

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 22 November 2013

DRAFT HANSARD

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EIGHTH DAY

Friday 22 November 2013

The Speaker, (**Mr Theo Zurenuoc**) took the Chair at 10. a.m..

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Speaker again took the Chair at 10.35.a.m.,and invited the Member for Chuave, Honourable **Wera Mori** to say Prayers:

‘Father God Almighty, you are God of all nations, Creator and the one who Sustain the entire universe and all creations. We come before you this morning and thank you and give you glory and honour for a great nation of ours - Papua New Guinea. You are Our God, our source of strength and inspiration.

We thank you Lord Almighty for the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. We thank you for the position, for all Members of this Parliament whom you have elected through your people to come here and make decisions and legislate laws that will govern your great nation.

Lord, this morning we give you thanks for the Budget that has been presented. We come before you and join together to say the Prayer that you taught us through your Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.’

QUESTIONS

Mr WILLIAM POWI – Thankyou Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for National Planning and the Minister for Community Development to take note as this question relates to both Departments. It is in relation to the importance of the Civil Registry, the registration of deaths and births in consultation with the very important programs of National Identification concept that the National Government is embarking on in this country.

I think if the National Government takes this as a very important program much of Papua New Guinea's issues and development challenges would be dealt with. It would be very important for the National Planning purposes, Elections, Common Roll, delivery of services, law and order and the whole of database for Government service delivery.

Mr Speaker, I see this as the most important program the Government has ever undertaken in this country. We have 7 million people and when compared to other countries it is a small country that can be managed, yet, we have not registered reliably the deaths and births as well as the importance on the National Identification process that we are embarking on.

I want the Minister for National Planning to explain and give an overview to the Parliament and the country on what the National Government is doing in relation to these two important programs.

Mr CHARLES ABEL – Thankyou, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable Governor for Southern Highlands, William Powi for this very important question. It's good to see that some of our leaders such as the good Governor appreciates this issue and the importance of making sure that this system of government is adequately catered for managing our population and our development programs particularly for the important need of data collection.

02/08

Mr Speaker, we have recently seen some of the issues coming out in relation to our Civil Registry and I know our good Minister for Community Development who is responsible for the Civil Registry is aware of those issues and is trying to deal with them. Indeed, the current activities of Government concerning the electronic ID program also take into account the Civil Registry issues and we are trying to deal with them as a whole.

Mr Speaker, the country will be aware because we have been conducting an awareness program around this. Since coming into office, the Government recognised those issues in the first instance because of the election and all the problems associated with the Common Roll such as double counting, names not registered on the Common Roll and complaints by citizens who missed out on their constitutional rights to express themselves through the proper democratic process. This led our Government to quickly address these issues and therefore we have picked up on what we call the National Identification Program.

Cabinet endorsed that program and engaged a contractor after it went through the necessary procurement processes according to law. We have now established a structure including a Ministerial Committee. This Committee met two days ago here at the Parliament and that was the third meeting so far.

There is a Project Steering Committee under that program and we are engaging a series of activities through the National Statistics Office to get this program up and running.

Recently, the Prime Minister and I went to China to deal with the bilateral relations with China and the Pacific countries. One of the important things we discussed was concluding the financing arrangement with the Exim Bank of China to fund this program.

We have also identified the land that is required to build the card printing office and we have now the legislation draft ready. The Minister for Community Development will present it to the Cabinet, together with the policy.

Mr Speaker, the idea is to once and for all come up with a system whereby our citizens will be identified and be included in the development process. We had issues around census and the collection of data and it makes it difficult, in terms of the planning process to organise our budget and appropriating funds for all those particular issues.

Mr Speaker, the intention of the program is for all our citizens starting from birth through the Civil Registry office which is already part of the framework will be given a unique identification number as they are born through the proper health system. Once they turn 17, they will be issued a unique identification card with certain bio-data on that card and they will be identified through the finger printing process.

Each citizen will get a card and it will enable them to access Government services. It will enable the Government to form a database around that information which will then be fed into a centralised data system.

All the information requirements of Government whether it be the Common Roll of for Census or for National Planning and Health, Educational purposes and even further applications such as banking or licenses or passports will be integrated into a database system that provides the Government with such information.

The system will also be linked to other programs of Government including a National Broadband Network, the backbone for information to feed in through the central database and even the Integrated Government Information system that will link to the Central Government database.

Mr Speaker, we are also taking this opportunity to look at the issues at the Civil Registry and the intention and the idea through the Minister for Community Development,

the Cabinet and the Prime Minister is to combine the Civil Registry with the National Statistical Office into a Bureau of Statistics and Civil Registry.

This is to have one agency of Government responsible for this central information and then locate this reservoir at the central agency, being the Department of National Planning and Monitoring. The Department will then adequately resource this institution so that we can get the census right, identify all our citizens and get the Civil Registry Office fully functioned and resourced. And from the time a person is born, they will be picked up by the Government system and they will be issued with an ID card.

The Bureau will be able to produce an on time meaningful statistics that will guide us in the formulation of Government policies and programs.

Mr Speaker, it is a very important program and as I alluded to you earlier we wanted to also feed into the election process. I want to clarify that it does not necessarily mean that after this program is completed we would be able to do electronic voting, although we hope to do partial electronic voting.

We will pilot it in certain areas and the primary intention is to get an accurate database and accurate Common Roll so that when people vote they will be identified and will not be able to vote twice. They will have relative assurance that their name is on the Common Roll and someone is not voting with their name or they won't be able to vote several times in the same electorate or in different electorates.

That is one of the issues that will be addressed but ultimately it will provide the platform for these other applications I talked about, for example electronic voting. So we hope to be in a position where we can perhaps pilot the electronic voting in selective wards and electorates in each region.

Mr Speaker our Government is giving it a high priority and it's a K230 million program. It is a massive task and we need the engagement of all of us particularly, the leaders in our respective areas to fully understand the concept so that we can roll it out.

03/08

It will involve having a permanent office in each province and it will involve having a 177 mobile units going around over the next couple of years and collecting the necessary information to then be able to issue those cards.

So, I am appealing to all of us, particularly our Governors to get behind this program as there is some misconception and misunderstandings but please understand that around the world, most developing countries and most developed countries have now got this system in

place. And it is a very important and useful tool in the planning and governance process. Please help us to dispel some of the myths, rumours and religious overtones surrounding this issue as there is nothing sinister about this. Some of these rumours are not true and it is a plain and simple practical approach by our Government to improve the governance process.

It is a theme that we keep talking about but we are trying to improve the efficiency of Government starting from the alignment of all the departments and their efficiency and at the end of the day a proper monitoring and evaluation framework and you cannot have that if you don't have this basic raw data about our citizens.

Mr Speaker, the primary intent and purpose of this is to improve the delivery of government services but there is a whole range of other benefits through to law and order as well such as the finger printing system and being able to know where particular people are and the whole management aspect of it.

I will just sum it up like that and I thank the understanding of the Community Development Minister too because we are both working on this together and trying to centralize this program and at the same time, address the problems of the Office of Civil Registry which is languishing on the side there through no fault of the Minister. She, through her reform process is working very hard together with me to centralize these functions and then we will adequately resource them and at the end of the day, we produce the important information we have been seeking.

Mr Speaker, I will just say quickly while I got the opportunity that in relation to the census, I am very pleased that after a long time struggling through this census which was supposed to take place in 2010 and deferred to 2011, next week we will finalizing the Census Report and after I take it through Cabinet, I present it to the Parliament and this something that is long overdue and one which we have been waiting for. This is an example of the dysfunctionality of the system and once we have a live online National Identification System, many of these things will be accessed through and at our fingertips on a timely basis. We will be able to go into them on the database and know exactly where we are rather than through this painful 10 year exercise and in the meantime we have 10 years in the middle where we don't exactly know what is happening.

Mr Speaker, that is another example of how this system will assist us and it is very important. I thank the Governor for his questions and the Governor is also on our Committee. It is a Ministerial Committee but there are four regional Governors there and he is one of them and we will be relying on his leadership and the other senior Governors on the

Committee. Of course, I call on all Governors and all Members to help us roll out this program.

Mr PETER IPATAS – Thankyou, Mr Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to my Hela brother, the Honourable James Marape as the Acting Minister for Education.

Mr Speaker, earlier this year the Acting Minister told this Parliament that Enga would be one of the provinces which would manage school fee tuition fees in the province as we have the capacity. To date, I haven't got anything in writing and I want to ask the Minister if he could inform this honourable Parliament and the people of Enga as well as my administration and the government when he would be writing to us in order for us to prepare to implement this very important Government policy.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thankyou, Mr Speaker. Let me the good hardworking Governor for Enga Province and with respect to many Governors, our Governor for Enga is renowned in as far as his work in the Education Sector is concerned. In fact, let me put on record his Province's achievement in far as getting the Education Sector up and running and working very well.

