

SEVENTH DAY

Friday 1 April 2016

DRAFT HANSARD

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SEVENTH DAY

Friday 1 April 2016

The Acting Speaker (**Mr Aide Ganasi**) took the Chair at 10.00 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.

Mr Acting Speaker, again took the Chair at 11.00 am, and invited the Member for Nawae, **Honourable Gisuwat Siniwin** to say the Prayer:

‘Lo name blo God Papa na God Pikinini na God Holi Spirit, God Papa mipela tok tenk yu long bringim mipela safely lo beginning of the day. Papa mipela tok tenk yu long makim mipela lida blo displa Nasen, mipela sin man na meri na mipela askim yu long rausim sin bilong mipela na givim mipla wisdom knowledge na understanding lo ranim dispela Nesan.

Papa blessim Speaker blo mipela, Prime Minister blo mipela na olgeta Ministers and Members na lida bilong Oppositon tu. Lord wanpela taim gen mipla tok tenk yu long givim mipla dispela opportunity na privileges long lukautim na bosim ol pipol bilong displa Nasen wantaim olgeta blessing bilong olgeta sumting mipela sa kisim lo dispela Nasen mipela tok tenk yu.

Blessim dispela day lo mipela mekim ol laws na grievance debate, Papa yu bai kamap pas lo dispela wok na yu ken lidim insait lo toktok long dispela Nasen. Blesim mipela, lukautim mipela na guidim mipela. Lord accept na blesim mipela lo dispela insait lo name blo bigpela bilong mipela Jisas Krist bai kam into yu. Amen’

**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (MR MEK NUGINTS) –
STATEMENT BY THE ACTING SPEAKER**

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament of the death on 12 March 2016 of Mr Mek Nugints, the former Member Mul-Dei Open Electorate.

He was first elected to the Second House of Assembly for Mul-Dei Open seat from 1968 to 1972. He was re-elected to the Third House of Assembly and First National Parliament for Mul Open seat from 1972 to 1975 and was appointed a Member for the Public Accounts Committee from 1972 to 1977.

He was then re-elected on By-Election to the second National Parliament for Baiyer – Mul Open seat in 1978.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late honourable gentlemen, I invited all honourable Members to rise in their places.

All Honourable Members Present stood in their places and observed a minute silence in memory of the late Gentleman.

QUESTIONS

Legislation into SABL

Dr ALLAN MARAT – thank you Mr Acting Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister for Lands and Physical Planning.

02/07

Last week I asked a question and he made some reference to the legislation into SABL's being referred back to the Constitutional Law Reform Commission for some kind of matrix or whatever.

I just made inquiries and consultation with the Constitutional Law Reform Commission and they said that all that process has been done and the legislation was given back to the Minister for Lands and Physical Planning.

My questions are as follows;

(1) When will the Minister introduce the legislation in Parliament that puts a permanent stop to the SABL process and prohibits the issuing of any further SABL?

(2) Once a legislation has been passed putting a stop to SABLs, how does the Minister intend to deal with the unjust subleases which have been negotiated under the current SABLs and which are officially legally valid?

(3) Is the Minister aware of how unjust some of the current sub-lease agreements negotiated under the current SABLs are with the customary landowners?

(4) Is the Minister aware of the tensions that are present especially in the West Pomio area as a result of the sub-lease agreement that regulates the Sigite-Mukus Project?

(5) Is the Minister aware of the employment and health and safety issues that are in existence with the employees in the Sigite-Mukus Project?

(6) Is the Minister prepared to meet with the representatives from West Pomio to discuss their concerns about the Sigite-Mukus agreement?

Mr BENNY ALLEN – Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Rabaul for asking his series of questions regarding the SABL and the Land Review that has been undertaken currently.

Mr Acting Speaker, on the issue of when the review will be brought to NEC and to this Parliament. I have mentioned when he raised this question last week that the draft Bill was sent back to the Lands Department two weeks ago as there are certain issues that need to be addressed before it is brought to Cabinet. That is what the Government is doing at this point in time. As soon as those issues are resolved I will bring that to Cabinet.

On the issue of the SABL which is also captured in the review, we have prepared a submission to Cabinet but it is going through CACC to process the submission before it goes to Cabinet.

The contents of that submission is basically trying to address the SABL issue that we have over the years. As we all know the Cabinet has set up a Task Team to look into this after the report that was compiled the COI report that was given to Cabinet. The Task team has done some work on that. While that was going on, there was a Court Case in Vanimo where an SABL lease holder took the matter to court and he succeeded. The decision was awarded in favour of the SABL lease holder.

03/07

The SABL lease holder has asked for conversion of the SABL list to customary land registration which the Court recognised. Therefore, we are using that case to do a submission to Cabinet. Once we get endorsement by Cabinet we will convert the SABL leases to customary land registration titles and I think that this is the way forward for the nation. The Cabinet has taken a blanket decision to cancel all SABLs. When this happened we will deal with this matter case by case. Only those genuine ones are coming forward and we are dealing with them on the cases that they bring to the Department.

I believe that the way forward is to convert the SABL leases to customary land registration. We have already had success stories in Vanimo and in Kimbe so we are now taking that approach.

On the issue regarding the Sigite Landowner Group in West Pomio, I have no knowledge of that and I thank the Member for Rabaul for raising that issue. I will look into that and get officers to attend to that problem.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Tjandra Family Business Legality

Mr WILLIAM SAMB – I would like to direct my questions to the Attorney-General but since he is not here I will direct my questions to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to take note.

My questions are based on an article in the *Post Courier* on page 3. It says, ‘Tjandra Makes First Public Appearance’.

Mr Acting Speaker, I would also like to read a quote, ‘The Attorney-General, Ano Pala also said that Tjandra is a Papua New Guinean and should not be subject to ridicule. He is a Papua New Guinean and he is contributing to the development of Papua New Guinea. In fact, see this building, the Government spent no toea. He renovated it from his own funds, K140 million and what does that tell you? No Papua New Guinean businessman would want to spend that much money on such a building like this. He wants to help develop PNG, so we must respect him’. These are what Honourable Ano Pala said.

My questions are:

(1) What type of contract was awarded to this gentleman or his company given the magnitude of the money of K140 million?

(2) Was the Parliament, the public or the nation through its agencies were advised of such a contract?

(3) Are we saying that PNG is a safe haven for fugitives given the past of this gentleman?

The last part of that quote questions the integrity of this hard working and honest businessmen in this country.

(4) Are we saying that foreigners can come with such money when our businessmen who are hardworking and honest can afford to do the same to development Papua New Guinea?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I thank the good Member for Goilala for his series of questions.

