

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**DAY 2**

**PART B**

**6:16pm**

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY – Reading of Bills**

- 1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL No.3 2020; and APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021 – debate on second reading cont.**

**V. TOOMATA Aki Tuipea – Member for Salega West (Cont.)**

The Member continued his remarks with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; commended efforts made by MAF in being proactive in pushing agricultural developments to relieve families of the financial impacts of Covid19. The Member recalled that at the beginning of the Parliamentary Term, the predecessor conveyed that there will be ploughs available for farmers (both urban and rural farmers) and it is an ideal time to provide these ploughs.

**Interjection – Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister dispelled claims made by the Member about the ploughs, stating that there was no funding set aside to purchase ploughs or any project of the sort upon his taking up the Ministerial portfolio.

**LAAULI Leuatea Polataivao Fosi, Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 - Interjected**

The Member stood to clarify that there was an amount of 10 million USD in aid from China to fund the plough project; noting the mechanism and commercialization project, however upon resignation, the new leader had different plans on the agenda.

**Interjection – Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister clarified that the former Minister is mistaken and proceeded to explain Phase 4- 4 million USD Phase 5-2 million.

**TOOMATA Aki Tuipea – Member for Salega West (Cont.)**

The Member continued to press on the matter and stated that these developments were pledged at the time; he stated that the Israel banana is susceptible to blights and advised the Ministry to place emphasis on the cultivation of other local species (fa'i palagi) and called to harvest the Cavendish banana. He then commended farmers for being resilient in the cultivation of Israel banana. Toomata commented on the African swine flu and stated that pigs are a detriment to hygiene therefore requesting to eradicate all pigs.

**Interjection – Hon LOPAO Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister acknowledged the Member for raising the African swine flu and stated that it has made its way into PNG and some nations in Asia but originally from Africa. He informed the House that proper testing systems will arrive on Friday to commence testing of pigs and all pork produce. The Minister stated in one of their investigations and surveys in Feb, they have come up with methods and procedural ways to keep the nation safe from all these diseases. He asserted the nation to keep calm and take precautionary measures to ensure safety.

**TOOMATA Aki Tuipea – Member for Salega West (Cont.)**

The Member asserted that it is better to be proactive; prevention is better than cure. He then continued to acknowledge efforts of the Ministry in the cultivation of cattle and the emphasis placed on its development. Furthermore, the investment on cattle farming is worthwhile as it will serve to ameliorate relying on the importation of beef. The Member accentuated on the growing of vanilla and suggested the responsible Ministry to push for this development as a bucket of vanilla beans equates to a truckload of coconuts.

**Interjected – Hon SALA FATA PINATI, Minister of Tourism**

The Hon Minister noted that there was a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Japan on the development of vanilla within the nation, Hon Minister noted that there is 1000 acres set aside for the cultivation of Vanilla plants at Mulifanua. Agreed with the Members comments on the immense economic benefits pertaining to Vanilla. Also stated that a Japanese laboratory will be constructed near the airport for the development and the cultivation of vanilla and Government will also be responsible to seek overseas markets for export of the vanilla produced locally.

**Hon. Prime Minister – Clarification**

- Hon PM noted that the cultivation of this plant is difficult as various factors need to be taken into consideration, the right condition and timing and to be fragile in order for the Vanilla plant to bear fruit. Hon PM noted that it is an introduced species from Africa. Noted that there is a bird (found in America) which helps in the cross fertilization of the Vanilla plant which will help it to bear fruit. The Hon PM noted that due to the difficulty in bringing the bird to Samoa; people have found a way to improvise so as to assist with the fertilization process in order for the vanilla to bear fruit. Hon PM further emphasized why the Vanilla is a lucrative option for economic success; However, it is too costly and time

consuming to assist with improving the economy of our country hence the Government's focus on our other forms of developments (referring to crops, etc...)

**TOOMATA Aki Tuipea – Member for Salega West (Cont.)**

The Member addressed the Minister of Health and her Ministry, acknowledged initiating 3million appropriated for the refurbishment of housing for medical officers and district hospitals. The Member then concluded his remarks with addressing his constituency and reminded them of the Special Committee's visit and assured his constituents that they need not worry, if clarification is needed he is open to clarify the merits of the Bills, noting that the underlying objectives of the Bill are in favour of the people (do not be swayed by negative comments and views expressed by others; the Bills are for the betterment of Samoa).

