

**FIRST DAY**

---

**DRAFT HANSARD**

**Tuesday 10 September 2013**

---

**Subject:**

**Page No:**

<b>ISSUE OF AND RETURN TO WRIT - ANGORAM OPEN ELECTORATE.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND OF LOYALTY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS - STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>23</b>

## FIRST DAY

**Tuesday 10 September 2013**

The Parliament met at 2.10 pm according to the terms of the Resolution of 19 July 2013.

There being no quorum present, the Speaker suspended the sitting until the ringing of the Bells.

Sitting suspended at 2.04 p.m..

The Speaker resumed the Chairman at 2.25 pm and invited the Honourable Governor for Morobe **Honourable Kelly Naru** to say Prayers.

‘Insait long nem bilong God Papa, Pikinini na Holi Spirit, long dispela September sitting bilong Parliament, God Papa yu gat olgeta stron na yu stap long Heaven. Glori na stron na bignem igo long yu long Heaven olsem wankain tasol long graun tu. Mipela askim yu insait long spirit bilong bel isi bilong Christ, yu kam stap wantaim mipela olgeta members bilong dispela Parliament long displa September sitting bilong mipela. Mipela bai bungim tingting na tok na gutpela planti toktok long kamapim gutpela sindaun insait long dispela kantri.

Papa God, mipela askim blessing bilong yu iken stap wantaim Spika bilong mipela long direktim dispela session bilong dispela Parliament iken kamap gut. Yu gaidim em na givim em planti gutpela tingting na save. Wankain tu mipela askim blessing bilong yu na gaidens na wisdom bilong yu iken stap wantaim Honourable Prime Minister bilong mipela na olgeta Cabinet Ministers bilong en.

Yu givim ol gutpela tingting na gutpela save, long kwesten bai kam long ol Members na insait long wanwan portfolio bilong ol na insait long wok bilong gavman tu ol iken bekim inapim long laik na save na tingting bilong pipol bilong yu long dispela kantri.

Wankain tu, God Papa mipela askim blesing bilong yu na gutpela save na tingting iken istap wantaim Lida bilong Opposition wantain ol Shadow Cabinet bilong en, na ol lain ol stap wantaim em ol tu iken kisim blesing bilong yu long kontribut ikam insait

long dispela Parliament long tingting na long toktok, na long kamapim gutpela sindaun bilong dispela Gavman.

Papa God, planti mipela ikam stap pinis na bai mipela bai statim miting bilong dispela Haus. Planti sampela oli wokabaut yet long ples bilong ol, rot bilong ol longwei na oli painim wei bilong ol long kam long Port Moresby long joinim mipela long dispela bung.

God Papa, insait long wanwan wokabaut bilong ol you stronim ol na kisim ol gut ikam insait long dispela bung. Sapos oli pas insait long pasin bilong sik, or insait long pasin bilong hevi, or insait long pasin bilong arapela hevi bilong dispela graun yu rausim na pulumapim ol wantaim gutpela bilong yu we oli iken kam na mipela sindaun wantaim na olgeta wokman na olgeta wokmeri insait long dispela Haus mipela ken bungim tingting long kamapim gutpela bilong dispela kantri.

Papa God, as mipela go insait long celebretim 37<sup>th</sup> Anniveseri bilong mipela long Independence yu strongim mipela olgeta Memba wanwan na ol pipol bilong mipela. Ol pipol husat istap nau long witnesim dispela session long dispela Haus oli sindaun long Galary. Ol Ripotas bilong mipela givim ol gutpela save na tingting we oli iken ripot gut long dispela session. Givim ol bel isi long olgeta pipol ikam witnesim dispela proceedings long today.

Wantaim dispela mipela askim blessing bilong yu na gaidens bilong yu na bel isi bilong yu. Waintain olgeta dispela askim Papa God insait long tok pisin mipela olgeta Honourable Members bungim maus na husait inap long tok long Tokpisin mipela ibungim wantaim bikpela prea Jesus ilainim mipela. Amen.”

## **ISSUE OF AND RETURN TO WRIT- ANGORAM OPEN ELECTORATE**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to announce that I have received the Return of Writ which His Excellency the Governor General issued on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 for a By-Election for a Member to serve the Angoram Open Electorate following the death of Mr Ludwig Schulze and that by the endorsement on the Writ was certified that Mr Salio Waipo was duly elected as the Member for the Angoram Open Electorate.

**DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND  
OF LOYALTY**

The Honourable Member for Angoram, Mr Salio Waipo made and subscribed to the Declarations of Office and of Loyalty as required by the *Constitution*.

**02/01**

**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 today and resolved that:

(a) The National Television Service *Kundu 2* will be allowed to televise Question Time as part of its community obligation;

(b) The *National Broadcasting Corporation* will be allowed to broadcast live Question Time;

(c) *EMTV* will be allowed to film Question Time for news purposes only; and

(d) The *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (ABC) will be allowed to film Question Time for news purposes only, for the duration of this meeting.

**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS –  
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I wish to inform the Parliament of the deaths of:

(a) Late Sir Tore Lokoloko on the 13 of March 2013. He was first elected to the First House of Assembly in the 1968 General Elections for the Kerema Open Seat. He was appointed Minister for Health and Deputy Spokesman for the Administrators Council from 1968-1972. He was re-elected to the Third House of Assembly in 1972-1975 and the First National Parliament from 1975-1977. He was awarded an OBE in 1995 and elected second Governor-General of

Papua New Guinea in February 1977 and was awarded the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu in September 2005; and

(b) William Akon on the 18 April 2013. He was first elected to the Third House of Assembly in 1972-1975 and the First National Parliament from 1975-1977 for the Angoram Open Seat. He was appointed Member of the Private Business and Standing Orders Committees respectively. He was re-elected to the Second National Parliament from 1977-1982. He was appointed a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings Committee.

*All the Members of Parliament stood in their places in silence as a mark of respect to the late gentlemen.*

**Mr SPEAKER** – I thank the Parliament.

## QUESTIONS

**Mr WERA MORI** – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Police Minister who is the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, before I raise these questions in relation to police harassments and intimidations, I want to preface it.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Can you make it short?

**Mr WERA MORI** – Mr Speaker, on the 20 of August 2013 after returning from Rabaul, chairing the nationwide conservatory process on the reviewing of the Mining Policies, I was confronted by Members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary in four ten-seaters, all Members of the Mobile Squad Unit to arrest me and question me on issues of which I do not wish to elaborate.

Mr Speaker, my questions are as follows;

(1) Did the Police Commissioner authorize his men to confront me and arrest me as if I was a notorious criminal like William Kapris on the 20 of August 2013?

(2) When are we going to see the Members of the Constabulary extending courtesy to national leaders if they have issues to come forward so that these can be resolved.

(3) Why was I not invited to the Police Station to explain my side of the story before they go out to intimidate me with the vicious intention to destroy my integrity and assassinate my character?

(4) What will not stop Members of the Constabulary being bribed by other people within the community with sinister motives against other Members of Parliament and undertake such only to intimidate and degrade Members of this Parliament?

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, before I allow the Prime Minister to answer the question, you must be careful in that because you may be abusing the privileges of a Member of Parliament to be raising questions relating to personal issues. I would prefer in the future you write to the Prime Minister and not allow yourself to ask such a question on the Floor of Parliament. That is my honest view.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – I thank the Honourable Member for Chuave for his questions, again I sympathize with the Member. This kind of behavior where police are running around in car loads to arrest people is unnecessary. It's intimidating, embarrassing and disrespectful to leaders and also our citizens, of course we are all answerable for our actions. We are not above the law and subject to those laws that is available to all citizens. But I think discipline continues to be a problem for our Disciplined Forces in the country. So I will take the matter up with the Police Commissioner.

Mr Speaker, in fact, I also have told the Commissioner that any investigations especially for leaders must be done through his office. So that common courtesy and respect is given to all leaders, after all, we are mandated and respected by our people. What is very important to each and everyone one of us is our reputation and our characters? So I want to assure the Member that I will formally write to the Commissioner to find out why this has happened and I will ask him to put it in writing and explain the circumstances in this particular incident.

**Mr TITUS PHILEMON** – Mr Speaker, before I ask my questions to the Minister for Trade Commerce and Industry on behalf of my people of Milne Bay Province, to thank the Minister for Trade Commerce and Industry for blocking the attempt by Kulim Berhard to increase its shareholdings in New Britain Palm Oil from 49 per cent to 60 per cent.

