

FIFTH DAY

Wednesday 30 March 2016

DRAFT HANSARD

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FIFTH DAY

Wednesday 30 March 2016

The Acting Speaker (**Mr Aide Ganasi**) took the Chair at 10 a.m..

There being no quorum present, Mr Acting Speaker stated that he would resume the Chair after the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended.

The Acting Speaker again took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and invited the Member for Mendi, **Honourable Mr De Kawanu** to say Prayers:

‘God of Abram, Issac and Jacob. Papa mipela kam long presence bilong yu long dispela moning. God mipela no worthy long sanap long eye bilong yu long dispela moning. Mipela tok tenku long dispela kantri PNG, na mipela tok tenku long ol dispela lidas sanap bepo long yu long dispela moning bilong kam na dileberate na lukluk long issues bilong dispela kantri.

Papa mipela sot long gutpela tingting na save na understanding, Papa long dispela moning mi prea da yu bai givim mipela gutpela tingting, save na understanding kam long Heaven long mipela ken sanap strong long tok bilong yu na luksave long responsibility bilong mipela long dispela kantri long savim pipol bilong mipela na ol pipol bilong yu long dispela moning.

Papa mi tok tenku long yu long dispela special taim yu givim long mipela ken stap olsem long dispela nupela de. Mipela tok tenku olsem mipela stap laip bilong luksave olsem nupela de em kamap pinis long laip bilong mipela. Long dispela moning mi prea olsem blessing yu ken karamapim dispela Parliament, kantri na 10 million pipol bilong dispela kantri Papa mi brigim kam bipo long presences bilong yu long dispela moning.

Papa mi tok tenku long yu save stap kolstu long mipela na harim prea bilong mipela na lukluk long nid, situation bilong dispela kantri, Papa yu save lukim na wing bilong yu save karapim dispela kantri. Long dispela moning mi tok tenku long yu save lukautim dispela kantri na mipela ol lidas. Long dispela moning mi prea na putim Acting Speaker, Prime Minister, Leader bilong Opposition na olgeta Ministers, Governors na olgeta Members blong Parliament long han bilong yu. Dispela moning mi prea that yu ken karamapim mipela wantaim wing bilong yu as we deliberate on issues blong displa nation.

Papa mi tok tenku long this moment long yu luksave long mipela nay u salim Jisas i kam na die long diwai kros long sin bilong mipela. Mipela kam sot long ol gutpela tingting but mipela lukluk long yu long givim mipela gutpela tingting na save long mipela ken skelim na luksave long mipela administer na runim dispela kantri we God yu bin blesim long en. Papa long dispela moning mipela tok tenku long dispela opportunity yu givim na tenku long yu harim prea bilong mipela, Amen.'

QUESTIONS

Funding for Road in Jimi

Mr MAI DOP – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, for recognising the people of Jimi. I want to direct my questions to the Minister for Works and Implementation.

Mr Acting Speaker, in 2014 Budget there was an allocation of K10 million for Kimil-Tabibuka roads, which K5 million has been accessed and another K5 million recoup as consolidated revenue by Finance and Treasury Department.

In 2015 National Budget, an additional K5 million has been allocated which we only accessed K4 million and K1 million yet to be received.

Mr Acting Speaker, my questions to the Minister is as follows;

(1) Can he assure the people of Jimi when exactly this K6 million will be available for Works Department for the completion of the roads for Jimi District?

02/05

Mr Acting Speaker, secondly, I took a letter signed by the Prime Minister to the Works Department for the immediate maintenance of Jimi road from Banz to Tabibuka and Banz to Kol. I have tried many times without success to get the Works Department to do this maintenance work so that my people can have access to the main centres for better services. As a result, I am raising this issue in Parliament. to the Minister for Works.

(2) Does his Department have any plans in place for these particular road maintenance work.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker and I also want to thank the Member for Jimi for the two very important questions.

Firstly, regarding the K6 million allocated in the budget for 2014 and 2015, a short response is that I am aware that this money was not released from the Finance and Treasury but we will try and work with them to release some of these outstanding funds. We still have some outstanding from last year so as far as my Department is concerned, funds were not released. I urge the Member to work together with my Department to get these outstanding funds released from Finance and Treasury.

In relation to the second question regard road maintenance from Banz to Kol and Banz to Tabibuka, the response is the same as above. The funds allocated in the Budget are not released to the Works Department so I am unable to give a good answer at this point in time.

Supplementary Question

Kinding-Kondopina Road Maintenance

Mr JOE KOIM KOMUN – Mr Acting Speaker, my short supplementary question to the Minister for Works Minister is that the Kinding-Kondopina Road in my electorate links Jimi, North Wahgi and Dei electorates. This is a new road which the government has awarded. The first contract of K13 million was awarded to the Kovek Construction. There was a variation of K7 million which is still outstanding and I asked the Minister for Works for assistance because the road was deteriorating as a result of the non-payment of the above variation.

The contractor was awarded on a five-year retainer contract but they have not done any work on the road and the current rainy season has destroyed most of the road sections.

I want to ask the Minister if he can direct the National Road Authority to recover K3 million from the Kovek Construction that the Works Department has paid them for the maintenance of this road because we have now commenced work on this road.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I thank the Member for Angalimp-South Wahgi for this important question regarding the Kondopina-Kindeng road. It is true and I am aware of this problem because we have paid this company but I do not know whether they have completed this work or not. I will follow up and inform the Member accordingly.

03/05

Resolve Water Issue - Popondetta Dam

Mr DAVID ARORE – I direct my questions to the Minister for Public Enterprise and State Investment. Last month excessive water removed the tank which PNG Water system uses for Popondetta Township including the pumps that supplies water.

Mr Acting Speaker, this problem has always been around since Cyclone Guba. Every time we have continuous rain in Popondetta town that dam continues to be washed away. Last month we had no water for about seven days. We then had an emergency meeting with Water PNG to find out what the problem was. We were informed that because of financial constraints Water PNG could not afford to get a new pump. The Ijivitari DSIP had to come in and assist with buying a new water pump for Popondetta town and give to Water PNG.

My questions are as follows:

(1) What plans do you have for Water PNG dam in Popondetta? Are you looking at relocating the dam or not? That dam is a consequence of Cyclone Guba.

(2) Are you looking at putting in reservoir tanks or not?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – We have had similar problems with nearly all our State owned enterprises for the last 20 years. For example, the road blockage system in the National Capital District. We all know that it is everywhere and there are certain hot spots that we need to fix therefore you would expect the management of NCDC to take precaution and prepare for the wet season so that this unfortunate events are not repeated again. Unfortunately, despite all of us having adequate knowledge of these things we don't get to fix them. It is similar story across the board and Water PNG is no exception.

