



December
2021

PARLIAMENTARY SITTING SUMMARY

DISCLAIMER

This Report provides a brief of the Proceedings of Parliament on **Tuesday 14th December 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 **Tuesday 14th December 2021**, you should consult the official Hansard or seek assistance from the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

9:25am

Tuesday 14th December 2021

I. **WARRANT OF ELECTION**

Pursuant to Section 59(2) of the Electoral Act, the Hon Speaker announced the warrant of Election signed by the Ao o le Malo to elect the following Members of Parliament:

- 1 Tofa MAULOLO Tavita Amosa
2. Afioga TAGALOATELE Pasi Poloa
3. Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa
4. Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell
5. Afioga MAIAVA Fuimaono Tito Asafo
6. Tofa FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua
7. Tofa FUIONO Tenina Crichton

Code of Ethics:

Pursuant to S.O 14, the Speaker read out the Parliamentary Code of Ethics while the newly elected Members were upstanding

Swearing in of Members of Parliament – Oath of Allegiance

A total of 7 Members (5 FAST) and (2 HRPP) were sworn in during parliamentary proceedings.

Message from the Ole Ao o le Malo

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution of Samoa, the Head of State approved the Legislative Assembly to review the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2021/2022 and the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2021.

Motion from the Parliamentary Service Commission

Pursuant to S.O 170(2)(a-c); the Deputy Speaker moved the composition of Parliamentary Committees as follows:

Standing Orders, Electoral, Petitions and Constitutional Offices Parliamentary Committee

Afioga AUUAPAAU Mulipola Aloitafua
Afioga VAELE Paiaaau Iona Paiaaau Sekuini
Afioga TEA Toala Peato
Tofa MANULELEUA Paletasala T Tovale
Fuiono Tenina Crichton
Tofa Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo
Tofa ALE Vena Ale
Afioga Hon LOAU Solamalemalo Keneti Sio
Tofa MAULOLO Tavita Amosa

Finance and Expenditure Parliamentary Committee

Afioga VAELE Paiaaau Iona Paiaaau Sekuini
Afioga MAGELE Sekati Fiaui
Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell
Afioga MASINALUPE Makesi Masinalupe
Afioga FALEOMAVAEGA Titimaea Tafua
Susuga Hon TUILAIPA Dr Sailele Malielegaoi
Afioga Hon TAPUNUU Niko Lee Hang
Tofa LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi
Afioga Hon SALA Fata Pinati

Economic Sector Committee

Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo
Tofa LAGAAIA Tiatuau Tufuga
Afioga MAGELE Sekati Fiaui
Afioga MAIAVA Tito Asafo
Afioga TAGALOATELE Pasi Poloa
Afioga FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga
Afioga ALAIASA Moefaauouo Sepulona Moananu
Tofa Hon TUUU Anasii Leota

Social Sector Committee

Afioga LAUMATIAMANU Ringo M Purcell
Afioga AGASEATA Valelio Tanuvasa Peto
Tofa SEUAMULI Fasi Toma
Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo

Tofa MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai
Tofa LENATAI Victor Faafoi Tamapua
Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers-Ah Kau
Susuga AIONO Tile Gafa

Infrastructure Sector Committee

Afioga FEPULEAI Faasavalu Faimata Sua
Afioga FALEOMAVEGA Titimaea Tafua
Afioga NIUAVA Eti L Malolo
Afioga SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa
Afioga LEAANA Ronnie Posini
Afioga LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Tofia Tile Leia
Afioga PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena

5. Other Announcements by Mr. Speaker

The Hon Speaker greeted all Members present in the Maota, as well as, all Samoans listening in on the sitting; he also acknowledged the participants of the Youth Parliamentary Program who were observing from the public gallery.

II. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

A total of 3 Annual Reports were tabled together with the Supplementary Appropriation Estimates 2021/2022 presented and tabled.

III. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2021/2022 – first reading

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Susuga Hon MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo moved for the bill to be first read; motion seconded and approved.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (NO. 1) 2021/2022 - TABLING

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Susuga MULIPOLA Anarosa Ale Molioo moved to table the Supplementary Estimates (No.1) 2021/2022 on the Parliamentary Table

3. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2021/2022 - SECOND READING

A motion for second reading of the bill was moved by the Minister for MOF; the motion was seconded and approved

Financial Statement

The Hon Minister of MOF: Susuga Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molioo greeted parliament; PM, Dep.PM, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Cabinet and all members of

Parliament. The Hon Minister emphasised the challenges throughout this FY due to; COVID which has impacted the tourism industry, the changing of government, but thankfully the nation is still moving forward. She then highlighted that within 4 months since the budget was passed by the new government they have been able to roll out development programs which has assisted low income earners. The Hon. Minister of Finance emphasized that this financial year will project a decrease of Expenditures from 2.5% to 2.4%

Hon Minister noted the amount from the Grant and **appropriation of \$10,349,971** from the Treasury Fund to be redirected to outputs and sub-outputs to be delivered by individual Ministries and Departments, as well as outputs by third parties and transactions of behalf of the State for the FY 2021/2022.

Furthermore, the Hon Minister noted that the Bill proposes the **reduction of \$4,671,359** from certain Ministries and Departments according to the amounts set out in the Second Schedule.

The Hon. Minister of Finance emphasized that the government are prioritizing COVID19 measures **to** have all the people vaccinated and protected from the COVID19 and further advised all who are eligible to get vaccinated. The Hon Minister of Finance wished all of Samoa a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hon Mr. Speaker posed a question pursuant to S.O 173 the Bill will be referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee and be reported back to the House no later than 14 days.

4. Income Tax Amendment Bill 2021 - first reading

The Hon Minister for Customs and Revenue, Afioga Tevaga Tuala Ponifasion moved a motion to have the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2021 first read; motion seconded and approved.

Mr. Speaker:

The Hon Speaker requested the Hon PM for her final remarks.

Leader of the Opposition

The Opposition Leader requested for a chance to speak.

Statement by Hon Prime Minister:

The Hon PM, commended the Speaker and Members of Parliament for today's sitting. Commended the preparations of the first prayer-meeting for the 17th Parliament. Then mentioned the repealing of tax posed on religious ministers and acknowledged the new members sworn in and wished them well on their reign.

Address by the Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon Opposition Leader acknowledged the Governor and the people of American Samoa. He then touched upon the results of the recent by-elections and congratulated the new members; then sought the Hon Speaker and Government's approval to swear in the 2 additional women seats. Hon TUILAEPa asserted that he was hopeful that the two additional women representatives from the 10% quota would be recognised after all the political debacle from the General Elections dwindled. He then iterated that a Warrant was already signed and issued by the Ao mamalu o le Malo and therefore should not have delayed the activation of the 10% minimum of additional women as required by the Electoral Act and noted that it is the will of God for all to reconcile and forgive as we draw near to the coming of our Saviour this Christmas. Hon Leader of Opposition then wished all of Samoa a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Other Announcement by the Speaker

The Hon Speaker, announced that the Finance and Expenditure Committee will hold its meeting on Thursday 16th December 2021 at 10am in Parliamentary Committee Room 1 to vote on their Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 11am;
Parliament will reconvene on Tuesday 18th 2022 at 9:30am.**