

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 15 February 2013

DRAFT HANSARD

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EIGHTH DAY

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The Speaker (**Mr Theo Zurenouc**) took the Chair at 10.00 a.m., and invited the Honourable Member for Tari-Pori, **Mr James Marabe** to say Prayers:

‘Heavenly Father, righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne. Father this morning we pray, let the same be the foundation of this House.

Papa God, mipela man, bai mipela isot long planti eria. Long dispela as mipela iwokim dispela beten na kam long yu so yu ken kamap strong blong mipela. Yu ken gaidim na lidim mipela. Yu ken givim mipela gutpela tingting so that wanem kain disisen, wanem kain tingting mipela skelim long dispela Haus, Papa God, em mipela iken wokim wantaim honesti na sinsiariti blong wellbeing blong ol pipol blong yu mipela irepresentim long dispela Haus.

Olsem na long soim olsem mipela iman na mipela isot, mipela iwokim dispela beten pikinini blong yu yet itisim mipela long em.’

QUESTIONS

Mr JOSEPH SUNGI – Thank you, Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Transport and I want the Members from the National Capital District to take note.

Over the last few months, having living in Port Moresby, I’ve realized that there are a lot of problems in transportation, especially for the children going to schools.

Does the Transport Minister and the Department have any plans for a railway station to be constructed in Port Moresby City and other centres like Lae? Having gone through our neighbouring cities, the public, especially those ones who cannot afford it and also in competing to try to get into PMVs, it would be easier for them to get on the train and go straight to where they are supposed to be going, especially to the airports and health facilities.

Are there any plans in the Department to establish railways in the cities to alleviate our chronic transport problems?

Mr ANO PALA – Mr Speaker, firstly, let me thank the honourable Member for that very important question.

Mr Speaker, in answer to that question, yes, my Department has now got plans in place to look at a railway system not only in the National Capital District but a railway system that goes from Milne Bay all the way to Kikori and up to the location where the Purari Power Station is going to be established.

This is because we now believe this is the advice from the Department, that a railway system will be the most effective way of, not only moving people but also raw material all the way up to that part of the country.

In relation to the city, yes, the Department is now seriously looking into plans, and I think they are fairly well advanced at this stage, on a railway system for the city.

I will be bringing in a submission to Cabinet to put the policy foundation in place for the Department to move in that direction.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Public Service and I ask the Minister for Justice to take note.

Mr Speaker, my question relates to the outstanding issues surrounding the failed Public Servants Housing Scheme deal sanctioned in 2009 under the leadership of our current Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, about K40 million of public funds earmarked for the Public Servants Housing Scheme was expended and to date, there is no trace of meaningful development on the ground at Eight Mile.

Mr Francis Awesa – Point of Order! I think there is a provision in the *Standing Orders* that if a question has been asked and answered, it cannot be asked again.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Quote the *Standing Order*, don't lie.

Mr SPEAKER – I think there is a provision in the *Standing Orders* for that.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Well, give me the Section and I'll sit down, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER – I think *Section 145* must be in relation to that, a Question that has been answered cannot be renewed. *Standing Order 145* is specific on that, so your point of order is in orders. If you have a question –

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – It's a new question.

Mr SPEAKER – It's referring to the same matter that has been raised a couple of times already so I suggest it is better you put it on paper and direct it.

We have spent a lot of time on that particular question. Please resume your seat, Honourable Member.

Mr MALAKAI TABAR – Thank you, Mr Speaker for recognizing the people of Gazelle. I raise this question to the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and I ask that the Acting Minister for Education, who is also the Chairman of UNESCO, PNG Office and the Minister for Public Service, Honourable Sir Puka Temu to also take note.

02/08

I am compelled to say that the UNESCO PNG Office is in need of urgent intervention by the Government. There is a case of some corrupt practices by the administration.

Mr SPEAKER – Please be reminded that the *Standing Orders* does not require mentioning of names and this reminder goes to all Members of Parliament.

Mr MALAKAI TABAR – Are you aware that almost a third of the money that was misappropriated by this Office was deposited into a family company called Lagaip Holdings?

Are you also aware that these corrupt practices has severed ties for PNG and UNESCO therefore denying our participation and funding and affected our international reputation because of the unaccounted K600 000 spending?

All benefits from UNESCO have been affected and have not been provided for the last four years until all monies are accounted for. And since the National Government has been providing

substantial funding through successive Budgets, is the Prime Minister aware that these funds may have also been subject to abuse.

The Government has moved swiftly to remove certain heads of government departments and statutory organizations on allegations of maladministration and failing to implement government policies. Why hasn't this Government suspended the Head of the UNESCO PNG Office who is also wanted by authorities and is on the run?

Mr PETER O'NEILL - I thank the Member for Gazelle for his questions on this very important issue of UNESCO and the management of the UNESCO Office in our country. I want to say that these are serious allegations. I am not personally aware of the allegations of funds being deposited into family companies.

I take that issue very seriously and I am very concern about the project funding that we have missed out on from UNESCO. I think that is again a very serious issue so I want to inform this honourable Parliament and the Member that I will direct the Acting Minister for Education to bring in an information Paper to Cabinet next week so that we will deal with this matter promptly and of course, I will make a public announcement to that effect.

Mr SPEAKER – I will interrupt Parliament to remind Members of Parliament to study their *Standing Orders* carefully in order to follow the rules of questions. I must make reference to *Standing Order 141* and inform you that general rules apply to Questions. A Question cannot be debated, and Questions should not contain statements of facts or names of persons. There must be no arguments and inferences, assertions and allegations. These are contained in the *Standing Orders*. Please read and follow them carefully.

Mr JOSEPH YOPYYOPY – Thank you, my question is directed to the Minister for Health and I would like the Minister for Public Service to take note.

My question is in relation to the health services provided by the Churches. Sometime ago last year, we had health workers from church run hospitals protest to the Catholic Church in Madang over their salaries, which were not paid for sometime which angered these workers.

The Government gives subsidies in terms of medical supplies and other necessities but the salaries are met by the church agencies that employ them. If we are able to pay teachers

employed by church run schools through the Education Department; why can't we do the same for these health care providers?

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG –Thank you for your question, I have already made a submission to Cabinet, especially on the salary for church health workers to be on par with Public Service salary grading. This submission is also subject to the Ministry of Public Service to look into certain particulars before clearing it for Cabinet consideration.

I am just waiting for the Minister for Public Service and the Department of Personnel Management to come back to me so that the Cabinet can approve it. It is only and fair for the health workers under church run hospitals to be appropriately recognized as they are serving our people in the rural districts.

Mr GARY JUFFA –Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask my question which is directed to the Minister for Mining. Firstly, I want to thank him for his effort in reviewing the Mining Department and its functions in the country.

It is one of the important revenue generating industries in the country but we do not receive maximum benefits from many of these mines.

03/08

Mr Minister, my question is in regards to the inspection of mining activities in the country. A lot of mining activities are occurring all over the country and many of you will also agree that, the provincial governments are not aware of some of these mining activities. Even the Open Members do know how these mining companies obtained their exploration licenses or permits.

(1) Can the Minister assure this Parliament and the people of PNG that there will be a regular audit regarding mining activities in the country?

Many mining companies under the pretense of exploration are actually conducting mining activities. They are moving machines into the areas and actually mining.

(2) Can the Minister tell this Parliament if there is a possibility to have these audits done?

Also, I would like to raise an issue regarding Warden inspection, which is another function of the Mining Department and is poorly funded and does not take place. During the warden inspection, one officer is sent to remote areas to hold talks with landowners of these remote

areas. And in most cases, the officer does not even meet the landowners and returns to write his report saying the landowners have agreed to have exploration done in their areas without the landowners knowing what is going on.

(3) Can we then have a system in place where there is transparency with the provincial governments and the Open Members to be involved in the warden hearings?

This so that we can identify who the real landowners are of the area and also to avoid problems in the future.

(4) Do we receive sufficient funding to carry out regulatory enforcement and monitoring activities to protect the interests of our country?

Mr BYRON CHAN – Thank you, Speaker, I thank the Governor for Oro for his questions. I also thank him for his comments as we are at the moment undertaking mining reviews and reviewing past mining policies.

