



# FORTY-NINTH SESSION

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**MADAM SPEAKER TOOK THE CHAIR AT 9.00 a.m.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**MADAM SPEAKER (N. RATTLE):** Honourable Members please be seated. Kia Orana to all Honourable Members this morning. May the special message from our Pastor guide us through our deliberations today. To all our people throughout the country – Northern and Southern Groups, Tumutevarovaro – special greetings to you all.

Just a reminder to all Honourable Members the missing Hansard Reports can these be returned to our House Attendants so the corrections can be altered but if these are not returned today, we will upload the reports on our website as it is. I have no further announcements and we will now go to our Question Time.

### **QUESTION TIME**

As I understand our procedure is on Thursday Question Time is for one hour and the Floor is now open. I see the Honourable Member Tingika Elikana.

**MR T. ELIKANA:** Madam Speaker, good morning to you and all the staff of Parliament. I stand to ask my question to the Leader of the Opposition. When I entered the Chamber this morning I noticed a change in the seating arrangement on the Opposition side. I see the seat for the Member for Amuri-Ureia has moved next to the seat of the Leader of the Opposition and the seat for the Member of Ruaau is moved to the back. This is different to how their seating was since the beginning of this year.

I recall talking to the Member of Matavera and he told me the leadership structure for the Opposition is for this time only. My question to the Leader of the Opposition can she explain as to why there is a change in the seating of these two Members.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I can see the Honourable Member Tina Pupuke Browne.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** The Minister of Finance said the other day, do not ask a question worth three pence and that is a three pence question. However, I will answer your question. If only you play netball, then you will understand that the Coach will move the players around to make the defence strong.

Seriously, my team pointed out to me. We looked to the Government seating and we noticed that their Leader is seated next to his Deputy. So, I want my Deputy to be seated next to me so that our response to the Government will be strong as we will support each other. And this team of the Opposition is going forward strong and we are ready.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. In fact, thank you for bringing my attention to the change because I have not actually been informed of the change. The Speaker actually decides how people are seated in the Parliament. So, thank you for bringing my attention and thank you Honourable Member for your explanation. And that is your Standing Order 34.

Thank you and I see the Honourable Tamaiva Tuavera.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Kia Orana to all Honourable Members in the House today. My question is to the Minister of Transport. Today in the newspaper there are many ships that are being seized around our ocean area for doing illegal things like drug running. These boats are flagged in the Cook Islands and it is not giving us a good name.

My question to the Minister of Transport or the Government. What are you doing with regards to this issue?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Minister of Transport.

**HON. R. TAPAITAU:** Kia Orana Madam Speaker. Thank you for the good question. To answer the question properly for the Member of Parliament for Ngatangia. Is it possible for him to give me the name of the ship which was flagged in Cook Islands water and carrying drugs? If not, then that is just speculation. If he gives me the name and not speculation then I might be able to find out the answer from the Ministry and Secretary of Transport to answer the question properly, thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Tamaiva Tuavera.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you Madam Speaker and thank you Honourable Minister. Yes, Honourable Minister I have the name of the ship and I will bring it to you tomorrow and it is not the only ship. There are two ships that are illegally unloading oil and I will bring that tomorrow.

I have a supplementary question. I want to ask the Government as to why is a private company selling and registering our flags for international ships instead of the Ministry. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Minister Mark Brown.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you Madam Speaker. The answer to this question goes back to the time of the Democratic Party Government. When a group of lawyers formed a company and convinced the Democratic Party Government that they will be far better for them to run the ships registry than for the Ministry of Transport. This was agreed to by the Democratic Party Government of the day.

But to their credit, at the time the ships registry was costing the Government money being run by the Ministry of Transport, they managed to convince the Government of the day that they could do the same job without any cost to the Government but in fact pay the Government some money. Therefore, Maritime Cook Islands was born and it has been operating ever since with an agreement with the Government that it pays a share of the ships registry earnings with the Government.

They operate under international law regarding shipping and carry out this function on behalf of the Cook Islands. Over the years, they have become so good and their job of registering vessels. They have now developed capability of Cook Islanders within their staff who are very, very skilled and they have built up a company that is very successful.

And of course, dealing with international registrations of companies there is no doubt just like any other company there a good companies and bad companies. There are good ship owners and there are bad ship owners. But by and large I think if we look at the performance of Maritime Cook Islands as the ships registrar on behalf of our country. I think they have done a very good job. They managed to pay Government dividends every year.

From a very small business worth very few ships registered they have now thousands of vessels on their registry and it is inevitable that you will get the occasional shady company or vessel owner. But we have proper due process and procedures in place to ensure that anybody who does transgress the international maritime laws they will be dealt with accordingly.

Just as any Cook Islands company transgresses the laws of our country Madam Speaker and they are dealt with by the law. But it does not mean the country itself is tainted by the wrong doing. Thank you Madam Speaker

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, I see the Honourable Tamaiva Tuavera.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister, I see in the Paper he opened the water yesterday but there is a bit of a sour note to me with the reporting in the Paper, because it says, it is a 90 million dollar project so is he still sticking to his story that a remedial is not part of that project, because the people now want to know was the project 90 million or it is plus the 17 million used to dig up the old pipes and put new pipes in? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Minister Mark Brown.

**HON. M. BROWN:** If the Honourable Member takes time to read his Budget Book he would see the expenditures on Te Mato Vai then I am happy it's a 90 million dollar project because this project Madam Speaker has been designed to last over a hundred years. It is designed in a way that will produce clean consistent drinking water to the people of this island for the next hundred years. To me, an investment well spent and a long time coming, so I am not sure what the Member is crippling about in today's paper. I have not read the paper but I know yesterday Madam Speaker, I was at the Takuvaine Water Intake bright and early at 8.00 a.m. to release the dechlorinated water in the sedimentation tanks that had been used to disinfect out our system up the valley.

I was also up there to refute the claims made by the likes of Te Vai Ora and other environmental groups that the Government was discharging chlorinated water into the streams. The water has been tested since December when its been sitting in these tanks disinfecting these tanks and right before we opened the valves it was tested again to demonstrate and show zero levels of chlorine in that water.

So I was very happy to be able to take the landowners of this particular intake and Government officials to demonstrate that misleading false comments that are made by certain groups against the works of Te Mato Vai can be proven to be wrong. The remedial works that the Member refers to Madam Speaker is separate from the Te Mato Vai project and as I pointed out previously in this House the last few days that remedial work is at no cost to the people of the Cook Islands. That cost was covered by our partnership in this project with the Government of New Zealand. So if we take out the labour component in this particular project Madam Speaker, I would say 60 to 70 percent of the investment in this project is sitting in the intakes and in the pipes in the ground for this Te Mato Vai project.

We did not just spend this money and its disappeared like Toagate. We invested this money and it is up there in concrete and tanks and pipes that produce clean drinking water to every household on this island. An achievement that all Members of Parliament in this House in particular the Rarotonga Members of Parliament in this House should be thankful for because even though you may not have supported it I am glad that the majority of this House supported it to the extent that it is now almost complete and those taps once the testing of the chlorination and the backle is complete we will start to see clean water running into people's homes. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Minister and I see the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa and you have the Floor.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I ask my question to the Prime Minister or the Minister of Health. A brief explanation to my question. I watched the Australian ABC news on television and our One Network news from New Zealand. On the news I learned that Australia has closed its international border and also the state of Queensland. And in New Zealand 3 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed. I just want our people to know as to what we are doing to protect our country from this virus entering our nation.

The question to the Prime Minister whether the Government have plans in place to protect our country from COVID-19 as our people are starting to arrive back into our country.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I give the Floor to the Honourable Prime Minister.

**HON. H. PUNA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Kia Orana to all of us in the Name of the Lord and our people listening to us today. Thank you to the Member for Matavera for asking this important question. I say important because our people are wondering as to what we have done and as to what we will continue to do to protect our country from this pandemic. I will try my best the Government is doing with regards to this matter.

Firstly, I want to assure our people my trust and faith in our staff at the Ministry of Health. They have worked so hard and dedicated to prevent our country and now we see that this dangerous virus has not entered our country. I am not a doctor but a pearl farmer. However, I am so overwhelmed of their knowledge and commitment to ensuring that our people are safe.

Secondly there are two ways that this virus is transmitted as we see reported in New Zealand. The first is community transmission and secondly, isolated cases particularly those returning back to New Zealand from overseas. This is the advice from our Ministry of Health. Our biggest concern is the community transmission, that is the reason social distancing and other prevention measures were put in place because of that.

Secondly, it is for passengers arriving from abroad. We all understand that in New Zealand, almost three weeks, in fact over three weeks and almost four weeks there was no transmission cases identified. We will then say that they achieved their objective to stop the virus in New Zealand. Based on that result, the experts at the Ministry of Health advised that we can open our borders to New Zealand. However, they also caution us that the opportunity is only for those people who have spent 30 days in New Zealand before coming to the Cook Islands.

This means, if they contract the disease within that period of time, it will be known. However, there were no cases like that identified in New Zealand. This is the reason our Government opened our borders to those people intending to travel back to our country. Some of these people are also our very own people wanting to return home.

These new cases discovered in New Zealand are not New Zealand cases. These are people from outside of New Zealand who have come to New Zealand. However, we all understand that New Zealand is concerned how these people with the virus slipped through their boarder control without being identified. I believe that New Zealand today is able to stop that leak from happening again.

This is the reason we opened our borders to New Zealand because we were certain to the extent possible that the virus will not reach us. However, we must also be mindful that our people are not only in New Zealand, they are also in Australia, Fiji, America and in other countries. However, the opening of the boarder is not for them because we have heard that the virus is spreading in Australia again.

Therefore, this is our situation now. Government is confident that we should continue to open our borders to New Zealand. This is what we are asking and with the strong support of our Private Sector Task Force, for New Zealand to open its borders to us. When they come to our country for a visit and then return to New Zealand, they will not need to go through quarantine in New Zealand for two weeks.

I can honestly advise this Honourable House that there is a lot of discussions going on at the highest level with New Zealand but we are taking a very soft diplomatic approach. However, as we have seen, our Private Sector Task Force and our friends in the private sector are doing their best to push our case for the reopening of the New Zealand borders.

I have also been in discussions with the Australian Prime Minister. He is absolutely thrilled that we are COVID free, and he has indicated his support for New Zealand to open their borders to us without waiting for the Australian/New Zealand bubble to be formed. However, that is something that we need to massage gently as it is a sovereign matter for the New Zealand Government.

So, thank you my Honourable friend for the beautiful question. I hope you and our people understand and are clear with the explanations that I have provided. Kia Orana.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you Prime Minister. I see the Honourable Selina Napa.

**MRS S. NAPA:** Firstly, greetings to all of us in this House on this beautiful day.

My question is either to the Minister of Health or to the Prime Minister. I asked this question during my debate speech yesterday and I am going to ask this question again. Can the Minister confirm whether our protection suits and testing kits for coronavirus have arrived to protect our workers especially those staff at the Ministry of Health.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you. I see the Honourable Rose Brown.

**HON. R. TOKI-BROWN:** Kia Orana to all of us Honourable Members in this Honourable House. Kia Orana also to our people listening to our debate on radio and also on live streaming.

Thank you Honourable member for the beautiful question. I heard you mention about this issue yesterday when you made your speech during the budget debate. I intended to touch on this issue you raised during the Vote Item for the Ministry of Health, but because you asked the question today, I will answer the question.

Yes, we have received our protection gears (PPE), but it is not enough and we are still waiting for the rest to arrive. This is an important question raised, so that we can protect our staff working in this field should the time comes when the virus reaches our country. This is an important areas that the Ministry of Te Marae Ora should strengthen and also other Ministries working along with the Ministry of Health.

Thank you very much.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I see the Honourable Tina Browne.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Kia Orana again to all of us this morning.

Firstly, I would like to make an apology to the Speaker for not relaying the message to her for the rearrangement of seating in this House on our side.

Secondly, I am happy with the explanation given by the Prime Minister about our situation today. I believe this is what our people want to hear so they can understand what our situation is today. We all know we fear this virus. Our old people and the vulnerable fear this virus and I believe it is because we fail to understand how this virus is transmitted in the community.

Right now, we are in the midst of this situation where we are weighing between health and the economy. This is not an easy task, however, if we want to help our economy, we are forced to make some difficult decisions.

Yesterday, the majority of us who spoke on the budget, made a request to us in the Opposition to work together. Yes, this is a good request but our request to you is that we should work together from the start to the end. My understanding is that this is not a stint, it is a marathon.

My question relates to the economy. Given that there is an urgent and strong call for us to rethink our tourism direction, adopt a far more eco-friendly stance, consider quality tourism over mass tourism. Can the Minister Responsible confirm that we are already on that track because my understanding is that as soon as the complications with the boarder are sorted out, that is the rethinking tourism that we have in mind.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I can see the Deputy Prime Minister.

**HON. M. BROWN:** I wasn't too sure what the question was Madam Speaker? Is it relating to the budget process then if it is we have the Budget before us and the question should not be directed to it.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Would you like to rephrase your question please, Honourable Member?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** We are thinking of how we are going to promote our tourism overseas. We want quality tourism, not mass tourism, we want eco-friendly tourism. This involves a rethink of the way that we are going to be promoting our tourism overseas. The question is do we have a plan already in place working towards that if not when are we going to start?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

**HON. M. BROWN:** I thought the Leader of the Opposition told me she had read my Budget Speech because in the third pillar of the Economic Recovery Plan, Madam Speaker. I speak of the transformation of our economy moving to a smarter greener and more resilient economy especially including tourism. So the answer to her question is yes, we have already started sowing those seeds. As to when these things will happen, we remain still as I pointed out in very uncertain times. What we planned for in March is different for what we plan for in June this month, what we plan for in December may be different again.

But the important thing is we are looking at the situation daily and some of these things are out of our control and they are events that occur in other countries like New Zealand. What we expected to do two weeks ago is now been a setback I would say which requires a rethink and that is what we do. The important things is not when these events are going to start, the important thing is that we are on the job from day one as we have been when this COVID first emerged on our horizon back in January at the beginning of this year. But we are very fortunate Madam Speaker, we have good people in our team both the Government and in the private sector, in the tourism and in the airlines all looking innovative ways to try and restore income and tourism back into our country.

But all with an understanding that our tourism will be different from what it used to be at the beginning of the year. One just have to look internationally overseas to see what is happening now. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** That was a gentleman's agreement (*much laughter*). I give the Floor to the Honourable Patrick Arioka.