Mr Acting Speaker, I cannot speak on behalf of the Attorney-General. He has made his statement and that is fine but let me say this quite clearly. The Tjandra family have been here well before Independence.

04/07

Due to the development of the country and as we speak today, they have a large network of businesses in the country and they continue to invest in the country. They are citizens of our country and they need to be respected like every other citizen of this country.

I know that this particular gentleman has been given citizenship by the Citizenships Committee and that decision is beyond our Government and the NEC. It was a decision made by the Citizenships Committee and I cannot speak for them.

Mr Acting Speaker, let me put it clearly that there is an alleged case against this gentleman in Indonesia but as I have stated in Parliament before that even to date today, I have no representation to the Government of Papua New Guinea to my office from the Government of Indonesia whether we can repatriate him back to Indonesia. Not even one request so how do you expect me to treat a citizen that has got every right to be here. He has got every right to invest his money where ever he wants. He has got established family business here well before independence. One of his family members is a knight and knighted by our country.

Mr Acting Speaker, it is up to the Indonesian Government to make that request. It is not for me or by this Government to deport our citizens.

Mr William Samb – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, my question is not about his citizenship rather it is about a businessman providing funding for a government project to this magnitude. A project worth almost K140 million.

I think the Prime Minister needs to explain the circumstances surrounding the contract regarding this particular person? It is a project worth K140 million and that is a very huge amount of money involved here.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Prime Minister, please continue!

Mr PETER O’NEILL – Mr Acting Speaker, the Members questions are leading questions so I am trying to explain to him the role that this gentleman is playing in the country. He is a citizen of our country and he has got every right to participate in business.

This particular contract went to tender for construction companies to finance and rebuild the central government office. His group of companies won the tender and they financed it. The Government will slowly repay them overtime on the savings we make from avoiding rentals elsewhere but the ownership of the central government office remains with our Government. This is the case.

It has been publicly tendered and he has won the tender like any other citizen in the country. If he puts the best proposal to Government then we award him the contract through the tender process. The procurement process has been followed so if the Member wishes to know more then he should write to the Public Service Minister and he will give you the exact copy of the tenders and the bidding process.

Supplementary Question

Djoko Tjandra’s Citizenship

Mr GARRY JUFFA – On the same matter, I understand there was inquiry to be instituted into how the citizenship of Djoko Tjandra was awarded by the Citizenship Committee. I wonder whether the proper procedures and processes were followed or not?

The vetting process was carried out by the Attorney-General's office and it was spearheaded by the former Attorney-General before he was replaced.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Governor, was the question asked before? Is it a repetition?

Mr GARRY JUFFA – No it is a new question. The Members of Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea need to be fully informed about the circumstances surrounding this issue and put to rest questions that we might all have.

Mr Acting Speaker, can the Prime Minister explain what has happened to the inquiry? Will it be tabled? Is there a possible conflict of interest between the current Attorney-General and the subject of that inquiry? If so, then what can be done to assure the Parliament that it will be an inquiry that is fair?

05/07

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Acting Speaker, I know that the Citizenship Committee is independent in their deliberations. The Government has no authority to give directions as to how they conduct their business.

As far as I am aware, to apply for citizenship in our country, one must have continuously lived here for more than eight years. You must have an opportunity of an income to look after yourself.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, could the Prime Minister just explain about the inquiry and what is happening to it?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I know that the Governor wants me to rush into decisions and quickly –

Mr Garry Juffa – Can he just answer the question only?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – The question is being answered, Prime Minister, please continue!

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I know that the good Opposition Leader and his partner from Oro would like me to rush into decisions and answers. But I am trying to explain for his benefit so he does not continue to bother the Parliament again.

We need to behave like leaders, be patient, learn to listen and learn to appreciate other people's views and not your own as life does not revolve only around you.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am not aware of any inquiry that is going on but I will find out and get the Attorney-General to write to the honourable Governor so he can be fully satisfied about how this gentleman was given citizenship. I cannot speak for the Attorney-General but I do not know where the conflict of interest lies.

The last time I checked, the Attorney-General is from Rigo and the other gentleman is originally from Indonesia so where the conflict lies, I don't know. I think our Attorney-General can discharge his duties in a very responsible manner and I think he is doing that very clearly.

NHC Houses in Lae

Mr GISUWAT SINIWAN – I direct my questions to the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Lands to take note.

My questions relate to the sale and purchase of the National Housing Corporation houses or government houses and the transfer of titles to those houses to the buyers.

Mr Acting Speaker, my understanding is that the National Housing Corporation houses were offered to the tenants at statutory prices which is lower than the commercial value. The tenants purchased the houses via salary deductions or cash price and then had the titles transferred to them by the corporation.

However, I have been made aware that sometime last year, the Morobe Provincial Land Board granted titles to more than 220 National Housing Corporation properties in Lae city alone without those tenants paying for those houses. The same maybe is happening elsewhere in the country.

(1) Mr Acting Speaker, my question is how can you transfer titles to sitting tenants who may also have huge rental arrears and without them spending a single toea for those properties?

06/07

One of the houses in Lae, was sold for K50 000 but the total value of the 220 houses were valued at K11 million, a huge sum of money.

(2) Does the Minister for National Housing Corporation has any plans to recover this K11 million or has it recovered its property from those unscrupulous tenants?

(3) Can the Minister inform this Parliament as to what his Ministry is intending to do to prevent further occurrence of this nature?

Mr PAUL ISIKIEL – Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the Member for Nawae for his series of questions.

Mr Acting Speaker, before I answer the question, let me confirm by saying that the National Housing Corporation's 220 properties in Lae, worth close to K11 million were transferred by default to its tenants. And the Morobe Provincial Government and the Provincial Land Board granted titles to the tenants without the concurrence of my Ministry.

It is also true that, those 220 tenants owed more than K11 million to the National Housing Corporation in rental arrears.

Therefore, my Ministry in collaboration with the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Morobe Provincial Government will seriously address this issue in the coming months.

In answering the Members question, during the colonial days and after the Independence, the list of houses built were never issued to the National Housing Corporation or the Department for that matter. They were Government houses, flats, duplexes and hostels built on State land but without titles and they were referred to as unregistered leases.

But during the amalgamation of Housing Commission and Department of Housing Corporation and in the process of attempting to implement the various Government Homeownership Scheme, the NHC noticed that most of this houses didn't have titles.

In the late 90s and onwards, the NHC proceeded to identifying and securing titles over those unregistered leases in order to facilitate transfer of titles to existing tenants or homebuyers.

However, there are still today, many houses throughout the country that are NHC houses located on Government land without NHC titles.

In granting the titles for unregistered leases by NHC, we found out that officers of NHC collaborated with Department of Lands to utilise certain section of the *Land Act 1996*, which

allows the Minister for Lands to make a direct grant title to NHC or for land on which NHC houses, flats, duplexes and hostels stands.