04/08

Mr Speaker, I also confirm that he did ask a question regarding his province and the Provincial Education Advisor administering the Tuition Free Component that the National Government is running. This program is now currently in its second year and next year will be three years under the O'Neill/Dion Government and will continue for as long this Government is in office and we will continue to embark on the Free Education policy and in fact, the Government is expanding on it so that the total number of children in schools from Elementary to Secondary School will be receiving tuition free. He asked this question from the context of his province because of the capacity they had. They want to manage the administration of the Tuition Fee themselves.

Mr Speaker, let me confirm that I did instruct the Education Department to process his request. As you would know that this is the first request from the provincial governments systems and it is a first of its kind request. There is a little bit of resistance from our administrators of the Education Department simply on the grounds that for every other province, we are running the Free Education program from here especially in the processing

and remittance of the money instead of going through another secondary process, we might be affecting schools for not receiving their funded allocations on time.

Mr Speaker, we are now remitting directly into school accounts as 90 percent of all schools already have their accounts open and we have asked the other 10 percent of schools open their accounts this year. By next year, all the schools in the country will have opened their accounts and we will transact money in real time as required.

Mr Speaker, those were the reasons they gave to us and I am assuring the Governor that I will be working with him and see if that real time need for money to be remitted is not compromised and if they can guarantee that as soon as money is available, the money that is meant for the cash component will go straight.

Mr Speaker, as you know, we now currently splitting and we are trialing early next year the commodity component aspect where basic kits can be provided to schools and the cash component given directly to schools.

Mr Speaker, we will try this with the Enga Provincial Government with its Provincial Education Board and the Education Advisor with my department to see if the essence of quick transfer of funds can be maintained at Enga and then we will certainly do that.

Let me assure the Enga Provincial Education Board through the Governor in this Parliament into this matter and that we will come to a conclusive decision before the next academic year.

Mr RONNY KNIGHT – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, it is alleged that Australia is spying on Papua New Guinea along with Indonesia and several others.

Mr Speaker, Australia is like our big brother and we always maintain trust and respect for them. What on earth this country would have to gain by doing this?

Mr Speaker, I have noticed Indonesians and their Prime Minister's response to the allegations and it is quite severe. They have recalled ambassadors and the issue has affected the Joint Asylum Patrol and Exercises.

Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea is a sovereign country and we are now clearly lacking in our capacity of our counter intelligence services. But this is no way for a friend or a big brother to act.

My questions are as follows;

(1) Will we be beefing up our National Intelligence Organization capacity to counter these threats in the future?

(2) Can the Prime Minister advise the people and this parliament whether he is aware of these threats?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Manus for this very important question.

Mr Speaker, it is a well known fact that the Australians have been involved in collecting some intelligence work around the region, particularly in Indonesia and also there is some work believed to be taking place in our own country.

Mr Speaker, as I have stated publicly that friends don't do that to each other. I expect the Australians to respect our sovereignty, the rights of individuals, especially tapping of phones without proper legal clearance to do so is illegal and we expect our friends to respect our laws.

Mr Speaker, I have already asked the Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister on his arrival from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Sri Lanka and I have requested him to summon the Australian High Commissioner for further clarification on this matter.

05/08

I have also advised the Minister to bring this matter up in the next month's Ministerial Forum so that there is a firm agreement between the two countries and that no intelligences gathering between the two countries from next year onwards.

And as I have said, if anyone wants to participate in any of our conversation then all they have to do is ask and not to come in uninvited. That's one of the issues that will be on the agenda on the Ministerial Forum.

I have also asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs to summon the Australian High Commissioner to explain our position on the issue of asylum and of course, the visa issues. Why I am saying this is because I want to give the Australians the leg up so that they understand the issues that are most important to us before we go to that meeting in December. I just don't want this meeting to be one of those meetings where we say and do things and go away for one year and come back and meet again. I want it to be meaningful and the results must come out from it and the Minister is now doing the groundwork.

On the issue of Intelligence Office, many of us know that our National Intelligence Organisation has been rundown for quite some time like many other departments and organization.

Mr Speaker, we have just recently appointed a new very experienced officer, Garry Baki, former Police Commissioner as the Director of NIO. He has just settled in and taken control of the organisation. And we have also got our intelligence friend from Israel who has come here and did a gap analyses on NIO itself. We are now working closely with Israel to beef up our intelligence gathering activities so that our country can be informed on a timely manner in terms of our security and intelligence issues that is facing us, thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr JOHN HICKEY – My question concerns the issuance of visas to our Papua New Guinean citizens to Australia, in particular, our young people who are wishing to go to Australia to study in tertiary institutions.

It's taken me two weeks to find out how long it will take for one of our students who was selected to attend a tertiary institution in Australia to obtain a student visa for study. It takes 10 to 14 weeks for that approval, some of these students whose families who can afford it or who have made great scarifies to have their children educated in Australia. Their results will not come through if they are studying in one of the Queensland Universities until mid December and their acceptance into Australian tertiary institutions will not come through until mid January and the Australian Universities commences on 24th February. There is no way that our students can get into an Australian tertiary institution before the commencement of the academic year, on the 24th of February.

Mr Speaker, these delays are unusual in previous years, it would take a maximum of three weeks. Now for some unknown reason, the Australian Government now advises us that its going to take 10 to 14 weeks.

Now, Prime Minister, I consider this to be a deliberate issue by the Australians. I for one have been trying to speak with somebody at Australian High Commission that's why I came late in the Chamber this morning.

06/08

The Deputy High Commissioner do not want to speak to me may be they are not happy about some of the issues abroad stated here.

Can we really talk with someone in authority to ensure that our students will be given ample time to obtain visas so that they can attend to their studies and commence their studies during the academic year next year?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, in relation to the questions he asked earlier and I want to assure him that there are some issues that I have put to our Minister for Foreign Affairs to take up with the Australian High Commissioner and these include; visa, Asylum seekers, spying allegations and the continued development partnership that we have in the country.

I agree with the Member for Bogia that 10-14 weeks is unreasonable and we know there are requirements such as the medical checks that the students need to undertake but these should not take that long. I will stress to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he must get a clear and forthright message to the Australians that we treat them very fairly and more generous than any others and they must do likewise.

Again we expect the same treatment on their part. I know education is a big industry for Australia and they should do everything possible to encourage our students to study there.

If parents are sacrificing their own funds to get their children to be educated in institutions that we lack in our country then Australia should be there to help process the Visas without delay.

It is also for their benefit and their education workers who teach in those institutions. It goes both ways so I will take this matter seriously and make sure it is addressed appropriately.

Mr WERA MORI – My question relates to the question asked by the Member for Goroka, Mr Bire Kimisopa to the Minister for State Enterprises. The response was not complete; therefore I would like to ask again. Since he is not present I would like to ask the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, we know that Papua New Guinea owns 19.5 per cent of the LNG Project and we have purchased this percentage from a loan from Arab. They have given us 5-6 years to repay this loan and redeem this percentage of the project as our own.

Every year our Budget increases and I wonder whether we are planning for such circumstances. The point is; instead of buying back these percentages through the mortgage of state –owned enterprises and set up another set of loans;

- (1) Can we refinance the current loan and increase the terms so that we do not mortgage other enterprises?
- (2) If we are to go ahead and redeem the loan, what is the total cost involved?
- (3) Where will the funds come from to redeem this loan?

Further borrowing is simply another debt and I want to know if it will appear on the State Balance sheet and increase the current figure that we already have or not?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you Mr Speaker and the Member for Chuave for his questions. And I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the member for Kundiawa for joining the Government.

It is a good question but the IPIC deal when we entered into it to secure the LNG project the PNG Government did not had the money. We had an investment in the Oil Search shares of about 17 per cent that we held and as part of the fundraising to secure our equity in this very important project we decided then to mortgage the Oil Search shares to secure the loan to buy the project and the loan was AUS\$1.5 billion.

Mr Speaker, what happened was that when we got the loan we mortgaged virtually everything and that included all the state owned enterprises. So what we are trying to do is to get all the state-owned enterprises out of that mortgage so that we are not held to ransom.

For example, every time we want to buy an aircraft for Air Niugini we have to have the Arabs permission. That is a deal that we have done but are trying to correct it because we feel that it is over mortgaged and the project is almost done and we are certain that it will deliver on time and the first gas will be delivered to our customers in July next year.

