



January
2021

PARLIAMENTARY SITTING SUMMARY

DISCLAIMER

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Wednesday 20th January 2021

9:32am

I. OBITUARY NOTICE BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker addressed the Legislative Assembly by announcing the passing away of a Former Member of Parliament and current Member of Parliament:

i) **Fiu Loimata II – Former Member of Parliament for Faasaleleaga No.1**

The Member entered into Parliament in the 12th Parliamentary Term (May 1996-2001); He was a member of the Human Rights Protection Party and served as a Member of the Ethics Committee.

ii) **Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken Poutoa- Member for Lefaga & Faleseela**

The Member first entered Parliament in 2016 (the current parliamentary term); He is a member of the Ethics Committee and Economic Sector Committee for the current Parliamentary term. He was a member of the Human Rights Protection Party.

A Minute of Silence was observed in the House in honor of their fallen Parliamentary Brothers.

II. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

A total of 22 Papers were tabled (21 Annual Reports, 1 Regulation).

III. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

i. Hon TUILAIPA Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Prime Minister conveyed sympathies to their two fallen colleagues and stated that they will be afforded honorary last rites as per government procedure. He concluded by wishing eternal life for the deceased Members

The PM then continued by acknowledging and conveying well wishes to the outgoing Member for Gagaemauga No.2 Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa. He recalled briefly Hon Faasootauloa's history as a Member of Parliament. He noted that the inception of the idea to prolong the Parliamentary Term was executed with the thought that 3 years was too brief and development projects required longer timeframes to complete hence the extension of the term was justified. Whilst amending the relevant law, HRPP did not hold a two-thirds majority in Parliament, irrespective it was left to chance. The Hon PM noted that it was surprising to see at the time, the Opposition defecting to side with the Constitutional Amendment for prolonging terms.

He then asserted that the Member, Faasootauloa exemplifies that of honesty, and excellent rapport between himself and his constituency. The PM noted that the aforementioned qualities coupled with operating with the highest degree of love is the backbone of which the Member has worked under. He urged Members to think of what was said by the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 when they speak today.

ii. FUIMAONO Teo Samuelu Teo, MEMBER FOR FALEALILI EAST

Firstly, conveyed his condolences to the family of his dear colleague, VAAFUSUAGA Toleafoa Ken Poutoa. He then stated that he will speak on his behalf. The Member touched upon the Honorific Salutations for his fallen brother for Lefaga & Faleseela & expressed his sadness at the loss of his friend.

The Member expressed thanksgiving to the Almighty irrespective of the dark cloud that had befallen the House, Samoa is still safe and Covid-free. He exclaimed that the glory be returned to where it rightfully belongs- to the Omnipotent, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Member touched upon the three honorific salutations which signalled the dawning of a new day for Samoa i) TAEAO MATANIUFEAGAIMALEATA ii) FALEU MA UTUAGIAGI iii) MALAEOLA MA GAFOAGA. He addressed The Head of State, Council of Deputies, and Prime Minister in their honorific salutations. The member then addressed his constituency in their honorific salutations.

Acknowledged the Constituency for affording him the chance to be their spokesperson at the Highest House of Samoa. The Gentleman reiterated to the House that Actions speak louder than words. The Honourable Member touched upon all the achievements during this Parliamentary Term: electricity supply improved,

construction of roads, connection of water; the constituency also has a hospital; the construction of the detour road (auala alo). The Member asserted that the road at Utulaelae is in the pipeline.

The member recalled part of the FAST roadshow in the Member's constituency where the Tama-A-Aiga, Tupua Tuiatua Tamasese expressed an opinion against current political affairs. He then urged his Constituency to not be in conflict with what the Tama-A-Aiga said. He stated that this is just a matter of differences (as the case has always been) between Fuimaono and Tupua.

**HON LAAULI Polataivao Leauatea, MEMBER FOR GAGAIFOMAUGA No.3-
interruption**

As per Standing Orders, the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 reminded the Member to refrain from naming those who cannot defend themselves in the Chamber.

HON TUILAEPA Lolofigetete Neioti Fatialofa Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Govt response

The Hon PM sided with the Member for Falealili East and pointed out that it was merely an advise and not a directive.

FUIMAONO Teo Samuelu Teo, MEMBER FOR FALEALILI cont'

The Member expressed disagreement with what was stated by the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3. He then clarified that he is speaking to his constituency and not the Tamaaiga. Fuimaono expressed disappointment as the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3, has stated "Samoa you be the judge" implying there were nefarious motives. The Member urged the House that facts be presented and not erroneous claims. The Member reassured his Constituency to not be swayed by what others are saying as they are false messages and rest assured that their lands are safe, and that your rights were yours alone, no one can take those rights away from you.

Proceedings were suspended at 10:40am

Proceedings reconvened at 11:36am

iii. OLO Fiti Afoa Vaai, MEMBER FOR SALEGA EAST

The Member for Salega East commenced by acknowledging the Almighty for the chance to reconvene in Parliament. He conveyed sympathies to the family of the two Members whom have left this earth for a higher plane of existence; conveyed well wishes for the Speaker of the House & wished him all the best as this is his last term in Office.