With regards to your question, Honourable Governor, our people and the Government received full benefits from royalties from various taxes imposed on mining companies. We tax the companies on import, export, wage taxes, government corporate taxes and all other levies imposed on them regarding production and export of the ore. We are also at this time reviewing the benefits of the current taxes and benefits.

As for the inspection activities carried out by the Mining Department, this issue was raised with me and now on the Floor of Parliament. Therefore, I want to assure the Governor that at this time, there is an independent audit going through MRA but regarding administration. Nevertheless, since you raised this matter, I will request the Board to extend their audit to include the other activities that you have mentioned.

Regarding the warden hearing inspection, I would like to make it clear here that; the warden hearing is supposed to be conducted jointly with the provincial governments. This is a requirement as they converse with the provincial government and the provincial government then sets the date. This is advertised, and then the meeting is convened, and after that, the report is compiled.

I have taken note of what the Governor has said in relation to mining wardens who go and areas where they do not meet with the landowners. That is something which is not a failure by the Department or the provincial government but a lack of communication. Some of the areas

that mining explorations are taking place are in the most isolated areas and to bring everybody to one central location is a difficult thing to do. The situation is not helped as there are no means of communication like radio and roads to assist the warden with the hearings.

Therefore, sometimes only a small group of people come to these hearings but they do not reflect the majority of the community. Nevertheless, we are still at the exploration stage as mining does not take place until they go through the whole process. If they discover enough mineral resources to conduct mining, we then engage the company with the officials from MRA to establish who the real landowners of the area are so that there are no issues when the mining lease is issued and activities commence on the ground.

Mr Speaker, at the exploration stage there is only consultation with the people. The *Mining Act* at the moment does not allow communities to interact with exploration companies as they are only there to explore and establish whether there are enough minerals present or not.

To add to that, there is great risk to the exploration companies for the Government has to give them permits to find out if there are minerals because the Government would also like to know.

04/08

There are provisions within the Law that enables the companies to work together with landowners. We are looking at that void and we are amending it to make mining companies interact with communities even at the exploration stage and that goes right down to the wardens hearing in primary stages.

Mr Speaker, my Department is addressing this issue and legislation will be brought before to the Floor of Parliament so that the Governor can support this important legislation.

Mr Speaker, with regards to enforcement, there is a big problem in terms of the enforcement and monitoring of our exports and this has been a concern for this Government, my Department and the people of this country.

In this amendment, we will be addressing those issues. The National Executive Council has approved a PNG Gold Refinery and that is a possible way of controlling and monitoring our gold exports. That is a very important initiative that the Prime Minister has initiated and we are working closely with all stakeholders and the Government to establish a gold refinery in our country. That would answer your question in terms of monitoring and enforcement, which we are

lacking at the moment. And in the past, we have very much depended on information fed to us by the companies.

Stakeholders responsible, the Bank of Papua New Guinea and the Internal Revenue Commission including Customs are the only agencies that assist us in monitoring, controlling and enforcing our exports at this time.

Mr WILLIAM POWI – Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Can the Prime Minister inform the people of Papua New Guinea and this Parliament whether the sum of K31.5 million for the cancelled contract for the Public Service Housing project has been repaid to the Government of Papua New Guinea?

Mr PETER O'NEILL - Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Governor for Southern Highlands for this very important question. Many of our friends in the Opposition are so vocal about this particular matter and I think it needs a bit of clarity and this question gives me an opportunity to do so.

If the Honourable Member for Kundiawa-Gembogl can shut his mouth and listen, it will give me an opportunity to explain to him.

Mr Speaker, as we all know, the contract has been cancelled and I have informed this Parliament and the Government that the National Executive Council has cancelled the contract because the contractor and the State could not agree to a price under which the contractor will sell to the State.

When we went into contract, the amount was K280 000 for a fully furnished, fully fenced three-bedroom house. The contractor given the increases in prices decided that they wanted a variation to that which they asked for K350 000 which the State refused because there is no clause, in the contract, which allowed for variations to take place. Because of that impasse we could not agree to a figure and the State had no choice but to cancel the contract.

The State advanced them K31.5 million for that contract and it was used to buy the land of 200 titles, put services in there like water sewerage and electricity into that land and at the same time sealing all the roads where the houses were supposed to be built.

Mr Speaker, I want to state very clearly that there is no chance for the State to lose any single toea on that because we have now in our custody 200 land titles and we have cancelled the

contract and the contractor has agreed to fully pay back the entire amount of K31.5 million back to the State.

That contract is now with the Attorney General's Office with the State Solicitor to give legal clearance. I can assure this country and this Parliament that that money will be paid back.

Mr Speaker, these people are not little businessmen and women who are involved in this and they did not pop up yesterday to conduct this business here. One of the partners is a long time businessman who owns the Carpenters Group of Companies which includes Boroko Motors, Daltron Electronics and the Carpenters Hardware and he employs over 3 000 Papua New Guineans in his businesses. They have agreed to repay the State the money.

So I see no reason why the Opposition continues to drive this issue. If they have got any issues relating to fraud or anything by all means, take it to the appropriate authorities like the Fraud Squad and the Ombudsman Commission.

Let me state here very clearly that when the money has been paid back to the State as and when the contracts are settled by the State Solicitor, we will park that money in the National Development Bank of Papua New Guinea so that Papua New Guinean Public Servants can borrow the money and build their own houses.

Mr Speaker, for far too long, we have tried all sorts of formulas to try and address the issue of housing in this country and this is one of them where we try to give a subsidized housing scheme for the public servants where the State was going to give K80 000 subsidy for each house through that scheme that we provided.

Unfortunately, the contractor could not deliver and that is the fact of life and we cannot agree to the pricing. We have cancelled the contract because of those facts.

Mr Speaker, I am quite happy to keep answering the same old questions over and over again but I think the Honourable Member for Kundiawa continues barking up the wrong tree and I suggest that he looks elsewhere if he continues that but I urge all of us to be constructive in resolving our housing needs in our country.

05/08

We cannot continue evicting Papua New Guineans from all the rundown Housing Corporation Buildings throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, 200 titles are in our possession, the contract is now being cleared by the State Solicitor, K31.5 million will be returned back to the State.

Just imagine if someone else was on the take on that project, do you think the contractor would give the whole money back, let us use some commonsense.

I think the matter is now put to rest and is with the Attorney General's office and I want to assure the country, as soon we receive the money, it will be parked in the National Development Bank to lend for housing in the country.

Mr JIM KAS -Thank you Mr Speaker, my questions are directed to Minister for Climate Change and Forest. As you drive up to the Parliament House, there's a billboard at the roundabout that reads, 'Papua New Guinea needs to act on climate change and must have a REDD policy'.

Mr Speaker at this juncture, I would also like to acknowledge a champion who first brought notice to this Parliament on the issues of climate change, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare.

Mr Speaker, we cannot ignore climate change issues, we have to acknowledge its permanent presence and accommodate it by way of an Act of Parliament and a clear set of policies.

Mr Speaker;

(1) Can the Minister confirm or deny to the people of PNG if there is a draft Climate Change Bill which is being brought to Parliament for enactment?

(2) Is it true that there was some consultation or no consultation done on the draft Climate Change Bill?

(3) Is it true that the draft that is being brought to Parliament was not done by Papua New Guinean lawyers but by someone from outside?

(4) If it is brought before Parliament, can we have a PNG Climate Change and REDD policy for our nation?

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH - Mr Speaker, I thank the Governor for Madang for his questions in relation to the Climate Change Policy and Bill.

When the issue of climate change was introduced five years ago through the Somare Government, there was little support given and it was parked under the Prime Minister. The

responsibility was then transferred to the Minister for Environment and then to the Minister for Forests. Mr Speaker, leadership was lacking to take the initiative forward.

When I was appointed as the Forest and Climate Change Minister under the O'Neill Government, I realized that there was a huge task ahead as there was no proper policy in place to direct the country on which path to take in addressing climate change issues.

I assure the Honourable Governor and the Parliament that there is a draft policy in place and should be ready to present to the Cabinet by the end of March.

After the Cabinet approves of it there will be a Bill presented to the Parliament to create a law to govern the issue of climate change in the country.

I have given time for those preparing the policy and we should have in place a clear law governing climate change issues by the middle of this year.

I want to clarify that we did not engage outsiders to draft the policy, however, we did have consultations with our development partners.