**MR P. ARIOKA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, Kia Orana to you, Members of the Parliament House and all the workers. Thank you to the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa for allowing me to this time to raise my question to that side of Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I want to raise a question to the Honourable Member, William Heather of Ruaau. I want to raise this because it concerns not only myself but the people of Puaikura on his comments yesterday on the radio concerning the gravel being used for tar sealing. It seems to me that his intention is that if he is not satisfied with the Budget today for tar sealing the roads in Puaikura, he wants to call a meeting in Puaikura. The question raised to me by our people in Puaikura is that what is the rationale, the importance and benefit if this meeting was to be called?

A critical notion that the Honourable Member mentioned yesterday was that the gravel is being used for the roads but works in Puaikura has not started and if he is not satisfied with the Budget, the people are asking, is he going to boycott the supply of the gravel for roadworks? Also the people of Puaikura are asking are we giving this gravel for free or has it been bought and paid by Government? Because if it was for free then we would be concerned but if it has been paid what else we can do but to focus on the priority areas of roads that needed to be done.

So, my question is what the rationale for having this meeting is and would it have some benefit instead of wasting our time to meet and discuss this very issue?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable William Heather.

**MR W. HEATHER:** Thank you to the Honourable Member from Murienua for the good question. Firstly, on the sealing of the road for Puaikura, you are right and I have voiced my unhappiness on the radio yesterday of what Government is doing. Maybe I will answer your question as well as what the Minister commented yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday, the Minister mentioned that I said something wrong in my statement, I did not say anything wrong. What I said on the radio was that we have met – a gentlemen's agreement. The issue I said is in this Book there is nothing in there to confirm to me that there is an allocation in there that was appropriated from 2018.

The question here is, where are those funds? I believe Honourable Member a group of people are delegated to look carefully at the spending, if funds have been appropriated to a project then why has it not been done? This is what I am trying to find out, I am not annoyed at the Minister. The Minister is right in saying we shook hands on this. But this Book is showing me there is nothing for Ruaau for the matter Puaikura. If you live in Puaikura then it should concern you.

The Honourable Member for Ngatangiia approached me asking that the roads in Ngatangiia will be widen, I let it go and it is done. This is the very thing that shows we are working together. These are roads and accidents a bound to happen if not maintained.

Following that the Honourable Member from Titikaveka approached me saying not to say anything until the roads in Titikaveka are completed. The spending on these are appropriate but my concern is what's inside this Book as previously mentioned.

Coming back to address us, the land where the gravels are mined is from my family land on both sides, true, you are just assuming. When we come to the Vote Item for ICI, I will then ask a question to the Minister and if he doesn't answer my question, I will take another step.

Yesterday, I went to see the former Deputy Prime Minister because he was the one that appropriated \$3million when he was Minister for Infrastructure for our road upgrades. When I went to see him he was in Aitutaki. I wanted to show him what my thoughts were before I went on the radio but when I got to his office he was not there.

Therefore, my request to you please consider and look at this request. And only when you don't consider this will then be a problem but please look at this.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. The roads around Rangiatea is being upgraded and I have a question to the Minister of House of Ariki. Just a short explanation. A Mataiapo from Murienua approached me, Itiao Mataiapo our friend Andrea and my witness is the Member for Ngatangiia. While I was talking with Andrea the Member for Ngatangiia arrived to pick me up for Parliament. Andrea told me that he is happy with the work taking place at the Marae of the House of Ariki.

We can see that the Marae is near completion. Can the Minister explain the work you are doing on the Marae and what is the purpose of the layout?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Minister of the House of Ariki.

**HON. G. ANGENE:** Thank you Madam Speaker and Member for Matavera. My response to the question.

*(Minister delivered a traditional chant.)*

There is a well know chant of "Taku Manu" and if you visit the Marae Teatupare you will see for yourself – so please come and see for yourself. You will see black rocks from inland and also white rocks from the beach.

Maybe when you see the layout on the opening day you will be surprised of the white rocks and gravels. When the missionaries arrived they first walked on white beach gravels before they got to the village and shed they seafarer garments. Add to that – the light came upon darkness and the people accepted the gospel when it came to our

shore. Today they will be standing on the white gravel because this is the emblem of truth which our people have now enjoyed for over hundreds of years.

All of this came out of my simple mind. Many have criticised me but I am proud that the Lord has given me light for this work. I confirm and invite you Honourable Member Vaitoti Tupa that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August is the opening and that is when I will complete my story on the work of Teatupare. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Members that completes our one-hour Question Time for today.

I now call on the Leader of the House to move a motion.

**MR T. ELIKANA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker I rise to move:

**For the suspension of Standing Order 65 which relates to the arrangement of business of this House in particular for paragraph 2 (c) Consideration of Papers and 2 (d) regards Private Member's Business to enable this House more time to debate and work towards the passage of the Appropriation Bill 2020**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I call for a Secunder to the Motion.

**Secunded by the Honourable Tamaiva Tuavera**

I put the Question:

**That the Motion be agreed to?**

**Motion agreed to**

Honourable Members we will now go to Orders of the Day.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the Day, is the Appropriation Bill 2020, interrupted debate on the Second Reading.

Honourable Prime Minister you were the Secunder on this, do you wish to debate?

**HON. H. PUNA:** No, I will pass that Madam Speaker and allow the Minister of Finance to get on with what he needs to get on with.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I now call on the Minister Responsible for the Bill, the Honourable Mark Brown to complete the debate of the Bill.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you Madam Speaker, it was last Friday when I last spoke on the Budget during the Budget Statement and today affords me the opportunity to respond to comments by the Members of the House.

There is one point that I would like to begin with Madam Speaker and that is on Monday this week the Member of Parliament from Ruauu, the Honourable William Heather read out a prepared statement disguised as his own words during the Budget debate.

In opening a speech Madam Speaker, he stated that I had deceived the Members of Parliament an allegation which I find very serious. And he stated as well that I had deceived the members of the public as to the true nature of our economic situation implying that it was caused not by the COVID-19 but it was caused because of our graduation. If I quote his words from Hansard Madam Speaker, he says “the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister in his own personal raw ambition managed to engineer and push for our graduation.”

The definition of deceive Madam Speaker is, to deliberately cause someone to believe something that is not true. It is to defraud someone or to cheat someone. And as we recall the Member was interrupted four times on a Point of Order because he himself was misleading this Parliament and misleading our people into believing something that was not true.

Everyone knows that our graduation to a country of high income status was a result of the OECD assessment of our country. We are not a member of the OECD and we did not apply for this status. It is imposed on countries whether they like it or not. And everyone knows that.

So, to attempt to say that I was responsible for OECD graduating us and knowing full well it is not true, he was deceiving this House and our people.

However, I don't blame him. I blame the Democratic Party and its Leadership for making the Honourable Member read this statement and make him look foolish. The Honourable Member is a fine gentleman; he is a good friend to make of us. The Democratic Party should not have allowed this.

**HON.T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Point of Order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Can the Honourable Minister justify his statement that the Democratic Party forced the Member to make that statement.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I see the Honourable Minister Mark Brown.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Yes, Madam Speaker because he was humiliated in this House in having to retract those false statements made before the people of this country.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Point of Order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order Honourable Member?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** The Point of Order was can the Minister justify his statement that the Democratic Party forced the Member of Parliament William Heather

to make that statement. Not interested about the withdrawal, justify that statement please.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Would you answer the question as asked please, Honourable Minister.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Yes, I don't believe I said forced him to say this, made him say this. I say that Madam Speaker as an opinion of which all Members of this House are entitled to and something that he should have known was misleading.

And as I have said however, I don't think....

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Madam Speaker, Point of Order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, what is your Point of Order?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** The decent thing for the Minister to do is to acknowledge that he used the word 'forced' either he justifies or he withdraw that statement please.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Madam Speaker, I withdraw the statement that he was forced by the Democratic Party to make that statement.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Thank you.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Therefore, Madam Speaker if he did not know that he was deceiving this House then he had just demonstrated a staggering level of personal ignorance on the matter of graduation of our country.

So while the Democratic Party has acknowledged that they did not make him say these words they have just thrown him under the bus because the only alternative is that he was ignorant of our graduation process.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Point of Order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Can you please justify your statement that the Democratic Party has thrown the Honourable Member William Smiley Heather under the bus.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I see the Honourable Minister Mark Brown.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Yes, Madam Speaker because there are only two alternatives for this statement being made, a misleading statement being made in this House and that is because the Honourable Member made this statement on the knowledge that it was misleading or he made this statement without the knowledge that it was misleading.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Point of Order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, what's your Point of Order?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Please, Minister of Finance answer the question, the question was, please justify your statement that the Democratic Party threw the Member William Heather under the bus.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister Mark Brown.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Yes, Madam Speaker as I said there are two alternatives here in the Member making a misleading statement in this House. Either he knew it was misleading and he made it anyway or he didn't know it was misleading but he still made it anyway. Either way the Democratic Party has failed to back up their Member of Parliament so they have thrown him under the bus.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Point of Order, Madam Speaker. My Point of Order is really quite simple, one and one equals two. The two points that the Minister raises as to how the statement was made does not equal two. The two alternatives that he has given which has given rise to the statement being made does not necessarily conclude that the Democratic Party threw this Member under the bus.

Madam Speaker, he has already explained and withdrawn his statement that the Democratic Party forced the Member to make a statement. There is no link there. So either the Minister withdraws this next statement and get on with the business of the day so that we can conclude the order for today and get this Budget passed.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, may I say it seems that whatever is going to be said a Point of Order will come so just as what happened when the Honourable William Heather was making his statement there were many, many Point of Orders put forward because there was obviously unhappiness on the Government side as you are expressing, Honourable Minister.

I think you have made some very clear points in your comments this morning, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and I get the feeling we will continue this way so can I please ask you to just get us back on track and let's get on with the business. Thank you.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's just that in the important matters like this, Madam Speaker on our side of the table our team discusses what each of us is going to say and we assess so we all know if someone is going to say something if it's not appropriate the Leader of the Party will guide the statements that they will make in this House. So we all know what each person is going to say in the House.

It was my expectation, Madam Speaker that the Leader of the Opposition would have been fully aware of the Honourable Member's statements that he made which he withdrew because they were misleading and if she was aware of his statements that he was going to make, then she allowed him to make them. Therefore, she threw him under the bus.

But I would like to move on, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, please.

**HON. M. BROWN:** I would like to turn my attention to the comments made by the Member from Vaivaitau, a fine gentleman and a good friend of the Members of this House as well and he called our Budget nothing but a dream that would probably turn into a nightmare and he advised me and us not to listen to false prophets.

**MR M. KITAI:** Point of Order, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order, Honourable Member.

**MR M. KITAI:** I was only reading the Scripture from Jeremiah, these are not my words but the Scripture from Jeremiah.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member and I will give the Floor back to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Quite correct, Madam Speaker. The Honourable Member quoted from Verse 8 of Jeremiah 29 and I agree with him, Madam Speaker not to listen to false prophets because they are advising the Member of Ruauu.

But I would ask the Member to look with his own eyes, talk to the people and talk to the two hundred residents of Aitutaki who are currently receiving the wage subsidy. Talk to the 73 fishermen, the farmers, the Mamas who are receiving the Sole Trader Benefit and talk to all the households in Aitutaki who have received free power for the last three months and will continue to receive a \$100 discount on their power for the next three months. Our Aitutaki residents, Madam Speaker have been blessed by this Government.

I know why the Member doesn't believe in dreams. I believe in dreams especially this dream and I will tell you why because team work makes the dream work. You have no team that's why you have no dream.

If I turn to, Madam Speaker the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition in response to the Budget she paints quite a gloomy picture and one that is filled with concern and worry about things that may happen that are beyond our control.

But, take us back Madam Speaker to the Thanks Giving Prayer Service we held in March when this COVID virus impact was starting to hit our country, and at the National Auditorium, my message there to all of our people was for us to do the possible and let God to do the impossible.

Our job as a Government is not just to put food on the table for our people Madam Speaker, but also to remove the fear and worry from their mind. Worry is one of the most useless emotion in a person. Worry is based on an event that may occur in the future, that is why you worry. The answer Madam Speaker is, if there is something in the future that is happening that causes you worry, then do something about it so that it removes your worry. If it is something that is going to happen but you can't change it, then don't waste your time worrying, it's going to happen anyway.

I use the example of death. We are all going to die, it is going to happen in the future but we don't run around worrying, oh! We're going to die, I'm going to die. No, there are those who will do something about it by trying to extend their life by staying healthy to remove the worry. Then there are those, especially amongst us, who have their Christian faith and who believe in being born again. So when you die, you know and believe in your faith that you will be born again, so you don't worry. So, don't waste your time worrying.

The quote I used in that speech Madam Speaker was from James 2:14, "*Faith without works is death*". The Members in the House have said that, to put our faith in God and he will look after us, and we have done that. But we have also done that with the works that goes with the faith. This is the plan that we have put in place in this budget Madam Speaker. One just only has to read the economist or articles from the International Monetary Fund to see the uncertainty of our economic future.

I look at the New Zealand and the Australian Budget Madam Speaker, and in their opening statement are the words, "*We live with a high level of uncertainty*". Making a prediction about the future in this time especially Madam Speaker, is very very difficult. The last ten Budgets that I produced Madam Speaker used good sound economic modelling to produce an outcome that we more or less achieve, but standard modelling does not work today Madam Speaker. We have a situation what an economist call, a structural break.

When we look at the variables to make a forecast, it is no longer the same. So what we have prepared is a number of scenarios in our budget Madam Speaker from a worst case to a best case.

The Member says that there is not much mention of COVID-19 in the Budget Book 1. That we have not taken into full account the impact of COVID. I did a word search of Budget Book 1 Madam Speaker, and the word COVID-19 comes up 155 times.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I see the Honourable Tina Browne.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** If the Minister was to read the Hansard, I was talking about COVID-19 in Book 1, page 27.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, are you putting a Point of Order?

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Yes, I am putting forward a Point of Order to justify that I said that there is no mention at all in Book 1. That is not what I said.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you Madam Speaker. As I said, COVID-19 dominates this Budget and it is mentioned 155 times in Budget Book 1. When I type in the word, "Opposition", it is only mentioned seven times. That's beside the point.

But the impact of COVID-19 is clearly demonstrated in the economic forecast. The impact of COVID-19 is also shown in the tourist arrival forecast as outlined in Section

5.5 of Book 1. There was a statement that there was a lack of reference to COVID-19 in the assumptions that we were making, particularly if it did hit our country.