My question to the Minister is:

(1) Can the Minister inform this Parliament on the underlining reasons why he blocked the share acquisitions attempt by Kulim and what are his plans to allow more shares to go to our growers and landowners who gave their land for oil palm estates and also for Provincial Governments where oil palm provinces like Milne Bay, New Ireland, Oro and West New Britain?

**Mr RICHARD MARU** – I thank the Governor for a very good question. I want to inform this Parliament and the people of this country, that I have major reasons why I blocked the attempt by Kulim to increase its share holding in West New Britain oil palm.

Firstly, I have serious problem with the structure of the oil palm industry in PNG. We have one company, which has a monopoly in this country. Our people have been price takers all this time. In other countries, we have a spot market where you go to six or seven buyers or more every day and allow market forces to dictate and you try to get the highest prices. In PNG, our farmers are sweating their guts out only to be given a price that you take it or leave it. Any responsible Government cannot allow this to go on and that's my first reason and that is to remove this monopoly practice in this country. We have to have more independent mills set up in all these provinces so that our people have choices.

Secondly, if you look at New Britain Palm Oil in this country, so much land has been taken from our people under lease-arrangement. If you visit West New Britain, there is no permanent house built, no aid post, no school and no electricity and yet these people have given up all their land.

Thirdly, if you visit this Milne Bay estate for example, Poliamba, none of the Chief Executive Officers are Papua New Guineans. These CEO's come in as agriculture graduates and sent to England by the same company and come back and run this company.

These positions are not localized by a company that is mainly owned by other people. We must stop this practice and allow the key positions to be held by our people.

The other issue of provincial government, we hear about West New Britain Palm Oil announcing US\$50 million as profits for one year and the other year US\$200 million, none of the dividend flow goes back to your provinces where oil palm is planted as in Milne Bay and Oro Provinces.

**04/01**

This is not right. Money must come back and we should stop the capital flight from this country. The other next worse thing is that they built two more refineries where oil palm is processed into the end product in Liverpool and Germany. Why can't we build these refineries in Papua New Guinea and create employment? What about the treasury prices?

So I am going to look at the review of this industry and try and bring in competition and increase shareholdings of the provincial government so I will be writing to the company. For these reasons, we have to block that to avoid one foreign company controlling this industry and continue to marginalise our citizens and too much money going offshore.

I have already stopped the acquisition of further shares and I must inform the Parliament that we have also won a court case against them. We have to restructure the whole industry, bring in competition and encourage the farmers to also own mills and create competition in this country. So for those reasons, I have stopped them and I intend to go on with it and ask the company to start looking at restructuring.

### **Supplementary Question**

**Mr KEN FAIRWEATHER** – Mr Speaker, my supplementary question is very simple.

(1) Does the Minister have the legal right to stop the internal transfer of shares?

(2) Will it apply to other industries as well? Perhaps we could look at Inter-Oil too.

Mr Speaker, it is all very well to have a nice emotional outburst but what if you are not quite sure of what you are talking about. The truth is oil palm is the only agriculture industry at the moment working in Papua New Guinea and you want to wreck it. Well, I will remember that you are the one that wrecked it, so please answer my questions.

**Mr RICHARD MARU** – Thank you Mr Speaker, let me make it clear to the Honourable Member that Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad is not a big player in the world. There are other bigger players, 10 times, 20 times or even 40 times bigger than Kulim.

**Mr Ken Fairweather** – Why didn't they come?

**Mr RICHARD MARU** – They are coming and we are inviting them. The Honourable Member does not know what he is talking about.

*(Mr Ken Fairweather interjecting)*

**Mr RICHARD MARU** – The court has already ruled in our favour.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Minister, can you address the Chair?

**Mr RICHARD MARU** – Mr Speaker, the court has ruled in favour of Securities Commission already, the law is on our side and we have acted in accordance with law. So I want to make this very clear to the Honourable Member, I am not emotional but the court has already decided on that.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Thank you Honourable Minister, you have already answered the question.

**Mr NIXON MANGAPE** – Mr Speaker, I wanted to direct my questions to the Minister for Mining but he is not present so since the Prime Minister has initiated the review of Porgera Mining Agreement I direct my questions to him and I want the Minister for Environment and Conservation to take note.

The Porgera Mining Agreement is well overdue for the last 25 years and the Prime Minister has granted a review but MRA is delaying it.