The Office of Climate Change and Development has undertaken the full responsibility to develop the policy and it will also take full responsibility to create the Bill so that the Parliament will be able to approve it in the middle of the year.

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL - My questions are directed to the Minister for Communication on the current state of affairs of the national broadcaster, *NBC*.

The *NBC* provides an important link to the bulk of our people as far as information is concerned and the Government must ensure that the organization deliver as mandated.

I am informed that the Minister has been presented with the report a month ago citing series allegations and corrupt practices by the current management so;

(1) So what are you doing about the report presented to you?

(2) Do you know that *NBC* currently does not have a Board, and the position of Deputy Managing Director is vacant so how does the current organizational structure and operational budget is approved?

06/08

(3) The process of check and balance in relation to the management efficiency especially in the area of finance is not there in *NBC*. What are you doing about this situation to ensure there is financial accountability and transparency in the financial management of *NBC*?

(4) When are you going to get the *NBC* management to televise more effective radio and TV programs that will support government development initiatives like Pacific Marine Industry, LNG and other impact projects throughout the country?

(5) Finally, when is the Minister going to appoint a Board to restore control and order into this important State institution and to restore morale and professionalism in this institution that was once a national icon? Thank you.

Mr JIM MIRINGTORO – I thank the Governor of West New Britain for his questions. Some of these issues have been raised in the media by some disgruntled staff who cannot accept the corporate reforms and changes now taking place in the *NBC*.

Mr Speaker, in reference to a report handed over to me citing serious allegations of corrupt practices by current *NBC* management, I want to inform this Parliament that this report was brought to me and circulated to some Members of Parliament by some disgruntled employees. This report cited operational payment made was for services provided following proper administrative processes and procedures in the procurement of funds.

The disgruntled staff members also serves the terms of reference for investigation and recommended themselves and others to be appointed to the senior management positions and even went to the extremes of writing NEC submission recommending names for the managing directors position.

Mr Speaker, this was a complete abuse of process, procedures and protocol and signals the work of very desperate people who wanted to get back into *NBC* to continue to mismanage the organisation.

I made my position very clear to *NBC* staff and management as well as the media that I stand by the present management of *NBC* under the leadership of incumbent Mr Memafu Kapera.

Mr Speaker, Mr Kapera's management has set new clear strategic direction in the 2011-2015 Corporate Plan to transform the organization in line with the Government's development priorities.

The *NBC* was K20 million indebt in 2010 but up to the end of last year, that amount has been reduced. There was a lot of abuse and misuse of funds resulting indebted in 2010. In fact, K21 million was allocation in the 2007 Supplementary Budget for the rehabilitation of radio stations and that money was misused with nothing to show-case in the provinces.

Of the K21 million, K4.5 million was committed to a local vehicle supplier who has to this day failed to deliver most of the vehicles. The present *NBC* management has filed legal proceeding against this company who will go to trial very shortly. Major bills incurred for radio and television services are provided by local and overseas suppliers who have never being paid in the past.

Mr Speaker, most of those outstanding bills have been paid and payments to other local suppliers are slowing being reduced. The *NBC* has completed its outstanding audit for 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. It is now moving towards to 2011 audit in consultation with the Auditor General. The *NBC* will undergo major transformation where the organization will operate like a business. The *National Broadcasting Act 1973* allows for this.

Mr Speaker, in relation to question two, the Honourable Governor ask that the *NBC* currently does not have a Board, and the position of the Deputy Managing Director is vacant and how was the current organizational structure and current budget approved.

In relation to the Board, I wish to inform the Governor that the Public Service Commission gave clearance on the Board and I believe we will very soon have a strong Board when NEC deliberates on that.

As for the position of the Deputy Managing Director, the last Board endorsed a review of the *National Broadcasting Corporation Act 1973* to create two deputy positions in the new *NBC* organizational structure changes. One deputy will be the Chief of Operation and the other will be in-charge of corporate and business operations. Once the Board is on the ground, it will amend the *Broadcasting Corporation Act* to facilitate some of these issues that are currently ongoing.

Mr Speaker, in response to question three, the Governor questioned the process of check and balance in relation to management decisions in the area of finance and to ensure

accountability and transparency. That comes under the responsibility of the Office of the Managing Director as the Chief Accounting Officer.

Its quarter acquittals are furnished to the Department of Treasury and I am aware that the commitments are made at executive levels by the Divisional Directors and to the Finance Director for clearance and commitment of funds and then forwarded to the Managing Director for approval. Without this process, the Managing Director does not approve commitment of funds.

07/08

In relation to question four, when will I get the *NBC* management to devise more effective radio and TV programs that will support the Government's development initiatives? Like I said, the *NBC* 2010-2015 Corporate Plan is in line with the Government's Strategic Development Plans to achieve its 2050 Vision. A new format program is being used to broadcast on National and Provincial radio stations where issues of concern for our people are discussed everyday. Television is revamping its program –

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! I think the Minister is not responding to the questions but making a Ministerial Statement because it sounds like it.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I think it is an opportunity for us to understand what is happening with the *NBC* so I will allow the Minister to answer the questions.

Mr JIM MIRINGTORO – Thank you Mr Speaker, the television program revamping its operation with concentration in promoting local context.

Mr Speaker, we are all aware that the *NBC* successfully covered the 2012 National Elections and the PNG Games. It has also been hosting the Government Talk-Back Show and promoting government entities and responsibilities and services. The *NBC* will provide a review of its programs to ensure that it meets its Corporate Objectives.

On question five, the Governor asked what I am doing to appoint the Board to restore control and order in *NBC*'s moral and sense of professionalism in an institution that was once our national icon. Mr Speaker, the Board is now ready to be appointed by the NEC.

I must inform the Governor that there is now control and order in the *NBC*. The moral and sense of professionalism is there but the mindset of the staffs must be changed to absorb the reforms now taking place. There is no room for complacency and everyone is accountable for their own conduct and performance in *NBC*. Bad practices will now be a thing of the past as positions will now be advertised publicly to recruit the best.

Mr Speaker, the *NBC* is still an icon –

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, you will have to tone down now. If you have answered the questions then resume your seat.

Mr JIM MIRINGTORO – I will just summarise.

Mr SPEAKER – You don't need to summarise, I think the questions have been answered.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Motion (by **Mr Francis Potape**) 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 not carried.

Mr FRANCIS POTAPE – Mr Speaker, I would have asked my question to the Minister for IPBC but the Minister for Petroleum was the one that signed the PNG LNG Agreement between the State and the landowners so I am better off asking him instead.

Mr Speaker, I am asking this question on behalf of the provincial governments of Hela, Southern Highlands, Gulf and Central Provinces and their affected LLGs and all the landowners. The Minister knows very well that those of us who participated took six weeks to sign the UBSA

in Kokopo. Why it took six weeks was because the landowners wanted more equity and eventually we agreed at seven per cent where two per cent is free carried and five per cent of the money is to be raised by the landowners in all the affected provinces.

I feel that we have let the landowners down because now the gas will be exported next year but we have done little to raise that money. I want the Prime Minister and all the Governors concerned to take note.

(1) Can this five per cent be free carried by the National Government now so that it will be seven per cent free carried? This is because if you go to Kutubu, Moran, Gobe and Hides, there are no government projects on the ground. There is nothing to show for it and this is not the fault of the current Government but all the past governments have failed the landowners. We can blame the landowners but it is not the blame game anymore and the question now is can the seven per cent be free carried before the gas leaves show? The landowners are now listening.

(2) If they are not going to be free carried, what will the Government do for the landowners for this five per cent?

(3) If this is not going to happen then I am asking for the Minister to call for another forum as to what will happen because the landowners need to know now.

(4) Does the Minister has any plans now to increase the equity for landowners now and in future not just two per cent but it is about time we increase to 10 per cent to 15 per cent because landowners are the owners of the land. It is about time, we do away with the Western laws, and support Members like honourable Buka Kondra that we now come up with give 10 to 15 per cent loyalties to landowners. The Minister has been in that Ministry for a while so does he has any plans to increase the equity for landowners now and in the future in relation to free carried equity?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Komo-Magarima for these very important questions.

Mr Speaker, I will answer the third question first in relation to the possibility of additional equity for our landowners even in relation to petroleum and mining projects as well. It is open to every Member of Parliament to move a Private Members Bill to seek Parliament's approval to increase the equity or it will be an outcome that will be arrived at in consultation with all the

stakeholders, the National Government, the Provincial Government and, of course, the local Members of Parliament.