We have gone out to Public Tender to invite financial institutions to bid for us to refinance this particular IPIC deal.

07/08

These are some interests expressed and we have established a Committee of senior departmental heads headed by the Chief Secretary, Secretary for Treasury, Managing Director for IPBC and the State Solicitor to review the bids that are coming in. The review process has been completed and I am advised that they are ready to take it to the Cabinet. So, when the Cabinet examines the conditions of each of those bids, then we will make a decision that will show us the way forward.

But our aim is very simple. All the analysts tell us that Oil Search with the LNG production coming on line is now a certainty. The Oil Search shares will likely to increase to

US\$20 by year 2020. So it is what they call a 20-20 company where its shares are expected to increase from now US\$8.50 per share to US\$20.

As a Government, do we make a decision to get rid of the Oil Search shares and not worry about the gains that we will get in the future? I think this project will remain in this country for the next 30 years so, it will be irresponsible for us to forgo that kind of revenues and opportunities that will come to the country. That is why it is important for us to secure these shares because we must remember that Oil Search is the second biggest shareholder in the LNG Project where they own about 33 per cent while we own 19.5 per cent. So owning some shares in Oil Search also gives us some shareholding indirectly in the LNG Project. Therefore, it is very important that we secure these shares.

Mr Speaker, from what we gather, the Arabs are now going to the market trying to sell these shares in the open market. If we do not buy it back, the people will buy those shares because there are people out there who are willing to purchase them.

Mr Speaker, we need to raise the money to buy them without mortgaging all our other assets. The Oil Search shares are enough to guarantee the loans that we are going to borrow. So we don't need to mortgage anything else. All the other mortgages will be discharged so that we can reorganise government businesses better and not mortgaging everything at the same time.

The second very important issue that the Member for Chuave asked is that, is this borrowing going to affect government's limits that are set by the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*? Mr Speaker, this particular borrowing is outside the government's borrowings and it is off the balance sheet. That is why it is not going to affect that 35 per cent of the GDP limit that our country can borrow. So, I can assure the honourable Member that this is off the balance sheet. The IPBC and NCPC will take charge of this borrowing separate from the Treasury's responsibility of managing our debt levels in the country.

Mr Speaker, so are negotiating this deal at the moment and I want to assure this Parliament that once we finalise the details of the long terms; how many years and what interest rates we are going to pay then I will table that agreement in Parliament so everybody will be aware of it. There is not going to be any hidden deals, the public will be aware of the deals we do on their behalf into the future.

Mr WESLEY NUKUNDJ (Dei) – Thank you Mr Speaker in recognising the people of Dei. Before I ask my questions, I want to thank the Chair and compliment you for looking after this Parliament. Since we came into office in August last year, I have noticed that many

Parliamentary Service Staff and the contract people working outside did not know why they are here. They are here because Parliament is here and the Parliament is here because Members are elected by the people to represent them here.

When I came into Parliament, I noticed that they had no idea about this but now when you enter the gates of Parliament, you will notice that everybody is aware of why they are here. Therefore, on behalf of the Members of Parliament, I thank the Chair for reforming this Parliament, including the Prime Minister.

08/08

My question is directed to the Acting Minister for Education. We all know that some time ago Australia gave a scholarship to all of our top students at grade 10 to go down to Australia and do grades 11 and 12. Many of those students could not compete in the Australian standards so they came back.

When they came back they were not able to fit into the colleges and universities here because other people have already occupied those spaces.

I am speaking from experience because some of the students from my electorate who went on that scholarship are now some of the best house wives. One or two of the males are bus drivers on the Highlands Highway.

Was Australia genuine in offering that scholarship?

Can the Education Department provide a report on the success or failure of that scholarship?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me also thank the good Member for Dei for asking these questions.

I will certainly check with the Education Department to ascertain the claims raised by the Member and we will present a report to the Parliament and make a public announcement on that.

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My questions are directed to the Prime Minister as Minister for Police.

I have raised a complaint with the Commissioner over a year ago and have not received any reply.

The former leader gave a contract worth K6 million to build a hydro power scheme, in which there are so many allegations related to it.

At Laiagam station he had a 99-year lease on a State land and has used public funds to build a commercial centre and a prison cell block. Contracts have been awarded but the work has not commenced.

I have written letters of complaint to the Commissioner of Police and the Chairman of Task Force Sweep. I have not received any reply to date and so I want to ask the Prime Minister or Minister for Police to tell the people of Lagaip-Pogera and this House why it is taking too long. Are we supporting corrupt leaders or what?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable Meme for Lagaip-Pogera.

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the details of these cases but of course, these falls into the day-to-day work of the Police Force and the Task Force Sweep Team. I wish to inform the honourable Member that I will write to them later today informing them of his concerns and instruct that they respond to him in writing informing him of the status of those investigations, regarding the allegations and letters that the Member for Lagaip-Pogera has written to the Police and the Task Force Sweep Team.

09/08

Mr POWES PARKOP – Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise this question without notice which is directed to the Minister for Sports, Pacific Games and National Events. This question is basically asked for purposes of clarity.

(1) Could the Minister advise the Parliament and our people especially in the city if the schedule for the completion of the Games facilities and venues for the Pacific Games in 2015, are they on time and will they be ready in March 2015? I ask this question because two weeks ago, the President of the Pacific Games Association visited our country and was of the opinion that we won't be on time, in particular the Games Village. Could the Minister advise us if that is the case?

In relation to that also, there has been media report about the contract amount awarded in respect of the Games Village. I think the Member for Kundiawa who is now on our side did ask this question but I will ask it in a different way because apparently the media has not got the message or they still have a different opinion because I have got a copy of the *Sunday Chronicle* which talks about the K73 million question.

(2) Was there a 10 per cent deal regarding this awarding of the contract to the Chinese company to build the Games Village so as to inflate the price to K190 million as the media claim that was the scoping and costing of that Village to K200 something million?

Mr JUSTIN TKATCHKENKO – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank my dear Governor for NCD for bringing up these very important questions that need clarification and to make sure its crystal clear to everybody concerned especially for public interest and the media of course.

Firstly, I hit the question on the Games Village which I think is very important. There is no deal at all, let's make that very clear. The Games Village like all the other contracts was put to public tender by the Central Supply and Tenders Board. From there, they went back to the Central Supply and Tenders Board and were opened publicly to see the amounts of the contractors that bided for that particular contract.

China Railway which bided for that contract was the highest in those bids that were given. There were two or three much higher than China Railway. From there, the tenders went to a Technical Evaluation Committee which comprised of expert architects, engineers and independent persons. They then recommended the top three contractors that they felt were the best to do the job to the Central Supply and Tenders Board. The Central Supply and Tenders Board through the knowledge that they got then recommended to us at NEC through me for the awarding of the contract who was the best one capable of doing this job.

From there, the NEC recommended China Railway and gave it back to the Central Supply and Tenders Board and the State Solicitor to ensure that the costings and the contract and the documentation and everything was in order. The State Solicitor and the Attorney General's Office cleared that contract for the amount that was given.

Now China Railway is doing this contract on the understanding that they know that they have to finish this job by 2015. They have no time to muck around. They are putting on double shifts, working 24 hours, 7 days a week.

10/08

They have got no time to mark around. They are working double shifts on a 24 hours basis and seven days a week to ensure that this Games village is completed on time. The Games village will hold over 3 000 people. It is a huge construction made out of solid concrete.

At this point of time, Curtain Brothers is now building as a sub-contractor and has done all the pilings. It is now doing their foundations and the concrete work and panels before it constructs. I am very happy to say that Curtain Brothers briefed the Governor and I, an hour ago. They said everything is on track and is on time and moving ahead of schedule.

The 3000-room Games village, once built, will be handed over to the University of Papua New Guinea and they will utilise that for the student's accommodation. But it will also be there to be utilised for future international events and conferences such as the APEC meeting.

These facilities are not just timber shacks; they are well constructed, concrete engineered buildings. The project is being managed by Beka Construction, a professional project management team from New Zealand, who are making sure that the construction is done properly and correctly as per the contract. The Government and the Pacific Games Authority is ensuring that all contracts are done properly without fear or favour.

We also awarded Fletcher Morobe the contract to build the aquatic centre and the Sir John Guise outdoor stadium. They were one of the runner up in the Games village, but stated that they could not do the job because of other commitments so we had to assign the work to those who could produce a quality product on time for the people of Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Games.