In the case of Popondetta, Water PNG is responsible for all the other towns and cities except for NCDC. Of all the centres that are being operated by Water PNG only Lae, Kokopo and Mt Hagen are profitable. The rest are regarded as social services and Oro Province falls under that category.

Mr Acting Speaker, I have not been briefed by Water PNG about the problem in Oro Province but I will give an undertaking to the Member that I will look into it. But I would be very surprised if Water PNG has been sitting on those problems that have been repeatedly caused by nature. It goes to show the incompetence of all our SOEs and that is something I have been talking about.

However, I can assure the Member for Ijivitari that I will give my personal attention to this particular matter and if it is necessary to relocate the water pumps then I will seek the

assistance of the provincial government and the Member himself to work together and solve the problem.

I must admit that we cannot allow our SOEs who continue to enjoy monopolies but let our people down by not providing the necessary services.

04/05

Supplementary Questions

Kundiawa Water Supply

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Mr Acting Speaker, Kundiawa town is facing the same situation, we have been disconnected for so many years more than 10 to 15 years. We have brought this matter to the attention of the attention of the Ministry and also the Prime Minister and I believe NEC made a decision to direct –

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Is that a new question?

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – No, it's about the water supply.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Yes but it is in a different location.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Mr Acting Speaker, I am already standing so could the Chair allow me to ask my questions?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Okay that's a new question, so I will entertain it.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – What is the Minister going to do for Northern Province? Can you please follow-up on the Kundiawa water supply issue and provide the people of Kundiawa-Gembogl and Chimbu Province a good answer?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – As I have said earlier, Kundiawa is not are of those profitable province but again Water Board PNG is owned by our Government and the people and we try our best to provide services when money is available.

In the case of Kundiawa, this Government allocated K5 million some years ago but unfortunately, the landowners misused it.

So Mr Acting Speaker, I will again, forgive our landowners and continue to try our best to provide service to the town of Kundiawa. I want to assure the Member that I will work with him and try to bring water to the people.

K5 million – District Health and Education

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – My questions are directed to the Minister for National Planning and Treasury to take note. My questions are in regards to the 2016 National Budget appropriation for Health and Education services in each district.

The 2016 National Budget allocated additional 5 per cent for each District on top of the K10 million DSIP Funding. My question are as follows;

Honourable Minister, I have evidence that K5 million allocated for Lagaip-Porgera in 2015 was given to the Enga Provincial Government and not to my District.

(1) Why did you deprive the people of Lagaip-Porgera of K5 million and diverted to wrong process against the appropriation Bill?

Mr Peter Ipatas – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, what the Member is alluding is not true. The Enga Provincial Government has never got Lagaip-Porgera's K5 million.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Your Point of Order is in order.

Mr NIXON MANAGAPE – Minister, I have gathered details that there is another cheque written out to Lagaip-Porgera for K1.5 million but you directed not to be released to my District. I am reliably informed that you have directed the cheque to be cancelled and redrawn again to the Enga Provincial Government.

(2) Is that the standard procedure your Government is pursuing? If so, have you drawn your Alotau District's K5 million secured under the Milne Bay Provincial Government's administrations?

(3) As far the Appropriation Bill is concerned, no other Minister is authorised to misappropriate. So why are you deliberately abusing the Approbations Bill?

Mr CHARLES ABEL –Thank you Mr Acting Speaker and Member for Lagaip – Porgera on his series of questions. Once again, the Members of the Oppositions seem to have privy to information from my office and elsewhere. I don't know where this information is

coming from. Like the Point of Order raised by the Governor of Enga, the premise of his question is actually based on misstatements and misinformation in the first place.

Mr Acting Speaker, I just remind everybody that the additional funding provided by our Government to districts was a PIP program and wasn't necessary under DSIP which comes under the public investment program as appropriations. The originally appropriation was K5 million per district and I think people will know that following the Supplementary Budget process, the cuts that has to be made, the amount is no longer K5 million but K2.5 million per district.

05/05

Also in relation to a question raised by the Member for Kikori that I alluded to, while most people have received their allocations, there are still several people that have not collected their cheques including those in the government. We are not deliberately withholding that funding and if the Member for Laiagap-Pogera can provide a submission against that funding as required by us in relation to education and health in order to release that funding we cannot just release it into thin air.

Every Member of Parliament is required to provide some sort of documentation so we can raise that cheque. If we discuss these issues in person maybe we can resolve them without resorting to say hear and allegations that you picked up somewhere and are now using to make serious allegations. These allegations on misappropriation are completely unfounded and nonfactual. Please get your facts and figures correct when raising these issues. My office is always open to everybody and I'm sure we can resolve these issues.

Supplementary Question

Lae's K2.5 million cheque bounces back

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – Thankyou Mr Acting Speaker, I would like to state on record that I fronted up at the National Planning Office during the break of Parliament Sitting last year and actually signed for a K2.5 million cheque which is partly for education and partly for health on behalf of Lae.

I put on record that the cheque was deposited before I went to Lae and we sat for a DDA, and all the requirements that the honourable Minister needed was furnished and then the cheque bounced after my declaration that I was non-gracia in Government when I moved to the Opposition.

Today we have on record the number of times my deputy administrator has come to your honourable office checking finance and Dr Nangan and we are running around in circles.

(1) Why are you denying my people of Lae their K2.5 million from last year? It bounced. I received the two cheques from your hand. Will we get that outstanding K2.5 million plus this year's allocation?

You can't deny that I didn't see you.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr CHARLES ABEL – Thankyou. Mr Acting Speaker, And I thank the Member for Lae for confirming that the Government is trying to fund both sides of the House. That is exactly the point I am making.

(Members interjecting)

Mr CHARLES ABEL – We are not attempting to withhold your money. There were some issues as you know with bounced cheques on both sides of the house. I have explained clearly. If you bring the appropriate information from the Bank the Planning Department will raise the cheque again as we have done in some other instances.

So Member for Lae did come to my office and we responded accordingly but these are other technical issues that have risen. But there is no conspiracy to deny you as you have claimed and those claims are completely unfounded.

The other point is the K5 million has been reduced to K2.5 million across the board and it's not only for the Opposition or selective people and that is for all of us included.

Illegal Logging Operations in Gulf

Mr HAVILA KAVO – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for recognising the people of Gulf province.

