

DISCLAIMER

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Day 2

9:28am

Wednesday 15th September 2021

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION BILL 2021/2022 – debate on second reading (Cont.)

1. Tofa MANULELEUA Paletasala T.Tovale (MP for Faleata 1)

The Member greeted Samoa in all her honorific salutations, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and all Members present; He then addressed his constituency in all her honorific glory and expressed gratitude for choosing him as their representative in the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

He then acknowledged the Minister for Finance for her efforts in preparing their first Budget for the year 2021/2022. The power of development lies with her Ministry. The Member then spoke directly to the following Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - traffic congestion continues to be a daily problem, and therefore suggested developing highways to avoid this problem
 - In regards to the low-lying areas, there needs to be bridges built to counter the impacts of torrential rain causing flooding

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture
 - The Lepea School needs repair and improvement as the conditions are not suitable for students, as well as the need to have more rooms to cater for the 470 students attending this school. The member also noted the need for a school hall and other developments to assist the learning of students.

- Noted the need for another school in his constituency so that children in his area can have access to education, he then highlighted that the constituency has 12 villages unfortunately there are only 4 schools and suggests to build a school at Moamoa to cater for the children at those parts of his constituency.
- Minister of Health:
 - Acknowledged the continuation of overseas medical referral to assist with technical medical procedure, and commended the Minister for the CT Scan received to assist with easy and early detection of various diseases.
- Minister for Police
 - Urged the Ministry to assist with controlling noise pollution in one of the areas near the town area, particularly that which is produced from vehicle accessories (horns, etc.).

The Member then concluded with acknowledging the Member present and all of Samoa locally and living abroad for their continued prayers for the safe and wellbeing of Samoa.

2. Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe (Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela)

The Member acknowledged the Almighty for this prestigious calling upon his life, he then acknowledged all of Samoa in all her honorific salutations, addressed Tutuila and Manu'a, and all Samoans residing locally and abroad.

The Member commended the Minister of Finance for her work in preparing the budget and sought the need for an addition to the Ministry for Customs and Revenue which he is an Associate Minister to. He then addressed the following Ministers specifically:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - Requested for repair works on the roads in his constituency for ease of access, and the development of new access roads so that families can commute to their plantations easily.
 - Noted that Safato'a has an escape route in times of natural disasters, however needs an access road constructed to make accessibility to plantations easily; further noted that there are access roads in Matautu Lefaga that needs repair to ensure church goers can drive to their respective churches in this area. The roads toward Matareva need to be repaired and paved for ease of transportation for the general public during holidays.
- Minister of Health:
 - The Member commended the Minister and his Ministry on efforts to keep Samoa safe from the pandemic. He was pleased with the \$3 million appropriation to improve maintenance and repairs for the hospitals. The Member noted the need for a district hospital in Lefaga and Faleaseela as his constituents mostly seek healthcare in Leulumoega or Saanapu.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:
 - Expressed concern with wild boars destroying plantations and suggested that the Ministry provided assistance by providing fences to protect the plantations from wild animals.
 - He then acknowledged the Ministry on the initiative to establish a National Export Authority (NEA) which enables to make easier communication between local farmers and overseas markets.

- Minister of Natural Resources and Environment:
 - The Member urged that a solution be made to address the nuisance of certain plants, such as the la'au pási, and other similar plants.

Noted his support for the budget and concluded by expressing well wishes and spiritual encouragement to the Cabinet and all Members present.

3. Afioga VAELE Paiaaua Iona Paiaaua Sekuini (Gagaifomauga No.2)

The Member greeted the House, Mr Speaker, the Hon PM and Cabinet, Associate Ministers, and OCLA. He addressed the CEOs present and His Highness the Ao o le Malo and Council of Deputies. He noted that Samoa is a nation founded on GOD. He then greeted and acknowledged his constituency and expressed thanks for their faith in him as their representative. He also acknowledged the different denominations in his constituency and thanked them for their prayers. He noted all the 6 villages in his constituency, Paia, Samauga, Lefagaoalii, Matavai, Faletagaloa, Fatuvalu; and proceeded to address each village in their honorific salutations.

The Member also paid acknowledgement to those who have paved the way for them in this House.