(1) What is the delay?

(2) The Porgera Mining Lease will expire in 2018 so we have six more years but there were environmental damage and people were displaced. Flora and fauna are all gone so I want the Prime Minister to establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate all the damages done by the Barrick Gold Mine.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Thank you Mr Speaker and I respect the Honourable Member for Lagaip-Porgera for these questions.

Firstly, I will say that we have agreed for a mining review to be conducted immediately and I am lost as to why MRA is not attending to this. There are not many mining reviews going at present so I don't know why our bureaucrats and citizens are frustrating our own people. This is unnecessary and 25 years since the mine started, we need a proper review to take place as required under the agreements. I will be again directing the Chief Secretary and the Mining Minister to conduct this review quickly and respond to the Member directly and inform him why this review is not taking place.

On the other issue about environmental damages that the Member has talked about, I want to assure him that I will also ask the Minister for Environment and his Department to investigate his concerns. Therefore, there is no need for us to set up a Commission of Inquiry. We have established too many commissions of inquiries and millions of kina are wasted so I would rather give the Department millions of kina to go and investigate it and get the evidence if we need to prosecute them. We will leave it at that.

**Mr SPEAKER** – The Chair will allow the Minister for Environment and Conservation to also say something.

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to inform the Honourable Member that my Department has already embarked on a full scale investigation as to the Porgera environmental concerns and damages.

Mr Speaker, different landowner groups from Porgera have been flooding my Department and the only way forward was for us to ensuring that we investigate the issues, assess the environmental damage and be able to take a position.

**05/01**

Mr Speaker, for the information of the Member and the landowners concerned, and the people of Porgera at large, investigations are already being undertaken.

Mr Speaker, when investors come in to invest, especially in the resources sector, there will be footprints, there is no doubt about that. Your birds will go; your wildlife will go and your trees will come down. There are sacrifices that we have to make when it comes to the resource sector investments. You can't have it both ways because there is no both ways.

Mr Speaker, investors work within Plans that are approved by the Department and if they go out of it, we can only know the findings of an investigation. And investigations are afoot now and I ask the Honourable Member and landowners concerned who have been flooding our office to cooperate with the team that is on the ground.

**Mr RONNY KNIGHT** – Thank you Mr Speaker for recognizing the people of Manus. I direct my questions to the Minister for Labour and Industrial Relations.

Mr Speaker, the current asylum centre in Manus is fully supported by our Government and all of us are supportive as well. Many local villagers are supporting it as well.

However, all the companies benefiting from the contracts are mostly Australian and these companies have their own labour which is imported. They come and drive forklifts, become clerks and security guards, jobs rightfully, under the law are our people's.

Mr Speaker, some Manus companies have joined with mainland companies and outlaid substantial amounts of money to benefit from this. These same companies are now bringing in their own machines and refusing to hire those machines put in by the Manus companies.

Mr Speaker, I see that we are having two laws now and that is why I want to confirm this with the Minister first.

Mr Speaker, my questions to the Minister are:

(1) Is there any action to be taken against these companies who are blatantly disregarding our laws and taking jobs from our people?

(2) Can your Department send a team to ensure compliance and ascertain legality of these companies

(3) Can your Department make a ruling as to how they will pay them, are they going to follow Australian rates or Papua New Guinea rates?

**Mr MARK MAIPAKAI** – Thank you, Member for Manus, I will take note of the questions. If you can give them to me in writing I will respond to them formally tomorrow.

These are very important question and I can assure him that I will send a I team down there to confirm these allegations, if there are any.

Thank you.

**Ms DELILAH GORE** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question goes to the Minister for Works.

Mr Speaker, Oro Province experienced disaster and the bridges got washed off. There are no bridges in Oro Province.

More than 10 bridges got washed off and the bridges are yet to be repaired.

Mr Speaker, I want to ask the Works Minister; has he got plans to restore these bridges?

**Mr FRANCIS AWESA** - Thank you, Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Sohe for her question.

The short answer to the question is that the 10 bridges referred to will be covered under the Transport Sector Support Programme which is funded jointly by the PNG Government and AusAID.

I am also pleased to inform the people of Oro Province and the Honourable Member that this programme, the 10 bridges will cost up to K130 million and the submission is before Cabinet as I speak and it will go before Cabinet tomorrow for approval.