Mr Speaker, our major problem in getting this Games moving forward was because of delays with the Central Supply and Tenders Board.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Finance, Treasury, National Planning and the Attorney General for supporting me in ensuring that the Public Service and Central Supply and Tenders Board are moving forward and ensuring that the Games are put as a national priority. That was the Prime Minister's instruction to all public servants and government departments. The Central Supply and Tenders Board is now moving quickly to ensure that all work is done on time so we can get all contracts out and the contractors can be working.

The lies that have been spread about the Games village, I believe has been referred to the Sweep Team to investigate the process it has gone through. As far as I'm concern, they will have nothing to find because everything was done properly and correctly to ensure that the Games village is built on time to a quality standard and for the people of Papua New Guinea.

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia–Prime Minister) – Mr Speaker, I seek leave of the Chair to make a further clarification on the question that the Member for Chuave asked about OK Tedi, the other day.

Mr SPEAKER – Leave is granted.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I received the report from the Management and the Board of OK Tedi so I wish to formally respond to the questions regarding the issue of stock piling of copper concentrate at the mine.

Mr Speaker, the stock piling of copper concentrate at the OK Tedi Mine Kiunga facility or on the vessels in Port Moresby Harbour are actually a normal part of business for the export cycles that takes place every year.

11/08

Mr Speaker, the mine management has confirmed and I confirm to this honourable Parliament that the inventory stockpile at the Kiunga facility on Tuesday morning totalled 11645 worth metric tonnes of concentrate. The inventory stock piled ready for export on the vessel *Kumul Arrow* anchored in Port Moresby Harbour on the same morning was 17147 worth metric tonnes. The inventory on the mines feeder vessels which are in transit from OK Tedi onto the *Kumul Arrow* at 6a.m. that morning was 6771 metric tonnes.

Mr Speaker, exports this month has totalled to 10800 worth metric tonnes which are now in transit on *Sao Korea*. The next export of the vessel will be 21600 worth metric tonnes which is due to depart Port Moresby Harbour on 24 November at 6a.m. The third export is about 8200 metric tonnes due to also depart Port Moresby harbour on Tuesday, 26 November. Mr Speaker, these quantities of stock piling of concentrates are normal and they are a part of the export cycle of the mine.

Mr Speaker, in regards to the chemical composition of the copper concentrate that the honourable Member talked about, I am told that they have elevated fluorine levels due primarily to restrictions on the ore blending and feeding to the mill processing that is taking place on the ground. This is because the primary crusher is undergoing repairs at the mine site. The use of fluorine is a common issue at OTML which is continuously being dealt with from time to time but the mine assures us that it's been effectively dealt with.

Mr Speaker, I can confirm that there have been a number of events that has adversely affected the operations of the mine this year. A major one being that one of the two processing, mill circuits has been put out of production for two months for it to be repaired and undergo maintenance.

Mr Speaker, as I informed this honourable Parliament earlier, there has been also been flooding at the mine due to extremely high rainfall in the area impacting the mines operation for at least two months and these situations are now all being rectified.

During the year the crusher also when under routine major repairs which also affected the production of the concentrate of copper.

Mr Speaker, the mine also had to face falling crisis boot for commodity prices for copper and gold which has also significantly affected the revenue for the mine itself.

Mr Speaker, the mines was also affected by the recent cyclone that devastated Philippines, which has impacted the major customer of the mine which is PASA. Their operations have been seriously damaged. The PASA Company is out of business for three to four months and the mine has one vessel which is now in anchor in Philippines and is unable to unload the copper, but Mr Speaker, I want to assure you that OK Tedi mine is working closely with the customer to finding a solution.

Mr Speaker, these are major issues that have affected the mine this year but OK Tedi is accustomed to many trials and tribulations and the management and the board are continuously addressing that.

Mr Speaker, the management and the board considers the mine as an important asset and business for the people of Western Province, the country and the National Government will continue to support their work. Thankyou Mr Speaker.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That Grievances be noted.

Mr TITUS PHILEMON (Milne Bay) – Thank you very much Speaker, to be the first to speak on the grievance debate.

12/08

Mr Speaker, I rise to air my grievances in regards to surveillance. It is one of the issues that has not been given a lot of importance and attention.

I ask the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Defence and other relevant Minister's to take note of this.

Mr Speaker, we have so many illegal fishing activities still happening in our country, especially in the maritime areas. It is not only illegal fishing, but there is people smuggling, money laundering and drug trafficking. These are the very biggest threats to our country.

Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether the Border Development Authority is still in existence or not.

This Authority should be responsible for doing all the surveillance work throughout this country.

Mr Speaker, let me also point out that the confidentiality of Government matters must be kept discreet and this surveillance should take on this angle too.

Mr Speaker, just this morning during Question Time we heard about the National Intelligence Organization and the Prime Minister mentioned that they have not been in operation up to now. Yesterday, we had the Minister for Finance also making comments of some of the Governments confidential matters that have been tampered with.

Mr Speaker, today, we have to ask whether we can be able to trust one another in terms of Government confidentiality, public servants information that are supposed to be confidential, information that is supposed to be for the Executive Government and Cabinet only. It is sad that now you can find this information on the streets and people are using this information against the Government.

Mr Speaker, this happens in all systems of Government. Today it is very hard to be discreet because a lot of people are selling information. We are not supposed to do that.

Mr Speaker, I fear in this country we are a very rich country and we have attracted a lot of foreign investors and we have become a threat to many other nations in the world because of our wealth, our beauty and the resources and everything.

Mr Speaker, we have to consider the security of this country. It is not only for our information as leaders but for our people as well.

We are a maritime rich resource country –

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, let me interrupt you. I noticed that the Camera is still rolling up in the Gallery. I warn this people to turn the Camera off now.

Mr TITUS PHILEMON – Mr Speaker, that is another surveillance that I am talking about. Its right inside our Parliament as well.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr TITUS PHILEMON – Mr Speaker, we have to be conscious of these things. We are talking about things because we have witnessed. I have seen Government, Parliament and Cabinet or NEC matters are becoming public information. They are even publishing or posting them on *Facebook* website. How can we monitor and control these things?

Mr Speaker, even the influxes of foreigners who are entering this country and the Government institutions have failed this country very in surveillance in general.

I thank the Prime Minister and his delegation that visited the Israel nation and reaching an agreement that Israel will assist us in terms of intelligence and surveillance and all this things in concern.

When I was Minister for Fisheries we wanted to introduce the unmanned plan to do surveillance right across, so that illegal fishing will be controlled and I am not sure how far it has gone.

13/08

But I believe the step the Prime Minister has taken is very good for the future of this country as far as intelligence is concern.

Mr Speaker, we got to be very mindful and it's very important for us to know and save guard our information. That's my concern because in here many times Members complaining about people from other countries come here and easily given the citizenship and so forth, thank you very much.

Mr RONEY KNIGHT (Manus) –Thank you Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Manus and allowing me to take part in this debate.

Mr Speaker, my Province like many other Island Provinces imports most goods by using Lutheran Shipping from Lae. And this is the fact that it's been over look by most leaders in the past. If you want anything from sugar to roofing iron it all comes on the Lutheran Shipping Vessel from Lae and unloaded at Salasea Wharf and from there the client gest its cargo.

Lutheran Shipping has in the past being the lifeline to Manus. Mr Speaker, previously there were many shipping companies over 30 years ago flying the route, which my father and his company RM Vessel Knight and all other companies in the province arranged and acted as Steve Agent a whole year.

As our local small internal transport sector the Government system collapsed, commodity prices dropped and we found that most shipping companies were reluctant to service Manus when there was no back loading out of the province.

Mr Speaker, my father built the Salasea Wharf by hand vitality with the approval of the District Commissioner, Mr Dash Hash in the early 70s at his own expense and this has been the major service wharf since then. PNG Ports now runs his wharf and has still not meet obligations to secure the wharf legally from RMV Knight and acknowledged that the late Ron Knight and Valvine Knight contribution to this country and Manus logistic security.

The PNG Harbors Board build a huge Wharf at Nabu earlier than that which is unworkable in our North-West season. And after two Stevedores died it was relocated to Salasea side where the wharf was build by my father with his own sweat and money.

Mr Speaker, my father was a believer in Government and not a greedy man and he started Manus first Port Advisory Committee and persuaded PNG Ports by a very hard means to come in and as they were receiving cargo dues and ports charges he made them build a shade and fence to secure peoples cargo. And eventually they decided that they own the wharf and they took over from it.

Today PNG Ports is operating a wharf build by a patriot who believes in his adopted country and has done a lot for it and made sure his people has services and they have no title to that wharf and therefore, they are taking money illegally. But we are working with them still Mr Speaker.