As I said, we ran a number of scenarios to develop a base line forecast and it looks at an area that is between the high forecast and the low forecast. Then there is sensitivity analysis which is conducted to find out what the impact will be on revenue and also the physical position. These are on page 28 of the Budget Book. It is not standard practise and nor should it be for one to adopt either the worst case scenario or the best case scenario for base line forecast. That is just going to result in very poor planning.

Cyclones, I acknowledge remains a threat to our country, our sensitivity analysis on Section 4.5 of Budget Book 1 provided an estimate of the impact of a range of scenarios, some of which relates to financial and the economic impact of cyclone. The Government has a range of resources to draw upon in the case of a cyclone. Our Disaster Trust Fund is still sitting there and has not been drawn down for COVID response and remains available for cyclone response.

The Government Insurance through the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance programme will also be made available in the event of cyclone. So while the Government is dealing with the immediate impact of COVID-19 in a huge way, we also have resources to respond immediately to cyclone in the event that it happens.

If you look at the assumptions based on tourism arrivals Madam Speaker, these are on the basis that tourism will commence in September but only from New Zealand. And as notified by the Honourable member the impact of COVID-19 on tourist arrival forecast can be seen in the 20/20 year with an estimate of 64 thousand arrivals forecast for that twelve months period. This is less than forty percent of the level where they would otherwise be.

Comment is also being made about the estimate of eighteen thousand tourist that we will receive before the end of the year in December. I will remind the members in this House that eighteen thousand tourists is the equivalent of one month arrivals for July or August. But instead, we have split that over the five months period.

These assumptions Madam Speaker have been based on the demand for travel and the level of travel credits that remain with Air New Zealand. These are airfare that have been paid for that the people will want to use. This is also based on the lack of competition for New Zealand tourist because aside from the Cook Islands, there is very very few other destinations that New Zealand does normally holiday internationally that is currently open for business. So, if our borders open and be assumed here make the assumption in August, then these figures that I provide are realistic assumption given our current knowledge.

If it becomes clear during the financial year that 64,000 tourists will not be achieved then the forecast will be updated accordingly. But it is not only tourist arrivals Madam Speaker that our country relies on, our forecasts considered the impacts of the Governments Economic Response Plan for both this year and also next year. I say next year Madam Speaker, because every dollar inject into our economy the multiplier effect will let that dollar flow on and we expect into the next year.

In addition, Madam Speaker the Governments very strong capital program of up to 50 million dollars will continue to push growth in the construction centre driving up our GDP. Our tax revenue is expected to be only 60 percent of last year's meaning that revenue is already forecast to drop more than GDP, however if that GDP does drop tax revenues as we forecast will be met. I take note of the comments that we must tighten our belts and we must prioritise our spending. That is a comment that is reflective in the Budget where we can see some Ministries have reduced operating expenditures, some has slightly more.

The stimulus measures has been designed to strike a balance between providing support and assistance needed to keep Cook Islanders and the economy ticking over. But we don't want these measures to result in excessive expenditure once things return to normal. As I have said in my statement it is a very tricky situation in this uncertain time. Under one hand too much economic stimulus can result in longer term fiscal headache with added debt. On the other hand too little stimulus risks a collapse economy, business closures, job losses and depopulation and this is a much bigger headache.

So I believe that after much analysis and consultation I think we struck the right balance in the Economic Response Plan and it is a plan. This is the works that we spoke about which is why I referred to the verse from Jeremiah 29 verse 11 and it is a verse that fits very well with the Governments attempts to save our people, to feed our people but also to give them hope. And it goes *"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil to give you a future and a hope"*.

Thank you very much to the Honourable Members for your support for this Bill and I look forward to its progression through the Committee stage. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank very much Honourable Minister. Before we move on I just thought I might clarify something in regards to the Point of Order by the Honourable Tina Browne. I remember the conversation yesterday about the mention of no COVID and I have looked up the Hansard and that was in reference to Book 1 on page 27 about the assumptions. Where you mentioned in the assumptions as well as in cyclone season where you mention the COVID like a cyclone that was your reference, it that is okay with the Deputy Prime Minister? That what it is about.

Thank you we will now go to the Second Reading of the Bill.

I will put the Question. The Question is:

**That the Appropriation Bill 2020 be now read a Second time?**

**Motion agreed to**

**ACTING CLERK AT THE TABLE (J. DANIEL):** Long Title reads: An Act to appropriate certain sums of money out of the Cook Islands Government Account to the services of the year ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021 and to appropriate the supplies granted in this period.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and since the Second Reading has been done, we will now go to the Committee of Supply. I now dissolve Parliament into the Committee of Supply.

### **COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY – DAY 1**

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members as per Standing Orders 307, the Speaker can allocate times because if we don't do that we will be still here in three weeks' time. So I believe the Acting Clerk has spoken to both sides of how we will break this allocation down. That remains as been proposed to you but I have looked at the figures again and I think for some really major departments for example our biggest amount is the Finance which is \$82 million and Education is \$90 million and the Infrastructure of \$80 million, I am thinking that we will allocate two hours for those three Ministries.

The rest of the Ministries we will leave them at the one and half hour for say \$5 million down to \$1 million and then we go down below that the hundredth of thousands into half an hour. So I believe the whips have talked to each of you in your groups and you have allocated yourself the times and that's how we will handle this. I will tell you how much time per Ministry as we go to just keep on track.

Honourable Member Tamaiva Tuavera.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I am just standing up to say that Agriculture should be reconsidered because there is a lot of planters and growers within us here that want to speak on agriculture and you have only allocated thirty minutes on each side.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Agriculture is one hour.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** For each side.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** No, total. Not for each side – total. This is not about each side, this is about the House.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** As I was saying Madam Speaker because there are a lot of growers within us that actually want to speak on agriculture because if we look at agriculture now it is one of the main industries that we need to discuss because of the COVID. I suggest two hours for Agriculture.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, right that is four 2 hours. Four Ministries for two hours each. You don't need to talk for two hours just stop. Let us begin.

**AGRICULTURE:**

The Question is:

**That the sum of \$1,355,046 stands part of the Schedule?**

Before I carry on, we are now on Schedule 1 on the Agency Budget Appropriations. So that everybody is together.

We will do Agriculture for two hours. And you may begin.

I see the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and you have the Floor.

**HON. R. TOKI-BROWN:** Thank you and Kia Orana Madam Speaker and all the staff of Parliament also the Acting Clerk and Interpreters of Parliament.

Prime Minister, your Deputy, all Cabinet Ministers and all the Members of Government, Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of the Opposition, greetings to you all. Special acknowledgement to all the Members spouses and family. Greetings to those who are sick among our people and all those in our prison, our disabled, greetings to you all. To all the women and mothers of our country, greetings to you.

If I may together with Honourable Tehani greet the people of our constituency. To all the people living on Enuamanu especially our planters for the domestic homes and those for business. And those of our young people involved in planting. Our foreign friends in our country and our Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Temarama Aunguna Kamana. Also to all your staff in Rarotonga and the Outer Islands. Our Associate Minister Patrick Arioka, greetings to you.

Special greetings to our former Secretary of Agriculture who is not well in New Zealand, Dr Mat Pura. And one of our infant from Atiu a patient referral to the hospital in New Zealand 5 months old, Tokoi Mokoroa. I extend my greeting to the mother and child, may God be with you both.

Madam Speaker I come back to this Agriculture Appropriation before the House now. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for this allocation for Agriculture for this coming year. I am enjoying the views of our Members towards this Budget and the Associate Minister and I both agree with the discussions put to the Floor on Agriculture.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Point of Order Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Alright.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** 238.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Sorry, Standing Orders 238.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Yes. We have discussed and debated on the principles of the Bill and what we are entering into are the details of each line item. And that is what 238 tells us to do.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, that is true. Not about everything about finances and economics. This is focusing on Agriculture only which is what you are talking about. And be aware of your time when you are making greetings, please. Because you have limited time for the debated.

**HON. R. TOKI-BROWN:** Thank you Madam Speaker and Leader of the Opposition. What has been discussed and raised in the House earlier relates to what we are looking at and I thank all Honourable Members for your contributions.

Returning to this Vote Item I want us to know that the intent and the new direction for the Ministry of Agriculture is to strengthen, restore and improve our agriculture in our country. We all realise as we look to the past the path of agriculture has been slow in developing and today we want to strengthen this area of our country.

The Appropriation for Agriculture in this Budget is \$1.3million and we should be aware that this is only for Rarotonga. The Outer Islands have their own allocation in the Outer Islands appropriation. I do agree that this maybe not enough but there are other means of getting funds for the Outer Islands. This includes the Pearl Project which can assist our planters in the Outer Islands. The BTIB also offer grants to planters both in Rarotonga and the Outer Islands.

This includes assistance in the area of marketing and our subsistence planting. This is the major concern and planning by the Ministry of Agriculture that we may be able to feed our own people. And to reduce our dependency on products from New Zealand and outside of our country. And above all is to go into the diversity of planting or value added product. Plus, the marketing of our agriculture products within our country and outside of our country.

There are many plans that the Ministry of Agriculture is looking at as a direction for our country for the future. The Associate Minister have dwell on this 5-year plan. Please see the Secretary of Agriculture if you want a copy for yourself because they are ready and available today. For those critiquing about the allocation for Agriculture I believe that we will accept and have our plans in order so everything will be in place as we move to the future.

There is also an allocation of \$50,000 to Agriculture and this is to improve the wages for our workers. Even though the Trading Revenue have fallen because of the limitations that's been put on us and there are no tourists visiting our country that is why there is a decrease of appropriation for such. Irrespective of what is happening we have seen what Government have put in place to support our people.

There is a Response Package that was allocated for the agriculture and this has enabled our people to go back to the land and plant. More than 25,000 plants was shared amongst our people on Rarotonga for those who can sell their products but also for home gardens. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for Finance and our Government for supporting this so that it can go to our people. As we have discovered that our people are reaping this benefit. This is the new spirit that we have discovered our people are going back to the land.

We know that there many types of illness, NCD affecting our people and so the spirit is to encourage this part and this will assist the Ministry of Health in order to help our people avoid these illnesses.

To our people in the Outer Islands we have seen the nurseries that have been established on the Southern Group islands and I would like to thank Takiri Tairi because he is

responsible for the management of this and he is doing a very good job to establish these nurseries on each island.

We also have the hydroponic programme for the Northern Group and I believe some of these islands have already received their equipment and the remaining islands are still waiting and in time it will be delivered to your islands.

Madam Speaker, regarding flower planting by the women, this is also included in the plans of the Ministry of Agriculture but at this present time we are developing the nursery in Arorangi because there is a demand from our people for seedlings and also flowering plants and so I am very thankful to the Minister of Finance for giving this appropriation to improve the nursery.

Our schools on Rarotonga and also the Outer Islands, there is a programme that is run in the schools which is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Korero o te Orau, Te Ipukarea Society, Te Marae Ora and also the Ministry of Education. This is a programme to involve the children in planting because we can see that our children are not interested in planting.

But this is what we have discovered during this period of COVID there is an increase of the young children enjoying planting in schools. This programme will extend to the schools in the Outer Islands but we are also aware that you do have your own programmes in your individual schools.

I know on the island of Atiu, Enuamanu School they have a programme of planting in the homes of the students. The theme of this programmes is “from the soil to our plate”. The Ministry of Agriculture will continue to support this programme because this will help the life of our children in the future.

Hon. Members have mentioned wandering animals, all the wild pigs on the Outer Islands. There is a plan to buy or establish an abattoir where these animals will be killed and sold to the public.

We have heard of what the Minister of Finance have mentioned which is Agritec. This is to improve diversification of agriculture.

So to our people who are wanting and planning to get involved in planting you will discover in the future when it comes to fruition because there is an allocation of a million dollars for such and each individual if you want to make an application you can be entitled to about 50 thousand in that funding.

The spirit behind this, my people and Madam Speaker is to venture into some new areas and knowledge because we can see on the new technology we can discover new things happening around the world with regards to planting and not only that trying to improve and see how we can venture in different ways of planting.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, can I ask you to round up please because we will be finishing at 11.30 and your time has expired, just round up.

**HON. R. TOKI-BROWN:** Madam Speaker, never mind I shall wrap up here and allow the time for other Members to speak. Really, Madam Speaker my belief was that because of the so many comments over the last few days I thought maybe they have exhausted their comments but however I shall leave the rest of the time to all our Members to speak.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I shall call you back on the Floor when we return because we are now breaking. Parliament will suspend until 12.00 p.m.

**Sitting suspended at 11.27 a.m.**

**Parliament resumed at 11.57 a.m.**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, please be seated.

Parliament is resumed.

Before we suspended for lunch, the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa had the Floor and you have ten minutes.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

Before I further express my views, with your indulgence Madam Speaker if I can make a brief announcement relating to the body of one of our family members returning home. The body of Papa Honu Ben will arrive home tomorrow afternoon and his family service will be held at 5.30 p.m. tomorrow evening. And also to my sister Teau Scott or known to many as Teau Ina Tou, who is buried in New Zealand, her family service will also be held at 5.00 p.m. tomorrow at the Atiu Hostel. Teau is a sister to Nooroa Ina Tou and Tangata Ina Tou and also my close brother, Vou Ina Tou.

I will now return to the Appropriation Bill before the House today. Madam Speaker, although we support this Appropriation Bill, I would like to give my strong support to the Vote Item for the Ministry of Agriculture. The reason for my support Madam Speaker is that I want to thank the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Agriculture for providing my tractor which is yet to arrive. Although it is not here yet, I thank you both for that. Although Madam Speaker the tractor that is allocated for me will not arrive, I am looking at the tractor allocated for Pupuka/Nassau. Thank you Minister of Finance and Minister for Agriculture, I know you have approved for us to be provided with a tractor.

I will talk about the Vote Item allocated for the Ministry of Agriculture. For personnel, \$50,000 has been allocated to support the staff in the Ministry of Agriculture. Also with the allocation for operation, although there is a reduction in this area, we all understand that the reduction is due to COVID-19. However, when we look at the operation side, over \$314,000 has been allocated for this area. The depreciation baseline, although it has decreased, \$30,000 has been allocated for that area. The Minister of Agriculture also explained about the trading revenue. I am appreciative that this area has been reduced to \$45,000.

I want to explain to us the reason for the reduction in this area from \$90,435.000 to \$45,000 today. The simple reason is due to COVID-19 that we experience today. It is difficult to implement programmes but I would like Madam Speaker to thank those who were involved in putting this budget together and for finding ways to come up with a budget like this. This is the reason I thanked them for the tractor I requested for although it is not here yet.