**Mr AMKAT MAI** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, before I ask my question to the Minister for Civil Aviation I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for Public Enterprises for increasing Air Niugini flights into Vanimo. We now have four flights into Vanimo.

And also I would like to thank *Mangi Long Ples*, Chairman Wartoto for putting two flights into Vanimo so the public, businessmen and tourists can now fly into Vanimo almost everyday of the week.

I would like to thank the current O’Neill-Dion Government for the significant move they have made to visit and trade with Indonesia and the Asian countries, Vanimo being the gateway to Indonesia.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Ask your question, you are making a statement, ask your question.

**Mr AMKAT MAI** – I have had a meeting with the General Manager of Air Niugini and the Civil Aviation Minister needs to consider improving the Vanimo Airport by increasing its length by another 500 metres or so.

Because the current runway is 1.3 kilometres and Air Niugini has an intention to increase its flights into Asia through Vanimo, could the Minister give this Parliament, the people of Vanimo and Sandaun Province what he has planned this year or next year to extend the runway and also to install refueling facilities in Vanimo so we can cater for the increase of flights?

**Mr STEVEN DAVIES** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I'd like to thank the Honourable Governor from one of the furthest provinces for raising an important concern relating to our Civil Aviation Sector.

I will look into the specifics of the questions raised and I will give a written response. But, I'd like to assure the Honourable Governor and our people in Sandaun that the programme that we are now undertaking to upgrade our regional airports is one that is continuous.

It is currently in the second batch and I am sure the Vanimo Airport is also covered but I will give the details in due course.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**06/01**

**Mr JOE KOIM KOMUN** – Mr Speaker, thank you for allowing me to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister, unfortunately as he is unavoidably absent, I will ask the Prime Minister.

My questions are related to the LLG Elections, particularly in the Highlands. We have some failed LLG Elections in my district and the Jiwaka Province as a whole. I guess more than 80 per cent of our councillors have been declared prior to the Electoral Commissioner's decision to fail the elections.

(1) Can the Prime Minister elaborate and clarify this situation so that my people can be aware of what has happened as they are still confused?

I believe if this is prolonged, it might boil down to disharmony in the communities and the province as a whole.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Anglimp-South Wahgi for his question.

Mr Speaker, I understand that there are some LLGs elections throughout the country that have been failed by the Electoral Commissioner. The Commissioner has exercised his powers under the *Electoral Commission Act* and you know that that particular office is a Constitutional Office, which I do not have any power over.

My advice is, those of you who have been affected by this may seek legal advice and that we understand that there are issues that need to be addressed. However, I will request the Electoral Commissioner to make a further explanation by a way of public notice, so that, those who are affected throughout the country can understand what is happening.

Mr Speaker, I think there is a lot of confusion going on and the last thing we want to do is to create more problems on the ground for communities where there is of course, opposing candidates who are entering into dispute. Thus, I will ask the Electoral Commissioner to explain the situation through public notice.

### **Supplementary Question**

**Mr PAIAS WINGTI** – Mr Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister is: (1) Can the Electoral Commissioner inform Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister the process of how it came about in making that decision?

We know that Provincial Electoral Officers were conducting elections. Mr Speaker, when the Writs are issued, the Provincial Returning Officer makes the decision whether the elections have failed or not. You have a Steering Committee in the province that runs the elections. We also have the Police Force that is there to see that law and order is maintained.

These very important agencies make a report to the Electoral Commissioner whether the Election is failed. I wonder whether this Electoral Commissioner has got these reports from all the provinces that were running the elections or was he being given some injections into him and he has made these decisions.

I want to know and can you inform this Parliament.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Speaker, I thank the Governor for Western Highlands for his Supplementary Question concerning the Electoral Commissioner. Like I said, the Electoral Commission Office is a Constitutional Office and I will certainly request him and not direct him. I will only request on behalf of the Members of Parliament and through this Parliament Session that he provides further detail on the decision he took to fail the Elections of the LLG throughout the country.

**Mr DANIEL MONA** – Mr Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Civil Aviation:

When will the funding for rural airstrips be allocated? We have only seen education policy and health policy moving.

(1) When the new airport development took place at Jacksons Airport, the Government made a commitment to build a rural terminal to serve the people of Central Province. Currently, the people of Koiari, Goilala, Rigo inland and the rural areas of Central Province have to wait outside the terminal before boarding the plan.