Overtures were made to rectify this by the late Joshua Turuna for PNG Ports to recompensate the issue and the company would sign the rights over to the wharf and corporation taking the title and same goes to the Buka Wharf but this has still not happened.

Mr Speaker, two pioneers in shipping; the late Ron Knight and Arthur Fenskey came to an understanding over 40 years to get Lutheran Shipping to service Manus, since the RMV Knight Lutheran Shipping have carried each other in good and bad times.

Mr Speaker, until very recently as the by product of the original center, Lutheran Shipping was the only lifeline into our Province and with the lowest rates in the country. For example, Lutheran Shipping charges a pallet of cargo around K200 to Manus, the companies

now poaching this route charge about K800 for a pallet. Lutheran Shipping charges K4, 800 for 20 foot container and the other companies charges K9000 to K10 000 plus.

It's obvious that Lutheran Shipping is the only company that was willing to risk a service run without a back load to Manus and has served the Manus people very well.

Unfortunately, internal troubles were affecting the local company which is a vital link to many of us and other places as well.

As far as we are concern Lutheran shipping is part of Manus and we will still support this company with her runs to Manus with a huge revenue earner for the company.

Mr Speaker, the Asylum Centers are political animal and even when it is finally completed there is no more construction work will the shipping companies that are there, many of them foreign will still do the runs to Manus without the back loads.

14/08

Mr Speaker, you must understand that most shipping companies make money on the backload run but Lutheran Shipping will be always there for Manus. Lutheran Shipping is an icon for this country and it has gone from a major success story to a problem child.

I am calling on all the stakeholders and to the management to services first and leave the negative issues behind. I want the Government to assist Lutheran Shipping in any way possible to maintain the very important services to our people and to assist the Lutheran church to deliver its message.

Mr Speaker, why is there no back loading, a lot of crops and other stuff are going bad because they can't be transported out. There are no other ships available and boats are very expensive. We must help Lutheran Shipping we cannot just let it die away.

The Government and the people of Papua New Guinea owe a lot to Lutheran Shipping.

Mr PETER IPATAS (Enga) –I am privileged to be here in Parliament and I want to share some thoughts I have of our country. The people entrusted us to be leading this country because they want us to represent their interests, therefore this country is in our hands. We must individually assess our own performances.

Whether we are representing the interests of our people or not and we must put the interests and make the visions of our electorates a reality. As leaders we must look to the future and not look at what should happen now. We have been elected to make some good decisions for the future generations.

We as leaders must not think that other people will come and decide for us. We are blessed with a very beautiful and rich country, let us not wait for someone else to come and fix our country for us. I want all leaders here to critically think about this. Our country flaws are being blamed on the public servants for not doing their work.

While it is a fair comment, on the other hand we are not being fair because we as mandated leaders for a period of time, while the public servants will stay on. Over the period I have noticed our concern on public service we fail to realize that it is being over politicized. Why do we have to do that?

15/08

If you a good leader and you are serving the people properly, there is no need for you to politicise the Public Service. As leaders, we must think logically if we want our country to be prosperous. Now we are in Parliament talking about rolling out projects to our electorates. How are we going to achieve that? The Public Service is running the system and my worst fear is that I have been observing over many years and when we come into Parliament, we engage our own public servants where some are not qualified to hold those positions.

So who are we going to blame? The system is still weak so let us fix this problem and be genuine about this country. Let us give hope to our children. Many of our children want to become public servants when they finish school but they will not do that if we over politicise the Public Service. We must maintain the system of government and the delivery of goods and services because the projects will still be here.

We must look at this at the Cabinet level so that whoever we appoint to be Secretary to certain department or to senior government positions must be someone with merit and who can contribute to the national development. We must also do the same as the provincial level. There must be no nepotism in the appointments.

One critical thing is that if we politicise from a political level up here where we have powers to sack public servants but we, as politicians manage interfere with the Public Service, who is going to correct us if our decisions are wrong. This country will be doomed so I am appealing today for all of us to think seriously about re-looking at the Public Service.

We have always been talking about removing corruption and the first thing is to allow the Independence of the Public Service. The Minister for Public Service is a former Departmental Secretary and I am sure he is a worried Minister because in his time as a public servant, he was able to do what he wanted as a Secretary. Now, I see that many departmental

heads are scared of politicians. Let us do away with that mentality and be honest and build a future for our children.

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku) – Mr Speaker, I thank you for being in the right place at the right time to debate this issue because I have been with the Public Service for a long time and have experienced the struggles out there. Many times, public servants attend many conferences and discuss many issues but there is no support.

I thank my people of Nuku for electing me to represent them in Parliament and I think that this is the right place for me to speak on their behalf. I also thank the O'Neill-Dion Government.

16/08

We in this Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister Honourable Peter O'Neill must address our rural transport system.

The Member for Manus spoke already and it seems that these problems are still prevalent in the islands and throughout the country. We are pretending that our rural areas are alright but they are not.

It is about time that we seriously look at the rural transport system in Papua New Guinea. All the modes of transport must be addressed including sea, water, air and land.

If we do not then we will continue to spend money even if we increase next year's budget to K15 billion. We will not improve simple accessibility for the rural mass of our people who are out there still anticipating the government's services to reach them.

Mr Speaker, above all other things that we discuss, I am speaking from my heart that we still need to seriously solve the rural transport system of our people because we still have a big problem in this sector of the country.

I am of the strong view that the Government must establish and manage its own air services so that it can go and deliver services such as health and education. Banks cannot carry cash into the outlying islands or remote parts of the country. It is very risky; we must have a transport system.

We know that commercial airlines cannot go to the remote areas because it is not economical for them. I have tried it out. I have served as a provincial administrator of a very remote province and like my colleague, the Governor of Southern Highlands, it is something we all know very well but we come in here and pretend that we are okay.

Mr Speaker, it is about this Government seriously looking at addressing the rural transport sector and I suggest that we must now own our provide air services; or better still, we can expand the services of Air Niugini with the government subsidizing highly the third level operations of the company to serve the remotest parts of the country. That may be the only way we can support it.

We will not solve this predicament if we continue to embark on piece meal arrangements. We give money to the Members; we all get money to the LLG and provinces but, collectively, as a nation we must address it from the top so that when the Prime Minister gives a command to respond to a disaster, the chopper should go there immediately. It should not wait for you to come and boast about being a Member and Minister and go in on the chopper. I want that insignificant public servant to ride on the chopper to serve our people.

Mr Speaker, this is one of our major impediments to development. Let us not pretend that Papua New Guinea is alright. Our people are still waiting for the government; they have been waiting for ages.

On a positive note, Mr Speaker, when you see this you can visibly see the level of pride on our people increase for themselves as well as their Member. When an aeroplane lands in the remotest part of the country it is bringing the Government there. It does not matter who is in the plane, so long as a public servant is there. They know that the Government is there and it is present.

So, the presence of the Government must be felt in the remote islands out there, the rugged mountains up their and the most isolated coastlines. They must feel the presence of the Government.

Mr Speaker, I personally feel that we have not come to the stage that we have seriously looked at addressing the rural transport dilemma. We used to have the government trawlers, the government charters and government pool who were right there. You must not expect the third level airlines to do it because they will not do it. It is not economical for them. They will never do it.

So, Mr Speaker, we must seriously look at this issue now because it is the right time. We have the money to do it. If we put all the money together we are able to buy choppers, planes and all these things and we can move to solve these problems. There is no problems with money; we have it.

17/08

This is the right time because we have money. If we put all our money together, we can be able to buy helicopters, planes and solve these problems. There is no problem because we have the money but we are spending it on our small projects and not cooperating together. We should all work together as a national team and name it as a national service delivery team where banks, police and everybody are on board and we move together.

For instance, we have an airstrip on Musau Island but there are no aircrafts to take that route and likewise, Karkar Island has an airstrip but they don't provide air service. Therefore, we must purchase our own planes as a government to provide access for our people.

Mr Speaker, at this point in time, we must cooperate and move as a united force as national leaders and address our rural problems. There are many incidences where public servants drown at sea while trying to travel to remote areas on small boats. We as a government are responsible for their lives so apart from other issues, this issue is our first priority.

If you go to other countries, they just press the button and everything happens quickly because they have adequate transport system in place. Communication and other technologies come later but access is very important where you can quickly move from one point to another.

Mr Speaker, therefore, the future of Papua New Guinea depends on our rural transport system. We are talking about the future but where is the third level airline. It is good that we are going establish District Authority and do reforms after reforms but if we do not fix the rural transport system, we will not develop this country thus deliver much needed services to our people in the rural areas.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) –Thank you Mr Speaker once again for recognising our people from Chuave. I have few comments that I want to contribute to the grievance debate but before I do that, I want to thank the Prime Minister for answering my previous questions in relation to Ok Ted Mine.