**VI. SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuilili Tuivasa- Member for Vaimauga East**

The Member acknowledged his Constituency and all of Samoa; he then raised concerns and spoke specifically on the following Ministries:

- *Minister of Finance*  
Acknowledged the Minister and the Ministry for all their collective efforts during the parliamentary term, specifically in preparing the budget each Financial Year. Sulamanaia noted the current parliamentary term holding the record of 3 Supplementary Budgets in one Financial Year due to the measles outbreak and the pandemic faced by the world. On the issue of chronic diseases & mental health issues, the Member called for an appropriation afforded to individuals with such diseases as the majority of our people have benefitted from covid-19 packages.
- *Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure*  
The Member noted that no access roads have been refurbished as requested and expressed disappointment with CSSP (Civil Society Support Program) and noted that concerns he raised have not been met regarding forms and requirements to be able to be considered in this program.
- *Ministry of Communication and Information Technology*  
The Member acknowledged the cables established and requested for the connection to be maintained as there have been issues raised with the connection. Furthermore, the Member raised an issue with mobile companies entering into hotel businesses and queried whether this company pays taxes.
- *Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture*  
The Member acknowledged the Minister for opening the Laulii Primary School and called for the division of the airstrip at Fagalii to allow for a field for the Fagalii Primary School.
- *Ministry for Customs and Revenue*  
The Member acknowledged efforts of the Ministry in collecting revenue (noting that this is the nation's main source of revenue). In regards to the new taxation system utilized by the Ministry to ensure consistency in the collection of Goods and Services Tax from businesses, the Member requested to enforce provisions of compliance and to continue manual follow-up and inspections to ensure compliance of businesses with legislations.
- *Ministry of Police*  
The Member acknowledged the Commissioner and the police force and requested insurance packages and overtime benefits to be afforded for the workforce owed to the nature of their work. A request was also made for an appropriation of 5million for

Samoa Airways and to set aside 1 million for the constituency for security of the Fagalii airport since its establishment.

- *Ministry of Health*  
The Member was appreciative for the referral of funds for overseas treatment and called for the overall process to be simplified.
- *Minister of Agriculture*  
The Member recalled that most of Vailele land has been taken by WESTEC and utilized for cocoa and coconut developments; then requested whether benefits can be shared to the constituency (given that the developments are within the constituency) such as 1000 coconuts. Sulamanaia also acknowledged efforts of the Minister and Ministry in developing the agricultural sector and was pleased to note the development of SROS. The Member requested to properly share the tiapula (to those whom rely on farming) encouraged the Ministry to continue growing bananas (fa'i palagi and misiluki)
- *Minister for Tourism*  
Called for village signs to be refurbished and encouraged leases for development purposes.
- *Minister of Women, Community and Social Development*  
Community Water Sources- Member stated that Water Tanks project has failed on the implementation phase and recommended that this be executed by a specific Ministry as opposed to outsourcing it to private contractors.
- *Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure*  
Sulamanaia, reminded the Minister that his constituency has yet benefitted from road repair or construction. He jested that the parliamentary term is drawing to its end and without any development.

**Interjected – Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Minister interjected to inform the House that there have been new road works within the Member's constituency and that the access roads which need development need state of the art equipment to implement this development which the Ministry has yet to procure; Hon Minister jested that the Ministry will consider repairs for the road in front of the Member's house.

**SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tuiliili Tuivasa- Member for Vaimauga East (cont.)**

- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*  
Member called for wave breakers for his village as the majority of his constituents live along the coastal areas.
- *NEOC*  
Sulamanaia commended efforts of the Committee in keeping Samoa safe and called for borders to remain close. He added that citizens returning to Samoa under quarantine in hotels – the Member asked that all hotels/motels be considered and note just the well-established.
- *Ministry of Police*  
The Member called for police to be more tolerant when enforcing the law (specifically the orders of the SOE) as there have been issues which have risen from the Police being too stringent.