I will bring us back to the programmes that we will be implemented today. If you look under Output 3 – Advisory, I would like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for considering the area of women. Although our Leader in the Opposition mentioned about the good work our womenfolk does, but there is a proverb that says, “*Behind a good woman is an excellent husband*”. This is the reason I want to make mention of this third programme in our budget today. If you don’t know which section I am talking about, look at Book 1, page 97. It tells you on that page what they will do in this area.

Madam Speaker, we have spoken about horti-culture. It is shown in this budget and how our womenfolk can benefit from it and also all the growers in our country.

Although Madam Speaker my time allocation is only for ten minutes, maybe I will ask you to allow me another ten minutes extra.

My main interest Madam Speaker is under Output 2 – Biosecurity. I strongly believe this is a vital area during this time of COVID-19 because it is normal behaviour for our womenfolk when they return home from New Zealand, they always want to put something in their bags. This is the reason I said this is a vital area for us to look at, for both the men and women in our country. The most important thing is for us to protect our country.

I would also like to talk about Output 4 – Corporate Services. This area is planning for programmes that we want implemented in the future. The Outer Islands have not been forgotten in this area.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Member.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Madam Speaker with your indulgence, if you could allow the Honourable Member for Matavera a few more minutes because I am enjoying his speech.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** So, do you want me to grant him your time allocation to speak?

**MR T. TUAVERA:** If that’s your wish Madam Speaker, I have no issue with that because we will both be given a tractor.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** If you want to forfeit your ten minutes, I will grant it to him.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you Madam Speaker and my colleague for granting me his time allocation. I believe his speaking time and that of the Member of Parliament for Pukapuka has been given to me.

I will return to Output 4 in the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture. I believe this relates to all the work that we are planning to do and also those we intend to do in the future. The reason I touched on this Madam Speaker is because of our people in the Outer Islands. This budget is not put together for Rarotonga only but also for all the islands in the Cook Islands.

I will now talk about Output 1. Under Output 1, it says, Crop Research. This is very fitting for the situation that we are in today. I believe this allows sufficient time for the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture to put in place good planning programme for those of us who are planting.

I will give you an example Madam Speaker. It has been a very long time that we have not looked at the type of soil that we have. This is now the right time to study about our soil in the Cook Islands. I want to tell this House Madam Speaker that the last time this was done, and I stand to be corrected, was in 1993 to 1994. This is a very long time.

If we look at the crops that have been planted during those years up to today, many different fertilizers were used in the soil which we are now planting in those soil. Therefore, I would like to thank the Minister of Agriculture and also the Associate Minister. They planned for this activity to be carried out in this budget.

We also spoke about the different types of fertilizers coming into our country. In this budget, there is also plans to look at the good fertilizers and also those that will not be good to help our growers.

I mentioned Madam Speaker about the convention we signed with the ROTADAM Organisation. This Organisation assess the different types of chemicals that we use to kill weeds in our plantations. We spoke about the paraquat chemical. Today, it was discovered in Africa that this chemical kills the disease malaria. This chemical also help to control the spread of malaria in Africa and also in the Pacific region especially in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Madam Chair, the important thing is during the times we attended this meeting we have made requests especially on chemical paraquat because during the early days the chemical content in paraquat was high. So we requested if the chemical content in paraquat could be lower for usage and I believe this took effect between the years 2014 to 2016.

The farmers nowadays will notice that the strength of paraquat is not as effective as the early days. That is why I said Madam Speaker, is a result of the growers work programs held by Agriculture in supporting the concepts under this Appropriation because these are important things they are doing during these times we are going through.

My compliments to the Minister of Agriculture and your Associate Minister, you two did not go ahead on you own accord but planned it in accordance with the agriculture strategies. Last year I mentioned and do believe there is a Master Plan for agricultural activities. I have read that report Madam Chair hence my compliments to them because they used some ideas from this Master Plan to complement the appropriation for Agriculture.

On top of that Madam Chair, are the workers, they never envisage of laying off any because they have an increase of \$50,000 towards pay. We have always said people first since COVID and I commend the two of them because they are thinking about the programs the workers will carry out even though other areas has been slashed but they managed to source funds to support this Ministry. My time is up. Thank you very much Madam Chair.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you and I give the Floor to the Honourable Terepai Maoate. You have ten minutes Honourable Member.

**MR T. MAOATE:** Thank you Madam Chair. Greetings to our people listening in. I have a good news, when I was outside we have achieved a market for our produce from Aitutaki so I need twenty hours to explain this.

On Agriculture, I would like to talk on three areas, food security, consistency and diversification. We know agriculture is a multi-million dollar subject however this area the countries out there are reaping this. It means we are importing too much food from abroad. Our food security depends on consuming our own food like inside this House. There are a lot of imported food from New Zealand like the potatoes in mayonnaise. Maybe we in the House will start, if we talk about food security then we should lead by example. Our catering for our lunches, really we should be giving money to the planters to pay for *tarua*, breadfruit to mix in our mayonnaise. Looking at the dessert for the chefs to look at sweet local produces for dessert. But if it is a banana cake, look after your diabetes.

My intent is we should support our own produces within our country, we eat our own food and any excess to feed to our pigs. I do believe that within our Ministry as well as amongst our growers there are some very educated, qualified and experienced people since from the old times. I do believe education is very important in this and for our youth to be educated in other areas as well. We should also be mindful of the impact on climate and the environment and the effect on our Nation. We as growers understand the diseases that are coming into our country and what needs to be done to protect our country from diseases. Some of the diseases that have arrived in our country we are unable to control or eliminate. There is a disease that recently came in affecting mangoes. It is the first time I have seen this insect and looks like a fruit fly, it is my first time to see it. I do believe the Ministry of Agriculture is looking at ways to control and eliminate, not only that there is so many others.

Yesterday, our Leader mentioned the women folks as managers of funds. I say women folks are one of the worst for introducing diseases into our country through the smuggling in of flowers. Even though you tell them not to bring them in they still insist and now they are blaming the husbands.

In the area of planting one of best friend is this chemical paraquat, some people are complaining on social media and asking Agriculture as well as the growers to reduce or eliminate the use of paraquat. Most of the people complaining do not plant or grow they expect us to hand weed but how can do that to acres of plantation. We are intending to move in the area of diversification of these crops in the future, we need a friend like this but maybe better. Yes, I do support the motion of banning paraquat but I am not saying ban it now. Just don't go and change my comments like the other day. If we are

to ban chemicals like this from our environment then we should do so if there is a substitute already in place. I do believe this is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture in seeking other ways to ensure that what we use is also good for the lives of our growers and on the produce that we consume.

For all our hardworking growers and planters during this time the market has greatly reduced. I believe this is an area we should support and help through this fund. For those of us in Aitutaki it is appropriate because right now we do not have a market. Some friends are still selling their produce in shops but as we look into diversification we should really look at those who are into this area. To enter into this is just like going into a medical school.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** I see the Honourable Selina Napa. Are you going to give your time to the Honourable Terepai Maoate?

**MRS S. NAPA:** Madam Speaker because I was interested in his presentation about the effects and banning the use paraquat. I give one of the allocated 10 minutes of speaking time to the Honourable Member so he can finish his presentation.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you and give you an extra 10 minutes for the Members on your side has allowed you to do that.

**MR T. MAOATE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I will not speak too long and I return to the subject of smart agri-tech. This is the area that provided the confirmation as I mentioned before for a market to New Zealand. The head of this company in New Zealand is encouraging us and saying what New Zealand needs are the produce from our country. But New Zealand is not the only market and this organisation is suggesting that New Zealand maybe the hub for the extended market overseas.

China is one of the biggest countries in agriculture but their only problem is their soil quality because of their very high level of pollution. People from this organisation has visited us maybe 3 or 4 times to look at starting the processing of our produce like bananas, taros, rukaus and to be exported overseas. However, when it was considered the cost of electricity for this processing was very high. Therefore, I would like to commend Government as the Prime Minister said the Government intentions is to go 100 percent solar power.

This solar power will assist us in the processing of our food and turning it into added values products and putting money into the hands of our growers. This organisation wants to start this process now but not on raw food but on process food to fill containers. We are mindful of the situation as to the authenticity of overseas companies and we need to be careful like myself to ensure their history and background.

Maybe this is an area I would encourage the Government to look at starting it soon and not too late. I will consider this as a project for all of us. We need to streamline Government agencies in the case of the various needs for the setting up of this wide project and to move it forward. When I consider the allocation for this area I believe it is not enough. Maybe there will be funding available from these companies in what we would call a public-private-partnership.

What we need to do is to streamline and make work easy so it will move forward. Sometimes as a Minister you have your own views but then the officials have other plans and it doesn't blend. Therefore, we should be able to align this and coordinate it so there is no pulling to different side but together to move forward. I thought the Minister for Agriculture she wanted my budget allocation to be \$10million. However, under the allocation for Economic Response Plan the Minister of Finance can allocate this funds to enable us to move forward. Thank you Madam Chair.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Albert Nicholas and you have the Floor.

**MR A. NICHOLAS:** Madam Chair, your staff and Honourable Members of this House and all our good people listening in this afternoon – good day.

Madam Chair if I may just briefly, a shout out going out to James and the boys working on the bridge aka the bridge boys. Who have tirelessly put up with my uncle's complaining about why is the work taking too long. Unknown to us Madam Chair they have officially opened the completed end for the use of the general public just now. As they are working on the remaining end towards the seaside of the road. A shout out to James and the boys for trying to make the project and everything workable and being patience with the general public and my grumpy uncle.

Madam Chair Agriculture an industry as old as time. An industry that has evolved throughout the ages. A global industry power house that has helped nations rise and fall throughout history and throughout the changes of time and globalisation. A sector that was once considered the lifeline and lifeblood, blood streaming through the veins of our nation – once upon a time that is.

About it is no longer the case, Madam Chair - through no fault of our own. As they say in the cartoon world - it is just the way the cookie crumbles. Many have come before us Madam Chair and failed time and time to revive this sector. And the agri appropriation before the House aims to try and revitalised that sector Madam Chair.

Madam Chair if we are to once again see the golden aged of this sector then one needs to be bold and courages, smart and technically savvy. In tune with the most up-to-date and technologies available globally to this sector, transformation and creativity.

In order to create new ways of developing produce obviously one needs to consider the formula of production to market place. We need to Madam Chair because we are crippled by so many disadvantages that it isn't funny. Landmass is an issue, labour shortages is an issue, technological know-how is an issue, and the market place is an issue. I think the easiest thing in agriculture to do is actually to put a taro in the ground and let it grow.

But the key here is to get that taro to your bank account and on top of our issues Madam Chair is the COVID-19 issue that we are currently facing. It is a wonder why I don't want to be a planter anymore. But we have to try Madam Chair, we have to try and try and try and try. And then once we have done trying I think we have to try some more till we finally get it right Madam Chair.

The challenges are great, Madam Chairman but we are resilient people and I believe that we hold great Christian values as well and those values we hope to overcome our trials and tribulations and all our challenges that make this sector a hard one to pretty much overcome.

I believe that with the current team tasked to lead this sector, with the Minister's motherly love and care and the Assistant Minister with his technical savviness we will find some grand way forward in taking this industry and this sector back to once it was.

Madam Chairman, I stand here with deep thought of times of strife. I often turn to the Scripture seeking strength, wisdom and courage and it reads, help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth, keep our eyes, hearts and minds fixed on Jesus every movement for those days are stormy, tempest, evil and deadly. Our only hope is in the Lord, be good and of good courage, strong and he shall deliver thus from the global stranglehold of our disadvantages and from the claws of this wretched threat COVID-19.

Madam Chairman, we must come together in this sector now more than ever. There has been talk about putting all our eggs in one basket. I believe this is a separate basket or should I say a fruit bowl. We need to get it right, Madam Chairman for our livelihood depends upon it and pretty much the livelihoods of our future generation.

So with deep thoughts and a clear mind I utter this little Prayer, Madam Chairman. Grant us the wisdom, courage and strength O Heavenly Father to overcome our adversaries, weaknesses, to do what is right for the betterment of our peoples, shine your light upon Yee who praises your Name oh Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ our Saviour we pray and all of God's People say Amen.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Honourable Member and I see the Honourable William Heather you have ten minutes.

**MR W. HEATHER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I give greetings to the people of Puaikura, all the Traditional Leaders and the Religious Leaders including our children attending school and those very much involved in sport representing our village.

Madam Chairman, I now return to the Appropriation Bill and the Ministry of Agriculture vote. Firstly, I want to talk about pests and these are the pests that is destroying our export crops. I am not saying that we can eradicate this in the near future but that we should try.

I have a mango tree from Israel growing at my home. The fruits are big and very sweet. You only have to eat one and that is enough. I can see the Member from Pukapuka pointing to me. Maybe he is implying that I was responsible for bringing this mango seed to the Cook Islands. No, it was given to me by my uncle and this is what he did he made a growth on one of the branches and when it started to get roots, he cut it and gave it to me to plant.

Today, as I speak I am enjoying the fruit from this mango tree but I am not the only one eating it but this pest also is enjoying the fruit. So I would like to ask the Ministry of Agriculture to focus into this area of eradicating this pest.

Yes, I give my support to this Appropriation for the Ministry of Agriculture. Like the previous speaker, he is saying it is not enough but during this period maybe this is enough. But I want to see this Ministry to be improved and given a push. So, Hon. Minister be strong, be bold with the support of your Assistant. That is what I ask and like the previous speaker yes we see here in Rarotonga land is scarce because we have built houses on fertile land which is good for planting. So now let us look outside of Rarotonga.

This is the island that I think should be developed and that is the island of Mauke. We know that the first Government project on the island of Mauke was cattle. The soil is fertile and things grow but eventually they died out, I am not sure but the project collapsed. Maybe my friend took one to his home at Christmas time.

I can also see on Mangaia they already had trials back in the 70's what crops can be grown on this island. They tried growing potatoes, carrots and other things. The crops that grow in New Zealand also grow on Mangaia. That is why I am saying we can supply Rarotonga with vegetables. Atiu and Mitiaro can also grow these vegetables to supply Rarotonga and the benefits will go back to those islands. Maybe we can also start raising livestock again.

Coming back to Rarotonga I have raised goats and reached the number of about 35 but when my goats were attacked by wild dogs then the number decreased. Today let me tell you that I only have ten goats left. The problem for us here in Rarotonga these dogs are destroying the goats and I will say it's a big problem here. If we can eradicate these wild dogs or find a way how we can punish the dog owners, make a law that when our goats are killed that the owner of the dog should take responsibility for this.

Today, we find that dogs are even jumping into the pens to kill the pigs. That is the problem that I can see for farmers raising livestock.