Mr Speaker, I see that as people of this province and the landowners of this city, we deserve a better terminal that has all the necessary facilities such as seats to sit on, toilet facilities et cetera while awaiting boarding. It is a big embarrassment for the people of Central Province.

(2) Can the Government upgrade this terminal with necessary facilities for the people of Central?

**Mr DAVIS STEVEN** – Mr Speaker, it is true that this Government has placed an important priority in respect to reviving the network of rural airstrips that this nation needs so much.

Mr Speaker, this Government has placed rural airstrips as a major priority in its *Alotau Accord* as we have announced in the past, and upon taking office as the Minister of Civil Aviation since September last year. I have made important consultations with the industry and the provinces already which culminated in a forum for rural airstrips involving the stakeholders, third level aircraft operators including MAF, and other missions.

**07/01**

The forum helped us to decide what approach or strategy we had to take. Then we progressed from there to the bureaucratic level where we had to allow and organise for the drawdown of the funding of K6 million that was allocated in this year's Budget.

Mr Speaker, I am somewhat saddened to say that since April of this year and until last week the process has stalled due to the bureaucratic decision making and activities.

Mr Speaker, as of last week, I am glad to inform the Member and the Parliament that we have brought the matter back to the National Executive Council (NEC). A decision will be made tomorrow or in the next few days where NEC will decide how to take control of the issue and move it forward.

Mr Speaker, it is disappointing that important government programmes are sometimes delayed by inefficiency, incompetence or the lack of emphasis and attention by the Public Service Machinery that is supposed to help us to deliver.

Mr Speaker, having waited for the last four to five months I decided in my capacity as the Minister for Civil Aviation to bring it back to NEC where we can make a decision on the strategic partnerships that we consider will effectively deliver this programme.

Mr Speaker, to conclude, I am confident to say that following the NEC decision that is likely to support the proposal that we put together to embrace partnership between the current operators out there and the government. We will then be able to deliver by the first quarter of 2014, 13 of the rural airstrips on top of the 140 to 200 airstrips that are currently being accessed and serviced by our third level operators. We already have the data and know all the details to assist to come up with a programme that will ensure that our rural airstrips are revived.

As for the Member's concern with regards to a proposed terminal facility for Central Province people, Mr Speaker, that is a matter that I will take up with the National Airports Corporation (NAC) and I will give a detailed response on that in due course.

Thank you.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – My question is directed to the Prime Minister.

(1) Can the Prime Minister table a report to this Parliament and for the public consumption to inform the people of Papua New Guinea out of the K10 million DSIP and K5 PSIP that has been dished out to the districts and provinces?

(2) Can the Prime Minister table a report so that we all should know how much has been paid out already?

(3) Can the Prime Minister clarify the reasons as to how his government uses to dish out the DSIP and PSIP?

This is because there are very big differences in many electorates where some are getting K2 million while others are getting K7 million to K8 million. This is not fair because we all have had our Budget passed through an Act of Parliament through the *Appropriation Act*, and we all deserve to be given the same.

(4) Can the Prime Minister use the District Treasury to transfer DSIP and PSIP funds instead of writing cheques and getting Members of Parliament to line up to get the cheques?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – I would like to thank the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his questions and I also appreciate that he is not aware of some of the things that are happening in the country for awhile.

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Let me put it to you, as that is what you are asking for too.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say this, this DSIP and PSIP is not a constitutional grant. It is an Appropriation under the Budget and my learned friend, if he cares to listen then I will tell him.

It is an appropriation under the Appropriations of Parliament and this is going to be distributed and expended as and when the cash flow position of Government is available to meet the expenditure.

Mr Speaker, why I say this is because, despite some of our colleagues perception that the Government has an unlimited amount of money, I would like to say here that, that is not the case. We collect money every month from taxes and other revenues that the Government has. Therefore, once we see the match of the money that is available then we expend that money to meet all the government payments throughout the country. That is how it is done.

Mr Speaker, therefore, when money becomes available we are giving it to all the Members, and mostly, it is fairly done. There is no one treated above each other.

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – For the Member's concern, I want to say that out of that K10 million they have already received K4 million.

Mr Speaker, the last installment was transferred to their Treasury account and if they were in the country they would have known that it is there already.

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Point of Order! There was nothing transferred and you are lying and misleading Parliament. You will become one of the greatest liar as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Order!