I have a series of questions that I would like to raise to the Honourable Minister for Forestry has been in many illegal operations in many parts of the country that has caused many setbacks in many developments in the logging concession areas

Also there are a number of landowners that have not been paid their rightful dues

My questions are as follows;

(1) Is the Minister aware that the National Forest Authority has been collaborating under questionable circumstances with an illegal logging operator namely Kopera Investment for the last five years as a permit holder with timber permit number TB151-2-15 in Teradau area in Gulf province?

Mr Mark Maipakai – Point of Order!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Let the question be asked.

Mr HAVILA KAVO – The chairman of the permit holder is of course none other than the Member for Kikori.

(Members interjecting)

06/05

Mr HAVILA KAVO – With his operating partner namely Reico PNG Limited.

(2) Are you aware that the National Forest Services has been entertaining an investment, who is an illegal permit holder operator by paying all the landowner benefits and timber royalties without the consent of the legitimate landowners which amounts to a serious fraud?

(3) Are you aware that there is a Supreme Court order smc number 19 of 2009 refraining the National forest authority from paying to this illegal permit holder all the entitlements derived from the project in the last twenty-five years?

However these Orders have not been complied with by both the National Forestry Services and the permit holder; Kovera Investment.

(4) Are you aware that the Supreme Court order of that proceeding from the local level court, complain number 40-2001 from the provincial local court, appeal number 1 of 2002 and national court order OS 905 of 2006 clearly spelled out this illegal operation under the corporate investment since 9 September 1989 and by the virtue of this decision moved that the National forest services and the corporate investment are liable to pay to the landowners missed out benefits which includes rentals, premiums and royalties?

(5) As a result of negligence by the National forestry service or its employees by way of continuing to entertained this illegal operation for nearly twenty five years, the National

forestry services and the State is liable to pay damages to the legitimate landowners in access of K99 million?

Therefore, what will the department do to resolve this long outstanding matters so as to comply with the court orders, how will these monies be recouped and paid? It is quite clear that the corporate investment has fraudulently obtained the landowner entitlements in the guise of representing its landowners for the last twenty five years.

Mr Minister you can be certain of counter proceeding against your department and corporate investment in the next few days.

(6) What will your department do to compensate the legitimate landowners of the suffering and the miss out of all the monitory benefits? Other benefits like schools, aid post, roads, and bridges under the logging agreements or re-afforestation programs have also not been complied with.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURESA – I want to thank the governor for Gulf for the series of questions regarding this serious allegation. About two weeks ago he raised the same question to my attention at the car-park of the Forestry office. This is the first time this issue was raised to my attention which I did not know much about. But after going through some paper work that is on my table now, I have come to realised that, yes, there is an issue we need to deal with and we are looking at it this time. However, the court orders that he mentioned has been there some four to five years ago. So I don't know why they left it up to now and to my attention. However, I'll leave it there, but there is an appeal to this case at the moment before the courts and it would not be right for me to deal with it now at this stage. So I'll ask the governor to leave it with me and I will get back to him in writing and at the same time it is proper we leave it to the courts to deal with.

Mr Mark Maipakai – Point of Order!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Ruling

07/05

Bena to Kerowagi Road

Mr CAMILLUS DANGIMA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for allowing the people of Kerowagi time to ask a question which is appropriate to the electorate.

My question is directed to the Minister for Works in reference to the Bena-Kerowagi Road.

I have raised the issue in the past and the Prime Minister gave his undertaking for the matter to be looked into immediately and that road be sealed through the ADB Loan in 2000. The sealing and design has already been completed. However, when it was about to start, there was a problem in the area which stopped them from doing any work and the funding was diverted elsewhere.

When I asked for it, I was told that the problem has been resolved already. I have used my DSIP to cleanup the road and it is ready for the work to commence. We had landowner issues in the past but now we do not have this problem now and the road has been prepared for sealing. ADB was directed by the Prime Minister to look at this issue and make a report.

I want to know when they will start this project because otherwise all the work has been done under the DSIP Program to help progress this work but nothing has been done to date. It is almost a year since the road was prepared and weeds are now starting to grow. We have been continuing to use DSIP funds to maintain this road and I want to know when they will come and start work?

I am sure that the Jiwaka section of the road has been prepared by the Minister for Defence but I want to know when they will come and commence sealing of the road.

Thank you Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Member for Kerowagi for this important question in relation to the road from Bena to Kerowagi under the ADB Program.

The short answer I will give is that I am not aware of the progress of it but I will check with the Department and get back to him in writing in due course. Thank you.

Wafi Goldfield

Mr WERA MORI – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for recognising the people of Chuave, And I would like to ask a question to the Minister for Public Service.

I asked a similar question in the Chamber last week, which was basically answered by the Prime Minister but the fact that he is here and as a consequence of those have been alleged of going to the newspaper to defend themselves, it is only fair that I would like the Minister for Public Service to response to it.

Mr Acting Speaker, To date There is no dealings been concluded on the world class Wafi-Golpu Project, there has been no SML being granted for that area of projects in the country as major scale mining project.

Secondly, whilst we are experience a decline in the mining industry where there is no more exploration activities, there is an apparent syndicate that involves a number of senior public servants who are paying themselves up to a millions of kina.

Is it allowed in their terms and determinations of employment? If not, why cannot they be referred to the Fraud Squad to be investigated?

08/05

Mr Acting Speaker, there never goes a day when we politicians come under the radar and the scrutiny of the public in the papers for corruption et cetera. We cannot allow public servants to do these things at our backs.

Sir PUKA TEMU – I thank the Member for Chuave for his question that was asked in my absence last week as I was attending the National Women's Day event.

Mr Acting Speaker, I wish to advice that there are provisions approved by the Department of Personnel Management on what we call bonuses.

Particularly specified for certain number of departmental heads that are usually involved in negotiations and in this case the mining industry. Especially when they are negotiating for a major project to be concluded and issuance of mining leases or development licenses.

The provisions are particularly targeted for secretaries for treasury, finance, labour, mining, provincial affairs and justice. These are some of the key central agencies.

Because of their positions and skills they are asked to be part of the State negotiating teams. As you may know some of them spend more than their normal required time and beyond their departmental head job requirements because of the need of intense negotiations with private sector boards and executives.

We need all these secretaries to make sure that in concluding these very important projects all the State legal requirements are complied with. For those of you that are aware, they spend more time sitting beyond their normal required time during negotiations and many times their jobs don't get done.

