

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Thursday 25th February 2021**. While all efforts have been made to provide an informative brief, this information must not be relied upon as an alternative to the official Hansard record of proceedings of Parliament. If you have any specific questions about the Proceedings of Parliament on **Thursday 25th February 2021**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Day 27
9:25am

PART A

Thursday 25th February 2021

In the absence of Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair pursuant to Standing Order 18.

I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021- second reading & Debate on the Bill (cont.)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES (resume):

1. Afioga Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure & Member for Urban East (cont.)

The Hon Minister firstly expressed gratitude to the Almighty GOD for another day added to the lives of all Samoans. He then continued his response and asserted that the only seawalls which are handled by the Land Transport Authority are those which affect the main roads, all other seawall requests are referred to the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment.

The Hon Minister then highlighted the development projects completed by the Samoa Shipping Corporation in 2016 – 2021:

- maintained and developed building for cargo & clearance, and established the car park at Salelologa
- repair and renovation work for the wharf at Mulifanua
- widening and deepening of the sea channel at Mulifanua

- **Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu – Member for Anoamaa East**

The Member reminded the Minister for the seawall request for Falefa, as the Minister mentioned that his Ministry only deals with seawalls that affect government assets. The Member also touched on the wharf projected for Vaiusu and stated that as an individual residing in Vaitele, support is noted for the wharf in Vaiusu as this would benefit the constituency and not only one village. He then urged the Minister for road repairs at Lalomauga to ensure the EPC can easily access the generators located in the village.

- **Afioga FAUMUINA Asi Pauli Wayne Fong - Member for Urban West**

The Member wanted to voice his objection to construction of a wharf at Vaiusu as he perceives that the Government are only focusing on earning revenue, however his constituency are weary of the loss of fish supply in this area and therefore pushing to conserve the oceans of Vaiusu.

- **Susuga Hon LAAULI Polataivao Fosi – Member for Gagaifomauga No.3**

The Hon Member mentioned that during their visit (roadshow) at Manono Tai, an elder from the village informed himself that the water supply has been off for 3 weeks. He then urged the Minister to look into the issue and added that the Apolima power supply is only operational for 3- 4 hours daily.

SPEAKERS RULING

The Hon Mr Speaker ruled the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 (Laauli) that pursuant to the Standing Orders, a Member should not speak on new issues that were not raised when the Member spoke.

- **Afioga ALIIMALEMANU Alofa Tuuau – Member for Alataua West**

The Member queried whether the appropriation for the Vaiusu Project came in the form of grant or a loan; and queried whether it was requested by Samoa or offered by the Government of China.

- **Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena – Member for Faasaleleaga No.4**

The Member suggested for the responsible Minister to create awareness that the government will increase its gravel roads by a meter in the future; then highlighted buildings which have been shifted to a meter, such as the Lucky Food Town, Maali, and Chan Mow businesses, to counter the impacts of flooding during torrential rain. The

Hon Minister further stated that these businesses are not affected during flooding because they have taken extra measures to protect their businesses. He further noted that it is anticipated that businesses along the Apia town area will also increase the foundation of their buildings in the future.

- **Susuga MULIPOLA Leiataua Laki - Member for Aiga i le Tai**

The Member reminded the minister of the request for seawalls in his constituency as mentioned during his speech. The Member further clarified on statements made earlier by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 regarding the water supply for his constituency, and corrected that there is water supply, however the Samoa Water Authority are currently conducting tests to ensure the water quality is safe for consumption and not mixed with sea water. Susuga MULIPOLA accentuated that he is the Member for his constituency and another Member does not have the right to raise issues in regards to his constituency. Susuga Mulipola recalled in 2018 when he requested for seawalls and the Minister at the time Hon FIAME Naomi Mataafa informed him that MNRE was not responsible for such developments, yet during the FAST roadshow they have gone out and pledged to his village that they will make seawalls for the Aiga i le Tai Constituency.

Mr. Speaker – Interjection

Mr Speaker reminded the Member for Aiga i le Tai that he should not speak on any new matter.

Hon Prime Minister – Clarification

The Hon PM noted that there are seawalls funded by donors, while others are funded by the government; however, Government implies common sense where necessary in implementing the projects to ensure urgent areas take priority. In regards to matters affecting respective constituencies, the Hon PM asserted that it is important that the respective Members raise matters pertaining to their constituency as this is his/her role, and advised that ‘one must look before they leap’ he then jested to Members not to meddle in the affairs of other constituencies as this creates conflict.

Mr Speaker – Interjected

Mr Speaker reminded the Members to be mindful of the ruling made earlier as it is a ‘contempt of Parliament’ to go against the Chair.

Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - MWTI and Member for Urban East (cont.)