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – I have a report from Finance unless –

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Mr Speaker, I withdraw what I have said.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Yes, you better do it. He knows it.

**Mr TOBIAS KULANG** – Point of Order! The announcement was announced over the intercom to go to the State Function Room to collect the cheque and not banked in the Treasury account.

**08/01**

We were asked to go to the State conference room to collect the cheque so it was not banked in a treasury account.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Speaker, I appreciate the explanations from Member for Kundiawa but let me say that what he is talking about transpired a few weeks and months back. This is about what happened last week

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – My good people of Rabaul, Bulolo, Kundiawa Gembog and the good people of Ialibu Pangia will always have the same amount of money and if you don't spend it, I will spend it for you. But I will spend it in Kundiawa, or the district where it is earmarked to be spent.

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr SPEAKER** – Order! Please have some respect for the Parliament. Allow the Prime Minister to speak first.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Speaker, I know some of you have been emotional over this. Treasury has already published and released all the warrants for all these payments such as the DSIP, PSIP, and district support grants. It is publicly out there. There is no need for us to get emotional about it. If there are specifications, I am quite happy to sit down with the Deputy Leader of Opposition and will chase it through together through the bureaucratic red tape that goes on. We will go through that jungle quite easily together. I want to assure the people that they won't miss out on the entire funds together.

**Mr GARRY JUFFA** – My question is directed to the Minister for State Enterprises. But before that, I would like to thank the Minister for making time available for us to consult him with our issues.

My question is in relation to a project in my province, the Divune hydro project and has been established in a village called Waju. The project involves PNG Power. Today your CEO Mr John Tangit released a misleading statement in the media. He claimed that all landowners have agreed for that project to take place. There are seven landowner groups in that village and he brought to Port Moresby representatives from only three of the landowner groups. These

landowners were fed with food and drinks and were checked into a hotel. They were rushed into signing the MOU without our consultation. I am only aware of one letter from the previous CEO who wrote to us. But, since John Tangit became CEO, I have never received any consultation from them, regarding this project. It is an old project, it's been 38 years but nothing has eventuated due to land ownership disputes.

**MR SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, please ask your question.

**Mr GARRY JUFFA** – My questions are;

(1) Can you instruct the State owned enterprises under your Ministry to consult the Governor of the province when trying to establish a project?

They must interact with us and work with us to identify genuine landowners? So that they can agree on that project and every one will be content with it and it will eventuate with our input. For all the projects that take place in our province, we should have stake in those projects via the Provincial Government Business arm.

(2) Can you advise the CEO of PNG Power to retract the false statements he made? It is not right with us and I don't want to go to the media or to Court because it's a waste of money and time. Thank you.

**Mr BEN MICAH** – I thank the Governor for his comments and questions.

Mr Speaker, before I respond, I would like to represent my people of Kavieng in congratulating the new Member for Angoram on his election into the Parliament and I welcome him.

Governor, there is not much to say and I will do as you have asked. I will instruct the CEO to stop the work in Divune until the Governor, PNG power and the Ministry meet to resolve the issue of landownership.

**Mr JOE LERA** – Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Treasurer. BSP now has a policy where they no longer accept money made of paper because they have switched to plastic and there are a lot of businessmen in the village who have expressed concern that they lost thousands of kina because of that policy, I'm not sure if the Minister is aware.

If the Minister is aware, could he kindly assist these businessmen from the village to get a reimbursement and instruct the Bank of Papua New Guinea to buy back these monies?

Due to limited communication, these villagers were not informed and were therefore unable to go to the bank before the deadline as advertised by the banks.

**Mr DON POLYE** – Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Regional Member for Bougainville for his question. There was a notice released by the Central Bank of Papua New Guinea regarding the change in type of currency from paper form to plastic form. The honourable Member is asking if the Bank of PNG can reverse the monies that the people lost during this process. Mr Speaker, I won't be able to answer this question directly but I will do so later after consulting the Governor of the Bank of PNG.

**Mr POWES PARKOP** – Mr Speaker, I only have a few questions I would like ask the Minister for Communication.

I have previously asked a number of questions in Parliament about the performance of our TV Station, *Kundu 2* and still there has not been much improvement in the Station as well as other things regarding communication. I would also like the Minister for Public Enterprise to take note as well.

