

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 25 October 2016

DRAFT HANSARD

SUBJECT:

PAGE No:

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER.....	1
CERTIFICATION OF ACT AND LAWS	2
QUESTIONS	2
Lae Road Sealing	2
Lae/Nadzab Road	5
Balancing the Supplementary Budget	6
Payments for Hela LNG Landowners	7
Kikori Pipeline Payouts	8
Common Roll Updates	9
Duran Farm Land Titles.....	10
ILG Registration, Not Land Titles.....	11
Kairuku-Hiri and Goilala Road Projects.....	13
Restore PTB System	16
Hosting the APEC Summit.....	17
MOTION BY LEAVE	23
PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN.....	23
ADJOURNMENT	23

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 25 October 2016.

The Parliament met at 2 p.m. according to the terms of its resolution of 25 August 2016.

The Speaker (**Mr Theo Zurenuoc**) took the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended.

The Speaker again took the Chair at 3 p.m., and invited the Member for Sohe and Minister for Community Development, Religion and Family Affairs, **Honourable Dellilah Gore** to say Prayers:

‘Lord we assemble before your merciful throne and ask and seek your forgiveness for all our wrongs and sins in our thoughts and deeds. And Father we please ask you to help us make decisions that are good for your people. Lord thank you for choosing us to be the leaders of this great nation.

This afternoon Lord, we pray for our Speaker, Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, all the Ministers, backbenchers and Members of this Parliament. Father we ask you for the portion of your wisdom as your spirit leads us into decisions and discussions that we make this afternoon.

Thank you Lord for your son Jesus that came and died for us our Calvary. Father as we all gather together our voices, we recite the prayer that you have thought us. Amen.’

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings met and resolved today that the National Broadcasting Corporation will be allowed to broadcast live

Questions Time and *TVWan* will be allowed be film and telecast live Questions Time for news purposes only for the duration of this meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF ACT AND LAWS

Mr SPEAKER – I have to inform Parliament that in accordance with *Section 110* of the *Constitution*, I have certified an Act and two laws made by the Parliament listed below:

(1) Kumul Consolidated Holdings (Amendments) Act 2016

(2) Constitutional Amendment No. 44 (Papua New Guinea's Ownership of Hydrocarbons and Minerals and the Consolidation and Commercialisation of Papua New Guinea's Business) Law 2016

(3) Organic Law on Papua New Guinean's Ownership of Hydrocarbon and Minerals and the Consolidation and Commercialisation of Papua New Guinea's Business Law 2016

02/02

QUESTIONS

Lae Road Sealing

Ms LOUJAYA KOUJA – Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of Lae, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister for Works.

Mr Speaker, pertaining to the Bumayong-Unitech Road and the Melfordhaven Road, if we were to conduct measurable economic justification and a benefit cost analysis on these two roads as well as the Bulolo-Menyamya Road, we would hence down be able to repay the K89 million World Bank Loan that was used to do the Alotau, East Cape Road and the Finchhafen Road. I would like to ask two questions to the honourable Minister.

First of all your justification on the awarding of this recognition to these two roads when we have outstanding with regards to economic viability and other factors, what was your criteria used?

Secondly, will you have the Bumayong-Unitech Road and the Melfordhaven Road sealed before 2017 Elections?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Member for Lae for these two important questions.

First one is in relation to the two roads remaining in Lae City, one of them is about 700 meters; that is from Bumayong to pass Unitech. That is a small section which remains and another one as you correctly put is from the wharf to the market, Melfordhaven Road.

I want to answer the question this way that is the only remaining section in Lae City. As everybody knows and the Member for Lae would appreciate that before this Government intervened to correct the serious road infrastructure problems in the city in the last four years, you will note that we have converted that city from a porthole city to a concrete city and I would like to ask you to acknowledge that and I thank this Government for their serious intervention.

Mr Speaker, on the only two sections remaining, we will be making arrangements for them to be sealed which will complete full complement the 45 kilometres in Lae city. So I want to assure the honourable member that this is under control and we will be attending to those two remaining sections between now and June next year.