**Interjected – Hon TIALAVEA Tionisio Seigafolava Hunt, Minister of Police**

The Minister interjected to refute claims that Police have acted unjustifiably with the closing of stores after SOE hours, and asserted that only retail shops can open after the stipulated timeframe as provided in the Order.

**VII. 3. NONU LOSE NIUMATA - Member for Safata East**

The Member delved straight into the figures of the Budget and noted that in 2019 Samoa's economy grew by 3.5%, whereas in 2020 it dropped by 3.3% due to Covid19; however the economy growth is projected to drop by 2.3%. The Member emphasised that pre-measles and Covid19 a drop in revenue of 47.1million was noted while expenditure increased to 42.7million. Nonu noted that 'wants will always exceed resources' and expressed support for the budget. He also called an increase of VAGST to raise revenue to fund all the developments needed in constituencies. Nonu suggested the need to have more Members of Parliament and Ministers. The Member also mentioned the state of Samoa Airways (Polynesian) as it is has a debt of 24.1million and stated that avoiding this amount is imperative.

He addressed the Minister of Works and requested the need for road repairs and new roads for his constituency, specifically for Safata East, Tafitoala and Fusi which cars cannot travel on due to the drastic state of the roads. The Member then raised concerns with the schools at Fusi as it is unfit for students to be learning in such facilities with broken windows, leaking roofs, etc.

**VIII. TAPULESATELE Mauteni Esera - Member for Vaisigano No.2**

The Member acknowledged the Constituency and all of Samoa and conveyed support for the budget, he then addressed specific Ministers and raised concerns and queries.

- *Minister of Health*  
The Member acknowledged the initiative to have Medical Officers operate the district hospital (noted that Sataua district hospital has a Doctor) and noted that the constituency will continue to maintain the hospital to ensure it is up to standard. He also acknowledged nurses serving the district hospital and was pleased with their great service. The member recalled that in the past, pharmaceutical products were difficult to obtain, however to date the hospital is well resourced. The member raised the need for an ambulance to cater for the needs of the constituency.
- *Minister for Education*  
Acknowledged the Ministry for supporting the construction of district schools at Papa Sataua and acknowledged the assistance from donors; member voiced requests for more teachers and paid special respect to the late principal for the primary school at Papa who passed away. He then requested for more teachers as there are currently only 3 teachers catering the school at Papa Sataua.
- *Minister of Agriculture*  
Acknowledged the multiple initiatives by the Ministry (such as the sea clam cultivation) then requested for more tiapula to grow in his constituency. He acknowledged the Minister for the emphasis on Fishing and called for More buoys to act as safety markers. A request was also made to implement a project aimed at the building of new alia fishing boats (noted that only two families possess the skill of Alia Building).

- Member proceeded to comment on the important role of vehicles in the farming process; thus requesting for the manufactured year of vehicles to be opened so as to bring in old cars which can help with farming. (specifically old pickups, tractors, etc)
- *Minister of Works*  
The Member commended the various developments and projects implemented by the Ministry through respective SOE's (SWA, EPC, etc...). Noted that there has been repairs and development for certain roads in his constituency (tar-sealed) and then requested for similar development for the roads at Papa Sataua; the Member stated that the tar sealing of these roads will assist with accessibility to the natural water spring which is also a tourist attraction site. Furthermore, the Member stated that the development will directly help with the SWA proposed project of constructing a Tank which will ensure water is available to households. The Member then requested the Land Transport Authority for lamp posts to be erected for proper vision in the night.
- *Minister of Finance*  
The Member acknowledged the Minister and his works and proceeded to comment on the rationale behind the Supplementary Budget; there were 2 suggestions made by the Member:  
1) Cocoa, Taro, Niu Project- Member stated that Minister has asserted that the Ministry can clear the land for cultivation of the aforementioned crops. He then called to look into making lease affordable and more than 1 acre.  
2) Individuals whom are unemployed in the hospitality sector due to Covid19- Member called to implement outreach to re-employ the hospitality sector.
- *Public Service Commission*  
The Member noted the 17.6 million funded by NZ and Australia and called to place emphasis on technical expertise scholarships.