The process is when they sit for whatever time, they then submit their claim to the Secretary for Treasury. No other departments will pay those bonuses. The Treasury then assesses and confirms all necessary claims accordingly and then makes the payment.

I have been advised and I am still checking on what the honourable Member for Chuave is concerned about that some of the claims are amounting to millions of kina. I am told that the claims never amounted to that much because the hourly rates cannot possibly amount to that much. No bonus should be paid beyond their contract value. If you look at all expenses like housing and other benefits it is total to about K200 thousand to K300 thousand per year.

09/05

Mr Wera Mori – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, my question was very simple and to the point, bonuses are paid when you conclude on a deal and the project is signed off.

In the case of Wafi-Golpu, there has been no special mining leases granted, which basically means that there has been no conclusion of a project deal.

The issue is that why do they decide to pay themselves this amount of money when people are dying because of shortage of basic drugs in rural health centres and so on.

This is a syndicate and it's a bad practise and we as the Government must not allow that because otherwise it's going to have domino impact on other Government Departments establishment in this country.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Minister, Continue.

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Acting Speaker, I will specifically look into this issue with the Wafi-Golpu and come up with a specific answer.

But what I am saying is, there are provisions for bonuses available. Therefore, they must submit their claims to Treasury so that they will assess them and pay them. No other departments should pay their departmental heads but if I do find that there are some peculiarities, then I assure the Parliament and the Members that we will take the remedial actions immediately.

Release Funds for Pomio

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for recognising the people of Pomio. I want to direct my questions to the Prime Minister.

Mr Acting Speaker, Pomio District is assessed to be the least developed district in PNG, despite the fact, that it's in one of our model province in East New Britain Province.

Mr Acting Speaker, the word that can best describe Pomio District for the year 2013 to meet 2015 is a district that was in oblivion meaning to say that the district was forgotten.

There was no support from DSIP, PSIP or District Support Grant over those years. It was an unfortunate situation for more than 70 000 people of Pomio District. The only support that was going to the district was for the TSSF and the wages of the Public Servants.

Mr Acting Speaker, we have recently launched the Pomio District Development Plan 2016 to 2020 with the vision to be rated as one of the most improved district in PNG by 2020, in our infrastructural by the socio-economic indicators.

Therefore, I thank the Government on behalf of my people for releasing LABL, which is now supporting some of our projects and I thank the Minister for Environment and Conservation for making it possible.

Let me assure this Parliament that the first funding will be committed towards the construction of the new office complex which is now on tender.

The building will be constructed at Palmalmal, Pomio District headquarter. Once it's completed it will not only create an enabling but enable work environment but will portray a changed mindset.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Member ask your question please.

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – We have challenges but determined to making a difference as per our district plan. We continue to seek the Government support to make this district from oblivion to one of the progressed changing district in this country.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Government consider releasing the outstanding DSIP for Pomio District for the years 2013 to 2014 so that we can meet our resolutions?

(2) Can the Government consider releasing the outstanding LDL so that we can fund our road and social infrastructures?

Clarify the NEC support to the South Coast Economic Corridor that starts from East New Britain to Kokopo because this road connects the five Local-level Government in Pomio District.

The New Britain Highway is currently pursued by the Government but it's perceived to contribute very limited economic outcome in the end compared to the South Coast Economic Corridors are contributing a lot of economic activities like Oil Palm alone this area.

(2) Can the Government reconsider some of the funding's that are now given to supporting New Britain Highway to be shared with the South Coast Economic Corridors so that we can connect the Pomio District headquarter to Kokopo?

10/05

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the Member for Pomio for his questions. Before I respond to his questions, let me congratulate the Member for taking a very active role in addressing some of the challenges in the Pomio District since taking office as Member for Pomio in the by-elections not so long ago.

Mr Speaker, let me assure you that the outstanding DSIP that he is talking about will be paid. Those funds are due to the district and the district is entitled to those funding. And Mr Acting Speaker, again I see the shortcomings of a system that when a Member loses office, somehow all the funds come to a standstill. I think we need to direct the officials to look at the continuity of the funding. These funds are not for the Members of Parliament; it is for the districts so even if there is a vacancy in the office, the funds must continue to rollout.

The District Development Authority is the body that is capable of conducting meetings and managing those funds. The District Authority CEOs and Treasurers are there to manage those funds. It is not the role of the Members of Parliament to manage those funds so when there is a vacancy, this notion that we should hold back all the funds is wrong. It affects services and delivery of ongoing projects in those districts. We will urge the officials to rectify this problem so there is continuity of funds without disruptions.

Mr Acting Speaker, in relation to log levies, I know that the Minister for Forest has been rolling out many of those funds that have been outstanding for quite some time. All those districts that have logging operations are now starting to receive the cheques and almost K40 million to K50 million has been paid out already. There is a balance of another K40 million that is still outstanding so I want to assure the Member that all the districts that have outstanding timber levies will be paid over the course of this year. These are legally entitled funding for the districts so there is no reason why we should hold onto them any further.

Mr Acting Speaker, on the south coast corridor road, I have taken note of the Member's concern, I will talk to the Minister for Works and his Department to look into this issue and support that work.

Mr Acting Speaker, Pomio is the only district that is not connected to the provincial centre. Kokopo, so we need to connect that road. It is one of the missing links that this Government has prioritised. We need to connect all the missing links throughout the country.

We have started already in many cases and we are also going down to Kikori which the Member for Kikori is aware so we thank him for his support and also thank the Member for Pomio for his support as well.

Failed LLG Elections

Mr WESLEY NUKUNDJ – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Inter-Government Relations. I stand here representing very minority of people in the country but who play a very important role in the districts. I am making specific reference to the failed LLG elections in the country. I am not going to speak for other LLG elections but I am going to ask a question for my own LLG.

Mr Acting Speaker, for the failed LLG elections in my electorate, elections were concluded but for reasons only known to the Electoral Commissioner, the elections were declared void.

11/05

Up until now, those who have claimed to have been elected as councillors are performing the role of a councillor and so is the president without any pay.

So my questions to the Minister through you Acting Speaker, are;

(1) How do we compensate those people who are performing the role of a councillor in the electorate?

They are very people who are serving the Community

We have a LLG SIP Fund sitting there, we cannot access them because there is no clear directive from the Minister's Office or the Finance Minister.

How do we access the LLG Funds because even as the chairman of the District Development Authority, I cannot access the Funds?

(2) Can we have a clear directive from your office or from Finance giving us clearance to use LLG funds in the absence of the LLGs?