Lastly, Madam Chairman I want to tell the Minister and the Associate Minister to be strong. The person who sows will reap the benefit. The Deputy Prime Minister has produced this Budget, ask him if he can give some more funds to support this Ministry. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, I see the Honourable Patrick Arioka you have the Floor.

**MR P. ARIOKA:** Thank you Madam Chairman. Kia Orana to all of us this afternoon. Kia Orana to our people listening to our debate in this Honourable House. Kia Orana also to the people in my constituency listening to our broadcast. I am sure you are happy with all the views conveyed in this House.

I will not dwell on the greetings Madam Speaker because the Minister have already conveyed our greetings to all the growers and our people in our country.

Madam Chair, I would like to stand and commend the great work of the Minister who has been the leader in leading the programme for Agriculture in the past two years. And also, for giving me the opportunity to be part of something very important to help the livelihood of our people.

I would also like to commend the hard work of our Head of Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs Temarama Kamana, and all the lovely work that has been done by all the staff, not only here in the Ministry in Rarotonga, but also in all the Pa Enea. However, what is so most admiring Madam Chair is the support of all the people on each of these islands to the programme that was intended for our people.

Therefore Madam Chair, I would like to reiterate the hard work that was done in the year 2016 up to today. Since 2016 to 2018, the Ministry was focussed on Phase 1 of the strategies to try to establish the platform for what needs to be doing in the years to come. Since 2018 and last year, we have seen the enormous work for Phase 2 and you will read the great achievements and milestone that has been achieved by the Ministry in the Budget Book.

It just happens so Madam Chair that it is almost like as if the season, the moon and the tide has just come perfectly in and sink with what we are dealing today. It just happened so, maybe the blessings of the Lord that Phase 3 was to focus on market access for our people in the Agriculture sector.

Yesterday, I talked about how the Ministry was ready to take on the challenges that was identified in the Emergency Response Plan – Phase 2. It was through that coincident that we have realised that we have come perfectly the right time to response to COVID-19. You will note that the Pa Enea of the Southern Group Islands has progressed quite ahead in terms of export to Rarotonga. The nurseries were established in all islands and of course, now, we see the Prime Food taking a proactive role to engage and meet with farmers in the Pa Enea.

It just so Madam Chairman that now we are embarking on the Northern Group Islands to establish hydroponics. So, you can immediately see that we were not just sitting aside and expecting what to expect, but we were following through with the 2015/2020 strategy for the past five years. It just happened so Madam Chair that the Ministry of Agriculture has just released the strategic plan for 2020 to 2025 that I am holding in my hand.

I would encourage all the Members of the House to take some time to read it because there are Agriculture Sector Action Plan Funding Time Table that is connected to the agri-tech that is being proposed in response to Phase 2.

The Minister and I would like to thank Raymond Newnman who was the consultant that consulted our number of farmers and growers in a very cohesive as well as comprehensive meetings to come up with this plan. That is why Madam Chair I spoke yesterday confidently, to say that the Ministry of Agriculture is ready to take on the challenge as required for Phase 2, because we have done our homework and we have done a lot of preparations just for that so that our people can be comfortable that we have a plan in place as well as a budget intended for those programmes.

I would also like to bring to the attention of this Honourable House page 286 of Book 1, Schedule 10 shows that the Pearl programme will continue this year up to next year. A total of \$2.5 million has been allocated for the continuation of our Pearl programme in the Southern and the Northern Group islands. So again madam Chair, the Minister

and I are very much encouraged, as the Honourable Member for Ruauau said, “hold steady and work hard to the service of our people”>

Therefore, the agri-tech that has been raised in the Phase 2 programme will deal with two parts. It will be working side by side with MFEM to provide support for the purpose of helping to increase the supply of valuable production. It will also work side by side with the Tourism Industry for the readiness of our tourist and the opening of our boarders.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Member. I see the Honourable William heather.

**MR W. HEATHER:** Madam Speaker, I stand to request that the Honourable Member for Murienua be given extra speaking time.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Whose time allocation will he be using?

**MR W. HEATHER:** For another ten minutes, maybe using Honourable Kareroa’s speaking time.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Kareroa do you intend to speak?

Yes, I will give you an extra ten minutes Honourable Arioka of Honourable Kareroa’s time. Before you begin, can I just bring to your attention for our translations?

You were talking about pearl, which was translated as “*poe parau*”, but you were actually referring to the Pa Enuua action for resilient and livelihoods. That is important for the Hansard Report to be reflected.

**MR P. ARIOKA:** Thank you Madam Chair. Yes, you’re correct, it is the Pa Enuua action for resilient and livelihood is the programme that we are talking about.

I left off on the second part that the agri-tech support that the Ministry of Agriculture will engage is the readiness for the opening of our boarders in receiving more visitors into the country. Although we are working hard to make sure that we have everything in place, but I think this gave us an opportunity to reset our priorities as an industry and as well as a Ministry to try and make sure that we have good skilled labour to support the industry.

If we refer to the Budget Book where the Ministry of Agriculture Business Plan have been illustrated, each line of the business plan clearly point towards that objective. Madam Chair, the Minister and I are quite overwhelm with the response from our public as well as the Members of Parliament who are engaging heavily in this industry. When especially referring to the comments raised by the Honourable Member, Terepai Maoate who is so encouraged to start looking towards export into New Zealand.

Just a word of caution from the Minister and I on this kind of venture. The Minister and I made it very clear that the policy of this Ministry deals with making sure that we are able to secure the market before we do consider to engage.

So there is a guiding principal under the Ministry that say that in market programing must involve intensive negotiations with those markets before we decide what to do. There are many lessons learnt and examples that we have experienced. Tonnage of container of taro was left here on the harbour to rot. The same has happened in New Zealand where tonnage of our own produce was left to rot and when that happened everyone scrambled to Government to ask for help. Today we are facing that same dilemma where nono growers of this country has been left astray not knowing whether they are going to be paid for the export of their produce. It is advisable that if we are thinking in that direction as a group or an organisation please get your Ministry and Government involved because now we are starting to re-track our way back in figuring out how we can address this problem.

It is sad Madam Chair, that the Ministry has spent thousands of dollars in these ventures and no report came back to us, not even to bother to come and to ask for help until they got into serious problem then they decided to come and see the Prime Minister or the Minister of Agriculture to find ways in alleviating their issues. In saying that Madam Chair, I am happy to say that the Ministry today is looking into these issues as we speak and therefore I reflect to the comments raised by the Deputy Prime Minister in his financial speech that we should not be working too hard but we need to work smart. So the Minister and I would to plea to our industry, farmers and growers who are planning to go into that venture in export is to sit with our authorities to try and work out strong measures that we will not repeat this problems again.

Madam Chair, I thank the Honourable Members who have given their support for this Budget for the Ministry and we are looking forward to continue on the hard work and the great effort to help our people and that's more important. I also like to thank the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa for not giving his list of tractors and machineries but it seems to be on the upper hand to try and support the program. But anyway we will be there to help our farmers and growers in Matavera and all around the country with advice. Thank you Madam Chair.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Honourable Tamaiva Tuavera are you going to borrow your time back?

*(Much laughter)*

**MR T. TUAVERA:** You make me sound like an Indian giver, Madam Chair. But no, Tetangi ...

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Tetangi Matapo are you giving the Honourable Member your ten minutes? Maybe you will be the last speaker.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you Madam Chair. First of all, I would like to thank Honourable Tetangi for giving me her time.

*(Laughter)*

But as you know we have heard all the speakers on agriculture, I agree with everything they have said. But nobody has talked about new money, no one spoke about how we can help agriculture grow in this time of COVID. I still say agriculture is the main stayer

for the Cook Islands. In 2015 I talked about what if Air New Zealand stops flying to the Cook Islands. This was borne out of frustration looking at the budget for Agriculture being the same every year under a million dollars. When I made that statement a lot of people in the Government side laughed at me I even heard someone and I won't mention the name, asked me if I was God but I stand here and smile because what I said in 2015 is happening now.

Madam Chair, let us look at what agriculture can bring to us besides Members asking for machinery and all of that, there are things we must ask to assist those with growing in our country. I was fortunate enough to be in the Northern Group and the Southern Group last year. I was happy that I was with the Assistant Agriculture Minister, he actually opened my eyes to what Government had planned for the Outer Islands. It may sound small these nurseries in the Northern Group and the Southern Group, I believe they are the foundation of starting to grow and opening up into bigger fields. I was very happy with the comments from the Minister about the school gardening programs because I remember the previous Minister before you had started one in Takitumu School. I don't know if it was a private one or belongs to the school. As you can see we are trying to educate our kids to learn to grow because nowadays they rather be on their motor bikes and speeding off to the shop to buy Twisties or Chips.

I look at the Output 4 it says there expanding economic opportunities and I wrote next to it 'what'. And right beneath that it says the Ministry is leading and funding all of these that you are trying to do in Rarotonga and in the Outer Islands. I honestly think that with the right person I say Patrick the Member for Murienua is doing a good job. Minister, I commend your 2IC because he is doing a good job.

In my village of Ngatangia, I have core growers just this morning on my way to Parliament, Barnes was selling his kumara and his tomatoes on the side of the road. That really made feel good that there are people in the village that are actually growing and selling their products on the side of the road. These are people that are shy to come and ask for assistance but they do come and ask me and of course I give them assistance.

Maybe these are people we could say they have fallen through the cracks but they are picking themselves up. Like I said before I am not going to talk about the Budget as a whole I am going to talk about how we can build on the agriculture industry. And talking about growers selling on the side of the road. This is where we need the market. In everything we need market, tourism we need market.

I heard the Member Terepai Maoate talk about market and his explanation about getting market in New Zealand and I agree with that. But if I come back to why our exports stopped from going to New Zealand, it is because of the pests that are in our country. I would not say who brought them into the country. This is something for Customs and Immigration to keep an eye on.

But I do hope that you succeed in the plan that you have for agriculture and please look for markets to expand our economic opportunities anywhere we can get it from. Chinese, everywhere they go in Australia and New Zealand, they plant in rows and before they harvest, they plant another one and they plant another one. We got to show our people this is the way to plant. And not plant what you are planting because when watermelon season starts everybody plant watermelon.

Education on growing is probably one of the best things and I see that in one of your output in here. Thank you very much.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Honourable Member. You are lucky Honourable Member we have 10 minutes to go on this Vote Item and I will give you that time to speak. I recognise the Honourable Tereapii Maki Kavana, you have the Floor.

**MR T. MAKI KAVANA:** Thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity to speak. I rise to give some supporting comments to our Appropriation. I support all comments made on this appropriation. The only thing I can see in this appropriation it is how beautiful it is. I see there is provision for the Ministry to visit us in the Outer Islands to teach, train, assist us to develop agriculture in the Outer Islands.

Because I am a planter I want to see many opportunities for agriculture to visit us in the Outer Islands to improve our agriculture programs. When I see the plots of many of our planters on Aitutaki and I compliment them for the clean plots they have. I ask many of them how do they do it. He told me he has migrant workers working in his plantations. But I check it out it is the paraquat that he is using not migrant workers. That is why I mentioned earlier that this is my friend that helps me in my planting. Whatever chemicals that we introduce into our country there is always a problem. I commend the Ministry of Agriculture for giving us caution and warnings as to how use these chemicals properly.

The problem is not the chemical but the users not protecting themselves because those that developed these chemicals are clever and smart people. And when I look at some of the provisions made by the Ministry of Agriculture in helping us in the Outer Islands the strategy and plans they never forget us in the Outer Islands.

The proof is seen today over the past when they visited us and taught us and developed our agriculture programs and now our people are into growing the whole island. I am keen on the market for our produce and as mentioned by the Associate Minister we should be cautious about the market overseas. Sure there are many market overseas but I am asking whether we will be able to supply the New Zealand market.

Samoa and Tonga they are able to supply the New Zealand market because the Government is giving assistance to their growers. Maybe in the near future when the status of agriculture improves then maybe we will look at importing to the outside market. In 1996 was our recession and many public servants lost their jobs and the Ministry of Agriculture was a big Government agency and many public servants were laid off.

One of the major problems I have seen over the years of the misuse of the Government vehicles and machineries in the Outer Islands. Many this is the reason that the Ministry of Agriculture is not sending any more machines to the Outer Islands. One of the effects of the recession in 1966 is the privatisation of machines and the planters have to go and pay private people for the hireage of machines do the work on their plantations. Overtime there was a reduction in the Ministry of Agriculture but recently there is a growth in this Government agency.

I do believe there is a few private operators in the villages that you can hire to do work in your plantation. My appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture for supporting our growers in agriculture. I thought this is going to be one the Government Ministry that will be reduced or cut out. I can see through this appropriation this Ministry is growing because our people are growing in the Outer Islands. I am thankful to COVID-19 because it made our people go back to the land and start growing good crops again.

I assure you without COVID-19 we will still be relying on tourism. Thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity to speak to the House on agriculture.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Honourable Member for completing the debate on this Ministry.

I will put the Question and the Question is:

**That the sum of \$1,355,046 stands part of the Schedule?**

**Motion agreed to**

AUDIT (PERCA):

The Question is:

**That the sum of \$1,603,954 stands part of the Schedule?**

You will have one hour to debate this Ministry.

I see the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I will be short and take maybe ten minutes. I give thanks to the Minister of Finance for this Budget and the people looking after all the Government departments.

Madam Chairman, I want to speak on Output 2. I believe this is a very important section of Government because Output 2 is looking carefully at how the funds are spent, not just the departments on Rarotonga but also the Outer Islands. Because when I look at this allocation it is right that they should monitor this carefully. We know that if you do not work within your budget you will be breaking the law.

Madam Chairman, I remember the words “qualified” and “unqualified”. I remember when I was head of a Ministry I thought that if you have a qualified report that means it is good but later I discovered no, because there is a definition to define what qualified means. If you are qualified you know that you have done something wrong but if you are unqualified then you know you are right.

So, Madam Chairman I want to encourage all the Heads of Ministries especially with the definitions of the two words qualified and unqualified to be aware especially these Heads of Ministries how you can carry your Ministry forward.

I would like to refer to Output 3 of this Appropriation and looking carefully at what we will have to do not just in the Ministries but also in this Parliament. Because when a Ministry make a mistake they are required to report and to answer us in this House.

So, Madam Chairman I stand in support of this Appropriation. So in this Appropriation I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and those in support of him for allocating for this because they have set their spending to 60 thousand. Because we all know that if they come and audit your books you have to pay them. And may I remind not just us here in Rarotonga but also those in the Outer Islands that you have your own appropriation and to be careful how you are going to use.