Mr Speaker, now that I got the opportunity, the reasons why I asked those questions and the need to find out and establish whether the presence of fluorine is simply because Ok Ted Mine lost a lot of money when Fluorine was found in concentrates in exports 24 years ago. A considerable amount of money was spent to basically narrow down where those fluorine content bearing minerals were and eventually they were established.

The reason why I asked those questions was that I would like to make sure that there were no sabotaged activities by the management of Ok Tedi to frustrate the process where by the acquired Ok Tedi. So that was the fundament theme of the question I raised and I am thankful that has answer those questions. But I also would like to put on record to Ok Tedi Mine if they are listening to this program that in the future, they should not allow that to happen again because smelters will refuse to buy concentrates that contain fluorine because it forms fluoric acid which can leach the base of smelters and we do not want to lose business.

Mr Speaker, I want to talk about prudent management. Every year, our budget will increase and thankfully LNG will come on line and we will start earning income next year. But while we talk on bigger issues, we should also not forget about small issues. The 2014 Budget is centred on infrastructure and I am very thankful that it is about time we spent serious money on such projects.

18/08

In our recent trip where we travelled to England, thanks to the Minister for Sports and Pacific Games we saw that some of their facilities were built long time ago. We talk about Lloyd Robson Oval which was built in 1978, that was when I was a young man and that place remains the same without any improvements. I thank the Government for the approach it took because we must take the bull by the horn.

Mr Speaker, I speak on behalf of the small people from the rural areas who want to know how this Budget that we have passed down will impact their lives. We won't be putting money into their pockets each day in their daily lives. As leaders of this country it is important that we don't forget our small people in the rural areas.

This brings me to the subject of import replacement. It's good that the Minister for Trade and Industry is present to hear this. We must support this sector for the creation of employment opportunities. The small to medium scale activities will provide a form of employment for majority of our rural population.

In 1975, countries like Vietnam had no coffee and when we gained independence, Papua New Guinea produced one million bags of coffee, yet after forty years we are struggling to produce a million bags of coffee and Vietnam has produced over 15 million bags of coffee. This is because they have placed more efforts on the small scale farmers.

I am thankful that we have a dynamic Minister for Trade, Commerce and Industry who is focused and has visited almost all the provinces of Papua New Guinea to drive this

small scale production to every household. The Government must fund his Department, so that his activities will benefit the small people in the rural areas.

This brings me to another issue; however, it is unfortunate that the Minister for Agriculture is not present to hear this, the people of Central province are planning to plant rice. And it is not that hard to plant rice yet I am disappointed as to why the Government is not supporting them to plant rice. Why? We are importing rice, so when will we plant and harvest our own rice. There are a lot available land in Central province that can be used to produce rice and I'm pretty sure the Sepik and Ramu Plains can also be converted to rice producing farms. Please, we must change the policies; we should not give monopolies to those who are currently importing rice.

One year has gone and we are still talking and there is no action. Let us not underestimate the aspirations of our people, where there is a will there is a way.

It's like the story of Ben Carson the famous neurosurgeon, when he was a small boy he was beneath his class and his mother told him that if anyone could do it he could do it and that was the challenge.

Let's get rid of monopoly and we have to seriously consider growing rice in this country because rice has taken over *kaukau* and *sago* and other staple foods in all homes. Our children don't like eating *kaukau* and it's true. When I was a child I ate *kaukau* everyday but today it's different. These are the practicalities, the situation of the day so please let us grow rice.

19/08

When we were small, children loved eating *kaukau* and other local foods but children these days do not like eating local foods anymore, they love eating rice. These are the practical situations we face today. So let us start growing rice and we can start off with the Central Province, what's wrong with that? I want the Minister for Agriculture to take note of this but since he is not present in the Chamber, some of you can tell him later.

I call on the Government not to forget the people of Chuave when negotiating the lime and cement project as this will open a new economic corridor and opportunities as the Chimbu Province will also be exporting cocoa shortly and the people of the province are hardworking and when the Karimui road is opened, the export of cocoa will exceed some of yours as you know that we are growing cocoa in Karimui and we need that road. I am glad the Prime Minister is smiling.

Mr Speaker, in many parts of the country including Finschhafen, small townships like Pindiu, the head of the river Mongi, Umbegong and Wandekai leading to Sialum and Kabwum and also in Chuave at places like Elimbari and Nambayiufa, the people need rural electrification. I heard from the Member for Komo-Margarima that a total amount of K65 million has been rolled out by the Government so that K500 thousand can be used for rural electrification in each district but these funds have been withdrawn. Can the Government look at alternative sources so that we can re-introduce this program because many remote aidposts and primary schools in our electorates do not have access to the power supply from the Yonki Dam. So it is best that we must make this money available and we must have stand-by generators –

Mr Francis Potape – Point of Order! – Mr Speaker, with due respect I never anything about K65 million being rolled for his district.

Mr SPEAKER – Your Point of Order is in order. Member, you need apologise to the Member for what you said.

Mr WERA MORI – Mr Speaker, my apologies, I meant to say the Member for Koroba-Lake Kapiago who stated this during the Government caucus meeting.

Mr Speaker, the Government must take heed of what I am saying and we need to reactivate this program so that we can be able to light up the rural areas and communities. Thankyou.

Mr JOHNSON TUKE (Kainantu) – Mr Speaker, it is an honour for me, on behalf of the people of Kainantu which I have signed a five-year social contract to air my view on this occasion of the Grievance Debate.

I applaud the Minister for Treasury for handing down the 2014 Budget which again portrays this Government's focus on Implementation. Implementation is a collective approach poaching all sectors streamlined to economic independence. I, for one, sees Papua New Guinea exporting processed commodities and this Budget prepares the foundation through supporting SME activities.

Mr Speaker, may SME in 2014 creeps in to rural communities and into the very heart of the country in which the majority of the people live. This is because when each individual

understands the concept and each individual take a step forward, a markedly significant difference will be effected and that will revolutionise the PNG economy.

Mr Speaker, these introductory remarks leads me to inform this Parliament that my Electorate has several institutions of national importance and they are the National Agriculture Research Institute, CRI, the Highlands Agriculture Development Centre, the Aiyura National High School, the Ramu Hydro, SIL Bible translators, UPNG Open Campus and the Lutheran Trumpet School. These institutions play significant roles in their respective domains and from time to time I have noticed how these institutions can be utilized to expedite its expertise to contribute immensely to the social and economic development of this nation. In other words, SMEs can be realised through these institutions.

20/08

These institutions sits on the land that was there long before their establishment. These landowners on good gesture, made this land available for the establishment of institutions of national importance but they have been neglected. It most possibly may have been due to the short fall of Budget or maybe because it is isolated in the Highlands and their significance may have slipped out of the minds of officers up at the headquarters when planning Budget allocations.

Mr Speaker, may it be noted that these institutions are surrounded by landowners whose fathers and grandfathers willingly released this customary land for establishing of the finance institutions.

These institutions has immediate obligations to assist landowners where and when it can keep within the pace of development. But how can these be, when recurrent expenses are maintained year in and year out without considering Budget allocations to extend primary activities into the surrounding communities.

That is why I believe consistent court cases, protests, in-fights and after fights causing massive physical and mental destrutions, causing setbacks and bringing much needed outcomes upon which consequent progression is anticipated within projected time.

There have been situations in the past continuing into present as I speak where the landowners had been dealt directly by the responsible institutions from Port Moresby such as the Ramu Hydro Scheme. When there is a State agency, Kainantu District can be utilised to extend and channel administrative support needed. Alona Valley Development was established to deliver development to the dam affected area but has not done to date. People

living within the vicinity of the dam and those living within the feeder streams are yet to have access to electricity, good drinking water, health facilities and so forth.

Mr Speaker, Alona Valley Development Authority is a development agency that has been in operation for years in isolation with IC funds being absorbed by the administration and very little filters through if it does.

Mr Speaker, the pride of my people lives a lot to be desired for by other institutions in my electorate and so with similar fringes. These landowners are coming to realize that the very intellect has been through these institutions had or successfully advocating for greater benefits and resource development in the respective positions for this country.

My electorate has been in recent lawlessness when Kainantu was branded cowboy town. This lawlessness is declining because there was an attention given to my office. More can be done if given attention and appropriate direction through the existing system, the DSIP.