For the failed elections, it has been published in the media that there will be supplementary elections but time is running out.

(3) When are we going to hold those supplementary elections?

I have continuously asked the Minister to set up a new LLG in my electorate.

Has the Minister consulted the NEC on this matter? I have been frequenting his Office on this issue.

Mr LEO DION – Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Dei for the series of questions he has raised.

Yes indeed, the honourable Member has visited my office regarding the issue on the new LLG and we have responded accordingly to some of the issues he raised. But in relation to the first question about the failed elections in this country, as we know from the last General Elections the local level government elections and ward elections were declared as failed elections. This means that the serving Councillors and ward members at that time simply cannot perform as ward councillors.

Mr Acting Speaker, when it is declared failed, the respective Open Members of Parliaments and Governors take solely the responsibility, as voted by the people, to take charge of these failed local level government and ward elections.

For the compensation for those that have failed the elections and continue to do the work I don't have a simple legal answer for it because the elections have failed.

12/05

In relation to the extra ward for the Dei Open District, I will always maintain that the submission from the Local-level government must go through a process as required by law. And that process must be censored by the provincial executive council.

I want to advice the Parliament that there is a provincial government that exists and in this nation there are 22 of them. The process and protocol must be followed in order to approve or recommend for additional wards or even an additional Local-level government.

In the case of Dei Electorate, you have gone through this process and the next stage that you must take place is for the officials in the department to go through that particular recommendation and submit to me a policy submission that must to NEC. So far that has not been the case.

For every other recommendations that have been recommended by provincial government we have not hesitated to go through it because there is a simple decision that must be made but for some reason it has not happened. I can assure the Member that I will find out about it and inform you.

Mr Acting Speaker, I have this situation where there are Members of Parliament that have come up with some recommendations where it impinges on other considerations for that particular ward and there has always been debates. I do not want those debates to continue at from that level. Every submission that comes through must be screened through the process from the DDA up to the provincial executive council.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am stressing here that the protocols and process must always be recognised. There are no short-cuts and unfortunately we are sometimes blamed for it. We as leaders must understand those processes so that there is no lengthy time wasted on seeking advice and so forth. I must apologise for those particular questions that he asked about a particular ward. When it comes through to the NEC we approve. I will check on that and inform Parliament.

I want to stress again that failed elections are failed elections. The Electoral Commission is an independent body and they decide on these things. The Prime Minister or I cannot instruct them. We can only make suggestions. When elections fail then immediately there must be a supplementary one but considering the situation that we have in relation to the finance, it is a bit of a case. But I must thank all provincial government that have stood out and decided to fund the failed By-elections.

Mr Acting Speaker, I urge all provincial governments that where elections failed to help for that cause. Where there are other failed elections I urge the provincial governments responsible to assist financially and carry out elections.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr SAM BASIL – I ask leave of the Parliament to make a personal explanation.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Do you claim to have been misrepresented?

Mr SAM BASIL – Yes, sir!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Go ahead, leave is granted.

Mr SAM BASIL – I would like to make an explanation on the Floor of Parliament regarding an article in today's *Post-Courier* and I quote"

13/05

The *Post-Courier* retraction apologises over an article published in last Thursday's edition where in the Deputy Opposition Leader, Sam Basil was allegedly associated with a lie,

fraud, deceit and forgery in documents. The Newspaper understands that the documentations were in order’.

Mr Acting Speaker, these are very serious allegations raised against me for forging honourable Members of signatures in dealing with issues relating to the *Standing Order* and the *Constitution*.

Mr Patrick Pruaitch – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, we all know that this particular motion is before the Private Members Committee and it is in their possession. I don’t think we should be making comments or self-explanations until the matter is determined by the Committee.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Your point of Order is in order.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Notice Nos.225 and 291 being called on forthwith.

MANAM RESETTLEMENT AUTHORITY BILL 2015

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 28 October 2015 (see page...)

Motion (by **Mr Leo Dion**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENENRAL

A message from His Excellency, the Governor-General dated 20 July 2015 announced recommending the expenditure of all public monies of Papua New Guinea in accordance with *section 210* of the *Constitution* insofar as the Bill relates to and provides for such impositions.

14/05

In Committee

Bill by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr LEO DION (East New Britain – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Inter-Government Relations) – I move-

That the following amendments be made:

- (a) the Member of Parliament representing the Bogia District who shall be the Chairman; and
- (b) the Archbishop of the Catholic Church of the Madang Diocese, *ex officio*; and
- (c) the Madang Provincial Administrator, representing the Madang Provincial Government, who shall be the Deputy Chairman; and
- (d) the Bogia District Administrator, who shall be the Advisor and consultant; and

- (e) one landowner representative representing the landowners where Manam and Boisa people are resettled, nominated by the Bogia District Authority and appointed by the NEC; and
- (f) a Manam Island Tenopwa or a recognised leader, nominated by the by the Manam and Boisa community and endorsed by the Bogia District Authority and appointed by the NEC; and
- (g) a representative from the recognised NGO group which is established and recognised by the Manam and Boisa communities and endorsed by the NEC; and
- (h) An officer from the Office of the Prime Minister, nominated by the Prime Minister and endorsed by NEC who will report to the Prime Minister.

Title: The title of the Bill is repealed and replaced with the following:

Manam and Boisa Rehabilitation Resettlement Bill 2015.

15/05

Mr JIM KAS (Madang)– I wish to make a comment on the Floor of this Parliament that the Amendment did not come through the Madang Provincial Executive Council, which is the right and process. It was diverted to come before NEC and I think it should not be accepted and should leave the Original Bill as it is.

Secondly, the name of the Authority should not be changed and I say this simply because of the first point of the composition or the Head of the Authority.

Let me say that the Gazelle Restoration Authority did not involve any politicians to make Gazelle a success story. Manam, its Authority Bill in its original form is progressing in line with the Gazelle Restoration Authority simply because of its setting and if we involve the politicians I don't think this Authority will run properly. That is why these Amendments did not get its blessing from the Madang Provincial Assembly and even if it says that the District Development Authority blessed it, Bogia District Development did not come on board until the last three weeks. We might pass these Authority Amendments and it will not go good with the original thought we had when we passed it to the Madang Executive Council to bring to this Floor.

I believe that these two Amendments have to be rejected because firstly, it is labelled under Manam and Boisa is the interior part of Manam, so I want this parliament to understand that when we are referring to the Manam its Manam alone.