I recall when I first appeared before this House in 2018, there have been reports of some problems in the Outer Islands. I am aware of this because it was reported to us in the Committee. We have discovered that there were some problems but I believe these problems have been addressed today.

As I look through this, I know that there is an application that the amount appropriated should be increased in this area. But as suggested that we have to tread slowly until we discover how we are going to move further.

I can see Madam Chairman, that there is an appropriation for a big conference to be held in our country and \$50,000 has been planned for this meeting but this has been postponed maybe until 21/22. Madam Chairman, if this appropriation is unused then I will ask the Minister of Finance, like I have already asked before for a tractor for Matavera during this time.

What I am happy about this, Madam Chairman is he showed this amount of \$50,000 for this year but this has been deferred to 2021/22. Like I have always asked, if he can to help the growers of Matavera. Thank you.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Hon. Member and I see the Hon. Tina Browne.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Greetings to all of us this afternoon. I stand just before the speaker from Government will get up, maybe you can explain a point that I am confused on regarding this Ministry.

What I am happy about it is in Book 2, Page 13, maybe it is just my book because no one has complained about their Book because my book is upside down, back to front. This is the first page and when you look at it, it's the front but I am actually looking at the back. That's not a problem but we have to teach ourselves to read upside down.

The first thing that I am happy about is in the past we have had some difficulties and this was raised at the last Budget debate regarding our Audited Accounts. I can see the statement in here we should have these by the 30<sup>th</sup> June which is next week. So if this is true and correct then I am truly happy with the progress of this Ministry.

But when I refer to Page 213 of Book 1, the reason why I turned to that page when we look at Book 2 Page 13 the last paragraph it says – our office plays a vital role in achieving Goal 16 of the National Sustainable Development Plan and that is to promote

a peaceful and just society in practice, good governance with transparency and accountability.

In Book 1 Page 213 and when we look at the measuring of progress report, alongside Goal 16 it says, of concern and regressing requires attention. So there is something not right here, there's some inconsistency somewhere. Maybe the people who will answer this query maybe you can explain where the discrepancy is here.

Under paragraph 3 on Page 14 of Book 2 when I look at the reviews that have been completed and this is for the period as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, there is only three and I wonder whether there is something not right here.

I accept and I understand that the Ministry often farms out the Audit work to private companies because they don't have the capacity. One was of the Opposition Office I think, yes there was a review of the Opposition Office for 2018/2019 and the other the Punanga Nui Sealing review and the other is the Project Phase 2 of the Green Climate.

When we look at Page 287 of Book 1 for this Variance between the last Budget and this Budget is 4,500. I'd be grateful if someone can help us if I am missing a point here simply because what is in Book 1 is not gelling with what is in Book 2. Thank you.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, are there any speakers if not would the Minister like to respond to those queries.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am very happy with the progress of the Audit Office to date as highlighted by previous speakers they have managed to do an incredible amount of work in catching up on the backlog of Crown Audited Accounts which used to be six years behind and we have brought all of those up and hopefully by the end of June this year in the next week or so we should have the Accounts up to date.

If you look at Books 1 and 2, Book 2 is very much more along the lines of the work done by the Public Service Commission and the performance and the outputs of Departments. Book 1 is along the economic, financial but also the National Sustainable Development Plan.

So the reference to Page 213 where it shows the progress of each of the goals under the National Sustainable Development Plan. Goal 16 refers to a number of agencies which include the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Police, Corrective Services, the Audit Office and what it highlights there is the progress of our National Sustainable Development goals with respect to that particular Goal, Goal 16.

It's unfortunate we weren't able to print this out in colour but this is a colour coated chart and Members can access it by going online and seeing what colour it is. Because the colour coating of these arrows starts from red which is critical to orange which is bad, to yellow which is good, to green which is very good.

Just from looking at the shading, I expect these colours are yellow and green which means good standing but the progress is slipping. From memory, this could be in reference to delayed Audited Reports which were expected to be completed at the

beginning of the year but are now pushed to the middle of this year and it could also be in reference to the Ministry of Justice with transcripts of Court proceedings not yet been translated.

So even though the department itself may be progressing well under Book 2 with the assessment by the Public Service Commission in terms of the NSDP as part of a wider group of governance agencies it doesn't quite reflect.

In terms of the reduction in 4,000 in the Budget, this department received something over a million dollars so the discrepancy of 4,000 may be something to do with depreciation or some other factors to consider that number it's fairly very small in comparison to the total Budget. But all in all a very good progress by the Ministry. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you and as there are no further Speakers, I will put the Question.

The Question is:

**That the sum of \$1,063,954 stands part of the Schedule for Audit?**

**Motion agreed to**

We will now go to Business, Trade and Investment Board

**BUSINESS, TRADE AND INVESTMENT BOARD:**

There will be half an hour for that. I propose the Question:

**That the amount of \$751,662 stands part of the Schedule?**

The Floor is open and I see the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. As I have stated on the first day regarding this Budget, read your Books from front to back and back to front. Just some brief thoughts about ten minutes.

Book 1 and Page 101 on Output 1 and this is on the loans that have been taken out to help our Nation but the appropriation for this Ministry I fully support this.

I want to speak on the area of the Revolving Fund and I believe the small loans that our people are taking out to help with the projects that they want to enter into. Madam Chairman, the percentage on these loans is five percent and I am asking if it is possible to bring this down to three percent. My colleagues on the Opposition side is saying not three percent but two percent.

Madam Chairman, why do I want to talk about this and the reason is because we are in the situation that we are in today. If the Minister was able to look at the Stimulus Package that we have now then it may be it right that the Minister can look at my request

to bring the interest rate from five percent to two percent now. This will give an incentive to the people to loan money to buy the materials that they require at this time.

We look at Output 2 on Trade and Marketing. We are talking about the Appropriation for Agriculture and this Output is for the Outer Islands and this will help us to find ways and means in the area of marketing.

Madam Chairman, this will also assist the Northern Group. We have the Minister Tapaitau and the Leader of the Opposition talk about the handicraft that the women produce and this will encourage the people to work hard to produce the handicrafts.

Lastly, Madam Chairman on Output 3 because this relates to foreign investors and aligning with local business people. I know if you have a foreign partner and you have a Cook Island partner I know what the procedure is for a foreign partner and a partner Cook Islands. My plea here is for us to look carefully at the standing of the local business partnering with foreigners.

This can assist us here and I can say that my business and that person from overseas equally grows in our business, not the foreigner is ahead and I am behind. That is why I stood up Madam Chair to encourage us on the Outputs 1, 2 and 3. Again I give my full support to this Appropriation. Thank you very much.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Selina Napa.

**MRS S. NAPA:** Greetings to all of us in the name of our Lord. I have a few comments on this Vote Item. Under Output 1 on Business Enterprise where is says Business Support Funds - Agriculture Development Funds, we see support provided to our growers from this. Just a small question on whether a grace period has been granted for people to repay their loans from BTIB. As well as on Output 2 I look at the overall trading revenue by BTIB is \$28,000 and under GDP it is 16 percent and for Agriculture it is 2 percent.

I am asking for a clarification of the connection between trade marketing and agriculture because I don't see any marketing for agriculture products. Because I heard the Associate Minister for Agriculture mentioning there were some bags of taro that rotted because there is no market. I am suggesting that maybe there is a miscommunication between Agriculture and BTIB if BTIB is responsible for this. How can we rectify this in order to encourage our growers under Output 2 in playing their part as well as supporting them?

I come back to Output 3 which is Foreign Investments and I look at the situation we are facing now regarding to those in the accommodation business. Because I saw on Facebook an accommodation owner selling his accommodation property. The thought that came to mind was maybe this is the beginning of owners selling properties to recover some money. How do we tighten up due diligence when you look at transactions like this because our people cannot afford purchases like this and whether we have the skills in this Ministry to source this or whether they are working closely with other Ministries to help them.

Before, I talked about trading revenue at \$28,000 because I will say this is one of the agencies where significant funds comes through it through foreign investments, if it can be clarified why such a small allocation as shown in the Budget book. Thank you.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** We have ten minutes left on this Vote Item.

**MR T. MAOATE:** Won't take long just two minutes.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Okay. You can have ten minutes because there are some responses to some questions that need to be covered. You may continue Honourable Terepai Maoate.

**MR T. MAOATE:** Thank Madam Chair and greeting to all of us. On the BTIB Vote Item regarding the interest rate if this can be lowered just like the Superannuation reduction. On trade and marketing we have the products from the Outer Islands brought to Rarotonga through the assistance of BTIB. There are many times where food products are exported from Rarotonga to the Outer Islands. At times this is the grower's weakness or fisherman and at times there are issues on the islands. Perhaps BTIB should look at going to the Outer Islands especially the movement of our own products within our country and not those imported from New Zealand or Australia.

On Foreign Investment, I believe this is the area that can help our country and for us to pay attention to promote foreign investment. How do we promote this during the COVID period, as I have mentioned before the proposal by the association to start this export. And to ensure COVID does not enter our country and not to create problems for us. I believe BTIB has already looked deeply into this but the most important thing is for us to support this so we can move forward. Thank you.

**HON T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Madam Chair, I only have two minutes. I stand to support the Motion by the Member from Matavera requesting the Minister for BTIB to reduce the interest rate on the revolving fund. The reason I rise to say this is because we the women folk on Rakahanga are utilising this revolving fund. This is a useful fund because those women folk on Rakahanga are paid and freight the product to Rarotonga to be sold at the market.

However, the seller takes a small commission and when the revenue is paid back into the revolving fund the interest cannot be covered. I do believe all the Members from the Northern Group will support this proposal regardless Pukapuka/Nassau does not have rito hats but they do have the pandanus hats. So if the Minister can review this can serve as a big help for the women in the north.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member, I did not hear a Motion being put on the Floor. So there is no Motion on the Floor if I can correct you, please. And I see the Honourable Prime Minister.

**HON. H. PUNA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a couple of thoughts for us to ponder on. First, a full support for the Vote Item for BTIB. Sure we are looking for big investments to come into our country, however this Agency is looking after the affairs of our small businesses. I was heartfelt to see their marketing program on TV, this is a

new in promoting new local businesses. I also see their support for new business proposals and I see there is so much tuna in our ocean.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Prime Minister I have to interrupt you because it is break time and it looks like you have a lot to say. So Parliament will suspend until 3.00 p.m. and you can have the Floor back Prime Minister. Parliament will return at 3.00 p.m.

**Sitting suspended at 2.30 p.m.**

**Sitting resumed at 3.00 p.m.**

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members please be seated. Parliament is resumed.

When we suspended the Honourable Prime Minister had the Floor and you may have the Floor for 10 minutes.

**HON. H. PUNA:** Thank you Madam Chair. Madam Chair before we suspended I was talking about the small business sector in our country. Because sometimes we get carried away too much with big investment. However, personally this is wonderful opportunity for us when we are looking at restarting, restructuring our economy to a new norm to look at new ways of doing business. And my view is that need to start looking at ourselves. And the many things that we normally take for granted.

And these are the resources that we must look at, how we can utilise them in new ways. And BTIB has a very important role to play in this, they can help with the marketing of these new services. And they can also help with small funding. Madam Chair classic case that comes to mind. A friend of mine down in Nikao from Rakahanga who started a fish drying business but in a way that needs the health requirement. This is something that our Northern Group islanders had been doing for generations but in their own ways.

And sometimes when we dry our fish the flies help to dry them too. So, the new way now that my friend is doing is doing it in a way that keeps the flies away as well as also without having the fish when it rains. And you know he can't keep up with the orders. In fact, sometimes they are presold before they are even dried. And it is a blessing now that there is so much tuna here in Rarotonga that some of those fisherman can't sell them. And he has become a buyer of these fish.

But he doesn't have the capital so he has been to BTIB and BTIB is helping him out. These are the things that we should be looking at. When we are talking about economic recovery we need to look at ourselves first. And I am keen for him to develop this new drying technology so that it can be shared with our people in the Outer Islands in the Northern Group.

You people here in Rarotonga and the Southern Group you talk about agriculture; we talk about aquaculture. But imagine when the borders to New Zealand opens Madam Chair it will be very difficult to keep with the orders. You know how our people love their dried fish and so there is a huge market out there.

So, I want to encourage BTIB to continue with these small initiatives to help our small business people. The other point I want to raise for the consideration of Members is this; we must prioritise business opportunities for our people. And this is an excellent opportunity for us to do something about it. I have seen in the past too many visitors who come here and they fall in love with our paradise and they want to stay and they find out the only way they can stay on is, if they can set up a business here.

And so they look for ways that would allow them to do that but at minimal cost. I have seen people buy fishing boats here. Just for the purpose of staying here. I think we should stamp down on that. These are areas that should be and I reserve under our investment code for our people and it should be that way. And what's more some of these people when they come over they don't have the funds for business.

They end up going to the commercial banks to borrow the money. That is not investment this is using funds available to our people for their own purposes. We are reviewing in the Select Committee our Immigration Bill. May I suggest that this is one issue that the Select Committee must look at. So, that we can have better control over investments of this nature.

I know there is a lot of important issues that is causing a lot of debate and discussions among our people but the Chair of the Select Committee please keep this in mind that this is one issue that must be addressed. As we are restructuring and reshaping our economy let us always put our people first. This is one way of doing that.

But finally, may I just remind the important point that I wish to make that is, let us look at ourselves first and what we have in our paradise. And how we can utilise these for the new business opportunities for our people. I believe that the secret is within us.

Thank you Madam Chair and all Honourable Members.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Prime Minister and I give the Floor to the Honourable George Angene and he will be our last speaker.

**HON. G. ANGENE:** Thank you Madam Chair and greetings to all of us and our people listening and watching us in New Zealand, Australia and all over the world.

In regards to this appropriation and all the thoughts of the Honourable Members before. I want you to know and assure you that what you have shared I have already relayed these to the BTIB. Our Prime Minister was cautioning us to look at ourselves first. I have spoken to the BTIB Board, we must first look at our Cook Islands people first in regards to grants and financial support that we can give out.

We are not forgetting the foreigners but I was reminding the Board their priority to the Cook Islands people. The only problem I see is that our people are reluctant to come and make loans for themselves. They have the idea that this grants or the service of BTIB is only for the rich people or business people. This BTIB and its allocation is here for you the people of the Cook Islands. Do not be afraid to come and seek assistance from this office.

The staff working in this office are people with good knowledge in finance. Some may think I have no financial knowledge but my interest is in giving money away.

Madam Chair in response to the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa to reduce the interest rate from 3 to 2 percent. If you had taken a loan my friend you would know that there is no interest charged on these loans given by BTIB. I have asked them not to charge interest on loans for 6 months. After this 6 month we will look at this again.