In relation to justifications for choosing East Cape Road against Wau-Bulolo, there is no discriminations. As far as I am aware, the criteria used for selecting these roads were done by the donor agencies themselves and in this case it is the World Bank.

(Opposition Members disagreeing)

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – You are not sure yourself so keep quiet!

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! Tell the truth. I have the opportunity to meet with the World Bank and they said that your Government chose the road.

(Opposition Members objecting)

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – If you have been talking to the World Bank, I will ask you to talk to them and they will give the Wau-Bulolo Road as a priority for next year otherwise you are lying to Parliament.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – The two of you don't know what you are talking about.

(Uproar in the Chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Let's have some Order!

(Opposition Members interjecting)

Mr SPEAKER – Minister have you finished answering your questions.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Members of Parliament from the other side should withdraw that statement because we must be grateful for the funding that comes from the donor agencies and how they go about doing their business.

03/01

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! I understand the Minister for Work's predicament because he is left out of the planning process. The truth is that the Minister for Planning plans that as part of the Medium Term Development Strategy and development agents like the World Bank take cue from what the Government plans. That is the truth that you need to educate other Ministers.

Mr SPEAKER – Please take your seat and allow the Minister to complete answering the questions.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – My question to you is; why didn't you do it when you had the opportunity?

(Mr Don Polye interjecting)

Mr SPEAKER – You leaders should not be allowing a debate between yourselves. The Minister is supposed to answer the questions from the Member for Lae which I believe he has done so we will take new a question from the Member for Kabwum.

Supplementary Question

Lae-Nadzab Road

Mr BOB DADAE – Before I ask my Supplementary Question, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister and his government including the Works Minister and all the hard working ministers of Parliament who are doing everything possible to change this nation within four years.

As a member from Morobe, we have been given projects and promised projects to the value of more than K8.5 billion, therefore, I thank this Government.

My two supplementary questions are as follows:

(1) With regard to the Lae-Nadzab Road, will this project continue to Nadzab and if so, how soon do we expect that in phase two?

Apart from me, the Member for Menyamya and Bulolo are aware of the Markham River nearly removing the road there.

(2) Has the Works Department of Morobe or the National Government for that matter put any notice to inform you?

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I thank the Member for his questions. In relation to the second question, I am not aware of the situation so I will consult my department and give a written answer in due course.

With regard to the first question, the project is an on-going project of the National Government and it will continue up to Nadzab. In due course the Cabinet will make decisions to award contracts to complete the two phases. The first phase has been completed and the second phase will be from Nine Mile to Yalu Bridge. The third phase will be from the Yalu Bridge to Nadzab.

Balancing the Supplementary Budget

Mr KERENGA KUA – I direct my two questions to the Treasurer. In August we passed a Supplementary Budget and the purpose of a supplementary budget is to bring revenue and expenditure together and harmonise them. Up till August they were never harmonised. The revenue was not keeping phase with the expenditure predictions in the Budget. We therefore amended the Budget in August which is about three months ago and since then Mr Speaker, still the Budget has not aligned itself.

04/01

My questions are;

(1) Can the Treasurer give us some assurance that he will be able to align the expenditure so that we can be able to fully execute the Budget before the end of the year?

(2) Can the Treasurer give some assurance that within the remaining two months that he is confident of being able to raise that revenue?

Thank you.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the honourable Leader of the National Party and Member for Sinasina-Yonggamugl for his questions in relation to Budget management, including the alignment of the Supplementary Budget.

I can assure the Honourable Member that when the year ends the government will balance its books and there is no reason to press on the panic button.

All I can say is that warrants are being released, Government is paying its bills including wages and salaries, salaries for members of parliament and the commitment of the government has been entertained so I do not see any reason to press a panic button. I want to assure the Honourable Members that in consultation with the Prime Minister we have taken a decision to make sure that the commitments we have for all our programs are met including the disbursement of PSIP and DSIP Funds if that is what the honourable member is alluding to.