Secondly, the head of this Authority is the member for Bogia and also being the representatives of Bogia, it doesn't look okay. I want to say that with Gazelle Restoration

Authority followed the proper procedures and with the funds and aid of professionals it was a success story. We have a success story already there so why should we by-pass it by making a politician as the head of the Authority. I have no problems with the Member for Bogia but for a politician heading the Authority, I think it is not right.

So, I ask this Amendment if we can reject this Parliament and pass the Original Manam Bill that has been valid by the Madang Provincial Government and if or when it does not work out then we can make amendments.

That is the stand of the Madang Provincial Government which I am making for the people of Manam and Madang, thank you.

Mr TOMMY TOMSCOLL - (Middle Ramu) – Thank you. I am not representing the Government of Madang or the people of Bogia but as a Member of the province I would like to endorse some of the comments made by the Governor of Madang.

16/05

I would also like to add that we should not politicise this Authority if it is going to be a successful one.

We must not perceive it as current Members of Parliament because whoever comes in as the new member will be automatically be the chairman of that Authority and determine either success or failure of the Boisa people.

Boisa is part of Manam in the Bogia District and this Parliament does not have any right to separate it from Manam because the law recognises that. Moreover, the people of Bogia are not all Catholics so why should we make it a law that one must be the Catholic Arch Bishop of the Bogia Dioceses in order to be in the Authority. It must be a church representative that must be chosen. I therefore do not support it unless we amend it.

Mr ANTHONY YAGAMA (Usino-Bundi) – I am not from Bogia or Manam but I am from Madang. Papua New Guinea is a democratic country and as the deputy Prime Minister mentioned there are procedures and processes where we must follow.

This amendment does not follow the due procedures and processes so how can this Parliament debate on it. As leaders we must follow the rule of law, why should we be telling our people to follow the rule of law when we are not doing it? These Amendment did not come through the provincial government and our little people in village must agree to these

amendments before we pass them. I therefore reject these amendments and urge this Parliament not to pass them.

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia – Prime Minister) – This Bill has been brought before this Parliament twice but it seems there is a lot of opinions about how we should set up this Authority. I respect all the leaders' views and also add that we should also take into consideration our people's views. These are the people in care-centres who are going to be resettled and they have demanded that we set up this Authority. We therefore must put aside our political differences and do what is best for our people. I move that we adjourn debate on this bill and consult each leader.

The National Government will take responsibility of this issue. I have to stress that I have no choice but to intervene. This is a case where we cannot allow our people to live in care-centres for another 5 to 10 years. We must make a decision.

I agree with most leaders that we must take this away from politics and let an independent team manage it for us. We will work together with them and resettle our people.

Motion (**Mr Peter O'Neill**) agreed to –

That the debate be adjourned.

Debate adjourned.

17/05

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PLANNING AND MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY BILL 2016

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Charles Abel** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr CHARLES ABEL (Alotau – Minister for National Planning and Monitoring) – I move –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Acting Speaker, a copy of this Bill together with its associated white paper and other supporting documents has been circulated and a copy of this speech should be circulated right now.

Mr Acting Speaker, the Alotau Accord in one of its declarations was to review Medium Term Development Plan 2010 to 2015, and also the Development Strategic Plan 20130, NEC decision No.243 of 2013 approved the adoption of responsible and sustainable development as the guiding principles for this review. The review process commence through the Department of National Planning and Monitoring by starting with the Constitutional Guiding Principles and Directives then examining the history of Development Planning in Papua New Guinea, all existing development plans and processes, the history and experience of human development globally and its outcomes and the history and outcomes of PNG developments to date.

Mr Acting Speaker, the Constitution as we are all aware is found on the guiding and directive principles; (1) integral human development, (2) equality and participation, (3) national sovereignty and self-reliance, (4) natural resources and (5) PNG ways.

18/05

Mr Acting Speaker, based on this review and the principles, the National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRS) was published and launched by the Prime Minister in Alotau in 2014.

StaRS contends that:

- Strategic long and medium term plans are vital in charting a development pathway;
- PNG has many achievements to be proud of;

However,

- Papua New Guinea has had numerous plans but rarely actually followed the;
- Has been hampered by political instability and weak institutional processes and capacity and followed a rather ad hoc development path focused on Economic Development rather than Human Development, and heavy reliance on primary resource extraction that undermines both natural resources and the environment and long term self-reliance;

• Rather than follow PNG ways, the country has basically emulated a traditional western economic pathway including many of the mistakes;

• PNG has not been particularly strategic in a planning sense, given its natural resources and global circumstances;

- PNG has not been pursuing a responsible or sustainable development pathway.

The Medium Term Development 2, 2016 – 2017 was published to capture the priorities of the O'Neill – Dion Coalition Government including StaRs and break them down to specific indicators and an activity program which is the 16 Point Critical Activities Matrix. We have clear priorities under infrastructure, Health, Education, Law and Order and then StaRs related programs such as; The Sovereign Wealth Fund, The Population Policy, Phasing Out Log Exports, 100 per cent Onshore Processing of Tuna and the establishment of CEPA.

Mr Acting Speaker, the next step in this process is to address the issues arising from the review is to introduce legislation and clarify the linkages and protocols in the planning process and establish a development framework.

The *Papua New Guinea Planning and Monitoring Responsibility Act 2016* establishes three national framework:

(1) The National Planning Framework which (a) links the Constitution to the annual budgets via cascading national plans, particularly the five-year medium term development plans to the National Planning Framework in Section 4, and the annual budget framework paper in Section 6. (b) aligns the MTDPs with the parliamentary term (hence the MTDP2 is for only two years and the MTDP3 will be for five years from 2018 to 2022) in Section 4, Subsection 3.

(2) The National Service Delivery Framework which; (a) creates a spatial (based on area/space) structure of Service Delivery Centres throughout the country in Section 5 which are – regional headquarters, provincial headquarters, district headquarters, LLG headquarters, ward zone headquarters and ward headquarters, that have transport and communication linkages; (b) establishes that certain minimum services will be provided at each of these locations as a priority in development programs (MTDP2 lists some of these but a further regulation should provide these specific details). (c) Establishes that responsibilities for provision of these services be demarcated between each of the levels of Government. (d) Establishes the State bodies contribute to the implementation of the National Service Delivery Framework from the resources available to them.