**Proceedings were set aside at 8:21 pm;  
and reconvened at 9:12pm**

#### **IX. AUMUA Isaia Lameko- Member for Falealili West**

The Member addressed specific Ministries and voiced concerns as follows:

- *Minister of Agriculture*

The member acknowledged efforts by the Ministry in the implementation of cocoa and coconut planting, then requested that an amount of the stimulus package be appropriated for cocoa and coconut cultivation. The member requested for buoys at Poutasi as there are many fishermen in this area; he added that currently the Poutasi fishermen are using the Siumu Buoys as safety markers.

The Member acknowledged the development on imported taro and fish; then conveyed gratitude for the development of roads heading towards plantations. Aumua called for collective efforts to ensure the eradication of rhinoceros beetle. The Member raised the need for a freezer for Siumu as the one in Poutasi to store fish, as well as the need for a wharf to be constructed at Poutasi for fishermen. The Member called for emphasis on the development of Cavendish banana.

- *Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour*  
Member commended the Minister for the progress of seasonal workers as this greatly assists families and the economy. Aumua acknowledged the continuous apprenticeship programs for those whom have an interest in technical skills. He also acknowledged the reestablishment of the trade committee tasked with regulating prices (Price ceiling and floor) to confine the setting of prices by businesses.
- *NEOC - The Member commended efforts made by the Committee in keeping Samoa safe*
- *Public Service Commission*  
The Member commented on the privileges afforded to Government employees stipulated in the Public Service Commission Act 2004 and Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013; such as maternity leave benefits which benefit mothers employed in Government as opposed to mothers employed in the private sector. He then sought assistance from the Minister to ensure equal opportunities for the working populace of Samoa.

**Interjected – Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selaafi Purcell, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour**

The Hon Minister clarified that there are legislative reviews being carried out on the Labour and Employment Relations Act.

**AUMUA Isaia Lameko- Member for Falealili West (Cont.)**

- *SBEC- Business HUB.*  
The Member called to utilize Model established by the Development Bank. Elaborated on the different lending phases; first phase is the distribution of \$2500, second phase: \$5000 and the third phase is \$7500, which amounts to \$15000 that an individual can loan from the Development Bank. Stated this is excellent for locals as Business Hub guarantees 80% and the applicant searches for the remaining 20% within the 10years.
- *MCIT*  
The Member acknowledged the Minister for the new post at Satalo-Falealili which looks at expediting telecommunications.
- *MESC*  
Acknowledges of the Distance Learning utilizing television given that we used our 2AP for educational programs.  
*One Government Grant:* called to utilize the fund for purchase of TV's for all schools.
- *Minister of Health*  
Acknowledgement for the Medical Officer stationed at Poutasi, and the Private Contractor whom refurbished the road leading to the District Hospital.
- *MNRE*  
Acknowledged the Minister for the beautification initiative at Saleilua, Sapunaoa- Member called for a program aimed at catchment of these sources.
- *Ministry of Police*  
The Member requested to examine the starting salary for police officers and stated to ensure consistency with prison wardens.
- *Ministry of Women Community and Social Development*

The Member called to postpone the formulation and launch date for the new honorific salutations book 'tusi o faalupega' Aumua suggested to utilize Government printing services for the printing of bylaws (taiala o nu'u) implemented in respective villages (alii ma faipule) within Village Councils. He then requested the update of information (specifically legislations) available on websites for Government Ministries and Offices

- *Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure*  
Acknowledged the development and repair works on the roads for Satalo, Tafatafa, Salailu; Aumua called to implement programs to build the capacity of captains for ships then requested for electricity and water supply in his constituency.

**X. GATOLOAITFAANA Amata Alesana-Gidlow, Member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West**

The Member commended the Minister of Finance and his Ministry in the preparation of the Budget and on the same note conveyed her support for the Budget. She commended efforts of the NEOC in keeping our borders closed to ensure the safety of our people. Gatoloai supported the closing of businesses on Sunday but requested that means of transportation between Upolu and Savaii be opened again to ensure students and workers travelling to visit families have the time to return to studies and employment before the working week commences.

The Member acknowledged the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for the development of the Maliolio bridge and access roads; and requested for road works in Sapapalii and Lalomalava. Gatoloai acknowledged the increase on pension and stated that this was reflective of sound financial management.