He then spoke on the Budget and acknowledged the Minister for recognizing the importance of assistance for those with special needs/people with disabilities. He also acknowledged the plans to reduce the cost of electricity and water so as to be more affordable for families. The Member commended the Minister of Finance for the budget especially now that those with disabilities are acknowledged and receive a portion from the budget.

He then made the following requests to respective Ministers:

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure
 - Development of roads, the member noted the need for better roads in Matavai as it has been more than 20 years since a new access road was constructed. He then requested repairs for the Lefagaoalii road as it has been badly affected from torrential rain and natural disasters.
 - In regards to water, some families have poor access to water thus the member's request that the issue of connection of water supply be considered as the families live far from the main water supply pipe therefore they would not know when their pipes are damaged.

- Minister for Women, Community and Social Development:
 - Acknowledged efforts made by the Minister and villages in successfully contributing in paving a way for Members to be in Parliament and be vocal with what their constituencies need. He noted that there have been expired boxes of can of sardines currently used for exchange during family faalavelave's and asked for this issue to be addressed to avoid possible impacts.

- Minister for Health:
 - The Member expressed gratitude to the Minister and Ministry in conducting site visits to assess the conditions of medical treatment resources and equipment used in different health facilities.
 - He then requested for hospital beds for the Safotu district hospital as those currently utilised are not up to standard. He then acknowledged the doctor stationed in his constituency to provide health care to his constituents whenever needed.
 - The Member noted the dire need for repair works at the Tuasivi hospital as it is the main health service provider in Savaii and noted the need for proper facilities for inpatients.
 - Commended efforts taken by the ministry to push for mass vaccination, and requested that the Ministry look at an alternative to temporarily lockdown the nation to ensure all are vaccinated before the vaccine is expired.

- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
 - The Member acknowledged the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for the work done so far.

- Minister for Communication and Information Technology:
 - The Member posed the question on the status of the wifi connection in schools, and noted the importance to ensure there is a stable connection within schools as internet is important for the development of studies and plans for the academic progress of students and teachers.

- Minister for Natural Resources and Environment:
 - The Member acknowledged the work that they are doing, using of reserves as a development to plant cocoa and other crops that can be exported to contribute to our economy. Furthermore, he noted a pool in Fatuvalu that is sufficient for Tilapia farming, that can be improved and developed as this can also contribute to generating revenues for Samoa.

- Minister for Police:
 - Commended the Minister on his work and acknowledged the efforts of his ministry in keeping Samoa safe. He then requested to the Minister to oversee some police stations and vehicles which are in poor conditions and should be improved. He expressed concern regarding additional lights on cars, and noise which disturbs the public especially the elderly and also disturbing evening prayers.

4. Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo (Member for Vaisigano 1)

The Member greeted Mr Speaker, Cabinet, Parliament, His Highness and Masiofo, the Council of Deputies and his Masiofo, and the CJ and Judiciary. He then greeted American Samoa, clergy from all different denominations, greeted his constituency, acknowledged Vaai Kolone from his constituency who was a PM under the HRPP; however, his constituency thought it was time to turn a new leaf and serve a different party. He also acknowledged his opponents, and his families. He commended the Minister of Finance in preparing the budget, and the decrease of certain charges. He then queried the 20% decrease on water and electricity charge as how revenues could be recovered.

He then made the following requests to specific Ministers:

- Minister for Education, Sports and Culture:
 - The Member suggested to enforce perfecting the mathematics subject for children and suggested to pay the early childhood education school teachers as their pre-school teachers are not currently being paid. He also suggested to re-install the free internet scheme for all schools.

- Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure:
 - requested to have airfares from Asau to be \$120 tala for a return ticket as opposed to the current charge of \$120 tala one-way, as it is too expensive for the public. He also requested for the Fagalii Airport to re-open to earn other revenues. The Member requested to establish a separate sector or Ministry to deal with the energy sector to be combined together with a similar sector.

MOTION – ADJOURNMENT: Hon Prime Minister

The Hon PM moved a motion to adjourn sitting early until tomorrow due to the unexpected turn up from the Opposition, clearly showing disrespect to the Hon Speaker's instructions sent out on Monday 13th September; *motion seconded and approved.*

Proceedings were adjourned at 12pm
Parliament will again reconvene at 9:30am on Thursday 16th September.