As far as I know, titles are not supposed to be granted to anybody else including the sitting tenants. And also the *Land Act* does not allow for public tender for land on which the Government constructed dwelling houses owned by NHC or any other Government Department and agencies.

07/07

Therefore, I am very concerned about the illegal transfer of any NHC assets worth almost K11 million to tenants through means without following the process and laws and without those tenants paying for them. There is only one law for everyone and they are supposed to pay for the tertiary value of the houses they occupy before it is transferred to them.

Mr Acting Speaker, it is unfair on others who have paid their NHC housing title when they can fraudulently bypass the process.

To answer the second question, the estimated value of those 220 houses is worth close to K11 million, if it is sold at K50 000 per property. Currently, the NCH is working with the Department of Lands to revoke all those titles. The titles may have been granted by the Morobe Provincial Land Board without knowing that they were NHC properties on those land and that in accordance with the *Land Act* they were exempted from Land Board deliberations.

Mr Acting Speaker, there is a working team in place consisting of officers from the Departments of Justice and Attorney-General, Lands Department and Housing to cross check on the properties concerned in Lae.

In respect to the third question, I am very concerned about those developments and have given very serious consideration as to how to deal with them. In consultation, with my colleague, the Lands Minister as I said, we have set up a task force to identify all NHC properties right across the country and have their titles registered back to NHC to deal with those assets in line with the various government policies on NHC housing and implementation. It is only when NHC has titles to all its properties then it can deal with everybody fairly.

Supplementary Question

NHC Houses in East Sepik

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE – Thankyou Mr Acting Speaker and I also thank the honourable Member for his excellent questions and the answers by the Minister are fair. The same applies to all the housing in all other provinces. I know in my province, East Sepik, will the Minister be able to assure us that this application that he is trying to make will apply to all the provinces? Because there are a number of land which are being transferred and we were just talking about a new citizen who has not lived in this country for more than eight years and yet acquires a big piece of land. I want the Minister to take into consideration all houses in all the major centres in Papua New Guinea and especially East Sepik. Let's not ignore it because this problem will come up again and the same questions will be raised regarding land demobilisation and NHC houses being transferred illegally to the tenants who are not even citizens in this country.

Mr PAUL ISIKIEL – Thankyou Governor for East Sepik for the question. Yes, we have a situation across the country as far as titles are concerned. It has been brought to our attention that we have what is called a double title so one turns to wonder where the other title is from originally.

Mr Acting Speaker, what Housing wants to do in the future is because of our incapability to provide maintenance program around the country. We are thinking it may be fair if we ask the provincial government in respective provinces to do an audit and evaluation on all the existing properties, and sell it to provincial governments. They can take carriage in terms of maintenance and be able to provide accommodations to its public servants in their respective provinces.

08/07

Plywood Mill in Ijivitari

Mr DAVID ARORE – Mr Acting Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Forestry.

Mr Acting Speaker, Ijivitari District is one of the districts in the country that is privileged to have a downstream processing wood factory. I believe that there are only three of them in the country and one of them is in my District.

Mr Acting Speaker, there is a continuous interference by the Oro Provincial Government into the forestry industry in Northern Province which is leading to the closure of this particular mill and over 2000 families off the job.

(1) Is the Minister aware that the wood factory valued at K20 million at Oro Bay is going to be closing down at the end of this month?

(2) Can the Minister explain to Parliament what is the responsibility of the Oro Provincial Government as to their interference with the forest industry, and also what their limitations are and the limitations of the National Forest Board and the Department of Forestry?

(3) Few months ago, through the Oro Provincial Government interference, policemen and soldiers in full uniforms and armed went into the logging operation in Northern Province and shut down their operations by force. So I want to know whether there are systems and processes in place to protect this particular industry in our country.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the Member for Ijivitari for his series of questions.

Let me answer the first question by saying that yes, my Department is aware of the disturbances that is causing a lot of uproar amongst our people. We have our officers on the ground monitoring the situation and as far as I am concerned, there will be a report submitted by next week. We had an urgent Board meeting this week to iron out some of these issues that are coming out not only from Northern Province but throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, we have only three plywood mill factories in this country; one is from Bulolo which has been operating for more than 50 years and landowners have been very supportive of that project. And for that reason, it continues to serve the people of Bulolo, Morobe Province and Papua New Guinea as a whole. We also have another operation in Turama which the Member for Kikori is well aware of.

The new one is in Northern Province and has worked out to be a very good project but I wonder why the leaders from that Province continue to cause a bit of instability in the operations of that project.

09/07

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, let me clarify here that, that factory is not closed. There was no interference. The documentation of the

processing of the timber is yet to reach my office. I was informed of it two days ago and we are working on the matter.

I would like to clarify here so that the Member for Ijivitari will not misinform the Parliament. The Minister for Forest is also misinforming the Parliament in relation to the actions of the police and the military personnel.

In fact, the directive originated from the Office of the Prime Minister; his Chief Secretary and the Minister for Climate Change. It was in relation to complaints made by landowners from Yema Gaipa, which the logging company had overstepped its boundary's in carrying out its logging activities and numerous complaints have been made to their office but nothing has been done.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – You have raised your Point of Order already so please sit down.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – I like the Governor. Mr Acting Speaker, it just shows that some of us have personal egos.

We have to allow questions to be answered on this Floor of Parliament. We have to be leaders in the way we conduct ourselves in this Parliament. One of the reasons why this country is called corrupt country is because leaders don't conduct themselves correct, we are not proper ambassadors of this country.

Mr Acting Speaker, various processes have being followed for projects to be approved in every province. I am the last one to approve the project and it goes through systems and one of them is PFMC.

For that matter, Oro Provincial Government through PFMC has approved this project which is the mill itself.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, yes, it's correct they have been awarded but the Provincial Government also has the duty and responsibility to its people to ensure that the company does not abuse their benefits by over-stepping their boundaries. That's why we are questioning some of their activities and we must do that on behalf of the landowners.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – I am warning you and if you continue to misbehave then I will not hesitate but to suspend you from Parliament.

I will not entertain you anymore.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, if these honourable leaders can allow me to complete answering the questions.

Mr Acting Speaker, the process is very clear, the Department of Forest and Climate Change is the last authority that approves projects in this country, and logging for that matter.