So I can assure the honourable Parliament and the people of our country that the Government is in control and by the time we close our books on 26 December the Government will balance its books and we will with no doubt meet all of our commitments.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Payments for Hela LNG Landowners

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Finance, Treasury and Petroleum, Minerals and Energy to take note of.

Can the Prime Minister through this Honourable House tell the people of Hela of when the Beneficiaries Agreement Funds will be paid to the LNG landowners?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER O’NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the Member for Lagaip-Pogera for this question about the benefits in relation to LNG Project in the Hela Province.

Firstly, Mr Speaker, it is not only the Hela Province but the benefits that goes across over many of the PDL areas including the pipeline owners especially the plant site owners as well.

Mr Speaker, today as we speak there is close to well over K200 million sitting in the Trust Fund at the Central Bank of the benefits that are due to the landowners.

Mr Speaker, there are various landowner cases that are going on at present Orders have been given to government by the National Court and Supreme Court initiated by various landowners themselves against themselves and against government of making payments to individuals and of course proper landowners from these funds that are available. Until those cases are resolved as in the resent cases of some of the benefits for the grants that were due to the – PDL 7 and PDL 1 landowners, the Government was ready to make a payment of K35 million but again another court order has restricted that payment to be made.

Today, a cheque of K35 million has been written, it is still held by Treasury and of course it will be only released when those court orders have been lifted.

Mr Speaker, we are talking to all the litigants and we are talking to all the landowners to try and resolve all the issues amicably so that we can pay the landowners the rightful benefits that they deserve.

Mr Speaker, we are not in the business of withholding the benefits that we have agreed to by the previous government in the UBSA Agreement that was signed in Kokopo.

05/01

We can only do so when the seven or eight cases that were initiated by the landowners are fully discharged with. That is where we are, it is certainly beyond the control of the

Government. It is now in the hands of the Courts and we are encouraging our Solicitor General and their team to ensure we try and discharge these issues because it is aggravating a lot of landowners in the PDL area. That is the last thing we want to do, we want to make sure that they are receiving their benefits that they are entitled to.

Mr Speaker, we are working closely with the leaders of those provinces, leaders of the landowner groups and we are working closely also with all the developers in trying to resolve these matters as quickly as possible.

Supplementary Question

Kikori Pipeline Payouts

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – On record there is no issue on the pipeline segmentation, Kikori people have not taken a Court Order or any other thing of that matter, our case is a clear one, so my question to you Mr Prime Minister is very direct. When will the Kikori people get their payout, because we can't be caught in the Southern Highlands activity where the pipeline agreement is very specific? So I stand here on behalf of my people, thank you.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I thank the member for Kikori for his supplementary question.

Mr Speaker, this benefit comes out from a single project, which is the LNG project. We have to discharge all our obligations to all the landowners fairly and equally and at the same time. That is where we are.

Mr Speaker, we cannot pick and choose, I'm not in the business of picking and choosing. That money is not going to be mismanaged, it has been managed by Central Bank, and it will be there for their taking and will be there to be paid out when the issues there are being resolved amicably.

Mr Speaker, we have landowners popping up every day because the Opposition leader and his team, when they were in the Government, didn't do a good job. We are just cleaning up his mess.

You should stop talking when people are trying to make sense out of what's going on.

(Members interjecting)

Mr Mark Maipakai – Point of Order! My questions are very specific, I'm not part of all those litigation issues, I opened a separate agreement for the Kikori people so there's nothing stopping the payout of the Kikori people, the landowners.

Common Roll Updates

Mr ALLAN MARAT – Mr Speaker, my two questions are directed to the Prime Minister. Firstly, there are some confusions among our voting population surrounding the updating of the electoral roll, which some voters referred to as Common Roll while some refer to it as the eligible roll. And furthermore, some districts have not had any updates.

Mr Speaker to the Prime Minister, are you able to update the people on the current status of the updating process of the electoral roll, or is it the eligible roll?

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the appointment of the Returning officers for each districts throughout the provinces of Papua New Guinea had always been at the recommendation of the Electoral Commission in consultation with stakeholders in the respective provinces. Can you explain the information that is going around that the Cabinet has caused gazettal of a list of Returning officers for the country that has never had any input at all from all stakeholders in the provinces and the Electoral Commission?