08/08

It is not the exclusive jurisdiction of my Ministry to determine equity for our land owners.

Mr Speaker, the Member knows that very well and he was once a former Minister for Petroleum and Energy at one stage.

Mr Speaker, there is nothing stopping all of us from working as partners because it is not my private equity and if this Parliament thinks that the time is right now for the entire petroleum regime, and if it's the intention of the Parliament to review that regime and introduction production sharing contra regime or a high breed combining mixture all regime we find in the region. It's up to the Parliament now to decide and I stand ready now to assist.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the other question, again the honourable member knows very well that the question of additional equity for our land owners it was set at 2 per cent free carry and at time the Minister was responsible for State investment insisted on the landowners equity be restricted to that 2 per cent. And the Member knows very well that I was one of those who decided to take off my hat as the Minister and argued for the landowners whom they manage to get an additional equity of 7 per cent and the rest is history.

In relation to the price for the additional equity; again I must confirm that during those negotiations the price was agreed to by now Governor for Hela Province and the former Minister for State Enterprises and it was packed that \$240 million per percentage. Mr Speaker, for the government to increase this additional equity is not a problem but a matter of timing. The Government has the necessary resources to raise the equity in the next 6 or 12 months.

Mr Speaker, we are not in a position that we had 10 years ago when not many international finances were willing to lend to this country. This time around the Government has the credibility and the international finances know who is in charge of the country. They have trust and respect in our Government and it will not be very difficult for them to raise additional equity. This nation is flooded with cash and I can assure our landowners that your government is a responsible one and he will take care of your equity.

In relation to equity, I urge all the Members from Hela, Southern Highlands, Gulf and the Central Province to cooperate and work with me to resolve these outstanding issues and I must

again point out that raising the additional equity for landowners will not be difficult as the government now has the credibility and resource to be able to do that.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent (a) Special Adjournment (b) Establishment and Appointment of a Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery (c) Notice No.37 Government Business being called on forthwith.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr James Marabe**) – put –

That the Parliament at its raising adjourn until Tuesday 19 of March 2013, at 2p.m..

**ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECTOR
REFORM AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

Mr JAMES MARABE (Leader of Government Business) – I move –

That:

(1) This Parliament establishes a Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.

(2) The Committee shall consist of eight members appointed by Parliament and the quorum of the Committee shall be three.

(3) The members of the Committee shall be; Mr Bire Kimisopa as Chairman, Mr Garry Juffa as Deputy Chairman and Mr Mehrra Minnie Kipefa, Mr Philip Undialu, Mr Joseph Lelang and Mr Sasindra Muthuvel as members.

(4) The Committee –

(a) shall have responsibility for matters relating to Public Service Reform generally;

(b) such matters as may be referred to the Committee; and

(c) to investigate and report to the Parliament on such matters as the Committee considers appropriate.

(5) The Committee has power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more which members had to refer to sub-committee any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to consider.

(6) The Committee has power to send for and examine persons, papers and records to move from place to place and to transact business in public or private sessions and to act during recess.

(7) The Chairman of the Committee, or, in his absence, a Member of the Committee may represent the Committee on the appropriate National Executive Council Ministerial Committee for providing liaisons within the Parliament and the Executive in matters relating to Public Service and Public Sector Reform generally.

(8) A Member of the Committee may with the approval of the Speaker represent Papua New Guinea at any international or regional forums.

(9) Research and survey and engage public service for enhancement, review of performance of public service and make findings for recommendations to the Minister for Public Service, the Cabinet and the National Parliament. And any other finding that will contribute towards the improvement of public service performances and productivity.

09/08

Mr Speaker, this Committee is brought in for Parliament's approval to make findings available to improve Public Service performance in this country.

I recommend this to you, Mr Speaker.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
BILL 2010**

First Reading

The Bill presented by **Ms Loujaya Toni** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Ms LOUJAYA TONI (Lae – Minister for Community Development, Religion and Family Affairs) – I ask leave of the Parliament to move the Second Reading forthwith.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Prime Minister, Ministers and Members of Parliament, it is my great pleasure to take this opportunity to present on the Floor of Parliament the amended National Council of Women's Bill for 2010 for its Second Reading.

The *National Council of Women's Incorporation Act of 1979* gives recognition to the National Council of Women (NCW) to represent the voice of the women of Papua New Guinea.

However, the *National Council of Women's Incorporation Act of 1979* denies the full participation of women in development and also denies some of their rights to benefit from the development of the country as beneficiaries and development agents.

The old *NCW Act* is well outdated with the current development changes and challenges of our country in regard to the advancement of women's status and to achieve the National Goal of Equality and Participation and the Universal Development Goals on Gender Equality therefore the *National Council of Women's Incorporation Act* has been amended to suit the development changes and challenges.

Mr Speaker, in this reading of the NCW Amended Bill, I would like it to be accepted to go through the Floor of Parliament as it is very important to amend the old NCW Act to fulfill the country's development aspirations and international commitments.

The major development aspirations that demands the amendments of the *NCW Act* are (1) the amended *Provincial and Local Level Governments Administration Act of 1995* that has created provisions for women representation at the local level government, Joint District Planning and Budget Priorities Committee and representation at the Provincial Assembly.

Mr Speaker, (2) the Universal Development Goal Number Three of Gender Equity is to be recognised and must be given higher priority as Papua New Guinea is a member of the global community and the universal goals are to be achieved by 2015. Papua New Guinea is gradually moving towards achieving this goal.

Mr Speaker, (3) the *Vision 2050* was launched in 2010 and agenda, specific activities and programmes re to be channeled through the NCW network at all levels of the government for the implementation of these programmes and activities.

Mr Speaker, (4) the Medium Term Development Strategic Plan of 2010-2015 is underpinned by economic, social and cultural rights, in particular, goal three promotes gender equality and empowering women. Therefore, for fair and equal distribution of goods and services the National Council of Women is the national mechanism through which the majority of the rural women are provided opportunities to changes.

Mr Speaker, (5) the previous National Women's Policy of 1991 revised and renamed to the National Policy for Women and Gender Equality Policy of 2011-2015 which was launched in March 2012 at the PNG Institute of Public Administration. The policy is aimed and strengthened the position of all members of the community as agents of change and beneficiaries of the development process.

Mr Speaker, (6) international commitments on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Papua New Guinea is a signatory to this

human rights treaty since 1995. This treaty emphasizes that women's rights are human rights and should be given equal attention in all aspects of development. PNG has failed twice to produce the CEDAW periodic report after very four years to the secretariat in New York. However, a combined first, second and third report was presented in 2010. This indicates that in the country is ignored or has been ignored, rather, by the National Government. But we seek to change this.

Mr Speaker, (7) the National Council of Women, Gender Development and Office of the Development for Women are the three women's machineries that are mandated by the government that deals with women's issues directly in this country, each of them carrying out very distinct and significant roles and responsibilities in which the NCW becomes advocacy and implementation agent for the government. Gender based implementation of programmes and ODW or Office of the Development of Women deals with policy matters.

Mr Speaker, (8), I am close to the conclusion. There are 22 Provincial Councils of Women in the country and it has networks down to the district and local level governments and further channeled to ward councils.

10/08

This network must expand at the LLG where the bulk of the women live and work. Women's participation at all levels is critical for moving Papua New Guinea forward to achieve its national and international development goals and aspirations.

Therefore, this Bill is very crucial and important that it should go through the Floor of Parliament for a better future for the women and people of Papua New Guinea to fully achieve the Goals of *Vision 2050*.

With this opportunity, I therefore ask that this be considered and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Members of Parliament for a successful Year of Implementation 2013.

Debate (on motion by **Mr James Marape**) adjourned.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievances be noted.

Mr JIM KAS (Madang) –Thank you for giving me time to speak on behalf of my people of Madang to share some experiences and thoughts, which I consider as relevant to the resources and project agreements in the country. The thoughts I share today stem from my own experiences from being a Member in the 6th Parliament and being an ordinary citizen in the last 10-12 years.