The Hon Minister corrected statements made regarding the water supply for Manono and stated that the water supply was off for one week and not three. Hon Minister elaborated that this was due to works carried out by the SWA to ensure the quality of

water was improved for the people of Manono Tai. He then assured the Member for Anoamaa East that their seawall request is in the pipeline.

- **Afioga NAMULAUULU Sami Leota - Member for Faasaleleaga No.2**

The Member acknowledged the Minister for the projects implemented in his constituency and commended the forecasted works for the Maota airport then requested for availability of flights from Maota airport to Faleolo especially when the weather is bad and blockage of ferries

Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang - MWTI and Member for Urban East (cont.)

The Hon Minister reiterated that he mentioned in his response the projects completed by his ministry as well as on going projects, which include:

- developed and fixed navigation and signal lights for boats to Savaii
- established guide lights at Mulifanua and Salelologa
- change Samoa MV express to Samoa MV express 2 and is expected to dock at the wharf this weekend to help with transportation in-between Upolu and Savaii (new vessel)

Projected projects for 2021- 2026

- land reclamation at Mulifanua for SSC projects as we move forward
- installation of heavy duty scale for vehicles to ensure the weight which the vessel carries is adhered, especially for heavy truck loaders.
- awaiting Lady Naomi that which is funded by the Government of Japan, and the project is anticipated to be complete by January 2023
- research on the improvement of the wharf at Mulifanua and Salelologa, projected for December 2026
- touched upon promises made by FAST to decrease boat-fare and noted that this is not feasible.

- **Afioga OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai - Member for Salega East**

The Member noted that the Hon Minister for Works is currently using his new matai title, yet was not registered at the time when he took his oath for this parliamentary term.

Hon Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker clarified that the Matai title queried by the Member for Salega East is effective in the coming General Election.

Afioga Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure (cont.)

The Hon Minister opposes certain members from telling lies - that is defamation of character. He then spoke on the SSS:- noted that the SSS continues to partner with the MSC in Europe which help provide employment opportunities for our local people to work on ships (cruise ships and cargo ships).

Hon Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker asserted that there are legislation provided for public statements made by certain Members which can be perceived as defamation of character and accentuated that it is only when such records are presented to Parliament that the Speaker takes relevant action accordingly to the provisions provided in mandated legislation.

2. Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.1 & Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hon Minister greeted everyone in the house, the HOS and his good lady, the CoD and his good lady. He then acknowledged the late Member for Lefaga & Faleaseela, TOLEAFOA Ken Vaafusuaga Poutoa for the work he was able to do for his constituency and conveyed condolences to his wife and family. Hon Minister also acknowledged the 3 arms of Government; all CEOs in the house, the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly. He also acknowledged neighbouring country Tutuila, and the whole of Samoa in all her honorific salutations.

Hon Minister accentuated the phrase that 'our destinies are intertwined' and asserted that regardless of the different situations and status each have, everyone's destinies are inter connected in one way or more.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:55am

Proceedings resumed at 11:36am

Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.1 & Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister continued by acknowledging the organisations under his ministerial portfolio for their efforts in the development of Samoa. Hon Minister mentioned that the Ministry has adopted the mission of the United Nations to 'end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture' as a guide for the Ministry to ensure the availability and supply of food is sufficient to cater for the people. He then noted that there are negotiations for the exporting of local produce such as lime (Tahitian lime). Furthermore the Ministry is looking at ways to efficiently grow more of the Tahitian lime to ensure there is enough quantity to be exported once borders open. The Hon Minister noted that most of the villages that were visited in Savaii have the 'polovoli' taro and the 'talo mumu', and the Ministry is strategizing on ways to distribute this quality taro across the entire island to have more varieties of taro grown in our local plantations.

The Hon Minister noted the challenges encountered by the Ministry, especially during the pandemic as it has impacted the exportability of goods and local produce of our farmers. The Hon Minister commended the work implemented by local farmers and asserted that Samoa will never grow hungry due to the numerous developments in place to ensure food for our people, and encouraged farmers to continue planting and maintaining their plantations.

Hon Minister then informed the House that the Ministry has an initiative to lease out a bull or a female cow to certain farms for a certain period of time to assist with multiplying the herd for certain farms. The Minister also noted that there are calf's which have been sold at high costs, and this is an issue the Ministry continues to monitor.

In regards to poultry farming, the Hon Minister noted that currently there are numerous poultry farms established and thriving in Samoa producing eggs for our local community. Furthermore, the Minister stated that there are plans in the pipeline by a Chinese Company to set up a chicken farm in Mulifanua. The chicken farm will be developed into a poultry factory, which will eventually assist with cutting back on costs of importing chicken into the country.