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker. The danger about leaders being in gossips and speculations in Parliament without facts are quite concerning. The Electoral Commission must be allowed to do its independent job that it has been tasked by the Constitution to do so. There is no interference from any one including Cabinet and this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the Common Roll has been updated today as we speak today.

06/01

I am advised that the Electoral Commission and its officials are updating the Common Roll starting this week at the districts and the respective provinces. They are not updating Common Roll here in Port Moresby so do not turn up with a list at the Electoral Commission office here in Port Moresby.

They will physically be in the districts and they will be updating all the Common Rolls throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, I am advised that the cleaning process when it comes back into being consolidated here in Port Moresby will take place in January 2017. The final listing of the Common Roll will be scheduled to be gazetted in the February 2017 that is two months before the writs will be issued on the 20 of April 2017.

Mr Speaker, I am sure the Electoral Commissioner is doing his very best and we are going that support to ensure that the Common Roll is an accurate one that will make sure that the right leaders are elected into this Parliament. They are right leaders and not elected by some unknown ghost that we have come to know in the past.

On the appointment of the Returning Officers and Election Managers throughout the country, NEC has no role whatsoever. There is no one single document in Cabinet that support that we can approve the returning officer. That is the sole responsibility of the Electoral Commissioner. He has been advised by Election Steering Committee and of course all his officials and if there are any electorate that is aggrieved by this decision, they have a right to write to the Commissioner and give their reasons why they have been aggrieved so that this appointment can be reconsidered.

Mr Speaker, that is a fair and transparent process. There is no one stopping anyone from engaging with the Commissioner and you can engage with them directly in writing so that you can put your thoughts and concerns in writing.

So, Mr Speaker, again, it is false illusions and NEC has been there midnights trying to appoint returning officers right throughout the country.

Duran Farm Land Titles

Mr JOE KOIM KOMUN – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving the opportunity to the people of Anglimp-South Wahgi to raise a question.

My question is directed to the Minister for Lands Minister. There was an article in the on 17th October, 2016, in the *National Newspaper*, alleging that Lands Department sold a portion of land to some Asian friends.

Here in Papua New Guinea we are chasing out our own people and we give land to foreigners to conduct business.

Can the Minister clarify this situation?

Mr BENNY ALLAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Member for asking the question through you.

Mr Speaker, regarding the article that came out on the paper on the 17 of October alleging that the Lands Department had sold a portion of land close to Duran Farm, I have met with the department and tried to establish whether the allegation was true or false.

Mr Speaker, portion 258 was granted to National Housing Corporation in 2014. Around that area there are four other portions; portion 64, portion 1457, portion 2187 and the new portion that has been added to the list and portion 3229.

07/01

According to the luggage print out, it is revealed that portion 64 is a vacant land at the moment, portion 1457, the title is being held by Mobil Oil New Guinea Limited, portion 2187 the title is with Eagle Mountain Praise Centre under a mission lease and the portion that is in question, portion 3229 was granted to Bank Shield Corporation Limited on 16th July 2016.

Burns Shield Corporation is a national company, owned by a Papua New Guinean. Now, he went through the process and the land board granted the title to that Papua New Guinean who owned Burns Shield Corporation Limited.

The paper alleged that the portion of land was sold to a foreigner, an Asian. We checked through the records and even yesterday we checked with IPA and the title still remains with Bank Shields Corporation. That portion was never sold. Nor was any land near Durham Farm allocated to any member of the Land Board as alleged in the paper.

So, Mr Speaker, those allegations have no substance, they are mere allegations directed at the department. So, I have written a letter to my good brother minister clarifying the issue that came out in the paper.

I want to put the record straight that no land was sold to any foreigner and the title issued on 16th July 2016 is still with a Papua New Guinean firm.

ILG Registration, Not Land Titles

Mr SAM BASIL – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I again direct my question to the Lands Minister.