Mr Speaker, I take this time to inform this Parliament and mention that it was in Kainantu that the missionaries pass through into the highlands to preach the gospel and it happened of which we are making important decisions for this great nation. It was Kainantu where coffee was grown and it has become a major export commodity for the country.

The Kainantu LLG is a means to bring development and this Government is using that medium to deliver through LLGs. It was at Kainantu who court system was the most appropriate means to address petty crimes considering the diversity this country is our customary practices which led to doing away with local courts and replacing it with village court system. It was Kainantu who could read and write in local vernacular and it is done through the country and it is continued to today. It was Kainantu that has produced PNG's highly acclaimed doctors and health extension officers thus we make ourselves guinea pigs for the good of this nation.

It was Kainantu who produces cheaper electricity and supply one third of the country's consumers. It was Kainantu that has harnessed great leaders in politics, business and social activities where young men and women were groomed. It was Kainantu that links the Coastal and the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, having highlighted these significant contributions by my electorate to this nation and I am proud to be standing here in the light of this grievance debate.

Mr Speaker, I wish for Kainantu Electorate to be considered a special electorate for the good it had done and is continuing to do for this nation and ask for additional DSIP funds for the purpose of cushioning the built-up frustrations of landowners. These funds can be used by the institutions to extend their programs to the landowning communities to enable sustainable

activities coordinated through these three institutions. The rundown Agriculture Centre for Inland Fishing can be also maintained by these funds. This is the only such institution in the Oceania region.

21/08

Mr Speaker, the Arona Valley Development is a body has not delivered, rumors is that federation is planning to take over the provincial government, LLGs, landowners and State. I for one do not want to see this happening because in my view, Mr Speaker, it will alleviate the very landowners who deserve the development in return for sacrificing their land. Instead I want to see the authority realigned by including Kainantu and Obura-Wanera District to take charge and offer development package is delivered. The districts have Government system in place that has officers who can deliver and for this to happen extra funding for DSIP for Kainantu district is needed.

Thirdly, Kainantu is the gateway to Highlands as many say and as highlighted earlier historical granter who travelled up the Highway upon seeing Kainanatu thinking that the rest of the Highlands are as such, Kainantu from Young Creek to Barora needs some major transformation. I wish to request this Government through the Right Honorable Prime Minister to consider what my people have done for this nation and make allowance for project grants and top up Kainantu DSIP as long as their institution remain. These grants in infrastructure development, maintenance and implementation and Kainantu will become the leader in processing fresh vegetables in future.

Mr Speaker, I plight on behalf of the people of Kainantu in this grievances debates serious consideration in 2014 National Budget to top up DSIP allocation including each LLGs as special case. With that I commend this Government for taking people of this country at heart and budgeted to suit them particularly the low and medium income earners and rural dwellers by taking school fees and hospital bills away from them gives them breathing space to participate effectively in formal and economic sector has anticipated.

Mr Speaker, with these remarks I thank you for giving me this time and God bless this nation.

Mr BEN MICAH (Kavieng – Minister for State Enterprises) – Thank you Mr Speaker, I don't have much to contribute Grievance Debate because I am a Minister but I am a bit concern about what my Vice Minister and Member for Kainantu has mentioned on issues affecting Kainantu. I totally agree with what he said about Kainantu because it is the

gateway to all the Highlands Provinces. All the cargoes coming from Lae, Madang and other costal areas passes through Kainantu and all provinces west of Kainantu get all the benefits and Kainantu is just a gate. And cargoes coming down from Highlands passes through Kainantu and that's why it is called the Gateway.

But my main concern in this debate is - and I do not know whether you will all agree with me or not but now that you have given me this opportunity, let me raise this issue which was raised before Independence and that is the issue on the Constitution and Seat of Power for PNG. It was discussed then that the Parliament will be built and located not here in Port Moresby but in the Arona Valley in Eastern Highlands Province.

Therefore, I want to raise this issue again on this Floor of this Parliament and bring this matter to your attention Mr Speaker and also the attention of the head of government, the Prime Minister that this Parliament must now make the decision for us to relocate the Parliament to a site that is in the centre of Papua New Guinea. This will reduce the cost of Members coming to Port Moresby maybe by 60 percent because then from Kainantu will only be a 20 minute drive to Parliament, Goroka maybe two hours and Obura, 15 minutes and you calculate the cost of Members driving from Madang and Lae will be 20 minutes. Only a handful of Members like those of us in Kavieng and Abau.

Mr Speaker, I would like you and the Prime Minister to seriously consider this matter as our Parliament is now surrounded by the busts of our Prime Ministers and a former Prime Minister is buried here. It looks this Parliament will eventually end up becoming a museum of political history for PNG.

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Because of our stupidity the House of Assembly was allowed to be to rundown and it held all the original political history of our country but what have we done with that. We have given it to a company to develop a sky scraper and a miniature House of Assembly in front.

I think we should in the future let this parliament be a political museum and maybe a resting place for our leaders. And move the Parliament house to Kainantu, on the Arona valley so we do not mix with the public servants. We seriously look into moving the Parliament there because it has picturesque views and we can go fishing at the lake after the meetings.

Mr POWES PARKOP (Governor NCD) –Thank you for allowing me time to contribute. I have a lot to say but I want to begin to say thank the Prime Minister for setting

up the *Peter O'Neill Foundation*. This will assist our people and I am stressing this point because recently we have seen and heard of the typhoon hit Philippines and we have not tried to assist them in anyway.

Many are homeless and more people are feared dead, it would be good to at least lend a helping hand and despite having our own share of disasters we should help our neighbours because we never know when we might need the same assistance.

Seriously I have been so concerned about disaster management in this country. It is lousy and most of the time we only react when disaster hits and it takes a while before we assist the particular situation. I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister to start at the National Disaster and Emergency office so that they can plan and prepare for a quick response.

We are very lucky that cyclones and other natural disasters that we hear always avoid Papua New Guinea, either way we are blessed but we have to prepare.

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We have a safest city and our country is the safest country in the world in terms of natural disasters. I think we are causing manmade disasters ourselves but in terms of nature, we are blessed but we cannot take things for granted. We are complacent and our record is very poor. I am saying this because when you look at the cyclone in Oro Province in 2007, our relief effort was very late; the relief supplies arrived three weeks after the cyclone.

Mr Speaker, in disaster management, there must be relief, rehabilitation and resettlement program in place. For Oro Province, in terms of our management, we have not even achieved the target for relief yet and the people are still languishing in the temporary camps. They have not been resettled and this is a big problem that we have. Let us also look at Cataret Island in Bougainville where we have to resettle the people because of rising sea level. Some people were resettled in Tinputz, but only seven families want to resettle there while everybody wants return to the island.

Mr Speaker, we have that same problem with Manam, Matiupit and Talvat when the volcanoes erupted.

We have not come up with a template of a successful resettlement where disaster has occurred. We have to have a template and this is what needs to be done when the disaster strikes and for us to rehabilitate and resettle the affected people. So, when we have a disaster there is a template in place to guide us along. We don't have one now so our people who were affected by the disasters are still languishing there and they don't know what will

happen to them. There are smaller islands in Manus which, will be under water soon but, do we have a template to resettle them? We don't have this plan.

Mr Speaker, if we cannot do that then I suggest that we keep them on the island and use the advanced technologies like the ones used in Europe to build sea wall to stop the rising water level. The islanders are used to seas and they won't be comfortable living in the mainland so we will then keep them there but use sediments from our mines that are illegally damped in our river system to build sea walls for them so that they can stay there.

If we don't want to do that then we must have a resettlement plan. Right now there are no resettlement plans. When we have a natural disaster, it becomes a social disaster and that's what's happening. We should not just sit here and think that such disasters in the Philippines and other countries will not happen in this country. I think that we are taking things for granted all the time. We must start to have forward planning.

Mr Speaker, on that note, the Office of the Climatic Change since it was established during the Somare Government, I have not seen their policies or strategies tabled in Parliament and also I am not sure how they are dealing with the Carbon Trading and laws regarding disaster management. That is why I said we are being complacent. We must start and change our attitudes because what is happening in Philippines now could happen anywhere in this country and may be it will take one month for the relief to arrive at the affected areas or there could be no relief at all.

During last term of Parliament, I asked other governors if we could set up a disaster fund so that when disaster strikes, we could quickly access one third of the funds right away and assist the affected people as soon as possible.

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They are not going to wait and the burden will be on them. So, on the part of us governors, if we ever have a governors' conference again then may be we should have that discussion. I put it on the agenda but the Governors' would no have it so it is still pending.

They want to blame the Prime Minister, they want to wait for the money to come from the Prime Minister but, at the Governors' level we could put some money together. We can all pool some money and have it deposited into trust or into the Central Bank so that it can earn interest insert a clause that enables us immediate access to the money when disasters strike.