**XI. Fagaaivalu Kenrick Samu- Member for Aleipata Itupa i luga.**

The Member acknowledged his constituency in all her honorific salutations and similarly to previous members who spoke on the budget raised concerns and made requests to specific Ministers. The Member acknowledged all Ministers and Ministries for development works in his constituency, such as the development of the Airport in Tiavea; the establishment of the digital TV; efforts of the Ministry of Health and the NEOC in keeping Samoa COVID free as well as collective efforts by Government to provide initiatives (through agricultural development and projects) to ameliorate the impacts of the pandemic. Furthermore, the Member acknowledged the Ministry of Police and Prisons on the cultivation of crops at the prisons.

He acknowledged the Minister of Finance and requested the feasibility of raising the pension to \$200 per month. Fagaaivalu sought funding to implement much needed renovations for the medical outpost in Aleipata and the need for proper housing for the medical officers assigned to the district hospital. On the issue of detainment of intoxicated individuals behind the wheel, and queried the alcohol percentage which warrants the Police force to hold an individual overnight. In regards to the process of applying for a loan at the Development Bank, the Member stated that the process is lengthy and complex, thus calling for a simplified process and to consider proper means of following up repayments, rather than being strict and demanding when the amount is miniscule.

**Interjected – Hon TIALAVEA Fea Tionisio Hunt, Minister of Police and Prisons**

The Hon Minister clarified that 3 bottles equates to 40% alcohol blood level therefore the individual should not be driving as he/she is considered a danger to the safety of himself/herself and those around him/her.

**XII. ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI- MEMBER FOR AANA ALOFI No.2**

The Member acknowledged his constituency in all her honorific salutations and acknowledged respective Ministers for developments carried out in his constituency, such as the installation of light posts (then requested for additional appropriations for the essential services providers SWA and EPC). Ili acknowledged the increase of pension and called to increase this amount to \$200. There was also mention of the Digital TV, the Member asked for the quality to be improved as the signal becomes faulty at times; to which the Minister of Communication responded that the installation of an 8-meter antenna would expedite the signal and remove the problem.

The Member further requested for more speed humps to prevent careless drivers and accidents on the roads. Ili also requested for an increase of salaries for teachers. The Member acknowledged the Minister of Health and her ministry in keeping the nation safe, he then requested an ambulance to service the district hospital at Leulumoega. He requested for more access roads in his constituency. In order to mitigate the impacts of sea level rising, the Member requested an appropriation to fund climate adaptation projects. The Member concluded his remarks by acknowledging the efforts of the NEOC Committee and supported the continuation of the Sunday curfew for Supermarkets from 3pm - 7pm.

**XIII. 9. LENATAI Victor Tamapua-VAIMAUGA West No.1**

The Member acknowledged his Constituency in all their honorific salutations; commended the Minister for Finance and his Ministry for the tabled budget and conveyed his support for the budget. Furthermore, acknowledgement was expressed to the Minister of Finance for the Vaisigano Catchment project. He specifically addressed the following Ministries:

- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment:*

The Member commented on torrential rains causing flooding at the Apia Park Area, he stated that water drainage seeps into the mangroves, which can be hazardous to the ecosystem.

- *Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries*

The Member noted receiving two chainsaws aimed at eradicating rhinoceros beetles and explained that there is potential for a reserve area aimed at raising crabs and the tilapia fish at Moataa

- *Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure*

The Member noted the dire state of the settlement roads at Vaivase Uta and Vaivase Tai and called for serious repairs.

- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*

Lenatai stated that there are no seawalls to break the impact of heavy waves crashing onto nearby roads and families. The Member iterated the requests made by the Member for Vaimauga East, for seawalls along the stretch at Moataa, and stated that construction is justifiable, as safety of the public is paramount. The Member explained that times have

changed, the current has changed due to seawalls at Vaiala and now resulted in a higher tide for Moataa. He concluded by acknowledgment the contribution of the former Chief Justice (member of his constituency) and wished the new Chief Justice who is also a member of his constituency, the best in carrying out his service.

**Proceedings adjourned at 11 pm;  
and reconvene at 9:00am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June.**