My question is on behalf of all the land title holders that are situated around our urban areas in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, it is in relation to the ILG registration of the landowners that live around the precincts of the urban areas.

Recently in Lae City and along the Lae City Highway, including some urban areas in the districts, landowners are registering their ILGs with the help and advice of some retired lands officers of the provincial governments. And I am talking about some big companies that are really contributing to the nation. They are being told that once they have their ILG registrations, all the land titles that are issued to those businesses and SMEs, Small to Medium Enterprises along the highway and also within the precincts of the urban areas will be nullified. And that has forced some landowners to block the gates of those companies.

Can the Minister clarify these matters because if it is true I can see that there is a big legal battle looming against the Lands Department by those companies?

If it is not true, can the Minister assure the land title holders across Papua New Guinea that when the ILGs are issued to those local villages along the precincts of the urban areas that their land titles will be safe?

Mr BENNY ALLAN – Mr Speaker, once again, through you, I wish to thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition and Member for Bulolo.

ILGs, or ILG groups are formed by traditional landowners, customary landowners. Now, what we are trying to encourage, through the Department and this Government, is to register their customary lands under ILG arrangements or Voluntary Customary Land Registration. At the moment we are encouraging the landowners who are in the vicinity of our cities and towns and even in the rural areas to undertake this exercise.

08/01

One of them is the controversial SABL that we have but NEC took out a blanket cancellation on the SABL. We are asking them based on the coordination in Aitape in Sandaun that all SABLs which are genuine ones should come forward and see the department so that we register them under the ILGs. Therefore SABL leases are no longer recognised. ILG is not a title, it is a certificate. It is just identifying the landowners in that area. It is one way of identifying the landowners there. We give them a certificate to certify or who are alleging to be landowners.

Once they have an ILG certificate they can then look for other people to help them develop that land. They can go further by registering their land under Voluntary Customary Land Registration and get a customary land title and that can be sub-leased to any investor.

Coming back to your question, will the ILG certificates which are in the hands of foreigners be cancelled? I do not know where you got the information from but –

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! The land titles that is owned by businesses along the cities and the precincts of the cities are being informed by the ILG landowners that once they have the ILG certificate issued their land titles will be nullified which means the ILG will take over. I therefore think that it will create a big problem for the Lands Department. The existing title owners are questioning and they want an answer from you as it is a State land of 99 year lease.

Mr BENNY ALLAN – That clarifies and you mean state land. A state lease is given out for a 99 year lease so it does not affect them. They can lease it up to a 99 year lease until it expires then they can apply for an extension. To answer your question no it does not affect the state lease.

Kairuku-Hiri and Goilala Road Projects

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – My question is directed to the Minister for Works. My question is; can the Minister inform the people of Kairuku-Hiri and Papua New Guineans that some maintenance work can be carried out on the Hiri portion of the Hiritano Highway that runs between Laloki Bridge and Veimari Bridge which is a 48km portion of the highway which has been left to deteriorate in the last 10 years?

On the same token, I wish to thank the O'Neill-Dion Government for giving me three bridges which are Laloki, Brown River and Angabanga.

The second question is can he deny or confirm that the Goilala-Mona Highway is national road alongside Bereina Junction Veifa Hospital Road and the old Waima-Kivori portion of the old Hiritano Highway to the Gulf. As well as the Bereina Junction-Apanaipi portion of the highway that has been left to also deteriorate in the same year after the Government of Sir Julius put the road there some 10 years ago.

These roads have been left to deteriorate and traffic is impassable for most portions and it is an eyesore.

09/01

So from the information we hear, the moneys belonging to our roads have been diverted to other roads within the country which is bad news because we are supposed to be part of a Government that we all served. So can the Minister answer to all these queries that I have because my good governor and myself are being bombarded on *Facebook* saying that we are doing nothing about these roads when it is the responsibility of the Minister to fix them?

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I want to thank the Member for Kairuku-Hiri for this two important questions.