I just wish to raise this as my first grievance because as I said, I have a lot of grievances but do not have time to express all of them.

Before I sit down, I wish to encourage our Prime Minister on the loan from China. There is a lot of negative sentiments on that, do not listen to them, you go ahead and get it.

The ceiling they impose, one third or whatever the ceiling they impose to manage our fiscal management, that is true but we have to build our future now. And if you wish to obtain a loan of K1 billion or K2 billion just get it. Don't be fazed by all those critics, why are you scared of them?

Why I say this, Mr Speaker is because I want us to build the infrastructure that is needed to take this country to the future now. We must not wait until later. We must make the Highlands Highway become an all weather road from Lae to wherever it ends, if it ends in Telefomin, by all means go there. And even if it goes to the other side of the borer bring it there.

We must build the Momase Highway from Lae all the way to Jayapura and the two rivers in between, the Ramu and Sepik rivers, don't let the deter you. Today's technology can allow you to harness them and build bridges across.

We also need to build the New Britain Highway from east to west, including Kandrian-Gloucester. The Government is currently investing in it but we must build a major highway there.

We must also build the Papua Highway from Kiunga to Port Moresby and Alotau, why are you scared of criminals from Port Moresby? We are eradicating criminal activities in Port Moresby so why bother, we'll build the highway to you and then the country will start to open up.

Build the road from Lae to Port Moresby also. Don't be bothered by people who are dissuading you from getting the loan. Go and bet it because the future we be built today. We have this chance now, there is money, and we can pay it later but if we don't do it now, it will never happen.

Mr JOHN SIMON (Maprik) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to join in on this Grievance debate.

I wanted to talk about infrastructure but then again I felt that I should speak on the protocols that we, Parliamentarians display. I don't really, know what the practices are, with regard to our Prime Minister and the protocols involved in having an audience with him.

I don't know what the usual practices are with former Prime Ministers but this one seem to have n open office, he talks to all the MPs, even on the corridors of Parliament. This makes his office very open to us and I am glad of that so I wish to thank you for that's.

One thing I have seen as an MP from Sepik and I felt a bit let down is, please Prime Minister and other Ministers, if you wish to come to Sepik please inform us so we can be there to welcome the CEO of our country.

On two occasions the Prime Minister went to Sepik while I was there but I did not get to welcome him. I was also there when he flew out and I felt very disappointed.

So, please if he is going to the Sepik, let me know, I will welcome you, I am your Member. As I said he went twice and I never had the chance to welcome or farewell him so please, protocol officer from his Department, please inform us so that we can welcome the Prime Minister who is the CEO of this country. We must accord him the respect by welcoming him and wishing him well on his departure.

I now wish to proceed on to my debate. We have talked on a lot of issue. I have heard and gauged that a lot of discussion was on building of infrastructure.

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A lot of issues we have stressed is about the building of infrastructures. We are talking about building big infrastructures in Port Moresby and Lae and we are also talking about the South Pacific Games which will be hosted in Port Moresby where millions of kina will be spent on building sporting facilities and roads in Lae and Port Moresby. I think that we are trying to imitate how China prepared itself for Olympic Games.

Before China became what it is today, they actually started building infrastructures from the rural sector then later to major cities and towns. We are trying to build big infrastructures in the cities and towns before we go into the rural areas but we should refocus and bring basic services to the rural sectors. From there, we can change and come back to the towns and cities because it is very difficult to start from the towns and cities and go to the rural areas.

I do understand that somebody from outside coming into Papua New Guinea seeing Port Moresby is seeing Papua New Guinea which is not true because when you see Port Moresby, you only seeing one part of Papua New Guinea. Port Moresby and Lae already have road access but many of our rural sectors don't even have an access to come outside.

We talk about our economy and the many related problems we have. There are lot of cash crops out there in the rural communities that can really support our economy but they don't have access to markets. We are concentrating too much on non-renewable resources like the mining sector but we must also think about funding sustainable projects like the agricultural sector. This sector is based mainly in the rural areas. All the provinces are not

involved in the mining sector, most of 18 or 19 provinces are involved in the agriculture industry.

With the surplus money we are now having and the loans that we are seeking, I support the idea but try and distribute it accordingly to all the provinces in addition to our DSIP funds especially for the road infrastructures. I have allocated a lot of money to my district but if we can spend money especially for the roads and bring access to the rural agriculture industry which has a lot of cash crops that can sustain our economy.

As the Minister for Commerce and Industry has mention something about SME, it is a good initiative but most of the people will participate in this SME from the rural sector but how can they come out and participate if we do not build the major infrastructures like roads, sea or even air transport. We should allocate more money to air transport so that if there are no access roads, farmers can use this means to transport their cash to the markets.

These are the areas that we should look at thoroughly and bring services and changes to the rural sectors. Through this, we will see our rural areas change and as a result we will see Port Moresby and even Papua New Guinea change.

Now, we are concentrating all the funds in Port Moresby and I fully understand because we are hosting the South Pacific Games but who is going to take part in those sporting events? Are we going to get other people to take part? We do not have adequate sporting facilities in the districts and provinces, they are totally rundown.

We should seriously look at improving the sporting facilities in the provinces and districts. Most of the Members of Parliament represent rural electorates so we must talk about building basic infrastructures in the rural sectors which can really help us. As I have mentioned above, we should look at the rural sectors before we come to towns and cities and maybe Port Moresby will change. Port Moresby and Papua New Guinea as a whole will never change if the rural areas are not developed. Unless we change the rural areas then eventually without knowing it all our major towns and cities will automatically change.

So those are my few comments because many times when I want to speak, they say that I speak a lot like Sir Pita Lus.

Thank you.

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Mr KELLY NARU (Morobe) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join this Grievance Debate and I wish to raise a point, which I believe is quite important and I want

the honourable Speaker and those in government to take note and maybe do something about it.

My concern relates to the issue of protocol and diplomacy. Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea is taking its place among other nations and will be hosting a number of international meetings and conferences within the next few years.

Our preparations to host the 2015 South Pacific Games are progressing smoothly and well underway. In 2018 we will be hosting the APEC meeting and there will be many other international conferences and gatherings that will also be held in the country as well.

Against this background, I am expressing my concern that many of our national leaders lack knowledge or understanding of the appropriate protocols and courtesies that should be applied in various situations.

In Indonesia for example, important dignitaries are accorded appropriately with the right protocols and courtesy. They are well versed in such matters. I cannot say it's the same with us. We do not seem to know how to treat our overseas guests et cetera. We need to educate ourselves better in regards to this. And on that point, I am suggesting that there should be an institution or programmes where leaders can undertake to acquire skills on diplomacy and protocols.

Leaders need to know what to do and the right way to behave in accepting overseas delegations and important visitors, what to do and say when conducting official functions and whether to bring our wives or not.

As leaders we need to invite our spouses to these kind of gatherings including meetings of Parliament. I am happy for the Prime Minister that Lady Linda is taking the lead in many charity work. I believe spouses of leaders should be doing that and I am encouraging you all to do the same in your provinces and at your respective levels.

Is there such a programme available? If there is then it should be extended to the provinces to our council presidents and at the local-level government.

Many developments are now taking place at the provincial level and a number of important visits will be made to these areas. How are we going to receive these delegations and rub shoulders with them? How are we going to converse with them at their level? These are the kinds of diplomacy that we do not know and we need to be taught about it.

So, Mr Speaker, I would like to stress again that there is a great need to have training programmes on protocol and diplomacy for Members and their spouses as well. I know some Members have more than one wife but at least bring one along to attend the programme

(Members laughing)

Mr KELLY NARU – I do not have a wife but I will bring one along. The point I am trying to make is that we must be clear about our roles not only as leaders, but also in terms of how we as leaders should be conducting ourselves both here and overseas.

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So during those important functions and receptions, we need to know what to do and how to conduct ourselves. Our spouses should also know how to conduct themselves. For example, in an official function when the guest of honour is present no one should take his leave before he or she does. I do not think some of us are aware of this.

You will have observed this in one of your official trips overseas. Proper protocols in fact helps in promoting the positive image of a country to foreign investors. We may have grand development plans to develop this country but it will come to nothing if we do not have the right attitude and portray the right image of our country to attract foreign investment.

Mr Speaker, that is my small contribution to this debate though insignificant but very important for all of us to take note and do something about acquiring skills in the areas that I have just mentioned.

Motion – That Grievances be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That Parliament do now adjourned.

The Parliament adjourned at 1p.m..