Mr Speaker, my subject is based on the project agreement of past and present and the feelings that most provincial governments are taking for granted in the entire proceedings. Most Port Moresby based Departments and Government Ministers bypass Provincial Governments to advocate for projects with resource owners but when the problems arise, the first port of call for confronting these problems are passed over to the provinces and their provincial governments and LLGs to deal with.

The dilemmas of these experiences is that provincial governments are usually not party to all the agreements, so the question is; why should the provincial governments be party to finding solutions when they were never involved in the first instance?

Protocol that is assumed as missing or existing between the national and provincial governments has to be put in place. The very area of protocol that I have observed that is being taken for granted is the manner in which resource project negotiation and agreements are drawn up. The processes for my own experiences forces provincial governments to be bystanders regarding projects which are located in the province.

Mr Speaker, the National Government, its departmental heads and Ministers' actions recently have shown that they have not used past experiences or some commonsense to dealing with provincial governments. Resource development in the country should as much as possible involve and include all stakeholders.

In the case of Ramu Nickel, Madang Provincial Government has been left out in the entire agreement. As a result, the Madang Provincial Government is a mere spectator and I hope the MOA Review will rectify this misdeed. Since 1972, the Jant Paper Mill that was granted permission to harvest logs of all sizes for the wood chip mill, the woodchip mill company now has ownership changes and only recently ceased operations.

The Madang Provincial Government nor the landowners have never benefited from this project agreement nor were they party to this agreement in the first place. Maybe this was because it was done before Independence.

Mr Speaker, as the Governor of the province, the interests of the people of Madang has never been respected by the very *Acts* of this Parliament. I asked the question without notice to the Prime Minister last week on the possibility of amending or instituting a new legislation to accommodating the experiences of laws before we, as a nation, celebrate 40 years of Independence.

The reply by the Prime Minister was all right but I have this innate feeling in my heart that serious flaw in laws do exist and the onus is on us here now to correct the mistakes so that we have a better 40 years. Other classic project agreements that have made Madang Provincial Government a mere spectator is the RD Tuna Canning project, my provincial governments which represents almost 400,000 people has nothing to show for.

The PMAZ project agreement is another sad story for my people and my provincial government, we have no say in this project and we are trying our best to rectify it. This is the same for the Ramu Agro industries and I am hoping that the Yandera project will be the start of a very good story for the people of Madang.

The point I would simply want to bring to Parliament is that, the National Government must now amend the following acts; the *Mining Act*, to cater for the interests of the landowners, LLGs and Provincial Governments.

The *Oil and Gas* and the *Environment Act, Forestry, Lands, Physical Planning Act* and *Company's Act* for the same reasons; our laws have to be revisited and I think that is the business of being here as elected members.

From experience, provincial governments have become an entity and they are only useful when landowners start grumbling or when there is an industrial disputes and using police personnel and other means to settle these disputes or differences which are only temporary.

11/08

Mr Speaker, the National Government can longer take Provincial Governments, LLGs and landowners for granted. These entities and nominated business arms must be incorporated or allowed by law to have direct percentage equities in all resource project agreement anywhere in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, and fellow elected Members of the Ninth National Parliament, we have not learned lessons from Bougainville and neither from the OK Tedi and Misima Mines, but we do have time on our hands and it is our chance to bring about change. Our people from the oil and gas, now LNG regional areas in the Hela, Southern Highlands, Gulf, Western Province and Central Province can see real benefits and changes if we do it right by law.

Mr Speaker, as Governor of Madang Province, these are the lessons that I have learned to share and I hope that on the 16th of September 2015, when we sing with our hearts our 40th birthday song, that it would have be with conviction and satisfaction that our country is on course for the benefit of our children and grand children in the next 40 years.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr BOB DADAE (Kabwum) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising me.

I rise to raise my grievances in relation to some of the matters that were raised by our Honourable Governor for West New Britain regarding airstrips and third level airlines in Papua New Guinea.

The highlands and the coastal regions are separated by two things. They are the transportation access by roads and by sea. The other transport sector that unites us and makes us common is the air transport. We have inter-provincial airstrips or airports covered by Air Niugini while the rest of Papua New Guinea is covered by small lights aircrafts from small third level airlines.

Many parts of Papua New Guinea depend on air transportation and in Morobe, in particular, which is, Mr Speaker, your area as well. We depend on small light aircrafts and they cover most parts of Morobe where 80 per cent of Morobe is not covered by roads. While many of you Members are talking about putting bitumen on your roads, we Morobeans, are talking

about constructing new roads in our province, and I believe a similar situation can be said for many other provinces as well.

At present, we continue to depend on small aeroplanes to bring vital services to our areas. I am also very happy and thankful to see many Governors taking the initiative now to consider the plights of their people. Such governors like the Governor for Western Province and the Governor for West New Britain.

Therefore, I believe that it would be even better if a big province like Morobe were to do the same as these two governors, and when the election petitions are over between the rival governors of Morobe, then they can purchase a twin otter aircraft to serve the people of Morobe.

Construction of roads will take many years and like my electorate Kabwum, it will take 10 to 20 years. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Minister responsible through you and the National Government to allocate funding next year to improve airstrips throughout Papua New Guinea. The Government has allocate a lot of funding towards the construction and rehabilitation of roads but those of us who do not depend on roads need funding for airstrips and planes to support those businesses trying to survive. This is because the aviation business is very expensive and the small third level airlines are struggling to survive just to provide these basic services to our people.

Companies like North Coast Aviation serve the people of Morobe, Gulf all the way up to Kaintiba and also West New Britain. These companies need to be supported and North Coast Aviation has only two planes, one Islander Vix, which was formerly owned by Talair. The plane is more than 50 or 60 years old and obsolete but still carries passengers, which is risky.

Therefore, I am asking this Government to seriously consider allocating funding to assist our small aircraft operators or subsidise these companies and not to tax them if they want to buy small aircrafts.

As for the airstrips, we have about 15 of them in my district because of the rugged terrain.

12/08

Morobe is a place where you can start up a small airline business because we have the population and you will never go wrong.

Mr Speaker, there must be money allocated to maintain airstrips, construct new airstrips and also for those of us who depend heavily on air transport and the Finance Minister can take note is to allocate an extra K4million funding on top of the K10 million DSIP Funds for subsidies or to buy a small aircraft.

Mr Speaker, that is the plight and concerns of the Morobe, Western, Milne Bay and the Gulf people. In one of my local government areas bordering Rai Coast, it used to be served by MAF before, but because of law and order problems MAF no longer operates. They are now serving the Highlands Region and other parts of Papua New Guinea. So, by way of this debate, I am now making a plea to the Ministers who are responsible for aviation and transportation to take note, and that when you have the discussion regarding aircrafts in this country we would like MAF to return its services in Morobe Province.

I am also appealing to any small airline company in Papua New Guinea to development projects with a set of specific strategies.

Mr AMKAT MAI (West Sepik) – Mr Speaker, thank you for recognizing me and the people of Sandaun province. I would like to contribute to the debate on the possibility of making Vanimo to be the fourth International Port of entry for goods and services. Currently, we are all aware that Port Moresby, Lae and Kimbe are recognized as the international Port of entry for goods especially for countries in South East Asia and Asean countries.

Mr Speaker, we all know that Vanimo has an ideal Port and a good harbour where it has potential into becoming an international port.

West Sepik is located very close to our major trading partners like China, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and our closet neighbour Indonesia and I think the Government should seriously think about transforming Vanimo into an International Port of entry because goods and services from East Sepik and West Sepik come from Lae where it is trucked or shipped into the province making it quite expensive.

Sometimes when goods reach Teleformin, it is very expensive. For example, a packet of sugar I am now buying it at K15.00 and things like tinned fish is about K12.00 and a packet of chicken is about K30.00.

Mr Speaker, I am seriously suggesting on how the Government can think outside of the box and open up other centres.

If we want the economy to progress and make more money then I suggest you consider Vanimo because I know that in the next two or three years our neighbours from Hela Province will be full with cash and I would suggest a road to come down from Hela province all the way through Teleformin down to Sepik and then into Vanimo.

Currently, my people depend on the Lae Port of entry and sometimes we have serious problems where we have to get our goods from optional routes.