In relation to the first question on the 48 kilometres of road from the Hiritano Highway, and road from Brown River onwards, I want to assure the honourable Member that we have done some maintenance from the road as far as I am aware. But if there are any further problems with the road condition, I will ask my department to investigate and provide the necessary funding as soon as possible. In relation to the road from Bereina to Malalauva and onwards to Kerema, only 10 kilometres from Malalauva towards Ebua Plantation to Kerema. I want to assure the Parliament that this road has been done to very satisfactory condition and the remaining road from Brown River onwards. I agree with the honourable Member that it needs serious attention. And what I would want us to do in the Works Department is to do thorough costing and look at major upgrading next year.

In the relation to the next question with regard to Goilala –

Mr Peter Isoaimo – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the road I am referring to is the Hiri district portion of the Hiritano highway on the west from Laloki Bridge to Veimaui Bridge and not from Brown River, and also I have not seen any improvement on it. The only improvement we have seen is the party sealed from Laloki Bridge to Sabusa and left by some company that were alleged to have been given contract. In my research, there were two companies who were contracted to do the same road but have done nothing. So can the Minister also explain this?

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I am concerned that the contractors are not doing their jobs and I would like further information. I would like the honourable Member to give me the names for the maintenance of the Hiri portion. I want to repeat that we will look at the work that is required and provide funding next year.

In relation to the Goilala Mona Highway, I am aware that we are making some approaches to donor agencies on that one and in time when the detailed designs and costing are done, this road will be given priority. I want to assure the honourable Member that the Government today in the last four years has been for the first time all-inclusive, has addressed the problems of districts roads, town roads, highways and city roads in a coordinated manner. None of the districts have been forgotten.

10/01

I want to assure the Parliament and Members that we are not bias. It is not correct because we all want to be included.

Mr William Samb – Point of Order! Can the Minister confirm the Member’s question that that portion of road is a National Road and if it is then how did you spend K3 million of Goilala people’s money on –

Mr SPEAKER – You are raising a new issue here so Minister please continue.

(Opposition Members interjecting)

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I want to repeat once again that the Works Department has not diverted any funds that is ear-marked for any project in Papua New Guinea. For the benefit of the Member for Goilala, I have mentioned to him in our discussions that we are trying to approach various donor agencies to put that road on the agenda and we are doing that.

I want to ask the Member if he can come to the Works Ministry as a former servant of that department and he is very familiar as to the processes there. I do not want to name the donor agencies that are involved because it is premature.

I want to assure the people of Central province and in particular the people of Goilala and the people of Kairuku-Hiri that we are giving every attention to all our roads in Papua New Guinea including the one in Kairuku-Hiri and Goilala. Therefore the perception that some Members of Parliament want to create that we are bias is not true.

The other issue is that if some of these roads are deteriorating then what is happening to your DSIP Funds? Where are you putting all your money?

(Opposition Members interjecting)

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Yeah I am asking the question. You and the Opposition Leader should listen because you both don't know what you are talking about. What happened to the money?

Supplementary Question

Restore PTB System

Mr KERENGA KUA – Could you caution the Minister not to refer me to the World Bank? I want to ask him this.

Many years ago, we had the PTB system to take care of minor road maintenance but since the dismantling of the PTB system the road maintenance became a major problem for the Works Department. Therefore has he got any plans to restore the PTB system so that each province will be responsible for all their own minor maintenance programmes leaving only the big issues to him?

Mr SPEAKER – I think it is a new question but I will allow the Minister to answer. Minister, please go ahead!

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I thank the Member for his question. I don't know if you are aware but some provinces and some districts have PTBs operating. For example, Yangoru-Saussia, Finchhafen, Lae and Mt Hagen.

The Works Department is building roads in those provinces. Apart from all those contractors we are building roads. We are making PTB equipment available in the Finchhafen district. If you want to partner with Works Department then I want you to come sit down with me and we can do the same. You are talking about some historical things that I am not interested in answering.

(Mr Kerenga Kua interjecting)

11/01

Mr PETER O'NEILL – You are talking about some historical things that I am not interested in answering.

(Uproar in the Chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Member for Sinssina-Yonggamugl, resume your seat.
Mr Minister, answer the question.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – He is saying things that I am not interested in answering.