(3) The MTDP Motion and Evaluation Framework which; (a) establishes a reporting framework linked to the targets and indicators in the successive MTDPs in Section 7; (b) requires all State bodies to contribute to the collation of the required information to support the framework; (c) makes it a punishable offence by the head of a State who does not comply with this requirement under the *Public Service Management Act* in Section 8, Subsection 5, d) requires an annual publishing of the progress of the MTDP through specific documents in section 7, subsection 1 b.

19/05

Mr Acting Speaker, this Act does not legislate a particular specific plan, it is intended to provide clarity and definition through a process for the benefit of all stakeholders, Government and non-government.

It captures high-level principles and lower level sectoral plans, international obligations like the new Sustainable Development Goals, together with the priorities of the Government into a central five-year MTDP with clear indicators that are linked to annual budgets.

Mr Acting Speaker, by merely having this process in a policy is insufficient and has led to the confusion of the past. We need the force of a legislation to give it added weight, much like that of the *Fiscal Responsibility Act* which is not strictly enforceable but makes governments like ours stick to a debt to GDP ceiling.

The Annual Budget Framework paper to be published by the Department of Planning will merely provide guiding shape to the annual budgets through NEC to then inform the budget steering committee process and provide that formal connection between the MTDP and the annual budget.

Mr Acting Speaker, this has been a four-year process by the Department of the National Planning and Monitoring as explained and this Bill has been sanctioned through the National Executive Council, the Central Agencies Coordinating Committee, the Department of Justice and Attorney General and the State Solicitors Office. From a national consultation process, queries from the Department of Treasury and CEPA were comprehensively responded to. It has been presented to Provincial Governments through the PLASMA meeting in Lae last year and received full support.

This Act will complement other existing laws. Heads of Departments and agencies will be held accountable per their performance contracts under the *Public Service Management Act*. Data collection and management will be guided by *Statistical Services Act* and the *Civil and Identity Registration Act*; the *Organic Law on Local and Provincial Governments* and the *District Development Authority Act* will guide development planning and monitoring at sub-national levels of governments; the publishing of an Annual Budget framework Paper will provide guidance to the preparation of the Budget Strategy Paper under the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*.

Mr Acting Speaker, policies such as our recently tabled Development Co-operation Policy and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy have more clarity now because we are directing our development partners to make concentrated interventions into a clear national

service delivery framework to deliver reported results against clear indicators in one clear central planning framework.

I want to thank all those who have been involved in this process of establishing a Papua New Guinea Development framework, culminating in this Bill today. Thanks to our Prime Minister for his steadfast support and leadership and to the Cabinet, the former Chief Justice Mr Kalinoe and the incoming secretary, the team at the State Solicitors Office, the StaRS team and the Secretary and the staff at the Department of Planning and other departments and contributors are acknowledged

Mr Acting Speaker, I put this Bill on behalf of our Government and ask for Parliament to support in building a stronger, smarter Papua New Guinea and as the slogan goes 'PNG em mi ya'.

Sir PUKA TEMU (Abau –Minister for Public Service) – I want to commend the Minister for Planning who has been working very hard with his team. For him to present such a landmark legislation on the issue of how we will structure the planning framework, the delivery framework and the monitoring framework and so I tend to support the Bill.

Mr Acting Speaker, I wish to comment on the two areas that the Minister has presented on. I will begin with the national service delivery framework. I have been debating on the Floor of Parliament on the notion that when the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Government* came.

20/05

I think we over the politicised the system, so now we have the opportunity and this legislation is now prescribing that there are certain levels of services deliveries which the Minister has eloquently presented. He is looking at the regional service centre where they will have to monitor everything and then at the provincial level, the district delivery is monitored at the district level, local level and the ward.

This law is now prescribing the United Nation's concept of developing service centres around the country so the minimum number of services can be accessible by the majority of the people. So, I believe this is the right way to go.

My concerns which we will work on after we pass this law is the issue that I have raised and that is, we have a system that we have too many elected Members as politicians. We got a ward councillor, president and now we are developing the service centres. Disregarding the provincial level, let me come down to the district, LLG and the ward level. The greatest

challenge which I am now going to be responsible for as the Minister for Public Service is, and I am asking myself and my Secretary, what is the minimum number of technical officers that we must create at the ward, LLG and district level?

So when the elected members talk, there is a delivery mechanism and enough capacity to deliver the policies of the District Development Authorities or the Local-Level Governments was passed in 1995 by the Parliament in the legislation on the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments was an entity called the National Monitoring Authority (NMA). Now it is replaced by plasma.

The purpose of the National Monitoring Authority was to make sure that we monitor the service delivery but the challenge was, how do you gauge it? And the gauging is what we are now calling the Minimum Standards of Service Delivery.

When the Organic Law was passed in 1995, I was the secretary for Health at that time, it was the only Department that developed minimum health standards throughout the country. No other departments did it. And so that law fell apart. We could not monitor agriculture, fisheries, road works and other services. What are the minimum services that we must protect as a nation the economy goes down, budget must secure those minimum standards. We throw all the fat and meat away but we protect the livelihood of the people of the minimum standards.

The legislation challenges me and I want to call upon my colleague Ministers that this is a landmark legislation and we will all have to work together to deliver the minimum standards so that we know exactly how to protect our people and monitor and align the national budget when the economy drops.

The second most important point is the Department of Planning and Monitoring, the National Statistics Office and the National Research Institute, I believe that these three agencies of the State must now develop processes to establish data development at the LLG ward levels. When the Deputy Opposition Leader was the Planning Minister, he was talking about the ward recorders. We need to pick those things up now; we need to bring back the ward recorders because I want to have a system where each district has its own profile and it requires data development.

21/05

So you know which Aid Post is falling apart in Abau, the number of trade stores in Abau, the number of children being born every day, the number of health centres or roads and that is the data base I believe every district must have in this country. I call that the district profile.

The United Nations has been using the human development indicators and our commitment to the UN and we have not featured well on that so my strong suggestion in this Parliament to the Minister for Planning is we must now develop Papua New Guinea's own development indicators. We must develop our own human development indicators because we are different. No province is the same. When we compare our big country with Fiji in the UN, their HDI standing is much better than us.

I will strongly call for NSO, NRI and Planning to establish those processes and conducting a national census is one of them, but that occurs every ten years. We may need to establish the collection of data, systematic and institutional collection of data from the ward recorder down to the LLG and district. We really need this data development system in this country because we all agree that without data base policy development will be jeopardised. We now have an opportunity to really have a proper data base. This includes land issues, for example how many ILGs have been registered and recognised? Those are issues that we need to cascade up and down to know which way to steer the nation.