10/07

You need to get landowners' ILG's and make certain that they are in order. It then gets through the provincial governments and then through the PFMC for approval of that project. After PFMC has given its clearance and endorsement, it comes through the Lands Department for them to clear all land titles and land requirements. After that process is completed, it goes through to CEP, Department of Environment and Conservation has to give its approval first. When it is given and considering all documents are in place and if it is needed for agricultural development, then it will need to go to Department of Agriculture for approval. After that is done, it comes to the Forest Department to either give a FCA Forest Clearing Authority or an FMA Forest Management Area. The license is given to the landowners and I have continuously repeated this time and time again. The landowners negotiate with Forest Department to find an investor for that operation and of course, the provincial government is fully advised and briefed through the PFMC.

Mr Acting Speaker, every detail of approval goes through a very systematic process. When these processes are completed then operations commence.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that one of the best operating operations of downstream processing is in Northern Province.

Mr Acting Speaker, under the O'Neill-Dion Government led by the Prime Minister, downstream processing is our number one priority. So I urge every leader in this country to work closely with our landowners. If you have any issue with licencing, go and talk to the landowners. The landowner signed the Logging Marketing Agreement with the investor and not Douglas Tomuriesa or Forest Ministry for that matter.

Mr David Arore – Or David Arore!

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Mr Acting Speaker, landowners have got powers to cancel the LMA (Logging Marketing Agreement). They can stop it from there so when it comes to me and the landowner is asking me to cancel it, I will cancel it. But why get guns, Police and the Defence Force and start terrorising these people; we treat our own people like common criminals for that matter. Our people are not criminals.

Some of these investors need to be respected also because they bring in a lot of money. Before they operate they have to pay several million to Forest Department before they operate. They bring in equipment that are very expensive.

I was talking to the Department of Works some weeks ago and they told me that the road to Morobe province from Oro is almost there and all it needs is for the National Government to ride on the current development for that road and connect Morobe and Oro.

There is infrastructure being done and we need to work together in collaboration between landowners, investors and the Government.

Mr Acting Speaker, I keep reminding the Governor through *Facebook* that in Oro we are doing a review of all projects and that review does not take two months to do. It will take us six to twelve months just to do reviews on projects. Some of these reviews were never done in the last 40 years. For the first time we are putting those measures in place.

Inventory has never been done in the last 40 years and we launched it just three weeks ago.

Mr Acting Speaker, as national leaders we have to be weary of the way we conduct ourselves and how we structure our questions for cheap political point scoring.

I don't have to post on the public social network of reviews and what my department is doing.

These are responsibilities given to me by my Prime Minister to attend to these issues.

Let me conclude by quoting something I just read by one of our good leaders.

'If you take some time to study our social and economic environment, you will begin to notice that most of Papua New Guineans are entangled in a battle to conquer one another due to our tribal, religious, political and regional differences. Instead of working together in unity to conquer the world before us, our minds are preoccupied with competing amongst ourselves instead of competing with the rest of the world.'

Mr Acting Speaker, I say this for all the leaders to work together in this Parliament to serve our people and not fight and destroy one another.

11/07

Thank you very much God bless you all.

Selling Shares of State Investments

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – I would like to direct my questions to the Prime Minister relating to State interests in various State investments.

There is a proposal by the Government to sell all State interests in various State investments. For instance, there is a proposal by your government to sell 10.1 per cent in Oil Search, 30 per cent shares in mining investments, 19.3 per cent in PNG LNG and 35 per cent in BSP.

Mr Acting Speaker, my questions are:

(1) Mr Prime Minister, can you deny or confirm that you are proposing to sell these State shares?

(2) If the O'Neill-Dion Government is selling State shares in those investments, then can the Prime Minister deny or confirm that the Government has ran out of ideas to save this economy?

(3) Can the Prime Minister confirm that the State sale of these investments is a desperate move to justify the loan from IFC to solve the backlog of credits or orders outstanding?

(4) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that when the Prime Minister sells the shares like the 35 per cent of BSP, PNG will lose a very important stake in the financial industry?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I would like to thank the good and long serving Member for Kikori for his questions. He is also the longest serving Minister in any government.

Therefore, he knows very well that he has to produce facts when he is asking stupid questions like that.

(Members laughing)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I say stupid questions because these questions are without fact. There is absolutely no document from any government official that we are selling any one of these shares mentioned.

Mr Acting Speaker, where did he get those ideas from?

The Member knows very well that this Parliament passed a legislation very recently on the Kumul Holdings, Kumul Petroleum and Kumul Mining. Why then did we create these companies? I want to create wealth for our nation and not selling anything.

Your former colleague from Kerema is the only one who is selling everything.

(Members laughing)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Acting Speaker, I am not selling anything I want to own something for our people and the future generation. That is what we are building, we are building the wealth for the nation.

Therefore, get your facts right before you ask silly questions in this Parliament?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Motion (by **Mr Nixon Mangape**) put –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent the time for questions without notice this day being extended by 20 minutes.

There being no absolute majority, motion negatived.

Parliamentary Privilege Committee

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Mr Acting Speaker, I seek leave of the Chair to ask you a question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Go ahead, leave is granted.

12/07

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Mr Acting Speaker, I wish to ask you a question regarding Parliamentary Privileges Committee to refer a Member of this Parliament to Privileges Committee for breach of privilege.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Are you asking that question to me?

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Yes Sir.

(Members Laughing)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – I will not allow you to ask the question because –

(Members laughing)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Okay, I will allow you to ask your question to the Chair.

(Members laughing)

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, my question relates to the referral of a Member of Parliament to the Privileges Committee for breach of privilege. The *Standing Order 102* defines offenses as stated in the Parliamentary Powers and Act 1964. The Parliamentary Powers and *Privileges Act section 3 sub-section 1* defines parliamentary privilege as those privilege and immunities of Parliament and of the Members of Parliament.

Mr Don Polye (Kandep – Leader of Opposition) – Point of Order! According to the *Standing Orders*, you cannot be asked to answer legal questions and interpretations.

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Mr Acting Speaker and Members of Parliament, there are privilege immunities in the House of Common of the Parliament of United Kingdom and of Members of that House and Committee respectively at 1 January 1901.

The United Kingdom Parliament home pays references as a standard reverence approved by Eskine May Treaty or law, processes and uses of Parliamentary procedure published in 1844.

Mr Acting Speaker, the First Legislative Council, National Library, Supreme Court Library and, the Parliament Library has no copy of this reverence or any other comprehensive statement of Parliamentary privilege.

Yesterday you said that you will refer a Member for a breach of this Parliamentary Privilege. My questions are:

(1) Do you have a comprehensive statement of Parliamentary Privilege in line with definition and requirement of *Standing Orders* and *Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act*?

(2) Do you agree that such a comprehensive statement is very important to guide the Members of Parliament and the Privileges Committee?

(3) Will you circulate the comprehensive statement of the Parliamentary Privilege you are using to refer Members of this Parliament to the Privileges Committee before Parliament sits next Tuesday?

(4) If you cannot circulate the comprehensive statement, explain why not?

