2 that the review discussed by the minister of PSC is not related to the topic of annual reports as mentioned by the member.

Afioga Hon. TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasion: Minister for Customs and Revenues (cont.)

The Hon Deputy PM confirmed that there is a police now assigned for the security of the Former PM, further accentuating that there is no policy in the police department which caters for the needs of a person that was a Former PM but they still do it in curtesy and for the security of this Member. Furthermore, the police have issued a warning to the former PM to be mindful of what he says on social media and other means of communication to avoid further attempts by people to attack him.

With regards to the incident that occurred at the airport where a person was found on an aircraft without proper documentation, the Hon Deputy PM asserted that there were flaws within the Airport Authority with how they conducted their job on the day, and because the case is with the police he will not discuss it further. In reference to the International Conferences where Samoa will host, the minister noted that the PM has yet to provide a brief of her plans for the conference. Nevertheless, the government will ensure all security measures are met when the conference takes place. Hon Deputy PM noted that this will be a priority matter to discuss once the PM arrives so our preparations for CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) are up to speed. In regards to laws regulating vehicles with loud speakers/radios on the road, the Deputy PM clarified that there is no law for private vehicles, only a law regulating this for public vehicles like: buses, taxis, etc... thus, the minister advised that if this matter arises again then the LTA should consider establishing a law to regulate private vehicles.

ATOА SAMOA

The Deputy PM clarified that American Samoa had agreed that they will look into easing the Talofa Pass for travels between the two countries. They had agreed but in process to do this we need to have patience. The Deputy PM also noted in terms of the Pacific Engagement

Visa (offered 3000 spots), this is an opportunity for people from the Pacific to live permanently in Australia, the Minister further noted that these announcements were made without any consultations or limitations between our country and Australia. Furthermore, he noted that right after government was in office in October, Australia made an announcement and the number of eligible applicants will be 35k but just yesterday they announce that this number had increased.

MOTION – Amend Sitting Hours

The Deputy PM moved a motion to amend sitting hours, in order to continue proceedings until the Supplementary is passed; motion seconded by the minister of MAF, motion approved.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Pierre Laufo – Member for Anoamaa 2

The Hon member queried the Minister whether the Pacific Engagement Visa and RSE scheme both fall under the Labour Mobility Act or whether these two schemes are different, furthermore if people under the labour mobility program are also eligible in regards to the Pacific Engagement program.

Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa 1

The Member queried if there are any assistance for visitor visa processes, he also mentioned the protection services for Tuilaepa, if this would now be a policy for Opposition Leaders. The Member further queried whether the Government considers the feasibility of assigning a security for all Members of Parliament for protection as politics can bring about many threats from the public.

Afioga Hon. TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasion: Minister for Customs and Revenues (cont.)

The Minister explained that the Ministry is working on a proposal to Cabinet for an officer to work as a high duty security officer for protection (for members) as there is currently no policy. He then clarified on the Pacific Engagement Visa and noted that any person can apply online if they want to go to Australia, the government does not have control over this as people have their own free will to choose whether to live overseas or not. Whereas, for the RSE scheme the government has control over the number of our people that go for seasonal employment overseas. In regards to business license, the Hon Deputy PM clarified that the recent hold on issuing business license was because of a review that was conducted. This review led to new requirements demanded by the Ministry for business owners ensuring there is honesty and transparency. Given that Samoa has been on the Black List, it is very important to acquire accurate information from business owners such as their; ID, bank accounts, land lease certificate, etc... The Hon Deputy PM raised an issue in regards to business license, he believes that some people, mostly locals, would come in and fill a form for a business venture yet the business is not theirs, either a family member or (foreigner) someone not related.

Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena – Member for Faasaleleaga No.5

The Member queried whether the Minister will implement a regulation for acquiring Business Licenses, and requested local shareholders to increase their shares in businesses to avoid foreigners holding more shares.

Afioga LEAANA Ronnie Posini – Member for Safata

The Member explained that outsiders are not allowed to have a business in their village, however he raised that there are certain requirements that small businesses cannot provide to at the inception of its business compared to big companies, thus his request for separate requirements depending on the type of businesses.

Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tavilili Tuivasa – Member for Vaimauga I

The member requested whether local sole traders can be an exception from the new demands required for issuing Business License noting that the process is becoming complicated for our people. Further requested to extend due dates for issuing business license given that it is already late for business owners to renew their license because of the Ministry's review, this can help avoid any extra fees.

Afioga Hon. TUALA Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasion: Minister for Customs and Revenues (cont.)

Hon Minister clarified on the issue of shareholders and pointed out that this is under MCIL as they oversee Foreign investors/investments and they issue the Foreign Investment Certificate accordingly. Once this certificate is issued it indicates the process of registration for the business is complete, then move on to the next step to request for business license. There are numerous concerns in this process, such as individuals using their names to register for certain businesses yet they do not own the business, therefore the Ministry urges to submit bank accounts and IDs to corroborate these information to ensure the information provided is genuine and credible. Hon Deputy PM touched on the issue raised by Members about too many requirements for registration, he agrees that there are numerous requirements and conditions to be met, however, these information are essential for the Ministry. For instance, many shops would seek liquor license as most customers buy alcohol and cigarettes. For this, the Liquor board/authority would have to examine and assess all information of the business provided in the registration.

The Hon Deputy PM noted that in terms of sole traders to be an exception from the new requirements enforced by the ministry, the Minister clarified that it is important for sole traders to go through the same process as all registered businesses, as these sole traders are at the front while foreigners run the business, when these foreigners are on island on Visitor Visa which is illegal.

Hon Deputy PM further clarified to the members that the current review will not affect the cost of issuing Business Licenses meaning there will be no extra costs even if there is a delay. He then concluded his response by thanking all Members for their patience in deliberations on the Supplementary, then acknowledged his constituency and Samoa tuning in.

The Question was put by Mr Speaker for the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation No.1 2022/2023; in favour of the ayes and the Bill was read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Supplementary No.1 2022/2023:

MCIL- 103,545:		Approved
MCIT - 100K:		Approved
[correction announced from the committee report – Samoan version]		
MOF:	7,620,050	Approved
MJCA:	188,233	Approved
MFAT:	100K	Approved
MNRE:	154,416	Approved
TOTAL:	8,266,244	Approved

Reduction

MCIT:	100K	Approved
MOF:	7,244,645	Approved
MJCA:	188,233	Approved
MNRE:	200K	Approved
Total-	7,732,878	Approved

Third Reading:

The Hon Minister of Finance, Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Molioo moved a motion for the third reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.1 2022/2023; *motion seconded and approved.*

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.1 2022/2023 was third read and officially passed the Legislative Assembly.

Proceedings adjourned until 9:30am Friday 27th January 2023