I also would like to thank the Government with the initiative of building an highway from Mt Hagen to Baiyer River into Madang but I urge the Government to consider opening a Port of entry in Vanimo because right now we are getting goods from Jayapura into Vanimo. I don't know whether we are doing that legally or illegally but when you are at the back sometimes you have to go from the back door.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr AMKAT MAI – I urge the Government and the relevant government authorities to consider the plight of my people. Recently, you have heard all the problems at the border and usually its about law and order but one of the priorities of my Government is to improve the income generation for my province and in October last year on record when Mr Badu, was presenting his economic report in Papua New Guinea on income generation, West Sepik was the last.

I believe one way the Government can help me improve my economic growth is to sanction Vanimo into a recognized Port of entry for goods and services.

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG (Moresby-North West-Minister Health and HIV and AIDS) – Mr Speaker, I rise as the Member for Moresby-North West and I want to address some mischievous rumours going around especially on the Poreporena/Napanapa Local Development Plan and I would like to speak on it.

Mr Speaker, that plan covers the big village of Poreporena, all the way up to Kanudi, to Baruni, Tatana, Gemo and Daugo all those areas. That is the location of it.

Mr Speaker, more than 90 per cent of the land is customary owned and the area is experiencing a lot of adhoc or unplanned development and acute development pressure due to

the development of ExxonMobil Liquefied Natural Gas Plan that is three miles west of the planned area.

Mr Speaker, the primary object is to address the challenges by focusing on the implementation of orderly development projects with a set of specific strategies.

13/08

The plan is also in response to unplanned corridor of commercial and light industrial projects and unplanned settlements and customary land which are rapidly spreading producing inefficient land uses and urban structures.

Mr Speaker, the plan differs from the other plans that were formulated before it is a tool by authorities and landowners in transitional integrated development.

It also identifies the process to initiate development empowering traditional landowners and mobilizing land for development within a framework.

Poreporena ,Hohadae, Hanaubada, Elavala, Kariu, Gabi, Madae ,Badihagwa, Hagara and Ginigini is one of the pristine located at the south eastern part of the study area and including traditional Motu and Koitabu villages along the eastern side of Port Moresby Harbour.

Recent developments of the Harbour City restricts expansion southward along the coast, community halls, schools, markets, recreation and health facilities are part of the village structure and should be improved to support the communities .

Village plans for each village must be developed with the communities of each village.

Mr Speaker, there is some misleading information circulating in the villages about the relocation.

There will be no relocation.

The NCD Governor and Member for Moresby South and North East are all here and we will work together with the Motu Koitabu Assembly but the talk about relocation is spreading and it's wrong.

Our future, our design characters is for the residential neighborhoods' within related villages and community activities based on conservation, protection and enhancement of traditional buildings, streetscapes, and neighbor patterns particularly for areas built over water.

We'll look at building and strengthening existing community. We will have to see improvements and developments for our Motuan people.

There's heavy flow of traffic from Badihagwa Roundabout all the way to Atlas Steel Ltd and Baruni village. Therefore, we must have a bypass.

The road through Hanuabada village should be utilized as a public transport corridor because of the higher activity that would come due to the big development project that would take place. At the same time, we will look at the recreational open spaces, environmental protection of the off shore and reef.

The Governor will also appoint a new Chairman for the Physical Planning Board.

Mr SPEAKER – Minister, address the Chair.

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG – Sorry, Mr Speaker.

The plan does not recommend the relocation of the traditional villages, Mr Speaker, however it does allow for expansion of existing villages, the only relocation indicated by the plan is the port relocation.

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG - The plan provides an avenue for development opportunities for both developers and traditional landowners and at the same time, ensures best planning principles and practices are adhered to for commercial control and desired outcomes.

My fellow Minister for Lands will also discuss further on the underground water lease.

At least, my people get some benefits from the relocation that will come in the future.
Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA (Vanimo-Green – Leader of the Opposition) – Mr Speaker, I want to urge the National Government to deal with the PNG- Indonesian Border and PNG-Solomon Islands Border.

Mr Speaker, successive Governments and Prime Ministers have been insensitive in addressing the border issues.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister recently announced to encourage investment, trade and infrastructure development along the Borders.

14/08

The people along the border areas as well as the entire nation can benefit tremendously by promoting positive relations and cooperation between our neighbour Indonesia. I believe Indonesia has a lot to offer to Papua New Guinea in terms of trade and investment along the border development. While I welcome the intentions wholeheartedly and pledge the support towards such an initiative however, Mr Speaker, I would like to urge both Governments to do the first things first.

The foremost priority Mr Speaker, is for both Governments to make permanent determination and demarcation of the international border between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. I am suggesting that both Governments sit down with the traditional landowners from both sides of the border and determine where the permanent border must in between our two countries.

Once the landowners identify their traditional boundary, both Governments must take careful note of the same and begin the process of creating a permanent national border once and for all.

Mr Speaker, I would recommend that from North to South Trans-Border Highway be built right across the entire land border. I would also like to recommend that the Papua New Guinea Government build two border townships in the Southern and Northern end of our sides of the border. Without this strategic infrastructure in place nothing meaningful will happen on the Border.

Mr Speaker these infrastructure facilities will serve as the foundation and fondue for Commence and Industry and cross border trade and investment between the two countries. I am not alone in making this call.

Mr Speaker, you would recall that late last year the Wutung border villagers on their own accord have already presented a petition to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Inter-Government Relations demanding the National Government to take up the issue of a permanent demarcation of the border with Indonesian Government. Let me put for example the current Batas where the border facilities are between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea is not supposed to be there. That is within the perimeters of Papua New Guinea land. Permanent demarcation should be along the Tammie River.

Indonesia should build their border facility on the other side of the river and we on this side of the river. It must be understood that by all consent the present border post and fencing at Wutung is not the border. As a matter of fact, the traditional border is at Scot Village on the Indonesian side of the border.

You would also realize that there were recent raids in the Southern end of the border where there have been poach by Indonesian troops. During the recent joint patrol by PNG Police and Defence, they have discovered that Indonesian Navy has built jetties on Torasi River which is right inside the border of Papua New Guinea.

Both governments must observe the 10 kilometers of Batas zones. I say this, Mr Speaker, because if we are not careful many of our citizens living along the border of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are already being attracted by the Indonesian Government. Indonesia is providing services from the other side of the border especially in my own electorate and over 15,000 people have moved over to Indonesian side of the border already. Basically, our Government and successive governments have not provided the necessary services along the border.

I call on the Defense Minister for increase the number of troops from the current 2,000 to 6,000 which will be in proportionate to our population. We need to beef up the patrols on our land and sea borders. Why, because there has been a lot of illegal fishing, trades, drug trafficking and arms trafficking along the border.

Mr Speaker, I raise these issues because we have also witnessed intimidations and serious border incursions by Indonesian soldiers to our side of the border. Yes, we are a little country but we must stand up as a country to protect our people and our land.

Mr Speaker, we need to increase our surveillance system on the border as well. You will find that there have been numerous complaints of illegal fishing on our side of the border. Illegal fishing has exploited our tuna. As a country we need to put necessary surveillance system on our border so that we can protect our resources and our people. We need to take up serious leadership stands on these issues. Many times we have played this game but no-one has stood up to protect our sovereignty especially our people, resources and our country.

Mr Speaker, these issues are very important like I said earlier while I welcome the announcement by the Prime Minister to encourage trade and investment and instruct development along the border, we as a country need to have a serious look at the demarcation

over our border line between West Sepik and Western Province and also the border between Bougainville and the Solomon Islands.

15/08

Mr Speaker, whilst I'm on that, I want to also stress on the issue of the Government's attention to Bougainville. I fear that what is happening on the border of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, we will lose land; we will lose Bougainville if the Government don't pay attention. Referendum is some two and the half years away, Government must take proactive steps on addressing Bougainville. The Government must take proactive steps in addressing issues on the border. I fear that there will be a major shift in our landmarks if the Indonesian Government so desire to attract our citizens to the other side. They will demand that they move with their land and become part of Indonesia.

As responsible leaders, we must take serious actions and I believe serious action is for both Governments to sit down with the landowners on either side of the border and clearly define where the border mark should run and for our government to be responsible in making sure that we protect our resources and people who are living on our side of the border.

Mr Speaker, finally, I want to raise an issue on cheques raised by the Department of Finance. My Deputy Opposition Leader asked a question to Finance Minister yesterday about cheques being handled by the Minister himself.