ACTING SPEAKER- Thank you member for your very good question, I will reply to your questions in due course in writing.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday 5 April 2016 at 2 p.m..

13/07

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That grievances be noted.

Oppose Free-Up-Land Policy

Mr DON POLYE (Kandep- Leader of Opposition) – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, I would like to express concerns regarding the people of Papua New Guinea in two areas where this Parliament is well aware of. My first concern is about the empowerment of indigenous Papua New Guineans and the other is the development of common culture in the country.

When we talk about indigenous people, we mean people who have been in this country for thousands of years. There is about 99.99 percent of us who happen to be indigenous Papua New Guineans. I have observed that the Parliament has been misled by foreign advisors.

We have adopted the so called free up the land policy and I have alluded to this point in some of my discussions before. Which land that is not free that we should free up to be used? Who is holding back land that we need to free up for business activities?

In some countries in the world where people have moved to and settled there as emigrants, they were the ones that came up with that policy. There were indigenous people living there already but when those emigrants came they developed these policies to suit their interest. They did not have rights so they had to come up with something to accommodate their livelihood in those new countries. They came up with the idea of free up the land policy and put those land under the state so that they can have access to. The state then shared the land between the indigenous people and those emigrants.

Introduce Land Partnership Policy

Mr Acting Speaker, I believe that we should not be adopting this policy in this country because we will be making a big mistake. We must not do so because we are not emigrants.

We are the indigenous people of Papua New Guinea. The Opposition does not like the idea of free up the land policy rather we would like to see indigenous land partnership policy. I urge the Parliament to take note of this policy.

There are land that we just getting from the rightful owners through questionable ways to putting up in the name of business and investments. Through these ways some landowners benefit and some don't because of the nature of the deals made. I think the landowners must be given the opportunity by law to be part of the deals made regarding their land so they in turn will reap the full benefits of their land.

We have to do something for our people to help support them as we have not since independence. This is one asset where our indigenous people own. If they have the land as their stake to do business with investors then we are most likely to see an increased living standard and more money in our people's pockets. We should not be elaborating on the free up land policy but rather the indigenous land partnership policy so that our people will be part of business investments.

Conduct Proper Social Mapping

Mr Acting Speaker, the second thing that I wanted to talk about is about the land that has new development on it.

14/07

We must have proper social mapping for all the land throughout the country and not just for land areas with development happening on them like mining and so forth. We are a country with diverse cultures and ethnic groups. We must have proper social mapping so that we can correctly identify landowners and their customary land boundaries.

We must also carry out proper geological studies and organise the landowners through strengthening the mediation process that exists. This is so that we can better commercialise land under customary ownership by our people. When we do all these then it becomes a new form of development for our people and brings wealth to our people, especially the landowners.

Empowerment Policy for Indigenous Landowners

Another way is to address existing development that are already in place on their land. For instance, I was trying to say something on that, but the Members here kept interjecting, therefore, let me again explain it properly.

The National Capital was built on land that once belonged to Central people. Even this Parliament where it stands today, I am sure that the land belonged to a clan or tribe once. We

displaced these people in the name of urbanisation and to create this township in the National Capital. There can be arguments that the decision was made by their forefathers but their descendants are still here and their population is growing. What then can we do with these displaced people because this is their land that they used to live on it? We cannot hide that fact and ignore these people's plight. I am not saying that we should compensate them. This Parliament must come up with a policy or strategy to address the displaced people of Papua New Guinea.

For instance, I have mentioned a few places like Rabaul in East New Britain, Kandep, Wabag, Wewak, Manus and et cetera. These places have their customary owners so we must create a strategy or come up with a policy. This is so that we can empower these people to sustain their livelihood. This is very important and we seem to have forgotten this.

What sort of empowerment am I talking about? I am talking about skills development. For instance, in the case of Port Moresby where customary landowners had their land taken over by modernisation, then we have to look at policies that can target these displaced indigenous people only. We can give the pre-emptive rights to do business in the SME sector or other enterprises to them first because they are from this area. This can also be done for the rest of the country as well.

For the fact that we have displaced our people in the name of development, I must say that other social issues will continue to occur. Regardless of how many governments that have come and gone and Parliament sessions after sessions we have just ignored this issue because we as leaders are afraid to address it. We must not be afraid to address matters of indigenous concerns because they are our people and we must address them for they will not go away. We cannot compensate them but we must create some form of strategy where we can empower these people to sustain themselves.

Therefore, the Opposition's position is that an empowerment policy for our indigenous landowners must be developed by Parliament. The Opposition sees this as an important factor in the country's development processes. If we do not address these issues then we will be going around in a vicious circle. We must therefore, have a strategy for the indigenous people who have been displaced, especially in project areas.

Develop Common Culture

The second matter is in regards to the development of a common culture. We have to have a belief in a common culture that will our people together. We have 862 different

traditions, languages tribes, clans and et cetera. We cannot just make one particular local tradition and make it become a common culture for Papua New Guinea.

For instance, I cannot say that since I am a Engan I can Engan-ise the whole of Papua New Guinea and likewise, we cannot Ialibu-Pangia-nise Papua New Guinea.

(Members laughing)

Mr Don Polye – You know what I mean? We cannot Kavieng-nise the whole country.

(Members laughing)

15/07

Mr DON POLYE (Kandep – Leader of the Opposition) – We have to look at a common culture that must be universal to all the 1000 different diverse ethnicity we have. What is that common culture of a Papua New Guinean? That common culture must be the upholding of justice and the rule of just law. Laws that are just because Apartheid in South Africa was not a just law, it was discriminatory. So the common culture must be justice, and the rule of just law, the observance to the *Constitution*, the *Organic Law*, the Act of Parliament, the regulation must be the common culture that this Parliament must mould and shape for Papua New Guinea.

Court of Appeal Bill/Dual Citizenship Bill

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Thankyou Mr Acting Speaker. I would like to commend the Government and Parliament for passing the Amendment Bill for creating the Court of Appeal. As you may be aware, many times when unsuccessful election candidates take us to court they waste out time and we spend a lot of time in court, and just because they have paid K5000 as security fee, they just waste our time and delay us from performing our duties as Members of Parliament. I am thankful that we have passed this amendment and I would also like to suggest that we increase the security cost to K100 000. This is because in my case, the person who took me to court is yet to pay up my legal bills.

I am also pleased that the Parliament has done well in passing the dual citizenship which has both advantages and disadvantages but as a nation it is important that we must be counted among the nations of the world.

I would also like to sincerely commend the Minister for Health for retracting his letter to Kundiawa General Hospital.