**09/01**

My questions are:

(1) Are there any plans for the Minister to cooperatise *Kundu 2*? I think if *Kundu 2* remains with NBC it will not progress. I once regarded it as a retarded station because the programs were not in order. You do not know when to watch what and etc. Will this station ever improve?

(2) Can the Minister forward this issue to the National Executive Council so that we can close it down? I also want to know whether it will be possible to have *Kundu 2* corporatised.

(3) In terms of the ownership, is the Minister able to broaden the ownership? For example, to make the State Enterprise a shareholder to *Kundu 2* so that the services can be better improved.

(4) Can the Ministers announce to the people of Papua New Guinea if there are any plans and whether they are able to install a satellite? Former Prime Minister Grand Chief during his time installed a satellite and we gave him our full support. However, events have taken over and his plans were not fulfilled. If you have planned to install a satellite can you inform the service providers like Telikom, Datec, and BMobile so that they can invest in Kundu Two. Once the satellite is installed the service providers will link up and improve their capacity.

(5) Are there any plans for the Minister to regulate both mobile phones and social network internet. In other countries, there are requirements for instance, you have to have id confirmation because some people use mobile phones to do stupid things. It may not happen here but it may come to our shores anytime. Any body can go to any Digicel Outlet, buy a new sim card without any identity and are sending texts.

Mr Speaker, I once forwarded a text message to the Prime Minister from an unknown person claiming that the Prime Minister has purchased an aircraft. Sadly, we cannot identify this person to sue him or her.

People are now putting false information on the internet and Minister for Sport has been a victim too. People are putting up blocks and breaching the laws of defamation while getting away with it. So when will we be able to pass laws on the Floor of Parliament to control this technology for the benefit of the country.

**Mr JIM MIRINGTORO** – Mr Speaker, I thank the Governor of NCD. I would like suggest that the Governor have his question put in the Question Paper so that I can answer him accordingly.

In response to Kundu Two, I can say that Kundu Two is Papua New Guinea's Television Station granted by the then Prime Minister Grand Chief to the people of Papua New Guinea as an Independent gift.

Funding has been a problem faced by Kundu Two. I think at that time, the then Prime Minister allocated K27 million to fund this program. Of the K27 million only a funding of K9 million was received which was used by the technicians and the engineers to develop this station.

Currently, a new Board has been put in place who will be over-see the progress. They are doing well. There are plans to cooperatise *Kundu 2* so that we can see improved services in terms of government issues. We are currently using analog system and we now going to go

through digitalization program. Should Kundu Two be digitalized there will be clarity of spectrum and pictures.

In terms of satellite, I am not sure but I can ask the Minister if he has any plans for that because my Department only deals with policy and regulation.

Mr Speaker, I think that is how far I can answer. These questions are very important and I would urge the Governor to put them in the Question Paper so that I can answer them.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Thank you Minister. Minister for State Enterprise, are you able to answer some of these questions?

**Mr BEN MICAH** – In response to the satellite, I would like to thank the then Prime Minister Grand Chief for undertaking the ground works through NICTA, Telikom and the Prime Minister's Office and enabling the launching of the satellite.

**10/02**

We have two slots, which the international telecommunications allocated to us and we have not filled that for so many years.

Yet we are still leasing transponders that it is costing the telecommunication providers like Telikom, B-Mobile, Digicel and even Hitron and private companies that access the Seattleite huge excessive costs on lease.

I studied the previous Government's report and I brought before the Ministerial Economic Committee a proposal that NEC has now discussed and is before treasury to look at the financing options and it will be going to Cabinet shortly for deliberation so that we can be able to launch our own satellite and hopefully we will launch between 2017-2018 Papua New Guinea's own satellite.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of ID Cards I spoke to the then Minister for Police Mr Nixon Duban because I have instructed B-mobile and Telikom to look into that matter. So many people are sending abusive text messages and many are ringing around claiming to be the Prime Minister or Ministers of the State.

If you ring the service providers it is of no help because many vendors are selling different kinds of sim cards which are not registered.

For security reasons and monitoring these communication systems there is a legislation which the former Minister prepared and if the Prime Minister can look into it with the consultation of Digicel and B-mobile and Telikom, we can be able to bring before Parliament this law and we can regulate all the sim cards.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (by **James Marabe**) agreed to-

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.40 p.m.