Acknowledged the PM & Cabinet and apologised for any troubles during the parliamentary term; reaffirmed that it was all done with good intentions for the betterment of the nation. He acknowledged his constituency for their never ending support and prayers throughout this parliamentary term. Conveyed apologies to Cabinet Ministers for times when they come in conflict.

The Member then requested the PM to take into consideration that Bills do not go back to the Cabinet Secretary's office if the Head of State does not assent to the Bill. The Member also requested the Government that current works under completion and progression should not be made/seen as a means to draw the attention of voters.

HON TUILAEPA Lolofietele Neioti Fatialofa Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER- Point of Clarification & Govt response

The Hon PM sought to reiterate that the Constitution of Samoa was formulated by our forefathers. The Hon PM somewhat provided a background on the eligibility of the Tamaaiga. He touched upon Fiame Mataafa (the first Prime Minister) who during the discussion of the eligibility of the Tamaaiga as Head of State, all other Tamaaiga left the discussion but Fiame Mataafa continued to stay there stating that he is here to serve and not to be served, thus his non-involvement in the Head of State position.

The Hon PM noted the common practice that comes into play when the Head of State (HOS) does not assent a Bill. If this occurs, a 7 day period is opened to allow Cabinet to identify whether the 'rejection' of the bill is necessary if not, then Cabinet has the authority to overturn the decision; hence why the Secretary to Cabinet uses the term "The law is deemed to come into effect" which indicate that the law regardless of the HOS' assent still stands. Hon PM then asserted that this practice was not done in their time, rather a practice that was established by the forefathers.

In regards to the accusation by the Member regarding current projects seeming as a way to attract voters, the Hon PM posed the rhetoric so do we withhold all works, stop surgeries, stop buildings, stop water after the election? The PM reiterated that common sense is lacking from the Member of Salega's suggestion. The Government will continue to do its work because that is their duty.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Ruled that although the Speaker does not object any Member to speak on the budget and express their opinions; however, it is advisable that the Member refrains from

misleading the country with their own assumptions on Samoa's convention without providing valid evidence.

iv. TOOMATA Aki Tuipea, MEMBER FOR SALEGA WEST

The member for Salega West acknowledged the Speaker of the House in being the presiding officer during the Parliamentary Term. Acknowledged him for his astute leadership; acknowledged the PM & Leader of the House as based on records presented, Samoa's deficit is still under control regardless of market conditions due to Covid. Expressed gratitude for all the projects that has benefitted his constituency during this term, water has reached their constituency and he is grateful that he was able to give to his constituency an easier life hence why he is in parliament. The member noted that the rapport and the faith the Government has established with Foreign Investors has resulted in more aid influx for our nation; acknowledged the government for the construction of the new sports field for schools for Samata Uta & Fagafau. The Member then highlighted that the road in his constituency has been improved and that he understands that the government is doing all they can to fix every road and keep them maintained.

The member concluded by acknowledging his constituency in all their honorific salutations. He then asserted that in the next Parliamentary term (if he is successful again) Fogatuli's low lying area will be raised so as to avoid the current problem of flooding. He requested to the government for a water pump for some of the families in Fogatuli who do not have access to good water supply.

FUIMAONO Teo Samuelu Teo, MEMBER FOR FALEALILI

Member queried the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) whether there is still funds available to construct a playing field for his constituency once a land has been allocated.

LOAU SOLAMALEMALO Keneti Sio, MINISTER OF MESC

Affirmed that the funds queried by the Member is still available pending finding a land for the construction of a sports field.

HON TUILAEPA Lolofietele Neioti Fatialofa Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, PRIME MINISTER

The Hon PM noted that this remains a priority of the Government (Sports and Culture) as sports too is an avenue for uplifting standards of living for families. Hence, the emphasis placed on it by government. He mentioned efforts by the Ministry to revive Samoan cricket 'kirikiti Samoa' - highlighted efforts made by the women's' team during

the Pacific Games when they won Gold medal while the men's team won bronze; this shows that there is still improvement in sports in Samoa but that is only because we have good and improved sporting facilities for our people. Also stated that he, himself is involved in various sports like cricket, archery, boxing, soccer, etc. as a way to encourage the youth to take up any sport.

The Hon PM put emphasis on villages having 'malae' for sporting events to encourage and invite youths to take up sport because of the many talents that our people have and will contribute to our economy and help their families.

FAUMUINA ASI PAULI Wayne Fong, MEMBER FOR URBAN WEST

Queried why his school building at Vailoa of which he requested is still being withheld.

LOAU SOLAMALEMALO Keneti Sio, MINISTER OF MESC

The Minister responded that the Hon PM has already clarified that the Vailoa Primary School will be constructed before the end of the term. He further added that they had formulated new training regime that aim to build up the strength of our young ones in preparation for future sports. He concluded by assuring the Member that the building at Vailoa will be maintained.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 12:58pm
and will reconvene on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 9am.**