Mr Speaker, there is no provision where a Minister has the power to issue cheques. In fact, we, as Members of Parliament should not even feel the touch of the cheque or see the colour of the cheque. The funds should be wired straight to the districts or provincial and district treasuries. No Member of Parliament should hold cheques, it is not our job. We are not part of Finance Department.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr JOE KOIM KOMUN (Angalimp-South Wahgi) – Thank you Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Angalimp-South Wahgi.

I also would like to participate in this Grievance Debate and the point I want to raise is in relation to our mothers. I have witnessed a lot of mothers going through problems of cancer such as uterus cancer. I have witnessed so many deaths and the mothers are so silent and cannot speak

out for themselves. I have also witnessed people especially from outside of NCDC; people who do not have the money to get a CT scan, they come here to Port Moresby and stay here and some die. I have witnessed two of my own people come to Port Moresby to get a CT scan and for a CT scan, it cost about K1 000 to K1 200 in a private hospitals. This is a lot of money for our little people.

So the cost involved in bringing them down here, taking care of them and going through all these hardships of trying to get a CT scan and the time to schedule them for that scan is a lot to bear for people who are under duress due to their illnesses and some are dying. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister and his Government for allocating so much money to the Health Department and through us Members of Parliament to the districts.

In my newly established Jiwaka Province, we do not have any established hospitals. We only have Kudjip church run hospital and sometimes it is understaffed and there not many doctors or medicines to take care of the patients. As a result, most of them are referred to Mt Hagen and Kundiawa or even to Port Moresby. Many of them die while in the process.

So as a Member of Parliament, I believe that we are all facing the same situation and a lot of mothers are dying out there, and lot of our people are flocking into Port Moresby just to get a CT scan and to get cancer treatments. With the kind of money the Government is allocating, I believe the Minister for Health can talk to the Health Department to identify the most critical illnesses where our people are dying and of which some are curable.

As a concerned Member, I stand here to say we are discussing most of these things because we are able body but when we go to the hospital, that is where we see a lot of people who are really in need. So with part of my DSIP, I wish to work in partnership with the Health Department to provide these basic things where we can actually take some preemptive measures to identify these areas before they reach serious stages. So Minister, when do have time to come up that way, I think we should sit down and discussion this proposal.

We have a very active Health Minister and I am glad that we will sit down and talk about this issue. Thank you.

16/08

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – Mr Speaker, my grievance debate is in relation to the very important issue of trade negotiations. It is an issue that concerns the 7 million shareholders

of Papua New Guinea, their current and future rights insofar as the economic development is concern.

Mr Speaker, trade negotiations by economists are structured and planned and entered into to prepare and grow an economy.

Mr Speaker, all the economists prepare and present to negotiate trade or trade position in the best interest of the growth and protection of the economy. They hope to secure a best possible outcome that they believe will promote their local businesses and structure their economic growth to be able to benefit their people. An economist at all times strive to protect its businesses, promote their interests at such negotiations and eventually promote those businesses offshore, an economy that is not prepared to negotiate trade but does not understand the repercussions or verifications of trade agreements should never ever attend to negotiate or enter into such activities into such important trade agreement.

A nation with vast natural resources must protect its opportunities, both current and future to develop and benefit our people. Trade negotiations are crucial to achieving this end but PNG has failed miserably in the past to realize its important aspect of economic development and has never successfully negotiated trade agreements and as such we have come away marginalizing our current and future people their interest. We have never been prepared for trade negotiations, our efforts at best ad hoc and erratic. There is no one particular government department that is tasked with that very important function of negotiating trade on behalf of PNG. And as such we usually have an efforts that is in disarray, we do not have a proper country position in many instances we develop our country position a night before the trade negotiations.

I have done this trade negotiations and I can assure you that it is totally disgusting to see that we have not made that effort to prepare and plan. This is because there is not one particular government department that is tasked with this very important function or activity. Often times, it will be parked in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, other times into the Trade Ministry and at one time it was under the Prime Ministers Ministry and some times they bring people from everywhere and during the process they leave out important aspects of the Government.

Meanwhile, our counterparts who are coming for these negotiations, whether they are bilateral or multilateral or with giant international organizations they are well prepared, they prepare in advance and have a country position and know exactly what they want and position themselves to negotiate a best possible outcome for their economy. But as for us, we just laze

around and all of a sudden negotiate for trade, and as a result, we come away with a result that is not in our best interests and our counterparts walk away not only with what they want but more than what they want.

And as a result, we have also removed a lot of very important legislation that suppose to protect our people, our consumers, resource owners and we develop laws and legislation and agree to conventions that benefit other economics. Therefore, we have marginalized our people and they become spectators.

This is the situation that we are in right now and we are giving away tax holidays and exemption to multinational companies, large giant corporations. But we are not making any effort to protect our small businessmen and women in PNG. When they want to get loans from the banks they are being rejected because we already sold our very own bank to them and now we don't have any fully nationally owned banks.

So how do we do ourselves justice and our people as well, we have to develop an organisation or entity and put people in there that are credible and know what they are doing. And it will help us to prepare in advance because trade negotiations are like war where we are entering into battle.

When you are going into battle you must be armed and best prepared and know your enemies territory and what are his strengths and weaknesses are and your strengths and weaknesses and get ready to win at all costs. And must not go in there to lose the battle and sell your land away and enslave your people.

As a result, we have seen the removal of the antidumping laws because we were in a hurry to go and become WTO member and now we have a flood of rubbish coming in from Asian countries. And our people have become little salesman for the Asian businesses such as selling super glue and multiple DVD as informal street sellers. And many times they are being chased by the city rangers and even some people die from it. Who do you think is actually benefiting from this sort of businesses?

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These are some of the repercussions and ramifications that we did not consider when we went into these agreements and negotiations and so on. We have not protected our restricted businesses and as such now we see small businesses are being run by foreign interests.

We all want foreign interests in our country but we want legitimate foreign interests that will respect us and will involve themselves as partners in our efforts. But now, every little tucker boxes, canteens, security and probably in a little they'll also be selling betel nut. What about us? What business are we going to do?

All these boils down to the very fact that we have not prepared ourselves when we go into trade negotiations we are ill prepared. We are not consistent. One year we will send Joseph, the next day we will send Mary and a little later Kenneth, and when they go they don't know what to do because they are not prepared and they did not know what happened in the last meeting, they are ill prepared.

And all the time, we are coming up against experts. They are well prepared, they are better armed. And they will negotiate the best possible position for their economies.

We have to stop this situation. We have to put in place a mechanism that protects our interest and that of our people.

I am calling upon our Government to make that effort, to put in place a policy that will say, 'this is the organization responsible for trade negotiations. And all these other organizations such as Foreign Affairs Ministry, Attorney-General, Prime Minister's Ministry should assist and they must not forget NAQIA, Customs and all those very important aspects of technical and operational trade that needs to be present so that they are able to provide legitimate advice. Then we are properly armed and ready for battle and we enter into these battles with the intention to win, not to lose and marginalize ourselves and be spectators on the outside looking in.

Mr ISAAC WAIGAVARA (Okapa) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I want to, for the first time, speak about Okapa.

Okapa has got a population of 80 000 plus and over the years Okapa has been neglected. Here, I want to give an example of an incident that happened in Okapa.

A teacher brought his wife to the hospital for delivery. On the way, she gave birth to a stillborn baby. The teacher came back, pondered his situation and resigned from his teaching position. He was paid K120 000 by the Teaching Services Commission. He took that money bought a Lucas Mill, cut wood and built a hospital. That hospital is now nearing completion and I will have the pleasure of opening that hospital soon.

The hospital is made up of four staff houses, a labour ward, and admission ward, an outpatient and five toilets. That is the duty statement of us, Members of Parliament. This person took over that responsibility because of his passion.

I wish to bring to the attention of the relevant department, National Planning, Community Development, Health and others. When I open this hospital, I will give the responsibility for it back to the Government. I will be coming around to seek your support for that project.

Many a time, Okapa has not demanded for such services. I am now putting you on notice that tomorrow I will be visiting you.

Mr BOKA KONDRA (Middle Fly – Minister for Culture and Tourism) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I wish to take this time to make some remarks, especially on land because when the Minister for Lands presented his paper, I was not given an opportunity to speak. Let me just highlight two points on the land issue.