In response to the Honourable Selina Napa can you please ask your question at tomorrow's Question Time or go to the officers in question and they will respond and of course they will bring it back to me. My interest here is to help our people. I am not turning my away from our foreign friends we do help them but with proper scrutiny. Those are my thoughts for now and I will reserve my extra minutes for another time.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Minister. I will now put the Question.

The Question is:

**That \$751,662 for Business Trade and Investment Board stands part of the Schedule?**

**Motion agreed**

COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION:

I will propose the Question.

**That the amount of \$7,263,169 stands part of the Schedule?**

This will be for one hour. I see the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you Madam Chair. Just a brief comment on this Vote Item. Before that I support the allocation for CIIC. When we have a look at the allocation for assistance I know that the Deputy Prime Minister have allocated funds to support so many areas in the country.

When we look under Administered Funding and under the allocation for water as we notice already been allocated as explained by the Member of Ngatangia yesterday and for the work for establishing these new reservoirs this has supported our people in this area.

I believe the reservoir for Nikao has been strengthened. I also believe the same for Takuvaine and for Tupapa and I also believe at the Sunday School is completed. I also believe the same for Titikaveka and we are just waiting for the second phase for installing the next stations.

When we look under POBOC, Payments on behalf of the Crown, funds that has been allocated for the Airport Authority. I thank the Minister of Finance because we have

heard of the issues faced by the Airport Authority in the past months. An allocation of one million for subsidy and this is my thanks to the Minister of Finance.

When we look under banking and allocated for our People's Bank a sum of 128,000 has been allocated. For the Ports Authority a sum of over 100,000 dollars. However, Te Aponga Uira no funds have been allocated.

Although the Prime Minister has approved our lighting request from Matavera as well as Ruaau, we will have patience in waiting for this. We know we are under the situation with the COVID.

Therefore, Madam Chairman that is why I rose to say thank you to the Minister for supporting all the areas that need support.

When we consider administered payment there is significant support provided. Those are my thoughts, Madam Chairman and I end with full support for this allocation.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much and I see the Hon. Tingika Elikana.

**MR T. ELIKANA:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I rise to give my support for this allocation for CIIC and also to highlight if they are listening the good things that is taking place on my island from this Agency. Right now, Madam Chairman a brand new hospital is being constructed for Pukapuka. My thanks to the CEO for this Agency for agreeing to build a new and not just to maintain an old hospital.

Madam Chairman, from there they will move to construct the new residence building for the doctor of Pukapuka. That's why I did not comment too much about the doctor for our people because we are waiting to complete his residence before we seek a doctor.

I also want to share some thoughts on this Agency because when we look at the allocation it is not really clear how much is being expended on the Outer Islands.

When we look at the wages expended on the workers on the Outer Islands it is over half a million dollars. This is a great assistance for us the people of the Outer Islands and with the belief that when our situation improves this will increase.

When we look at the Capital Expenditure for the works taking place it is above 14 million dollars. I think our people should be proud especially for those of us out of Rarotonga for the great work that is being done in our Outer Islands and with the belief that all the allocations and works planned will take place.

Madam Chairman, I can see my time is up for discussion on this Vote Item. If we only have one hour for this Vote Item, 24 of us in this House that means each person gets two and a half minutes. I am just mentioning this so my friend from Matavera

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Member, you are wasting your ten minutes.

**MR T. ELIKANA:** As I have said I rise to give my support to this allocation mainly because of the allocation for us in the Outer Islands. Before I sit, I just want to give my

regards to an important person on Pukapuka. Today he has reached the age of ninety. This is one of the most important names in the history of Pukapuka the name Frisbie. This person is the oldest elder on the island of Pukapuka. So Charlie I am sure you are listening to our radio now and I express this in the Parliament from our Madam Chairman, Prime Minister, Cabinet all the Members of Government and the Leader of Opposition and her colleagues on her side, our congratulations to you for reaching 90 years of age and God Bless.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Member, you still have three minutes. I see the Hon. Tina Browne.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Thank you, Member for Pukapuka Nassau for gifting me your remaining speaking time. You stood up and announced your new hospital in Pukapuka and I got envious of you and your new hospital and yet for us we only asked for a band-aid but nothing has been started.

We have asked for a fridge for the hospital of Rakahanga because we don't have a cool storage for the medicine. Maybe it is up to the Minister for CIIC to consider this request. When I weigh the request I don't think it's going to incur \$300,000.

We know in Rakahanga it's a long drive, there's no truck, not even a motor bike. I hear the Minister Tapaitau their ambulance in Penrhyn is a land cruiser. Our ambulance in Rakahanga is the trailer that is used to take cargo to the harbour towed by a tractor at five miles per hour.

I recall when I was in Rakahanga last year there was a sick person and also this year the flight when the EO from Rakahanga. This is the same thing the tractor with the trailer delivered the patient from the hospital to the harbour. Fortunately, when we came to Manihiki their ambulance was also a trailer. Please consider our situation as I have already discussed with CIIC last year and they did say they made a trip to the Northern Group to scope and look at the assets of Government that needs to be maintained so the plan I think is already in place and it is just about implementing that plan and I am requesting that when you look at the Budget for CIIC to look at the assets of Government in Rakahanga.

With the expenses on Schools, we were unable to wait for that because the additional building was for toilets for the Pre-School. We all know that the school classrooms in Rakahanga are far from the toilets and when our Pre-School children rush to the toilet, sometimes there is an accident. I understand that has been included in the budget for CIIC but because it took so long to confirm that, we went ahead and done that anyway. So please Mr Minister, consider the request for Rakahanga for a motor bike and maintenance for the hospital.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I see the Honourable Selina Napa.

**MRS S. NAPA:** I will not dwell on this Vote Item but I would like us to look at a particular area under CIIC, unless it is an oversight on my side, when we look at page 104, is the administered payments for To Tatou Vai in the budget for 2020/2021. There is a figure in here that says \$1 million but if you go further down, there is an allocation of \$500,000 for new funds towards To Tatou Vai. Is this figure correct? If you read

further on, for 2021/2022 is \$1 million four hundred dollars and the same figure again further below. Maybe the other \$500,000 is allocated somewhere else but I cannot see it here.

I will come back to the area for community medical centers. I am happy today because our community clinic in Titikaveka is under renovation. When I look for the appropriation for this, I don't see it under the budget for CIIC. I skimmed through the budget for Te Marae Ora and I didn't see it there. Our clinic is not the only clinic to be renovated to return the health service back into the communities on Rarotonga. This is the reason I want to ask this question because our clinic is situated on crown land.

CIIC asked our village to form a committee for the management of the centre. We are trying to find ways how to form this committee because the expense to renovate our clinic is from the budget for CIIC but the support was given through the Ministry of Health. This is the reason I want to ask this question whether the funding came through the first Phase of the Economic Response Plan for COVID-19. This is my only question because I cannot see it in this budget.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Health and CIIC because for us in Titikaveka it is a long drive from the hospital.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Member. The Honourable Tetangi Matapo is going to gain five minutes of your time.

**MRS T. MATAPO:** Thank you Madam Chair, Kia Orana to all of us in this House.

Firstly, I would like to give my support to the Vote Item for CIIC. The reason is because today, CIIC is building the house for our elderlies. We have been informed by our EO on the islands that CIIC gave their support to have this structure built. Therefore, I thank CIIC for this project. When I left the island, the building is still to be completed, maybe they have run out of money, and if there are funds left from the Pukapuka hospital, give it to complete the building.

There are also other areas on the island. Some years back, a team from CIIC came to Mangaia to do some scoping on the school to build rails in the school and to improve the standard of our school especially for our disable children. Today Madam Chair, nothing has been done. According to the report given by the Principal, they have received a few things but the Island Government took part of the work to install the rails for our disabled children. Therefore, Mr Minister, I would like to request for consideration into this area because work has started in the past but they were not completed.

This is all I have to say. Thank you.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I see the Honourable Albert Nicholas, you have the Floor.

**MR A. NICHOLAS:** Thank you Madam Chair. To the Honourable Member for Teimurimotia, I just wish that was my clinic renovated by CIIC and I will not ask where the money came from. Therefore, I would like to ask for some support for our clinic in

Avatiu. To the Minister for CIIC, I promise I will not ask you where the funds came from. The most important thing is for it to be completed.

Madam Chair, I rise to air my views and also to place my support for this particular Vote Item. If I may just briefly share my thought before I hand over the rest of my time to my uncle here, the Member for Arenikau.

It has been this Government's push in recent times to invest heavily in infrastructure and services such as hospitals, cyclone shelters in the outer islands. Heavily in our national College here, Tereora College, Government offices and infrastructure right across the board which is an excellent thing to do if I may say Madam Chair. However, it brings to the fore the importance of this agency CIIC Madam Chair because if we are to continually reap the benefits of these infrastructure investments, these national assets Madam Chair must be managed and cared for to prolong its work life.

To save us spending millions and millions of dollars on things we just simply did not care for. So the importance of this agency Madam Chair in my view, it is very important that it is appropriated properly as I skim through the Appropriation, which it deems in my view to give it my full support.

There are other assets connected to CIIC as well, there's the Land Division, there is the legal arm in this agency that deals with all Government lands and processes on how those Crown lands are managed and leases and rentals, etc, etc.

So basically, Madam Chairman I rise to give this particular appropriation for the particular agency my fullest support.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, I see the Hon. Tamaiva Tuavera.

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I stand to speak on the Appropriation for CIIC. I have no problem with this appropriation but I can hear Members from outside talking on their hospitals and shelters to support and to help their people.

The reason why I stand up is to ask the Minister of Finance to open his heart to see if a house can be built for the elderly on Rarotonga. The ground work has been started and I am sure the land has been acquired. So, Hon. Minister can you find some money to help this cause because we will be old one day. Our generation are getting older and older.

This request that I am making is a building like a hospital to look after our old people. I am sure that Pa Ariki have given a piece of land if this will be possible. So I stand to support this Appropriation and also asking the Minister to give some money for this building for our elderly people. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. We have exhausted our time and I might give the Minister the opportunity, do you want to respond, Minister.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just to remind us all the Investment Corporation is responsible for assets in our country to the value of close to

three quarters of a billion dollars worth. This include the value of our Airport, Ports, Power company, our Water company now and most recently our Cable company and numerous other Government properties, schools across all of our islands, Madam Chairman whose responsibility for the ownership aspect falls under Investment Corporation. So it has a big responsibility, Madam Chairman.

When Members of Parliament ask if we can get a railing put up somewhere or a coat of paint put somewhere it's looking at it in the context of sometimes we have to help ourselves. Come and see the staff at the Investment Corporation for some of the request that you put through for Government buildings or properties in your islands or in our constituencies.

We do have a big plan of asset management and asset maintenance that is spread through a number of years, Madam Chairman including the building reconstruction of old buildings such as the Pukapuka Hospital and then the next step will be buildings in Atiu, Government buildings that are been neglected for many, many years and most recently the request for support to upgrade the Community Clinics and the Community Health Centres that will now remain as a permanent part of the COVID-19 programme.

There are legal issues involved when you are dealing with people's land, Madam Chairman and these we are working very closely with the landowners or with the owners of these clinics to try and get a legal arrangement to allow Government to assist in the upgrades and I am sure these works will progress as we move forward to try and achieve the best outcome for our people.

I acknowledge that sometimes it's those little jobs that are very important because if we don't do the little things like putting up the railing or putting up the handicap ramps or just putting a coat of paint on a building those things will turn into even bigger issues. So I just ask the Members to have some patience as we deal with such a wide range of matters from multi-million dollars corporations to small village clinics.

I am happy that the Member for Ngatangia has advised that he may have a piece of land available for the construction of I guess it's called a geriatric facility. I don't like to call it an elderly facility because it means half of the people in this room qualify for it and the Ministry of Internal Affairs under Minister Mokoroa already have started looking at some of the issues associated with our vulnerable, elderly in particular and the Puna arrangements that we have, have really opened our eyes and allowed the agencies and the Ministries to get right through all of the households and to actually get a very accurate picture of the health of our elderly within all of our Puna particularly here on Rarotonga.

So I have no doubt that if we follow the good sound planning processes that this Government has adopted over a number of years that we will be able to achieve those outcomes.

The Investment Corporation plays a critical role along with Infrastructure Cook Islands in implementing the stimulus that we would like to put through our economy. It's under these two agencies that the bulk of the Capital projects that will be done by private sector companies will be rolled out and it is this work that will enable our companies

and a lot of our people to remain employed and to continue to collect their pay at their normal rate.

Until such time as we come through this COVID situation and our economy starts to get back on its feet with other areas particularly tourism so this support from the Members is very much appreciated and I am sure this work that's been programmed for this year in the Budget will be prioritized to be rolled out and given to our companies to carry on.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Minister.

I will now put the Question:

**That \$7,264,169 for the Cook Islands Investment Corporation stands part of the Schedule?**

**MRS S. NAPA:** Sorry, Madam Chairman I raised this during my debate and before we approve can we just get a clarification from the Minister of Finance that the two amounts on Page 104 is not a typo error and that it is correct?

If you look at the details the base line To Tatou Vai it says 2020/21 Budget estimate is \$1 million but if you go down to the Administer Funding it says new funds towards To Tatou Vai of \$500,000.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** As the Motion is not yet seconded, I will give the opportunity for the Minister to respond. I see the Honourable Minister Mark Brown.

**HON. M. BROWN:** In the table we see \$1million baseline and new budget measures for To Tatou Vai. And we see administered funding the text says new funds towards To Tatou Vai of \$500,000 for 2021. This is additional over and above what was previously set.

So, that new funds of \$500,000 would take the administered funds to one million and this is in addition to the following year 2021/2022 of 1.4million and all of this Madam Chair is to go towards the upgrade of the secondary distribution network of the water which needs to be renewed.

All of these works that is being done now on our water system Madam Chair is in the takes and then the trunk lines which carry that water to the ring main, that is all part of Te Mato Vai work. To Tatou Vai will be responsible with this for that distribution network that connects on to the ring main and goes through to the back roads and into the people's properties. Because we are finding that as this new water pressure that will be delivered from the new network is not being handled properly by the old smaller network that feeds in to the properties.

These are the works Madam Chair that will be scheduled by To Tatou Vai this year and next year. Thank you.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I have put the Question and we will now vote on that Question. Is there a Seconder for the Motion please?

Let me think about that, I got thrown off with that interruption. I have put the Question; I will put it to the vote.

**Motion agreed to**

CORRECTIVE SERVICES:

I will propose the Question.

**That \$1,535,957 for Corrective Services stands part of the Schedule?**

We have half an hour on that. The Floor is open and I see the Honourable Vaitoti Tupa.