Kundiawa General Hospital serves many provinces

I would also like to air my grievance on that letter, I understand that it's withdrawn but I would like to speak on the subject. Kundiawa General Hospital is a five star or level five hospital that serves not only the people of Chimbu but also Eastern Highlands, Western Highlands and the other Highlands provinces and the neighbouring Madang and Morobe province. All referrals are made to Kundiawa General Hospital because we have the best doctors and facilities out there. We provide orthopaedic surgery and you can either fly offshore for surgery or to Kundiawa Hospital. There were some misunderstanding between the office of the Minister and the bureaucrats who instructed the Hospital to stop this operation of which it has been performing successfully for over 20 years. I am thankful that the Minister has withdrawn that letter of instruction.

Allocate more funds to hospitals/upgrade status

I want to state here that the fact that Kundiawa Hospital is able to perform such level of operation, why not give it a level six rating so that they can continue performing those operations legally? Give Kundiawa General Hospital the money. Why do we give millions of kina to the neighbouring hospital in Goroka and Mt Hagen where these operations cannot be performed? They are plagued by their own politics within the hospital management while their patients are dying and are being referred to Kundiawa General Hospital.

Every day the hospital sees about 600 to 700 patients in its outpatient. If you go to the hospital at 2 o'clock in the morning, the emergency department operates as if it is 10 o'clock in the morning. This is the difference and I express my grievance and, therefore, I want the Government to take note and make Kundiawa Hospital a level six hospital with appropriate funding. Other provinces have extractive industries and your people cannot really see the things you have done because the developers are also developing your province but for Chimbu we have nothing.

16/07

The only thing that we are depending upon is the human resource. Whatever funding that the government allocates to this Province will make a difference there and it reflects that

the government is at work. That is the reason why our hospital which, is currently on level five should be upgraded to level six hospital and funded appropriately because we want to establish the University of Medical School so that our students can be trained by the best experts in this country rather than sending them to a rundown hospital where they become mere medical students.

Stop Bonus Payment to Public Servants

Mr Acting Speaker, another issue I want to debate is in line with what the Minister for Public Service is doing. The practice of paying bonuses to senior public servants. I specifically want to stress on this because if we are not careful, the public servants are going to create syndicates. If you are aware of existing syndicates then I am now making a point here.

We will have to stop that vicious cycle. I am making a reference to the Wafi-Golpu Project. No special mining lease has been granted, no negotiations have been concluded but I am reliably informed that a total of K1 million was shared amongst the public servants. They were paid between K70 000 and K500 000 and that is a lot of money.

We have to stamp this out because it is broad daylight robbery. I am pretty sure that when you come to such negotiations, you do not imply that I do not know. Most of the facts are provided by the industries and you basically include that along with the government policies, and you do not have to be a rocket scientist to figure it out and deliberate it on behalf of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. This is where it is wrong and totally unfair.

I am also aware that Mineral Resource Authority, the entity that is responsible for the regulatory arm of the mining industry of this country, was not involved.

The most difficult part in such negotiations lies with the Department of Environment and Conservation where we now have an authority. They are the ones who basically perform most of the difficult tasks to ascertain and vet such proposals and it is only fair that we must stop these kinds of practices, otherwise, we will have a situation where public servants will be going around creating such syndicates if we do not do anything quickly to rectify this problem.

Collective Review on Mining Act

I also want to talk on the review of the *Mining Act* which has been introduced now. The review of this industry which is the foundation of this country because it was founded by

mining when the first mining project was at Sudas Island in Milne bay Province in 1887, and the rest of this country opened up basically because the mineral exploration.

Now, we have staff from Department of Mineral Policy and Geo-hazards who are operating from the comfort of their air-conditioned offices and are trying to deliberate and revise mining laws that will impact on the industry that is responsible for the wellbeing of this country. They have shutout other stakeholders including the mining industry itself and MRA. These sorts of practices must not be allowed; we cannot allow one particular department to dictate. It should be multi-government agencies looking into it and the entire industry or the spectrum is involved so that the final outcome is in the best interest of this country.

17/07

Increase employment opportunity

Mr BIRE KIMISOPA (Goroka) – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, I would like to take the next couple minutes in my grievances debate perhaps to echo before this estimable Parliament, one of our pressing issues that will perhaps engulf all of us in the years to come.

Mr Acting Speaker, my issue is about providing decent employment for our people. And I say that quite deliberately because I believe we miss a golden opportunity when we launched the LNG and also given the enormous public investment we have made in terms of the South Pacific Games.

Mr Acting Speaker, providing employment for our people and decent job will be the greatest moral challenge for this Parliament and the years to come.

Mr Acting Speaker, it is important and the onus is on us to create a middle class in this country and I say so deliberately having witnessed the launching of the SME Projects Policy. I believe, if we create a middle class the next wave of employment will come through our own people who are actively involved in business.

Mr Acting Speaker, in terms of the middle class I am referring to Papua New Guineans earning roughly about K50 000 – K250 000 per annum. We have to create that middle class for our people so that they can become the next wave of employers in this country.

Mr Acting Speaker, the present demographic seem to suggest that between the ages of 15 right up to 25 would perhaps dominate this country. Young girls and boys between the ages of 15 to 25 make up a sizeable chunk of our population. Now if you consider the population growth rate that we are experiencing at this present time perhaps over three

percent annually the numbers is quite huge and the demand is quite substantial. So creating employment for our people must be an urgent priority for this Parliament and the years to come.

Mr Acting Speaker, the next wave of employment that we need to seriously consider in light of what we have missed out in terms of the LNG and the infrastructure development in the Pacific Games; I am specifically referring to jobs perhaps more important at this present times; they are your boiler maker, electrician, welders, carpenters and mechanics. And this is the field that we need to be embarking on.

Mr Acting Speaker, it appears to me that there are very little job opportunities for those in the higher brackets and go on to universities to become doctors, lawyers and engineers. I don't think there is enough space anymore.

What seem to be confronting us at this present time is the huge population that's on our streets as we speak, they are looking for jobs that I have mentioned earlier on. Your technical skills job and this must be our pre-occupation. And if we can take advantage of that in light of some of the developments that will be taking place in the years to come; perhaps we can stop some of this fly-in and fly-out.

What is the point of bringing in an Australian who is a boiler maker, welder and electrician when we can produce our own people take up those important jobs in our country.

Mr Acting Speaker, sometimes I believe it's an inappropriate word to use at this point in time, but we have to be racist enough to understand that this country is ours and it belongs to our people and the jobs that we create in terms of the contracts that we award must go to our people.

18/07

Mr Acting Speaker, for instance you and I cannot go to China and ask for a job to become an electrician or even a carpenter or we cannot go to Australia and ask to become a boilermaker or a welder. But definitely in this country we ought to do that. That's an official employment that's ready for doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers but there is hardly any space because we are not creating space for this technically up-skilled Papua New Guineans who can fit that category that is urgently needed in this country.