Many times I have asked myself, what is land? Land, as I say is my supermarket, it is my kitchen as well as my World Bank. Land contains our life, as we sit here today in Parliament, Parliament is here because land is here. So, land is your life, land is my life. Land is for now, for the past and for the future.

One question I wish to pose for our consumption is, what is the most limited resources in the world. The answer is none other than the land. Today you read in newspapers, hear on radio and even watch on TV about the fights for land. And even in the past, when I was not yet born, there were world wars fought and the only reason being for land.

Today, wars are fought in Palestine and Israel and the sole reason being to see who will claim the boundaries from the other, because they need land. So the fight between the Israelites and the Palestinians will not cease because they are fighting for their land. So, land contains our life.

It is a major point of contention in this country and we must address the land issue. Land contains oil, gas and even the ocean is on land. So everything that we need for our livelihood is contained in the land.

Land is our life and from my view of the *Constitution*, especially *Section 53, subsection 5*, clause (A), (C) and (D) that refers to whatever is above and below the ground as well the seas

and waterways belong to the indigenous people. When a society or group sells its land that means you don't own land and you are regarded as a fourth world nation.

I was in Singapore and I had a chat with a man there and he asked me, why I am raping my own mother, to which I was surprised and angry and I asked him what he was referring to and he said, I am talking about your land. Papua New Guineans are selling your land cheaply.

The land is our mother, it gives us everything we need and we do not need to sell it cheaply. If you sold your land or if you do not have land that means that we have become landless. Another time I was with a Chinese man and he said, for Chinese if we do not own land we are poor.

Once we have land we are millionaires, what does land mean to us the people of Papua New Guinea? I am appealing to the people of this country and that is we have to address this issue and I believe, this is a good government that will listen to the cries of the people of this country.

We are very fortunate that Papua New Guineans own approximately 97 per cent of land that is customary land but one thing that must be realized is that we have sold a lot of the land through licensing. From what I understand is that when licenses are given we automatically give the surface land right to the very depths.

So we need to really look through legislative amendments and resolve these problems otherwise we will sell our rights and we will have problems in the future.

I just thank the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville for fighting for their land and they shed blood for their rights.

Today, I want to say this, if we are not careful we could face a lot of problems in the future and we must begin to fix up what we see is not right today, so we have a better tomorrow. There are three things I want to point out here; we must create awareness to educate our people on their rights to land and its importance and to protect it and we must build a good military to protect the sovereignty of this country and we must do this together.

I am not saying that we do not give our land away, we can do so for development but this must be done properly so that all parties are happy and that there is something for the future. It is about time that we come together and make good decisions to protect and develop our land. This is what gives us our identity. If we lose the land now we are putting our future generations at stake. A lot of land has been sold so we must educate our children and be mindful of the types of

development we want and that if they come these developments must be done properly to benefit all.

Mr MALAKAI TABAR (Gazelle Open) –I want to join in this debate this afternoon in relation to recent newspaper reports on the burning to death of a young women suspected of practicing sorcery in Mt Hagen. Before I go on, I will remind us that Parliament has had two opportunities previously to amend the law to accommodate sorcery related killings. That was not sufficient as it is a customary supernatural belief and laws cannot define this except that the torture and murder of suspected practitioners are criminal in nature.

But I would like to salute the late Member for Kundiawa/Gembogl Mr Joe Mek Teine for trying to work on something before he died.

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There was a similar incident that occurred in 2008 when I was the Commissioner for the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. The incident involved a woman who was burnt with eight tyres and fuel at 4 mile in Lae. Later again, in North Goroka in the year 2009 another woman was burnt in an off campus of the University of Goroka on a Sunday where the burnt odour of the woman polluted the township.

The fact that such incidents have occurred and it got us thinking that something should be done to address this issue. In the 2008 incident I made mention to Joe Mek Teine that we could not just stand by and let such things happen as a similar incident occurred in my electorate in Gazelle. Therefore, 2010 we in the Constitutional Law Reform Commission did a nationwide consultation regarding this issue. We wanted to make reforms or policies that would address this issue and with the help of the Attorney-General steps and processes were set up and a report was compiled.

I would like the Parliament and this Government to take ownership of this issue. We have to come up with processes and working procedures to address this issue through the law. Currently, the law is not very clear when it come to dealing with people who are suspected of sorcery and witchcraft. There are no set processes for prosecution or any form of penalty to deal with such an issue.

Also, the Courts when dealing with such issue tend to adjourn such cases over long periods of time as there are no clear prosecution guidelines to steer the courts to a quick verdict. In such cases where it is in our rural areas of the country, it is an expensive exercise for the victim's family to keep travelling back and forth from their villages to the nearest town courts. And because of the long wait for the courts to carry out a verdict the victim's family become frustrated and impatient to a point where they may take the matter into their own hands.

Therefore, we as leaders have a responsibility to our people and must make amendments that address this issue in a way that will make people respect our laws of the land and provide sound and fair judgement for all our people and make our people understand that the law is here to address our people's grievances.

Nevertheless, during our consultation many people have told us that they had their own ways to deal with this issue and that, the law should not interfere. We started our consultation from Wutung and finished it off in Rossell Island in the Milne Bay Province. We also went to Buka, East New Britain, West New Britain and New Ireland as well as to the Highlands Region to Goroka to Hagen.

Therefore, I believe that it is our responsibility as leaders and pass a law as recommended by the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. I believe that proper consultations and processes were carried to have this law passed when I was the then Commissioner for the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. The Constitutional Law Reform Commission had recommended an amendment that we believe will address this issue at hand and also, it will make aware to the people that issues can be addressed through the court system of Papua New Guinea. Our people must be made aware to respect the laws of this country in order to exercise their rights.

Our country is a Christian country, and when I asked the people where their Christian beliefs lie regarding this issue almost everyone did not have an answer. This was the case in Nuku, Namatanai, Gazelle and in all the places we went to.

I believe that the first step in addressing this issue begins with us leaders. Instead of keeping quiet about it, we should be taking this issue head on by taking to our people and educating them about what is right and wrong for them under the eyes of the law. We should try to help our people see clearly regarding this issue.

Apart from that, our Police Force are not trained and given powers to deal and cater for this issue. Our Police Force should be empowered to deal with this issue in order to address these issues by law through the Courts.

Once again, when the Attorney-General introduces this law, I would like the support of this Parliament and the Government to pass it because as leaders we owe it to our people to be responsible for them make their faith grow in God.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr JOHNSON TUKE (Kainantu) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I too would like to join in on this grievance debate.

I would like to bring this Parliament back to the 30 September, 2011, where a massacre had occurred in Kainantu. All of us Members here come from a cultural background and thus, have traditions and customs.

Regarding the Kainantu massacre, since then and up till now there has been no arrest done to the persons responsible. It seems that the Government has forgotten its people by ignoring this issue. The massacre was carried out on government owned land and not on customary land.

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You will see that up the Highlands Highway, you will find a lot of cow fencing and piggery fencing along the highway. To me, that demonstrates that there is no Government.

Mr Speaker, I urge the Police Minister and the Lands and Physical Planning Minister to look into this and work on a demarcation of that Kainantu area and identify which is State land and which belongs to the landowners.

Even to date, when we talk about the PNG LNG project, people go through Goroka, Barora and when they come through Kainantu they move at a snails pace because they know that Kainantu is cowboy country. Not everybody there is a cowboy because there aren't many horse sup there.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr JOHNSON TUKE – This is a fact. Because when you arrive at *Kassam Pass* then all your headwork of trying to get to your destination will slow down because there is no law in Kainantu.

Can the Police Minister deploy some police officers to maintain law and order. You will hardly see any policeman putting an offender in jail.

Kainantu is the capital of Henganofi, Okapa Obura/Wonenara, Ramu and Markham for business activities daily. Recently, business has declined and I would like to urge the respective government agencies to intervene and bring back Kainantu to its glory days.

Mr Speaker, Kainantu is the source of electricity to this country and I urge the Government to consider the plight of my people.

Motion – That Grievances be noted – agreed to.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE – (Tari/Pori – Finance Minister) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a Motion without Notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent the Leader of Government Business making appointment of Committee Chairman.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS – DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT
OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

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

That Mr Ken Fairweather be discharged as Chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts due to illness and the the Parliament rescind his appointment and appoint Mr John Hickey as Chairman of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.00 p.m..