The Minister noted there being a program to create chicken food which can be distributed and sold to the farmers, there has been a projection of 40% decrease in the pricing of chicken food from where it is imported if this is to be produced locally. Furthermore, the need for more fish bones to produce chicken food locally and noted that the cost of fish bones procured from Tutuila was expensive. The Hon Minister mentioned there is a newly established local company called Apia Deep Sea Fishing which provides fish meat and ensures the good quality of fish for export at the Matautu wharf, however it is yet to complete due to the impacts of covid and engineers are needed to complete the project.

The Hon Minister acknowledged companies such as Frankie, Ah Liki, Tui Pacific, Apia Deep Sea Fishing, Huanun and other companies such Apia Fish packers for their contribution in the development of this industry.

He then acknowledge SROS for playing an important role in testing the safety of products for exportation, furthermore, the SROS has recently opened another division responsible for testing products for diseases that may hinder the exportability of the local produce. Hon Minister acknowledged villages such as Faleseela and Lefaga for their fisheries conservations contributing to the economy of Samoa- this is also considered as a tourist attraction as most people go to Lefaga to see this clam conserve. Hon Minister also confirmed that ramps have been established for Upolu.

Hon LOPAOO then noted figures provided by certain local products and asserted that in 2020 a total of 382,292 eggs were exported by the Farmer Joe Company; furthermore the Fish Industry contributed more than 23million to the development of Samoa. The Hon Minister then spoke on the development of wharfs in Vaiusu and Asau and stated that he cannot see any downside of this development as the community stands to reap numerous benefits.

He then mentioned container vessels and cargo ships which dock and refill at the Matautu wharf and stated that more than 60,000 litres of fuel is taken by these vessels and the reason they fill their tanks in Samoa is because Samoa holds the license for these vessels.

In regards to vegetable gardening, developments are progressing well, the Minister noted that during Pacific Games, local vegetables were used to cater for food of participants and officials from different countries. Samoa managed to save costs from using local produce. The Minister acknowledged all companies and suppliers for their tremendous work in this part of the industry.

The Hon Minister noted that a research was conducted, and findings indicated that a country can rely on beef alone (for 2 years before it runs out) suggested that Samoa considers this method. Hon Minister noted that approval is pending for a piece of land to construct a research facility for the fisheries industry.

- **Afioga LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West and Associate Minister for Communication and Information Technology**

The member queried the status of the mobile abattoir and suggested to utilize the skills of those who were in butchery work for seasonal employment and afford them the opportunity to give back to the community by sharing the skills and knowledge to our local people who are employed in butchery.

Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.1 & Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Minister noted that the vehicle is in good condition, there is only one truck that implements this service for both Upolu and Savaii. However, the mobile abattoir goes out of operation when it is being serviced (noted that it should be well maintained as it is only one truck).

Hon. Prime Minister – Interjection

The Hon PM queried the current amount and developments regarding sheep in Samoa.

Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.1 & Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister clarified that there are currently more than 2500 sheep, and advises those with sheep farms to avoid having dogs on their farms as it affects the growth of sheep.

- **Afioga FUIMAONO Samuelu Teo, Member for Falealili East**

The Member spoke of a program in the past 10 years which dealt with tissues inserted into cows to enable them to reproduce and multiply rather than waiting to find a bull.

Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.1 & Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister responded that the program which the member for Falealili East mentioned is called artificial assimilation which is a project under S.A.F.P.R.O.M; and the Minister elaborated the process involved with artificial assimilation. The Minister asserted that the fisheries division has decided to establish a research centre at Vaitoloa with emphasis on nurturing clams and other sea creatures like lobsters, gold-line fish, and others. Hon Minister explained that the Fisheries division continues to expand its focus for the overall development of the sector.

The Hon Minister then spoke on SROS at Nafanua and noted the rationale of the partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to encourage and provide ease of information and knowledge sharing amongst scientists, doctors and high

achievers in this Corporation with the ultimate aim to contribute and assist in development of crops and other products. Hon LOPAOO stated that state of the art technology and equipment are also located in the SROS to conduct effective and efficient research and testing. The Minister mentioned research activities have also been conducted for possible vaccines for cancer, and many have put forward plants that contain high potential to cure cancer.

Hon. Prime Minister – Interjection

The Hon PM asked the Minister for provide 2 examples of such medicinal plants which can potentially cure cancer

Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Member for Vaisigano No.1 & Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (cont.)

The Hon Minister provided the plants of soursop and monavi

- **Afioga Hon TUITAMA Talalelei Tuitama, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development and Member for Aana No.1**

The Hon Minister elaborated on the plants mentioned by the Minister for Agriculture and stated that the plants are valuable; one helps dilate blood vessels and ensures the blood flows right, while the other is good for the heart.

Hon. Prime Minister – Interjection

The Hon PM noted that there are 2 types of doctors, one who utilises herbs, and the other who uses vaccines, operations and other medical equipment.

**Proceedings were suspended at 1:07pm;
and will resume at 6pm.**