Mr Acting Speaker, if we can embark on that road at least we will give our people the confidence and the faith they have in their Government.

Not all of them will become doctors, accountants, engineers but definitely somewhere in this country a lot more of our people have tool boxes and there is a hammer, a welding machine there. If we can look into that area which I believe is lacking and perhaps put forward a policy that is deliberate and racist enough that we can protect the jobs for our people.

Mr Acting Speaker, the announcement made by the Government on SME, where it is going? You can draw from the number of Papua New Guinean entrepreneurs to be your electricians, bricklayers, will be boilermakers and this is the pool that you will draw the next wave of entrepreneurs in this country.

Mr JIM KAS (Madang) – Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to contribute by not making any complaints but on behalf of the internally displaced people of Manam. It has been a burden for almost 12 years.

In October 2004 when the Manam volcano erupted and the National Disaster Office told them that the Government will come back and address their problem after six months.

It's going to almost 12 years now and yesterday on behalf of the people of Manam I would like to thank this Parliament for a decision made to give my people of Manam Islanders, not only Manam Islanders but the host communities. We have been mentioning Manam Islanders only and have forgotten the important people who are the landowners of Postem Plantation, Asurumba Plantation and the Mangem Care Centres. The 20 000 plus people of Manam who have been living in the care centres have exerted a lot of pressure on the landowners and it has been a time bomb at the care centres when sharing resources with the original landowners. That is to say for one coconut tree you have landowners and Manam Islanders competing for it including one betel nut tree. And then you have that problem of land shortage, food shortage and what this Parliament did yesterday was historical and I simply want to say thank you and commend each and every one on both sides of the Floor. We did it without debate because this Government owes it to the internally displaced people because it is our responsibility which we have not addressed over 11-12 years.

Mr Acting Speaker, a very significant thing happened on Wednesday when I was continuously raising points of order against the deferral of debate. I want to commend the Prime Minister simply because for the Prime Minister to leave his Chair and walk all the way here to ask me to go into the Government lobby and work out a position of the amendment or reword the amendment was very humbling and I would like to commend you sir.

(Members applauding)

19/07

Mr JIM KAS – The steps that you have taken have made a lot of difference and that is why the Bill was passed yesterday. Had you not walked to ask me to the government lobby and asked to write up the amendment properly, it would not have been passed yesterday.

On behalf of the displaced people of Manam, the efforts and steps you took to make this amendments has worked wonders. That is why the Bill got the total support of Parliament and it was passed yesterday.

I would like to thank you personally, Mr Prime Minister, for what you have done. There are other leaders as well whom I would like to also thank. For instance, the Leader for Government Business, my sincere thank you to you. You withstood the pressure from both the Member for Bogia and myself for bombarding you in getting this Bill passed. Therefore, I thank you for your leadership.

I would like to thank the provincial executive council and the provincial administrator who have to be commended for their part as well. I would also like to thank the people of Andurum for making more than 10 hectares of land available to finally resettle the Manam Islanders.

To my people of Andurum for their understanding to cater for 20, 000 Manam Islanders to settle at Andurum, I thank you. I know that this was not an easy decision to make by this people from Bogia but I would like to thank them for their understanding.

I would also like to thank the Madang provincial administration for establishing a forward base at Bogia or Holy Spirit High School to direct a course of resettlement programme at Andurum.

Finally, I appeal to the government, Ministers for Finance and Treasury and the Prime Minister if a budget can be allocated to aid the resettlement programme for the Manam Islanders at Andurum.

Mr Acting Speaker, thank you, for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Mr SASINDRA MUTHUVEL (West New Britain) – I would like to participate in this grievance debate to raise some of our concerns.

Mr Acting Speaker, time and time again I have been continuously explaining. We in West New Britain, and I feel a bit ashamed to repeat our contribution to the country but it is necessary to inform this Honourable Parliament of this.

West New Britain is one of the economic power house of this country but not through mining, oil, LNG or gas. It is the green gold through agriculture even though we raised issues about agriculture and about promoting it.

Mr Acting Speaker, over K6.1 billion of revenue is generated by the agricultural industry to the National Purse.

From the 2011 census, West New Britain has a population of about 264, 264 in the 2011 preliminary population figures and currently we have well over 320, 000.

Mr Acting Speaker, Talasea alone has a population of almost 230, 000 with a land mass of almost 10, 000 square kilometres. This particular district is also not easy to govern simply because of the population size, land mass and the difficulty of services delivery which also includes Bali Vitu Island the two islands in the Talasea district.

I am so thankful for this Ninth Parliament and the Prime Minister and his Government that the government is seriously trying to address the issue regarding the Electoral Boundaries Report which was rejected by the previous government.

20/07

Mr Acting Speaker, it is essentially important that we address this issues in this term of Parliament to give those additional electorates to the people for the simple reason being that such a big district cannot be governed by just one Member.

Mr Acting Speaker, with due respected to the Public Service Minister and also Member for Rabaul, a population of Abau District is about 50 000 while Rabaul District is about 37 000. Can you imagine 37 000 people receiving K10 million and as the same amount of K10 million DSIP also given to Talaisa District. How well shall we share this wealth? It is not even directly proportionate to the size of the population and also to the cost of service delivery.

Mr Acting Speaker, I just want to prove a point that yes, our Planning Minister has his own view of giving additional funds to those big electorates but many times, it doesn't work. I have experienced it when budgeting for my District because it is extremely difficult to allocate to one district and when we allocate more funding just because of its bigger size, many Members will question that. So the simple rationale is to create additional electorates

so that our people can be represented properly. They deserve a leader from that particular electorate to represent them in Parliament.

Mr Acting Speaker, when the National Government introduced oil palm to West New Britain in the 1960s, its a joint venture project by the National Government and the World Bank to create a big agriculture industry and generate revenue for the country. When the concept came about, it was meant for one family of four to five people to cultivate four hectares of land to grow oil palm and settle. But today, we have about five to six families there sharing the same revenue. Oil palm price has also dropped to K200 per tonne.

Mr Acting Speaker, we always have a social tension in the Province because of the high population growth and the demand in each oil palm block. The price of oil palm has declined due to the continuous draught with the recent heavy rainfalls and the unfair weather conditions and I appeal to the government to consider wavering the land rent especially for all the oil palm growers. We can subsidise this from our DSIP and PSIP funds but it is like taking from one packet and putting it into another packet.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government through the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Lands to wave this by consider making a submission to NEC and for the government to consider waving it. So that should be some sort of a remedy to the farmers to address the drought issues.