(Uproar in the Chamber)

Mr KERENGA KUA – Mr Speaker, I move a Point of Order!

Mr SPEAKER – No, I will not entertain that

(Opposition Members disagreeing)

Hosting the APEC Summit

Mr DON POLYE – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I would like to ask my questions in regard to the APEC Meeting. I would like to ask the Prime Minister but he doesn't give factual answers so I will ask the Minister for Sports and Events, is he present or not?

I think he should be here because it is a very important question that he must answer but Mr Prime Minister, I will direct my question to you.

The APEC Summit that will be hosted by PNG is going to be an expensive program. When I was the Treasurer in your government I advised you that it is not a good idea but you went to Indonesia and brought that meeting to come here to PNG.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Leader direct your question through the Chair.

Mr DON POLYE – Mr Speaker, my question is that I am very confused because every time the Prime Minister and the Government say something, the whole Nation is confused.

I will give my reasons why we are confused in regard to the APEC Meeting. The Prime Minister released a recent statement – of K120 million or K130 million and his Minister for Sports and Events said K600 million and I heard the Treasurer say, “I will assure you that everything will be alright”, just like that and he said, “Don’t press the panic button, everything is alright”.

But, Mr Speaker, the fact is the Prime Minister and the Minister for Sports and Events have already pressed the panic button because one is quoting one figure while the other is saying something different. It is not a game, APEC is where you find world leaders coming to our country including the President of the United State of America, the President of China and so forth will be coming.

So, my questions are;

(1) What is the real figure, K600 million or K200 million or is there something else?

I am asking the Treasurer, listen, you must give the Prime Minister the right figures.

(Uproar in the Chamber)

Mr DON POLYE – Shut up and listen!

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr DON POLYE – All of you do not know so I am teaching you.

(Government Members Disagreeing)

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Leader, go ahead and ask your question.

Mr DON POLYE – All of you listen, you economic illiterate leaders in this House and you think you know it.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr DON POLYE – (2) Can you justify your answer and tell us what effect it will have on the country or what kind of benefits will we receive and what income investment benefit will we receive?

The third question is regarding the South Pacific Games infrastructure. In 2015 the Minister for Sports and Events said everything will be alright but the Kone Stadium is just standing stagnant with no development to that sports field. And yet, Mr Speaker, it costed the State billions of kina and exceeded the budgeted allocation.

12/01

All the chairs standing on the temporary scuffle are coloured and decorated to cover up the embarrassment. And yet the cost is going beyond billions of kina to the State. No return from it.

This APEC is said to take less than 12 hours for the world leaders to come and the summit three hours and they are gone. And I see the same Minister making same rhetoric and misleading statements around. You give the assurance to the people of this nation.

(3) Is the economy of the country, the cash flow situation, sound and resilient for this APEC meeting to take place? You got to give the confidence. And finally if it's not, tell the truth because when you line up ocean liners out here, you are paying foreigners. No Papua New Guinea SME is going to grow out of this when you get other people coming into this country, you giving more than a billion Kina out of Papua New Guinea to a foreigners and you making this country poor.

If what I'm saying is true, Mr Speaker, then you better make some bold decisions, humble yourself and allow the other side to take charge of the APEC meeting.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Opposition Leader, a man with wisdom and brain for this country.

(Members interjecting)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – You can loud mouth as much as you want but you must learn to listen sometimes. Mr Speaker, you know that, deliberate misinformation generated by the Opposition leader and his team is beyond joke now.

(Mr Kerenga Kua interjecting)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – First-time member for Sinasina-Yongumugl, whether you will come back or not, we'll see.

Mr SPEAKER – I caution the Parliament?

Mr PETER O'NEILL- We have been a member of the APEC community close to twenty-five years and Mr Speaker, Opposition leader, when he was the former Deputy Prime Minister, to the former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, he used to be so proud of representing us as our leader in these meetings.

Mr Speaker, the shameful thing about this is that we are the only member country that has never hosted one meeting, we are just in there for a ride.