I strongly recommend that the minimum standards are driven and a team is established to make sure that every agency of government come forward with the minimum standards so that we protect our people when issues of development arise.

Mr Acting Speaker, in supporting this I believe that this legislation will then bring about a positive cascading that we can develop in this beautiful country Papua New Guinea.

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku) – I would also like to commend the Minister. This Act is well over due and we have just passed 40 years and this Bill should have been here well before we were actually elected into this Parliament. Some of us have come through the Public Service and seeing the need I support what the Minister has said.

I would like to contribute on the topic about how we are going to create the plan. The plan must start from the bottom up not from the top down or bottom up planning as it's called.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is very important because only and until we know the needs on the community level to the wards to the LLG then to the district and the province then we will know exactly from the people's perspective the real needs of our people.

22/05

So, I think that it is very important that with this Act we are passing, we should know our indicators or situations in the wards and each of the areas in our electorates then we can

identify what their plans are because a need is where you translate from a problem and know your priorities.

In my situation, I started funding my wards when I first came in and they got the funds so they identified their needs. I do not want to make a decision for them in the District, they themselves know their own needs. You give them the money and they know what they will buy because they know their problems. We are guessing from Waigani and thinking for we know their problems, for example now there is a program for the school in education where we have given a contract to supply the school with stationary like text books and pencils but how will the contractor know what the school needs.

So, from this Act it will help us to put money in the correct place where the actual implementation takes place. I will give another example, we have been buying things that children who have grown up but we are supposed to give the money so that they themselves can go do their own shopping.

I commend this Government because it is now giving the money to the grown up children to go and do their own shopping.

Mr Acting speaker, I would like to support the Bill that is now proposed, like I said it is long overdue and it is time now that we know the actual needs for the bottom and move up. When we know our needs in our house and we don't have them we go to the store and buy them. Just like in the wards, we cannot assume that they do not have this, only the ward member himself and his people know what they need.

Mr Acting Speaker, what we are basically doing in this Act is that we are integrating the Budget with the plan, for so long in this country the plan goes one way and the Budget goes the other way and they do not meet. The Budget is supposed to be funding the plan it is not supposed to be on its own. If you have a need and you go to the store buy what you need in the house, this is a country or a house and we know exactly what we need for a house.

I commend the Minister and this Government that it is well overdue and I support this but let us be very specific to know the needs starting from the bottom up.

This is the way to go so that we can see this country change, thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI (Kikori)- Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, I also rise on this side of Parliament in support of this very important piece of legislation, as a final year management student –

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – Of course, I am graduating next week but you know as a three-term MP, After going through my studies and seeing the importance of planning, I realise that it is very important.

The Member for Nuku is correct in saying that we passed the 2050 Vision without having this Responsibility Act. I am able to stand and see right to the village because it is all captured here.

23/05

There is an evaluation process and in the event that things do not go down properly, we have a mechanism to check them and as a Member of Parliament, I am very comfortable. It has never happened and budget alliance with a plan is very important. We are setting the structures on how to implement the process right down to the district level. The support of the budget is very important because the plan can be good but if you don't have a way of supporting by means of resourcing it then the plan will not work.

For too long our bilateral partners do not have confidence in us especially, with the Members of Parliament. They think we are a bunch of criminals and that is why they run parallel programmes. Have you ever had direct access to European Union funds or AUSAID funds as a district member?

I have received nothing because they run parallel programs. This alignment will now happen as a result of this. I commend the Minister for doing that.

He will now be able to see how best he can utilise the foreign aid money coming into the country and the support of our budget. Australians can come up and say they can put so much money here and there but you will not know if they had really spent the money. And how do you evaluate the success rate of that programme as against our country's programme? That has never happened and that is why we cannot see the progress of this nation.

As government advisers and implementers we will be in a better position to distinguish where our priorities are for example, education. Where we fall short we can then ask the donors to assist where necessary. When we align things then we will be able to determine where resources are properly assigned and we can come up with our priorities.

For the first time we are able to penalise our departmental heads. They are all given targets and performance based contracts. You can then evaluate their performance as against

the plans you have asked them to implement. If they don't do it then you are in a position to discipline them. But currently we don't have that power and we can't really evaluate their output. Through this type of mechanism you are able to see the output of departmental heads.

For too long we have been taken for a ride and many of them go out of the budget appropriations. We continue to give but there is no output at the end. This particular legislation will bring responsibility and accountability to departmental heads who we give power to manage our country's affairs. Only through proper management, prudent structures and evaluations we are in a better position to manage our country's resources.

I don't really agree with some of the indicators we use under United Nations. We cannot compare ourselves with Fiji which has a population of 500 thousand people as against ours with about 8 million people. I do not think that this should be the way on how we measure ourselves in terms of GDP or labour-work population ration against the unemployed or other indicators. Our think tanks must come up with a national indicator arrangement as to how we can evaluate ourselves against those UN set up metrics of measurement.

For example, we cannot compare ourselves with Fiji. They get hundreds of thousands in Lebanon on assignments abroad. That is why their average per capita income is about 5 thousand, while for Papua New Guinea, it is about 1200 or 1300.

25/05

This is because you send your project coordinators there but you do not know whether they are genuinely performing their duties. Most of them conspire and fraudulently write up certificates of completion down at the district and ward levels. The contractors run away after they are paid and later you find out the projects are incomplete.

Members of Parliament cannot be expected to move around the whole district trying to confirm that the fund they have approved for those projects are actually being properly utilised. Most of us have to travel eight hours in a dinghy to get from one end of our electorate to the other and it's very risky when the seas are rough. Because we cannot trust our officers who are supposed to be performing those duties, we have to travel all the way to check those projects and confirm whether they have been completed.

Mr Acting Speaker, what I am emphasising here is that it is good that this plan is aligned with the Budget and has a monitoring and evaluation framework in place but we will have to start knocking hard on the people who execute our decisions we make in Parliament; the public servants, ward recorders, ward members and other stakeholders that are involved. I don't know

whether the recorders are paid, some are being paid K200 or K50 and I wonder whether they update their records at all.

How do we expect what we are passing today will be executed as we envision. This is a short contribution I wanted to make at this time whilst commending the Minister for this timely Bill. I would like us to tighten up on our public servants. It states here that you can penalise the CEO or the Departmental Head but they don't actually execute the people down the line who do their jobs for them.

So, my contribution now is to tighten up from the ward level up to the LLG level so that whatever we approve now in parliament will trickle down so that our people can have access to basic services that we provide.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Charles Abel**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

26/05

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m..