Mr Acting Speaker, that is also a kind of false perception because they think that we have a lot of money with BPNG and why we are not spending that money. I can spend that money provided there are some guarantee or assurance from the government that they will reimburse it.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is seen as our future savings. It's there as shares and we can't spend it but now we liquidate it because we are forced and left with no other option. Also because another big company bought the asset and acquired 80 per cent and if we don't sell, then it will be a forced take-over.

So this share is seen as the future savings so we are putting this money to maintain the principle amount to be generated out of the sale. We are spending money from the interest income derived from that principal to support our development budget.

Mr Acting Speaker, but for any infrastructure development, we can spend with the endorsement from our provincial assembly and the provincial executive council with the understanding that the National Government can consider from this crucial year to host our PNG Games.

21/07

Mr Acting Speaker, it is true I am not a sports person but I think it is an opportunity for every province to showcase its potential. On that basis, when we host this PNG Games it brings some sports infrastructure, educational infrastructure and at the same time promote our province.

Mr Acting Speaker, we have been belittled many times in the New Guinea Islands region. Despite, West New Britain province being an economic power house in the region, we still receive less attention. Sometimes, we have to go out and seek attention from the government so that it is continuously reminded that we exist. The PNG Games is a national event and not a provincial event. It is an initiative of the national government and we bid for it so we will provide whatever necessary needs for the games.

Mr Acting Speaker, I do understand it is one of the most expensive events but it was in my interest that we will get additional infrastructures facilities and that is why we bid for it. I welcomed the Prime Ministers suggestions about having the games every three or four years to avoid the huge expenses in a short period of time.

In our country, people like to criticism what you do. Criticism comes much easier than craftsmanship. Therefore, to avoid criticism one has to do nothing, say nothing and be nothing. I salute this Government because despite all the pressure they have delivered lots of infrastructures, not just in Port Moresby but throughout the country. There are currently some activities going on in each of our 89 districts and for that alone I salute this Government. Thank you.

Mr ATI WOBIRO (Western) – Mr Acting Speaker, thank you for recognising the people of Western province. There are some issues regarding my province that I would like to discuss during this grievance debate. An issue that is of national importance that I want to also discuss.

Firstly, I would like to commend our Prime Minister for his leadership. I am very fortunate to have come into politics and Parliament at this time under a Government that is really delivering. I want thank him for his leadership in the redevelopment and the reorganisation of Ok Tedi Mine which has been a very important contributor of revenue and employment to this country.

Mr Acting Speaker, as you would recall some years back when this Parliament passed the new Ok Tedi Act for the State to takeover. The Prime Minister soon after that involved

the leaders of the Western province to discuss ownership of the mine. After much discussions, and negotiations, the Prime Minister agreed to give to the people of Western province 33.33 percent which I am very thankful for.

I realised that this has not been done before with any other mines but the Prime Minister has given this to the people of Western province as part for his appreciation for what Ok Tedi has done for this nation.

22/07

Mr Acting Speaker, I hope through the appropriate Government processes, the 33.33 per cent that was given to the people of Western Province and already distributed to the different stakeholders in the province. That the National Executive Council and the Government, will now finalise that arrangement so there is legal basis to the distributions or transfer of those shares to the people of Western Province as you aware.

Mr Acting Speaker, OK Tedi has now started. Provincial Government, the people of Western Province, and Stakeholders are keen to start receiving dividends based on the new shareholder arrangement.

Mr Acting Speaker, through you, I want to again put this request from the people of Western Province that the processed of the Legal transfer of the shares be finalist soon.

Mr Acting Speaker, one other issues that is affecting the people of Western Province is the long protected court cases in Singapore over the assets and the long term funds especially held through the PNG Sustained Development program.

I don't know what is happening now with the court case but I would like the government through its systems ensure this court cases are settled quickly so that the funds are released back to the people of Western Province.

The money belongs to the people of Western Province and the people have been asking me as the governor as to when are they going to see this money. Because very little is currently happening in the western province in terms of development.

We are hoping as the Governor and the Members from Western Province, this money will be returned back. We have already discussed amongst ourselves with OK Tedi Development Foundation an appropriate structure that will receive and manage the dividends from the long term funds.

Mr Acting Speaker, through you to the Prime Minister it is not the intention of the province to bring all the money back. We understand it is in the vicinity of K4 billion. Our

intention is through the help of National Government, to bring all dividends and keep the principal overseas in profitable investment ventures. We have now entered into discussions on an appropriate entity and discussions are going together with OK Tedi Development Foundation and our lawyers and other interested people. We are happy coming up with an entity that is independent of the provincial government or political interference as a development entity taking in the structures or lessons learned by Minerals Resources Development Company and how it will be organized, as well as OK Tedi Development Foundation.

Mr Acting Speaker, I appeal to the Prime Minister and to the government to help us settle this legal issue, so that the people of Western Province who have being denied their right for too long for these funds to return back to them.

Mr Acting Speaker, I just want to speak on the importance of education. Again, I am grateful to be part of this government that is going to leave the legacy behind in terms of the efforts that this government through the leadership of Prime Minister is putting towards improving Education in this country.

Educations as we all know is very important. With an educated population we can address a lot of our development constraints and development challenges.

23/07

We are already doing a lot in giving everybody an opportunity to improve education, giving every child the opportunity to be educated in this country and I commend the Government for taking that leadership.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want us to look at the next stage and that is the tertiary level of education. I think that with the kind of success at the elementary, primary, high school, and National high school we will find ourselves confronted with a bottleneck output. With limited number of tertiary institutions especially universities, we will find that there is not enough space. And what was a genuine strategy to give everybody an equal opportunity to improve their education and skill, we will find a lot of frustrated people. Mr Acting Speaker, I want to suggest to the Prime Minister and the Government, maybe the time is too short to look at this current Parliament but perhaps in the next that the Government make a deliberate decision to look at the budgetary assistance we are getting from Australia.

Mr Acting Speaker, I suggest that up to 50 per cent or half of the money that is given be locked up for education and training our people in Australia. We need to give our people

the opportunity to be trained with the very best. To make them marketable not only here in Papua New Guinea but overseas as well. I think we will go a long way if we take this approach. We are talking about skilled people at Trades level.

We have a constraint in this country and if we take advantage of this free money that is coming from Australia and utilise it in tertiary education and we send our students to be trained there, then we free up the places here in our institutions within the country for all other students to be given the opportunity. I think it is the way forward. We will also be improving the standard of education our children will be receiving.

I don't want to be racist here but every time I go to Australia I see Indians and Chinese and all other nationalities taking over Australian institutions and these countries have no historical relations as we do, yet we are not taking advantage of that. So I hope in the next Parliament we will seriously look at those options.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker for the opportunity to speak.

Motion – That the grievances be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m..