Mr Speaker, there comes a time in the country's history that we must show case who we are. Like the Pacific Games that the Opposition Leader continues to say that we spent a billions kina plus and so-forth. There is no documented evidence whatsoever.

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! I wanted to produce some documents on the Floor and asked leave of the Chair and the Parliament to do that but the Government didn't want that. I still have those documents with me and I'm speaking from facts. Remember, if I can recall, it is in the *Hansard*.

Mr PETER O'NEILL- Mr Speaker, he is welcome to lodge it anytime he wants to but as far as the Government is concern, we inherited the Pacific Games three years late and people like the Opposition Leader were demanding that we should cancel it. We are the biggest country, biggest population, biggest economy, aren't you proud of yourself? Isn't it shameful that you cancel such events so that it's political advantage for you?

Mr Speaker, we build all these things because it's for the future benefit of Papua New Guineans. Today, you see the infrastructures that we have built like the stadiums.

13/01

Children, mothers and families go into world's games and events in these assets. Aren't you proud that it is changing the mindset of Papua New Guineans that they are free to travel and be able to ensure that they enjoy the infrastructure that we have built for them?

Mr Speaker, it is not going to benefit us in only one year but it is going to benefit us over 20 to 30 years because these are permanent infrastructures.

Mr Speaker, the Opposition Leader continues to backchat every time when we want to have a serious conversation about these issues in the country but as I said, he should learn to listen sometimes. We do not interject while he speaks, we allow him to speak his mind and say whatever he wants to say so he should learn to listen to other people.

(Mr Don Polye interjecting)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – That is exactly what I am talking about. He will never get anywhere.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the APEC Meeting, the international business community will be here. The 22 countries including Papua New Guinea control 50 per cent of the world's trade so what an opportunity for Papua New Guinea. Honourable Don Polye will not create the jobs or Honourable Kerenga Kua will not create the jobs, it is the investments that we are going to get from these people.

Mr Speaker, how are we going to employ Papua New Guineans, how are we going to create opportunities for them?

Mr Speaker, for the APEC, we are not building anything new.

Mr Kerenga Kua – How?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, we are building only the APEC Haus which will only cost K120 million which was already publicly tendered and has been issued. All the roads and hotels have already been built and that's what is required for the city and now you can see that the private sector has come in because they have confidence where as the Leader of the Opposition does not have the confidence.

Mr Speaker, recently, we have opened the Stanley Hotel and shortly, we will open the Hilton Hotel. We will have about 4 000 beds here in Port Moresby and we will of course

invite the Cruise Liners to come in and they will pay for their stay. It is like paying for a room. When you go and stay in a hotel, you will have to pay, it is not free.

So every business executive; 7 000 plus CEOs of the biggest companies in the world will be here in Papua New Guinea. This is a unique opportunity for our people to engage and take advantage of business opportunities, and when they see world class like ExxonMobil, Total and other companies that have invested in Papua New Guinea, they will come and invest here. We are not going around spending extravagantly because I know we do not have enough revenue to do that.

Mr Speaker, I am not silly to have K500 million road been tendered where only one car travels every month.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I am not that stupid. I don't build that kind of road in my electorate. We have to be realistic. Papua New Guinea is on the verge of change and if you are not going to be part of that change then fine but don't stand in the way. Papua New Guineans want to advance and build a modern country, they want their children to have better opportunities and that is what we are providing.

Mr Speaker, APEC gives us a unique opportunity. We are not spending billions and billions of kina, we are going to host a simple Pacific-style APEC Meeting. The Chinese President has confirmed his attendance well in advance even before we build anything that he will be here. The Japanese Prime Minister has also confirmed and why, because they have confidence in us so we must have the confidence that we will deliver.

Mr Speaker, I know that the election is coming and people are going to push all kinds of agendas but show facts and get the mandates properly rather than recount, by-count and re-elections.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, do it properly and then we can speak for the nation. Thank you Mr Speaker.

(Mr Don Polye interjecting)

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.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

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

That Mr Mai Dop be appointed Chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Pensions and Retirement Benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.50 p.m..