**MR V. TUPA:** Thank you Madam Chair. Madam Chair just a few comments on this Vote Item. I will leave the rest of the time to my colleagues if they have anything to say. I want to comment on the wages of the workers in this department. The reason I brought this up regarding the wages of the workers.

We saw the advertisement in the newspaper for vacant positions in this department. I want the House to know I had 4 people come to me asking for references because of their application for these positions in this Government agency. And I did their references. Again we see the allocation here that will open new vacancies in this agency. We see also the allocation for operations of the agency of \$200,000 this will strengthen the running of the department.

This will also support and assist the operations of this department as advertised on television. That is why I stand to give my support to this allocation because it will open opportunities to our people to apply for the vacancies in this department. I believe the four that applied for the positions will succeed in their applications. This is my support Madam Chair and thank you.

**MADAM CHAIR:** Thank you very much and I see the Honourable Tina Browne.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Kia Orana everyone. I stand to support this allocation. However, after reading the explanation on the appropriation for this Ministry, I am just wondering if the Ministry is considering because in the past there were many review committees to make reports on the status of the Corrective Services and we know there was an investigation or review by a certain committee about three or four years ago as a result of the incident in Titikaveka.

I read the report and read all the recommendations that were made and some were easy and some of the recommendations would involve substantial amount of money. I am aware from the media last year that there were some steps being taken by the grieved family in court. I wondered whether some accommodation have been made for the implementation of the report and also to accommodate any compensation that might be demanded by the family. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you and I see the Honourable Prime Minister you have the Floor.

**HON. H. PUNA:** Thank you Madam Chair. I thought it best to answer one of the questions raised by the Leader of the Opposition and that is in relation to the compensation sought by the family of the deceased.

I can confirm that compensation was sought and after negotiation between the Crown and the parties settlement has been agreed upon but I cannot disclose the amount of the compensation as that is subject to confidentiality to the parties. It is a tragic incident, very tragic and we need to encourage our officials to take a little bit more responsibility in their actions.

Because it seems that there is a prevailing attitude that it's alright it doesn't matter what I do somebody else will pay for the mistakes. There have been a few incidents of that nature and it's made me furious each time because our people end up paying for those mistakes. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** I see the Hon. William Heather you have the Floor.

**MR W. HEATHER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I want to acknowledge the Superintendent that has retired who is my brother Henry Heather.

In the year 2018 a tidal wave hit the country of Indonesia, the island of Sumatra. During this period a recommendation was made to move the people from the foreshore inland. In those times, Madam Chairman because of the shortness of time trying to figure out what to do and on Rarotonga the first bus had departed to take people up to Tereora College but the remainder were left behind. I approached my brother what to do because maybe where the Prison is situated is on high ground.

Through this time we transported the guests staying at the Edgewater to this high ground using trucks, motor cycles and whatever transport was there we used that night to take the tourists from the Edgewater and the staff to the high ground.

Fortunately, my brother agreed and so we transported all these people up there, put them in the Admin building, got them coffee, sandwiches and feed them. Therefore, my thanks to him because this is what we are supposed to do. However, in what we did we cut this parent out. So the question now is what can we do? That is what the Government presented to him for his remaining years. He had two more years to work for the Prison but this was cut short.

My whole idea Madam Chairman is, for somebody who works so hard and do good work for our people, for those who we invited to come into our country and this is what we do. Never mind, Madam Chairman I accept this Budget for Corrective Services however, I want to say before us in this House for those people who are working for us in this country and we do this type of thing – dedicated to their work, dedicated to their people and dedicated to this country and yet this is what we do. I hope this will not impact back on us in the next few days.

I also give my regards to the Minister for Agriculture for the tractor she provided because during the period my brother was Superintendent in Prison I used to plough his planting land.

**HON. G. ANGENE:** Point of Order.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** What is your Point of Order?

**HON. G. ANGENE:** Saying things that should not be said in this House because the tractor he is talking about, I went and asked for it.

**MR W. HEATHER:** I did not say it was my brother, I was commending the Minister of Agriculture, listen properly. That's why I am conveying my appreciation to the Minister for Agriculture for providing this support to these people in this place.

Madam Chairman, yes I give my support to this Vote Item because this is our people working in this place especially during this time of the COVID pandemic. Even though I don't agree to the figure, however I give my support to this appropriation.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** I see the Honourable Nooroa Baker, you have the Floor.

**MR N. BAKER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I stand for this Appropriation Bill but before I give my support I want to lead you upon this thought of this place that we call the Corrective Services, the Prison. I am not standing to support someone as my friend but I am going to say of what I know of this place.

I have been visiting this place for more than six years and I know the standard of this place before and to the present time. What I discovered at this place six years ago there was not enough resources there because I have been supporting and assisting them to cut their timbers and that comes through the support of my company trying to find ways to provide for our children in Prison.

I encourage them to stop doing bad things to teach them to give back into our community their support, their work so that it can build the community trust back into them. I have seen the change in their lives because I have spent a lot of times with these young people there. I go there about half past five or six in the evening and have a cup of tea with them.

At all times that I have been at the Prison, I have seen the Minister there and I have seen his influence the way he has been running, managing this place. If I am able to, I always give my support to him and also our children in this place because all of them are our children.

I would say that some of them do not have any parents, mother or father because they entrapped themselves in the habit of drinking and in doing so they have been put into this place. The reason why I have been up to this place to encourage these children because when they escape from Prison it's like an earthquake. That is why I am trying my best in my own way to help these children so that they won't fall back into the same problem but to come back and support and help our community.

I give my support to this Appropriation to help this place and also to provide security for our own people. Therefore, again I give my support.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** I give the Floor to our last speaker on this item the Honourable Minister George Angene.

**HON. G. ANGENE:** Kia Orana, Madam Chairman.

What the Member of Parliament for Akaoa have said, I have been hurt in my heart. I have been in that place for 32 years and you mentioned about the people who run this place that they are good people, that's a lie. All the leaders before the present leader now he is one of those who have been a leader during those days. You don't know the pain that we have been through.

I thank the Honourable Prime Minister for hearing my plea that I become the Minister for this Service. It's not to support or encourage our children from this place as they come out to continue doing bad things but I want to go back to help them and counsel them, don't go back into it.

In 2018, I was given the honour to become the Minister of this Service and I was looking at the way the place was managed. I saw some difficulties because I am always there in the morning and evening, four to five hours in the morning and also in the evening and when the children return working in their own homes.

Firstly, I would like to thank my Secretary, Tai Joseph and the Ministry of Corrective Services. I don't like this word correction because we use it in this House for the Opposition. Because I have lived in prison and therefore I want to counsel and make corrections to our children.

Madam Chairman, Members of this House, I want to let this House know from the year 1950 to today we as children used to eat on the floor there is no table. The question is where is this good management of those who have been leaders in this place.

Last Saturday, I have purchased four tables and fifty chairs so that it will provide for our children there. I have also installed filtered water in this place so that they won't have to move further out.

I have also build a laundry place for them so that they won't go any further but above all I have set aside a place where they can worship together. Every morning we will come together and worship and roll check before we go our ways.

Madam Chairman and Hon. Members and those of our people listening to the radio concerning my staff trying to encourage them not to ever commit further crime. During my visits before I could hear bad language being used on these boys and I did not like it and I would like to see a change and today I would like to let this Hon. House know that we have seen some good changes.

I, together with the Member for Akaoa will sit and eat together with the boys and there is a song that goes like this, time is changing and the mind changes too. The Word of God says, 2 Corinthians Chapter 5 Verse 17, "*If we are in Christ we become a new person therefore the old person will be gone and it becomes new. Oh heaven marvels and enjoys for one Soul to repent*".

Madam Chairman, and all Honourable Members my love for our children I always go back there and help them. Mine is seen but yours we haven't seen and I wonder when you will pay it back.

I have counselled my boys be patient, stop doing the bad things and learn to strive to do what is right and create peace. My brethren don't think that you are in the dwelling house of the King and you will be safe.

I believe that being a Minister of this Ministry and with the support of my Head of Ministry and those of our staff working for our children there, they can see the good things that I have implemented.

You have seen the support that is provided by our children coming into the community, building things, cutting trees, mowing the lawns and all such thing that is of benefit to our people. But the spirit here, Madam Chairman it is for them to look to the future to do something good for them and for everyone. I was in this place and I received my training there to read, to write and to speak English in the Maximum Block for three years.

I was in the dark room for twenty-five days, talking to God. The question is are these good ways of doing things? Let me answer this I want to stop all the treatment that was given to me when I was. I am very happy that the Prime Minister have given this Ministry to me so that I can show that I can lead and give to our children.

There are many a time that I will dig from my own pocket to provide for our children there because it is more expedient to do so. I have other plans and projects that I have in mind but I would like to ask the Hon. Minister for Finance in the future please look after this Ministry, give what we need so that we can look after and care for our children there. Thank you.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Minister. I will put the Question and the Question is:

**That \$1,535,957 for Corrective Services stands part of the Schedule?**

**Motion agreed to**

We will move on to Crown Law.

CROWN LAW:

I propose the Question:

**That \$1,207,575 for Crown Law stands part of the Schedule?**

We will begin the debate on this until ten minutes to because we have some business to do before we can go home today. So the Floor is open. I see the Honourable Tina Browne you have the Floor.

**HON. T. PUPUKE BROWNE:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. Firstly, when we read the explanation on this Ministry we get the sense that they have been working hard during this year and we know from personal experience that during Parliaments the expectation on the Crown Office has been immense.

We also know that even over just the past six months we have passed quite a number Statutes I think sixteen so far and we also know that some of us made some comments at the last Parliament as to the work that the Crown Law Office provides for us.

This service that they provide also extends to accompanying the Select Committee when they go out to the Vaka for consultation meetings. So when I look at the personnel for the Output 1 and that is the cost of the advice that they provide to Government that is the bulk of the personnel for that Ministry.

They have also got their Litigation Division and their Legislation Output. I believe that some of the funds that have assisted Government with the drafting has been funded by New Zealand Aid.

I am just a little saddened that their Budget has been cut by \$99,000. This is a Ministry in my view that should form one of the core Ministries of Government and I am aware that Government or any Government will rely heavily on the advice from the Crown Law Office and from time to time we have seen some very visible stress factors shown by Members of the Crown Law Office.

I am however happy to read that they intend to employ some new counsel, maybe two counsel, they have about thirty seven applicants and that's healthy because people want to come over here to work and maybe sun bathe. I say this with some seriousness because the outlook out there is that, you go to the Cook Islands, it's a slow pace and it's like going for a holiday. However, when these lawyers arrive here, they then realise it's a completely different picture. I know this because we move in the same circles.

I am sure that the cut in their budget was considered carefully, but if there was any savings to be made elsewhere, I would ask Government to consider injecting it into Crown Law because the reality of this is this. We know that in the past, if Crown Law Office provide Government the wrong advise, Government also makes the wrong decisions. When I read the explanation in Book 1, I am surprised that the Solicitor General has time to sleep. He seems to be on this committee, that committee, that committee and that committee. I will ask the Minister of Finance perhaps to talk to him because he should be lectured not to worry.

We should also make note that we should pay for the good quality advise that we get, and we should pay for good legislation that we receive. I am sure that the Crown Law Office will report to the Attorney General that I have been in communication with them in respect of some of the legislation that has been drafted. I had some issues about the drafting. However, the good news is that we were able to sort out the little problems.

Therefore I support the Vote Item for the Crown Law Office.

**MADAM CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Honourable Member. We are going to leave it at that because we cannot adjourn in Committee we will have to resume back

into Parliament as we will be finishing at 5.00 p.m. However, when we start tomorrow you shall have the Floor first thing Honourable Tingika Elikana.

I will put the Question:

**That the progress of the Bill be reported to Parliament?**

**Motion agreed**

Parliament is resumed.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I call the Minister Responsible to report the progress of the Bill, please.

**HON. M. BROWN:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I am happy to report:

**That the Appropriation Bill is travelling pretty smoothly through the Committee**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I put the Question:

**That the Report be adopted?**

**Motion agreed to**

I call on the Leader of the House to move a Motion please.

**MR T. ELIKANA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to move:

**That Standing Order 54 (2) which relates to Sitting days and hours of sitting be suspended to enable Parliament to sit on Friday 26 June 2020 to permit more time to debate the Appropriation Bill 2020 at the following times: Parliament start at 10.00 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. and take a break from 12.30 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. resume at 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. again take another break from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. resume from 3.30 p.m. until 5.00 p.m.**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I seek a Secunder for the Motion please.

**Seconded by the Honourable Patrick Arioka**

The Question is:

**That the Motion be agreed to?**

**Motion agreed to**

Honourable Members, thank you very much for a wonderful working day. I know that you will be very tired and we can finish work at 4.50 p.m. so we will adjourn now until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow as we have just agreed.

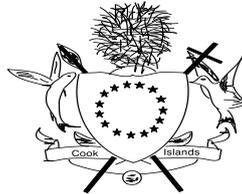
Can someone please say our closing prayer?

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Parliament is adjourned until Friday 26 June, at 10.00 a.m.

**Parliament adjourned at 4.56 p.m.**

# DAY 9



## PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS DAILY HANSARD

**Date of Sitting: Thursday 25 June 2020**  
**Date issued to Members: Friday 26 June 2020**

### SPEAKERS

**MR T. ELIKANA:** Pgs 1,10,44

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12,13,15,16,17,19,36,37,40,45,50,54,55

**MR T. TUAVERA:** Pgs 2,3,18,23,32,33,47

**HON. R. TAPAITAU:** Pgs 2

**HON. M. BROWN:** Pgs 2,3,4,7,10,11,12,13,  
14,37,47,48,49

**MR V. TUPA:** Pgs 4,9,22,23,24,25,35,36,38,  
39,43,44,50

**HON. H. PUNA:** Pgs 4,5,10,40,41,42,50,51

**MRS S. NAPA:** Pgs 6,45,46,49

**HON. R. TOKI-BROWN:** Pgs 6,19,20,21

**MR P. ARIOKA:** Pgs 8,29,30,31,32

**MR W. HEATHER:** Pgs 8,9,28,29,51

**HON. G. ANGENE:** Pgs 9,10,42,43,52,53,54

**MR M. KITAI:** Pgs 14

### CORRECTION/DATE

(Please sign your name when through)

**MR T. MAOATE:** Pgs 25,26,27,40

**MR A. NICHOLAS:** Pgs 27,28,46

**MR T. KAVANA:** Pgs 34,35

**MR N. BAKER:** Pgs 52,

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